

Student Development and Enrollment Services

<http://sdes.ucf.edu>



UKnighted



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

Volume IV, No. 3

September 2001

UCF Welcomes Students for Fall 2001

How can UCF make students feel welcomed and acquainted with campus departments and services? Through the New Student Convocation and Student Development and Enrollment Services Welcome Expo.

The convocation event covered traditions, values and expectations for new students while the SDES welcome information tents and Welcome Expo offered information on campus services and organizations.

On August 18, a new tradition began at UCF when freshmen were invited to the New Student Convocation where the UCF Creed was introduced by Marco Peña, president of Student Government Association (SGA). The creed states, "Integrity, scholarship, community, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.

- **INTEGRITY** – I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.
- **SCHOLARSHIP** – I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community
- **COMMUNITY** – I will respect the rights of others and will value the unique contributions of every individual to promote an open and supportive campus environment.
- **EXCELLENCE** – I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake."

From August 20-22, the SDES welcome information tents were set up near four buildings: Education, Engineering, Classroom I and SGA Kiosk. Volunteers from SDES staffed the tents while providing valuable printed materials and answering questions for students during the first week of classes.

This year's Welcome Expo was an overwhelming success. Faculty, staff and over 150 campus organizations were on hand to welcome the new and returning students. Well over 2,800 students filled the white tents on the Green. Welcome Expo allows students to make connections, ask questions of staff members and have fun. Tim Edwards, academic advisor of First Year Advising and Information Services facilitated and coordinated this event.

Through collaboration and partnerships with the university community, the above events armed students with the ability to achieve personal growth and academic success.



Students signed up for activities and gathered information at the tables set up at Welcome Expo.



Bob Snow, director of First Year Advising and Information Services hosted the Welcome Expo event.



People in the News...

Welcome Aboard New SDES Employees

- **Alvin Canon**, senior financial aid officer, Student Financial Assistance
- **Robert Boyle**, coordinator, Housing and Residence Life
- **Amanda Frost**, specialist, Counseling and Testing Center
- **Bart Gee**, accountant, Career Resource Center
- **Thomas Greggs**, coordinator, Housing and Residence Life
- **Pamela Howell**, program assistant, Undergraduate Admissions
- **Jason Jones**, coordinator, Housing and Residence Life
- **Stacey Laz enby**, assistant director, LEAD Scholars Program
- **Gidget Lewis**, coordinator, Housing and Residence Life
- **Larry Marks**, psychologist, Counseling and Testing Center
- **Tony Matthews**, senior clerk, Student Health Center
- **Donald McElvain**, maintenance specialist, Student Union
- **Russell Moore**, coordinator, Undergraduate Admissions
- **Michele Pannazzo**, coordinator, LEAD Scholars Program
- **MariLynn Paro**, assistant university registrar, Registrar's Office
- **Penny Qualls**, office assistant, Academic Services for Student-Athletes
- **Amy Rice**, counselor, First Year Advising and Information Services
- **Saleha Suleman**, director, International Student and Scholar Services
- **Frances Tagern**, custodial worker, Student Union
- **Bobby Woodard**, coordinator, Student Union

New ISSS Director



The staff in the Unit of Special Programs and the Office of International Student and Scholar Service (ISSS) welcomes **Saleha Suleman**, new director of ISSS.

Suleman was the former director of International Student Services at Metropolitan State University, St. Paul, Minnesota, for the last thirteen

years. Suleman earned her M.A. in journalism from Punjab University, a M.A. in journalism and mass communication from Iowa State University, and a Ph.D. in mass communication from the University of Wisconsin. As the director of UCF's International Student and Scholar Services, she and her staff will be working to serve, assist and acclimate all international students and visiting international scholars to the campus and community.

MariLynn Paro joined the Registrar's Office in August as assistant university registrar. Paro, former registrar for Southwest Baptist University, has a Master of Science in Administration. Paro will supervise classroom scheduling technical systems and programming, student record updates and registration-related activities.

New Faces at the Registrar's Office

Tanima Roy Choudhury has joined the Registrar's Office as interim student records trainer. Choudhury was most recently a training and performance consultant at Lucent Technologies and currently is pursuing a management information systems master's degree at UCF.

ABOVE and BEYOND



Natalie Greenough, the Registrar's computer programmer analyst, reached out to the community to help furnish supplies for students in Central Florida public schools.

After Greenough's son met his kindergarten teacher, her son was given a list of supplies to buy that would be needed for class. Greenough realized there are many families who cannot afford to buy these items. "I wasn't aware that the school districts did not supply needy children with their necessary school supplies. Almost 50 percent of the kids in Osceola County and 25 percent in Orange County will be without supplies when school begins. So I figured, I would do my part and beg, I mean, ask others to help out the children by dropping off a notebook or a pack of pencils," she said.

Greenough not only helped buy school supplies for her neighbor's two children, but placed a box in the Registrar's Office asking staff to donate scholastic materials. These were given to the radio station XL-106.7 School Drive to be dispersed to Central Florida public schools.

The drive will be ongoing as more supplies are needed for students and classrooms. Donations can be dropped off in the box at the Registrar's Office (MH161) or can be donated directly to local schools. "Remember: these students are possible future UCF Knights; your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you to all who donated supplies," said Greenough.

New Head Nurse at Health Center

Claudia Witcher, R.N., was promoted to nursing director at the Student Health Center (SHC), replacing Judy Sayers, who retired in June after 22 years of service.

Witcher, a native of Virginia, completed her nursing training at the Maryview Hospital in Portsmouth and received her B.S. degree in biology from Angelo State University in Texas. After serving 2 ½ years in the Army Nurse Corp, she worked as nurse manager for the Internal Medicine Specialists Group in Orlando for six years.

Witcher joined UCF in 1998 and has been Sayer's chief assistant and the allergy nurse for the last two years.



Back by Popular Demand!

Counseling and Testing Center announces its Self-Discovery Knights Outreach Series which will begin October 1. The series explores a variety of student development concerns and self-improvement topics. Presentations are free to everyone. For information, contact Rich McLaughlin at 823-2811.





Points of Pride...

SOAR Raises Students Advantage to Succeed

The Seizing Opportunities for Achievement and Retention (SOAR) program entered its 21st year with 72 participants. Coordinated by Multicultural Academic and Support Services (MASS), the program provides students access to UCF and offers developmental academic support services. SOAR is a six-week academic, on-campus summer program that builds and upgrades writing, verbal, mathematical, social and study skills necessary for students to succeed in college. SOARs intensive instructional program, structured daily tutorial services and regular advising activities foster student success and retention.

All program participants were required to live on campus and were grouped together in the residence halls. Freshman Seminars were offered each Friday, which introduced SOAR students to various offices and organizations throughout the university. Although the summer was a good introduction to university life, personal and academic support will continue throughout the first year of college. MASS will offer academic success workshops, individual advising sessions, as well as specialized group advising by the college of their major.

Inez Ford, director of MASS says, "We are proud of the fact that 96 percent of the 2001 participants earned a 3.0 GPA or higher and pleased to announce every student that participated in the 2001 SOAR program, based upon meeting the required minimum grade point average, has been granted admission to the University of Central Florida for the fall 2001 semester."

Booklet Wins Florida Print Award

Housing and Residence's 18-page four-color booklet, "Your Guide To On-Campus Living Opportunities," won the Judges Award in the 14th Annual Florida Print Award Competition.

The award was based on overall design, purpose and function for the category of large booklets, four or more colors. The design, layout and copy was created by Tamara Jones, assistant director. It was printed by Lawton Printers, who submitted the booklet to the competition.

Director of Housing and Residence Life Christopher McCray says, "We're thrilled the booklet took top honors and won the Judges Award for the large booklet-color category. We're proud to be able to provide such fine publications to assist with student recruitment."

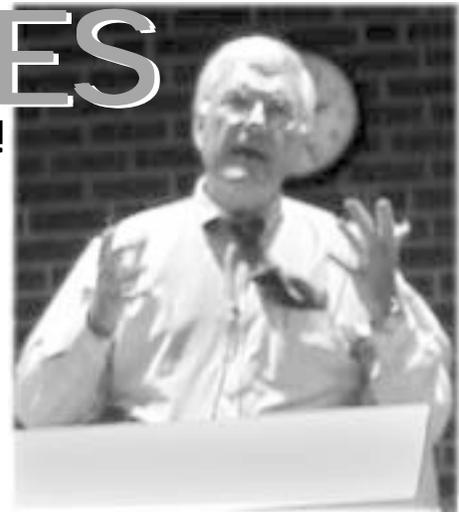
In Search of Campus Life?

The search is over. Campus Life moved from Millican Hall, suite 282, to the Student Union, room 304 (third floor, dose to the study lounge behind the elevator). Craig Ullom, director of Campus Life, and Veronica Livesay, senior administrative assistant, are looking forward to being closer to students and Campus Life departments. The telephone number remains the same. The fax has changed to 823-0494.

SDES Kickoff!

"Colleges and universities must be communities that are purposeful, open, just, disciplined, caring and celebrative."

-Tom Huddleston



SDES Vice President Tom Huddleston welcomed SDES staff to the Kickoff for the academic year 2001-2002. Huddleston discussed three areas of importance to SDES: early student identification and transition to the university, academic support services and advising, and personal development opportunities. He spoke of strengthening student learning by working toward SDES goals and strategic initiatives. The strategic initiatives include:

- Increasing partnerships and collaboration within the division;
- Focusing on the necessary – "Do what needs doing!"
- Supporting the academic mission;
- Maintaining operational excellence;
- Enhancing the student's life on campus

Guest speaker Dan Brent, training manager of Citibank, presented a workshop on Customer-Service Skills. He stressed that the most important quality of service is a good attitude that leaves the customer with a positive experience.

From the SDES Council

The members of SDES Council would like to thank the division's staff who attended the Kickoff Celebration. "It was an overwhelming success with over 250 co-workers in attendance," says Linda Skrotsky. Look for information on future workshops.

The SDES Council members would like to welcome coordinator **Nisrin (Nina) Shurdom** as new representative from Student Financial Assistance. Nina can be contacted at 823-2820 or e-mail, nshurdom@mail.ucf.edu. Nina has replaced Vicky Keller as representative from Student Financial Assistance. The council thanks Vicky Keller for her service.



Friendly Reminder

Faculty and staff members have been using their UCF ID cards to get free newspapers from the *Orlando Sentinel* machines. The newspapers are paid by student fees and are free to students only.





Each student was greeted with a smile and a choice of vanilla or chocolate ice cream cone at the UCF traditional fall Ice Cream Social.

New Programs for First Year Students

Career development programs, available through the Career Resource Center (CRC) Satellite Office, are designed to help first year students understand better who they are and how to apply this information to their selection of major and career.

Why is this service important for first year students?

Program coordinator Emily Santiago says, "Students often come to the university thinking more in terms of a specific career, for example, doctor, lawyer or engineer rather than in terms of a specific major. They do not know the difference between one or the other." Students make career and major decisions without sufficient knowledge of self (interest, skills, values). The primary goal of some students is to get into a field that will help them make lots of money. Santiago states, "Some of these students soon discover their hearts are not in that major or simply they do not have what is needed to be successful in that field. Precious time, energy and dollars are lost." What motivates students to get up for a 8 a.m. class? "It's passion, motivation and interest," says Santiago.

Computers, videos and books are available to first year students in the Career Lab. Additional services include:

- Individual career advising.
- Group advising – "Career Exploration Groups"
- Workshops – "Career Exploration" and "Choosing/Changing Majors."
- Self-assessment instruments.
- Other services available through the main CRC.

The "Career Exploration Workshop Series" and "Choosing/Changing Majors Workshop Series" dates can be found in the SDES calendar. (See insert.) Call 823-4427 or 823-2361 for information regarding "Career Exploration Groups." The Satellite Office, a collaborative effort between the Career Resource Center and Academic Support and Advising Programs, is located in the Student Success Center (Phillips Hall, room 116F) where most of the first year advising programs are. The office works very closely with academic advisors who often serve as a referral point for students

Farewell

Loren Knutson, director of Recreational Services for the past 24 years, will work his final day at UCF on September 7. "Mr. K.", as he was known to the students on campus, has been the backbone of Recreational Services for over two decades, remarked Jeff Dolnack, marketing coordinator.



Knutson began his career at UCF in 1977, succeeding Ken Renner as the director. "Mr. K. inherited a program in its infancy, and helped develop it into one of the best in the state, and was the driving force on the construction of a new recreation building on campus," says Dolnack.

"Mr. K was the best boss I have ever worked with," says Joanne McCully, administrative assistant at Recreational Services. "He has given me opportunities to grow as a person and expand my skills. I owe an awful lot to him."

Knutson had a tremendous affect in the shaping of careers. "Mr. K. is one of the most knowledgeable and caring individuals I have ever met," says Dolnack. "He has been a true mentor to me and so many others, and it was a privilege to work for him."

Knutson's style and philosophy can best be summed up by associate director James Wilkening. "Mr. K. always put the students first." Knutson's slogan of "Take Some Time Every Day to Play" will continue to be the theme in recreation at UCF for many years to come. Dolnack says, "The impact he had left on so many will never be lost, and he will be missed to all he has touched."

If you are interested in attending a private farewell luncheon for Knutson, e-mail Jeff Dolnack at jdolnac@mail.ucf.edu for details.

Record Number of Students Check in

Preliminary counts suggest that over 2,250 students checked in to the on-campus residence halls on August 18, the first official day of fall 2001 check in. Even with these huge numbers, as well as the opening of phase I of the Academic Village, the Housing and Residence Life staff were well prepared. Assistant director Tamara Jones said, "Along with the



staff, campus volunteers were on hand as well as UCF's own Knightro, to assist students with their arduous task of moving their treasured belongings to their new homes."

Please submit your October newsletter articles to jpardo@mail.ucf.edu by September 15th. *Thank you.*

UKnighted Articles

