Team Captain, Sharon Ekern, at sekern@mail.ucf.edu.

Breast Cancer walk will be held on October 15th.

Have a disability will receive an intake interview with SDS. Psychological and/or academic evaluation. Students found to have hyperactivity problems. Students may now request a screening evaluation program for the purpose of identifying students who transition into UCF.

To better serve students who suspect they have a learning disability, Student Disability Services (SDS) has initiated an evaluation program for the purpose of identifying students who may have a learning disability, attention problems or hyperactivity problems. Students may now request a screening interview with the psychologist for SDS. Following this interview, students who meet criteria may be eligible for psychological and/or academic evaluation. Students found to have a disability will receive an intake interview with SDS staff in order to determine needed reasonable accommodations. Contact SDS at 823-3271 for more information.

TOP ACHIEVER ENROLLS AT UCF
The UCF McKnight Center of Excellence’s Thurgood Marshall Achievers Society is well known for producing top-notch academic students. This year’s recipient of the ‘Achievers of the Year Award’ is Ericka Dunlap. Ericka is a graduate of Boone High School and currently enrolled at the University of Central Florida. Ericka graduated with a 3.5 GPA; she sings, speaks to other youth, and participates in a host of volunteer projects. The center is proud to have Ericka as a part of the Golden Knights family. Pictured presenting the award are left to right Mr. Mike Smith, former Chair of the McKnight Center of Excellence Advisory Board, Ms. Dunlap, and Dr. Tom Heddle, Vice President of SDS.

The FFFS is a statewide, non-profit organization authorized by the 1957 Legislature of the State of Florida to discover scientific and technical talent in the schools of Florida and to encourage the pursuit of careers in science and engineering. Specifically, the Foundation is responsible for coordinating and managing the Florida State Science and Engineering Fair held annually in Florida. They also coordinate and assist with 38 regional science and engineering fairs throughout the state. FFFS also supports the winners of the state competition, the annual national and international fairs. The Executive Director of the Foundation, Ms. Nancy Besley, had the following comments when asked, “What are the Foundations short and long term goals?”

Of course our main goal is to continue in the tradition of the FFFS with our commitment to discover scientific and technical talent in the schools of Florida and to encourage the pursuit of careers in science and engineering. We also wish to increase the professional development of our teachers in the scientific, research, and technological areas. Our short term goal is to get to know the Central Florida educational and professional community and to administer the 2001 Florida State Science and Engineering Fair from our new location - UCF. The actual site of this year’s fair is Ft. Myers, Florida, April 18 – 20, 2001. The long term goal is to collaborate and develop partnerships that will increase the number of students (at all levels) and teachers who are exposed to our scientific, research, and technological community through workshops and training. The Board of Directors for the FFFS, who are from all areas of our state, recognizes an even greater need to develop the talents of our students in order to better prepare them for the work-force of the future right here in Florida.

UCF is pleased to welcome the Florida Foundation for Future Scientists and excited about the opportunities offered by this partnership. As President Hitt stated in his letter inviting the Foundation to join UCF, “We recognize the value this collaboration would provide for both organizations. …We know first hand the valuable work that your organization does with students and teachers in Florida’s schools.”

The Foundation will be housed in McIlhann Hall (formerly the Administration building), Suite 282, within the Division of Student Development and Enrollment Services. Ms. Bonnie Pelletier, FFFS Program Assistant, can be reached at 823-3447 or bpeletier@mail.ucf.edu.

A reception to introduce the Executive Director and FFFS staff to the UCF community will be held Wednesday, October 18, 2000 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Student Union, Cape Florida Ballroom, Room 316.
People in the News...

A familiar face returns: Russell Titteri

Russell Titteri, Sr. Vice President of Student Development, will be returning to UCF. Russ has been a part of the UCF community for many years and has served in various capacities, including visiting assistant professor, assistant professor, director of the Academic Support System, and Director of Academic Support Services. Russ will be taking on a new role as Director of the Academic Support System (ASSS) and will be responsible for advising and first-year programs.

Student Disability Services welcomes: Dr. Katherine A. Muir, Clinical Psychologist

Dr. Katherine A. Muir has recently moved to Philadelphia from New Orleans, LA, where she was in private practice for 12 years specializing in learning and behavior disorders. In addition to psychological assessment and therapy, she consults with groups and families for the mentally handicapped and special education classes. Prior to that, she worked at a rehabilitation hospital and the public school system. Katherine earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from Georgia State University with a specialization in behavior therapy.

Academic Development and Retention welcomes: Kathleen Connolly

Kathleen Connolly is the unit Admissions Coordinator. Kathleen will be devoting her attention to gathering, analyzing, and communicating information regarding the retention and progression of UCF students. She will be working to describe the successful UCF student and feedback this information for program evaluation, planning, and assessment.

United Campus Ministries welcomes: Brad Crawford

Brad Crawford is the Director of United Campus Ministries. Brad received his MBA from the University of Georgia and Master of Divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He enjoys sports, travel, and reading in his leisure time.

Welcome Aboard

Very few staff members here in SDES or at UCF can be described as a ‘Founding Director’. Such is the high honor and unique privilege given to Dolores Burghard. A twenty-four year leader, educator, teacher, and Director of Creative School for Children since its inception in 1976! The Unit of Special Programs is proud and delighted to cite and recognize Dolores for her wonderful dedicated service and creative leadership given to the sons and daughters, and in some instances, the grandchildren of faculty, staff, and community persons that have attended the Creative School over the years! As a noted expert in early childhood education, Dolores continues to administer and manage the school and programs in an innovative manner. Therefore, the Unit of Special Programs takes special pride and pleasure in commending and congratulating Dolores Burghard, the ‘Founding Director’ of the Creative School for Children! -Submitted to A J Range

United Campus Ministries welcomes Brad Crawford as the Director of United Campus Ministries. Brad received his MBA from the University of Georgia and Master of Divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He enjoys sports, travel, and reading in his leisure time.

Get On Line: Schedule Web Guide Replaces Schedule of Classes

Beginning with the spring 2001 semester, the familiar printed copy of the UCF Schedule of Classes will no longer be available. Course listings will no longer be printed within the Schedule of Classes. Appearing in its place will be the UCF Schedule Web Guide, a new publication dedicated to guiding the student through registration on the web with easy to understand, step-by-step instructions. Particular emphasis will be placed on instructing students on the use of the revised web-based class schedule. Unlike the printed version of the Schedule of Classes that quickly became outdated because of the dynamic nature of adding, moving, and removing classes, the web-based class schedule will be updated every 15 minutes. According to recent UCF surveys, a significant percentage of UCF students have their own computers or internet access to the web. UCF also has over 600 computer workstations and kiosks available university-wide and at branch campuses for its students to use. Computer labs and standard hours will be prominently listed in the new Schedule Web Guide. The new Schedule Web Guide will still be packed with the important, useful instructions and information students, faculty, and staff have come to expect and depend on, including the academic calendar, final exam schedule, and fee information. This information is not time sensitive and remains accurate long after the publication is distributed. Students can then be advised and register on POLARIS or via the TouchTone telephone system. This new approach will provide students with the optimum combination of print and web-based information.

Get ON LINE not In Line!

Faculty Mentors

Our group of faculty mentors is complete! The following faculty and staff members have accepted the role of faculty mentor:

Safaih Islam AbuJahad
Lee Armstrong
Awolika Atieno
Tracey Dotts
Mary Colegrove
Bill Franklin
Stephen Hsu
Amp Gush
Frank Hanson
Marie Liechti
Dr. John Lloyd
Marianne Elser
Jeanie Lueby
Lena Mills
Edith Macdonald
Nancy Stansel
Barbara Moore
Kamanda Tomlin

Thank you to these outstanding faculty and staff members for their dedication to helping our students succeed!

Chill Out!!!

On October 16, the UCF Student Wellness Advocate Team (OWIT) is hosting for the first time a Stress Free Fair, the "RELAXATION STATION" at the Student Union. While faculty and staff are invited, the event is primarily to help relax our students who will be stressed out over mid-terms! Included in the 1-5 p.m. activities will be: relaxing music, yoga, acupuncture, aroma therapy, stress management workshops, and a demonstration of kinesiology. Also offered will be free massages, comfort foods and teas as well as door prizes. Want more information? Call the Campus Wellness Center, 3-5841.

Come join the Celebration!

International Fair organized by the International Student Association (ISA) will be held on October 23rd at the Student Resource Center from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please come and join the ISA in their celebration and learn about different cultures and countries. For more information, contact ISA@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu or call Ragda Kurdy at 3-2337.

Points of Pride...

Inez Ford  Academic Advisor  823-2716  iford@mail.ucf.edu
Mark Poisel  Academic Advisor and Retention  823-2231  apoisel@mail.ucf.edu
Linda Jones  Academic Advisor  823-3004  ljjones@mail.ucf.edu
Glen Carlson  Academic Advisor  823-2319  gcarlson@mail.ucf.edu
Carolyn Stansifer  Academic Advisor and Retention  823-2169  cstander@pegasus.ucf.edu
Laura Walkrip  Academic Advisor  823-6471  lwaltrip@mail.ucf.edu

The purpose of the SDES Council is to strengthen communication among employees, foster a positive working environment and promote employee recognition. The SDES Council consists of representatives of all the areas of Student Development and Enrollment Services. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or comments, please contact a SDES Council member.

The SDES Council Representatives
Building for a Better Tomorrow through the 2000 Florida State Employees’ Charitable Campaign

The 2000 Florida State Employees’ Charitable Campaign (FSECC) is currently underway and will continue through October 27. FSECC is the single authorized solicitation of state employees to benefit voluntary agencies providing programs to meet human needs in our community, across the nation and abroad. Employees in SDES care about their community and through FSECC are offered an opportunity to help friends, neighbors, families and ourselves by participating in this worthwhile campaign. Donations are used to help:

- Children learn and grow
- Strengthen families
- Transform disability into ability
- Improve and educate people about environmental needs
- Provide emergency assistance to people in desperate circumstances

Most of us have been touched by one or more of the over 300 participating FSECC Agencies.

SDES staff members in your area who have volunteered to be a FSECC Keyworker will distribute pledge cards. Forms must be completed prior to October 27.

- Your gifts can be payroll deducted, or you can give a one-time cash contribution.
- You may elect to designate your donation to a particular agency(s) or you may choose to leave your donation undesignated.
- The FSECC Steering Committee, made up of representatives from UCF and employees from local state agencies, will distribute undesignated donations.
- Employees who contribute $78 per year will be automatically eligible to win:
  - 2001-2002 parking decal
  - Coupons for Central Florida restaurants
  - Gift certificates to Central Florida attractions.

There is no answer as to how much of your earnings you may wish to contribute to human needs. This year the University of Central Florida has set a goal of $142,000. Please be as generous as you can.

Effective People Skills Seminar

Developing the ability to work effectively with others is perhaps the most important skill that you can develop. Successful relationships are crucial to personal satisfaction and work performance. A pilot seminar is being offered exclusively to SDES staff this semester. This three part seminar (six hours) will provide opportunities for you to:

1. Develop an awareness of your behavior style
2. Understand how your style impacts others
3. Apply this knowledge in your professional and personal relationships.

Participants will complete the Behavior Style Profile that will serve as a catalyst for the seminar activities including group discussion and coaching interventions. The seminar will be facilitated by Craig Ullom who is certified through the Effectiveness Institute in Redmond, Washington to deliver this program. Enrollment is limited. The seminar is tentatively scheduled for November 2, 9, 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. If you are interested, please contact Craig Ullom at 3-2626 by October 13.

Recreational Services

“UCF’s Greatest (K)night of Play,” Rec Fest 2000, is back after a one year absence at Recreational Services. On October 13th, from 4:00 p.m. to midnight, over 230 of UCF’s finest will participate in seven competitive and often wacky sports events. Festivities begin at the Lake Claire Recreation area with coed teams of four competing in boat races, volleyball, and tug-of-war events, and then move onward to Recreational Services for mellonball, a pajama/inner tube pool race, and a Burger King sip-off. UCF Head Football Coach, Mike Kruczek, will be the Honorary MC, and will present awards to all of the participants. Numerous area businesses and attractions have partnered with Recreational Services providing prize donations to help make the Rec Fest experience even more enjoyable. All those who participate will be provided with a festival of fun, and will have nothing but fond memories of what is truly “UCF’s Greatest (K)night of Play.”

KD College Day

Kappa Delta (KD) new members hosted over 40 Girl Scouts to a KD College Day on September 16th. The Girl Scouts ranged in age from 10 to 17 and were all interested in attending UCF in the future. The Girl Scouts were greeted at the Kappa Delta house and given a house tour. Afterwards, the Girl Scouts got to go on a campus tour of Millican Hall, Greek Park, the reflecting pond, and the Student Union. Following the tour, the girls came back to the house for lunch for a question and answer session about college life, which was coordinated by a panel of Kappa Delta sisters and new members. KD College Day was well received by the Girl Scouts and their parents.
When Mary McKinney, Executive Director of the Office of Student Financial Assistance (SFA), asked her staff to read the best seller Who Moved My Cheese, by Spencer Johnson M.D., SFA employees should have known that great change was in the wind. After all, this is a book about amazing ways to deal with change in one's work and life. For nearly a year, Student Financial Assistance has been steadfastly moving toward it's PeopleSoft "go live" date of February 2001. The objective is to start the 2001-02 financial aid application cycle on the new software. This sounds like a "piece of cake" until you realize that the 2001-02 financial aid cycle starts January 1, 2001. That is a little over three months from now.

Vic LaPorte heads the implementation team. This group of functional and technical people is giving its best effort to having the SFA office on the PeopleSoft system on time. The greater goal is to assure students receive financial aid award letters in March and receive actual disbursements for fall 2001 without any delays. This has mandated the development of back up plans to assure uninterrupted service to the students.

Training began for SFA in September in coordination with the LEAP Training Team campus-wide training effort. Training will be a great challenge for SFA in the push toward its ambitious goals. Financial aid offices, in general, must develop a tolerance for change, due to frequent modifications to federal and state programs. So, SFA will just hang on to their hats (or change their hats) to meet the needs of the students. Keep your eye on the cheese and hang on to your hats because here we go..........!

Keeping UCF Off-Campus Students in the loop...
The Off-Campus Student Resource Center in collaboration with the off-campus student residential apartment communities will be sponsoring a project entitled, Knight Chat. The project is designed to give students a forum for questions and answers. In addition, Knight Chat is a vehicle to help students get “connected” and to introduce them to on and off-campus resources. This aids the student’s transition and has an impact on retention.

Self Discover Knights Events
The following presentations are open to ALL at UCF! Please refer to your SDES October calendar for dates and times.

- **Assertiveness** - Do you have trouble expressing your feelings and opinions to friends, parents, roommates, or romantic partners? Apply assertiveness strategies to learn how to stand up for your rights, make and refuse requests, give and receive compliments, and express anger constructively.

- **Enhancing Self-Esteem** - This workshop will provide useful information about healthy self-esteem, its benefits, and concrete ways to improve how you value yourself. An open discussion will be followed by interactive activities.

- **Drunk & Drunker, Alcohol Awareness Program** - Facilitated by REACH Peer Education and the UCF Substance Abuse Prevention Education and Enforcement (SAPEE) unit, this workshop combines prevention information along with a hands on demonstration of the physiological and psychological effects when alcohol is misused.

- **Combating the Blues** - This workshop will explore the symptoms and causes of depression, ways to improve your mood, the relationship between food and mood, and 3 ways to help a friend who is depressed.

- **Choosing a College Major (and Beyond)** - The presenters will help students explore how a specific degree program translates into a career after graduation. Students who are uncertain of their current academic major, or those how have no idea what major to select, will benefit from this interactive program.

Helping Students Succeed....
SARC’s peer tutoring program is off to a great start! Twenty peer tutors are assisting UCF students in over 35 subject areas. Heavily used areas include: accounting, chemistry, physics, and statistics. Tutoring began on September 5th and it already looks like it is going to be a busy year! The increase in students is due in large part to a fantastic group of tutors who aggressively marketed their schedules, increased interaction with faculty, and are enthusiastically working toward national certification for the UCF tutoring program. A fall schedule can be accessed through the SARC website: http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~sarc.

GET KNIGHTED!
UCF’s first Get Knighted Welcome Event took place on August 19, in the Student Resource Center courtyard. Get Knighted was coordinated by Student Leadership Programs (SLP) as a Knight WOW event to welcome students and their families to campus on move-in day. SDES staff and student leaders handed out raffle tickets and invited students and their families to “cool off” and enjoy complimentary ice cream, lemonade and music. Sincere thanks to the following vendors who donated raffle items for the event:

Don Pablo’s, Kelsey’s Pizzeria Eatery, Knight’s Corner College Bookstore, LEAD Scholars, Locos, Perkins Restaurant & Bakery, Pizzeria Uno Chicago Bar & Grill, Recreational Services, Roly Poly, Sharro Italian Eatery, Subway, UCF Campus Bookstore, and Wendy’s.

Please check out SLP programs and events on the web: http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~slp
A familiar face returns
Russell Tiberii
Russell Tiberii back to UCF. Russ was on leave of absence and has returned from the United Arab Emirates where he was responsible for developing an advising first year seminar program at Zayed University.

Russ began his career at UCF in 1989 as Director of the Student Academic Support System (SASS). At the time, his job was to help integrate the computer degree audit system into an academic advising program. As the advising function of the program grew, there emerged a need to focus advising efforts toward specific student needs. As these changes developed, Russ became the Director of the Academic Exploration Program. Russ now has a new title, Program Director for Advising and Instructional Development. In his new role, Russ hopes to create a synergistic advising experience for first year students through a collaboration which combines academic advising and career development advising. He also hopes to incorporate these collaborative principles of student development into the instructional aspects of the freshman seminar classes.

Student Disability Services welcomes Dr. Katherine A. Muir, Clinical Psychologist. She has recently moved to Florida from New Orleans, LA where she was in private practice for 12 years specializing in learning and behavior disorders. In addition to psychological assessment and therapy, she consults with group homes for the mentally handicapped and with special education classes. Prior to that, she worked at a rehabilitation hospital and with the public school system. Katherine earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from Georgia State University with a specialization in behavior therapy.

Academic Development and Retention welcomes Kathleen Connelly to the unit as Assistant Data Coordinator. Kathleen will be devoting her attention to gathering, analyzing, and communicating information regarding the retention and progression of UCF students. She will be working to describe the successful UCF student and feedback back this information for program evaluation, planning and assessment.

Kathleen grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia and has previously held positions in Community Planning. Statistical Research Analyst, Director of Student Records, Deputy Registrar, Director of Family Life, Volunteer Services Manager, Volunteer Program Coordinator, and Manager of Volunteer Services. Her career has taken her to universities, hospitals, senior centers, and police departments to mention just a few. Kathleen is an avid cyclist, volunteer, and a Pediatric Special Care Unit at Arnold Palmer Hospital and creates OWIE dolls for her friends and colleagues in order to help get through the day.

Very few staff members here in SDES or at UCF can be described as a “Founding Director”. Such is the high honor and unique privilege given to Dolores Burghard, a twenty four year veteran, educator, teacher, administrator and Director of Creative School for Children since its inception in 1976! The Unit of Special Programs is proud and delighted to cite and recognize Dolores for her wonderful dedicated service and creative leadership given to the sons and daughters, and in some instances, grandchildren of faculty, staff, and community persons who have attended the Creative School over the years. As a noted expert in early childhood education, Dolores continues to administer and manage the school and programs in an innovative manner. Therefore, the Unit of Special Programs takes special pride and pleasure in commending and congratulating Dolores Burghard, the ‘Founding Director’ of the Creative School for Children!’

Students, parents, and community persons that have attended the Creative School will miss you!

Student Development and Enrollment Services takes pride in welcoming Brad Crawford as the Director of United Campus Ministries. Brad received his MBA from the University of Georgia and Master of Divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He enjoys sports, travel, and reading in his spare time.

The Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) staff would like to welcome Tynika Williams and Kelly Sullivan to the SARC team. Tynika and Kelly are the SARC staff in August and will advise College Achievement Program, Pegasus Success Program and CLAST students.

Student Development and Enrollment Services, Vice President’s Office, would like to welcome Linda Skrotsky, Office Assistant. Linda received her B.S. at UCF in Health Services Administration and is currently in the Health Services Administration Master’s Program.

SDES wishes Sandra (Bhakamuri) Jaggersonna, formerly Office Assistant for the Vice President of SDES, the very best in her new position as Executive Secretary in the Dean’s Office of the College of Health and Public Affairs. Sandra’s new career at UCF in 1997 in the Student Health Center as a USPS staff member. She is currently taking classes and working toward a bachelors degree. SDES will miss you!

SDES congratulates Bryan Morris, Sr. Computer Analyst Manager in the Registrar’s Office on his certification. After six rigorous exams, encompassing operating systems, web authoring, administration, and network administration, and hundreds of hours of effort, Bryan now holds his MCSE (Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer) and MCP+I (Microsoft Certified Professional plus Internet) certifications.

Get ON LINE: Schedule Web Guide replaces Schedule of Classes
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Points of Pride...

Faculty Mentors
Our group of faculty members is complete! The following faculty and staff members have accepted the role of faculty mentor:

- Safaril Islam Alshubair
- Ampu Gura
- Tracy Deitz
- Mary Gonzalez
- Jennifer Johnson
- Frank Ganzon
- Jim Lloyd
- Michelle Mumm
- Nancy Stanlick
- Sh Regarding
- Sh Regarding
- Tom Regley
- Thomas Dear
- Mary Gonzales
- Beverly Holcomb
- Sh Regarding
- Sh Regarding
- Laura Waltrip

Chill Out!!!
On October 16, the UCF Student Wellness Advocate Team (SWAT) is hosting for the first time a Stress Free Fair, the "RELAXATION STATION" at the Student Union. While faculty and staff are invited, the event is primarily to help relax our students who will be stressed out over mid-terms! Included in the 1-5 p.m. activities will be: relaxing music, yoga, acupuncture, aroma therapy, stress management workshops, and a demonstration of kinesiology. Also offered will be free massages, comfort foods and teas as well as door prizes. Want more information? Call the Campus Wellness Center, 3-5841.

Come Join the Celebration!
International Fair organized by the International Student Association (ISA) will be held on October 23rd at the Student Resource Center from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please come and join the ISA in their celebration and learn about different cultures in the community. For more information, contact ISA@pegasus.ucf.edu or call Ragda Kardy at 3-2337.
**Student Government (SG) on the cutting edge...**

SG is going on-line this semester with the fall female elections. Students will no longer be required to come onto campus in order to cast their vote. They will be able to vote through Polaris from anywhere they can access their account on the Internet. SG is very hopeful that this ease of voting will increase student participation, which has always been a very small percentage of the student body. Electronic voting will also save a great deal of the A&S/F funds that were previously used for elections. Voting by computer will eliminate the renting of tents, contracting with the League of Women Voters, paying only half as many students as election commissioners, purchasing ballots, etc. UCF is only the second university in the SUS to make the transition to electronic voting and SG is very excited about the difference they expect it to make.

**Housing and Residence Life**

On-campus residents now have access to an Ethernet connection from their own rooms. Housing and Residence Life has invested over $550,000 to ensure that every student who resides on campus has this opportunity. In order to participate in the Housing Ethernet project, the resident’s computer must have a minimum of 32MB of RAM and 30MB of free disk space. Students need to contact the UCF Computer Services, Help Desk at 3-3137, for more information on the CHIP’s Program (Campus Housing Internet Project) and how to secure/ purchase their connection kit. Students can also access the web site at: http://www.cis.ucf.edu/~store/standards.html... to find out more.

**TOP ACHIER Visa ENROLLS AT UCF**

The UCF McKnight Center of Excellence’s Thurgood Marshall Achievers Society is well known for producing top-notch academic students. This year’s recipient of the ‘Achiever of the Year Award’ is Ericka Dunlap. Ericka is a graduate of Boone High School and currently enrolled at the University of Central Florida. Ericka graduated with a 3.5 GPA; she sings, speaks to other youth, and has Ericka as a part of the Golden Knights family. Pictured presenting the award are left to right Mr. Mike Smith, former Chair of the McKnight Center of Excellence Advisory Board, Ms. Dunlap, and Dr. Tom Huddleston, Vice President of SDES.

**Florida Foundation for Future Scientists moves to UCF!**

On September 1, 2000, the Florida Foundation for Future Scientists (FFFS) opened their office at the University of Central Florida. The Foundation’s Board of Directors voted on July 14 to move to the Central Florida area after being housed at the University of Florida for 43 years. As one board member put it when promoting the move to the I-4 corridor, “The Foundation needs to move to a location that is quickly becoming the center of science and technology in the state.” The FFFS is a statewide, non-profit organization authorized by the 1957 Legislature of the State of Florida to discover scientific and technical talent in the schools of Florida and to encourage the pursuit of careers in science and engineering. Specifically, the Foundation is responsible for coordinating and managing the Florida State Science and Engineering Fair held annually in Florida. They also coordinate and assist with 38 regional science and engineering fairs throughout the state. FFFS also supports the winners of the state competition, the annual national and international fairs. The Executive Director of the Foundation, Ms. Nancy Besley, had the following comments when asked, “What are the Foundations short and long term goals?”

Of course our main goal is to continue in the tradition of the FFFS with our commitment to discover scientific and technical talent in the schools of Florida and to encourage the pursuit of careers in science and engineering. We also wish to increase the professional development of our teachers in the scientific, research, and technological community through workshops and training. The Board of Directors for the FFFS, who are from all areas of our state, recognizes an even greater need to develop the talents of our students in order to better prepare them for the work-force of the future right here in Florida.

UCF is pleased to welcome the Florida Foundation for Future Scientists and excited about the opportunities offered by this partnership. As President Hitt stated in his letter inviting the Foundation to join UCF, “We recognize the value this collaboration would provide for both organizations... We know first hand the valuable work that your organization does with students and teachers in Florida’s schools.”

The Foundation will be housed in Millican Hall (formerly the Administration building), Suite 282, within the Division of Student Development and Enrollment Services. Ms. Bonnie Pelletier, FFFS Program Assistant, can be reached at 823-4347 or b pelletier@mail.ucf.edu.

A reception to introduce the Executive Director and FFFS staff to the UCF community will be held Wednesday, October 18, 2000 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Student Union, Cape Florida Ballroom, Room 316.