

Central Florida Future

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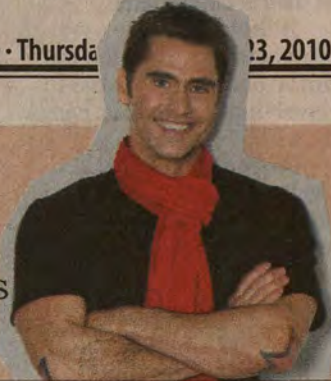
Grounded

While UCF is settling in, the run game is still an issue — SEE SPORTS, A6



Speaking out

Former *Project Runway* star raises HIV/AIDS awareness in Orlando — SEE VARIETY, A9



Career Guide

SAY HELLO TO YOUR FUTURE

Get a heads up about the companies in this year's career expo — SEE B1

Central Florida Future

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

2010 CAREER GUIDE



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Get UCF news sent to your cell phone. Just text the keyword UCFNEWS to 44636.

AROUND CAMPUS, A2

STUDENT UNION TO HOST NANOFLOIDA 2010 SYMPOSIUM

On Friday, the UCF Student Union will be hosting the third symposium on nanoscience and nanotechnology. The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and registration is required.

LOCAL & STATE, A2

GAY ADOPTION BAN OVERTURNED BY 3RD DISTRICT COURT

Florida's strict ban on adoption by gay people is unconstitutional because no other group is singled out for a flat prohibition by state law, an appeals court ruled Wednesday.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS FORCED TO CLEAN TOILETS

The two sixth-grade girls at Riverview Elementary School in Titusville say they had to clean the toilets Friday because someone had written vulgar graffiti on the bathroom stall.

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TODAY'S WEATHER

ISOLATED T-STORMS
 90° 75°
 HIGH LOW

Research is a boon for UCF

Funding offers special opportunities

MARCO FUNK
 Contributing Writer

UCF isn't only a big university — it's also a university with a big impact on the local economy.

More than \$1 billion in research funding came to UCF during the past 11 years, benefiting students and businesses with a passion for innovation. According to M.J.

Soileau, vice president for Research and Commercialization at UCF, funding has been awarded to UCF for research projects in a wide variety of fields ranging from energy to information technology to biomedical science. The money usually comes from corporations, federal agencies and foundations. Competition for research funding is stiff. Four to five times more

research proposals are submitted than are actually funded.

"It's a hypercompetitive environment; we're competing against the best in the world," Soileau said.

Despite the difficulties, the fight for funding is well worth it. According to Soileau, providing research opportunities is critical to students' suc-

PLEASE SEE UCF ON A4

AT A GLANCE

- More than \$1 billion in research funding came to UCF over the last 11 years.
- Funding has been awarded to UCF for research projects in a wide variety of fields ranging from energy to information technology to biomedical science
- UCF is getting three to four times more research money now than it was 10 years ago.
- Local companies and firms frequently turn to UCF when in need of research teams.

Going West

Student bikes cross-country to raise green awareness

ELYSSA SCHWARTZ
 Contributing Writer

Three thousand, eight hundred miles. That's how far one UCF student rode his bicycle this summer on a trip from Tybee Island, Ga., to San Francisco to raise green awareness.

"It was a friend of mine's idea," said Michael Altfield, a senior computer science major. "I wasn't into biking at all."

Despite his lack of experience with long-distance biking, he still decided to start training for the 13-state trek.

"Most said I was crazy and said I wouldn't make it," Altfield said. "My co-workers, friends and family all took bets for when I would turn around. It gave me motivation to prove them wrong."

To train, he rode his brand new Raleigh Sojourn about 79 miles at least once a week on Little Econlockhatchee Trail in Blanchard Park for several months before the trip.

Altfield had planned to make the trip with friend Quinn Chrzan, a senior math major at Georgia Tech he had lived in a dorm with while attending Southern Polytechnic State University in Georgia.

Unfortunately, nine days into the trip, Chrzan injured his knee and was unable to continue. However, Altfield was deter-

Michael Altfield
 biked 3,800 miles
 cross-country.

ALEX BREWER /
 CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

PLEASE SEE BIKING ON A3

LIFE gives seniors a chance for education

Program offers many classes

ANGELE MARAJ
 Contributing Writer

It's never too late to learn. That's the message behind a program at UCF directed at senior citizens wishing to continue their educations.

The Learning Institute for Elders is a non-profit organization for Central Floridians who are of retirement age and desire to continue learning.

"We're almost too successful," LIFE board member Roy Scherer said. "We have nearly 400 members and a current waiting list of over 100."

The program's fall semester started Aug. 24 and will end Nov. 30.

Each semester's curriculum includes a series of work shops and presentations. The categories are diverse and span several disciplines, including medical, today's military, science, literature and poetry, and history.

There are no stringent admission requirements for those wishing to participate in LIFE; all that is required is an interest in continued learning and a \$100 tuition payment for the year. There are waivers available for



CHELSEA ST. JOHN / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE
 UCF's oldest students watch and take notes during class at the Student Union.

PLEASE SEE PARTNERSHIP ON A5

O-Team highlights UCF's welcome wagon

NICOLE MILLER
 Contributing Writer

The Orientation Team, better known as the O-Team, is looking for new members to join their team of diverse and dedicated students for upcoming 2011 orientations.

"Interviewers are looking for people who can work with a team, but who can also stand out and bring something special to the team," former O-Team member Joshua Wallace said.

The O-Team was created to help facilitate incoming freshmen, transfers and family by

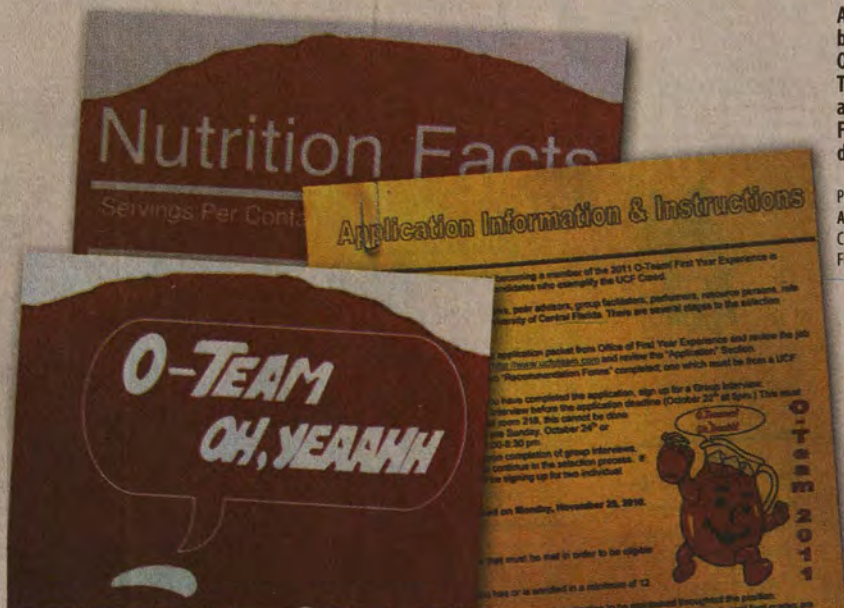
welcoming them to the UCF campus life.

For Alex Pratt, a student orientation coordinator, orientation was intimidating, but he said the O-Team made his experience at UCF more enjoyable.

"O-Team is an experience that changes you for the better in all parts of your life," Pratt said. "It gives you connections with both faculty and students and increases your school spirit."

Being a part of the O-Team is time-consuming and requires a lot of com-

PLEASE SEE O-TEAM ON A4



Applications to be part of the Orientation Team will be available Friday and are due Oct. 22.

PHOTOS BY
 ALEX SCHIERHOLZ /
 CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Biking plans for next summer in the works

FROM A1

mined and decided to finish what he started, with or without a companion.

Altfield's parents were proud of his drive and his goals but concerned about his well-being when they found out Chrzan would not be accompanying him.

"I was concerned about his safety more than anything else," said his dad, Allen Altfield. "When Quinn turned around, he was solo, so that made me even more nervous for his safety."

Altfield joined up with a group of bikers, which helped put his family at ease.

It was when he was making his way through Kansas that he met 25 other cyclists who were riding to San Francisco, which is where he was also planning on finishing the trip.

The cyclists were part of "Bike the US for MS," an organization that goes on bike trips to raise awareness for multiple sclerosis research.

Altfield kept up with them the remainder of the trip by actually riding ahead of the group. He carried along almost 90 pounds of extra weight while the others had their equipment inside an RV that traveled cross-country with them.

Having the company of cyclists who were familiar with the activity worked in Altfield's favor, especially in the Rocky Mountains, where he realized he wasn't fully prepared.

The cyclists showed him what changes to make including wearing fleece spandex, synthetic wool socks and polyester shirts instead of cotton to keep him warm.

He also traded in his flat Chuck Taylor Converse sneakers for Shimano Pedaling Dynamics biking shoes that clip onto the pedals.

The Rockies were not the only set of mountains that forced Altfield to overcome an obstacle.

The Appalachian Mountain desert created a seemingly impossible environment to conquer.

"It was the longest day," said Altfield, who underestimated how much water he needed.

"I went into panic mode," he said. "I thought I was going to die. It was probably the scariest day."

He rode 50 miles that day uphill in the 109-degree desert sun.

"I thought he was totally crazy," said friend Patti AuBuchon, a senior civil engineering major. "I was worried he wasn't going to make it. I was happy when he did."

After 70 days of motels, showering with his clothes on, limited cell phone service, tire changes, a tire rotation, \$4,000, enduring extreme temperature changes, almost getting run over by truckers, losing his wallet at the bottom of an 11,321-foot mountain, hitchhiking to bike shops, leaving navigation up to guess work as well as temporarily exchanging his vegan diet to vegetarian all while promoting green energy, he still wanted to ride.

"I was sad," Altfield said. "I wasn't ready to go back to my old life. It just seemed kind of boring."

He said he liked being able to put everything else on hold and just enjoy nature.

"I can't wait to go again," Altfield said. "Seventy days is too short."

In fact, he already has



his next trip lined up.

He plans to travel from Massachusetts to Washington and is interested in getting a group from Orlando together to join him.

"It's an opportunity to see the country," Allen Altfield said. "You can't see it from an airplane going from some place to another."

Aside from the experience, it's good for the planet too. Altfield's focus was to promote green energy by sticking to his vegan diet, lake clean-ups, recycling and riding his bike just about everywhere.

If you're interested in biking next summer from Massachusetts to Washington while spreading awareness for multiple sclerosis research, contact Altfield at Michael@2guvs1biketrip.com.



Senior Michael Altfield says he is eager to get another cross-country biking trip underway.

PHOTOS BY ALEX BREWER / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

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