



The divisional newsletter will be published throughout the year to provide information about SDES.

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July 2, 1999

30 Years of Excellent Service...

Jim Gracey, *Director of the Career Resource Center*, retired on June 30th after 30 years of service to the university. Jim's tireless efforts over the past 30 years have helped transform the Career Resource Center from a two-person placement office to a thriving, irreplaceable source of student support. Jim and his wife, Judy, have one son, John, who is a 1997 graduate of UCF and is now employed by Disney/MGM Studios. *UKnighted* recently had the opportunity to interview Jim on his views on his career, retirement and his future plans. Some of the excerpts from that interview are as follows:

UK: *How did you come to work at UCF?*

JG: After graduating from the University of South Florida, I went to work for a year with Martin Marietta Corporation as a Contract Administrator. But, my degree was in Business with a specialization in Human Resource Management so I took a job in the UCF Personnel Department as the Wage and Hour Administrator.

UK: *How did you end up becoming the Director of the Career Resource Center?*

JG: I spent three and half years in the Personnel Office and then, when I was finishing my Master's degree in Human Resources Management at Rollins College in early 1973, I was offered the job as Director of what was then called the Placement Office. We were a two-person office when we started in 1973 and are now up to 12 full-time staff members, 9 of which are professional positions.

UK: *What are some of the biggest changes you have seen in your years at UCF?*

JG: Well, when we started out, the Placement Center basically consisted of placing job openings on a bulletin board outside the office door, and that was the way it was at just about every school. Now, we are a completely web-based operation that serves close to 7,000 students a year in one way or another. On a university-wide scale, I would have to say it is the tremendous growth that we have all witnessed, in the last ten years especially.

UK: *What do you see as some of the biggest accomplishments that your office has achieved during your years as Director?*

JG: I would have to say that would be the job fairs. When we held the first job fair twelve years ago, we held it at the Holiday Inn across the street and there were a total of 33 companies present. This year, it was held in the arena and we had 239 companies and had to turn away about 20 companies because we simply didn't have room for them. I feel that these job fairs have been a tremendous help to students in their efforts to get jobs after graduation. They have also been a way that UCF can serve the community as a pool for potential employees and resources.

UK: *So, now that you are Retiring, what do you plan to do with all of your "free" time?*

JG: Well, I am going to enjoy myself. We plan on doing some traveling. Who knows, I may get bored and decide to go back to work. I have had offers from companies that I have come into contact with through this job. As for now, though, my plan is to enjoy myself.



The Division wants to take this opportunity to thank Jim for all his good work and dedication over the years and to wish him and his family "The Best" in their future endeavors.

Catch the Spirit!

On May 18 and 19, the Office of Academic Development and Retention hosted a program called "*Understanding UCF Student Orientation and Registration Procedures.*" The purpose of this program was to inform members of the university community about what goes on during the Orientation and Registration processes. The program was led by **Cindy Arnaud**, *Interim Director of Orientation* and **Julie Hite**, *Associate University Registrar*. Cindy and Julie both spoke about the importance of Orientation as a University-wide program and how the registration process has been streamlined over

the past few years to make the experience more pleasant for incoming students. When asked what she thought about the program, **Maribeth Ehasz**, *Associate Vice President of Academic Development and Retention*, stated, "Orientation is a critical UNIVERSITY responsibility that our unit coordinates. Orientation can only be effective with EVERYONE working together to make sure students and their families feel welcome, supported, and involved in the UCF Community." So, now, when you see O-Teamers walking around campus with their Black and Gold uniforms on, you will understand that what they are doing is of key importance to UCF and it's continued success of giving students the small school attention that is often lacking at major universities.



People in the News...

Academic Support and Advising Programs (ASAP) welcomes the following part-time 1999 Summer Orientation Advisors:

Valerie Brennan, Karolyn Campbell, Kerry Collins, Julie Erlandson, Santiago Fallon, Jeanette Grant, Nick Guittar, Lisa Hopper, Andy MacDiarmid, Jamie Molinaro, Ricardo Moraes, Beth O'Rourke, Ana Maria Schwindt, Joe Smith and Edwanna Timmons



These part-time advisors will supplement the ASAP professional advising staff in providing academic advising support to over 4500 new freshmen expected at this year's summery and fall orientation program.

The Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) welcomes **FritzLaine Mathias** to the SARC advising team. FritzLaine joins us from Pennsylvania State University where she received a Master of Education, May 1999. *Welcome aboard Laine!*

Dennis Congos, *Supplemental Instruction Coordinator (SARC)*, co-led a workshop on inferential research methods at the International Conference on Supplemental Instruction from May 19-23 in Kansas City. The title of the workshop was *"Beyond a summary report: Assessing the impact of SI using inferential statistical analysis."* Dennis was also invited to the country of Jordan from June 2-11 to provide consulting on Supplemental Instruction, faculty development, learning skills, and retention programs. He met with administrators and faculty members from the University of Jordan in Amman.



Dr. Dennis Dulniak new *University Registrar*, was recently elected chair of the Southern Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (SACRAO) Nominations and Elections committee. This followed his election earlier this year as chair of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) Nominations and Elections Committee. Dulniak also serves on AACRAO's Records Management, Credentials Fraud and Security Committee, and he chairs AACRAO's newest Task Force - *Transcript Directory and Credential Verification*.

Julie Hite has been promoted to the position of *Student Records Functional Analyst* for PeopleSoft. Julie will act as liaison and project coordinator between the Registrar's Office and PeopleSoft while reporting to Computer Services. Julie previously served as both Associate and Interim Registrar for 16 months before the arrival of new University Registrar, Dr. Dennis Dulniak. *Way to go, Julie!*

Juanita Sembrano, *Registrar's Office Assistant*, received the first *"Outstanding Registrar's Office Employee Award."* The Award recognizes the recipient's positive attitude, dedication, and professionalism as well as their initiative. Juanita has earned the gratitude and respect of the entire Registrar family. The award will be presented three times a year.

THE GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE

"Being a student while working in the Registrar's Office has helped me to understand the students' perspective. Attending UCF was a wonderful experience and obtaining my degree marked the completion of a goal I had always wanted to accomplish."

Congratulations to Pamela Brady,

Administrative Assistant of the Registrar's Office, for receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration degree in May. She began attending UCF in the fall of 1991 and twice received the Employee Grant-in-Aid Award.

Gordon D. Chavis, Jr. accepted the position of *Executive Director of Undergraduate Admission*. Gordon has had experience in Undergraduate Admissions at the University of Colorado, Georgetown University and the University of Pennsylvania. He received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania and his Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center. He will join us on July 30th.



Ingrid Gonzalez was hired in May as the Graduate Assistant for the Orientation Center and immediately began working with this year's Orientation Team. A former O-Teamer ('96 and '97) herself, Ingrid brings 4 years of Orientation experience with her! She begins her M.A. graduate studies this fall in the Educational Leadership program.

Points of Pride...

WHAT'S NEW?

Undergraduate Admissions

June 2 marked the start of a new monthly *Staff Development Series* in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. The series is coordinated by *Assistant Director, Loren Herren* and *File Manager, Traci Milbuta*, and focuses on improving teamwork and overall staff effectiveness. The first session served as an orientation to the series and received positive feedback and support from the entire Undergraduate Admissions staff! Upcoming sessions will focus on customer service, and will be presented in cooperation with the office of Human Resources.

Student Academic Resource Center (SARC)

Workshops for preparation of the **GRE (Graduate Record Examination)** will no longer be offered through SARC. However, the Student Academic Resource Center will continue to provide resources for anyone who is preparing to take the GRE. Students can continue to visit SARC to utilize the computerized GRE practice tests and the review books at no charge. Specific information regarding the GRE can be obtained by calling (800) GRE-CALL or visiting their website. <http://www.gre.org>





Career Resource Center (CRC)



The Career Resource Center wrapped up an exceptionally busy spring semester with the Statewide Job Fair in the UCF Arena on May 12. There were over 1300 students and 220 companies attending this event. **Jill Ziegenfuss** of the CRC coordinated this event for the SUS committee on Career Development. The spring semester also brought employers and students to the CRC's website over 21,250 times!

"Integrating International Students into the Classroom"

For the Summer Institute on May 4, 1999, **Ragda Kurdy**, *Coordinator of International Student Services*, presented a workshop to the faculty on how to integrate international students into the classroom. Faculty members were asked to answer a questionnaire to test the degree of communication between them and the international students. They were also presented the results of a survey taken by international students reflecting their opinion about faculty at UCF, and helpful suggestions to help integrate the students into the classroom. The survey revealed that:

- Students rated satisfaction of class instruction as excellent
 - Students get the help they need from instructors
 - UCF is giving international students the opportunity to pursue their education and career goals
- AND
- UCF professors need to show more interest in the background of their international students by asking them questions about their culture and their country

The survey results demonstrated that most international students are not familiar with the term "plagiarism," even though some of them were knowledgeable about the process. It is very important that all teachers clarify what plagiarism is and what the consequences of practicing it are in the introduction to their classes. International students are very dedicated and focused. They are willing to go the extra mile to achieve higher education which they see as a noble goal.

Student Financial Assistance Office

• **PeopleSoft Update-** **Mary McKinney, Victor LaPorte, and Diane Reitz** attended the PeopleSoft training in Atlanta from May 31st through June 4th.

PeopleSoft is a software program that is slowly being implemented by various student support offices. Student Records, Admissions, and Student Financial Assistance will be able to operate off of the same student data system and have a relational database. Human Resources and Student Accounts will also have access to this database.

This software program is currently in use at other universities. It is a fairly new program.

- FASFAA (Florida Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators) had their Spring Conference June 9th through June 11th in Tarpon Springs, Florida. **Pat Ferguson**, who is the region representative, and **Roseann Amato**, were in attendance.
- SFA attended a **Choice Funds Network** workshop in Jacksonville on May 4th. **Abby Troche** won a \$500.00 scholarship for a deserving UCF student. The requirements for the scholarship are still being determined. Kudos also to **Abby Troche** on her new position, *Coordinator for the Student Financial Assistance!* Abby has been with the UCF Financial Aid Office since November 1993.

First Year Advising (FY)

• During the Spring '99 semester (January-April) FY had academic advising appointments with 1,950 students and developed summer/fall '99 schedule plans with 1,050 freshmen students.

• **Paul Viau and David Pavlonnis are gathering information to be included in the August 1999 First Year Times Newsletter.**



The August issue is mailed to all incoming freshmen students in early August and is also distributed at various events through the Fall semester. Any SDES department having information useful for freshmen students should e-mail David Pavlonnis at dpavlonn@mail.ucf.edu so that the information can be included in the upcoming August issue.

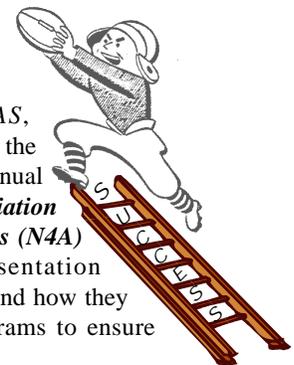
LEAD Scholars Program

The 2nd annual **Leaders Involved For Tomorrow (LIFT Summit)** will be held July 22-25, 1999. The LIFT Summit is a 4 day leadership conference hosted on campus at UCF for high school students. This year a pre-conference workshop has been added for high school guidance counselors, organization advisors and students. At this session, high school staff and students will meet to discuss how to improve communications between students and staff and how to collectively make an impact with students. An exciting new component of LIFT this year is a summit session on violence in schools. LEAD will be hosting two students from Columbine High School who will address the group. Following the address, the students will break into small groups to discuss what student, parents and teachers can do to prevent tragedies such as the one in Colorado. LEAD hopes to gather some insight from these young leaders in our community to pass along to the parents and teachers in our community! The LIFT Summit is a conference planned and coordinated by students, for students. Advance thanks to the forty UCF students who are volunteering their time as organizers and facilitators of this year's LIFT Summit!



National Consortium for Academics and Sports (NCAS)

Suzi Katz, *Director of NCAS*, recently presented a discussion on the NCAS and its programs at the annual conference of the **National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics (N4A)** held in Cincinnati. The presentation concentrated on NCAS programs and how they can be partnered with N4A programs to ensure the success of student-athletes.



TOUR GUIDES - *SDES' Unheralded Gems!*

One of the most important elements in the college selection process is the campus visit. Last year nearly 9000 people — 500 groups and 50 special tours — visited the University of Central Florida and enjoyed guided tours of the campus, provided by UCF student volunteers. Eighty students, most freshmen, currently give one to two hours each week as part of their commitment to the University. Tour guides are undergraduate students, proud of their school, and excited to share with visitors their experiences at UCF. They represent a cross-section of our culturally and intellectually diverse campus. Most are Floridians, but a few come from out of state: Indiana, New York, and Virginia are currently represented among the guides. They take classes in all five colleges, with majors as diverse as motion picture technology, pre-med, business, exceptional education, and environmental engineering. Guides are competent in a variety of languages, including Spanish, French, and Portuguese, as well as Arabic, Polish, and American Sign Language. Depending on their personal interests and experience, student guides might

CAMPUS
TOUR
Follow
me!



focus on the resources available to students who need advising or tutoring. Others emphasize Greek life and the sports or clubs in which they participate. They point out both the academic support available and the social, recreational possibilities open to students at UCF, assuring visitors that there's something for everyone at UCF. In fact, many past tour guides have used their experience as a spring board to other significant activities at UCF, from participation in sororities and fraternities and the orientation advising team, to membership on the prestigious President's Leadership Council. Specially trained in tour etiquette, campus information, and the UCF message, the volunteer student guides provide a very spirited personal touch.

Engaged in a wide range of intellectual and social pursuits, the student tour guides have even designed a special web site to advertise campus tours and to recruit more members to their ranks. Whether the tour group is as small as one or two people, or a large, pre-arranged special tour, whether visitors are prospective students and their parents, visiting dignitaries, or elementary and high school classes, the student tour guides prove that one of the best ways to experience UCF first-hand is the one-hour walking tour, providing a close encounter with the beautiful natural campus setting and our state-of-the-art facilities. Student guides meet visitors in the Administration Building lobby at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm every business day. Occasionally, exciting things happen on tour: there was the woman who fainted, fell, and got a concussion (tour guide as emergency medic); or the group of middle schoolers who skipped away to play video games in the Student Union (tour guide as truant officer). Nice things happen, too, as when a student bake sale handed out free cookies to everyone on one tour. Student tour guides make a very special contribution to UCF: they welcome visitors, show off our beautiful campus, and leave that important and lasting first impression of the University with thousands of prospective students and parents. All this volunteer guides do without pay, for the sheer pride and pleasure of serving the UCF campus community. The tour guide program is coordinated by the Undergraduate Admissions office.

- Submitted by Undergraduate Admissions

ARE WE LIVING IN A MORAL STONE AGE?

A lot is heard today about how Johnny can't read, can't write, and the trouble he has finding Switzerland on a map. According to Christina Hoff

Summers¹, it is also true that Johnny is having difficulty distinguishing right from wrong and, thus, deep moral confusion must be added to the list of our educational problems. Today's young people know little or nothing about the Western moral tradition says Summers. Schools at all levels can do a lot to improve the moral climate of our society. They can help restore civility and community if they commit themselves and have the courage to act. Recently, several of Summers' students objected to philosopher Immanuel Kant's principle of humanity—the doctrine that asserts the unique dignity and worth of every human life. They told her that, if they were faced with the choice between saving their pet or a human being, they would choose the former. Thus, we have been thrown back into a moral Stone Age, wherein many young people are totally unaffected by thousands of years of moral experience and moral progress. Might not this lack of value for human life contribute to explaining the recent surge of school shootings at Littleton, CO, Springfield, OR, Paducah, KY and other schools throughout the country? The concept of "objective truth" in science and history is being impugned as well. For example, many students are doubtful that the Holocaust ever occurred. A student at Williams College said, "Although the Holocaust may not have happened, it's a perfectly conceptual hallucination." When Thomas Jefferson wrote that all men have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, he did not say, "At least that is my opinion." He declared it as an objective truth. The assertion of Jefferson was a self-evident truth, not a personal judgement. Today's young people enjoy the fruits of the battles fought by such leaders, but they are not being given the intellectual and moral training to argue for and justify truth. In fact, the kind of education they are getting systematically is undermining their common sense about what is right and true. The last few decades of the 20th century have seen steady erosion of moral knowledge and a steady increase in moral relativism. Because of our pluralistic society, many teachers now actually believe

that it is wrong to "indoctrinate" our children in our own culture and moral tradition. What is to be done? Summers agrees with novelist and

essayist Tom Wolfe that students need a "Great Relearning." We need a return to basic social practices and institutions and common sense, reason and conventional wisdom. We need to stop calling looters "non-traditional shoppers." Stop describing killers as "morally challenged." We need a return to what Summers

calls "moral conservatism" based on the premise that we are born into a moral environment just as we are born into a natural environment. Just as there are basic environmental necessities—clean air, safe food, and fresh water—there are basic moral necessities. What is a society without civilization, honesty, consideration, and self-discipline? Not much. Without a population educated to be civil, considerate, and respectful of one another, what will we end up with? Again, not much. We live in a moral environment. We must respect and protect it. We must acquaint our children with it. We must make them aware it is precious and fragile. Long ago humanity achieved consensus on many basic moral questions: cheating, cowardice, and cruelty are wrong for example. There are a set of standard ethical ideals that all civilizations worthy of name have discovered and they can be found in all the great literary works: integrity, respect for human life, self-control, honesty, courage, and self-sacrifice. What is known is that we cannot, in good conscience, allow America's children to remain morally illiterate. All healthy societies pass along their moral and cultural traditions to their children. Thus, the literary classics must be taught. The great books and great ideas must be brought back into the core of the curriculum. The best of political and cultural heritage must be transmitted. If we do this, the Great Relearning that is needed so badly today will be engaged and we will find that the lives of our morally enlightened children will be saner, safer, more dignified and more humane.

¹ Dr. Summers is a professor of philosophy at Clark University and W.H. Brady Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, Washington, D.C. This excerpted article is based on a Hillsdale (Mich.) College Shavano Institute for National Leadership seminar, "Heroes for a New Generation and a New Century" and full article appears in USA TODAY/March 1999.

