



## First Time In College Students Get the Scoop on the Ins and Outs of College Life

On July 1, 400 First Time In College (FTIC) students, who have been admitted to UCF, gathered in the Pegasus Ballroom to attend a required two-day orientation program. FTIC Orientation consists of two separate scheduled programs: student and family. The programs are led by O-Teamers, who are selected students involved in campus activities and have strong academic and leadership skills. Through the collaboration and partnerships of UCF offices, the FTIC Orientation program assists students in their college transition with academic and social information, campus services, financial assistance, advising and registration for classes. Here are some highlights of FTIC Orientation for students.

### July 1 – Day One:

8:00 a.m. – At Orientation sign-in, the FTIC students received name tags that were designed by their O-Team leader with group names such as Little Rascals, Kerlin's Kings, Mitch's Moneybags and Knight Riders. FTIC students received a bag of information with the 2002-03 Undergraduate Catalog, Schedule Web Guide, UCF Future Orientation edition and a 2002 Orientation Knight Handbook and Planner. Parents received the Knight Family Handbook with campus resources and academic policies and procedures. Student Health Center staff assisted students with immunization or health paperwork holds. Students and parents gathered in the Pegasus Ballroom where the Sports Marketing staff and the Marching Knights encouraged students to "get involved." Joe Ritchie, director of the Orientation Center, introduced Provost Gary E. Whitehouse who gave a light-hearted welcome presentation and announced the New Student Convocation on August 17, encouraging students and parents to attend. The O-Teamers introduced themselves with a visual presentation and then FTIC students were formed into small groups.

9:45 a.m. – Each group of students followed an O-Teamer to a designated room where each student was introduced. O-Teamer Eli Kerlin spoke about:

- Students getting involved in leadership programs, activities and organizations;
- The UCF Creed and building traditions;
- Differences between high school to college,

such as variation in class size and accumulated tests for class grades.

The students' questions and concerns varied from academics, student rights and campus security to social life activities on- and off-campus. O-Teamer Kerlin offered advice based on his personal experience, such as:

- Get to know your professor – introduce yourself before or after class;
- Enjoy your freedom but realize *you* are responsible for what you do; make sure you attend class . . . watch dates to pay for classes. Also, *you* must take the initiative to get help at the Writing Center and the Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) services;
- Work on campus and make connections with faculty and staff.

During this session, students connected closely with the O-Teamer.

11:45 a.m. – ROTC, Off-Campus Resource Center, Library, Recreation and Wellness Center, Greeks, Student Health Services, Counseling and Testing, Career Resource Center, Student Activities and Student Government Association had information tables with staff available to answer questions while students had lunch in the Pegasus Ballroom.

1:30 p.m. – Students were separated into small groups according to their majors to meet with college representatives. This reporter followed one of the engineering majors –

mechanical and aerospace – just one of nearly two dozen specialties. O-Teamer Matt Reaves, an engineering major, led this group. Paul Edlen, coordinator in the College of Engineering and Computer Science, asked the students why they selected engineering as a major. He said students may have chosen the field to earn a good income,

but, hopefully, the choice is driven by the enjoyment of problem solving, design and creative thinking. Edlen spoke of the biggest challenge that students face – time-management. Jamal Nayfeh, assistant dean of Academic Affairs in the College of Engineering and Computer Science, spoke of the commitment to study, stay academically sound and visit their advisors. In this session, engineering students were encouraged to enroll in critical core classes,

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### Students Connect to Other Students

I participated on the two-day FTIC orientation student program. I felt the O-Teamers were confident and well prepared as they led students through the program. The O-Teamers made the close connection with FTIC students on the first day at the 9:45 a.m. session. The O-Teamer used his training, personal knowledge and experience to answer each question. I could see the trust in the FTIC students' faces as the O-Teamer spoke; this relationship followed throughout the two-day program. Students telling other students – works. Kudos to the O-Teamers for all their hard work and building a solid bridge where the FTIC students can confidently walk over to their new beginnings in their college life.

– By Judy Pardo



2002  
O-Team

## People in the News...

### Welcome Aboard New SDES Employees

- Gary Cahen, coordinator, Student Affairs, Student Union
- Serge Desir, assistant director, Undergraduate Admissions
- Pauline Strauss, program assistant, Undergraduate Admissions

### Ekern Participates in Army High Impact Activities

Sharon Ekern, director of Administrative Services, attended the 2002 Army ROTC Leadership Symposium (LS) at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. The purpose of the LS was to provide an opportunity for campus representatives to visit the ROTC Leader's Training Course and gain an understanding of the world-class leadership development experience that qualifies and motivates cadets to enter ROTC. It was also hoped that participants will not only gain an understanding of the experience, but will also support the students and ROTC programs on their campuses.

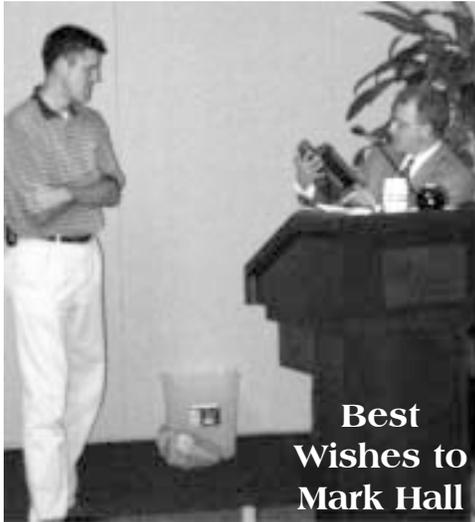
The LS offers campus administrators and faculty the opportunity to become involved in the leadership training by actually participating in many of the high impact activities that cadets must master, such as rappelling, rock climbing, land navigation, water survival and confidence course training. Training also included *team-*



Sharon Ekern balances herself as she walks along the roped bridge in a training exercise.

*focused* events in M1 tank and Bradley simulators, a scale model leadership reaction course, a field leadership reaction course and river crossing exercises.

Ekern said, "The trip was awesome, other than the fact that my body had never been so sore in my entire life! Not only did I come back with a better understanding of what our students must go through in the ROTC program, I also came back with a much greater respect for the Army as a whole."



### Best Wishes to Mark Hall

Craig Ullom, associate vice president of Campus Life presented Mark Hall, assistant vice president of Campus Life Operations with a plaque for his dedicated service at UCF. Hall has accepted a position as vice president of Finance at Columbia College in Columbia, South Carolina.

### SDES Supports Saturday, August 17 Extended Deadline

The payment deadline for fall 2002 fees has been extended to Saturday, August 17 and will be supported by multiple offices. The Registrar's Office, Undergraduate Admissions, Student Financial Assistance, Student Accounts, Graduate Studies and the Cashier's Office will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to support the extended fee payment deadline.

### Children Display Their Patriotism



For the celebration of the July 4th holiday, the children at the Creative School for Children (CSC) displayed their talents as they marched in costumes, holding signs that they designed for the Independence Parade. Also, they presented a musical program of patriotic songs for their parents and family members. In memory of September 11, the children built and displayed a replica of the Twin Towers and presented a special flag to Dolores Burghard, director of CSC.

### Become a UCF Mediator

Students, faculty or staff can become a UCF mediator by attending a 20-hour training session offered this fall by the Dispute Resolution Services Office. The training session will equip participants with the necessary skills of mediation, conflict management and resolution.

The fall 2002 First Timer's Mediation Training is from 9 a.m. to noon on each of the following days:

- September 17, 19, 24, 26,
- October 1, 3 and 8.

Register by September 9 online at: [pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~drs/calendar.html](http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~drs/calendar.html) or for more information, call 407-823-3477.

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

**UKnighted Articles**

### UCF Health Services Hosts State Conference

UCF Student Health Services hosted a two-day meeting of its counterparts from Florida's public and private colleges and universities on July 31 and August 1. Two important pieces of legislation will affect all college campuses within the next year:

- HIPPA (a Federal bill dealing with the privacy of medical information that is electronically stored and transmitted);
- A bill requiring all students residing on Florida's campuses to have Meningitis and Hepatitis B vaccinations.

This is the first time the state university student health group, which meets annually, invited private colleges and universities to join them. Nine state universities and seven private schools sent representatives, totaling nearly fifty attendees. Also, representatives from the offices of Residence Life, Admissions, Registrar and General Counsel from the various campuses were included.

Director of Student Health Services Bob Faust reports, "This was an excellent opportunity to have our colleagues from around the state visit our beautiful campus and strategize on these topics, which are of vital interest to all of us right now."

## Points of Pride...

### Record Attendance at Open House

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions hosted its first Open House for prospective students for the 2002-2003 calendar year. The Open House, which begins the recruitment efforts for the new academic year, was held on July 13 with a record summer attendance of 1,200 people, the second largest in school history.

Students and parents expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to meet with faculty and staff while they were visiting UCF. The Undergraduate Admissions staff would like to thank the offices that contributed to the success of this event.

Undergraduate Admissions will be hosting four more Open House events for prospective students on: September 21, October 19, November 23, and January 11. The staff is looking forward to another great year and another academically strong incoming class.



### Consortium Presents Hospital with Video Games

The Office of National Consortium for Academics and Sports (NCAS) helps keep the “student” in the student-athlete. Recently, the student-athletes visited the Florida Children’s Hospital and donated two Play Stations along with two video games.

NCAS director Suzi Katz and tennis team member Adam Kanaan presented the Play Stations to Florida Hospital Child Life staff members. “Play Stations not only allow for fun with video games, but also play DVDs and CDs as well. This is a sure fire way to keep the kids from being bored during their stay, especially if they are not allowed to leave their rooms,” says Katz. “When this year’s outreach program starts, we are sure the student-athletes will give the kids some great competition on the video games.”

The National Consortium for Academics and Sports (NCAS), housed at UCF, created a partnership with the Florida Children’s Hospital over two years ago which includes UCF’s student-athletes visiting patients two times per month.



### Intramural Teams Formed from SDES Partnerships

Intramural Sports and Residence Life have teamed up this summer to offer a volleyball league for freshmen students at the Recreation and Wellness Center. This program, which began in the summer of 2001, currently has 28 teams compared to the six that took part last summer. First semester freshmen from the Academic Village participate every Tuesday night for three weeks during the Summer B session in competitive volleyball matches. Area coordinator Triscia Panarello said, “We are so excited with the level of participation by our residents, as about one in four are on a team. It’s great to offer our students a healthy outlet to complement their academics.”

The games are officiated by Intramural Sports referees, and will culminate with one of the teams being crowned champion. “So far it has been a great mix of friendly rivalry and competitive spirit among the students and their resident assistants. It’s great to give new students a taste of what Intramural Sports can offer,” said Gary Cahen, Intramural Sports coordinator.

### The UCF Creed

Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, 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 promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.

#### CREATIVITY

I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.

#### EXCELLENCE

I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

Revised July 17, 2002

### Pegasus Success Program Offers Students Support

For seven years, the Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) has coordinated the Pegasus Success Program, a specialized six-week program offered to selected students. The program offers students summer admission with GPA or entrance test scores that do not meet freshmen admission requirements. Successful completion of the Pegasus Success Program allows the student admission to UCF for fall.

The 144 students who participated in this summer program received a jump-start to their college experience at UCF. They took two classes, completed appointments and academic exercises with their advisors, participated in Supplemental Instruction sessions, Writing Center consultations, and Friday Seminars which focused on campus activities, resources and involvement.

The program is designed to give students the tools to develop learning strategies and techniques to be able to start their collegiate careers on a positive note.

The program concluded on July 25 with the Pegasus Success Program Closing Ceremony. Staff, students and their families celebrated the

achievements of the program participants through congratulatory remarks from SDES vice president Tom Huddleston and Academic Development and Retention associate vice president Maribeth Ehasz. Students read essays describing how the Pegasus Success Program experience impacted their view of succeeding at the collegiate level. There were 250 people in attendance including students, faculty, parents and family members.

Many thanks go to the SARC advisors, student assistants, supplemental instruction leaders, tutors and the Pegasus Spirit Leaders.



Students in the Pegasus Success Program 2002 become familiar with campus resources.



Jamal Nayfeh asked the engineering major students for a commitment to find time to study.

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such as calculus, physics and chemistry.

Then, students went to another location where a suggested list of courses was given to the engineering students with advice to write down alternative classes.

3:20 p.m. – O-Teamer Reaves encouraged and advised students on valuable tips, such as:

- Seeking help at SARC, and Supplemental Instruction one hour a week could help them on tests;
- Form good study habits – treat college like a job;
- Set goals big and small;
- Get involved in Intramural Sports or clubs; there is a lot of homework and you need something fun to offset that;
- Congratulate yourself when you do something well; it is a positive reinforcement.

4:00 p.m. – Basic advising was given to the engineering majors and they were encouraged to take advantage of services, such as the Career Resource Center. Director of First Year Advising and Information Services, Bob Snow, asked the students to call him for help as he gave each student his business card. Snow also asked students to sign a First-Year Advising Agreement that required the student to contact their first-year advisor before the withdrawal deadline of October 11. O-Teamer Reaves discussed the UCF Creed and asked the group what each value means to them.

4:30 p.m. – A brief video called “Get Involved” and a presentation of student services was given by students in the Student Leadership Programs.

6:10 p.m. – The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSSR) staff spoke of the four lawyers available for free legal service to advise, consult, represent or educate students. FTIC students were advised of their privacy and the process if they did not want to release any information. OSSR staff discussed academic honesty and asked students to read the *Golden Rule*. A representative from the UCF Police talked about safety and the services offered, such as escorting students from a late class to their car using the Student Escort Patrol Service.

6:30 p.m. – The topics of social responsibility and diversity were presented in short skits addressing issues such as *fitting in* and acceptance, sexually transmitted diseases, sexual preference, alcohol and other drugs, usage of a fake identification, racial or cultural difference and date rape. Some skits were humorous; others were dramatic and left the audience in silence. All skits were followed up with facts, statistics and/or campus student services offering help or information to students.

7:25 p.m. – Students met with a REACH peer educator in the O-Team’s small group to discuss issues raised by the presentations. Then, students were invited to the Recreation and Wellness Center to play games and sports.

### July 2 – Day Two:

8:45 a.m. – Students check in and pick up their academic folder and lunch tickets.

9:15 a.m. – Schedule Planning: Bob Snow and other advisors helped students individually regarding the courses to register for in the engineering field, ensuring proper and critical courses were listed.

10:45 a.m. – Students were asked to participate in surveys. Ron Atwell, director of Assessment and Planning, administered a Student Information Form as part of a national study of higher education conducted by the American Council on Education and the University of California at Los Angeles.

Also, students of 18 years or older were asked to fill out a questionnaire, Campus Lifestyle Study (a research project developed by Michael Dunn of the UCF Psychology Department). It contained questions regarding behaviors, such as cigarette smoking and alcohol consumption. A UCF Freshman Orientation Evaluation was given to students to fill out and hand in at a later time.

1:00 p.m. – A visual registration overview was presented by Doug Burgess, associate university registrar, using POLARIS. Burgess discussed PID (personal) and NID (network) identification and passwords, how to navigate the class schedule search and input classes in course enrollment.

2:00 p.m. – Students were assigned to various locations to register online for classes. Staff was on-hand to help students who had difficulty.

Joe Ritchie says, “By completing the orientation program, students are ready to make the transition from high school to college. They have learned about the university’s services, forged a relationship with an O-Teamer and have successfully registered for classes that are applicable to their major. The success

of our program is due to the collaboration and commitment of the entire UCF community and the leadership the O-Team provides to students on being successful both socially and academically.”

## Meet O-Teamer Mitch

My name is Mitchell Webb and I am a sophomore majoring in education. I became an O-Teamer because I went through orientation last summer, and I thought the O-Team did a great job and made it fun.

The Orientation training began in January with enhanced learning strategies to work with the students and parents. We participated in the Myers-Briggs test to see what personality types we were and how to use those to our advantage. We also practiced team-building exercises to make us a stronger team. There are 29 O-Teamers and we all compliment each other in different ways.

My favorite part of orientation is the small groups because we interact with the freshmen and they ask all kinds of questions ranging from what’s school like to how much Disney costs. After everything is over, it is really neat because I have about 20 new students who know who I am and think I am an awesome person.

Whenever I see one of my “Moneybags” FTIC students, I always say “hi” and see how they are doing, and usually the students are surprised that their O-Teamer remembers who they are. Matt Reaves is an awesome O-Teamer and deals with the engineering students very well. He knows what they’re going to have to go through, so he is able to give great advice. I feel very lucky to be an O-Teamer. I am able to connect with students and make many new friends in the process. We do get paid, but if you ask the O-Teamers, they would say they are doing it for personal reasons ranging from having fun to meeting new people.



Day Two – 9:15 a.m. Left to right: O-Teamers Matt Reaves with Mitch Webb and Advisor Bob Snow advising students.

