Out-of-State Students Welcomed to UCF

On October 13, the LINK Program–First Year Experience hosted the annual “Out of State is a State of Mind Gala” for 78 out-of-state, first-year students and 55 faculty and staff members. Each student was paired with a faculty or staff mentor two weeks prior to the social. The social provided a platform for everyone to meet for the first time. Students and mentors participated in fun activities to break the ice and get to know each other better. Keeping in line with the theme, everyone dined on homemade food from the Marketplace. Each student received a welcome bag containing residency reclassification information, a map of Orlando, 101 Things to Do in Orlando guide from REACH Peer Education, candy, games and information from various SDES offices. Additionally, each student was entered into a raffle and eight $50 Burnes and Noble gift cards were awarded.

“Out-of-state, first-year students are a greater retention risk because the transition to a new state can be difficult,” said Rebecca Morales, coordinator for the LINK Program. “This program will connect the out-of-state students with faculty, staff and other students from their hometowns, making UCF a more comfortable and familiar place.”

The out-of-state students hailed from 34 states including: New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Iowa, Hawaii, California, Colorado, Virginia Islands and Puerto Rico.

For more information on the LINK Program or to become an out-of-state student mentor, contact Morales at 407.822.7025.

Rec Facility Offers Challenge to Students

The Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC) has a new addition to their facilities—the Odyssey III Challenge Course. The challenge course was constructed for the Outdoor Adventure Program and consists of a high and low course. The Odyssey III high course stretches 375 feet long, 40 feet wide and 45 feet high. This facility will offer students the opportunity to reach new heights both physically and mentally. Comprised of eight different elements on two separate heights, three tree-louses for shade and two zip lines, the course is qualified to host a diversified group of students.

The low course, which is located throughout the woods, consists of 1D separate elements that offer varying levels of difficulty for groups of 10-60 people. The low course is designed to bring groups of individuals closer together, while focusing on goals such as communication, thinking outside the box, team roles and leadership skills.

The RWC staff encourages all student groups to get involved in this outdoor resource. For more information, contact Heather Wible at 407.823.2409.

A Word from the Interim Vice President of SDES

As of today, you already know, I have been appointed by the Provost as interim vice president of Student Development and Enrollment Services (SDES). In this role, my responsibilities will include: Academic Development and Retention, Campus Life, Administrative Services, Assessment and Planning.

I am excited and look forward to the many challenges and opportunities we may face in the coming year. I am very fortunate that SDES has established many strong programs and services, and has an excellent staff of talented, motivated people.

As part of my move to the interim vice president position, there are a couple other changes within the division I wanted to make you aware of. Mark Allen Priest is now interim associate vice president of Academic Development and Retention (ADR). DeLaine Priest will assume many of Mark Allen’s past duties as interim assistant vice president of First Year Transitions (FYT) while continuing as director of the Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) and University Testing Center (UCT). They will both be operating out of their current offices in the Student Success Center in Howard Phillips Hall.

While Undergraduate Admissions, Student Financial Assistance and Student Outreach Programs are now part of the Division of Marketing, Communication and Admissions, we will continue to have close collaboration with these offices as we work together to build and strengthen enrollment while providing a network of services and programs that enhance student success.

We have many challenges facing us in the coming months including the continued development of: Learning and Interacting with New Students, Graduating Knights Program (LINK–First Year Experience, increasing retention, implementing Strategic Planning Initiatives, SACS reaffirmation and strengthening our academic partnerships.

I look forward to working with everyone as we continue to focus our efforts on our three primary functions of transition, support services and personal growth of UCF students.

Tutor and SI Leaders Recognized for Dedication

SARC recognized and celebrated the hard-work and dedication of the tutorial and Supplemental Instruction (SI) staff during National Tutoring Week, October 4-8. SARC tutors were in out of the Student Union encouraging students to tutor and SI as a way of improving their grades.

Students were given thank you cards to express their gratitude for the tutor’s and SI leader’s assistance with course material. One student wrote, “Thank you for your dedication and patience with helping me. You have really made the difference.”

At a luncheon held in honor of the tutors and SI leaders, DeLaine Priet (director of SARC) expressed her appreciation to the group for their loyalty and manner in which they conduct themselves when assisting students. “I really enjoyed National Tutoring Week,” said Sherry Howell (chemistry tutor). “I thought each day was a really good reminder of how much we are appreciated.”

These are students who are excelling academically, are active in student clubs and organizations, and have jobs in addition to being a SARC tutor,” remarked Jennifer Wright (assistant director of SARC). “I am very grateful they have included their association with SARC as part of their UCF experience. SARC would not have such a successful and strong reputation in the areas of tutoring and SI if it were not for these exceptional students.”

Dear SDES Friend:

As you may have heard by now, I will change positions at the university. My new assignment will be Vice President, Marketing, Communication and Admissions. The goals of the new unit are to enhance UCF’s reputation, strengthen opportunities for consistent communication, and establish a new level of services in marketing and communication for our academic community.

I leave SDES with tremendous pride for what you did and will continue to do in the future. Your accomplishments and concern for our students and the UCF community are outstanding. Clearly, the work by you and your unit heads have made the difference.

Time and again, others in higher education point to SDES as an operational model of excellence. You made the difference in new student enrollment, student retention and auxiliary services. Our innovative programs in student leadership, advising services, residential life, employee communications and academic support services were timely and needed. The important work with the Student Government Association is collaborative and very positive.

Student Development and Enrollment Services has done much to change the culture for students on this campus. UCF is a better place for students today than when we began our work together. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this effort. Well done.
Welcome Aboard New SDES Employees

- Willis Chico, maintenance mechanic, Student Union
- Amanda Giannola, cashier supervisor, Student Health Services
- Sherry Hays, program assistant, Registrar’s Office
- Diane Maldonado, office manager, Multicultural Academic and Support Services
- Carmen Martinez, custodians, Student Union
- Judith Mount, program assistant, REACH Peer Health Education Program
- Marita Pascua, accountant, Student Health Services
- Carol Kraus, accountant, Activity and Service Fee Business Office
- Penny Sait, counselor/advisor, First Year Advising and Exploration
- Beth Strohmeier, counselor/advisor, First Year Advising and Exploration

Division Changes

- The Office of Transfer Services is now called Transfer and Transition Services.
- Maribeth Elsas (former associate vice president, Academic Development and Retention—ADR) is now interim vice president of SDES.
- Keri Nola has accepted the position of coordinator of the REACH Health and Peer Education Program, Alcohol and Other Drug Program.
- Mark Allen Poisel (former assistant vice president of First Year Transitions—FYA) is now interim associate vice president of ADR.
- DeLaine Priest has accepted the position of interim assistant vice president of FYA.
- Bob Snow, former director of First Year Advising and Exploration (FYAE), is now director for Transition Advising, which is part of Transfer and Transition Services.

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

People in the News...

- Bob Snow, director, Student Life, accepted the leadership role at University of Baltimore in September. Priest received a certificate of Merit award for Outstanding Advising as a Primary Role.
- DeLaine Priest, director of Student Academic Resource Center (SARC), attended the National College Learning Center Association (NCLCA) annual conference—Sailing to Student Success in Baltimore, September. Priest received an award on behalf of SARC for the NCLCA/Supporting Higher Education Center Web Site Awards.

Presentations

- At the NACADA 26th National Conference-Building Bridges: Advisors as Architects for the Future on Academic Advising in Cincinnati, Mark Allen Poisel, Bob Snow, and Paul Vaas presented an Advising Structure for a Large Freshman Population. In addition, Poisel in collaboration with Judy Sindlinger (College of Health and Public Affair) and Tina Smale (College of Education) presented Building a Strong Foundation: A Blue Print for Advisor Development.

Points of Pride...

UCF Counseling Center Receives Full Accreditation

The UCF Counseling Center has obtained full accreditation by the International Association of Counseling Services (IACS). Receiving accreditation demonstrates that the Counseling Center has undergone a self-study, external peer review of its services and met the highest standards set forth by the counseling profession. In the notification letter, special mention was given to the center’s “effective and comprehensive program of services, qualifications and professionalism of staff, and vital contribution they make to the quality of students and campus life.”

The UCF Board of Trustees was acknowledged for their strong commitment to the continuing growth of the Counseling Center as evidenced by their approval of an increase in student health fees to support the operation. Special thanks was also given to Maribeth Elsas (interim vice president, SDES) and Tom Huddleston (former vice president, SDES) for their ongoing support, Rich McLaughlin (associate director, Counseling Center) for his expertise and coordination of the IACS accreditation process, Robert Harman (former director, Counseling Center) for his many years of dedicated leadership, the Student Health Services for their partnership, Craig Ullom (associate vice president, Campus Life) for his pioneering spirit, and the Student Government for their encouragement.

Luau Hosted for Non-Affiliated Housing Students

On-campus students, who lived in private student residential communities, were invited to the Paradise Island event hosted by the University Apartments. Over 100 UCF students enjoyed the luau, BBQ, DJ, karaoke and prize. Students were offered on-the-spot advising in preparation to register for spring classes.

First-year students earned LINK Loot by attending the Paradise Island luau hosted by Student Union Design Team. Members of the Student Health Service’s Nurse Corps also attended and handed out informational materials. Approximately 30 students filled out surveys indicating positive feedback.

First-Year Advising and Exploration, Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) and LINK Program—First Year Experience collaborated with the Office of Off-Campus Student Services on this event. This was the first event in a series of programs to reach out to the non-affiliated student housing communities.

The next program, Survivor—Finals for the Provostcrucifier in You, will be held at The Village at Science Drive on November 18 at 7 p.m. SARC staff will be on-site to give students tips to organize their notes and final strategies before the holidays set in.

The UCF Creed

Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and micro-climate are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.

INTENSITY
I will practice and defend academic and personal honor.

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.

Welcome to the UCF Experience!

Cambell Diversity Showcased at Expo

The Multicultural Student Center (MSC) sponsored its third Annual MSC Expo on September 30 showcasing the diversity on campus and highlighting campus resources available to students.

Approximately 350 attendees had the opportunity to receive information from 28 student organizations and offices, listen to on-going cultural music and songs, and participate in activities. In addition, there were two instrument solos: Reginald Ellis, a junior, played the saxophone and Mathew Shaw, a junior, played the trumpet. Students, who participated in a scavenger Hunt by getting answers to questions at the information tables, became eligible to win prizes.

“Leona Persaud, MSC student director, and Shakeeba Thomas, MSC graduate assistant, coordinated this wonderful event,” said1

Campus Diversity Showcased at Expo

Counseling Center’s Self Discovery Knights Schedule is available at: www.counseling.sdes.ucf.edu

Office of Student Involvement/Design Team won awards at the National Association for Campus Activities Conference.

OSI Students Win Awards at Conference

The graphic students in the Office of Student Involvement (OSI) Design Team submitted several pieces of their work at the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) conference and won three design awards. The awards are as follows:

1st Place – Multi-color flyer/poster
2nd Place Runner Up – Black and white flyer/poster
Most Spirited Delegation Award

In addition to the three graphic design awards, the UCF student delegation won the Most Spirited Delegation award as voted by the performers and agents who attended, who bid acts with colleges throughout the South. OSI Campus Activities Board (CAB) members and Late Knights board members shared ideas for events and activities with other school programming board students at the NACA conference.

Hot Health Topics Discussed at Meeting

Members of the Student Health Services (SHE) Executive Council recently participated in a meeting of the Florida College Health Alliance. Thirty representatives of Florida’s university health centers, including two private schools—Miami and Barry, discussed matters of common interest. Those topics included: the shortage of student vaccine supply, student health insurance, and hurricane and other disaster planning.

The event was hosted by Florida Gulf Coast University near Naples on October 6-8.

Career Merit

Beginning of New Center

The Student Health Center held an informal ground-breaking ceremony on October 18 to mark the start of construction of its new facility. The 85,000 square foot structure will be located immediately west of the current Student Health Center. The number of examining and treatment rooms will be nearly tripled, which will allow for more expedient treatment of patients. More space for future specialized services, such as orthopedics and dermatology will be available. In addition, the UCF Pharmacy will triple in size. Completion is scheduled for fall 2010.

Visit Employee Spotlight at: www.sdes.ucf.edu 

Click on Staff News and Information, then Employee Spotlight.
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The University of Central Florida
Workshop Offers Passport to Career Exploration

The Career Services and Experiential Learning offers first-year and transfer students the structure they often need when it comes to career exploration and decision making. Golden Opportunities: A Major Today, and Personal Tomorrow is a comprehensive program and consists of a high and a low course. The low course, which is located throughout the Student Union, with many paintings throughout the exhibition. The word “hello” in different languages could be seen displaying their paintings on the second floor of the Student Union.

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