



Show Us the Money

UF Board of Trustees' political donations reach \$207,063 since 2004

By JACQUELYN WEINER
Alligator Contributing Writer

Their crucial decisions on UF affairs may be a mystery to some students, but the power and influence of the 13 men and women who sit on the UF Board of Trustees is no secret.

Several of the government-appointed members of the UF Board of Trustees, UF's highest governing body, have made a mark

on politics using an indisputably powerful tool: money.

Since 2004, UF trustees have made a total of \$207,063 in donations to political candidates, parties and political action committees, according to data from OpenSecrets.org.

Trustee Steven M. Scott, a Republican, donated the highest amount, according to contributions data.

Scott, who is the chairman of a medical

investment company and founder of a nationwide HMO, has made 19 political contributions amounting to \$75,236 since 2004.

The donations range from \$386 to former Congressman Republican Joe Negron in October 2006 to two donations of \$25,000 to the Republican National



Alfonso

Committee in July 2004 and July 2006.

Coming in at a close second is Trustee Carlos Alfonso, also a Republican.

Alfonso has donated \$74,627 to political causes since 2004.

Alfonso also gave two contributions of \$25,000 to the Republican National Committee — one in April 2004 and one in September 2005.

His most recent contribution listed

SEE TRUSTEES, PAGE 5

Study abroad patterns change

■ SLOW ECONOMY, BAD EXCHANGE RATES PUSH STUDENTS TO SEEK CHEAPER PROGRAMS.

By SEETA REBBAPRAGADA
Alligator Contributing Writer

Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae aren't stopping UF students from going overseas, but the high price of studying abroad has forced students to alter their plans to make the trip more affordable.

As a result of the current economic **Student Life** turmoil, the study abroad industry has slowed, and the number of students in some organizations has decreased, said Chris Schiffhauer, the executive director of operations for Abroadco, an Arizona-based independent study abroad company.

Schiffhauer said he thinks many employers value studying abroad.

He said studying abroad is a vital part of a college education, so families will find a way to send their sons or daughters overseas.

"We have noticed that the number of students who are using financial aid to study abroad has increased," he said.

Because the currency exchange rates are unfavorable to the U.S. dollar, Schiffhauer said, his company was required to raise its prices.

UF study abroad advisers couldn't be reached for comment.

Kelly Corrigan, the marketing and university relations director for University Studies Abroad Consortium, a Nevada-based independent study abroad company,

SEE ABROAD, PAGE 10



Andrew Stanfill / Alligator Staff

All It's Stacked Up to Be

UF assistant professor Bradley Walters works with UF student Daniel Harper on his project in the Architecture Building courtyard during a design class Wednesday. The class will be publicly presenting its "Door, Window, Stair" projects Monday at 1:30 p.m.



■ The start of the Bobby Petrino era at Arkansas hasn't gone smoothly so far. Quarterback Casey Dick (left) and the offense are still learning their new coach's system.
See Story, Page 21.

Woman buys house for \$1.75

SAGINAW, Mich. (AP) — With a winning bid of just \$1.75, a Chicago woman won an auction for an abandoned home in Saginaw.

Joanne Smith, 30, recently was the top bidder for the home during an auction on eBay, The Saginaw News reported. Her bid was one of eight for the home.

"I am going to try and sell it," she told the newspaper. "I don't have any plans to move to Saginaw."

Smith said she hasn't seen the property or visited Saginaw, which has been hard-hit by economic troubles in recent years.

■ UF's Board of Trustees has collectively donated a total of \$207,063 in political contributions. To see a breakdown, visit Alligator.org.

Today

FORECAST	2
OPINIONS	6
the AVENUE	11
CLASSIFIEDS	16
CROSSWORD	17
SPORTS	21



Sunny
81/57

visit www.alligator.org