A NEW DIRECTION
FOR SDES

SDES has a new department with a longtime staff member at its helm. Dr. Ron Atwell, formerly Director of Veterans Affairs, has moved to the SDES suite in his new capacity as Director of the Office of Assessment and Planning. He occupies the office vacated by Dr. Ken Lawson who retired on September 30. The new department has been in existence since August and Ron’s first assignment has been to assist Dr. Huddleston and the direct reports in updating the division’s strategic plan. At the moment, these documents are still in the draft stages. UKnigheted will keep everyone up to date on the progress of this project in future issues.

Dr. Atwell says the mission of the Office of Assessment and Planning is to provide the Vice President and other SDES units, with assistance in developing programs and plans, as well as providing timely and accurate assessment information. Through collaboration and coordination with SDES and other UCF academic and administrative units, this new office will provide overall management and leadership for a comprehensive planning and student assessment program within the division. This will include:

- Coordinating and assisting in the strategic planning within SDES.
- Providing assistance in developing SDES and unit goals, strategic objectives and identifying key performance indicators.
- Developing assessment programs which document progression toward the stated goals and objectives.
- Analyzing and evaluating assessment findings.
- Developing and preparing regular reports for dissemination to key members of the university community.

Dr. Atwell points out that assessment can and should be an effective tool for improving the services and operation of the SDES division. Ron says there are “critical success factors” in assessment. For SDES, he lists the following: Assessment...

- Begins with clarifying and confirming SDES vision, mission, and values.
- Must be based on clearly stated realistic goals and objectives.
- Must be purposeful and part of an overall improvement plan.
- Must be a collaborative effort by all.
- Must reflect understanding of complex system process.
- Must be a continuous assessment of processes and outcomes
- Must determine program effectiveness and identify quality cost-effective programs.
- Must communicate contributions to the overall university mission.

Dr. Atwell is looking forward to his new assignment and working collaboratively and cooperatively with all SDES units on various assessment projects he has in the planning stages.

In Search of Campus Life

In Search of Campus Life was not just an ordinary SDES program. It was a training session that included audience participation. Initially, the audience was asked to fill out a 14-question survey to assess how informed he/she was about Campus Life. Examples of some questions were:

- What does “LEAD” stand for?
- What department is the ‘living room of the campus’?
- Name at least five directors that work in Campus Life.

Campus Life also involved students in the presentation. The students were asked to produce an informative film entitled In Search of Campus Life. The film was cleverly produced in a “Mission Impossible” style where “Jeff” (the main character) was given the assignment to find out what was “Campus Life.” His light-hearted adventures included visiting all the departments under Campus Life where each director would detail convincingly the utmost importance of his/her department of Campus Life. In the end, “Jeff” discovers Campus Life is all the departments he visited, i.e., “Partners in Learning.” All the answers to the previous survey were in the film, just in case the audience missed an answer.

Assembled in small groups, the audience was then asked to brainstorm on: current partnerships, how can they be enriched and promising new partnerships that could be developed. Communication within UCF seemed to be a common point of conversation in the small groups.

After each group shared one promising partnership with the audience, Craig Ullom, Associate Vice President for Campus Life, challenged the audience to propose these partnerships to him for review. He pledged that he would work to find the human capital and financial resources to support these ideas. Maribeth Enasz, Associate Vice President for Academic Development and Retention, joined Craig in pledging resources to help make these ideas a reality.

In State Collegium:

“Partners as a way of being.”

Partners in Learning

Campus Life develops partnerships to provide meaningful programs, quality services, and personal growth opportunities for students in learning environments.

Campus Life promotes:

- Personal Excellence
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Leadership Development
- Community Responsibility
Financial Aid Option for Students!

Students now have an option on how to receive their financial aid funds. In the past, students would receive their checks; less money owed to the university, by mail to the address on record. Beginning fall of 1999, the University of Central Florida formed an agreement with Huntington Bank. Students, who open a Huntington Bank checking account, can use their UCF Smart cards as an ATM card. There are many benefits to this; however, the most practical one is the direct deposit of the net amount from Financial Aid into their Huntington account. To summarize, instead of receiving a check in the mail, the net amount will be deposited directly into their Huntington account if a student has a Huntington Bank account linked to their UCF Smart card.

On September 9, 1999, SFA ran the first net check run. To date, they have run 14,310 net checks in the amount of $26.3 million dollars. Of that amount, $2.7 million was deposited into Huntington accounts and was available within 24 hours to the students.

Mark your Calendars!

The International Student Association and their advisor Ragda Kurdy, Coordinator of International Student/Scholar Services are meeting extensively at the Barbara Ying Center to prepare for the 10th International Fair. Always exciting and colorful, The Fair will take place on October 11, 1999 at the Student Resource Center from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The International Student Association would like to invite all faculty, staff and students to join them on that day to share with them the different cultures of the world. The Fair is also open to the public.

UCF to participate in National Depression Screening Day

Thursday, October 7, 1999

On October 7, 1999, UCF’s Counseling and Testing Center will be participating in National Depression Screening Day. The screening is free of charge, and consists of an anonymous written self-test for depression, a confidential interview with a Mental Health Professional, and a video presentation. The screenings will last approximately twenty minutes. Many materials will be available for participants to read and to take home with them.

All students, faculty and staff are invited to this event. In addition, we welcome the general public to participate in the screenings. The Counseling and Testing Center is located in the Student Resource Center, next to the Orientation and Career Offices.

Partner's in Learning at Work

A Pilot Program entitled, "Knight's Partners" is under way this fall.

The program is designed to identify and recruit 200 FTIC students residing in Knight's Krossing apartment community. These students will be assigned to peer educators who will provide resources and interventions designed to help new students address issues of transition, academic performance, student involvement in the campus culture, and health, and wellness.

In addition, the "Knight's Partners Program" will be working in collaboration with the Responsible Education and Action for Campus Health (REACH) and the Lead Scholars Program in providing living and learning programming and attempt to establish a learning community within the Knight's Krossing apartment community. Working in partnership with Knight's Krossing management, efforts will be made to use facilities and other on-site services to facilitate success of the program. The major thrust of this program says the Off-Campus Student Resource Center, is retention.

Team Work

It's all very well to have courage and skill
And it's fine to be counted a star
But the single deed with its touch of thrill
Doesn't tell the person you are,
For there's no lone hand in the game we play,
We must work to a bigger scheme.
And the thing that counts in the world today
Is, How do you pull with the team?
They may sound your praise and call you great,
They may sing you out for fame,
But you must work with your teammate
Or you'll never win the game;
Oh, never the work of life is done
By the person with a selfish dream,
For the battle is lost or the battle is won
By the spirit of the team.
You may think it fine to be praised for skill,
But a greater thing to do
Is to set your mind and set your will
On the goal that's just in view;
It's helping your teammate to score
When his chances hopeless seem;
It's forgetting self till the game is o'er
And fighting for the team.
Edgar A. Guest

The Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) will be open 24-hours beginning Monday, October 11 at 8:00 a.m. through Friday, October 22, 1999 at 5:00 p.m. During this 24-hour "mid-term period" SARC can provide students with the following:

* An academic setting for studying
* A place for study groups to meet
* Computer access for preparing papers and reports, e-mail access, and access to vital information on the information KIOSK
* Tutoring services (Please check the tutoring schedule for tutoring hours)

If additional information is required, please phone 823-5130. SARC is located at PCI-102 near the Biological Sciences Building.
People in the News...

Making the Difference

Mr. Tim Edwards, Academic Advisor, First Year Advising and Information Services was working one of the Undergraduate Admissions "Open House" programs and received a letter from a prospective student’s parent. Below are some excerpts from the letter.

"Meeting Mr. Edwards made our son feel much more comfortable about going away to school, as he provided information in a very personable manner and showed that the school cares about assimilating new students."

"Tim went out of this way, under heavy rain, in order to direct us to various sites within the campus."

"It is people like Tim that will help UCF realize its mission statement towards continued growth!"

Good job, Tim!

Getting the Word Out!

Four Counseling and Testing Center staff members have had their proposals accepted by the Southeastern College Counseling Center Personnel annual convention to be held in Jacksonville, October 20 through October 22, 1999. The staff members and the programs are:

- Dr. Robert Harman, "His stuff, her stuff, and their stuff: Therapy with couples."
- Dr. Laurie Kemper, Ms. Elena Michelson, and Ms. Valeska Wilson, "Collaboration: Counseling Center's role in the New Millennium."

A Fond Farewell!

A great author once said "parting is such sweet sorrow." For us in the Unit of Special Programs, we are quite saddened to have wished a fond farewell to Dennis Hall, Director of Student Disability Services. Dennis's last day with UCF was Thursday, September 23rd. He accepted the position as Executive Director of the Mid-Atlantic Career Center based in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. This agency, like UCF, is also experiencing unprecedented growth! Dennis had the opportunity to return to the great state of Pennsylvania where Sandy, his wife, is currently employed and living. Dennis began working at UCF October 1, 1998, nearly one year ago. Our unit wishes Dennis well and regrets his departure!

Update: PeopleSoft

University Registrar, Dr. Dennis Dulniak, recently attended the PeopleSoft "1999 Conference Americas" held in New Orleans, Louisiana. In addition to timely and thought provoking speakers such as Don Topscott and Peter Solvik of CISCO, particular emphasis was placed on updates of PeopleSoft products and reports on functionalities. A comprehensive collection of product vendors rounded out the event.

"Our emphasis needs to be on web processes to meet the ever increasing expectations of our student clientele," said Dr. Dulniak. "Accessible, seamless, and efficient web operations must be inherent as we prepare to implement PeopleSoft."

The Registrar's Office and its staff have intensified their efforts toward the successful implementation of PeopleSoft through continued training and preparation. Its numerous Business Processes continue to be reviewed and refined with particular attention being focused on data mapping in order to ensure the highest degree of accuracy when the system comes on-line.

Points of Pride...

The Orientation Center

The Orientation Center would like to thank everyone that worked during Orientations this summer! 6,849 students were successfully serviced...everyone did a tremendous job! The Center appreciates all of the hours spent in presentations and helping students by the entire UCF campus community! These collaborative efforts are what make the university-wide Orientation program a success! Approximately 5700 evaluations were collected from students and family members and 96.4% of them "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that their overall Orientation experience was positive. Together excellence was achieved and everyone deserves much praise and recognition for all that has been accomplished!

The Orientation Center is now preparing for the Spring 2000 Orientation sessions. Our first invitation mail-out will be on September 30 to approximately 650 spring students!

The University of Central Florida has been accepted as a Charter Member of PINNACLE - The Non-Traditional Honor Society. PINNACLE is a national honorary recognized in 135 colleges and universities from coast to coast in over 160 sites. It is comprised of adult students and other non-traditional students, who have achieved at least junior status, have a minimum 3.0 GPA and are involved in three (3) cvsu/community activities. Beginning this fall semester, the University of Central Florida will select its first group of honorees. The Office of Non-Traditional and Evening/Weekend Student Services has sent applications to all departments for circulation, together with a history of PINNACLE and THE PEAK, a newsletter for the honor society. Once the applications from qualified candidates are received, a committee consisting of faculty, staff, and non-traditional students will select the peak performers to be inducted into this national honor society. The honor will receive a lapel pin, membership certificate and a diploma seal. For further information, please call Jameer Abass, Non-Traditional and Evening/Weekend Student Services at ext. 3058.

An Honorary Society for Non-Traditional Students

Career Resource Center (SRC)

Recruiting season is in full swing and the Career Resource Center is already experiencing an active on-campus recruitment schedule. Please remember, students that want to interview on campus must be registered on-line with the CRC. The web address is www.crc.ucf.edu

CRC Facts...

- The part-time job fair on September 8 had record breaking attendance with over 1,000 students and 60 employers.
- The Career Expo September 22 was a big success with 195 employers and over 1,200 students attending.

Coming Soon!

Graduate, Law and Professional School Recruitment Day on November 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Union.
WELCOME EXPO '99
A Collaborative Spirit within SDES

After many months of planning and collaboration from several departments within the Division of Student Development and Enrollment Services, the biggest and best "welcome to UCF" event occurred on August 18. A turnout in excess of 2,500 students ventured their way to three large tents placed on the Campus Green to meet with representatives from more than 100 academic support, campus life, student organizations, and campus vendors. This was the largest attendance at UCF for a program of this type. Students had an opportunity to connect with staff and to gather information on the many student services and student life resources on the UCF campus. The addition of refreshments, music, and a "UCF Spirit" contest made for quite a welcoming atmosphere as students geared up for the start of fall semester classes.

An event of this size wouldn't be possible without the hard work and collaborative spirit that existed between so many departments with the SDES division. Many hours of planning for "Welcome Expo '99" began during the spring with on-going efforts of the First Year Advising and Information Services office, the Orientation Center, Office of Student Activities, and the Transfer Services office. A note of appreciation is extended to the following SDES staff: Cindy Arnaud, Jennifer Boyce, and Andrea Almeida (Orientation Center), Bob Snow and Tim Edwards (First Year Advising and Information Services), Reuban Rodriguez (Student Activities), and Mark Poisel and Elvis Wannamaker (Transfer Services).

This event was heavily promoted at the FTIC and Transfer Orientation sessions during the summer months, through various newsletters and flyers, collaboration with the UCF Bookstore, residence hall check-in, and on the electronic message board at the entrance to campus. All of this effort and work was justified with the great turnout of UCF students and campus-wide support of the university community. After a few deep breaths it will be time to plan ahead to "Welcome Expo 2000," but it's nice to reflect back on what the spirit of collaboration and teamwork with the division can accomplish.

-B. Snow, First Year Advising and Information Services

COLLEGE STUDENTS AND RISKY SPENDING

Ever wonder how college students can afford to sport new clothes, fancy footwear, shiny jewelry, the latest music CDs, laptop computers, dining out, etc.? No, the money doesn't necessarily come from mom and dad's pocketbook, but rather from credit cards which can be obtained all too easily nowadays.

Credit card issuers routinely bombard students with offers, by sending e-mail, by stuffing them in bookstore bags, by giving them away with a free T-shirt. A new study by Georgetown University sociologist Robert Manning, with the Consumer Federation of America, finds that students who charge with abandon suffer a heavy financial and psychological toll (i.e., they often endure anxiety, drop out of school, file for bankruptcy, or work multiple jobs on top of a full course load). A combination of "unaffordable credit lines, increasing education-related expenses, peer pressure to spend, and financial naivètè reinforced by low minimum monthly payments" makes the slide into debt all too easy, says Manning. His findings suggest that two thirds of students carry a balance—typically $2,000—and one fifth of those carry more than $10,000. Another recent study of students who applied for loans found that 65% have credit cards, 20% have four or more credit cards, and the average credit card balance is more than $2,200.

The stress of this expensive habit can have tragic consequences: A number of recent student suicides have been linked to credit card debt. Last year, Sean O'Donnell committed suicide at the age of 22 when he found himself owing $10,000. Credit card abuse also threatens young lives in less extreme ways. Late payments and delinquencies will mar a student's credit report, which can affect his or her ability to land a job or go to graduate school. Many employers routinely review the credit histories of potential hires.

Parents should send their kids to college understanding how credit cards work, caution financial experts. Students should know, for example, that paying only the minimum each month results in so much interest that you could "end up paying $10 for a gallon of milk," say the experts. Experts advise student to resist getting multiple cards and to keep a record of all purchases. The plastic should be reserved for emergencies—and not for anything you can eat, wear or listen to.

Before despairing, students who get into debt they can't handle should talk to their school's financial-aid office, which can direct them to either a local credit counselor or a university official who can help.

Excerpted from U.S. News & World Report, September 6, 1999, p. 89

Making for a Seamless Transition...

The Office of Articulation and Community College Relations is now the Office of Transfer Services. As you are aware, UCF has a large portion of students who transfer from Florida community colleges as well as other institutions within the state. These students need assistance to help them make a smooth transition from their prior institution to UCF. This transition begins as they start taking classes at a community college and progresses through the completion of their degree. The Office of Transfer Services has been reorganized and named to help students make the seamless transition so that they may have a more successful experience at the university. As the new Director of Transfer Services, I welcome any input you may have regarding the center, assisting transfer students, or continuing the strong relationships that UCF has with the faculty, staff and students at Florida's community colleges. Please contact me at 823-2231 or by email at mpoisel@mail.ucf.edu if I can be of any assistance to you or your area. Thanks!

Mark Allen Poisel,
Director of Transfer Services

OUCH! Correction in September's Issue

The article "Request from Off-Campus Student Resource Center" in September's UKnighted is from the department of "Off-Campus Student Resource Center" and not from one individual, D. Hamilton.