Keeping Students Informed and Connected

On February 1, the Orange County Fire and Rescue Department (OCFRD) responded to a call in front of the Student Union. It was a call to spread fire safety, prevention, and response information.

Robert Kelly from OCFRD coordinated several firefighters to be present to talk with interested students. The campaign provided over 1,000 students with prevention tips, smoke detector information and temporary OCRFD logo tattoos, just to name a few distributed materials.

Two students won prizes for creating fire safety posters. Maria Mertens won first place and received a gift certificate to the Olive Garden. David Givens won second place and received a fire extinguisher. The campaign was a collaborative effort between LINK, Off-Campus Student Services, Environmental Health and Safety, and Orange County Fire and Rescue Department.

Other February events included a program outlining student success in large classes held at Pegasus Pointe and a Pre-Spring Break Luau held at the Village at Alafaya Club.

The March schedule is as follows:

• March 3 at 6 p.m. - “Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up?” presented by Career Services and Experiential Learning (CSEL) at Riverwind Apartments.
• March 29 at 5:30 p.m. - Mega-Advising Session facilitated by First-Year Advising and Exploration at The Gatherings Apartments.

These events are just a few that resulted from a brainstorming session in January at SDES offices and the UCF Police Department, collaborating to reach students living in off-campus communities. Watch for upcoming events in the following months.

Students Helping Students

The new First-Year Advising and Exploration (FYAE) staff additions have an expert view on what students want from their advisors—they like to talk.

To better meet the needs of the first-year student population, in the fall of 2004 FYAE trained five students from different majors and class standings to serve as Peer Advisors. With the addition of these new Peer Advisors, many more first-year students were able to receive assistance.

The Peer Advisors are able to help the students prepare for their meetings with the advisors, assist during outreach programming and present at workshops. One Peer Advisor was assigned to help with the office’s Pegasus Landing initiative. In the spring, these Peer Advisors will be an integral part of the transient process for FYAE, and will continue to aid students in understanding how to read degree audits and the Undergraduate Catalog.

The program is coordinated by Meena Datta, academic advisor, who sees positive effects of this program not only for the advisors, but also for the Peer Advisors. She believes that the Peer Advisors will develop their interpersonal communication skills and professionalism, as well as possibly establish professional contacts on campus.

Datta, who led the Peer Advisors through eight training sessions in areas such as team-building, advising policies and procedures, and workshop development, is hopeful that the program will grow in scope and reputation. “We’ve selected a dynamic group of students who help us figure out what students need,” says Datta. For more information, call 407.823.3789.

First-Year Students Honored for their Academic Achievement

Nearly 300 first-year students were honored for their outstanding academic achievement for the fall 2004 semester at the Learning and Interacting with New Knights (LINK) First-Year Scholars Reception on February 4. Over 1,500 first-year students earned a 3.5 or higher GPA. Each student, who attended the event, received a Pegasus lapel pin and a certificate of achievement in recognition of their hard work. Over 200 parents and family members attended the reception in support of their first-year students.

The theme of the program centered on the UCF Creed with an emphasis on integrity and excellence. Students were encouraged to reach out to other first-year students, who may not have done as well academically last semester, to offer assistance in locating academic resources and developing better study skills.

Maribeth Ehasz, interim vice president for SDES, asked students to reflect on what they did to bring them to this achievement, but also what will they do next. “Success in life happens when you know where to take your next steps,” said Ehasz. Other speakers included Rick Schell, dean of Undergraduate Studies, Mark Allen Foisel, interim associate vice president of Academic Development and Retention, and Sarah Fraden, student, the top LINK Loot earner last year and recipient of a $1,300 scholarship. Fraden currently serves as a LINK Mentor.

Joe Novick, assistant director for Housing and Residence Life, offered students 500 LINK Loot points if they brought a student who had never attended a LINK program. Students earn LINK Loot by attending LINK events and can use the Loot at an auction at the end of the semester to win prizes.

“We are very proud of the academic accomplishments of our first-year students. We are excited to have the opportunity to recognize their achievements,” said Rebecca Morales, coordinator of the LINK program.

LINK offers first-year students programs and events to meet new people and to get connected to UCF. For more information, call 407.882.7005 or visit: www.sdes.ucf.edu.

Meet Sarah Fraden, LINK Mentor and Role Model

Sarah Fraden is a second-year student, who participated in over 60 LINK programs during her first-year at UCF. Because of her involvement, she not only won a scholarship, but also a two-night dance, at the Marriott. What is most impressive is that in addition to attending the numerous LINK events and earning a 3.9 GPA, Fraden was acknowledged by the LINK program for involved in the First-Year Scholars Reception last year.

Fraden is currently employed by the LINK program as a LINK Mentor. She serves as a peer advisor and resource, as well as a role model for all first-year students. During the new student orientation, Fraden welcomes students at the UCF Ice Cream Socials and helps connect them with over 300 clubs and organizations at UCF. In addition, Fraden assists with the Loot program throughout the year, including the Luau and the First-Year Scholars Reception.

“Through the LINK program, I have been able to help first-year scholars realize their potential to grow academically, socially and professionally,” says Fraden.

In addition to serving as a LINK Mentor, Fraden is also involved in many other co-curricular activities. She is a LEAD Mentor, a member of Hilltop and Pi Beta Phi and is the communications vice president for 4-Ever Knights.

“ I was so impressed with Sarah that I had to offer her a job as a LINK Mentor,” said Rebecca Morales, coordinator of the LINK program. “I wanted her to be able to share her experiences and serve as a source of inspiration for incoming first-year students.”

Reportedly, UCFA and Truax Parents, Housing and Residence Life, display the first-place winning poster on the fire truck.

Left to right: Cristin Fitzpatrick, Freshman student, and Michael Fitzpatrick, father, display Cristin’s award of achievement at the LINK reception.
Points of Pride... LEAD Scholars Partners with Girls and Boys Town

LEAD Scholars have been reaching out to you, the students, through a partnership with Girls and Boys Town of Oviedo. Sponsored by the LEAD Scholars Program and UCF’s College of Business, five LEAD scholars are developing profiles of local residential and commercial markets’ donating practices to increase monetary and non-monetary donations for Girls and Boys Town. Under the guidance of instructor Lauryn Migueles, students are surveying consumers and businesses to better understand the reasons why people donate and if the use of additional donation forms would increase donations.

LEAD scholars will survey consumers’ donating practices.

Jennifer Harttler Wins Miss UCF Pageant

Every year, the Miss UCF 2005 pageant provides women with the opportunity to win a scholarship, showcase their talents and experience leadership skills. This fall, 11 contestants competed for the title of Miss UCF but at the end, Jennifer Hartzler emerged as winner and was crowned Miss UCF 2005. Harttler is a sophomore majoring in economics and minoring in political science.

“I’m excited to be a part of this project,” said Devin Whittenrep, first-year LEAD Scholar. “I love to be able to work with children. The Girls and Boys Town is such an incredible organization.”

The Girls and Boys Town, originally called Father Flanagan’s Boys’ Home, is a leader in the treatment and care of abused, abandoned and neglected girls and boys. Throughout its 86-year history, the nonprofit, nonsectarian organization has provided these children with a safe and loving environment where they gain confidence to get better and learn skills to become productive citizens.

Leadership Week Award Winners

Leadership Week is an initiative coordinated by the Office of Student Leadership Programs and is supported by numerous offices and departments throughout the UCF Leadership Week was created to identify, recognize and develop leadership among students, faculty and staff.

- Faculty – Jill Norbom, The Barnett Honors College; and Naum Kaplans, College of Health and Public Affairs
- AUP – Gary Arrington, Assistant Director – Counseling Center
- USPS – Thomas Gomez, Recreation and Wellness Center
- Distinguished Knights – Premed American Medical Students Association
- Emerging Student Leadership – Brian Hicks and Scott Kirkman
- Progressive Student Leadership – Vanessa Bowman and Brian O’Keeffe
- Rising Stars Leadership Award (Alumni)
  - Barnett Honors College – Jane Juvela, ’00
  - Barnett Honors College of Biomedical Sciences – Catherine White, ’01
  - College of Business Administration – Joseph Regenstein IV, ’03
  - College of Education – Dana Vaugham, ’00
  - College of Engineering and Computer Science – Maci Williams, ’00
  - College of Health and Public Affairs – Louise Devon, ’01
- Order of Pegasus
  - Graduates Students – Sandra Miles and Brian Monacelli
- Keepers of the Creed – Tracey Furr, Kevin Robbins and Kelly Simonz; and
- Premed American Medical Students Association – baby supplies, school supplies, kids toys and games and non-perishable food items. To make a donation, contact Lauryn Migueles, LEAD Scholars faculty fellow, at 407.823.4901.
Sarc Services offered to students at Rosen

The Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) is now offering academic support services at the Rosen College of Hospitality Management. During this semester, Supplemental Instruction sessions will be available to approximately 50 students enrolled in college algebra at the Rosen College location. Supplemental Instructor leader Jose Velaz will hold sessions twice a week. In addition, SARC tutor Katie Fisher will be available once a week to assist students in macroeconomics.

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• Rising Star Leadership Award (Alumni) – Burnett Honors College – Julie Joussal, ’00
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• College of Engineering and Computer Science – Maci Williams, ’00
• College of Design and Public Affairs – Louise Damon, ’01
• Ord of Pegasus – Graduate Students – Sandra Miles and Brian Monculli
• Undergraduate Students – Oluwaseun Adolju, Vanessa Bowman, Venkata Cherkammidi, Ericka Dunlap, Lindsey Eppleman, Vinja Gibb, Nicole Hopkins, Marianne Howe, Stacy McCread, Lisa Stoval and Sherry Trice
• Keepers of the Creed – Tracey Furt, Kevin Robbin and Kelly Simcoe

Keepers of the Creed is a new award this year that recognizes University of Central Florida students who have kept true allegiance to the UCF Creed by demonstrating exemplary performance toward one or more of the five elements of the UCF Creed.

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UCF had been part of Hartzler’s education and development at a young age since she attended Creative School for Children in 1997-98. Her mother, Christi Hartzler, is the director of Housing and Residence Life. Approximately, 500 students attended the Miss UCF Pageant, which was sponsored by the Campus Activities Board and funded by Student Government.

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The theme of the program centered on the UCF CREED with an emphasis on integrity and excellence. Students were encouraged to reach out to other first-year students, who may not have done as well academically last semester, to offer assistance in locating academic resources and developing better study skills.

Maribeth Ehsiz, interim vice president for SDES, asked students to reflect on what they did to bring them to this achievement, but also what they will do next. “Success in life happens when you know where to take your next steps,” said Ehsiz. Other speakers included Rick Schell, dean of Undergraduate Studies, Mark Allen Foiel, and the Undergraduate Catalog.

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