Transfer Students Connect with Research Faculty

The UCF summer Undergraduate Research Academy connects new transfer students with faculty mentors working on research projects. Forty-one of UCF’s “best and brightest” transfer students attended the inaugural camp for three days in June. Faculty presented students undergraduate research opportunities at UCF. Students toured research facilities, explored the activities of undergraduate and graduate research associates, and met faculty members who may be a part of mentor-protege research teams in the fall. Research experiences enhance students’ academic experience, and challenge students to strengthen their critical, analytical, and writing skills.

Kappa Delta Sorority and Student Win Awards

The delegates of UCF’s Kappa Delta Sorority attended its National Leadership Conference in Denver in June. At the awards ceremony banquet, Epulon Omiocorcher received the Campus Prestige Award. This award is given to the chapters that have excelled on campus, as well as in the community, alumni relations and within the chapter itself. In addition, Stacy McCoed received two honorable awards: the Corre Axling Stallatte Collegiate Leadership Award for the top scholar on Kappa Delta and the program’s most outstanding leader and the $2,000 Elizabeth Banta Mueller Scholarship Award, which is based on academic performance, service to the chapter and university.

MASS Maximizes Academic Student Success

During Orientation 2004, the steadily growing UCF diverse population has had an opportunity to learn about the Multicultural Academic and Support Services (MASS) Office. Bianca Ferguson, interim associate director for MASS, presented “Making the Cultural Connection” to parents and incoming students. The presentation introduced: the MASS personnel, mission, goals, programs, services and tips for academic success. Multicultural students make up nearly 25 percent of the total UCF enrollment. “Celebrate your diverse background,” says Ferguson. “One of the MASS goals is to reaffirm the cultural and ethnic identification of the students while connecting them to UCF. Student success is our business.” Numerous parents have expressed gratitude to the MASS staff following the presentation. “It is great to know that you are here to support our kids,” commented one mother.

Group Program Offers Students Exercise Variety

The Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC) Group Exercise Program offers students to get involved in healthy activities on campus. The Class Sampler: A Group Exercise Learning and Health Program has been noted as a quote by Richard McLaughlin, Knight Fever at Parent Orientation, the following should be earned to give more accurate information in a moment’s notice to our student and guidance counselor communities.

New Welcome Center Opens to Students and Families

The new Progress Energy University Welcome Center will officially open this month and provide the Office of Undergraduate Admissions with enough space to adequately welcome more than 25,000 prospective students and parents to the campus. The building will have a gift shop and a multipurpose auditorium. The center will also feature state-of-the-art technology, which will allow the Undergraduate Admissions Office to become 95 percent paperless by year’s end. “Once documents are received and scanned into our new BPM System with imaging, we will eventually be able to eliminate the paper copy,” says Gordon Chavis, assistant vice president for Undergraduate Admissions, Student Financial Assistance and Student Outreach Programs. “We will revolutionize the way we conduct admissions business by developing a more timely and efficient application review process that will allow us to provide more accurate information in a moment’s notice to our student and guidance counselor communities.”

UCF is rolling out a new program to a limited number of select students beginning this fall. Stacey freshmen, who have chosen a specific major, will participate in the Grad On Track (GOT) program and will be guaranteed to graduate in four years. This program will provide students with a specified four-year-plan and the ability to register for courses a year at a time. There are many requirements, but following them guarantees students the courses they need to complete each step of their four-year-plan. For more information, call First Year Advising and Exploration at 407.823.4427 or visit: gradontrack.sdes.ucf.edu.

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Two of UCF’s undergraduate research programs, Research and Mentoring Program (RAMP) and the McNair Scholars Program, encourage students from traditionally underrepresented populations to attend graduate school. Students participating in RAMP and the McNair Scholars Program receive financial support. Other programs include Honors in the Major, Student-Mentor Academic Research Teams, and Research Experiences for Undergraduates, sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

Students who participate in undergraduate research at UCF have the opportunity to present their findings at national conferences and to share their work with the campus community at the UCF Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence in the spring. The Undergraduate Research Academy helps community college and other transfer students understand how they can be engaged in the research experience as an undergraduate at UCF.

According to Charlesun Strain, assistant director of Transfer Services, “The summer research academy is another example of UCF’s commitment to the highest quality undergraduate learning experience; our best transfer students are excited about this unique opportunity to connect early with research faculty in their discipline.”

Newsletter Corrections: In last month’s article, Spreading Fitness Fever at Parent Orientation, the following should have been noted as a quote by Richard McLaughlin, Counseling Center. “One of the last few sessions parents experience is a presentation called Letting Go. The letting go process is one of those life events where both parents and college students are in a crucial part of identity transition on their lives. It marks the beginning of a new era where parents may change their relationship from authority or control to more of a partnership. Navigating that important balance on the continuum between autonomy and over-involvement is critical for parents in fostering healthy adult development in college students.”

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Jessica Borerman, Administration/Registrar office, Undergraduate Admissions.
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Division Changes
Gary Morgan is the new director of the LEAD Scholars Program. Morgan comes to UCF from Boston College where he was associate dean for Student Development (Graduate Student Life) in the Office of Student Development. He received his masters in College Personnel at Bowling Green State University and his A.B.D. in Higher Education at the University of South Carolina.

Rebecca Piety has been promoted to assistant director of the University Testing Center at the Student Academic Resource Center (SARC).

Kerry Welch is the new director for the Office of Student Retention. Welch comes to UCF from the University of Cincinnati where he was assistant director for Student Activities and Leadership Development.

He received his Ed.D. in Urban Educational Leadership from the University of Cincinnati.

Student Leadership Programs and LEAD Scholars Program have moved to Classroom 1 room 102 due to the construction at the Student Union. The offices are expected to return to the Student Union building in May 2005.

Awards and Recognition
Bob Faust, Larry Bridgham, Marsha Huddie and Mike Deichen, M.D., from the Student Health Services administrative team attended the Sunbelt Directors’ Conference in Charleston, S.C. UCF Student Health Services will host the conference next year and will feature a tour of our completed health center facilities.

Inez Ford, Kareemah Campbell, Ricardo Colon and Will Hunter attended a New Aid Officer’s Summer Workshop sponsored by the Southeastern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SASFAA) held at the University of South Florida, Tampa, in June.

Mary McKinney, Lisa Minnick, Abigail Troche and Michele Sudar from Student Financial Assistance attended the FASFAA, held at the Harbourside Harbour Resort and Spa, Ft. Myers, in June.

Melanie Parker, Career Resource Center, has accepted the appointment to serve on the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Prospective Employer Action Team.

Presentations
Thomas Huddleston, vice president for SDES, presented, “Competitive Advantage: Students, Employees, University,” at the College Board Conference, which was held in Orlando in July; Huddleston also gave the final presentation at the SARC conference. Denver, in July.

Caroline Willard, Career Resource Center, presented Online Career Portfolios at the FACT/Song conference, which was held in Safety Harbor, Fl. in June.

UCF Wins $10,000 at Florida Pageant
“UCF wins the crown, but we won scholarships,” said Veronica Livesay, Campus Life, about the UCF women who participated in the Miss Florida Scholarship Program on June 26 in St. Petersburg. Miss UCF Christine Cooper (’04), won a Non-finalist Talent Award, State Scholar Award, Academic Achievement Award and the Busch Gardens/Miss Florida Community Service Award totaling $3,000.

Other winners included: Meredith Kovarik (’03) – 3rd Runner-Up and Overall Interview Winner, Denesha Jenkins – Non-finalist Talent, Kenny Burgess (’04) – Non-finalist Interview, Darnella Mutto – Charm Award, Sheena Howell – Heart Award, Geneviehe Jahn (’03) – Top 15, Candace Cragnet (accepting trash) – Top 10.

Livesay said toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

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I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.

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Ratings Soar For Veterans Services

On June 3, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs conducted a Technical Assistance and Supervisory review of the Veteran Services Office. The resulting Inspection Report, consisting of 16 separate Compliance Checks of random veteran student records, logged a 100 percent perfect track record. Veteran Services must pass the rigorous review in order to continue disbursing over $34 million annually.

Formerly the Office of Veterans Affairs, Veteran Services was integrated into the Registrar’s Office in August, 2003. As a result, new staff were recruited and trained; new software was introduced; a record-by-record review of all active “accounts” was undertaken; and the office began reporting to a new assistant Registrar, Harry Lee Parker.

Among the positive comments included in the Approval Review: “Both Dr. Dahlbirk and Mr. Harry Lee Parker are doing an excellent job in maintaining the integrity of the V.A. program at the University of Central Florida. The records reviewed were in outstanding order and no discrepancies were noted. It was a pleasure to visit this school. The visit essentially grants approval to UCF to train veteran and other eligible persons, providing a continuation of V.A. educational benefits to UCF students.

Counseling Center Retires
Bob Harman, director of the Counseling Center, retires on August 7 after 22 years of service to the university. Harman became the second director of the UCF Counseling Center in 1982 with 15 years experience as associate director at the University of Kentucky. Since then, the Counseling Center has grown from five counselors to 11. Other changes have occurred through the years.

The Counseling Center is seeing more troubleshooting students with various issues that reflect the challenges in today’s society. This makes life stressful for students, according to Harman. The Counseling Center promotes awareness and assists in preventing problems before they arise through developmental counseling in outreach programs. The Self-Discovery Knights series addresses such issues in enhancing self-esteem, long-distance relationships and surviving close quarters with roommates. The Letting Go program, which was created seven years ago, is a direct response to the parents and families of students during Orientation.

“I believe a legacy is it’s my job,” said Harman. According to Harman, the Counseling Center is known as student friendly, and the dedicated staff will go out of their way to help a student and will stay after hours to ensure a student is safe.

Harman acknowledged author with over 50 journals and three books: Gestalt Therapy with Groups and Couples, Gestalt Therapy Discussed with the Maker and Techniques of Gestalt Therapy. Many of the publications have been translated into different languages.

“I have had the best job on campus,” says Harman, who has been really rewarding me for work with my staff and to be a small part, of perhaps, helping young people change their life and in some way to better understand themselves.” When asked about his retirement plans, he says he will work one day a week in his wife’s private practice, prepare and cook meals, and go fishing.

Upper Classmen Help New Knights Soar into UCF
The Seating Opportunities for Achievement and Retention (SOAR) students are off to a great start. SOAR students, a select group of students, will spend four hours each day for up to 10 hours during the Summer B session. SOAR’s intensive instructional program, including structured daily tutorial services and individual advising activities, foster student success and retention. The students receive tutoring for up to nine hours per week by UCF’s upperclassmen.

The tutors provide leadership and academic support to incoming freshmen to assist them in successfully making a transition to college life and acclimating to UCF’s campus. The tutors receive training provided by a partnership with the Student Academic Resource Center.

SOAR tutors not pictured are: Kaisah Gopalan, Robert Hernand; Danielle McKinney, Natalie Rodrigues and Bruhut Stiwinz.

Academic Outreach Programming Available to Students through SARC
The Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) provides 12 separate Academic outreach workshops on learning and study techniques on subjects, such as how to stay motivated to go class when the professor does not take attendance (Large Class – Big Campus) and how to study effectively (Power Studying). SARC representatives are available as a resource for conduct learning and study skills workshops for classes in any discipline for student clubs and organizations, seminars, meetings, and residential halls. The workshops are interactive, motivating, and provide the most recent information regarding college level study skills. Request for workshop forms and schedule are available at: www.sarc.ucf.edu [click on Discover Academic Success for workshops].

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Presentations

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• Caroline Willard, Career Resource Center, presented a poster, “The Global Workforce” at the FACTS/St. Louis Conference, which was held in St. Louis, Missouri.

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University of Central Florida

SDES Council 2004 - 2005

Mission: Strengthening collaboration among employees, improve the general employee environment, build affiliation among employees, improve the general awareness of the mission of Student Development and Enrollment Services.

Sandra Bulger
Jeff Novak
Brenda Posey
Ora Brown
Maria Santiago

The Days and Knights of UCF 2004-05 Parent Calendar is available in pdf form at: www.sdes.ucf.edu/ recruited/Calendar04-05.pdf-045.htm

Points of Pride...

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Good Deeds Well Done

Two separate incidents occurred where SDES employees Diane Reitz, senior programming computer analyst for Student Financial Assistance, and Mike Pinn, computer applications coordinator for the Registrar’s Office, spontaneously got involved and took action to keep the UCF campus safe.

Diane Reitz smelled smoke while she was working in a portable and went outside to investigate. She noticed a small fire in a trash can that began to spread to the walls of a unit in Portable Classroom Cluster Two. After calling 911, Reitz proceeded to get a fire extinguisher and threw it on the flames. After many trips, she put out the fire before the fire fighters came. “We deal with putting out small fires all day in our jobs with working with Peoplesoft and Financial Aid, but it felt good to put out a real one,” said Reitz.

Pinn, who was working on Saturday, June 26, heard a commotion in Millican Hall’s second floor break room adjacent to his office. Pinn recalled that on May 27, another staff member, Registrar officer Jim Middlekauff, had surprised someone breaking into the break room vending machines. Middlekauff confronted the thief and chased him, but he fled the building. Rather than risk allowing the burglar to sprint away again, Pinn called the police. The police officers came and arrested him. Later at a UCF Police event, Pinn was presented with a certificate of appreciation and Middlekauff was presented with a Chief’s commendation award. Numerous parents have expressed gratitude to the Mass staff following the presentation. “It is great to know that you are here to support our kids,” commented one mother.

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ACADEMIC RESEARCH

Grad On Track Program Kicks-off this Fall

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Leaders of UCF’s Kappa Delta Sorority attended its National Leadership Conference in Denver in June. At the awards ceremony banquet, Epulon Omicron Chapter received the Campus Prestige Award. This award is given to the chapters that have excelled on campus, as well as in the community, alumni relations and within the chapter itself. In addition, Stacy McCord received two honorable awards: the Corre Anodal Stangell Collegiate Leadership Award for the top scholar in Kappa Delta, and the program’s most outstanding leader, and the $2,000 Elizabeth Butts Mueller Scholarship Award, which is based on academic performance, service to the chapter and university.

University of Central Florida

Student Development and Enrollment Services

Grad On Track Program Kicks-off this Fall

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