Welcome to SDES

Lena Holton, senior clerk, Housing and Residence Life
Kay Zin O Ma, program assistant, Counseling Center
Stephanie Mejia, office assistant, First-Year Advising and Exploration
Donna Vrtar, cashier supervisor, Health Services

SDES Division Changes

Fritlinia "Laine" Powell is the director of Partnership Development and responsible for identifying programs and services in Campus Life and SDES that provide opportunities for collaborative partnerships. She will play an important role in facilitating the development of partnerships with stakeholders inside the university and the Orlando Metropolitan area.

Powell joined UCF in 1999 and has held positions in the Office of Minority Programs in Education, First-Year Advising and Information Services, and the Student Academic Resource Center. She also serves on various boards including the University of Florida Black Alumni Association and Florida Fund for Minority Teachers. She received a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Florida and a Master of Education in Counseling Education from Penn State University.

Powell can be reached at 407.823.2626 or at the Student Union, room 304.

Presentations

Mark Allen Poisel, associate vice president for Academic Development and Retention, and DeLaine Priest, assistant vice president of the Student Success Center, facilitated a national Web conference titled "Using Innovations in First-Year Advising to Enhance Student Success." The two-hour presentation discussed innovative advising programs for first-year students, and strategies, techniques and effective assessment tools for first-year programs. Over 50 institutions participated in the April Web conference.

Denis Congos, First-Year Advising and Exploration (FYAE) presented a workshop, "Learning Skills Professionals as Therapists? What?" at the Association for the Tutoring Profession (FYAE) presented an article titled "The Indispensable Importance of Setting Goals in College," in the Learning Center Exchange Journal February issue. He also published "5 Types of Studying" in the March issue.

Dr. Michael Deichen, associate dean of the College of Health and Public Affairs, have published an article, "The 24/7 WebMed is used as an after hours innovative, Web-based medical triage system, the nation's first college health setting for an emergency environment by respecting the rights and contributions of each individual."

Creativity

I will use my talents to enrich my human experience.

Excellence

I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

The UCF Creed

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

SDES Council

Ideas, suggestions or comments? Contact a SDES Council member: sdesconvo@mail.ucf.edu.

SDES Employees Celebrate at Annual Breakfast

Over 300 SDES employees gathered to enjoy a breakfast buffet and acknowledge colleagues for their many years of service at the Eighth Annual Celebration Breakfast on April 24. Special recognition awards were also presented. As a small token of appreciation, the SDES Council presented Maribeth Ehasz with a Memory Book highlighting her first two years as vice president in SDES.

Congratulations 2006 Award Recipients

• Exceptional Partnership: John Schell, Undergraduate Studies
• Continuous Learner/Stands for Opportunity: Ana Mack, Student Academic Resource Center
• Community Connection: Sue Kau, National Consortium for Academics and Sports
• Commitment to Diversity: Champion Carter, Office of Student Involvement
• Outstanding Collaborative Efforts: Shae Calders, Housing and Residence Life and Germaine Graham, Counseling Center
• Way to Go: Craig Winion, Housing and Residence Life
• Experienced Pro: Linda Anderson, University Testing Center
• Overall Operational Excellence: AEP: Richard McLaughlin, Counseling Center and USPS-Scott Hicks, Orientation Services
• New Pro: Tyler Sims, Student Union
• Pride in Customer Service: Denise Drew, Academic Services

Team of the Year: Student Success Center

Denise Devlin Selected as USPS Employee of the Month

USPS Employee of the Month for February 2006, Denise Devlin has been employed with the office since 2001.

The Alternative Spring Break Experience

Alternative Spring Break has been the most rewarding experience that I have ever had," said Faraas Merchant, junior. On April 4, this sentiment was shared by participants of nine Alternative Spring Break (ASB) community service excursions as they reunited with their group members as well as other ASB group participants. The reunion gave everyone an opportunity to share stories and experiences of their week-long service.

Collages of pictures decorated the room and groups dressed in their matching colored ASB T-shirts. The Tryon, North Carolina group created their own ASB T-shirts and sporting Habitat for Humanity tool belts. Each group prepared a presentation to share and talk about their trip through the use of videos, rap songs and culinary creations. Each group the opportunity to see the power of nine students with a goal to make a change in someone else’s life. College is more than a degree. It’s about giving yourself the chance to see the possibilities of the world. I think that ASB is awesome, not only for the communities it helps, but also because of the change it brings.

Each student had the opportunity to shine as a leader and showcase their different skills. According to Trensten Anderson, elementary education freshman, "Not only did I learn a lot about myself and my leadership abilities, but I was able to experience the benefits of working together with others and the benefits of everyone being for the same goal.

Each participant left the reunion with a sense of renewed accomplishment and well-deserved pride. ASB 2006 participants served the Central Florida area as well as traveled to states including: Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina and Tennessee.

Alternative Spring Break 2006 Sites

• Albany, GA and Tyron, NC–Each of the two groups worked on building a home for Habitat for Humanity alongside other college ASB groups.
• Atlanta, GA–Two groups worked with agencies such as Piedmont Park Conservancy, Atlanta Community Food Bank, Boys and Girls Club, and Atlanta Children’s Shelter.
• New Orleans, LA–Two groups gutted and salvaged parts from homes in the area damaged by Hurricane Katrina.
• Nashville, TN–The group built wheelchair ramps for Cerebral Palsy victims and created wheelchair baskets.
• Orlando–Participants worked with various agencies, such as Second Harvest Food Bank, Salvation Army Children’s Home Society, Boys and Girls Club, Ripple Effect and the Place of Comfort.
• Estonia, FL–Students volunteered at Camp Boggy Creek with children on ventilated assistance.
Collaborative Efforts Benefit UCF’s Young Golden Knights

The Cornerstone project group, “4 Guys, 2 Girls and a Mission” from the College of Business Administration along with the Creative School Parent Association, held the Spring Family Festival on April 7 at the Creative School for Children (CSC) outdoor grounds. Over 250 were in attendance including children, families of CSC, faculty and staff. The Cornerstone group provided pizza and families provided side dishes and desserts. The highlight was the “bounce house” for the children to enjoy.

On April 14, the CSC children hunted for 1,450 hidden eggs around the school at their annual spring celebration. Special thanks goes to the Cornerstone project group for gaining sponsorship from Aristocrat Volkswagen to provide the eggs and services hidden inside each plastic egg.

Ex-Mafia Speaks at UCF about Gambling

Michael Franzese, formerly the “Prince of the Mafia” in New York, presented “Pitfalls and Dangers of Sports Betting and Gambling” to the UCF community. Franzese was a mob boss dealing in gambling, loan sharking and corporate crime before he was indicted in the 1980’s and sentenced to 20 years in prison. At the request of the Federal Bureau of investigation, he began educating athletes and others about the dangers of gambling. Over 400 people attended the March event in recognition of Gambling Awareness Month.

The SDES Campus Task Force on the Prevention of Gambling (represented by SDES and UCF Athletics staff, and community members) hosted a Gambling and the Coalition for a Drug Free Orange County sponsored this UCF event. The campus-wide task force was created last summer to educate the campus community about college student gambling and the risk of experiencing negative consequences as a result of problem and compulsive gambling.

UCF Stars Fell on Alabama

March 23-25 welcomed the Southern Regional Orientation Workshop (SROW) at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. UCF participants included Joe Ritchie, Eric Hennes, Jodi Farbstein, Lindi Smedberg and all 33 O-Teamers. They connected with other staff from nearly 70 institutions in nine states, attended educational sessions and heard keynote speaker Chad Cittadinned from Survivor: Vanuatu! (TV show). The O-Teamers worked harder than ever and contributed $350 to Hurricane Katrina, helping those staff members to attend SROW.

Eric Hennes, Farbstein, and Orientation’s two student coordinators (Kali Titus and Jonathan Earenst) all presented at SROW. The O-Teamers won second place in the school banner competition and brought home a hard-earned third place win for the dance competition. Ritchie earned honorable mention for the Outstanding Director Award.

•  “No joy can be compared to the joy you get when you help someone.”

Peers from Three Colleges Share Stories Peers from Three Colleges Share Stories

On April 5, professional staff, peer tutors and Supplemental Instruction (SI) leaders from the Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) joined the tutorial staff from Rollins College and Muhlenberg College for an evening of exchange and presentations. The Student Resource Center at Rollins College hosted 38 peer tutors and SI leaders, who engaged in conversation about their experience in serving fellow students. Presentations from Muhlenberg College peer tutors included “Making the First Session Count” and “Stress: What Tutors Need to Know.” Tutors and SI leaders had the opportunity to share their experiences and best practices, and learn valuable information that can enhance their sessions.

Elizabeth Medina, Human Physiology tutor from SARC, regretted her experience as enlightening. “It was really great to learn how other colleges serve students in the form of tutoring. I was able to relate the importance of tailoring one’s tutorial session to fit the needs of the student at your particular campus.” The meeting established an important partnership and set the stage for future collaborations between SARC and the tutorial programs at Rollins College and Muhlenberg College.

LEAD Scholars Project Helps Raise Money for the Girls and Boys Town

Lauren Migenes, LEAD Scholars Faculty Fellow, and her classes worked with the Girls and Boys Town in their 20th Anniversary Celebration and Yard Sale. “I am very proud of my students that helped raise over $15,000 at the event and worked over 150 service hours to the Girls and Boys Town during the semester,” says Migenes.

Students helped organize and price donated items and publicized the event during flyers and newspaper articles. LEAD Scholars promoted money through car washes and bake sales to pay for activities and refreshments which they provided for the event’s attendees and the Girls and Boys Town residents.

Some LEAD scholars’ testimonials include:

• “This effort taught me that hard work, teamwork and a lot of heart always pay off in the end.”

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Panel Offers Psychology Majors Career Advice and Job Options Panel Offers Psychology Majors Career Advice and Job Options

Career Services & Experiential Learning developed and facilitated a career panel discussion for psychology majors on April 5. The event featured six panelists with extensive experience who provided advice and guidance to students on psychology careers. Questions for the panel were developed by the Psi-Chi National Honors Society of Psychology and the Psychological Society at UCF. The panelists included psychology majors, mostly juniors and seniors, interested in learning about career options available after graduation. In addition, there was a mini-career fair after the panel discussion for those interested to pass their resumes along to employers for internship, co-op and full-time employment opportunities.
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Students Speak at Open Forum

Students had the opportunity to voice their concerns at the Student Open Forum on April 6. Some issues they addressed were: student health fee increase, current research projects in development on campus, need for increase in graduate stipends, access to more fellowships for international students, environmental concerns including global warming and recycling, and availability of child care for non-traditional students. The panel of administrators thanked the students for their participation and deep concern for the UCF community, and will continue to listen to the students to improve the campus experience.

The panel included President John C. Hitt; Maribeth Ehasz, Vice President for Student Affairs; Provost Terry Hickey, Academic Affairs; William Merck, Administration and Finance; and Tom Hildreth, Marketing, Communications, and Admissions.

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LEAD Scholars at the Girls and Boys Town Yard Sale

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Publications

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• Dr. Michael Deichen and Patricia Stuart, UCF Health Center, and Mary Lou Soe, College of Health and Public Affairs, published a new article, “Web-Based Training in Health Setting,” in the Journal of American College Health, Spring ’06. The article describes a study conducted to determine the accuracy of 24/7 WebMed, the nation’s first health college setting for an innovative, Web-based medical training system developed by UCF alumnus Scott Geddings, M.D. The 24/7 WebMed is used as an after hours resource and is offered only to UCF students.

SDES Council

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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 human experience.

EXCELLENCE

I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

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• Outstanding Collaborative Efforts: Sharen Cauders, Housing and Residence Life and Gernayme Graham, Counseling Center
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• Experienced Pro: Linda Anderson, University Testing Center
• Overall Operational Excellence: A&J – Richard McLaughlin, Counseling Center and USPS-Scott Hicks, Orientation Services
• New Pro: Tyler Sims, Student Union
• Pride in Customer Service: Denise Drew, Academic Services
• Team of the Year: Student Success Center

Denise Devlin Selected as USPS Employee of the Month

Denise Devlin, Instructional Facilities scheduler for the Registrar’s Office, was selected as the university’s USPS Employee of the Month for February 2006. Devlin has been employed by the office since 2001. Fellow co-workers say, “Denise provides an exceptional level of leadership and direction for both the Registrar’s Office scheduling area as well as for the college schedulers,” and “Denise has been able to coordinate all of the work with other staff and makes sure everything gets done efficiently and effectively.”

Students Share the Experience of Giving to Others

Spring Break is a time for students to relax and have fun in the sun, but some students chose the opportunity to take an Alternative Spring Break, volunteering their time to help others in need.

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Collages of pictures decorated the room and groups dressed in their matching colored ASB T-shirts. The Troy, North Carolina group created their own ASB T-shirts and sported Habitat for Humanity tool belts. Each group prepared a presentation to share and talk about their trip. Through the use of videos, rap songs and calligraphy created by the student, the students that it changes.”

“The two presentations on the New Orleans hurricane relief trips were particularly heartfelt,” says Jaych Beyer, interim coordinator for LINK First Year Experience program. New Orleans’ site leader Brittany Moscato said, “It was inspirational to see all of the volunteers there and how the people came together to rebuild their city because they weren’t willing to let Katrina wash away their heritage.”

According to Sandi Bednarz, site leader for the Troy group, “I don’t think people realize what they are capable of, and this trip gave my group the opportunity to see the power of nine students with a goal to make a change in someone else’s life. College is more than a degree. It’s about giving yourself the chance to see the possibilities of the world. I think that ASB is awesome, not only for the community it helps, but also for what it does to you.”

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• Tusin, FL–Students volunteered at Camp Boggy Creek with children on ventilated assistance.

Prior to ASB, group members participated team-building exercises at the UCF Ropes Course.