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Winter Wonderland: A delight to students

Luis Perez

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UCF students gather with friends at the bubble bus and take pictures Thursday during the Winter Wonderland event at Memory Mall.

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The Campus Activities Board brought together a crowd of UCF students awaiting rides to enjoy for its final event of the year, Winter Wonderland.

This year's event took place Thursday at Memory Mall from 7 to 10 p.m. and had many new features and rides. The event's website shows the new innovations included a fast-pass system in which students could pay to skip the lines to get on rides.

The rides at the event included bounce houses, a bubble bus, slides, a movie projector, spin the wheel, hot cocoa and much more.

For an event of this magnitude to take place, there is a lot of behind-the-scenes work and paperwork involved. Megan Dever, executive director of Late Knights and one of the organizers of Winter Wonderland, explained the behind-the-scenes process.

"I do a lot of the logistics, the support, making sure all forms and regulations are complete," Dever said. "Basically, all the work you don't think of when you attend the event itself."

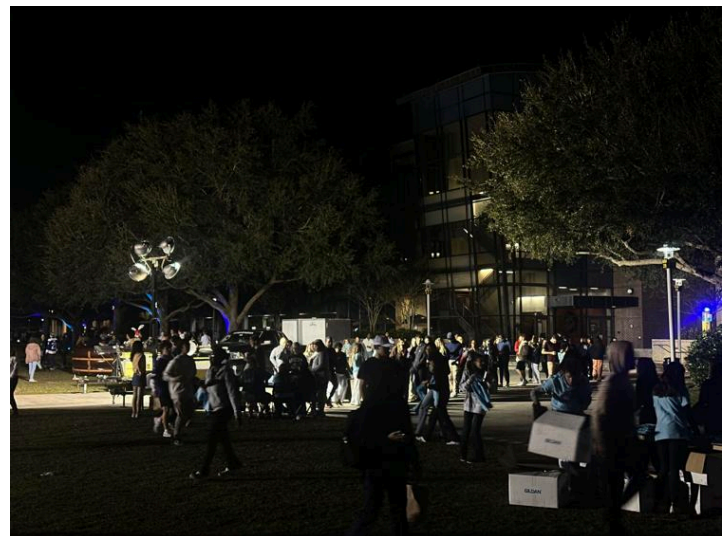
Dever said that her work is to make sure that students can have a safe environment and to make sure Winter Wonderland is an event where people will not have to worry about their safety but focus on the product and having fun.

"We've been meeting with all the other organizers since June, so it is nice to see at the end of the semester the product that we have put out," Dever said. "I'm really excited about the fact that the event is here, and it was a joint project."

Emily Hoffman, executive director of CAB, helped to oversee the event and talked about the importance of these events.

"The whole goal of CAB is bringing the community together and bringing students to events," Hoffman said. "Our whole mission is to bring the community together."

Hoffman said that even if only 20 people attended the event, it wouldn't matter because what is important is seeing the smiles of the students. She said when people enjoy rides like the snowboard simulator, it brings a smile to her face and reminds her of the reason she does what she



UCF students wait in line Thursday to enter Winter Wonderland and ride the rides at Memory Mall.

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does.

Hoffman and other students said the work done to bring a larger event this year worked, as the reception and attendance grew by a big portion.

Hoffman said it was helpful to have many people working on the event and helping with the logistics, making sure the product is what was shown to the public. She said that over 100 volunteers helped set the event up and even had time to enjoy the rides themselves.

Students took pictures on the rides and with the many inflatable snowmen, smiles everywhere. They gave their opinions on social media, and on CAB's Instagram page, one user is already giving the board ideas to set up a big hedge maze in the Memory Mall field.



The main entrance to Winter Wonderland, an event Thursday organized by the Campus Activities Board at Memory Mall.

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