A letter from a recent UCF graduate...
To the UCF Community,
I recently graduated in May from UCF and will be working for Raytheon Company as an Electrical Engineer. I will be working on such things as radar design, digital hardware design, and digital signal processing and controls. I am moving to Boston, Mass in June and will be working in Tewksbury, Mass, which is about 25 miles north of Boston. I will be living on the outskirts of the city with three other fraternity brothers from Boston University that I contacted through my national organization’s magazine. Since I am moving to Massachusetts from Florida, it will be saving me a lot of money I have to live with other people. It is good how fraternity relationships extend all across the country, to put you in contact with people, anywhere your life may lead you. My years at UCF are truly memorable ones, and being a fraternity leader and part of the UCF Greek system, was the best decision that I could have ever made. The lessons that I have learned, the relationships I have shared, and the good times I have experienced are the culmination of a positive and well-rounded college education. I recommend to all incoming students to check out the UCF fraternity and sorority community and sign up for recruitment or rush. This is one of the best ways to meet people and get involved with your university. Your college years will be very trying and maturing times. Being a part of UCF’s Greek community will provide strong arms around you, and build a solid foundation for your future. Thanks UCF!!!
- Adam Maggio, UCF Class of ’00

Student Financial Aid Administration News

- SFA is constantly promoting changes that will enhance student service. They are now using the card readers at the front counter for efficiency and confidentiality. We have transitioned to a new phone system which should provide greater flexibility in managing calls. They also continue to enhance the web site. Students can now access SFA data.

Emerging Knights (EK)

Emerging Knights began in the spring of 1999 under the Office of Student Activities. EK was developed as a semester-long program focus on three main characteristics that they believe attribute to a successful knight. These characteristics include scholarships, individual and life skills which the EK program dedicates a month of development to. Above all, the goal of the Emerging Knights is to assist students in having a successful first semester at UCF.

Student Development and Enrollment Services
http://sdes.ucf.edu

“Catch the Spirit” of Orientation!

How do you accclimate over 3,500 fall freshmen, 1200 summer freshmen and 4,000 transfer students to UCF? You guessed it...involve the entire university community!

The Orientation Center is responsible for coordinating a mandatory program which assists all freshmen and transfer students during the October transition to UCF. To accomplish this large task, the Orientation Center enlists the help of a select group of current undergraduate students - the Orientation Team (O-Team).

O-Teamers must meet specific criteria and are selected through an application and interview process every year. O-Teamers serve as peer leaders, peer advisors, facilitators, performers, resource persons, role models and ambassadors for UCF. They have a rigorous schedule which includes over 150 hours of training in cooperation with various campus offices. Academic Support and Advising Programs (ASAP) and Multicultural Academic and Support Services (MASS) train the O-Teamers to assist the professional advisors in presenting student success workshops and schedules for freshmen. When the freshmen arrive on campus, the first person they meet is an O-Teamer. Some of their duties during the freshmen sessions include leading small groups, giving campus tours, and performing entertaining skits. They assist the advisors with “Student Success” workshops which discuss how to become a successful college student through several topics including the importance of campus and community organizations of students and university policies. Freshmen also attend sessions given by their college, the Office of Student Financial Assistance, the Office of Student Accounts, Computer Services, and Campus Life. Freshmen also participate in discussions on social responsibility and diversity issues coordinated by REACH peer educators.

Not only is the orientation program for students, but also for family members. The two programs run simultaneously and provide information about the university and the available resources to both the students and their families. The family members attend sessions pertaining to student rights and responsibilities, academic requirements, issues regarding separation from their student, financial aid and fee payment, the UCF Bookstore, career resources, meal plans, the UCF Card, housing options, campus safety and campus life. Most importantly, each session provides parents with the opportunity to ask questions of the presenters.

Transfer students are no exception to the Orientation process, as they too must attend an Orientation session. During the one-day Transfer Orientation, their needs are addressed through interest sessions and informational tables staffed by representatives from various campus offices. The Office of Transfer Services presents a program which covers services and tips designed to help transfer students successfully make the transition to UCF. Students then meet with their college representatives for an overview of their college and major requirements, advising and registration.

As the University continues to welcome incoming freshmen, transfer students and family members, the Orientation Center emphasizes a goal of helping students “Catch the Spirit!” Students leave the program excited that they are now a UCF Golden Knight! This summer, we, the university community, will contribute to the success of 13 Freshman Orientation sessions and 10 Transfer Orientation sessions. This certainly is a university-wide program of which we all can be proud!

The program has been coordinated this year by Jennifer Boyce in the Orientation Center. She is now being joined by our new Orientation Director, Joe Ritchie, who comes to us with eight years of experience in orientation from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Welcome Joe!!!
An academician is one who can build a firm foundation with the bricks that others throw at him.

David Brinkley
The Registrar’s Office welcomes Linda Sullivan to its family as Assistant University Registrar. Linda comes to UCF from Tennessee where she worked in Student Services and the Registrar’s Office at Nashville State Technical Institute.

**People in the News**

Elena Michelson is resigning her position as a counselor at UCF’s Counseling and Testing for a position as an upper school counselor at Gamson Forest School, an all-girls school outside of Baltimore, Maryland. In addition to conducting individual and group therapy with students, Elena will be teaching decision making classes, coordinating peer counseling programs, and running a sexual diversity group.

Dennis Congos, Supplemental Instruction Coordinator, had his diagnostic instrument entitled The Radial of Learning published. The Radial of Learning is an assessment instrument designed by Dennis which may be used to assess and identify strengths and weaknesses in the skills for learning college level material.

Members of the Student Health Services staff attended the American College Health Association’s annual conference, “Celebrate the Possibilities” in Toronto on May 31-June 1. The conference focused on common health and wellness related issues of colleges and university students. The keynote speaker was David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D., Surgeon General of the United States. The conference offered a unique opportunity to network with other student health professionals and share best practices, “hot topics” and leading-edge issues.

**Above and Beyond**

**Pete Wallace**

When Garrick Jenkins went on an extended medical leave during the second half of fall semester 1999, Pete Wallace moved from a graduate assistantship position in Dispute Resolution Services to assume primary leadership in Judicial Programs. With very limited experience, Pete immediately took charge and carried out the work in Judicial Programs in an exemplary manner. Upon Jenkins’ return in spring semester, Pete remained half time in Judicial Programs to assist with a significantly increased case load of alcohol and computer abuse violations. He also initiated projects related to updating The Golden Rule and increasing internet exposure for student discipline policies. In addition, during spring, Pete assisted Campus Life Assistant Vice President, Craig Ulm, with several projects.

The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities is pleased to announce that Pete Wallace has accepted the full time position of Coordinator of Dispute Resolution Services. Pete has worked in this area as a graduate student and brings knowledge and enthusiasm that will benefit all of Campus Life.

Congratulations to one of our own graduates!

Patti MacKewn, Director of the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, and Pete Wallace, Coordinator of Dispute Resolution Services, attended the 2000 Donald D. Gehring Campus Judicial Affairs Training Institute in Bristol, Rhode Island on June 24-28. This intensive five day institute provided in depth discussion of several major issues related to the field of judicial affairs and offered an opportunity to network with colleagues from across the nation. Information received from this Institute will allow UCF to further enhance the Office of Judicial Programs and its program offerings.

National organization interested in initiative that First Year Advising and Information began!

Bob Snow and Cathy Spoon have been selected to present “UCF’s First Class Academic Program (FCAP): A Recruitment and Retention Program for Academically Talented FTU Students,” at the NACADA National Conference held in Orlando on October 2000. Over 500 program proposals were submitted for only 250 slots.

**DeLaine Priest**

Academic Support and Advising Programs (ASAP) is pleased to welcome DeLaine Priest as Director of Student Academic Resource Center (SARC).

DeLaine, who joined the staff at UCF in 1994, is the “not so new kid on the block.” She has over 9 years experience in higher education in Dutchess and Orange areas of interest and expertise include student persistence, academic advising, continuous quality improvement, program development, and working with diverse populations. DeLaine is responsible for supervising the coordination of the University Pegasus Success Program, the College Preparatory Program, Supplemental Information (SI) Program, and Tutoring Program, and coordinating articulation and implementation of the State CLAST requirements among other roles and responsibilities. She serves on many university committees and is a valuable addition to the instructional team for the Freshman Seminar and College Success Strategies courses. ASAP looks forward to SARC’s continued growth and development under DeLaine’s dynamic and progressive leadership.

DeLaine received her Bachelors of Art in Business Administration and Masters of Art in Counseling Education from the University of Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama. She is a member of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA), Association of Quality and Participation, National Association for Equal Opportunities in Higher Education, and Florida Association for Women in Higher Education. In her spare time, DeLaine is an adjunct instructor for the Valencia Community College Social Science Department and enjoys traveling, reading, walking, and jogging.

Ragda Kureid, Coordinator of International Student and Scholar Services attended NACDA’s 52nd Annual Conference in San Diego, California. The theme of the conference was “Developing a Creative Vision for International Education.” Ragda attended many workshops to keep up the office updated with Immigration and State Department rules and regulations, and to gain new ideas in organizing orientations and different cultural programs.

• Laura Waltrip, Program Coordinator in the Office of Student Activities, was selected as the Regional Coordinator of the National Association of Campus Activities (NACA).

• Jean Holt, Program Coordinator in the Office of Student Activities, was selected as the President of the Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society.

• Elysse Skyskah has been selected to serve as a Regional Student Representative for the National Association for Campus Activities Southeastern Region.

**Student Recognition**

• Theresa Luitza is the President’s Leadership Council (PLC) Student of the Month. She is a senior Psychology major.

• Bonnie Vance has been offered the Area Coordinator position for Student Government at the Brevard campus. She is a senior Exceptional Education major.

Acknowledgment:

Dr. Rich McLaughlin has received word that he has passed his licensing exams and is now a licensed psychologist in the state of Florida. Congratulations!

**Announcing**

Academic Development and Retention is very proud to announce that Dr. Mark Allen Psisel, Director of Transfer Services, was the recipient of the Florida Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (FASFAA) Certificate of Appreciation Award. The award is given for work early and given 30 minutes to the group only has been given six times in 20 years. This award acknowledged Mark for his outstanding determination for change in legislation of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarships. SDES congratulates Mark on receiving such an honorable award!

**A LETTER FROM SDES VICE PRESIDENT**

Recently, an employee in our division shared with a member of the SDES Council concern of personnel turnover. At its last meeting, members of the SDES Council discussed this matter. However, as we know, employees who leave any organization may do so for several good reasons.

The council will continue to discuss this issue next fall. In the interim, the council has suggested that mentoring is a good method to help new employees make a successful transition. Additionally, we are reviewing the new SDES orientation program and have suggested a new focus be made to build relationships.

14-18: To thought the development and retention of our SDES employees. The university is a dynamic and changing work environment that allows for growth and development. We hope you will take the time and interest in SDES and its employees to introduce yourself and offer assistance to new employees. Your initiative can make a big difference in the successful transition and retention.

Please feel free to contact a member of the SDES Council. For your convenience, those serving on the council are listed below:

Glenn Carlson 823-2191 gecarlsen@mail.ucf.edu
Carolyn Standifer 823-2169 cstandifer@mail.ucf.edu
Inez Ford 823-2716 iford@mail.ucf.edu
Melissa Kotkin 823-5454 mkotkin@mail.ucf.edu
Lisa Jones 823-3004 ljones@email.ucf.edu
Mark Psisel 823-2231 mpsisel@mail.ucf.edu

Thank you for your interest. Sincerely,

Tom Huddleston
Vice President
SDES Development and Enrollment Services

**Beyond the Call of Duty...**

On June 20th at 6:15 p.m., a student arrived at the door of Multicultural and Academic Support Services looking for the Student Financial Assistance Office.

To her surprise and disappointment, she found that the office was closed. Around 6:25 p.m., Judy Gallo was approached in the hallway leaving the Student Financial Assistance office for home. A request was made to assist the young man since he had taken off from work and driven 30 minutes to make it to the office before the 7:00 p.m. closing, which of course was incorrect. Judy did not hesitate. With a smile, she stated, “Bring him over,” which did still smiling. Judy and the student walked back into the Student Financial Assistance Office to address the student’s issues and concerns. Excellent student service! Keep up the good work!

Submitted by Inez M. Ford

A successful man is one who can build a firm foundation on the bricks that others throw at him. — David Brinkley

Left to Right: Bob Faust, Claudia Witcher, Marsha Huddle, Terri Langford, Judy Sayers, and Sheryl Carpenter.

**PLC Student of the Month**

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**Certificate of Appreciation**

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Welcome aboard!
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