

PEGASUS

TO



HOW UCF'S PROGRAMMING TEAM BECAME

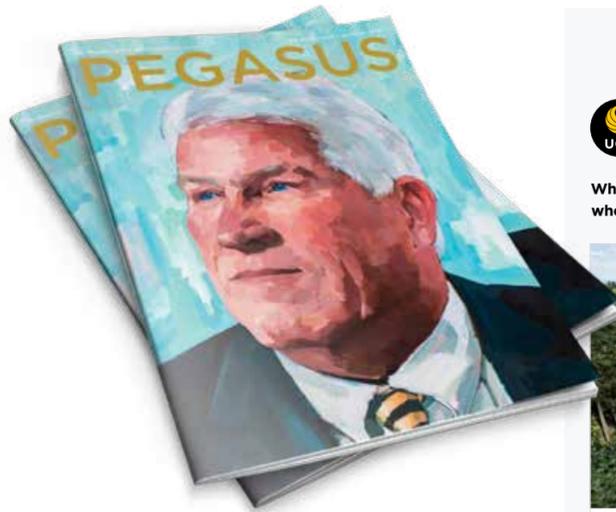
AND BEAT HARVARD, MIT AND STANFORD.

IN NORTH AMERICA



SUMMER SCENE

August heralds the start of classes, the return of students and dark, afternoon Florida storm clouds. They are rife with electricity but also heavy with raindrops that revive and offer cool respite — not unlike the feelings of trepidation and promise that come with a new semester.



I ALMOST DROPPED OUT OF UCF DUE TO FINANCES, but [former President] Hitt made it possible for me to stay.

It was 2015, and my mom was deep in the trenches of a cult. I wasn't old enough to be independent, and I wasn't able to complete [a new] FAFSA because my mom wouldn't give me her information. I was also slowly coming up on the end of how many loans a dependent student could take out.

I petitioned for my independence and was denied. They said it wasn't because of my situation, but because of my old FAFSA still being in the system. I emailed Hitt, and someone got back to me the next day. The rest of the semester was a blur of tears and work, but in the end, my independence was approved, and I graduated the summer of 2016.

Before that moment I never believed Hitt cared about each student, but he put stock into my badly worded, desperate cry for help and gave me hope. I was reading the recent *Pegasus* issue and thought I should reach out to tell you that I'm so thankful for him and what he's done.

» ALISSA SMITH '16

I MUST COMMEND YOU ON YOUR LAST ISSUE. IT WAS informative and entertaining. Can I say it? It was a Hitt! I was a student at UCF when it was FTU. The campus was pretty big but nothing like it is now.

» BRUCE EVERSON '78

I LIVE OUT OF STATE, AND PEGASUS MAGAZINE

allows me to keep up with what's going on at UCF. Though I'll always be connected, my connection to the university and other alumni feels that much stronger after reading an issue.

» DOUGLAS LEE '98



University of Central Florida
Orlando, FL • 205,040+ Alumni • 270,460 Followers

What was your favorite part about the Student Union when you went to UCF?



What the Student Union Will Look Like in Spring 2020
bit.ly/ucf-student-union

437 Likes • 91 Comments

Rob Hunter

Wackadoo's! I have fond memories of convincing professors to hold class there!

Corey Ford

I remember 9/11. I watched the events unfold in the Student Union with all the other students. I'll always remember where I was.

Jayne Wright

Same here.

Austin Dawson

Same for me. I will never forget that day.

Ana Lucia C.

The Pegasus in the middle :)

Pashen Black

When it first opened during my senior year. Before the union, we gathered at the Wild Pizza. 🍕🍕

Matt Randall

Being there from the very beginning. You knew that UCF was going to be special.

Jasmine Checchi

A place to not only sit down and eat but also reconnect with friends — that really helped us motivate each other.

Scott Morrison

I used to love studying at the tables near the windows on the third floor. There was very little noise, great lighting and a nice view.

Richard J. Cross

The fact that every time you walked through, you almost always ran into someone you knew.

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Emails to the editor should be sent with the writer's name, graduation year, address and daytime phone number to pegasus@ucf.edu.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity, and may be published in any medium. Due to volume, we regret that we cannot reply to every letter.

MOVED RECENTLY? NEED TO UPDATE YOUR INFO?

Update your contact information:
ucfalumni.com/contactupdates

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A MORE PERFECT UNION

The Student Union may look different the next time you're on campus. A renovation is adding an additional 15,000 square feet to the heart of campus, which means more space to gather, study, eat and find relief from the Florida heat.



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PEGASUS

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In Focus

FIRST CLASS

Fifty years ago, Central Florida changed forever when UCF — then known as Florida Technological University — opened for classes on October 7, 1968. During a morning convocation and dedication ceremony, President Charles Millican welcomed 1,948 students who became responsible for upholding the university's motto of "Reach for the Stars." These students would pursue studies to fulfill the region's high demand for scientists, engineers, business professionals and teachers.

"As members of the charter class, you will help establish the traditions and the reputation of an entirely new university. An opportunity and a responsibility such as this comes to only a few, but by working together we can make this a great university, one of which we can be proud."

— Charles Millican, founding president of UCF

1,227

Acres made up the campus

300

Seats in the auditorium

90

Instructors taught the first classes. Today, UCF has more than 12,500 faculty and staff members.

55

Degree programs offered. Today, students can select from more than 215 degree programs.

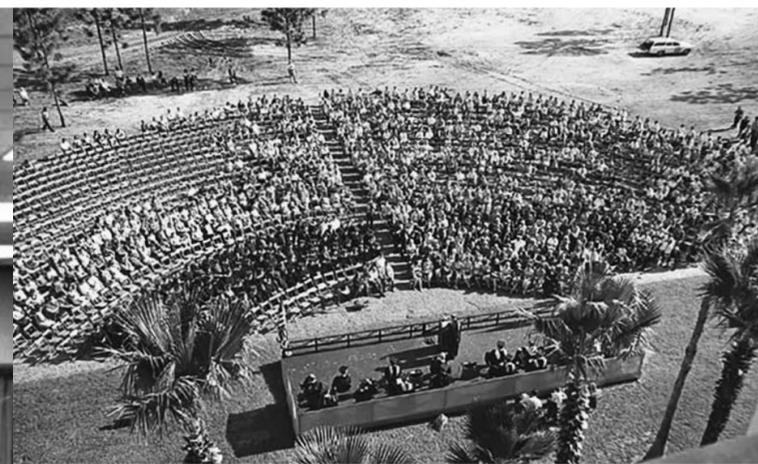
7

Buildings on campus: a library, a science building, an auditorium, a village center, a utility plant and two residence halls

5

Founding colleges: Business Administration, Education, Humanities & Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Engineering & Technology

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UCF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



EXPANDED VIEWS

UCF continues to “Reach for the Stars” with its new commitment to manage the second-largest single-dish radio telescope on the planet – the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico. Featured in films like *Contact* and *GoldenEye*, AO has played a vital role in many significant scientific discoveries and is responsible for finding and tracking potentially hazardous near-Earth asteroids. Scientists from around the world will continue to use the telescope to conduct radio, planetary and atmospheric science research. Over the next five years, UCF will work to acquire more funding and partners for the observatory to advance the future of space exploration.

“The kind of science we can conduct with this observatory is important, and we didn’t want to see it go dark.”

— Elizabeth Klonoff, vice president for research and dean of the College of Graduate Studies

1963

Year Arecibo Observatory opened

1,000 feet

Diameter of the telescope’s reflective dish

18.3464°

Distance north of the equator

\$15 million

Awarded to UCF-led consortium by the National Science Foundation to help manage the observatory

2

Consortium partners with UCF, the Universidad Metropolitana and Yang Enterprises

1

Nobel Prize awarded to scientists working at the observatory

P To view more photos of President Dale Whittaker’s recent trip to Arecibo, visit ucf.edu/pegasus.



CHARGED UP

Designed with purpose, UCF's newest District Energy Plant debuted its color-coded piping system in May to help teach engineering students how to build a cleaner world. Located near the Arboretum, DEP IV joined three other energy plants in providing chilled water for air conditioning and cooling processes to 64 buildings on campus. The new facility is the first to also produce hot water, which is used for heating, air conditioning and ventilation processes in the Research I building. By using energy-efficient materials and processes, the plant helps to reduce the university's impact on climate change.

“As UCF strives to become a preeminent research university, the need for a robust district energy system like DEP IV is integral. Energy is not optional at UCF but how we manage and use it is.”

— Curt Wade, director of UCF's Utilities and Energy Services

33,000 kilowatt hours

Energy DEP IV uses on a daily basis. The average homeowner uses 30 kilowatt hours per day.

\$121,000

Annual savings the new plant generates for the university compared to a base efficiency plant

25,500 tons

Chilled water generated daily by UCF's four energy plants at full capacity. Without this system, each building would need its own air-conditioning units.

143°

Temperature of the hot water produced by DEP IV

30

Fans used in DEP IV's cooling towers, providing more resiliency compared to a standard one-fan tower

1st

Industrial building on campus to receive LEED Gold certification

▶ To view more photos and watch a video about DEP IV, visit ucf.edu/pegasus.



Briefs

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

ONE-STOP CANCER CENTER

The new UCF Lake Nona Cancer Center will house cancer researchers, clinical trials and treatment all under one roof and will be located next to UCF's new hospital, which is set to open in 2021.

"This center will provide state-of-the-art care for patients and a team of researchers dedicated to finding new and better treatments for cancer. Cancer patients who need to be hospitalized will be able to go right next door for their care."

DEBORAH GERMAN

UCF vice president for health affairs and dean of the College of Medicine

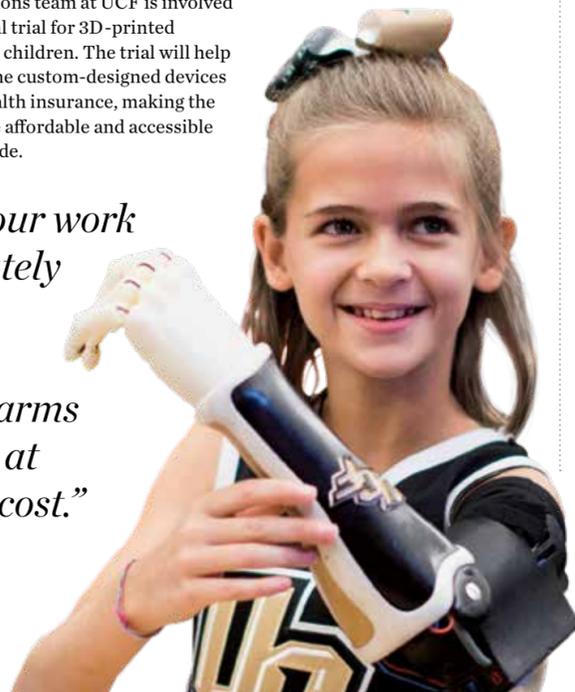


PROSTHETICS FOR THE PEOPLE

The Limbitless Solutions team at UCF is involved in the first U.S. clinical trial for 3D-printed bionic prosthetics for children. The trial will help determine whether the custom-designed devices will be covered by health insurance, making the prosthetic arms more affordable and accessible for children nationwide.

"We hope our work will ultimately allow us to provide prosthetic arms to children at little or no cost."

ALBERT MANERO
'12 '14MS '16PHD
CEO and co-founder
of Limbitless Solutions



\$183 MILLION

Record amount UCF received in research funding for 2018, taking a big leap toward the university's goal of increasing research funding to \$250 million by 2020

TREATING PTSD

UCF's cutting-edge RESTORES clinic, which helps treat people living with post-traumatic stress disorder, has been awarded a \$10 million grant to expand its work with the U.S. Army, Navy and Marines. Director Deborah Beidel says the clinic's early research results demonstrate that the intensive treatment has significantly improved symptoms in most patients, with about two-thirds no longer showing the clinical criteria for a PTSD diagnosis.



GENEROUS SUPPORT

Julia and **Jim Rosengren '81** committed \$6.6 million to support areas at UCF ranging from sea turtle research, veterans, language programs, science and football. Combined with their previous donations, the Rosengrens have committed \$7.95 million to UCF – the largest total from an alum in university history.



A MODEL PROGRAM

UCF recently launched a new School of Modeling, Simulation and Training. Even before creating the school, modeling and simulation programs at UCF have been landing Knights into top-level positions with major companies and government agencies for years. More than 500 master's and doctoral degrees have been awarded from UCF in the fields of modeling and simulation since 2004.

"[UCF is] one of the biggest success stories in contemporary higher education."

THE CHRONICLE
of Higher Education
— in a feature about President Emeritus John C. Hitt

\$404,809,828

Total amount contributed as of August 23 by nearly 100,000 donors to the IGNITE fundraising campaign, which aims to raise \$500 million by June 2019.

KNIGHTS ON TOP



Wakeboarding team in the nation



Rowing team in the American Athletic Conference for the fourth consecutive year



Student Molly Murtha won UCF's first equestrian national championship title



Student Allison Fleming was named 2018 University National Champion for weightlifting in the 63KG weight class



Kiteboarding team for the third consecutive year

Goldwater Scholarship awarded to junior George Walters-Marrah



Video game graduate school in the world (The Princeton Review)



Fulbright scholarships awarded to UCF students for 2018-19



Emergency Management and Homeland Security graduate program in the nation (U.S. News & World Report)



Counselor of Education graduate program in the nation (U.S. News & World Report)



Nonprofit Management and Optics & Photonics graduate programs in the nation (U.S. News & World Report)

JUNE 5

Senior studio art major Jenna Chastain worked with clay during a pottery class in the Visual Arts building.



JUNE 20

Two students raced to the top of the Climbing Tower located in the Recreation and Wellness Center.



JUNE 20

Students enjoyed some gourmet popsicles at alumni-owned Pop Parlor in Knights Plaza.



JUNE 29

Construction on the new UCF Downtown campus is underway and on schedule to open in Fall 2019.



AUG. 18

Defensive lineman Malcolm Williams went airborne while practicing tackles during football camp.



AUG. 21

Students gathered to take selfies with Knightro during Pegasus Palooza's concert night at CFE Arena.



MAY 4

More than 8,100 Knights graduated this spring during six commencement ceremonies.

On **CAMPUS**

SEA CHANGE

How rising oceans will impact communities and coastlines.

BY LAURA J. COLE

On your next trip to the beach, you most likely won't notice the change in sea level. It's rising globally by only about 3 millimeters per year, which may seem insignificant to the average beachgoer. But according to Thomas Wahl, a coastal engineer at UCF, those small changes over time can have a big impact on our coasts, especially in terms of storm surges and flooding.

"What's dangerous are hurricanes, storms and nor'easters pushing water toward the coast," Wahl says.

He explains it in terms of giving toddlers baths. Fill two tubs halfway with water. One child likes to play calmly with his toys, maybe pushing a boat around in between shampoo rinses, and another has full-on sea battles with hers. The rowdier child is more likely to splash water onto the floor. Now, fill both tubs higher, and the likelihood of water spilling over onto the floor increases for both scenarios.

"As the bathtub fills up, the base water level gets higher and higher, meaning smaller storms (or calmer toddlers) have a higher likelihood to produce the same water level, which can lead to flooding," Wahl says.

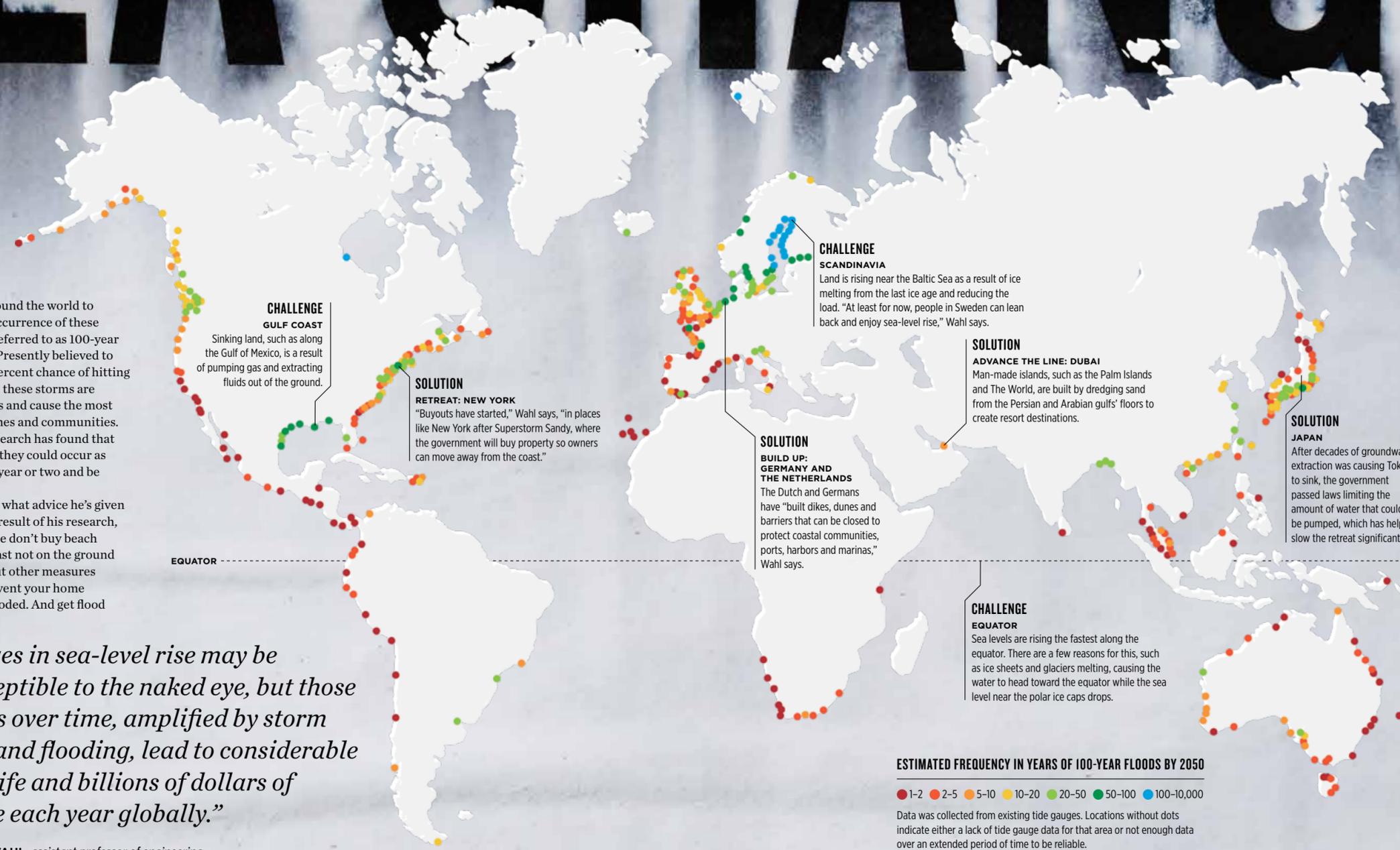
Wahl's research, which was recently published in *Nature*, uses data from

tide gauges around the world to examine the occurrence of these events, often referred to as 100-year storm surges. Presently believed to have only a 1 percent chance of hitting in a given year, these storms are very dangerous and cause the most damage to homes and communities. And Wahl's research has found that in some areas, they could occur as often as every year or two and be more severe.

When asked what advice he's given to friends as a result of his research, he says, "Maybe don't buy beach property, at least not on the ground floor or without other measures in place to prevent your home from being flooded. And get flood insurance."

"Changes in sea-level rise may be imperceptible to the naked eye, but those changes over time, amplified by storm surges and flooding, lead to considerable loss of life and billions of dollars of damage each year globally."

— THOMAS WAHL, assistant professor of engineering



CHALLENGE GULF COAST
Sinking land, such as along the Gulf of Mexico, is a result of pumping gas and extracting fluids out of the ground.

SOLUTION RETREAT: NEW YORK
"Buyouts have started," Wahl says, "in places like New York after Superstorm Sandy, where the government will buy property so owners can move away from the coast."

CHALLENGE SCANDINAVIA
Land is rising near the Baltic Sea as a result of ice melting from the last ice age and reducing the load. "At least for now, people in Sweden can lean back and enjoy sea-level rise," Wahl says.

SOLUTION ADVANCE THE LINE: DUBAI
Man-made islands, such as the Palm Islands and The World, are built by dredging sand from the Persian and Arabian gulfs' floors to create resort destinations.

SOLUTION BUILD UP: GERMANY AND THE NETHERLANDS
The Dutch and Germans have "built dikes, dunes and barriers that can be closed to protect coastal communities, ports, harbors and marinas," Wahl says.

SOLUTION JAPAN
After decades of groundwater extraction was causing Tokyo to sink, the government passed laws limiting the amount of water that could be pumped, which has helped slow the retreat significantly.

CHALLENGE EQUATOR
Sea levels are rising the fastest along the equator. There are a few reasons for this, such as ice sheets and glaciers melting, causing the water to head toward the equator while the sea level near the polar ice caps drops.

ESTIMATED FREQUENCY IN YEARS OF 100-YEAR FLOODS BY 2050

- 1-2
- 2-5
- 5-10
- 10-20
- 20-50
- 50-100
- 100-10,000

Data was collected from existing tide gauges. Locations without dots indicate either a lack of tide gauge data for that area or not enough data over an extended period of time to be reliable.

STRONGER TOGETHER

When it comes to Wahl's research, he's the first to admit he's only one piece of the puzzle. "I know a lot about sea level and storm surges, and I know my way around statistics," he says. "But at some point, we need to know what we can do with this research. We have to take the next step. We need to answer: How many people will be affected, and how much will it cost us?"

That's where UCF's new National Center for Integrated Coastal Research comes in. It places coastal engineers and oceanographers in conversation with geographers, who can produce maps to be used by stakeholders and policymakers; with economists, who can look at the impact to costs of goods and services around the globe; with biologists, who can say how much natural solutions such as wetlands and oyster reefs can offset potential damages; and with political scientists, who can determine what regulations are needed to help coastal communities be more resilient.

"Rather than just looking at water levels like I do, together, we're able to look at the entire system almost as an organism that has to be protected and has to become more resilient if it wants to survive," Wahl says.

THE IMPERFECT STORM

BY NICOLE DUDENHOEFER '17

STORM BUILDERS

TIME OF THE YEAR

While the Atlantic hurricane season starts in June, more than 80 percent of hurricanes form mid-August through mid-October. This is because hurricanes develop in the Caribbean earlier in the season, while later-season storms form off the African coast and grow as they cross the Atlantic.

INTENSITY

A storm's intensity is influenced by ocean temperature. An ocean temperature of more than 79 degrees Fahrenheit is needed for a hurricane to begin forming. As the storm moves across warm water, it strengthens.

SPEED

Category 1 storms start at 74 mph and can increase to a Category 5 once winds reach 157 mph or more. On average, a hurricane's forward speed is about 15 to 20 mph, which can bring heavy rain when stalled. Storms with a forward speed accelerating more than 60 mph result in less rainfall.

SIZE

A hurricane's eye is usually 20 to 40 miles across, with winds for a small storm extending 25 miles out and winds for a large storm extending 150 miles or more out. While larger storms cover more area, smaller storms, like Hurricane Charley (which was 37 miles wide at landfall), are still able to cause major damage.

What a game is teaching

South Florida families about hurricane preparation in real time.

Inspired by the board game *Battleship*, a simulator developed by researchers in UCF's E2i Creative Studio is helping families in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, learn how to prepare for hurricanes. Funded by the National Science Foundation and located in the Museum of Discovery and Science, the Hurricane Simulator challenges players to either build the perfect storm or the perfect home for survival within 2.5 minutes.

Through repeated rounds, users learn how their virtual decisions can keep them safe when practiced in the real world.

"In understanding how not to do it right, [users] understand exactly how to do it right," says Eileen Smith, director of E2i Creative Studio, a research lab within UCF's Institute for Simulation and Training. "We know from learning theory we learn almost more from our mistakes than we do from our successes because they make us think. They make us reflect."

HOME BUILDERS

LOCATION

If you live in a beach area be sure to protect your home with sandbags. Urban dwellers should secure outdoor items — such as furniture and toys — inside, and make sure their neighbors have as well. Rural homeowners should collect natural debris and secure it in a garage or sealed structure.

BUILDING MATERIALS AND DESIGN

While wood frame homes are cheaper, concrete homes are much stronger to resisting storm impact. Homes with hip, or pyramid-shaped, roofs are more stable for wind resistance than flat and gable, or triangular, roofs. Hurricanes classified as Category 2 and above are able to completely destroy older mobile homes.

HOME PROTECTION

Storm shutters and garage braces are the best way to secure your windows and doors; however plywood is cheaper and can provide protection when installed properly. While tape is most easily available, it is ineffective for protection.

SUPPLIES

Generators can help with power outages for days or weeks, but they require a consistent gas supply. Purchase plenty of batteries to keep radios and flashlights powered. Be sure to stock up on enough water for at least three days with a minimum of one gallon per day per person.

The Feed

Find more @ ucf.edu/today [@UCF](https://twitter.com/UCF) [@University of Central Florida](https://www.facebook.com/UniversityofCentralFlorida)

Nobel Recognition
Jaha Dukureh '18MNM was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for her work to end female genital mutilation.
bit.ly/ucf-nobel-recognition

Smart Toy
Using a toy, UCF Assistant Professor Fernando Uribe-Romo has developed a way to create a new air-cleaning energy known as artificial photosynthesis.
bit.ly/ucf-smart-toy

Attack of the Zombie Ants
UCF Assistant Professor Charissa de Bekker is studying how fungus is able to manipulate and kill carpenter ants.
bit.ly/ucf-zombie-ants

Storm Survivor
From the peak of a mountain to a UCF dorm, one Puerto Rican student shares her journey after Hurricane Maria.
bit.ly/ucf-storm-survivor



Pondering Potter
UCF Professor Tison Pugh explains why Harry Potter belongs among the literary greats.
bit.ly/ucf-pondering-potter

WHAT'S TRENDING ON...

UCF TODAY

'Block Ban
Hawaii banned sunblock containing oxybenzone after a UCF professor's research showed its impact on coral reefs. bit.ly/ucf-block-ban



Potential Power
A smart solar energy revolution is upon us, and UCF Professor Issa Batarseh explains how it can happen.
bit.ly/ucf-potential-power

Cool Mom
UCF Associate Instructor Joan McCain shares what it's like to have her daughter move back in after graduation. bit.ly/ucf-cool-mom

TWITTER

June 28 @UCFPD
Carl Metzger, a 29-year law enforcement veteran, has been selected as the next chief of the UCF Police Department.

July 9 @FYAEUCF
Welcome new #UCF22 Knights and guests to your freshman orientation session! We look forward to helping you begin your new adventure at UCF!

Aug 2 @annemarieliz
When I was a kid, I remember visiting my dad at @UCF as he installed this #pegasus in the Union. Three degrees later I finally got my photo with it. I couldn't think of a better way to honor his memory and celebrate being a #tripleknight #ucfalumni #phdlife



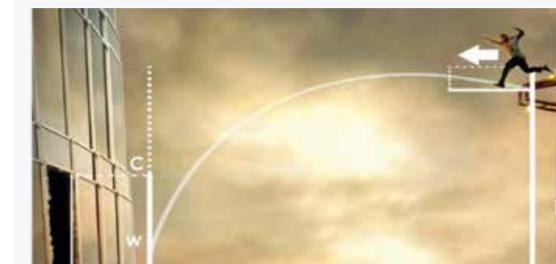
FACEBOOK

University of Central Florida
July 6, 2018

Can The Rock Make the Jump?

Despite what skeptics on social media are saying about Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson's jump in the *Skyscraper* movie, UCF physics Associate Professor Costas Efthimiou determined whether or not it is actually possible.

Full story at bit.ly/ucf-skyscraper



19K Views 82 comments

Erika Adams Thank you for such cool teaching moments. I was never a physics student, but I would totally take this class now. July 6

Vijay Andy Boodoo Of course it's possible. It's The Rock! July 6

Natalie Rivera I took his class! Made physics fun July 6



WHETHER HE'S EXPLORING NEW PLACES, PUSHING BEYOND PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES OR SETTING UP THE NEXT GENERATION OF STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS, UCF'S NEW PRESIDENT IS

Alan

BY LAURA J. COLE



ale Whittaker may surprise you.

UCF's president and former provost and executive vice president has an unbounded curiosity about the world and unbridled optimism about people's potential.

Maybe that comes from growing up in rural Middle America, working with farmers and witnessing hardworking people who toiled the earth regardless of whether that year brought famine or feast. Or from studying engineering, where he learned that every problem has many possible solutions. Or from pushing his own physical boundaries through marathons and adventure travel.

He has all the credentials of a president: degrees from Texas A&M and Purdue, a litany of published work and teaching awards, and a lengthy curriculum vitae detailing his experience and successful programs.

But what you'll find when you meet Whittaker is someone who's genuinely interested in what it means to grow and expand as a person. Someone who, as a kid, was given a harmonica and taught himself to play by ear. Someone who believes in traveling to new places and setting personal challenges for himself, such as walking 150 miles across northern England this summer with his wife, Mary.

When asked what he loves about UCF, Whittaker says it's the dreamers, the strivers and the undaunted believers. He respects our students, faculty and staff who take chances every day to better themselves, to do more than they thought they could, to leave the world better than they found it.

As one of only a few people in his high school class to graduate from college, Whittaker went on to become the president of a university. So perhaps the potential he sees in UCF and its people is a reflection of himself. And perhaps it's not so surprising that UCF would attract someone like him to lead its next generation of big thinkers and doers.



What made you switch careers from agriculture to education, specifically higher education?

I grew up working in a family business where we served farmers. I knew that college was a key to opening doors that would take me beyond what I saw and the role models that I met, but I grew up with the question of whether I really wanted to go or not. I went because it was an expectation of my family — my dad was the first in his family and his town to go to college — and because I was really hungry for a wider world.

At the time, I thought I wanted to be an engineer and fix problems. Namely, I wanted to figure out how to feed as many people as possible. As an undergrad, I was invited to do research, which drew me in through intellectual curiosity and led me to graduate school. As I was finishing graduate school, I had this draw to stay engaged in the creative enterprise and to teach other people. There was a tremendous amount of satisfaction in seeing other people reach their dreams.

Why this job? Why be president of UCF?

This is a position where there's no "they" above you. You know: "They" say you can't do this. "They" say you should do that. When there is no more "they," then you're in a position to really have leverage and broad-scale impact in a way that can be very profound and positive. And there's no place to have more impact in the world than as a president of a university.

"Why UCF?" is because it was built based on that promise. It's not an uphill

battle. Everyone here is positioned and ready to move — not only the institution in some abstract, reputational sense, but in terms of the students who are here right now and their future children and grandchildren.

What is your personal ethos?

My ethos is one of service. One of tai chi, by which I mean innovating around the rocks sitting in your way rather than trying to push them out of the way. One of bringing other people along. And one that always looks way out into the future. When I wake up at night, I think about two generations out. What are we doing right now that will impact them? It sounds like a long way off, but there's a tremendous urgency right now.

"I'VE ALWAYS LIKED TO GO ABOUT 20 PERCENT BEYOND WHAT I THOUGHT WAS POSSIBLE AND SET MY GOALS THERE."

You're an engineer. UCF was founded as a technological university. How do you plan to expand upon engineering and technology, and what role do you see the arts and humanities playing?

Engineering, technology and science have always been part of the DNA of UCF. This institution was founded on technological challenges — like the space race — that opened windows into humanity, into who we really are in the broader sense.

This is a university that has always partnered well with the industries around it, and we have very strong



industries in engineering, technology, power systems and simulation here. Central Florida is on a trajectory to expand its economy. It'll still keep agriculture, entertainment and hospitality as part of its main economic drivers, but we're in the midst of adding a technology- and knowledge-based economy. UCF is uniquely positioned again to be a fresh driver of all those economies.

Being an engineer doesn't bias me toward engineering (although it's fun). What I would say is it gives me a systems-level perspective and approach to a very complex system. UCF is a very complex system, and it requires a methodological approach both for advancing it and the way our system interacts with the social and cultural ecosystems of our region.

Where do arts and humanities play a part? As we continue to develop economies that are based on knowledge and technology, the importance of understanding creativity, self-analysis and the human condition becomes higher. An institution that can provide all of those opportunities to students is an institution of the 21st century. And that's really what UCF is. We will have just as many artists and physicists as we will businesspeople and social workers. They're all vital to the breadth, complexity and richness of life.

What is UCF's role in the future of Central Florida?

Critical, co-dependent, ultimately linked destinies. No question.

What I mean by that is the future of Central Florida will depend on talent. And it will depend on talent at a very, very high level in terms of new ideas, goods and services. That's what UCF provides. The future of UCF will depend on the growing population. It'll depend on growing partnerships. It'll depend on philanthropy, and that can only come when this community rises. So UCF and Central Florida are totally dependent and in a very exciting way. Both engines are revving right now.

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing higher education today?

We live in a culture that often feels that higher education is disconnected, irrelevant and maybe not necessary. There's this incredible need for an educated and trained workforce, and yet we're not telling our story as higher education in a way that is connected to help people understand the urgency of that need. I think that the greatest need in higher education today is clarity of vision and then responsiveness and adaptation to deliver a relevant higher education that is going to get us where we need to be as a country.

Which possibility at UCF are you most passionate about as you begin your presidency?

Social mobility. Lifting lives and livelihoods for multiple generations. Period.

How did you and your wife, Mary, meet? Where did you go on your first date?

Mary's twin sister was interested in a guy who lived across the hall from me. I was studying with my door open when we met. (She will tell you that I was always studying.) The three of

them were going dancing that night, and they invited me. I said, "If I finish all of my calculus, then maybe I'll come out." I hadn't really intended to go out, but she was so intriguing that I finished my calculus early and went dancing.

I've seen from Instagram that you like to travel quite a bit. What sparked your love of traveling, and where are you going next?

When I was 12, I started traveling from Texas to Illinois on Amtrak every summer to work on the farm. I also spent a summer in Berlin when I was in college. Both really sparked my love of traveling.

What continues my love of traveling is how time slows down when you have new experiences, and the world gets a little more colorful and a little brighter and a little more interesting. I get a rush out of that. Where are we going next? I don't think we've decided yet but probably India.

You've run marathons, and you and Mary recently walked across England. What inspired you to do both?

In both cases, it was the belief that I couldn't. I've always liked to go about 20 percent beyond what I thought was possible and set my goals there.

The other thing is, especially during walks, the world — ideas, conversations — moves at a human pace. You're walking on trails that may have been walked on for a thousand years, and the trail hasn't changed. And there's something inspiring about remembering who we are and where we come from as a civilization. ♦



THE DEAL

ON DALE

Hometown: Kewanee, Illinois

Wife: Mary

Children: Dane and Erin

Birthday: August 13, 1961

Hidden talent: Plays the harmonica

Band names: The Skillet Lickers (bluegrass), Moonshine Mason and the Rot Gut Gang (vintage country)

Best advice he's been given: Assume that people do what they believe is right.

Worst advice he's been given: Don't focus too much on students until you get tenure.

Most unusual job: Truck driver

What's on his TV: UCF sports or WUCF TV

Biggest personal accomplishment: Running the Chicago Marathon barefoot

Preferred ways to relax: Making music. Making art. Walking. Anything but sitting still.

Local recommendation: Black Bear Wilderness Area near Sanford

Favorite places in Orlando: Thornton Park, Orlando Brewing, Audubon Park Community Market on Mondays, Tasty Takeover in the Milk District

Recent reads: *Interviews with Francis Bacon* by David Sylvester, *The Shepherd's Life: Modern Dispatches from an Ancient Landscape* by James Rebanks



1983: B.S. IN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY • 1984: M.S. IN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING, PURDUE UNIVERSITY • 1987: PH.D. IN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING, PURDUE • 1987–2002: PROFESSOR, TEXAS A&M • 1996–99: DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR FOOD PROCESSING, TEXAS A&M • 1999–2002: ASSOCIATE HEAD FOR RESEARCH AND GRADUATE EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING, TEXAS A&M • 2002–14: PROFESSOR, PURDUE • 2002–10: ASSOCIATE DEAN AND DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, PURDUE • 2010–14: VICE PROVOST FOR UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, PURDUE • 2012–14: ACTING VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS, PURDUE • 2014–18: PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, UCF • 2018–CURRENT: PRESIDENT, UCF

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UCF'S PROGRAMMING TEAM BECAME FIRST IN NORTH AMERICA BY FALLING BEHIND.

BY JEFFREY C. BILLMAN '01 '10MA

hey're behind. They can see it on the scoreboard inside a cavernous room at Florida International University — abuzz with the low hum of murmuring conversation, the scribble of pencil on paper, the clack of keyboards — as 120 or so other teams, clustered at desks in groups of three, tick off problems one by one. It isn't just that they're not solving problems at the same clip as the others. They expect that to happen. Starting slow and playing catch-up is an element of their strategy, chiseled from years of experience, honed by all-day Saturday practices and deep-into-the-night weekday trainings.

That's not the worrisome part. A lot of teams try to solve the easy problems first — insofar as any of these questions can be called "easy" — then tackle the harder ones later. That makes sense. If you solve the most problems within the designated five-hour window, you win the Southeast regional. You go to the world championship, the ultimate Battle of the Brains, the Super Bowl of Smart People.

You go to Beijing. But the UCF team went in with a different play in mind. Two teammates would crank through the easy problems, while the third, the ace, bore down on the hard ones. This way, they wouldn't rush at the end to solve the most difficult questions; accuracy, after all, is a primary tiebreaking criterion. At the same time, they wouldn't waste two hours on a problem they discovered they couldn't solve.

So they expect to be behind. They expect to catch up toward the end, having a healthy head start on the difficult problems that can take hours to figure out. But they don't expect things to simply not click.

After all, they're UCF's best programming team, maybe its best ever. And UCF has perhaps the premier programming program in the entire country. It's been that way for decades, for as long as competitive programming has been a real thing. UCF's teams almost always go to the world championships. They have every year since 2011. And for 36 straight years — the longest streak in the country — UCF had placed in the top three in the Southeast.

They'd be damned if they were the team that failed. Stay calm, they tell themselves. Stay focused. Don't stare at the scoreboard.

And just like that, it comes together, like it always does, like it's supposed to, their months of practice paying off. In an hour, they solve more of the 11 problems than most teams do all day, rocketing up the scoreboard from 10th to first. They win. The second-place team also comes from UCF, two problems behind them. But only one team goes to the world championship.

Only them. Beijing.

or students Timothy Buzzelli, Alex Coleman and **Eric Ly '18**. Beijing wasn't the goal, but rather the expectation. The goal was to medal — something no UCF team had done since Bill Clinton was president — "to show that we were on the rise," Coleman says. Buzzelli and Coleman had been to the world championships before, in 2017, though it was in the less exotic locale of Rapid City, South Dakota, where they'd finished better than any UCF team this century: tied for 13th out of 133, the best in the U.S. (beating teams from Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, MIT and Stanford, among others), second in North America.

Their appetite was whetted. They wanted more.

Buzzelli was a natural. The son of a software engineer, he'd been programming since the age of 9, was gifted at geometry problems and was the ace the team turned to for the toughest questions. Coleman had been programming since middle school, and programming competitively since high school. Ly, the oldest of the bunch, was nonetheless a new addition to the unit, a latecomer to competitive programming who earned his spot through grit and determination.

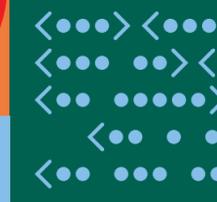
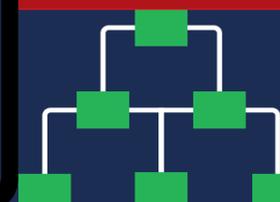
They were one of seven three-person teams comprising what's referred to as UCF's varsity program, the teams that go to regionals. Another four teams of three compete as junior varsity, mostly freshmen and sophomores who expect to move up as the top programmers age out. Even they are among the elites; every year, about roughly 200 students compete for 33 slots.

But of the seven varsity squads, there's almost always one that stands out, one that's supposed to win the regional and show the world what UCF can do. From the outset, expectations are high.

"We take the programming team very seriously," says Ali Orooji, associate professor of computer science, who serves as the team's faculty advisor. "They put so much time and effort into it. How the University of Alabama feels about football, that's how we feel about the programming team."

And like Alabama's football team — or, if you put more stock in actual win-loss records than a computer algorithm, last season's Knights — these three programmers would go on to prove themselves to be the best team in the United States.

“HOW THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA FEELS ABOUT FOOTBALL, THAT'S HOW WE FEEL ABOUT THE PROGRAMMING TEAM.”



THE TEAM



TIM BUZZELLI



ALEX COLEMAN



ERIC LY '18



COACH ALI OROOJI

In the past 35 years, UCF has finished better than 10th in the world finals four times, capped by a second-place finish in 1987. But things were different then, Orooji points out. There was less competition, fewer programmers. The team, which had just a handful of members, was mostly doing things on its own. Orooji had come to UCF in '85, but he didn't become the team's faculty advisor for another four years. Back then the team was just a handful of students, its success an outgrowth of UCF's computer science program and the topflight talent it attracted.

Computer programming, let alone competitive programming, was in its infancy. The first programming course Orooji took was in grad school. Today, he says, kids learn about computers in grade school and programming in high school. By the time they get to college, they're miles ahead of where their forebears were a generation ago. At the same time, the questions are harder and the competition stiffer.

Even so, UCF has maintained its dominance. All seven of the teams it sent to the Southeast regional last November placed in the top nine. In the past 15 years, the school has won regionals 10 times and gone to the world finals 13 times. No school in the Southeast, and very few schools anywhere, can boast that level of success. Considering that some 3,000 schools and 50,000 students compete worldwide every year, that's not an insignificant achievement.

"I love programming," Orooji says. But when he started, "I was not sure what was involved." What was involved was a lot of time. A believer in leading by example, Orooji showed up to Saturday practices, something the team has continued to this day.

"I wasn't planning to do it for 30 years," he says. "But I enjoyed it so much."

As the years went on and the program grew, the team became something of a fraternity. Former teammates returned as coaches, helping develop younger players' skills. The team had its own lab, where members could hang out and work on problems. There were Tuesday dinners at Fujiyama Sushi. There was camaraderie.

"It's definitely a very close-knit group," says Buzzelli. "Most of us live in that lab. We're all there day in and day out. Everyone on the programming team is like my best friend in college."

There was also a lot of work. For Ly, that meant going above and beyond the 20 hours a week the team expects. Unlike Buzzelli and Coleman, he didn't grow up programming. He grew up in the small town of Leesburg, Florida, and started at UCF in 2010 with plans to be a doctor, like his family wanted. Three years in, he decided that wasn't for him.

Trying to figure out what he wanted to do with himself, he tried his hand at several different courses, including *Introduction to Programming*. As he does with all computer science courses, Orooji stopped by to encourage students to try out for the programming team the next fall.

In the fall of 2014, Ly did. He didn't make it. Not even close.

"I didn't want to give up," he recalls. "I trained on my own. I learned to do all those problems. It's a lot of thinking, learning techniques and algorithms and how to apply them. When someone starts out, a strategy is to do a lot of [past competition] problems and learn techniques from those problems."

By spring, the coaches were so impressed by his dedication and progress that they invited him to join the JV squad. The next fall, he made varsity. At regionals that year, his team placed 10th, dead last out of UCF's entries.

"That day put a stronger drive in me," he says. "I trained even harder after losing."

In 2016, paired with two new teammates, Ly's team placed second at regionals, just missing a trip to the world championship — and behind only Buzzelli and Coleman's team.

“THAT DAY PUT A STRONGER DRIVE IN ME. I TRAINED EVEN HARDER AFTER LOSING.”

By the time tryouts came around last fall, Buzzelli and Coleman knew whom they wanted as their third teammate. **Joshua Linge '14 '16MS**, their teammate for the 2016-17 year, had graduated. (He's now a software engineer for Facebook.) With him, they'd done well: They'd won regionals, of course. They'd also placed 13th in the world, if you counted the number of questions they answered. But they'd just missed a medal.

"We were super happy about that," Coleman says. It wasn't just where they ended up, but how they got there: "We have rough starts,

but we come back from them." In the contest's second of five hours, they were in 60th or 70th place, with Buzzelli — per the team's strategy — using the only computer terminal to solve a difficult geometry problem. They set a goal of finishing no lower than 30th. Buzzelli finished, then Linge and Coleman unloaded their solutions on the terminal. Soon enough, they were shooting up the scoreboard.

As returning members of the top American team, Buzzelli and Coleman came into 2017-18 as UCF's all-stars. They'd both made varsity as freshmen in 2015, something few do. They were already good at programming, but needed to work on strategy and problem-solving techniques.

"The analogy I have used is that programming is like speaking a language," Coleman says. "It's a tool you can use to do different things. Competitive programming is like some type of speech competition. You have to be able to speak a language, but it's so much more than that."

They practiced hard and improved rapidly. By their sophomore year, they were part of UCF's top team. Buzzelli ranked first in tryouts at the beginning of the year, Coleman second. And in their junior year, they told their coaches that they wanted Ly to join them. They'd seen his dedication and work ethic, his long nights in the lab and rapid improvement, his willingness to teach new players.

The decision wasn't entirely theirs. Ly had to try out. His placement wasn't just a matter of how well he did in the competition, but of how his skill set balanced out his teammates' skills. In the same way a basketball team might not want five point guards on the floor, a programming team wouldn't want three teammates whose specialties overlap.

"The competition for that last spot was a struggle," Ly says. But in the end, Ly joined Coleman and Buzzelli's team. Three months later, they were in South Florida, characteristically falling behind and then catching up in the Southeast regional.

"We want to win regionals every year," Buzzelli says. "And all of UCF's teams aim to finish ahead of Georgia Tech."

At the end of April, the three teammates along with Orooji and six coaches made the long flight to China. They arrived a week early, both to allow them to see the sites and to adjust to the 12-hour time difference.

There were a few short practices, just to keep them sharp, but most of the week was set aside for relaxation and playing tourist. At first, Coleman says, Beijing looked like any other big city, except that everything was in Chinese instead of English. But the more they looked — at places like the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square, they realized how different it was from the U.S. Beijing is a modern city whose ancient past is tangible and ever-present. "It's a culture that's so different than ours. We realized how alive all of that culture felt."

As competition day neared, Ly was increasingly nervous. Buzzelli and Coleman had been on this stage before, but he hadn't. They had fallen just short of their goal last year, and they were counting on him to get them where they wanted to be this time around.

"I felt like my heart was going to jump out of my chest," Ly says.

And here they were, in a large gymnasium inside Peking University, 139 teams of three (of which 23 were American), all facing a giant scoreboard, hundreds of students and teachers talking and milling about.

"It was really intimidating," Ly says. "These are really smart people."

UCF's strategy going in was tightly focused. They doubted they'd be able to win it all. They'd done some scouting of the teams they were up against. The winners — first place went to Moscow State University, with the Moscow Institute of Physics & Technology a close second — weren't a surprise. But they wanted a medal, so that's where they set their sights.

There are three types of medals in the world championships: gold to teams one through four, silver to five through eight, and bronze to nine through 12. "We were shooting for bronze," Coleman says. "Our strategy was set for that as well. We could have done more risky things." But they stuck to their game plan: Buzzelli took the hardest question, while Ly and Coleman worked through the easy ones.

They expected to start out behind, and they did. On the scoreboard they slipped to the middle of the pack. But, as they always did, they began to climb, edging into the top 10, as high as fourth, then dropping, then picking up ground, then dropping, and so on.

“I FELT LIKE MY HEART WAS GOING TO JUMP OUT OF MY CHEST.”

At contest's end, they were No. 10, good enough for a bronze medal and to be No. 1 in North America, but tantalizingly close to something more. They'd correctly answered seven of the 11 questions; one more, and they would have placed at least fifth.

"In hindsight," Coleman says, "it always feels like you could have done better. At the end of the contest, there was one more problem, and we didn't quite get it. I felt like if we had started it a little earlier, we could've gotten it."

They flew home the next day. Ly began a summer internship with Google, and Buzzelli and Coleman started internships with Facebook. Coleman and Buzzelli are supposed to graduate this year, though Coleman is thinking about sticking around for a master's degree. Ly has graduated and is entering grad school.

As with any competition, after a quick moment of basking in glory, attention turns to the next season. Ly will be on that team — the school had to get him a waiver, since the competition is supposed to be for undergrads only — but Coleman and Buzzelli will not. The contest's rules allow players to only compete in the world finals twice. But that doesn't mean they're done with UCF's programming team. No one who comes through it is ever really done with it.

"Now that Timothy and I will be coaches, we'll be able to help," Coleman says. "Maybe we'll set our sights on silver next year." ♦



WE TO NEED TALK

The number of people privately dealing with mental health issues will stun you. It's why alumni **Brandon and Michi Marshall** launched **Project 375** — to make mental health the most important topic of conversation you have today.

BY ROBERT STEPHENS

PHOTO BY MARCUS SMITH



Brandon Marshall '06 wants it known from the start: This story should not be about him. In fact, he's reluctant to be interviewed. It would be too easy to get sidetracked and talk about football and numbers and media coverage and ... him. That's what happens when you're a legendary UCF player, a six-time Pro Bowl selection in the NFL, and the first receiver in NFL history with six 100-catch seasons.

And there we go, reviewing those types of statistics rather than diving into the one that matters most to Brandon and his wife, **Michi (Nogami) Marshall '06**: According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, about 1 in 5 people in the U.S. live with a mental health disorder. Quietly. Alone. In class. At work. *One in 5*.

It's why Brandon and Michi founded Project 375 as a springboard for people to discuss mental health as easily as we discuss last weekend's football games. (They named the nonprofit after Pantone color 375, lime green, which is the color for national mental health awareness.)

"It's a myth to think mental health is too complex to talk about," says Michi, who graduated from UCF with degrees in psychology and criminal justice. "Often, the only time we hear about mental health is in times of crisis or tragedy. Our goal is to make it part of our daily interactions with our kids, our grandparents, our teachers, everyone. We all need to be involved."

In 2017, UCF became the first university to officially partner with Project 375, which trains educators and students in Youth Mental Health First Aid Training so they can assist in identifying people with mental health challenges and lead them to help. Imagine how many students and teachers could learn to notice what's really under the masks.

THE STATISTICS OF MENTAL ILLNESS ARE STAGGERING:

Twenty percent of U.S. adults experience it in a given year. They aren't necessarily living on the street or beating at the air with their fists. It might be the woman at the coffee shop. The guy sitting next to you in class. The people in your office. The family members in your home. Your best friend. It could also be *her*: that girl who sits alone. The look that may read as, "Everyone stay away from me," could be her way of saying, "Someone please notice me."

How can we approach that girl and say, "I see you"?

"The great thing we're learning from Project 375 is how to get beyond the surface and talk about this," says Pamela "Sissi" Carroll, dean of UCF's College of Community Innovation and Education. "Most of us are aware of the signs related to those who live with disordered eating or who suffer from physical abuse. But what do you look for with mental illness? Brandon and Michi are saying, as caring human beings, we shouldn't leave people to handle it on their own."

Flaky. Grumpy. Moody. We've all made judgments about people, which is why Project 375 targets schools, where assumptions are still being shaped.

"College campuses can drive societal change," says **Bryce Hagedorn '00MA**, associate professor of counselor education. Hagedorn attended the first presentation from Project 375 at UCF earlier this year, where Michi shared a mental health first aid kit with 150 people. He says, "This is just as important as making sure everyone knows how to perform CPR. We're at the front end of a shift in how we think about mental health. We can thank the Marshalls. They have a powerful story, and they've done us all a favor by being open about it."

WE HAVE TO TELL BRANDON'S STORY. BUT IT HAS

to be told with Michi because without her there might not be a redeeming theme about mental health and no impetus for Project 375 — just football statistics and negative perceptions.

"When Brandon and I look back at how everything has aligned, even through the darkest times," says Michi, "we both believe without a doubt that God has orchestrated it all."

Start with their contrasting childhoods. Brandon grew up in a volatile environment in Pittsburgh, surrounded by alcoholism and crime and family stress. Michi was raised with the guidance of a mother with a doctorate in clinical psychology, learning to understand the behavior of people and how to peel back the veneer.

"She always told us, 'You never know what someone is going through,'" Michi says.

In 2006, Brandon saw Michi across the UCF Student Union and told a teammate, "That young lady will be my wife someday." Michi wasn't immediately interested because if she had one preconception as an underclassman, it was about athletes "playing games." Still, she and Brandon became friends.

Michi finds Brandon to be kindhearted, humble, hardworking — a man who adores his mother and treats Michi like a princess. "He modeled himself after the loving, caring people he wanted to be. I knew he was genuine." They married in 2010.

And then the tumult began. Brandon's inner drive to be perfect turned into a sea of internal stress. "I know who he is to the core," says Michi, "but environmental factors in his upbringing started bubbling to the surface. Mental disorders can stem from a chemical imbalance or wiring or genetics. For Brandon, the stress of performing at such a high level triggered something. The Brandon I'd fallen in love with was disappearing."

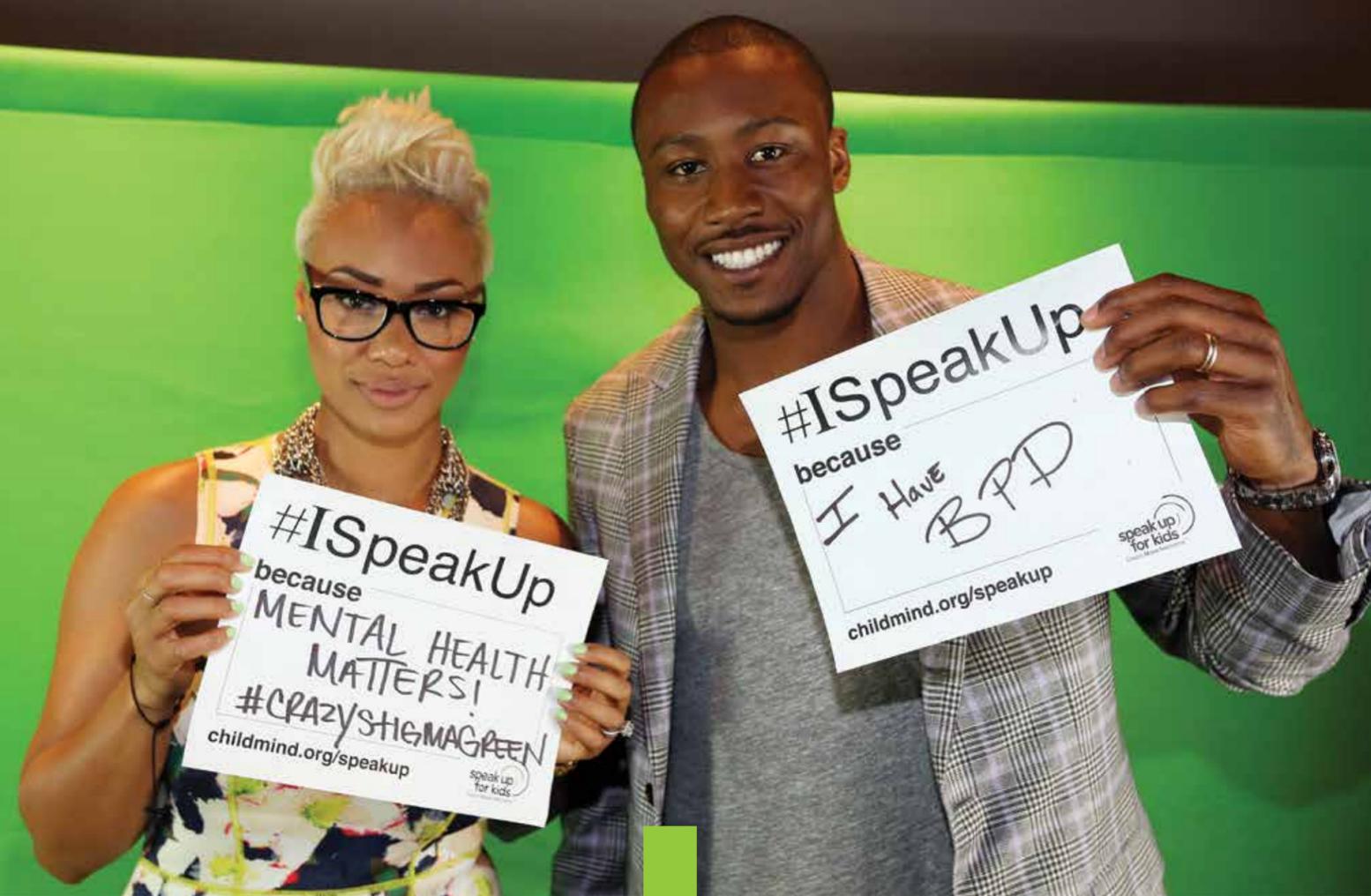


PHOTO BY TASOS KATOPODIS/GETTY IMAGES FOR CHILD MIND INSTITUTE

The public scrutiny at that time only made matters worse. The media used negative labels — erratic, sulking, unpredictable — to put Brandon in a box. They attempted to rewrite his story.

“It’s the same way we make assumptions about the people around us and think we know everything about them,” Carroll says. When in reality, as Michi’s mom wisely advised, you never know what someone is going through.

Michi, who is certified in behavioral forensics and behavioral profiling, encouraged Brandon to talk openly about what he was going through and seek counseling. After meeting with numerous professionals, he finally got an answer at McLean Hospital in Massachusetts where he was diagnosed with borderline personality disorder (BPD). While there, Brandon met others facing similar challenges — doctors, lawyers, businesspeople, teachers and social workers.

“You never would have known [they were suffering],” says Brandon. Meeting people from all walks of life who were living with mental illness inspired Brandon to tell the world about his BPD. For a 6-foot-5-inch, 230-pound athlete who combines the moves of a dragonfly with the strength of a freight train, he considers going public about his mental health the biggest play of his life. Other athletes would follow his lead and open up about their own mental health issues, including Arian Foster, Kevin Love, Michael Phelps and Nate Robinson.

To keep the dialogue going and help eradicate the stigma associated with mental health disorders, Brandon and Michi launched The Brandon Marshall Foundation. But there was a problem. “People were making it about him instead of about the cause,” Michi says.

So they changed the name to Project 375, turned everything lime green and added the perfect tagline: “The way people think about mental health is crazy.”

In addition to bringing Project 375 to campus, Michi and Brandon Marshall donated \$60,000 to UCF for The Project 375 Graduate Assistant Fellowship, which will provide scholarships for graduate counseling students.

The Project 375 team says the only way we can make progress is if everyone is part of the conversation: the sister, the spouse, the teacher, the classmate, the roommate, the teammate. *Everyone.*

“It takes a lot for a person of Brandon’s stature, someone known for toughness, to be so open about his challenges,” says Hagedorn. “But he and Michi are taking the second important step with Project 375. They’re implementing an action plan. They’re paying it forward. You can sense their passion for this.”

As Brandon famously tweeted in October 2013 after the NFL fined him \$10,500 for wearing lime green cleats during a game: “Football is my platform not my purpose.”

Michi says she would not change a single event from the past 12 years. “God has always had a bigger purpose for us. He gave Brandon a message from his experience. He gave me the professional training. It’s serendipitous that we’re back at UCF, using Project 375 to touch lives.”

LIVES ARE ALSO BEING TOUCHED MORE THAN 2,000 MILES

from the UCF campus, in Buckeye, Arizona. There, basketball coach and teacher Chad Williams has opened a dialogue about mental health awareness with his players, students and faculty. Thanks to Brandon and Project 375, he has chosen to be proactive rather than reactive.

“Everyone knows a person who’s going through some sort of mental health crisis,” says Williams. “The thing is, those people want someone to come alongside, but they don’t know how to ask.”

A person in mental health distress might cover their anguish with occasional smiles. They may laugh when everyone else laughs. When they don’t feel like acting “normal,” they may go into isolation. They may quit a once-favorite activity. They may hang out with new friends. They might lose or gain weight or cut themselves. They may sit alone, wondering why they feel this way.

All of which describes Williams in college. He says, “On the outside, people thought I was fine. Looking back, there were signs — like losing interest in basketball. But I tried to cover it all up. I didn’t want to tell anyone, but down deep I hoped someone might notice.”

One night, at his lowest and loneliest, Williams Googled “famous athletes with mental illness.” The first name to come up was Brandon Marshall.

“I read his story and saw the lime green shoes. It humanized where I was, made me realize that I’m not alone, and that the worst thing to do is to push it off to the side,” says Williams.

Often, doctors will give a blanket diagnosis like “anxiety” or “depression.” But a specialist can drill deeper to the root and possibly find something more specific, like BPD or, in Williams’ case, bipolar disorder II.

“Bipolar disorder is one of the most stigmatized illnesses in our culture because it’s so misunderstood,” says Williams. “It doesn’t mean a person is necessarily unstable or short-fused. The ups and downs have varying levels of severity. That’s why I’m so open about it. When someone says, ‘Oh, you’re crazy,’ or ‘Oh, you’re bipolar,’ I can say, ‘Yeah, actually, I am living with a bipolar disorder. Let me tell you about it.’”

Last fall, Williams helped bring Project 375’s Youth Mental Health First Aid Training to his school district. He told the captains of his basketball team why he wears a lime green hoodie.

Five years ago, Williams went alone to a fundraiser for mental illness. Last year, 30 people joined him, including the captains of his basketball team. “[It was] the high point of my coaching,” he says.

For all those years, while he tried to shake free from his own thoughts, he just needed someone to come alongside and allow him to be authentic.

“I’ve never met Brandon Marshall,” says Williams, “but it’s fair to say that he saved my life.”

IMAGINE UCF STUDENTS AND FACULTY

becoming more aware of mental health, taking a step closer, and asking, “How are you doing?” with a whole new meaning.

“The timing for Project 375 is right,” says Hagedorn. “I think students and faculty are more open to this than we were 10 years ago. You take the scale of our student body and the school’s mission to be forward-thinking, it equals impact.”

When they crossed paths 12 years ago, Brandon and Michi Marshall never would have guessed what they’d be doing at UCF today.

“They’re doing more than speaking out,” says Carroll. “Michi rolls up her sleeves when they have a Project 375 training. She makes sure the coffee is hot. She registers people. You can see that she and Brandon are driven by a belief that this really is their purpose — helping people.”

Helping people like a classmate and the girl who sits alone. The basketball coach and the football player. Look beneath the surface.

Do you notice them? ♦

“It’s a myth to think mental health is too complex to talk about.”

— MICHI (NOGAMI) MARSHALL '06

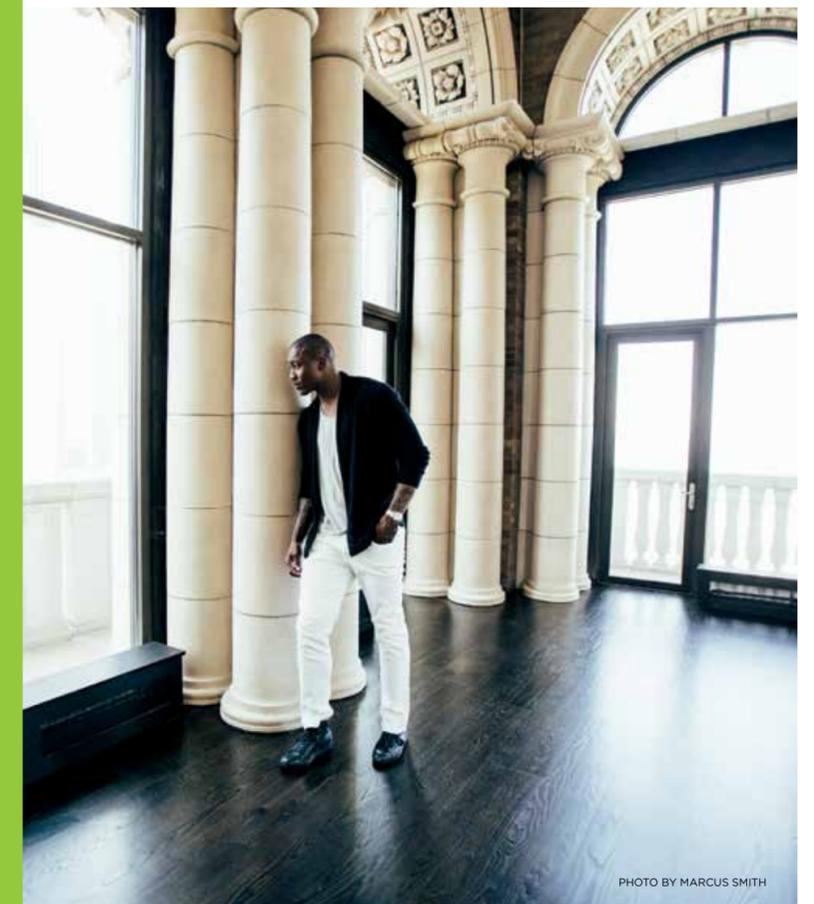


PHOTO BY MARCUS SMITH

Believe the

HEUPEL!



Josh Heupel may be in the midst of his first season as UCF head football coach, but his coaching career can be traced back as early as age 5.

“Little Heup” — pronounced Hype — as he was known then, began changing out the cleats in the equipment room at Northern State University’s football offices in Aberdeen, South Dakota, where his father, Ken Heupel, served as head coach. He ate at team meals and sat in on film sessions.

“I just thought it was the coolest experience that you could have as a kid,” says Heupel, who now brings his children, Hannah, 10, and Jace, 8, to the office with him on occasion.

A former Heisman Trophy runner-up and national champion at the University of Oklahoma, Heupel has never lost his excitement for the sport that allows him to impact the lives of others.

“The greatest part of my job is our players,” he says. “I love getting to interact with them. They have a great energy. There is brotherhood here, and we are continuing to build on that culture.”

How do you make a program better every day?

We emphasize accountability, trust and attacking; and attacking is just another word for working extremely hard. Those three values are how we are going to interact in every area of our life. We talk about being great with your faith, being great with your family, and being great academically, socially and athletically. If you carry those values into those different areas and try to achieve greatness in all of them, you are putting yourself in a position to be successful for your entire life.

What is the key to motivating today’s student-athletes?

Communication, more than anything, is different with this generation. That doesn’t apply just to players; it’s my son and my daughter, too. Technology has dramatically changed the world. The amount of information everyone has access to has changed their perspective and understanding. So for us as coaches, when we’re dealing with our players, the thing we always have to answer to me is ‘the why’ — why are we asking you to do something? If you answer the why, and players understand there’s a purpose behind something, they’re going to buy in.

NEW HEAD FOOTBALL COACH JOSH HEUPEL IS AS REAL AS IT GETS.

BY JENNA MARINA LEE

Morning routine?

I pound coffee. I drink it by the gallon — straight, black. I’m way more productive in the morning than I am late at night.

What’s playing over your speakers?

When I drive into the office, I’m listening to Christian contemporary, probably. Sturgill Simpson for country. My kids really like Imagine Dragons, so I’ll listen to that, and I get into Mumford & Sons and that genre. During football season, it goes in a different direction. We’ll do some old-school rap in the offices. Biggie Smalls is a personal favorite of mine. We call Mondays “Outkast Monday” while we are putting our game plan together.

Your mom was your high school principal.

Were you ever called into her office?

Only for good things. That’s what I’m going to say in this magazine article anyway. If I ever did get in trouble, which was maybe once, I tried to get to the assistant principal and not walk into my mom’s office. As far as leadership style goes, my dad gets a lot of play because he’s in coaching and I spent a lot of time around him, but I’ve tried to take a lot of communication skills from my mom and learn from how she interacted with others as a leader.

If you never played football, you would have played...

At one time, I was involved in hockey, basketball and wrestling all at the same time. My mom was getting tired of it and said, “You’re going to quit one of them, and it’s going to be hockey.” And that was because of the outdoor practices. We only had one indoor rink, and you only got it once a week.

How do you prepare for fans’ expectations going into this season?

I love their expectations, but I don’t really pay attention to them. At the end of the day, none of their expectations are going to be any higher than I have for our football team and for myself. We focus on our daily purpose and our daily actions, and we’re going to go into every Saturday understanding that we have an opportunity to win.

Why UCF?

As big as our university is with the number of students that we have, it still feels like a true community. It’s not overwhelming for our student-athletes or our recruits when they come to campus. I think that’s a unique quality, and it’s a lot of fun when a university feels that way. I love that we’re situated right in Orlando. When I want to get out with my wife and kids, you have everything here you can imagine within a 30-minute drive. At the same time, you go out to the other side of campus, and you have the opportunity to go hunt, fish and be out in nature. The uniqueness of this university in this city is that within an hour, you are everywhere you want to be. ♦



Gustavo Canales • Junior • Entertainment management • From San Antonio, Texas



Austin and Blake Lynn • Both 1st-year • Both industrial engineering • From Orlando



Audrey Michich • Senior • Entertainment management • From Sarasota, Florida



Kathryn Book • First-year • Biomedical sciences • From Lehigh Acres, Florida



Angelo Balado • Senior • Social work • From Dumaguete City, Philippines



Jeremy Singh • First-year • Theatre • From Fayetteville, North Carolina

"Now" Trending

Students start the semester by showing off their freshest 'fits.



Chad Brown • Senior • Interdisciplinary studies • From DeLeon, Florida



Courtney Marshall • Senior • Health sciences • From Gainesville, Florida



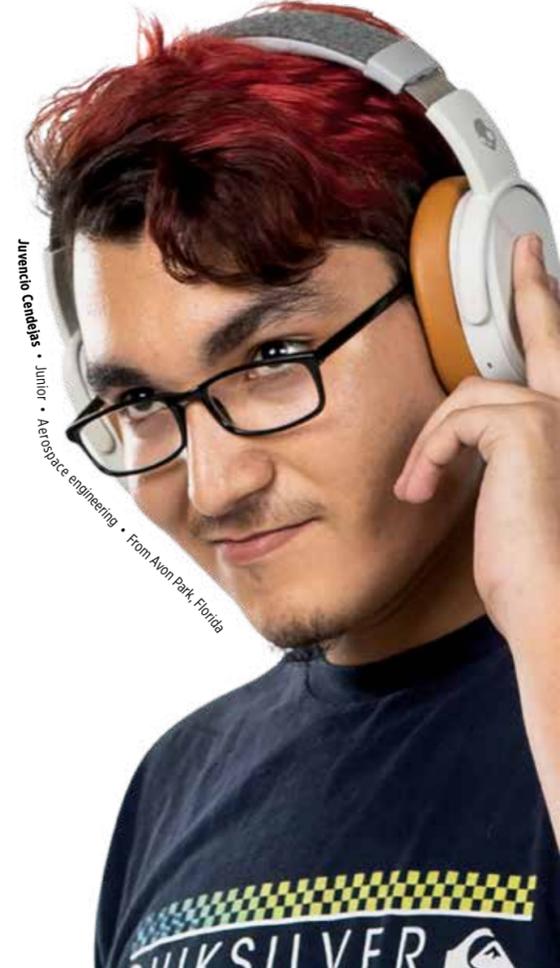
Gyselle Rios • Sophomore • Health sciences • From Miami



Jena Syles • First-year • Computer science • From Viera, Florida



Carlene Camerling • Engineering • From Naples, Italy



Juvenio Candelias • Junior • Aerospace engineering • From Avon Park, Florida

TIMELINE TRAVELER



Sarah Kim '10 went from being an accountant to a full-time travel blogger. The wanderlust expert offers her tips for planning your next trip.

by Nicole Dudenhoefer '17



FRANCE

While getting paid to travel is the ultimate dream job for many, it's reality for **Sarah Kim '10** — and plenty of people are following her journeys.

In 2015, the accounting major left behind a successful career working for Deloitte, one of the biggest professional services networks in the world, to move to Amsterdam and run her travel blog, *Lust 'Till Dawn*. Since then, she's grown her site into a resource for globe-trotters and has amassed more than 100,000 followers on Instagram.

"Working hard at school brought me to a job where I worked hard, and that same work ethic extended into my blogging. When you have your own business, it's very time-consuming," Kim says.

Although Kim has visited a new country every year since 2005, she decided to pursue her passion full time because she was burned out from working a corporate job and developed fibromyalgia. For Kim, the chronic pain condition can make it difficult to venture out into wildlife, but that doesn't stop her from exploring urban landscapes.

"I think it's very important to keep doing what you love even if you have to modify it," Kim says. "[It can be difficult when] you don't feel like the same you. Instead of comparing yourself to your past, focus on today and the future, and just keep doing what you love."

From the more than 20 countries Kim has visited, including Thailand, Spain and Canada, she's developed expertise in travel practices and a deeper appreciation for the cuisine, customs and culture of others.

"Travel reminds me that our world is so big and I'm so small, to be more respectful of people, [and] that my problems are not as big as they seem," Kim says. "It's so interesting to me to see how other people live."



AMSTERDAM

KIM'S PRO TRAVEL TIPS

1. Be flexible. "You have to be flexible. Sign up for deal websites for airfare and see when the cheapest flights are. You might not be able to go somewhere the best week in the summer when everyone else is going, but you'll save a lot of money."

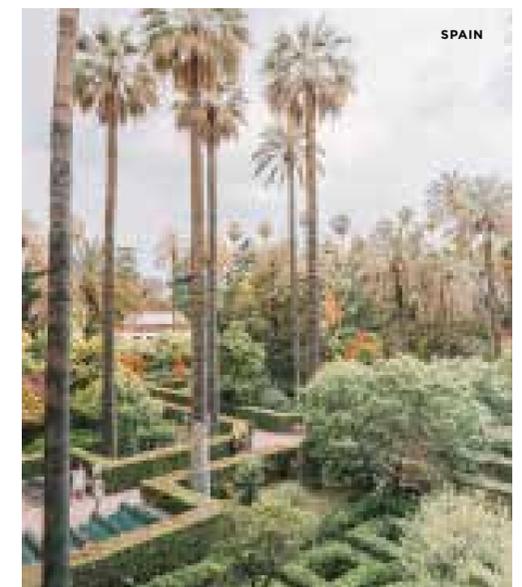
2. Do your research. "I see a lot of tourists just walking into places or restaurants. We live in an age where you can pretty much see where you'll get the most bang for your buck — research is key to me."

3. Explore lesser-known areas. "Don't limit yourself to the top 10 activities in a city and only go places the average tourist does. I was with my husband **Michael Chetrit '10** in Greece this year, and everyone was telling us to visit this one spot for the best sunset, but we just drove around and used Google Maps to find a random spot on a side road that offered a better view and experience."

4. Connect with locals. "If you want the local experience, I like using Reddit to ask people questions or see what their recommendations are. Ask locals what they do when their friends and family visit. Even ask for recommendations using Facebook."



THAILAND



SPAIN

5. Indulge in downtime. "Don't pack your schedule too much. Give yourself time to explore if you discover something you want to check out. My favorite way of traveling is going to a neighborhood I want to see and walking around to get a feel for it. I'll have my meals planned out and walk around in between, or I'll plan to eat at a restaurant near a site I want to see."

6. Practice taking photos. "You're only going to get better by actually doing it. For taking great photos, try to avoid centering subjects in the frame. Instead, use the rule of thirds to create balance and tension. And just take pictures of what you love." ♦

PHOTOS BY SARAH KIM '10 AND MICHAEL CHETRIT '10



Kristen Wiley '14 and **Theresa Joseph '17** launched *Statusphere*, a marketing platform that connects social media influencers with brands. Wiley, an advertising and public relations major, is the founder and CEO. Joseph, a finance major, serves as director of operations.

1971

Steve Bairstow practiced law in Texas and Florida until retiring in December.

1973

Kathryn (Barker) Stover retired after 21 years as a teacher in the Central Florida area.

1974

Daniel Friend is president and military curator at the Memorial Hospital and Veterans Museum in DeLand, FL.

Peter MacLaughlin retired from Culligan Water after 14 years as a water conditioning technician. He currently works part time as a traffic enforcement officer at Palm Springs International Airport.

Kevin McNamara retired after more than 30 years with the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, the last 25 as airport director of Orlando Executive Airport.

1976

Dennis Bennett is the director of nonprofit business systems at Integrated Organizational Development.

1977

Vincent Busche retired after 40 years as a respiratory therapist and is currently a beekeeper.

Catherine Wilkinson retired from Seminole County Public Schools as a special education teacher.

1978

Michael Boone retired from the outdoor industry.

1979

Henry Lunsford is a construction coordinator within the Florida United Methodist Church's Hurricane Irma Long-term Recovery project.

1980

Paul Perreault, CEO and managing director of CSL Limited, was named Humanitarian Man of the Year by the Hemophilia Association of New Jersey.

1981

Gary Merideth is celebrating 40 years as a State Farm agent in Ocoee, FL.

1983

Linda (Sykes) Howard '89MBA served as the first African American president of the Florida Government Finance Officers Association. She is a certified public accountant and certified treasury professional.

1984

Lawrence Russell has retired after 17 years with the South Florida Water Management District.

1986

Jodi Glacier is the owner of Senior Care Authority – Palm Beach County, which specializes in helping families find the best long-term care options for their senior loved ones.

Joseph Joyner '96EdD was inducted into the Orange County Public Schools Hall of Fame. He served 23 years as a teacher, coach and eventually principal at Apopka High School.

1987

Scott Smith '04MS '12PhD was named Distinguished Teacher of the Year by the University of South Carolina's College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management.

1989

John Heinbockel '92MS is an assistant professor of anesthesiology at the UCF College of Medicine and vice chief of staff for Ocala Health.

1990

Jackie (Coocen) Ramsey was named Assistant Principal of the Year by the Florida Department of Education. She is an assistant principal at Carver Middle School and is credited with helping the school boost its school grade from F to C.

Doug Muldoon retired as chief of the Palm Bay Police Department and is now director of law enforcement relations for ecoATM based in San Diego.

1992

Mark Morrison and his brother **Michael Morrison '14MFA**'s film *Florida Bush League Wrestling* was nominated for Most Outrageous Film at the 2017 Orlando Film Festival.

Dan Ward was named president and owner of Orlando public relations firm Curley & Pynn, which he acquired from co-founder **Roger Pynn '73**. Ward is a 22-year veteran of the firm.

1993

Wade Gillingham was named vice president of electric and water production for OUC.

Kelly (Taliaferro) Hoban earned a doctor of education in school improvement from the University of West Georgia.

Chris Tomasso, president of First Watch Restaurants, was appointed as CEO.

1994

Jennifer (Adams) McKinley '96MS is the business development manager for physical sciences at UCF.

Eric Basilo '05MED '08EdD was named the 2018 Florida Assistant Principal of the Year by the Florida Association of School Administrators. He also received an adjunct faculty excellence award from Seminole State College. He is an assistant principal at Sanford Middle School Magnet.

W. Glenn Jensen is a law firm partner at Winderweedle, Haines, Ward & Woodman. He is also a former U.S. Marine corporal.

Doug Parsons is the director of America Adapts Media and the host of the climate change podcast America Adapts.

1995

Lindsey (Formosa) Phillips '99MA is the director of external affairs at Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health.

Steven Hronec is a co-owner and DJ at KnightSounds.

1996

Denise (Lowe) Tabscott is a librarian at Harpeth Valley Elementary School in Nashville, TN. She and fellow Knights **Lisa (Castellano) Blake '08**, **Sara White '08** and **Ariana Santiago '09 '17MA** were selected to participate in the American Library Association's Emerging Leader Program at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.

1997

Samantha Neff '12MS was a statewide 2019 Teacher of the Year finalist and was named Seminole County's Teacher of the Year. She is a adjunct professor at UCF and a math coach at Idyllwilde Elementary School in Sanford, FL.

1998

Lori (Kifer) Johnson is the Orlando general manager for the Edelman communications marketing firm. Together with One Orlando Alliance, Edelman won the 2018 *PRWeek* Best in a Crisis Award for their work following the Pulse nightclub shooting.

Gregory Kuzma was promoted to colonel in the Air Force Reserve, with 19 years of total service.

1999

Jennifer (King) McVan is the executive director of strategic communications and community relations at Florida Hospital Tampa.

Paul O'Meara is the owner of Jupiter Compass in Jupiter, FL.

Jennifer Parkerson is the vice president of operations at Welsh Construction in Melbourne, FL.

2000

James Buell is the vice president of marketing for World of Beer.

Shelby Robertson '03MS '08PhD is a learning and development facilitator for math and science at the Problem Solving/Response to Intervention Project and an adjunct professor at UCF.

2001

Nicole Stalder is an associate vice president for Dewberry's Orlando office.

2002

Thomas Wheaton is the founder and CEO of Faded Spade, a new poker and playing card brand.

2003

Ryan Kelley '11MBA is the principal and chief operating officer of Atlas Financial Partners, a niche investment bank.

Derrick Sines, a senior software engineer at Riptide Software in Oviedo, FL, was named to the Florida High Tech Corridor's 2018 Faces of Technology.

2004

Richard Beary retired after 11 years as UCF's police chief. Combined with his 15 years as chief of police for Lake Mary, he was the most tenured law enforcement executive in Central Florida.

Marc Chernoff runs Marc and Angel Hack Life, which was recognized by *Forbes* as "one of the most popular personal development blogs."

Nathan Selikoff and **David Moran '14** are co-founders of Omnimodal, an Orlando-based transportation tech company that won \$25,000 in Rally's Social Enterprise Accelerator Program and was featured in *Forbes*.

2005

Alexis (Senge) Johnson '10MNM is the foundation executive director at USTA Florida Section Foundation.

2006

Nikki (Armstrong) Nate was promoted to shareholder status at Bryant Miller Olive, where she is part of their state and local government and litigation practice groups.

Christine Dellert '15MA was promoted to deputy chief of staff for communications and operations at UCF.

Jacqui Marin was named 2018 Magnet Nurse of the Year at Baptist Hospital in Miami.

Suzanne (Meyer) Ross is a human resources specialist with FEMA.

2007

Angela Byrd is an associate producer at WPTV in West Palm Beach, FL.

Chris Levine wrote, produced and starred in the film *Anabolic Life* and was named Best Actor at the 2017 Orlando Film Festival.

Stephanie Lisa earned a J.D. from Jones School of Law in Alabama.

Melissa (Phelan) Owens founded Allied Search Partners, a medical staffing company, in 2008. The firm ranks No. 71 on the 2018 *Forbes* Best Professional Recruiting Firms list.

Megan (Ries) Blanco is the associate director of U.S. operations for Greenstaff Medical in Plano, TX.

2008

Rob Easton III is a fourth-year resident in anesthesiology at the University of Toledo Medical Center in Ohio.

Rishi Immani is an associate with Dewberry in their Atlanta office.

Jacob Merrifield is the admissions program manager at Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

2009

Jennifer Brody, representing the U.S., received the prestigious 2018 Young Leader Award at the International Les Clefs d'Or Congress in Seoul, South Korea.



Estefania Bohorquez '17 is having quite the year. Bohorquez, an aerial gymnast who is currently pursuing her master's degree in mechanical systems at UCF, received a 20 Twenties Award from Aviation Week and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and was also awarded a Fulbright research grant.

Johan Coppers performed as Johan Danno at the Florida Music Festival in downtown Orlando.

Kristin (Leanza) Panella '15MA is a vocational consultant.

Ricky Ly was appointed to the board of directors for Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida.

Phil Marchese is an executive vice president at Blanca Commercial Real Estate in Miami.

Mike Panella is the owner of Panella Law Firm in Orlando.

2010

Presley Adamson is a producer of creative services at the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California.

Katherine (Liu) Bruce is the founder and pastor of Christian Arts Ministries: Biblical Precepts and Gospel Music.

Samantha Nemeroff passed the Certified Meeting Professional exam.

2011

Jacob Galper is a senior manager of servicing strategy at American Express.

Adam Smajstrla is the senior art director at Hawkers Asian Street Fare.

2012

Shlermine Aupont is a general surgery resident at Tallahassee Memorial healthcare.

Amanda Gonzalez is the owner of Save A. Date, an event planning company in Orlando.

Amanda Mollica is an associate attorney at Cole, Scott & Kissane.

Caroline (Morris) Wolverton is a physician in the Methodist Physician Group in Kentucky.

Amanda (Puttrich) Buongiorno '14MSW is a licensed clinical social worker specializing in the treatment of eating disorders, anxiety and depression in Burbank, CA.

2013

Jamy Barreau is an associate attorney at Apfelbaum Law in Port St. Lucie, FL.

Garret Clarke is the owner of Alpha Medical Solutions, a medical diagnostics company in Jacksonville Beach, FL.

Juliann (Muldoon) May is an event sales coordinator at the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC.

Michelle Pavlovsky is a clinical assistant nurse manager at Orlando Health.

Cliff Smith founded SOL Rise Entertainment, which provides music services for private events.

Donatello Williams was admitted to the Florida Bar in September.

2014

Erica Bass is a student records specialist at Florida State College at Jacksonville.

Mark Berrios-Ayala is an articles editor for the Puerto Rican Professional Association of South Florida's website.

Daniel Crowther is a brand professional at Creative Artists Agency.

Carly McCarthy was promoted to social media manager for UCF.

Samantha Whidden was named 2019 Teacher of the Year at Crystal Lake Elementary School in Lake Mary, FL.

Alexandra Youngman is an associate in the Miami office of Development Specialists.

2015

Chelsea Daley is an email marketing associate at the Center for American Progress in Washington, D.C.

Jordan Halleck is a specialty sales representative with Liberty Mutual Insurance.

Nick Leyva is a full-time photographer for UCF Marketing.

Fuschia Miller is a senior area revenue analyst for Kimpton Hotel & Restaurant Group in Santa Barbara, CA.

Mackenzie Oaks is a talent coordinator for Fullscreen Media in Los Angeles.

Andres Vargas received Northrop Grumman's 2017 Quality is Personal Award.

2016

Robert Ciabattoni received Universal Orlando Resort's Raising the Bar leadership award.

Kerri Fleming is attending the University of St. Augustine's doctor of physical therapy program.

Bailey Morris is a communications specialist at Curley & Pynn.

Cris O'Brien is a youth and children's pastor at First Baptist Church in Charlestown, IN.

Lindsey Touchette is the vice president of development at the Community Foundation of Collier County.

John Traas is a background investigator with Securitas.

2017

Jocelin Adona is a clinical II registered nurse at the University of Colorado Hospital.

Alex Dokuchaev received the Certified Fraud Examiner designation from the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

Nicole Dudenhofer is a content producer for UCF Marketing.

Paige Wilson is the community editor of the *Palm Coast Observer* and *Ormond Beach Observer*.

2018

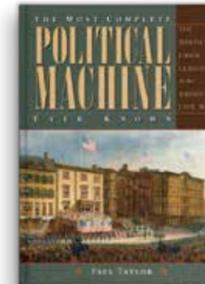
Lourdes Ramirez is a resident physician at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood, FL.

Zaida Rojas is an Early Head Start home visitor for Children's Home Society of Florida.

Daniel Stehli is a resident physician at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN.

Brittany Urso is a resident physician at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, WA.

ALUMNI AUTHORS



Roderick Powell '83 wrote *Winning in Combat Sports: Strategies & Tactics*.

Marisa Moks-Unger '85 wrote *The Picture This Anthology: Poems from Pop Art, Fine Art, and Photography*.

Paul Taylor '86 wrote *The Most Complete Political Machine Ever Known: The North's Union Leagues in the American Civil War*.

Suzan (Curth) Kurdak '91 wrote *Overcoming the Underhanded: The True Story of a Life Reclaimed*.

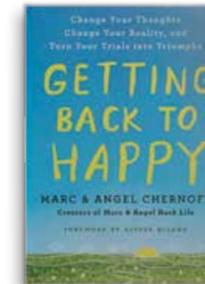
Farideh Sabeti Fathi '93EdS wrote *Free Mountain: Odyssey of a Persian Immigrant*.

Joseph Brazer '95 wrote *A Different Shade of Travel (Home and Abroad)*.

Carolyn Hoffmann '96MEd wrote *Consuming Fire: An Alexa Silven Novel*.

J. Bradley '01 wrote *Neil and Other Stories*.

Marc Chernoff '04 co-wrote *Getting Back to Happy: Change Your Thoughts, Change*



Your Reality and Turn Your Trials into Triumphs.

Vanessa Blakeslee '05 wrote *Perfect Conditions*.

Melissa Diamond Nelson '05 wrote *Girl Surfs World*.

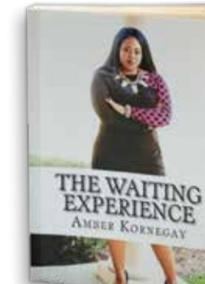
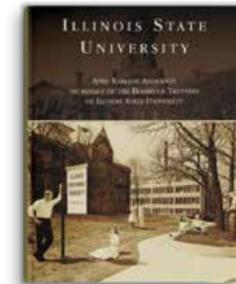
Ryan Sleeper '06 '08MBA '09MS wrote *Practical Tableau: 100 Tips, Tutorials, and Strategies from a Tableau Zen Master*.

April Anderson '07MA wrote *Illinois State University: The Campus History Series*.

Sydney McBride '07 wrote *Building Belief*.

Ryan Mettling '12 co-wrote three books for Performance Programs Company: *Principles of Real Estate Practice in Texas, Principles of Real Estate Practice in Massachusetts and Florida Real Estate License Exam Prep, 2nd Edition*.

Amber Kornegay '13 wrote *The Waiting Experience*.



In Memoriam

John Moore '72 '78MEd died on August 30, 2017.

Barbara Marie Laing '73 died on January 21, 2018.

David Boone '75 died on March 13, 2018. Boone was a UCF Foundation board member and a member of the investment committee. Boone partnered with the Burnett Honors College, the Global Perspectives Office and others to launch a community-focused

initiative on human trafficking, leading to the creation of the Center for the Study of Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery.

Treva Briggs '77 died on October 18, 2017.



INNOVATION IN SENIOR LIVING

Legacy Pointe at UCF, a forthcoming senior living community, will leverage high-quality programs from across UCF to inform, entertain, educate, care for and advance the development of successful aging.

To learn more, visit legacypointe.ucf.com

Weddings & Births

1 **Gregory Kuzma '98** and wife Jordan welcomed Arwen Jean on May 23, 2018.

2 **Leah Kahn '99** and wife Becca welcomed Samuel Reed on January 1, 2018.

3 **Dearles Rodriguez '99** and wife Ana welcomed Mathew Lee on February 26, 2018.

4 **Henry Daviero '01** and wife Anessa welcomed Wolfie on July 23, 2016.

5 **Eamonn Donlyn '01** and wife Orla welcomed Fionn Fitzgerald on October 24, 2017.

6 **Katy McBride '02** and **Joel Reeves '07** welcomed Aiden Robert on September 29, 2017.

7 **Elizabeth Baranik '04** married **Luis Pardillo '04** on September 29, 2017.

8 **Laura (Creegan) Matthews '04 '08MPA** and husband Tyson welcomed Henry Patrick on January 18, 2018.

9 **Julie (Meas) '04** and **Stephen Alianiello '06** welcomed Sophia Juliette in December 2017.

10 **Amy (Voss) '04** and **Daniel Rodenbrock '06** welcomed Jonah Lee on February 17, 2018.

Page '05MPA and **John Barningham '05MPA** welcomed Aleah Rose in November 2017.

11 **Josh Himes '05** married Emma Emmons on January 20, 2018.

12 **Tiffany (Thew) Fisher '05** and husband Clint welcomed Maverick on February 28, 2018.

13 **Heather (Erenstein) '06 '09MSM** and **James Cobb '07 '13MS** welcomed Aubrey on July 2, 2017.

Anneliese Kaplinksi '06 married **Fred Sandstrom '04** on February 17, 2018.

14 **Krista (Peckyno) Thompson '06 '08NMN** and husband Brandon welcomed Gabriella Lynn on February 13, 2018.

15 **Dane Smith '06** and wife March welcomed Dane Michael III on November 13, 2017.

16 **Elexis (Aluisio) Ritz '07 '13MA** and husband Sean welcomed Owen Frank on January 8, 2018.

17 **Stacey (Brannan) '07 '08MBA** and **Jason Schaitz '07 '09MBA** welcomed Sadie Beth on January 26, 2018.

18 **Michael Harne '07** married Whitney Lane on February 3, 2018.

19 **Angela (Martinez-Giraldo) '07 '10MBA** and **Javier Rivera '07 '10MS '16PhD** welcomed Sergio Andres on December 12, 2017.

20 **Ashley Squillante '07 '09MA** married **Patrick McDaniel '07** on March 18, 2018.

21 **Kimberly Casale '08** married Matthias Justice on November 4, 2017.

22 **Nicole (Ferraro) '08 '09MS** and **Nicholas Lucchesi '04** welcomed Jaxon Cole on January 15, 2018.

23 **Karen (Northey-Boquin) '08** and **Stephen Ruff '08** welcomed Sofia Isabela and Adrian Quinn on January 25, 2018.

24 **Allison (Piland) '08 '11MA** and **Shane O'Connor '11** welcomed Eila Gwen on February 26, 2018.

25 **Samantha (Wells) '08 '14Med** and **Tom Gaboian '07** welcomed Ethan on October 17, 2017.

26 **James Driscoll '09** and wife Brittany welcomed James Patrick on March 12, 2018.

27 **Tara (Hendrickson) '09** and **Andrew Goldsmith '11** welcomed Jackson Lucas on October 13, 2017.

28 **Stephanie Kumor '09** married **Christian Diaz '08 '12DPT** on October 21, 2017.

29 **Lindsey Stein '09** married **Adam Weinberg '09** on February 10, 2018.

30 **Audrey (Turpening) '09 '11MS** and **Paul Wills '13** welcomed Griffin James on April 11, 2018.

31 **Carly (Adkins) '10** and **Jonathan Hart '05** welcomed Cooper Joseph on December 15, 2017.

32 **Ashley (Bossenberger) Kegel '10** and husband Erich welcomed Emmett Timothy on December 2, 2017.

33 **Christina Callaghan '10** married **Chris Ruck '10** on October 7, 2017.

34 **Lauren Catenacci '10** married **Alex Francois '11** on December 1, 2017.

35 **Angela Huston '10** married Eric Miller on November 11, 2017.

36 **Natalie Kasper '10** married **Charles Maniatis Jr. '04** on December 9, 2017.

37 **Kristina (Marklin) '10** and **Tim Galligan '09** welcomed Katherine Elizabeth on December 15, 2017.

38 **Charlotte Merritt '10MPA** married **Thomas Leavitt '12MBA** on March 10, 2018.

39 **Carla Portilla '10** married **Steve Craig '12** on December 1, 2017.

Samantha Steinemann '10 married Vance Cato on January 27, 2018.



Weddings & Births

40 Julz Cespedes '11 '12MS married **Wes Kavanaugh '09 '15MS** on October 27, 2017.

Reema Desai '11 married **Jonathan Bollhoefer** on October 7, 2017.

41 Emily Grant '11 '13MA married **Jeremy Glass '10** on March 24, 2018.

42 Shahzia Lakhani '11 married **Roberto Berrios '11** on February 10, 2018.

43 Tracy Regan '11 married **Andrew Albertson '12** on February 4, 2017.

44 Ashlei Smith '11 married **Kristoffer Dolen '10** on February 17, 2018.

45 Tamara (Brown) '12 and **Patrick Donovan '11** welcomed **Peyton Mae** on September 10, 2017.

46 Lauren Henley '12 married **Justin Schmidt '15** on November 17, 2017.

47 Christiana Hires '12 married **Dennis Richardson** on April 14, 2018.

48 Christina Lacerenza '12 '15MS married **John Jordan '11** on May 12, 2018.

49 Virginia Morrow '12 married **Travis Thompson** on November 18, 2017.

50 Madeline Viera '12 '13MBA married **Reniel De La Paz '14** on May 6, 2018.

51 Katie (Clark) '13 and **Philippe Sabourault '11 '13MA** welcomed **Benjamin Daniel** on February 25, 2018.

52 Robert Greene '13 married **Cybelle Shuping** on December 30, 2017.

53 Morgan Lloyd '13 married **Kyle Horsley** on February 10, 2018.

54 Katie (Martin) '13PhD and **Kevin Miller '05 '06MBA** welcomed **Charlotte Josephine** on May 10, 2017.

55 Amber Perkins '13 married **Tim Kanak '13MAT** on February 10, 2018.

56 Andrea Portillo '13 married **Timothy Medeiros '12** on February 1, 2018.

57 Kelly Quintero '13 married **Edward Johnstone '12** on November 4, 2017.

58 Jessica Hicks '14 married **Tom Clemente '14** on October 21, 2017.

59 LaToya Holland '14 married **Modler Antoine** on December 1, 2017.

60 Laura Ingersoll '14 married **Ryan Loshin '07** on July 15, 2017.

61 Lauren Moran '14 married **John Herbert '12** on February 3, 2018.

62 Andrea Pulido '14 '16MA married **William Maddens '14** on February 16, 2018.

63 Carla Sosa '14 married **Andres Vargas '15** on December 9, 2017.

64 Kaitlyn Sweeney '14 married **David Janosik '05** on February 10, 2018.

Leah Williams '14 married **John Dwyer III '14** on September 15, 2017.

Teresa Huff '15 married **Tyler Hansen '13** on May 19, 2018.

65 Katelyn Johnson '15 '18MS married **Carl-Michael Noe '14 '18MS** on December 3, 2017.

66 Karen Kuzemchak '15 married **Steven Lerner '13** on December 31, 2017.

67 Hannah Nooshin '15 married **Mark Merlino '15** on March 11, 2018.

68 Matt Reichenbach '15 married **Megan Lotze** on December 29, 2017.

69 Michaela Robbins '15MBA '16MS married **Nathan Kourmoulis** on December 31, 2017.

Andrea Acosta '16 married **Kevin Jui** on March 15, 2018.

70 Travis Borton '16 and wife **Courtney** welcomed **Emma Cate** on January 31, 2018.

71 Lindsey Condoleo '16 married **Christian Baker** on October 21, 2017.

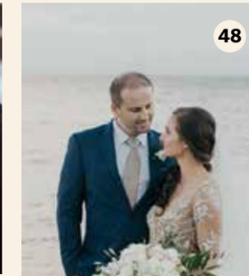
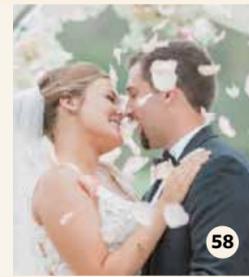
72 Rachael (Dunbar) Clark '16 and husband **Adam** welcomed **Benjamin Ford** on March 6, 2018.

73 Jessica Jones '16 married **Matthew Raynal** on November 18, 2017.

74 Stephanie (Rivera) '16 and **Matthew Forrester '09** welcomed **Dominic Oliver** on November 23, 2017.

Amelia Gallo '17 married **Joseph Bender** on December 17, 2017.

Kathryn Baker '18MD married **Christopher Atkins '18MD** on May 20, 2018.



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Why I Teach Journalism by Rick Brunson '84

They say teaching is more than a vocation; it's a calling. My call came on a hot July night in 1999 in the newsroom of the *Orlando Sentinel*.

I was working as a desk editor at my hometown newspaper, up against a deadline, when a news clerk yelled, "Rick, you've got a call. It's Fred Fedler from UCF."

Here I was, 15 years into my professional career, in the middle of committing daily journalism, getting a call from the esteemed professor who taught me the craft. I hustled over to pick up the phone. Little did I realize in that moment that a big bang was about to occur: My past was colliding with my present to sling me into my future.

"Rick, we hear you're back in town and that you have a master's [degree]," Fedler said. "We have a section of *News Reporting* that needs a teacher. Would you like to come back out to UCF and teach the class?"

Teaching.

It was something that had never been far away. My mother was a longtime teacher for Orange County Public Schools. I grew up watching her grade papers and draft lesson plans at our kitchen table night after night, long after supper was eaten and the dishes put away. It was a job that never seemed to end, with an amorphous goal — learning — that had no guarantee and resulted in no obvious product at the end of the day. At least with the newspaper, I walked out every night with something tangible under my arm that I, along with a dedicated team of rabble-rousers, had spent an adrenaline-filled day to produce. I made something.

Teaching would be different. And like my mother's job, the pay would be meager.

By that August, I was standing before 17 young people who had plunked down their tuition to learn how to write and report news.

We were covering how to write effective leads, the first and most important sentence in any news story, be it print, digital or broadcast.

As I worked the room, something happened. In showing them how to rearrange their twisted syntax into a sentence that would sing across the screen or over the air, I watched their faces go from contorted confusion to smiles of delight. Learning was happening before my eyes. It was like watching a comet streak across the sky.

It was the look every teacher knows and lives for. I had found a new calling.

UCF kept inviting me back, until one day in 2003 the faculty asked me to join them full time.

The last 15 years of my career have actually been better than the first 15. I have discovered that teaching is far more than lecturing and grading papers. I'm in the people-development business. As a teacher, I enjoy a sacred relationship with my students in the most formative years of their young adult lives. In addition to launching them into meaningful media careers at news organizations large and small — from *The Wall Street Journal* to the *Palatka Daily News* and from WMFE here in Orlando to NPR in Washington, D.C. — I continue to be part of their lives long after graduation. I go to their weddings, their baby showers and even the funerals of their loved ones.

As one of the more than 2,400 dedicated teaching faculty at UCF, we all share a common mission: "Lifting lives and livelihoods."

There's no higher privilege. As an educator and a journalist, I also share a mission that goes back to Thomas Jefferson and the founding of our republic: Only through educated and informed citizens can there be "security for the preservation of a due degree of liberty." Tyranny loves the uneducated.

Journalism education has never been more important and never more challenging. To fulfill their constitutionally mandated First Amendment role in our highly polarized country, today and tomorrow's journalists must be trained to be honest yet skeptical, compassionate yet brave. The news media faces intense political and economic pressure — from those who would deem us "the enemy of the people" to technological disruption and falling profits that have led to smaller staffs, diminished coverage and shallower reporting. But as Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said recently, "I think the press in America is a check and balance on power. ... Sometimes [the media] can be a pain in the ass, but you're not the enemy of the people. As a matter of fact, without a free press, I wouldn't want to live in [this] country."

My students, who stubbornly keep showing up to be trained to be the journalists of tomorrow, agree with him. And they keep teaching me the truth of what my mother already knew. As she toiled each night preparing for her next day in the classroom, a plaque engraved with a Henry Adams quote hung in our home: "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."

As a teacher, I make the future. ♦

“Journalism education has never been more important and never more challenging.”

I honestly had no idea what I was doing in a classroom. People who have never had to teach like to blithely and contemptuously say, "Those who can, do, and those who can't, teach." Those people are full of male bovine fecal matter.

But as the semester progressed, I found my groove. The students were incredibly patient with me as I sought to share with them what I knew. And by the end of September, I experienced the moment that hooked me on teaching.

Rick Brunson '84 is an associate instructor of journalism at UCF. When he's not teaching, he serves as the writing coach at WFTV Channel 9 Eyewitness News and works as a part-time sports production editor at the *Orlando Sentinel*.



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