



## Golden Opportunities: A Major Today, A Career Tomorrow

*“Golden Opportunities: A Major Today, A Career Tomorrow assist student success with career programming.” says Melanie Parker, director of the Career Resource Center.*

On March 6, over 146 representatives from each of the colleges of the university showcased their respective majors and minors to over 1,000 students as part of the Golden Opportunities project. Golden Opportunities include the Majors Fair, On-Line Alumni Mentoring Program and Externs.

The Career Resource Center (CRC) formed a collaborative partnership with Delta Sigma Pi; First Year Transitions; Housing and Residence Life; and Student Success instructors to create the Majors Fair for all UCF students seeking information on academic majors and minors, including transfer students from Valencia and Seminole Community colleges. Other SDES tables offered information, such as the Registrar’s Office, and Student Disability Services. Over 300 students declared or changed majors in the week following the Majors Fair, a 414 percent increase over the same period last year.

“The partnerships created a ‘must attend’ event for all UCF students seeking information on academic majors and minors,” said Melanie Parker, director of CRC.

The UCF On-Line Alumni Mentoring Program has been launched this month providing students with the opportunity to develop relationships with UCF Alumni who will foster leadership and development in the areas of academics, professionalism and personal development to enhance first-year students’ career planning process. The On-Line Alumni Mentoring Program Web address is [www.crc.ucf.edu/alumni/MentoringHome.html](http://www.crc.ucf.edu/alumni/MentoringHome.html).

UCF’s first class of Externs spent their spring break shadowing professionals, including experiences with surgeons, museum archivists and engineers. Two out of the five college career information sessions created this year

have seen nearly 100 students learning about prospective careers and networking with corporate representatives. “These results demonstrate the importance that students place upon connecting their academic studies to future career goals,” said Parker.

In preparation for the Golden Opportunities programming, nearly 50 academic advisors and career counselors spent one week in intensive training learning how to facilitate student career development, including theory, program development and online career resources. The boot camp for career development facilitators helps advisors and career counselors to enhance students’ academic, career and life decision-making while at UCF and throughout their lives.

Golden Opportunities is based on a core partnership between Academic Advising offices, the Counseling Center and the CRC, and helps first-year students attain competency in the following areas:

- Maintaining a positive self-concept, including self-presentation and self-appraisal skills;
- Maintaining effective behaviors, including interpersonal, stress management, networking and financial planning;
- Understanding the transition to college;
- Exploring academic majors and participating in learning;
- Locating, evaluating and interpreting career information;
- Decision-making.

“Golden Opportunities: A Major Today, A Career Tomorrow will begin to significantly expand next year to reach more students and include more programs and events. We look forward to providing the link to a ‘golden’ future for all of our students,” said Parker.



Students sign-up for advising at the First Year Advising and Exploration’s table at UCF’s first Majors Fair

### Student Development and Enrollment Services

## Fifth Annual Breakfast Celebration

**Thursday, April 17  
8-10 a.m.**

**SU Pegasus Ballroom**

Doors open at 8 a.m. Due to time constraints, the program will begin promptly at 8:15 a.m. The Operational Excellence Awards will be announced and door prizes will be given.

# People in the News . . .

## Welcome Aboard New SDES Employees

- **Linda Yeager**, coordinator, International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)
- **Chad Duff**, interim coordinator, Veterans' Affairs
- **Michael Foster**, coordinator, ISSS
- **Milagros Rivera**, senior financial aid officer, Student Financial Assistance (SFA)
- **Willie Hunter**, senior financial aid officer, SFA
- **Margarita Sanchez**, coordinator, Student Affairs, Orientation Services
- **Christopher Bengel**, senior financial aid officer, SFA
- **Eric Hennes**, coordinator, Student Affairs, Orientation Services
- **Adele Adams**, program assistant, Undergraduate Admissions
- **Karemah Campbell**, senior financial aid officer, SFA



Left to right is Camille Jackson, Felipe Olvera, Erin Heil and Julie Reeves (Steve Anderson pictured)

## OSA Recognizes Student Leaders

The Office of Student Activities sponsored Student Leader Recognition Day in conjunction with Leadership Week 2003. On February 25, five students from the Intramural Sports (IM) were recognized for their outstanding contributions and leadership on the UCF Campus. These students were as follows:

- **Steve Anderson**, IM supervisor, is a junior majoring in Radio/TV and minoring in Hospitality Management.
- **Erin Heil**, Outdoor Adventure coordinator, is a sophomore majoring in Hospitality Management.
- **Camille Jackson**, IM supervisor, is a junior majoring in Business Management.
- **Felipe Olvera**, graduate assistant who supervises and referees IM, is in his first year of the Educational Leadership Program.
- **Julie Reeves**, marketing coordinator for Intramural Sports, is a junior majoring in Elementary Education.



Left to right: Carolyn Standner, Linda De Ingenis and Maribeth Ehasz

## 25 Years of Service Celebrated at Luncheon

Congratulations to Linda De Ingenis, senior administrative assistant of SDES, for celebrating 25 years of service at the University of Central Florida. De Ingenis celebrated her 25 years of service at a special Silver Luncheon hosted by Human Resources. Joining De Ingenis at her celebration was Maribeth Ehasz and Carolyn Standner from Academic Development and Retention.

Please submit your May 2003 UKnighted newsletter articles to [jpardo@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:jpardo@mail.ucf.edu) by April 15th.

## Students Helping Students

On March 13, the Black Faculty and Staff Association celebrated its Eighth Annual Mentoring Breakfast in the Student Union with the theme of Stepping Stones to Mentoring and featuring the Freshmen Friends Mentoring Program sponsored by the Caribbean Student Association (CSA). CSA president Shakeba Thomas and member Peveeta Persaud described Freshmen Friends as a program that pairs a freshmen with an upper classman to help assist in registering for classes, studying and getting connected to the university through the CSA.



## 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.



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

## Speaker Lectures at McKnight Center

Frederick Humphries, former president of Florida A & M University, presented a lecture to the National Achievers Society members at the McKnight Center of Excellence on February 7. He spoke on the benefits of scholarships and competitive salaries, and the need for minorities to pursue degrees in the areas of science, math and engineering.

Humphries currently serves as the president and CEO of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education in Silver Spring, Maryland.

## SDES Council 2002 - 2003

**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.*



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## Points of Pride . . .

### UCF Students Participate in Walk



(Photo Credit: Ron Riccio)

Over 1,250 walkers and volunteers gathered for the Sight and Sole Walk held at Walt Disney World's Epcot on March 8 in support of Central Florida's community members who are

living with visual impairments and blindness. UCF's LEAD Scholars participated in this event and had special training from the CITE Lighthouse for the Visually Impaired organization. LEAD Scholars acted as sighted guides for the blind and visually impaired participants as they navigated Epcot safely.

"We were especially excited to see the enthusiasm that local schools put forth," said Emily Lewinger, CITE Community Relations Specialist. "There was incredible participation from UCF students. Delta Gamma Sorority raised more money than any other group of walkers, and the LEAD Scholars' volunteers provided critical sighted guide assistance to our visually impaired guests."

There was also participation from other UCF student groups, including a team called Knights for CITE, as well as involvement from Apopka High School, Lockhart Middle School, Dr. Phillips High School, Lake/Sumter and Valencia Community colleges. "This overwhelming show of support truly demonstrates the philanthropic spirit of the young people of our community," she said.

UCF Delta Gamma and Beta Theta Pi raised \$3,379. The proceeds of the event, almost \$100,000, went to CITE, Lighthouse for the Visually Impaired and the *Orlando Sentinel* Family Fund, the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation, which matches a percentage of dollars raised. For information, call CITE at 407.898.2483, ext. 30.

### UCF Community Checks Out Expo

On March 12, 1,500 students, faculty and staff made the trek to the Recreation and Wellness Center to attend the Wellness Expo 2003.

Among the 50-plus exhibitors, there were on-campus organizations and services, such as Krunch Bar, Alumni Association, CAB, UCF Police with their K-9 dogs, Starlet Knights Dance Team and WNSC Campus Radio. Community representation included the Orlando Seals, Whole Foods Market, American

### Web Site Will Provide All UCF Training

The PeopleSoft Training Web site will be changed to include all UCF staff training. This new one-stop Web site will have links to classes offered by Human Resources (HR), Diversity Initiatives and PeopleSoft (PS) Modules. Online registration will be available for most classes.

The PS Modules will have links to: Introduction to PS, Student Financials, Finance and Accounting, Student Accounts and Student Records (presented by Registrar's Student Records Trainer Joy Blair). The Student Record Module will offer registration for classes, a PS Student Records manual download and a class review. Blair says an online tutorial, designed in a Flash program, will be available for the user to review information he/she had learned in class. The Web-based tutorial will include a voice directing the user through the process of Student Records' navigation and panel descriptions.

Joy Blair, a member of the PS Project Training Team, presented her idea to the team for a revised Web site for all UCF faculty and staff training. It was approved and Registrar's computer support specialist Jason Keller designed the site with the Project Training Team input. Blair has also developed 100 Student Records manuals to do specific tasks in PS. Blair said, "By restructuring the Web site, we are able to include all staff training on campus. It will also allow for more support after the user has attended training classes." Following the class, all attendees will then evaluate their training experience with an online evaluation.

A Web-based version of the Student Records Inquiry Two class is available this month; users will be able to take the course through WebCT. For more information and to register, visit [www.ucf.edu/training](http://www.ucf.edu/training).

### Important April Dates

- **April 7** – Fall Registration Begins
- **April 21** – Spring Semester Classes End
- **April 23-28** – Spring Final Examination Period

Heart Association and Advanced Dermatology. Massage therapists from the Campus Wellness Center performed a lot of kneading and stretching of aching backs, and there were demonstrations of yoga, hip hop and kickboxing.

Geoff Moser, graduate assistant of the Campus Wellness Center, coordinated the event. "We estimate the turnout was double that of previous years. We are thrilled about that," says Moser. Wellness Expo 2003 was sponsored by the Campus Wellness Center and SWAT, the Student Wellness Advocacy Team.

### Greek Week Proceeds Assist Homeless

UCF fraternity and sorority members formed teams to participate in the March 8-13 Greek Week Philanthropy. The teams raised money and provided service to the homeless organizations in Orlando.

The Greek teams engaged in a Penny Drop / Penny War competition to help raise money for the homeless. A check for \$1,568.72 was presented to the Second Harvest Food Bank.

The Greek teams provided service at the Orlando Union Rescue Mission and Second Harvest Food Bank. Activities included talking with the homeless, handing out food, sorting food supplies and clothing, maintaining the grounds, and working with the children. There were 226 Greek members who provided 645 service hours to these organizations. A clothing drive was also part of the week's festivities with the proceeds going to the Orlando Union Rescue Mission. Teams donated 450 bags of clothing.

### A New Perspective on Change

On March 6, Student Financial Assistance (SFA) staff attended a seminar with Steve Morgan, a motivational speaker and consultant. Morgan has been engaged by several Fortune 500 companies to help motivate their employees, increase productivity, and enhance communications and teambuilding. Some of his clients include the Federal Judicial System, Harris Bank and the Chrysler Corporation.

SFA staff reviewed the myths and realities surrounding change and how to affect change in a positive manner in two seminars, Behavioral Magic Show and the Challenge of Change. The importance of a good attitude when attaining goals was emphasized. Each participant learned about his/her behavior tendencies (by answering a series of questions) and how this self-knowledge can improve relationships inside and outside the office.

"The staff thoroughly enjoyed the experience and came away from it with new ideas and perspectives," said Lisa Minnick, SFA interim associate director.



Miz Patches, a "close friend" of Marsha Huddle, joins the kickboxers at the Wellness Expo 2003

## OverKNIGHT Success

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions (UA) hosted 30 South Florida high school counselors on March 2-3. For most of the counselors, this was their first visit to UCF and it was an opportunity for the UA staff to showcase the campus.

On March 2, the counselors visited with Dr. and Mrs. John C. Hitt during a reception at the Burnett House, as well as meeting with various UCF faculty and staff during another reception hosted by the Burnett Honors College.

On March 3, the counselors spent all day on campus. They listened to presentations on academic resources available for first year students and campus life, took campus and housing tours and had an opportunity to have lunch with some of their former students at the Residential Restaurant (formerly the Marketplace).

"As the coordinator of the showcase event, I feel that it went extremely well. Each of the counselors said that they left our campus feeling very impressed with all that UCF has to offer their students. Undergraduate Admissions would like to thank the entire UCF community for their support and participation in making this a successful opportunity for our guidance counseling community," said assistant director Melissa Haas.



## Tours Offered at Student Success Center

The Student Success Center held a Meet and Greet on March 11 in recognition of two units, First Year Transitions (FYT) and Student Academic Resource Center (SARC). Approximately 100 members of the UCF community toured the units in Howard Phillips Hall, including the recently three relocated offices: First Year Transition – room 216, Orientation Services – room 218 and the University Testing Center – room 106.



Students from the Lead Scholars Programs win awards at the Leadership Week Awards Ceremony. Left to right: Annie Howe, Vanessa Bowman, President John C. Hitt and Kevin Robbins.

## Greeks Step in Rhythm

Fraternities and sororities of various cultural backgrounds came together at the first Greek Unity Step-Off show on March 7 to unify and strengthen the Greek and university community.

The National Pan-Hellenic Council (a black Greek organization) along with the Latin or Hispanic fraternities acted as coaches and taught the other Greek organizations how to "step." Step is a form of dance competition, often using stomp and rhythm (can be compared to the Broadway show *Stomp*) that has become a tradition among black fraternities and sororities, as well as minority fraternities and sororities. The winning team was Chi Omega and Beta Theta Pi, coached by Alpha Phi Alpha.

Florida State University students and staff came to observe the event and get ideas on how they could start that program at their university. The Greek Unity Step-Off was completely run by students and was sponsored by Housing and Resident Life and Student Government with 1,857 in attendance.

## National Achievers Society Inducts Minority Youths

UCF McKnight Center of Excellence recently inducted 50 high-achieving minority youth into the National Achievers Society (formerly McKnight Achievers). The event was held on March 1 at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Eatonville.

Candidates for the program must maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average. Grades of 'Cs' are acceptable in advanced or honor courses. The McKnight Center staff gave special recognition to 10 students by presenting them with medallions for earning straight 'As.' Ericka Dunlap, a junior at UCF, served as the



## LEAD Scholars Teach Skills to High School Students

On February 28, 18 LEAD Scholars facilitated a three-hour presentation at the Sheridan World Center by Sea World titled, Taking Leadership out of the Huddle and into the Game, for approximately 300 high school students involved with the Business Professionals of America (BPA) organization.

Students who coordinated the session were members of the LEAD FLIGHT (Facilitating Leadership in Guiding High School Teams) practicum. LEAD FLIGHT students create leadership development programs and lesson plans and execute them in area high schools.

This year's LEAD FLIGHT students are working with the FFA (Future Farmers of America) class at University High School and the BPA Club at Dr. Phillips High School. FLIGHT students are trained for eight weeks on leadership development and facilitation skills and then sent into the high schools to train future leaders.

The partnership with BPA at the state level was created last semester when LEAD FLIGHT students worked with Timber Creek High School's BPA.

Many of the BPA high school students in Central Florida are now using the experiential learning tools [hands-on leadership simulations and teambuilding activities] in their clubs because of the impact that the FLIGHT program has had on their students' interest in understanding and identifying leadership development, according to Adam Zupkof, Dr. Phillips advisor of BPA, and Peggy Aycock, director of Educational Technology for Seminole County.

