

# UKnighted

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## **SDES Offers Students Opportunities That Empower Them to Succeed at UCF**

### *What is SDES' role?*

*by SDES Vice President Maribeth Ehasz*

By now we have welcomed, oriented, answered questions, moved in and registered new and continuing students for the fall 2005 term. We are working to involve, engage, recreate, tutor, heal, teach, counsel, encourage, advise, educate, mentor and support students as they pursue their various paths of learning that will culminate in a quality UCF Experience and the receipt of their UCF degree.

The opportunities for learning at UCF are endless. There are many paths for students to choose while they are here. Our Division of Student Development and Enrollment Services has a major role in the direction that students take and the choices that students make in their academic, personal and career decisions. These are decisions that shape our students' futures, either positively or negatively. All of us have a role in empowering students to find the best information, to critically evaluate it and make the best decisions possible. We do our work best when we actively partner with others.

The new SDES vision, "Building collaborative partnerships that empower students to succeed," captures our role at UCF very well. This is a guiding call to action for SDES. It means that we actively seek ways to bring students together with faculty, employers, community partners and each other to make the UCF Experience one of the most significant and meaningful times in students' lives.

In my way of thinking, the student who starts at UCF is not the same student that graduates from UCF. We expect that students will change. This is Student Development. They will learn new concepts, new ideas and new skills. They will learn in the classroom, the library, and the laboratory by pursuing the rigorous academic programs that UCF offers. They will also learn outside the classroom by participating in leadership opportunities, student government, volunteering, clubs and organizations, Intramurals, Supplemental

Instruction, internships, Greek life, major fairs, LINK—First Year Experience programs, study abroad, campus lecture series, cultural events, concerts and many other opportunities, which are too many to list. Together with the faculty we strive to promote student learning and development that is purposeful and holistic by integrating curricular and co-curricular opportunities into one dynamic and effective UCF experience.

Student development is evident in outcomes such as strong personal identity and autonomy; positive self-concept, intellectual growth, social responsibility, healthy behavior and meaningful interpersonal relationships. We expect that students will appreciate and actualize the core values of The UCF Creed—integrity, scholarship, community, creativity and excellence—in their conduct, performance and decisions not only as students but as alumni as well.

Student success at UCF is dependent on the successful integration of academic and social experiences that promote institutional commitment and persistence to graduation. We are dedicated to making early connections with our students, easing their transition and paving the way to their choice of successful pathways that will lead them to the attainment of a UCF degree. This is Enrollment Services. It is a mistake to think that enrollment stops at admission. It only begins there with the opportunity to become a UCF student. Then the real work begins.

Attention to the needs and concerns of first-year students coming straight from high school or transferring from community colleges and other universities is a cornerstone of our work. We dedicate our time, energy and talent to providing the support, encouragement and necessary resources that positively influence students' success in their first year. We believe that concentrating on success in the early years will lead to continued persistence, greater learning, graduation, graduate school and successful careers. Our work is grounded in

research and data collection that helps us understand better the needs, obstacles and accomplishments which influence student success.

UCF stands for opportunity and SDES stands for "building collaborative partnerships that empower students to succeed!" What an opportunity we have at the University of Central Florida to make a difference in the experience and futures of our students. Let's join with the rest of the university in doing our part this year to make UCF the best metropolitan research university in the country.

### **Vision**

Building collaborative partnerships that empower students to succeed!

### **Mission**

The mission of SDES is to be a UCF leader in building successful partnerships to provide quality programs, services, activities and facilities that encourage retention and graduation; provide opportunities for students to discover and define personal ethical standards, purpose, and excellence; strengthen life skills that promote and support success and learning; and foster student engagement in their diverse community.

### **Goals**

Be a UCF leader in providing quality programs, services and learning environments that:

- Build effective partnerships with internal and external stakeholders.
- Provide opportunities for students to discover and define personal ethical standards, purpose and excellence.
- Strengthen life skills that promote and support success and learning.
- Foster student engagement in their diverse community.
- Promote progression to graduation, graduate school, and productive employment.

# Student Development

## Two Health Offices Merge

Student Health Services is excited about a recent merger of two of their departments, REACH: Health Education and the Campus Wellness Center. The new, combined group is now called Reach for Wellness.

Reach for Wellness staff and student peer educators are now all located in the Recreation and Wellness Center with a one-stop shop that offers printed information, workshops, orientation programs and special events on such topics as: Body Image, Comprehensive Health Assessment Motivation Program (CHAMP) tests, diet and nutrition, relaxation services (biofeedback, massage), sexuality and wellness issues. Reach for Wellness offers anonymous and confidential HIV testing using an oral test (no more needles). For more information, call 407.823.5841.

## Office of Student Involvement Announces New Look

The Office of Student Involvement (OSI) has new and improved physical space and different look to their Web site, which includes a virtual student calendar. OSI has more than doubled the number of cubicle spaces they offer to Registered Student Organizations (RSO's) and can serve even more students with their new print and work stations. The new wing of the Student Union (south of Pegasus Ballroom) is a spacious addition that provides Multicultural Student Center (MSC) and Fraternity and Sorority Life more work space for those student groups. The Student Government Association (SGA) also has new carpeting and furniture. These offices hosted Open House on August 31 to welcome faculty, staff and students to their renovated areas.

OSI has also redesigned their Web site to provide students and the university community with up-to-date information on a wide-variety of co-curricular student activities and events. The site features a master calendar that not only lists OSI events (for Campus Activity Board, Homecoming, Knights of the RoundTable, Late Knights, MSC, SGA, Fraternity and Sorority Life and Volunteer UCF), but includes Athletics and Intramural events, LINK and Rosen College of Hospitality Management activities. OSI announced Registered Student Organizations can now enter their events and meeting times on the virtual calendar making it a one-stop-shopping informational source for student events and activities.

Check out OSI's Web site at: [www.GetInvolveducf.com](http://www.GetInvolveducf.com).

## UCF Knight at the Oxford Round Table

Melanie Parker, executive director of Career Services and Experiential Learning, was invited to attend the Oxford Round Table in Oxford, England. Periodically, the Oxford Round Table meets with a small group of leaders in higher education, who present documents and engage in discussions to ensure the continued development of education. Parker was one of 16 delegates in attendance.

"The Round Table was an incredible experience," said Parker. "I had the opportunity to interact with a diverse group of leaders in higher education from throughout the U.S. at the oldest university in the English-speaking world. We discussed a range of topics critical to student affairs, including integrating academic affairs and student affairs, best practices in retention efforts, residence life initiatives, counseling center issues as well as trends in multicultural programs."

The attendees received an overview of the Oxford University system including the 39 self-governing colleges and their relation and role to the university. Delegates also learned about Murray State University in Kentucky, which is the largest public university to implement a fully residential college model. "I was impressed by the jump in retention and graduation rates that Murray State experienced as a result of



Tyler Fisher, UCF's first Rhodes Scholar and former UCF student, stands in front of his living quarters at the residential college, Magdalene, which is over 500 years old.

this model. They also reported higher levels of student engagement and a stronger connection with faculty," reported Parker.

While at Oxford, Parker had the opportunity to visit with Tyler Fisher, UCF's first Rhodes Scholar. She said, "Tyler has completed his Rhodes Scholarship and enjoyed Oxford so well that he has decided to complete his doctoral studies there." According to Parker, Tyler described his work as a tutor at Oxford as extremely gratifying. Parker is grateful for the experience at Oxford and encourages others to experience other universities.

## SDES Members Participates in E-Mail Mentor Program

Several SDES colleagues are involved in a mentoring program with K-12 students in the local Orlando area. Community Education Partners (CEP) is an alternative education program for students, who are having difficulty in school and need a fresh start and individual attention. The E-Mail Mentor program is one way to provide individual attention. Research has shown that mentors have the power to change a child's life by providing positive reinforcement and encouragement.

"CEP was an opportunity for me to make contact and be an e-mentor with a high school student," says Dennis Dulniak, University Registrar. "I look forward to actually meeting my student this year and putting a face and personality with the assigned e-mail."

The following SDES faculty and staff are currently CEP Mentors: Jim Wilkening, Ron Atwell, Joy Blair, Kareman Campbell, Jessica Draluck, Dennis Dulniak, Sharon Ekern, Sara Hill, Marsha Huddle, Kathy Neville, Jacqueline Ortiz-Baerga, Dave Pavlonnis, Diane Reitz, Craig Ullom, Debra Urban and Kerry Welch.

For more information to become a CEP mentor, contact Kelly Astro at 407.823.6346.

## Student Services Showcased at Fair

The Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) will host the 2005 Learning Fair: Brain Candy for Hungry Minds! for students on September 14 in the Student Union, Key West, room 218 AB. The Learning Fair will provide a venue to showcase the different and excellent academic support services available to UCF students.

The Learning Fair will feature six academic skill workshops on topics such as: test-taking skills, time management, note taking, stress management, concentration, math anxiety and strategies to study science. The fair will also include display tables with interactive games, puzzles and demonstrations from various campus programs and organizations that promote learning and academic skill workshops.

Students will have the opportunity to earn Link Loot points for attending this event and food will be provided. SARC partnered with Office Depot, who provided door prizes for UCF students.

For more information, call 407.823.5130.



## Welcome to SDES

- **Kate Benner**, program assistant, Career Services and Experiential Learning
- **Elizabeth Cooper**, program assistant, Registrar's Office
- **Mark Gumble**, director, Academic Services for Student-Athletes
- **William Wise**, coordinator, Career Development Services, Career Services and Experiential Learning

### SDES Division Changes

• **Mark Gumble** is the new director for Academic Services for Student-Athletes.

Gumble arrived to UCF from San Diego State University (SDSU), where he worked for seven years, including four years as director of Student-Athletes Support Services.

During his tenure at SDSU, he implemented a mentoring program for student-athletes, which resulted in an increase in graduation rates, team Grade-Point-Averages and number of scholar-athletes.

"I am extremely excited about being selected as the new director of ASSA and happy to be a part of the UCF community," says Gumble. "I plan to reach out to the faculty and staff on campus, improve programming and services for the student-athletes, and help build the premier program in Conference-USA."

Gumble earned both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Binghamton University. He is a former three-time All-American student-athlete. He served as the head wrestling coach for nine years and created the Education Enhancement Program for student-athletes at his alma mater.

• **DeLaine Priest**, assistant vice president, Student Success Services, has moved to the Student Success Center's (SSC) administrative office located in Howard Phillips Hall, room 216. The SSC administrative office can be reached at 407.823.2137.

• **Joe Sciarrino** is the new director for Activity and Service Fee (A&SF) Business Office. He has over 25 years of business-related experience, 15 of which have been at UCF. His most recent position was that of assistant director, A&SF

Business Office. As director, Sciarrino will provide financial oversight of operations for A&SF funded departments, which include the Recreation and Wellness Center, Office of Student Involvement, Student Government Association and hundreds of Registered Student Organizations. Sciarrino



Mark Gumble

will be responsible for a budget of over eight million dollars, and the processing of over 350 employees. This position also supervises the operations of the SGA Ticket Center, SGA Computer Lab, and serves on numerous SGA and university committees.

### Awards and Recognition

• **Saba Akram-Scales**, coordinator for Student Disability Services (SDS), has been selected for the Office of Diversity Initiatives'



Saba Akram-Scales

Leadership Enhancement Program. Akram-Scales is responsible for managing SDS test accommodations and supervises the delivery of disability services at Rosen College of Hospitality Management. She has worked in the SDS office for eight years. "We at Student Disability Services applaud her selection for this program and believe that her dedication to the university, its goals, diversity and students with disabilities make her an excellent choice for this program," said Phil Kalfin, director.

### Presentations

• **Melanie Parker**, executive director for Career Services and Experiential Learning, presented Emerging Leaders Track: A Program to Develop Critical New Professional Competencies at the Eastern Association of Colleges and Employers (EACE) Conference in White Plains, NY on August 9.

### Publications

• **Dennis Congos**, academic advisor and College Level Learning Skills specialist, has published an article, "Self-testing Concept: Discovering what has been learned before an exam is taken, not after," in the August issue of the online journal, *Learning Skills Newsletter*. This is his 16th publication since coming to UCF in 1998.

### Health Services Hosts Three-Day Conference

UCF Student Health Services hosted the 2005 Sunbelt Conference at the Rosen Centre Hotel on International Drive.

The Sunbelt Conference, held July 20-22, is



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA  
Stands for Opportunity

### 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

an annual meeting of college and university student health professionals from all over the south. This year there were 70 attendees.

Unlike many conferences, the Sunbelt is informal and generally involves group discussions of common issues, such as new medical services for the college population, student insurance, privacy in handling patient records and technology advances.

A highlight of the conference was a tour and luncheon at the Rosen College of Hospitality Management, with an address by UCF Trustee Harris Rosen.

Bob Faust, director of UCF Student Health Services, summed up the meeting by saying: "It's always great to get together and share best practices with our counterparts at other universities. We were especially pleased to be the host school this year and further establish UCF as a leader in the college health field."



Sunbelt Conference attendees traveled to the UCF main campus for a brief tour of the new UCF Health Center building, which is scheduled for opening this month.

Please submit your October 2005 UKnighted newsletter articles to [jparado@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:jparado@mail.ucf.edu) by September 15.