SDS Comes Together at Year End Celebration

I would like to welcome back the SDS faculty and staff to the New Year and thank you for your hard work, dedication and assistance in 2005. Last year was an exciting transition for the division which saw many new student programs, services, activities, and the construction of new and renovated facilities. 2006 promises to be as busy and challenging as we look for new innovative ways to provide academic and student support services and development opportunities for all UCF students at all UCF locations. We look forward this year to continue to develop partnerships and seek ways to bring students together with faculty, employers and the community to make the UCF Experience one of the most significant and meaningful in students’ lives.

—Maribeth Ehasz, Vice President, SDS

The SDS Council, Santa Claus, Vice President Maribeth Ehasz and others greeted the SDS family as they came together for a Holiday Celebration to enjoy food, entertainment, fun holiday activities, jolly Santa and more. The SDS staff brought gifts for children and personal products for women, which were placed next to the holiday tree. Gifts were donated to benefit the Salvation Army’s Women and Children’s Living Center.

Institutional music was provided by Health Services’ Betty Calton’s husband, Tommy, and friends. Terry Wheeler performed with the band, strumming his acoustic guitar. Bob Faust was one of the first to lead the crowd in some holiday songs. Calton, Wheeler and Faust are members of Health Services. Other singers included: Deneusha Jenkins, Nichole McPherson and Tara Szczepanski. Santa, who was played by Chuck Gallo, Activity and Service Fee Business Office, handed out candy and spread holiday cheers of ho, ho, ho. Santa was available for photos by the holiday tree.

Activity and Service Fee Business Office (ask for Carol Krause), ornaments will be saved till the end of January. The following are staff comments of the celebration event:

"Thanks to you all for a very nice Holiday Party! All of the staff I have spoken with who attended really enjoyed themselves and I think feel more connected to the larger division."

"Best ever."

"The party rocked. The committee did an amazing job and that was by far the most enjoyable holiday party I’ve ever attended."

"I would like to thank you for your hard work and coordination of a fantastic SDS Holiday Celebration. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the cookie and ornament design activities. The entertainment was joyous."

To view the photos of the Holiday Celebration, visit www.sdes.ucf.edu and click on Staff News and Information, then SDS Holiday Celebration. Anyone who wishes an electronic copy of a photo (print quality), please contact Judy Pardo at jpardo@mail.ucf.edu.
New Initiative Assists Students with Job Interview Skills

Career Services & Experimental Learning (CSEL) has implemented a Practice Interview Program designed to teach students how to effectively communicate with employers during an actual interview. Students learn to answer tough questions, such as “Tell me about yourself” or “Tell me about a time when...”.

Professional recruiters volunteer their time to assist students with these practice interview sessions. Students may sign up for an appointment as they would for a regular on-campus interview using KnightLink (the data base for on-campus recruiting and job postings). After the practice interview, the employer critiques the student’s performance and provides feedback based on a rating form completed during the interview. Nearly 25 students have participated over the past few weeks. This program has been in existence, showing a need for this type of assistance.

Students can also sharpen their interview skills through the career peer advisor practice interview program by scheduling an appointment with a career peer advisor to practice responses to interview questions, which may be video taped. Interview feedback is then given to the students along with helpful advice on grooming, stress, and professional etiquette.

For more information, contact Annie Ware at 407.823.3313.

SDES Takes Positive Steps Toward Tailgating

On Saturday, September 24, 2005, the University of Central Florida lost its first police officer in the line of duty, Mario Jenkins. Following this sad and unfortunate event, SDES suggested to the Alcohol Task Force a plan in which A&P and faculty would serve as “ambassadors” of the university during the primary tailgating hours prior to each home football game. As a result of the Ambassador Program was to assist in making the tailgating experience more enjoyable and safer for all attendees. The Ambassadors had two goals: to assist in educating attendees about UCF’s tailgating guidelines and to provide an increased presence of individuals who care about the university and people who attend/organize functions.

The Alcohol Task Force was enthusiastic about implementing the Ambassador Program. As word spread about the program, more individuals asked to assist and the program was opened to all employers, students, alumni and friends of the university. In the four remaining home games, over 50 Ambassadors assisted with the program. The following year, the semester, more proactive, EVL and CSEL initiatives for uncovering the student’s performance and providing feedback based on a rating form completed during the interview. Nearly 25 students have participated over the past few weeks. This program has been in existence, showing a need for this type of assistance.

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Rosen Casino Knight Donations Benefit Children

The Rosen College of Hospitality Management students, faculty and staff celebrated the end of fall 2005 at the Rosen College’s 2nd Annual Casino Knight. “Everyone has a blast and we even raised over $300 and donated enough toys for 65 children for the Hug Me Program,” said Tiffany Greensc, Rosen College Campus Life. Hug Me is a program through Arnold Palmer Hospital that helps children and families with HIV/AIDS. Rosen College Professor Iskit and his students implemented the Fall Career Expo; staff reports the event was an “extraordinary success.”

Students Deliver Holiday Cheer to Area Children

Housing and Residence Life teamed up with the Seminole County school system to bring holiday cheer to five underprivileged children from Sanford. The program, Hercules Holiday Kids, was a success with the Hercules Community students and staff contributing over 125 gifts and raising over $220 through the fall 5k and candy-gram fundraiser. Gifts ranged from GI-Joe’s and Barbies to a new bicycle with helmet and elbow pads. The children also received handmade fund-raisers. Gifts rangefrom GI-Joe’s and Barbies to a new bicycle with helmet and elbow pads. The children also received handmade gifts.

Students Get Information at Career Fair

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On December 5, an appreciation program and reception was held in honor of Las Vegas employees. The event was held at the Rosen Centre Hotel, which is one of the University of Central Florida’s preferred conference venues. The program was designed to recognize and thank employees for their hard work and dedication. The event was attended by over 200 employees, including faculty and staff members.

Professional recruiters volunteered their time to assist students with these practice interview sessions. Students may sign up for an appointment as they would for a regular on-campus interview using KnightLink (the data base for on-campus recruiting and job postings). After the practice interview, the employer critiques the student’s performance and provides feedback based on a rating form completed during the interview. Twenty-five students have participated over the past few weeks. This program has been in existence for several years, showing a need for this type of assistance.

Students can also sharpen their interview skills through the career peer advisor practice interview program by scheduling an appointment with a career peer advisor to practice responses to interview questions, which may be video taped. Interview feedback is then given to the student along with helpful advice on resume writing, group stress, and professional etiquette.

For more information, contact Annie Wate at 407.823.3313.

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Casino Knight was a program through Arnold Palmer Hospital that helps children and families with HIV/AIDS. Rosen College Professor Iskat and his students NA maintained the event at the 4th Annual Hug Me Christmas party, held at the Rosen Center (food and accommodations provided by Harris Rosen). The donated toys from Casino Knight were given to the children at the Christmas Party.

Students Deliver Holiday Cheer to Area Children

Housing and Residence Life teamed up with the Seminole County school system to bring holiday cheer to five underprivileged children from Sanford. The program, Hercules Holiday Kids, was a success with the Hercules Community. Two students contributed over $125 and raising over $200 through the building competition and candy-gram fund-raisers. Gifts ranged from GI-Joe and Barbies to a new bicycle with matching helmet and elbow pads. The children also received handmade holiday cards that were created by residents. The student and professional staff for the Hercules Community helped coordinate the event and described it as both exciting and inspiring.

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The Rosen College of Hospitality Management recently hosted its first Fall Career Expo. The college reports attending the event was an “extraordinary success.” The event featured 64 employers exhibiting, an even greater number than spring 2005’s record breaking number of 61. Over a third of the exhibitors companies were first time visitors to the Rosen College. Several hundred students attended the event, and many students and alumni received full time managerial and internship offers as a result of this special event. The Rosen College will host its next hospitality career expo on February 23, and the college expects even stronger employer and student interest.

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The Alcohol Task Force was enthusiastic about implementing the Ambassador Program. As word spread about the program, more individuals asked to assist and the program was opened to all employees, students, alumni and friends of the university. In the four remaining home games, over 50 Ambassadors assisted with the program. The following were quotes from Ambassadors regarding the SDES initiative:

“I think the initiative should continue it is a step toward building a shared sense of campus community, mobilized involvement, positive and fun behavior and supported athletics and the institution.”

“The interaction with some of our loyal fans gave me an opportunity to see the passion first hand that people have for UCF.”

“Thanks for providing an opportunity to be part of the UCF Ambassador Program. I had a really good time with the event and I think it went extremely well. The value of the program cannot be overstated.”

“We are very fortunate to have such caring members in our university, division and community. The Ambassadors are pulling the university and community closer together during this very difficult time and have assisted in making the tailgating experience more enjoyable and safer for all involved. We hope you will support and participate next year with this wonderful program.”

Students Get Information at Career Fair

The Organization of Public Administrators and Career Services & Experiential Learning partnered to host the 4th annual Public Administration Career Fair on November 8 in the Health and Public Affairs atrium. Approximately, 200 students had the opportunity to meet and talk with 22 employers.

The focus of the fair was to provide students with information about career, volunteer and internship opportunities within the federal fields of public administration. Employers included organizations, such as Orange County Government, the Social Security Administration and the Department of Justice.

Please submit your February 2006 UKnighted newsletter articles to jparde@mail.ucf.edu by January 5.
Welcome to SDES

SDES Holiday Celebration
Photos, visit: www.sdes.ucf.edu
Then click on Staff News and Information.

SDES Division Changes
- Transfer and Transitions Services is now located in Howard Phillips Hall, room 221.
- Multicultural Academic and Support Services is now located in Howard Phillips Hall, room 102.
- A.J. Range, assistant vice president for the regional Campus Student Services, is now located at the University Towers, suite 101 on 12201 Research Parkway. The mailing address is P.O. Box 10000, Orlando, FL 32816-2000. The new telephone number is 407.823.2669 and fax: 407.823.1399.

SDES Awards and Recognition
- UCF Student Union received the 2005 Educational Benchmarking Commitment to Excellence Award in recognition of their commitment to continuous improvement through participation in the Association for College Unions International/Educational Benchmarking (ACUI/EBI) College Union Student Center Assessment.
- Greg Mason, director for Fraternity/Sorority Housing and Development recently attended the Association of Fraternity Advisor’s and North-American Interfraternity Congress held in Atlanta on December 2005. Mason serves in various leadership roles including the Advisory Board for the National Fraternity Housing Advisor’s Congress. Over 150 professionals attended this day long program, which was designed for those in higher education to set trends and ideas for the future. Mason also serves as a board member of Gamma Sigma Alpha, a national fraternity/sorority housing organization. He coordinates and facilitates two educational programs; "Mission Expansion: A Values Based Recruitment," as well as, "Driving Professional Development--A Crash Course for Mid-Level Professionals." In addition, Mason spent several hours meeting with various architects and fraternity/sorority housing specialists, gaining additional ideas and insight for houses that will be constructed at UCF in the future.

Presentations
- Germayne Graham, Counseling Center, presented, “Creative ways of Utilizing Group counseling processes that will be constructed at UCF in the future. additional ideas and insight for houses that will be constructed at UCF in the future.

Registrant’s Office Collects Toys for Marine Program
In the spirit of the holiday season, the Registrant’s Office collected toys to assist the Marines/Tots to Tots program. This effort was coordinated by Jim Middleskauf, registrant specialist, who delivered the large box of toys to the Central Florida Toys for Tots drop off station on December 15. The gifts were added to the 50,000 toys that were already collected.

Connection to December 2005 UKnighted: The front page article, “Student Center Dedicated in Memory of Jimmie A. Corbin” was the commander of the Salvation Army. A story about SARC Peer Mentors Abby Riggenbach, Eboney Fuentes and Dariana Morada. Penny War to Benefit Salvation Army
November 1 kicked off a three-week currency crusade hosted by the Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) Peer Mentors. The Office of Multicultural Academic and Support Services (MASS), Transfer and Transition Services (TTS), First Year Advising and Exploration (FYAE) and SARC participated in the 3rd Annual Penny War. This year, money raised will benefit the Salvation Army’s Women and Children’s Living Center. Instrumental music was provided by Health Services’ Betty Calton’s husband, Tommy, and friends. Terry Wheeler performed with the band, strumming his acoustic guitar. Bob Faust was one of the first to lead the crowd in some holiday songs. Calton, Wheeler and Faust are members of Health Services. Other singers included: Denehsa Jenkins, Nichole McPherson and Tara Szepanski. Santa, who was played by Chuck Gallo, Activity and Service Fee Business Office, handed out candy and spread holiday cheers of ho, ho, ho. Santa was available for photos by the holiday tree.

SDES members were challenged to participate in a few competitions such as decorating ornaments, cookie contest, Penny War competition and others. Prizes included: 100 SPS & Saluk gift certificates, one-hour massage at the Health Center and $25 Barney’s Steakhouse gift certificates. Participants can pick up their decorated ornaments at the Student Development and Enrollment Services front desk.

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

I will fight and defend academic and personal honors.
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