



## SARC'S Aim is to Retain!

**P**atricia Pates came to UCF in March '97 as Director of Student Academic Resource Center (SARC). SARC's mission is to retain and enable students to reach their academic goals. To achieve this, SARC provides advising and support programs such as:

- **Supplemental Instruction (SI)** - SARC's goal is 10% of students in historically-difficult courses (such as Chemistry 2045, Biology 2010, PHY 2053, and Statistics) to come to SI sessions and the number students exceed that goal. SI is a "learning how to learn" program that supports high-risk GEP and science for the majors courses.
- **CLAST Advising and Assistance** - SARC monitors the 4 subtests of CLAST that must be passed within the credit hour time limits.
- **Peer Assisted Learning (PAL's on-line)** - PAL evolved as a result of research of Dr. Chuck Dziuban. He found there was a high withdrawal of on-line courses. As a result, PAL came into existence in the Summer of '97. This program assisted students to successfully complete web courses. The 3 courses supported now are Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Vocational Education.

Tutoring is offered for a variety of courses and the schedules are posted on a bulletin board as you enter SARC. Students may also work independently on the computer tutorials and videos that are available. During midterms and finals, SARC is open 24 hours.

☞ *The key is for the student to come in early to receive help. We emphasize 'prevention' - proactive use of learning support to strengthen and build on their skills.* ☞

An average of 1200 students sign in to take advantage of SARC's services and 1500-2000 hours are used per month. Space is an issue for SARC but they project to move to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Phillips Hall in the near future. SARC's goal is to expand and increase the amount of learning assistance provided based on resources allocated. Since July '98, Pat's role has expanded to **Director of Academic Support and Advising Programs**. This unit includes National Consortium for Academics and Sports and four other offices that focus on academic advising and retention of First Year students: Student Academic Resource Center, Academic Exploration Program, Academic Services for Student-Athletes, and First Year Advising and Information Services.

by Judy Pardo

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## The President's Open Forum...

**President John C. Hitt** and **Provost Gary Whitehouse** hosted the spring semester Open Forum on January 13 from 11:00am - 12:30pm at the Student Union's Cape Florida Ball Room. A cross-section of students attended the forum to express their concerns, ideas and proposals regarding university life and issues. Most student questions centered around vehicular parking and traffic problems. Dr. Hitt told the audience that the traffic and parking problems are being reviewed and several solutions are being implemented. He said that construction of a new parking garage and bridge over traffic will commence this spring adjacent to the Wayne Densch Athletic Center on the campus' south parking area. Plans for additional parking areas and garages include the east side area near the water tower and on the north side near the arena. Dr. Hitt indicated that proposals include changing traffic and pedestrian flows along with encouraging more bicycle use. Other parking issues dealt with resident and Greek students and their parking shortages. Dr. Hitt said that these areas are being addressed. Dr. Hitt reported other proposals are underway to accommodate UCF's explosive growth (18,000 additional students within the next decade).

### Plans include:

- An educational facility at Ocoee
- A new 12,000-15,000 seat arena
- A large capital campaign beginning this year
- Replacing outdated computers
- More scholarships for National Merit Scholars and Honors (including graduate students)
- A large new Recreation Complex with a 12-lane indoor swimming and diving complex
- Expansion of Greek Park to accommodate more Greek houses
- Expanding from a Research II to a Research I university (like UF, FSU and USF)
- A landscaped Mall area on the existing north parking area between the Arena and Student Union
- Arboretum and garden expansion areas
- Implementation of the Year 2000 Computer Task Force
- Improving the overall quality of student life
- New gateway entrances



by Ron Gonzalez



## People in the News...

CONGRATULATIONS...

...**Mark Hall**, Director of Student Union has been appointed to a two-year term as Chair of the Development Committee for the National Association for Campus Activities beginning in May, 1999. The Development Committee develops fund-raising strategies and solicits contributions to the NACA Foundation from corporate, individual and foundation donors. **Mark Hall** and Associate Dean of the College of Business, **Bob Ford**, co-authored an article entitled "*Guestitecture: Designing Service Environments to Maximize Guest Value.*" The piece was published in the December '98 issue of the journal *College Services Administration*.

**Edward Hampton**, Interim Director of LEAD Scholars submitted a program '*Bridging Academics and Service Learning for Leadership Development*' to the 1999 American College Personnel Association (ACPA) Convention. The program was accepted and will be presented on March 23, 1999 at the Marriott Marquis, Copenhagen, Denmark.

...**James C. Smith, Jr. (Jim)**, AV Specialist, was promoted to Coordinator of Academic Support Services of UCF Brevard Campus Life.

...**Julie Hite**, Associate Registrar, has been named Interim University Registrar. She assumed the position on Jan 2.

...**Tracy Balkham** has joined the Student Union staff as Sr. Secretary. Tracy began her UCF career at the Student Center in 1991, where she supervised the Information Desk. For the past two years, she has worked with CAB and the Student Activities Office. Now, she has come full circle and Student Union is delighted to welcome her back.

...**Dore Carter**, Assistant Registrar, was promoted to her current position in November of last year. Ms. Carter has been with the Registrar's Office for over 9 years.

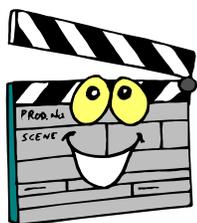
...**Juanita Sembrano**, Office Assistant, received her promotion in December. Ms. Sembrano joined the Registrar's Office in September 1997 as a Senior Clerk.

## INTRODUCING



**Paige Borden**, Assistant Registrar, joined the Registrar's Office at the beginning of December. She brings us over five years of experience from the Daytona Beach Campus.

Ms. Borden has a Master's degree from UCF and is currently pursuing a doctorate program. She spends her free time reading best sellers or attending the latest movies.



**Sergio Correa**, Fiscal Assistant, joined Student Government on January 15. He is working on his Master of Science in Health Services Administration. He graduated from the University of Florida, Business Administration. He is a cyclist and enjoys preparing for Florida road-bike races.



**Charles Lynch**, Senior Computer Programmer Analyst, joined the Registrar's Office on January 11. He earned his Master's degree from UCF in mathematics and has been teaching at Lyman High School for the last 10 years. He is married and has 19 month-old twin boys.

## Points of Pride...

### Counseling and Testing

**Dr. Robert Harman**, Director, presented "*Dealing with Difficult People*" on January 20 and 21st. Dr. Harman reports 20% of the students have a mental health disorder. Some reasons for these disorders are stress, disappointments or anger. A plan should be developed on how to deal with a situation with a difficult student such as leaving the door open or a keyword that a co-worker will react to if there is a problem. **The key is:** students respond best when treated with respect and consideration.



### Academic Exploration Program

**Russ Tiberii**, Director, conducted a pre-conference workshop and facilitated a roundtable discussion at the National Academic Advising Association conference this past fall in San Diego. The pre-conference workshop was titled: "*Undecided Majors: Career Assessment or Academic Exploration?*" It focused on the relationships between academic advising and career counseling as students progressed through their four years of college. The round table discussion was titled, "*Flunking Out: Advising at the Outer Edge,*" which focused on advising high risk and probation students.





## Student Health Services

More than 600 attended Student Health Services' **Open House** on January 14th from 11am-2pm in celebration of the new facilities and to tour the new state of the art Health Center.

- The Health Center is adding a new service, the *Men's Health Clinic*. Beginning February 17th, Dr. Frank Karcsh will begin seeing male students with men's health concerns each Wednesday from 5pm until 9pm. This will be by appointment only to avoid excessive wait times. Also, the *Women's Clinic* which offers specific care for female patients is often booked weeks in advance.
- Beginning February 1st, the Student Health Center will provide a *Travel Clinic* for students travelling abroad. Open each Monday afternoon from 1-4:30, and Thursdays from 4-8pm, the medical staff will provide information on health concerns relative to travel in the specific foreign destinations. The Clinic will also provide the necessary inoculations and physical exams.



## Student Information and Evening/Weekend Student Service

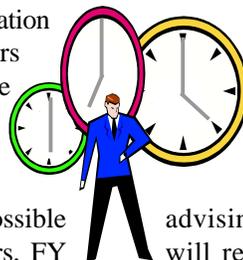
The Office of Student Information and Evening/Weekend Student Services held the first **Student Assistant Training Session** for the Spring 1999 semester on January 14. Eighteen (18) Student Assistants attended.

## Student Orientation

The 1999 Orientation Team recently returned from "**Knights Quest**," a team building workshop held in Leesburg, Florida. While at the workshop, the O-team created the following mission statement:

*We, the 1999 Orientation Team at the University of Central Florida, a group of equally dedicated, spirited, and highly trained student leaders, will facilitate a smooth transition for incoming students and their families and encourage academic and social success through service, communication, positive attitudes, shared experience, and knowledge. Utilizing our campus resources and our love for UCF, we will promote our university, continue the tradition of excellence into the new millennium, and help new students "Catch the Spirit!"*

The Orientation Center recently announced its new orientation theme, "**Catch the Spirit**" for all 1999 summer, fall, and spring orientation programs. The theme emphasizes school spirit while promoting UCF pride. The Orientation Center plans to continue using this theme for years to come in hopes to begin a spirited tradition the moment new students step on campus!



## First Year Advising (FY)

In order to provide the freshmen students the best possible and accommodate students into the evening hours, FY Monday and Thursdays until 7:00p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays until 6:00p.m. and Friday until 5:00p.m.

## Student Union

**Construction of Phase 4** of the Student Union is expected to begin in February. The start of the project has been delayed three months while the scope of the project was scaled back. Rising construction costs in Central Florida have forced a significant reduction in the total square footage of Phase 4. The centerpiece of the project continues to be an 11,500 sq. ft. ballroom and an adjacent pre-function area. The new construction also includes additional retail and restaurant spaces on the first floor of the building.



During the estimated 13 month construction period the west entry doors to the Union will be closed. Pegasus Circle will be closed between Aquarius Agora Drive and the bookstore loading driveway. The Union staff and Centex Rooney are making every effort to minimize inconvenience to building tenants and customers during construction. The new, improved Union will be worth the wait!

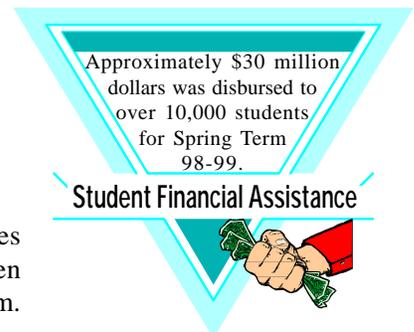
## Student Disability Services (SDS)

Student Disability Services began a five year retention study Fall Semester 1998. The study tracks the academic and career progress of those UCF students with disabilities who first registered with SDS during the 1998-1999 academic year. The study is especially interested in the relationship between retention & graduation rates and the number & type of SDS service(s) used. *Fall Semester 1998 revealed:*

- 60% of students with a disability have a specific learning disability
- 98.68% were retained
- 84.21% were in good academic standing
- 33.33% have an accumulative GPA > 3.000



**Dennis Hall**, Director of SDS will present a paper entitled: "**Encouragement as a Vehicle to Empowerment - Turning Consumers into Partners through a Family Strengths Model as a Key to Effective Transition**" at the Annual Florida Network and the Bureau of Instructional Support and Community Services Conference. The February conference will focus on the revisions and reauthorization of Individual Disability Education Act (IDEA) passed in 1997.



Approximately \$30 million dollars was disbursed to over 10,000 students for Spring Term 98-99.

Student Financial Assistance



## Student Government

The computer lab opened January 11, 1989 and has grown from 5 workstations to 42. In celebration of the 10th anniversary on **January 11, 1999**, the lab was decorated and a cake was served to the lab's customers in appreciation of their support.



## National Consortium for Academics and Sports (NCAS)



On January 19th, former major league baseball star, **Bill Denehy**, spoke to over 200 student-athletes at "**The Truth About Drugs and Alcohol**" seminar. Sponsored by the NCAS, Academic Services for Student-Athletes and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, the program was created as part of the NCAA's CHAMPS/Life Skills Program. Mr. Denehy spoke about the history of alcoholism and shared his own personal story about how alcohol and drugs took him from the top of his game to the end of his career. Mr. Denehy will be a panelist at the upcoming conference of the NCAS this February in Orlando.

NCAS will hold its **Annual Giant Steps Awards Banquet and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony** on February 16, 1999 at Disney's Wide World of Sports. This year's Giant

Steps Award winners include UCF's own **Dwight Collins** who won in the category of "courageous student-athlete." Giant Steps Awards are national awards given in conjunction with National

STUDENT-Athlete Day. Individuals who receive the awards have gone above and beyond the playing field by achieving excellence in academics and athletics, while having made significant contributions to their schools and communities. Giant Steps also recognize the network of parents, teachers, civic leaders and administrators who make it possible for student-athletes to succeed.

## Student Legal Services

**Patricia MacKown**, Director, attended the Fifth Annual Southwest Regional Student Legal Services meeting in New Orleans, January 6-10th. **Program Attorney, Lou Ellen Combs** attended the Florida Bar Group Legal Services Committee meeting in Miami, January 22.



## Career Resource Center

The **Spring Career Expo** was a great success! Close to 200 employers participated and 1200 students attended. This was one of the largest Expos ever held. The **Spring Career Resource Center** events include the Part-time and Summer Job Fair on March 31st, the Education Job Fair on April 13th, and the Statewide Job Fair on May 12. Spring on-campus recruiting season has begun. Students are required to register and put their resumes on the Career Resource Center's web site [www.crc.ucf.edu](http://www.crc.ucf.edu). This is a FREE service to UCF students.

## Upcoming Events...

**February 1999 - Academic Exploration Program** is offering sessions: **How to Choose A Major** on Feb. 1, 3, and 9. On Feb. 2nd, **Reality Check...SIGI Plus Workshop** will be offered to help develop student's educational and career plans.

**February 8-12 - Leadership Week** is sponsored by the **LEAD Scholars Program**. It offers a variety of workshops/sessions with opportunities to learn new information and develop leadership skills. The Kick Off Ceremony begins at 10am on the 8th. The following events include: Resume Writing, Stress & Time Management, Paradigms & Pioneer, Using Chaos Intentionally and Effectively, Dress for Success, "**It's not what you say, it's how you say it**", Community Leadership Challenge and Leadership Awards Ceremony.



"**It's Your Choice**" is designed specifically for staff. This session is sponsored by Human Resources Training and Development and will be held on **February 8, from 12-1:30 pm** in the Student Union, Key West Ballroom. This fast-paced session will explore opportunities for employees to get involved as leaders on campus, in the community and in their own lives. Skits, break-out sessions, door prizes and special surprise giveaways will also add to fun of this event!

**February 8-12 - Career Week 1999** at UCF Brevard Campus Life Office. The following events include: Job Search Skills, Resume & Cover Letter Development, Presentation Skills, and Resume and/or Cover Letter Critiques or Development.



**February 1999 - Campus Activities** is sponsoring many events this month including: Speaker: Tavis Smiley, Miss UCF Talent Rehearsal, Hypnotist Tom DeLuca, Jazz Concert, "Funny Friday" & Miss UCF Contestant Meeting. On February 10th, Campus Activities Board will sponsor "**It's not what you say, it's how you say it!**" presented by Nancy Hunter-Denney. "Habitat for Humanity" takes place on February 20 for Volunteer UCF.



**March 6 - Scholars' Day** for Admitted Academic Scholarship Recipients is sponsored by the Undergraduate Admissions.

