



## Students Spend Spring Break Helping Others

*Alternative Spring Break is a rare opportunity, something that everyone should embrace if they get the chance. The time we spent in Nashville was amazing. I have never felt such a sense of pride before. It is truly amazing how helping people really helps yourself.* –Alex Ytuarte, UCF student

How do students spend their time on Spring Break? Many students choose to relax, have fun or sunbathe on the beach while others take the opportunity to use their spring break to benefit society, an Alternative Spring Break (ASB). Two groups of students decided to take the ASB and make a difference during their time off from school.

Eight students and two advisors from Housing and Residence Life spent the week in Nashville working with a Home Access program of the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation. The group constructed four wheelchair ramps for low-income individuals, who could not otherwise afford them. "Watching a young girl paralyzed from the waist down help us hammer the nails into her new ramp has left lasting memories," says

Jeff Novak, coordinator of Housing and Residence Life. In addition, students spent a fun-filled evening playing wheelchair basketball and board games with individuals who had Cerebral Palsy.

Student participant Shereen Shikh, said, "The entire week was full of team building and bonding. We all knew we were there to build ramps, but I don't think any of us expected to learn so much from one another. By the end of the week, I felt so much closer with each member of the group, and I felt like we made such a huge difference together. I went into the week not really realizing just how much work we were going to be doing. Cutting all the wood and constructing each ramp was a lot tougher than I had expected. The rewards after completing them, though, were awesome."

The second group of eight students traveled to Georgia to help build a house for the Augusta Habitat for Humanity Chapter. These students joined over 10,400 volunteers from schools across the U.S. and Canada, working at 196 host affiliate sites. Students worked on the roof of a

Habitat house, including nailing in plywood and shingles. On days where the weather was not cooperating the students built door frames for future Habitat houses. At the end of the week, the mayor presented a framed proclamation to the students naming March 15, 2002 "University of Central Florida Day" for the city of Augusta, along with the official Augusta flag.

LEAD Scholar and Habitat participant Brian Kleinschmidt said, "The people in Augusta were the nicest that I have ever met. It was a great opportunity to help those in need during my spring break. I've always done something for myself during



Top: Alternative Spring Break group in Nashville with a recipient of a wheel chair ramp. The group worked with the Home Access program of the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation. Bottom: One of four wheelchair ramps the group constructed.



Alternative Spring Break group in Augusta worked with the Habitat for Humanity. Students worked on a roof of a Habitat house, including nailing in plywood and shingles. The group also built door frames for future Habitat houses.

spring break; this year I decided to make a difference instead."

An Alternative Spring Break program places teams of college students in communities to engage in community service and experiential learning during their spring break. Students perform short-term projects for community agencies and learn about issues such as literacy, poverty, racism, hunger, the homeless and the environment. Students also have opportunities to learn about the problems faced by members of communities with whom they otherwise may have had little or no direct contact. ASB encourages students to become aware of the world around them and to make a difference through volunteerism. Most of all, ASB is about meeting new friends, sharing experiences, having fun and most importantly helping others.

## People in the News...

### Welcome Aboard New SDES Employees

- **Elizabeth Barrios**, senior clerk, Housing
- **Lizette Bloodworth**, office assistant, First Year Advising and Information Services
- **Rita Simpson**, program assistant, Registrar
- **Patricia Starkey**, program assistant, Undergraduate Admissions
- **Karissa Yahn**, accountant, Housing

### New Director for Student Government

David Pavlonnis began his new position as the director of Student Government Administrative Services on April 26. Pavlonnis was previously employed as the assistant director of Student Activities, and had also served as an academic advisor in First Year Advising and Information Services. Prior to coming to UCF, he was employed in several different capacities in Student Affairs at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.



### Student Financial Assistance Receives Davis Productivity Award

Nina Shurdom, coordinator of Student Financial Assistance (SFA), received recognition for development of the shared folder concept with regard to communication between the SFA and Student Accounts for this award. With Shurdom's input, the process for assisting students was vastly improved. It reduced paper documents from one office to the other and decreased the processing time for such important items as deferments, scholarship committee reports, and posting accounting information. This move to a paperless workflow improved efficiency and reduced costs in both offices.

The Davis Productivity Awards program was established in 1989 by J. E. Davis and A. D. Davis, co-founders of Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc. and Florida TaxWatch.

### Registrar's Teamwork Pays Off in Numbers

The following statistics were reported by the Registrar's Office (RO). The RO staff trained 1,995 class attendees from October –April 12:

- 834 in PS 1000 Intro to PeopleSoft;
- 511 in SR 2010 Student Records I;
- 335 in SR 2020 Student Records II;
- 315 in SR 3000 (68) and SR 3100 (247) Enrollment Registration.

Student registration stats include:

- Summer – 17,577 (continues through May 10);
- Fall – 11,468 (continues through August 23).

In addition, within the first week of summer registration, 11,289 students registered using the new POLARIS. Please refer to the UCF's top link, Academic Calendar, for important dates: [www.ucf.edu](http://www.ucf.edu).

### Congos Lectures in the UK

Dennis Congos, Supplemental Instruction (SI) coordinator of the Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) presented a two-part lecture, "Researching SI Program" and "How SI Generates Retained Revenue for Colleges and Universities" to the United Kingdom Supplemental Instruction Network at North London University. Congos met with five UK university coordinators to advise them on directing SI programs and training leaders. Jennie Wallace, UK leader of SI, congratulated him on having the most widely cited SI publication internationally. The first article published overseas on Supplemental Instruction, which Congos coauthored with Nancy Schoeps, was titled, "Does Supplemental Instruction Really Work and What Is SI Anyway?" and appeared in *Studies in Higher Education*, 18(2), 165-176. (1993). Supplemental Instruction is a program that focuses on high-risk courses and helps students in those courses earn higher grades and persist in college until graduation. SI is the most successful grade-raising and retention program in the U.S. and is in over 800 colleges and universities around the globe.



### Psychiatrist Joins Health Center Staff

The Student Health Center welcomes Dr. Edward Gfeller, who has joined its staff on a part-time basis. Dr. Gfeller, who was born in Switzerland, is a board certified psychiatrist. He received his medical training in his native country and at Johns Hopkins University in the U.S. Following several years as a professor and chief of Psychiatry Service at the University of Florida, he moved to Orlando in 1986 and established a private practice. Dr. Gfeller has begun office hours at the Health Center on Monday afternoons and evenings.



### Two Veteran's Honored

Last month at the Founders' Day Honors Convocation, two United States military veteran were recognized and honored: Greg Dougherty and Jean Morrison.

Dougherty, senior in marketing, received the Founders' Award for Exceptional Ability and Performance in a Particular Area of Study. He served five years in the United States Marine Corp Airborne during the nineties, spending eighteen months in the Kuwaiti theater.

Morrison, senior in nursing, received the Founders' Award for Exceptional Ability and Performance in a Particular Area of Study. She served over five years in the United States Army Military Police during the 90s, spending the majority of her enlistment in Bosnia.

"Both Greg and Jean served the United States honorably and received numerous commendations and awards for their sacrifice and valor. Their excellence in character and commitment has been reflected in their performance at UCF and we are honored to have them as students," says Scott Shorr, director of Veterans' Affairs.

### Suleman Presents Her Expertise at Conference

Saleha Suleman, director of International Students and Scholar Services, was one of the presenters at the annual conference of the American Chemical Society (ACS) held at the Orange County Convention Center on April 8. Suleman represented higher education institutions and presented at the "Immigration Workshop" focusing on "Foreign-Born Chemist": visas and employment issues after September 11. Suleman addressed questions relating to expected Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) regulations, Department of State directives on F-I (student visa) and J-I (student and scholar visa), employment authorization procedures, job search in academics and others. The American Chemical Society has a membership of 160,000 from higher education institutions, research organizations, industries and governmental organizations. The conference was attended by 8,000 members.



### Student Health Center Promotions

"It is with great pleasure that I announce the promotions of Larry Bridgham to associate director, Business and Finance and Marsha Huddle to associate director, Medical/Health Administration," says Bob Faust, director of Student Health Services.

Bridgham joined UCF Student Health Services as an accountant in 1995. He has served as coordinator of Administrative Services and was named assistant director in 1999. He has also served key roles on various committees, including Student Insurance, Automation and Building Expansion.

A staff member since 1996, Huddle came to us after serving as director of Health Services at Roanoke College in Virginia for 17 years. In addition to numerous administrative duties, she directed the successful effort to achieve accreditation for UCF's Student Health Services and has provided overall leadership to the outstanding REACH and Wellness programs.



## SDES Fourth Annual Celebration Breakfast

Student Development and Enrollment Services held its Fourth Annual Celebration Breakfast on April 18. Once a year, SDES employees come together to enjoy a breakfast buffet, present certificates for Years of Service and awards for Operational Excellence. An overview of the past year was presented by Tom Huddleston, vice president of SDES.

Huddleston first noted the SDES mission statement, “The division of SDES is committed to building and strengthening student enrollment.” He commended the employees’ efforts to meet the mission through fostering a quality undergraduate experience. “The success of our efforts is based on the talent, attitude and commitment of those directly and indirectly responsible for the program, service or interventions that build student success and student satisfaction. People make the difference,” said Huddleston. He referred to the new traditions that were established during the year, including the UCF Creed, an expression of values and expectations for new students as they become Golden Knights; the Eternal Knights Memorial Service, a remembrance for students who passed away during the year; the Order of Pegasus, a recognition of exemplary students who demonstrate outstanding university involvement, leadership, academic achievement and community service; and significant improvements in retention and new student growth.



Left to right: Service Awards: 25 years – Beverly Fulmer, 30 years – Paul McQuilkin and David Dees

Special guests included President John C. Hitt, Provost Gary E. Whitehouse and Student Government President Marco Peña. Whitehouse quoted an excerpt from education professor Larry Hudson’s poem, “Without You.” Peña spoke of the Safe Ride program, the new Multicultural Student Center and the “Who’s Who at UCF” publication.

During the program, giveaways were awarded, including the free parking sticker won by Dara Belson, senior financial aid officer of SFA.

Huddleston thanked the employees for attending the celebration and their contribution of excellent service to the division.

A special thank you to the SDES Council for coordinating the Celebration Breakfast.

### Without You.

You are often the first and last person students see. For them, you are the school, college, or university. You provide information and offer direction. You counsel them — unofficially, of course.

The faculty you also serve. You keep them on track, provide paperwork on time, and remind them of deadlines. Why, you even guide them — also unofficially, of course.

There is so much you do for others that goes unappreciated but not unnoticed. I just thought you should know that — most importantly, you truly care. That is why we really cannot do . . . without you.

— Larry Hudson

Excerpt from: Because I Care (1998), ISBN #0-9664642-0-6



SDES employees have fun blowing bubbles; one of several gifts SDES Council members received by donors.



Left to right: Operational Excellence Awards winners: Dennis Dulniak, Ana Marrero, Darlaina Shackelford, Lyman Brodie (Vice President’s Award) and Kathleen Connolly. Connolly was not present at the celebration as she was volunteering at the Avon 3-Day Walk for Breast Cancer in Miami.

## Career Development for First Year Students

UCFs first year students can take advantage of a program especially tailored for them. The program is a collaborative effort to assist students to make an informed decision by exploring their majors and careers early in the college years. Recently, Melanie Parker, director, and Emily Santiago, assistant director of the Career Resource Center; Patricia Pates, director of the Academic Support and Advising Program, and Cindy Blecha, counselor from the Counseling and Testing Center presented the program, “Immersing First-Year Students in Career Development: Collaborations That Work” at the First Year Experience Conference in Orlando. In July, a similar program will be presented by Santiago at the National Career Development Association Conference to be held in Chicago.

## Eternal Knights Memorial Service

On April 17, over 100 family members and friends attended the Eternal Knights Memorial Service that honored the memory of 17 UCF students who passed away during the 2001-2002 academic year. President John C. Hitt, Provost Gary E. Whitehouse, SDES Vice President Tom Huddleston and Student Government President Marco Peña expressed the university community’s feeling of loss. The members of the United Campus Ministries presented the Call for Memorial, Benediction and played two musical meditations. Carol Bast, associate professor of the College of Health and Public Affairs, presented the eulogy including the name of each student. Next was a ceremony naming each student, their birth date, college and major and “Eternal Knight” date of death. Members of the President’s Leadership Council placed a keepsake for each family next to a yellow rose followed by the ringing of a bell.

One family member said, “Thank you for making this a very special memorable day for our son. The ceremony was very beautiful.” Another said, “It is remarkable that an institution of 36,000 students would take the time and effort to remember my son.”



## UCF Students Selected Florida Basketball Officials of the Year



Left to right: Jon Broska  
and Camille Jackson

The Florida  
Basketball  
Officials  
Association  
(FBOA)

selected UCF Intramural Sports graduate assistant, Jon Broska, and Intramural supervisor, Camille Jackson, as the top male and female Intramural Basketball officials in the State of Florida for 2002. Both Broska and Jackson were nominated by UCF for consideration, and were selected among nine male and six female nominees from other colleges and universities in Florida. Broska, a second-year graduate student, officiates basketball at the Intramural, high school and college level. He also officiates for adult and youth leagues in the Orlando area. Jackson, a UCF sophomore, is an Intramural official and also officiates in local community leagues. Both students were awarded with this top honor at the FBOA banquet on April 20 at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach.

## Bright Futures Scholars Need Your Help to Continue Program

UCF has 12,500 students participating in the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, which include the Florida Academic Scholars, Florida Merit Scholars and Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars awards. In fall 2001, 2,500 First Time In College UCF students received Bright Futures awards. Eight hundred thirty-nine are in danger of losing their awards at the end of spring.

The SFA staff are asking faculty and staff to encourage students to take advantage of the resources available on campus in order for them to retain their awards. Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) is an excellent resource for students. SARC is located in Phillips Hall, rooms 113, 114 and 115. Their phone number is (407) 823.5130. Other resources are First Year Advising, Academic Development and Retention, First Year Advising and Information Services, and Student Disability Services.

Due to state budget cutbacks, funding for Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is not available for summer 2002.

Please submit your June UKnighted newsletter articles to [jpardo@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:jpardo@mail.ucf.edu) by May 15th.  
Thank you.

**UKnighted Articles**

Green Ribbon Day was held on March 6 as a Greek Week event cosponsored by UCF's Greek Council and Volunteer UCF (VUCF). The name of the event comes from the estimated 315

Greeks who donned green shirts to form the shape of the green bow symbol of the organ donor program. VUCF works with TransLife and the Florida Coalition on Donation for many events that make up the "Get Carded" year-round campaign of information regarding organ and tissue donation. This was a new event and was planned to create a photo for the cover of next year's "Get Carded" campaign poster. On March 20, a Get Carded



fair was held outside the Student Union. Games, food, giveaway and information about organ and tissue donation were enjoyed by students, faculty and staff. VUCF also developed activities throughout Organ and Tissue

Donor Awareness Week, April 21 - 27.

In the past three years, Florida Atlantic University, the University of Florida and the University of South Florida have built their own Get Carded programs based on the UCF model. Photos of the event are available to view at Web site:

[www.news.ucf.edu/FY2001-02/020307.html](http://www.news.ucf.edu/FY2001-02/020307.html). VUCF is available through the Office of Student Activities at (407) 823-6471.

## SGA Happenings

□ This year's Student Government Association sponsored the annual **UCF Spring Splash Bash 2002** at Wet'n Wild on International Drive on April 20. Last year over 2,500 students attended and this year even more anticipated. The event was free to UCF students!

□ "In an effort to recognize the talented students we have at our university, Student Government Association is launching the **Who's Who** publication," says Tommy Shavers, assistant director of Student Affairs. The magazine will showcase 100 of UCF's outstanding and brightest students in the areas of academics, leadership, athletics and community service. An award banquet was held April 15 to honor the students and the publication is slated to reach all media, university, public and private outlets soon.

## UCF Relay For Life 2002

The UCF Relay For Life 2002 raised \$228,000 in gross profit and expects more money to arrive over the next couple of weeks. Many SDES employees formed teams and committed to raise money for the battle against cancer by bake sales, Easter holiday gifts and guess the number of candy kisses in a jar. Mary McKinney, executive director of SFA, prepared a delicious home cooked meal, which provided the largest profit fundraiser for the SFA team. Two teams reported how much they raised for the cause: SFA - \$1,658 and SDES - \$1,806. The Relay Committee thanks all who participated and contributed to this fund-raising event to fight cancer.



## Kudos to Greek Leaders

■ **Alison Levy**, president of Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority, was selected by the North-American Interfraternity Conference to serve as an intern at the Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute this summer at Butler University in Indianapolis. Her duties will include assisting the session facilitators, as well as helping to facilitate leadership sessions.

■ **Danielle Delbello**, UCF senior, was selected as a Traveling Leadership Consultant for 2002-2003 for Zeta Tau Alpha International Headquarters. Delbello will consult and assist undergraduate leadership chapters across the country upon graduation this spring from UCF.

■ **Todd Miller**, UCF senior, has been appointed to serve as a leadership consultant for Delta Upsilon International Fraternity - Indianapolis. Miller will begin his two-year tenure with the fraternity in June providing support and assistance to chapters as Delta Upsilon strives to build better men. He will be the third UCF graduate working for a national fraternity/sorority in the current year.

## RA Training Begins

Residence Life staff held its first training for resident assistants (RAs) for the 2002-2003 academic year on April 6. RA training began in the spring with CPR and first aid, "RA Rec Fest," and a new resident assistant training program. The RA Rec Fest was a day of team building, staff bonding and fun competition. In collaboration with the Intramural staff, the RAs competed in events such as melon ball, dodge ball, a spoon relay race, tug of war, blind obstacle relay, sip off and the pool pajama relay. Residence Life staff thanks Intramural Sports for sponsoring the competition events. Training then continues with an intensive training week in August, followed by continuous staff training sessions during the academic year.

