Multicultural Academic & Support Services (MASS) recently held the Eighth Annual Fall Welcome Program in the Student Union on September 17. The event was an opportunity for new and returning multicultural students to meet representatives from the Student Counseling Services, representatives from various student organizations, and to network with other students. The UCF Gospel and Cultural Choir sang musical selections after the reception. Program Director Stacey Lazenby, director of Florida Heritage Mentoring Program, was the keynote speaker. Over 200 faculty, staff, and students attended the program.

Mini-Presentations Offered to Students

The University of Central Florida Career Resource Center (CRC) offers a variety of workshops and presentations designed to help students explore different majors, improve their career prospects, and prepare for the job market. Some recent workshops have included:

- **Loving Relationships** discussed on **October 7** (SU Key West, Room 218B) – by Don Larson. Student Disability Services Coordinator Deborah Kamm translated the presentation for students with hearing impairments.
- **Making Responsible Choices about Sex and Alcohol** presented on **October 28** (SU Pegasus Ballroom D) – by Oscar Pendleton, director of Parramore Heritage Mentoring Program.
- **Freedom of Speech** explored on **November 4** (SU Sand Key Room 220) – by Carlos Baca, a biology major.

Admissions Updates Local Counselors

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions recently hosted a reception for 400 high school counselors from the Central Florida area, along with admissions directors from each of the 11 state universities. The University of Central Florida admissions directors gave a brief presentation highlighting their institution in addition to providing updates on admission policies and procedures. Counselors were given the opportunity to ask each of the admissions directors specific questions.

The University of Central Florida Undergraduate Admissions staff showcased the campus while sharing information about their impressive fall 2002 class. The reception was a success and the staff is looking forward to recruiting another outstanding freshman class.

UCF Community Gathered in the Student Union Remembrance 9-11

Over 400 people gathered in the Student Union Kiosk Ballroom and surrounding hallway to attend a memorial service. "Knights Remember 9-11." On this day last year, terrorists launched air-attacks on the United States leaving more than 3,000 dead.

The memorial service began with a welcome from Christine Moxon of UCF Victim Services followed by a presentation of the colors by the UCF Army and Air Force ROTC. The National Anthem was sung by Reginald Woods-Hill, Mr. UCF 2002. SDES Vice President Tom Huddleston said, "September 11 clearly showed us how fragile life is. White here on this earth, the way we use the time we have is critical, use the time you have to help yourself and others."

President John C. Hitt remarked that people have become more patriotic, kinder, gentler to one another and have strengthened their personal relationships. He continued to say people have slowed down the pace to appreciate the gift of the day and the smaller things. Hitt read an untitled poem by an anonymous author that his chief of staff, Beth Barnes, shared with him earlier.

The UCF Gospel Choir from United Campus Ministries sang a musical meditation, Bright Day.

Student Government President Marco Pena spoke of the fight for freedom and how different generations, such as his grandfather fought to preserve freedom. He also spoke of how we are all in this together; we rise and fall as one.

Valerie King, director of Diversity Initiatives, recited a prayer and talked of the acts of kindness, sharing, caring and support that has come from this experience.

President Talakia, representing international students, said, "We really appreciate all the Americans for their compassion toward the global community in spite of tragic attacks on 9-11. . ." Talakia concluded with a quote from Mahatma Gandhi: "When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers and for a time they seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall."

Victim advocate Mollie McLaughlin from UCF Victim Services spoke of how a victim becomes a survivor by finding meaning in the traumatic experience. "Something inspiring rises up from ashes . . ." She advised all to "Live life. Be a builder of hope . . . Strengthen human connection . . . and always remember."

The Call for Memorial and Benediction was presented by Father David Scocchi from United Campus Ministries. The benediction was performed by Don Lummis, Student Disability Services Coordinator Deborah Kimm.

Everyone was asked to observe a moment of silence.
Welcome Aboard New SDES Employees

- Tyler Buckley, accountant, Housing and Residence Life
- Mary Lou Burgue, student counseling specialist, Counseling Center
- Randy Duff, maintenance mechanic, Student Union
- Ronald Neal, custodial supervisor, Student Union
- Patrick Parker, Locksmith, Housing and Residence Life
- Sharnelle Richardson, program assistant, Housing and Residence Life
- Robert Stephens, program assistant, Registrar’s Office

New Staff Join the Counseling Center

- Andrew Blair comes to the UCF Counseling Center from South Florida. He completed his graduate training at the University of Florida in counseling psychology and his doctoral internship at the Counseling Center at Duke University. Currently, Blair is serving as the UCF Counseling Center outreach and consultation coordinator.

- Megan Greene graduated from the Mental Health Counseling program at UCF and completed her graduate internship at the former UCF Counseling and Testing Center. Greene is serving as the Counseling Center’s crisis intervention coordinator.

- Karen Hofmann comes to UCF after having served on the Counseling Center staff at Stetson University for the past five years. Hofmann grew up in Broward County, Florida, and received her B.A. from the University of Texas. She received her M.S. and Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. Her research interests include gender and multicultural issues, such as race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. Hofmann is currently serving as the center’s multicultural services coordinator.

Kudos to Ana Mammas, office assistant, Multicultural Academic and Support Services, was selected to participate in the 2002 – 2003 Leadership Enhancement Program. Congratulations Ana.

Welcome to Shawna Price to UCF as a graduate assistant after completing her undergraduate work in sociology at the University of South Florida. Price transferred to USF after playing junior college basketball for two years. While at USF, she began refereeing, playing flag football and basketball, and became an intramural supervisor. Pricing graduate work at UCF in educational leadership.

Welcome Expo Well Attended

The 5th annual Welcome Expo attracted over 3,400 freshmen and transfer students. Over 150 campus offices and student organizations displayed tables offering information about their services and freebies. Door prizes included two UCF-Penn State football tickets.

Cookies Remain a Mystery

The reason why cookies were left on Student Financial Aid’s counter remains a mystery. Eugene Manuella, SFA senior computer programmer analyst, said, “A couple unknown students placed several dozen packages of cookies on the counter and left without saying a word.” As the staff enjoyed eating the cookies, they could only guess that the cookies were given as a token of appreciation.

Points of Pride

Registrar’s Office Improves Scheduling System

The Registrar’s Office announces the successful implementation of the University Algorithmic Scheduling System (space allocation) and Resource25 (event scheduling) programs with the PeopleSoft PeopleTools databases. The PeopleSoft 2003 interim system will mark the first academic term in which these three systems will interact to coordinate class registration, event scheduling, and all UCF Orlando and area campus general purpose classrooms, laboratory and event spaces. This accomplishment arises from the combined efforts of Registrar’s Office support personnel Kim Smith, Tara Ruhannon, and Bryan Morris, who established the tables and procedures needed for efficient interfacing. Dennis Devin, Instructional facilities scheduler, says, “This is a fantastic system. As more departments across campus learn of its benefits, the use of the system will increase dramatically.”

Reorganization to Better Serve Students

Several organizational changes have been made within Academic Development and Retention (ADR) to benefit students.

- First Year Transitions, along with SARC and UTC, will continue to assist students in their transition to UCF from pre-enrollment through their connection to the academic college of their major. We are very excited about the new opportunities that will be provided through the Academic Program Evaluation. This new structure should increase retention, improve learning, accelerate progress toward degree completion and strengthen career decision-making skills.

- The Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) and the University Testing Center (UTC) - formerly part of the Counseling Center - will continue to provide these services. In addition to these services, the new academic organization, SRC and UTC will assess student needs, enhance and strengthen learning support services and testing programs, and provide academic advising to specialized populations. DeLaine Priest, director of SRC and UTC, says, “This new organization will serve as a catalyst in delivering more effective and efficient academic support and testing services to enhance the academic success of UCF students.”

Satellite Pharmacy Opens in Rec Center

Knights Aid, the satellite branch of the UCF pharmacy, is located in the Recreation and Wellness Center, room 101. “Knights Aid hosted its grand opening on September 20,” with pomp and circumstance unheard of since John Philip Sousa, “says” Holly MacLeod, marketing specialist, Student Health Services. The event included a live DJ spinning the new store, five promotional items from the Student Health Services and sponsors, and a raffle drawing for a gift basket containing products carried by Knight’s Aid.

5K Fun Run and Walk Held at Greek Park

UCF’s Student Wellness and AIAA Teams (SWAT)’s 14th Annual 5K event began at 5 p.m. on Greek Park on September 6. About 200 students, faculty and staff ran, walked and even crawled around the UCF campus, and enjoyed the camaraderie, music, airbrush tattoos, pizza, prizes, and health information. In the student library “Check Outs” won the Team Spirit Award which included a $50 Domino’s pizza party. There were many age-group award winners, including Winnie Tyler (Library), Maribeth Ehasz (Academic Development and Retention), Laura Riddle (Alcohol and Other Drug Program), Jerry Vega (Student Health Services), Ron Eagan (Engineering), Kim Small (Engineering), Jennifer Reiner (Undergraduate Admissions), and Holly MacLeod (Student Health Services).

The Counseling Center will persist in serving students in the unit of ADR. Director Bob Harmen says, “The Counseling Center will continue to offer individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, consultation and outreach or presentation services to the UCF community.”

Patricia Ritas, formerly of Aademic Support and Advising Programs, will become director of Academic Development and Retention. Ritas will be responsible for ADR’s development, implementation and evaluation of the use of technology as an effective delivery system for transition, support services and personal growth opportunities for students. Ritas will be located in Millikan Hall 230 while First Year Transitions, along with SRC and UTC, will be in the first and second floors of Phillips Hall in the Student Success Center. Maribeth Ehasz, associate vice president of Academic Development, said, “These changes will renew and strengthen our unit’s efforts to provide effective programs and services in a high-growth environment that will continue to improve student retention at UCF.”

People in the News...

Welcome to Shawna Price to UCF as a graduate assistant after completing her undergraduate work in sociology at the University of South Florida. She completed her graduate training at the University of Florida in counseling psychology and his doctoral internship at the Counseling Center at Duke University. Currently, Blair is serving as the UCF Counseling Center outreach and consultation coordinator.

Mission: Strengthen communication among employees, improve the general employee environment, build affiliation among employees within division and create awareness of the mission of Student Development and Enrollment Services.

If you have any ideas, suggestions or comments, please contact a SDES Council member.
Welcome Aboard New SDES Employees

- Tyler Buckley, accountant, Housing and Residence Life
- Mary Lou Burgue, student counseling specialist, Counseling Center
- Randy Duff, maintenance mechanic, Student Union
- Ronald Neal, custodial supervisor, Student Union
- Patrick Parker, Locksmith, Housing and Residence Life
- Sharmelle Richardson, program assistant, Housing and Residence Life
- Robert Stephens, program assistant, Registrar’s Office
- Karen Hofmann, comes to UCF after having overseen the Counseling Center staff at Stetson University for the past five years. Hofmann grew up in Browntown, Wisconsin, and received her B.A. from the University of Texas. She received her M.S. and Ph.D. from Texas A & M University. Her research interest includes gender and multicultural issues, such as race, ethnicity and sexual orientation. Hofmann is currently serving as the center’s multicultural services coordinator.

Kudos to Ana Marnova, office assistant, Multicultural Academic Support Services, was selected to participate in the 2002 – 2003 Leadership Enhancement Program. Congratulations Ana.

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Reorganization to Better Serve Students

Several organizational changes have been made within Academic Development and Retention (ADR) to benefit students. The First Year Transitions program, which develops and implements transition programs, will be headed by newly appointed assistant vice president Mark Allan Rosal. The First Year Transitions team will consist of several offices: First Year Advising and Exploration, Orientation Services and Transfer Services. First Year Transitions will continue to include the former First Year Advising and Information Services, Academic Exploration Program, and Orientation Center.

Patel says, “This new unit of First Year Transitions will provide an effective and seamless approach to assist students in their transition from UCF pre-enrollment through their connection to the academic college of their major. We are very excited about the new opportunities this unit will afford through the Academic Exploration Program, which will no longer be an office, it will continue to exist as a program that includes collaborative efforts from many offices in SDES to provide students assistance with selecting a career and major.”

This new structure should lead to increased retention, improve learning, accelerate progress toward degree completion and strengthen career decision-making skills.

The Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) and the University Testing Center (UTC) – formerly part of the Counseling and Testing Center – are being combined into one new organization. SARC and UTC will assess student needs, strengthen and enhance learning support services and testing programs, and provide academic advising to specialized populations. Deanne Priest, director of SARC and UTC, says, “This new organization will serve as a catalyst in delivering more effective and efficient academic support and testing services to enhance the academic success of UCF students.”

The Counseling Center will persist in serving students in the unit of ADR. Director Bob Harman says, “The Counseling Center will continue to offer individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, consultation and outreach or presentation services to the UCF community.”

Patricia Ratcliff, formerly of Academic Support and Advising Programs, will become director of Academic Development Technology Design and Research. Ratcliff will be responsible for ADR’s development of information resource implementation and evaluation of the use of technology as an effective delivery system for transition, support services and personal growth opportunities for students. Ratcliff will be located in Millikan Hall 230 while First Year Transitions, along with SARC and UTC, will be on the first and second floors of Phillips Hall in the Student Success Center.

Maribeth Ehasz, associate vice president of Academic Development, said, “These changes will renew and strengthen our unit’s efforts to provide effective programs and services in a high-growth environment that will continue to improve student retention at UCF.”

5K Fun Run and Walk Held at Greek Park

UCF’s Student Wellness Association Teams (SWAT) 12th Annual 5k event began at 5 p.m. at Greek Park on September 6. About 200 students, faculty and staff ran, walked and even professional around the UCF campus and enjoyed the camaraderie, music, artbrush, tattoos, pizza, prizes and health and fitness information. The team “Check Outs” won the Team Spirit Award which included a $50 Domino’s pizza party. There were many age group winners, including Winnie Tyler (Library), Maribeth Ehasz (Academic Development and Retention), Laura Robble (Alcohol and Other Drug Programs), Jerry Vega (Student Health Services), Ron Eagiin (Engineering), Kim Small (Engineering), Jennifer Paris (Undergraduate Admissions), and Holly MacLeod (Student Health Services).
Mini-Presentations Offered to Students

Last month's tropical storm over Central Florida didn't deter students from attending the Career Resource Center (CRC) Open House. The CRC staff offered a series of mini-presentations exploring career options and internships. Representatives from various student organizations and career counselors were on hand to discuss topics such as scholarships, job search strategies, and interview preparation.

Admissions Updates Local Counselors

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions recently hosted a reception for all high school counselors from the Central Florida area and beyond. The event was an opportunity for counselors to network and share information about UCF's offerings. The reception included refreshments and a chance to talk with current UCF students about their experiences.

Application Deadline Nears for Mentoring Program

The LEAD Scholars Program is offering Leading Knights, an alternate mentoring program for faculty staff and students who are not matched in the paid assistantship program. Stacey Lazenby, assistant director, says, “Mentors will receive training in student development theory, such as academics, life skills and leadership. Training sessions are offered on October 15, 10-11 a.m. or October 21, 4-5 p.m. All applications are due on October 8. For an application, contact Stacey Lazenby at 407-823-6492 or e-mail slazenby@mail.ucf.edu.”

Self-Discovery Knights

The Counseling Center sponsors the Self-Discovery Knights series, addressing a variety of student development concerns and self-improvement topics. The center offers the following programs from 7:30-8:30 p.m. which are free to UCF students, faculty and staff:

- October 7 (SU Kay West, Room 238B) – Enhancing Self-esteem provides information about healthy self-esteem, its benefits and three concrete ways to improve it.
- October 21 (SU Kay West, Room 211B) – Loving Relationships presents various myths and assumptions about relationships and skills needed to establish and maintain healthy loving relationships.
- October 28 (SU Business Hall 102) – Making Relationships work about the impact of one’s self-esteem, intimate relationships, identity and health.
- November 4 (SU Sand Key Room 220) – It’s a Small World After All helps students gain insight about themselves by exploring their thoughts, beliefs and behaviors of people who are different.

Please submit your newsletter Unsung Hero article to jardz@mail.ucf.edu by October 16. Thank you.

UCF Community Gathers in the Student Union

Over 400 people gathered in the Student Union Kay West Ballroom and surrounding hallway to attend a memorial service, “Knights Remember 9-11.” On this day last year, terrorists launched air-attacks on the United States killing more than 3,000 dead.

The memorial service began with a welcome from Christine Moxton of UCF Victim Services followed by a presentation of the colors by the UCF Army and Air Force ROTC. The National Anthem was sung by Reginald Woods-Hill, Mr. UCF 2002. SDES Vice President Tom Huddleston said, “September 11 clearly showed us how fragile life is. While we are on this earth, the way we use the time we have is critical, use the time you have to help yourself and others.”

Professor John C. Hitt remarked that people have become more patriotic, kinder, gentler to one another and have strengthened their personal relationships. He continued to say people have slowed down the pace to appreciate the gift of the day and the smaller things. Hitt read an untitled poem by an anonymous author that his chief of staff, Beth Barnes, shared with him earlier:

As the starred and dirt and ash rained down,
We became one color.
As we carried each other down the stairs of the burning building,
We became one class.
As we lit candles of waiting and hoping,
We became one generation.
As the soot and dirt and ash rained down,
We became one family.
As we cried tears of grief and loss,
We became one soul.
As we retell with pride the sacrifice of heroes,
We become . . . one people.

We became one family. As we cried tears of grief and loss, We became one soul. As we retell with pride the sacrifice of heroes, We become . . . one people.

Everyone was asked to observe a moment of silence.

Linda McCabe, senior administrative assistant to SDES Vice President Huddleston, said, “Knights Remember 9-11 . . . was not only a day to gather with our UCF community to share and remember the great losses of last year but also to feel grateful for what we have and look toward the future with hope and peace.”