India Asunto, Student Union Specialist, Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC)
Julie Reeves, coordinator Student Affairs, RWC

Welcome to SDES

India Asunto

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

SDES Community Service Project

India Asunto

SDES has adopted Bonneville Elementary School as part of their outreach to the community. There are many children attending this school whose parents are not able to afford school supplies their child needs to be successful. SDES is launching the Bonneville Backpack Project. The goal is to supply 50 backpacks filled with school supplies for 50 children in 1st through 5th grade. The supplies will include: backpacks, three-ring binders, pencils, index cards, colored pencils, crayons, glue, notebook paper, folders, antibacterial liquid hand soap, band-aids and more.

Here is how you can help: The SDES Council is working with several businesses to provide backpacks and school supplies at a special rate. Each department will receive an envelope for cash donations. The SDES Council will be collecting the donations through July 12 and purchase the required supplies for Bonneville’s most needy families. Then in the middle of July there will be a Brown Bag Backpack Stuffing Party (more details to come).

Thank you in advance for your support of this SDES on-going project. For more information and updates on the Bonneville Backpack Project, visit: www.ufc.ucf.edu/Staff_Info/Info.htm. For questions or suggestions, e-mail: sdesconc@mail.ucf.edu.

~SDES Council

SDES Awards and Recognition

UCF student-athletes created a task force to address problem gambling last year, received the Messinger Joseph Dunn Education Award on May 11 from the Florida Council on Computer Gambling. The award recognized UCF’s “commitment to problem gambling prevention.”

Presentations

Kristy Belden, Sarah Hill, and Jennifer Alger, Academic Services for Student-Athletes presented “What to do When You Are the Only One,” at the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletes (N4AA) National Conference. The workshop focused on what it is like to be the only female working on a male sports team and being a woman in an industry traditionally dominated by men.

Ferguson (Multicultural Academic and Support Services) presented “Breaking Institutional Barriers to Academic Success” at the 19th annual National Conference On Race and Ethnicity (NCORE), held in Chicago. The presenters showcased UCF’s model programs that address issues of access, retention and persistence to academic success for minority students. “It was standing room only as participants engaged in conversation regarding retention strategies and ways to measure success,” said Powell.

C. Jeff Ulman, Campus Life, presented a program entitled, “Promising Practices for Partnering with Parents,” at the National Association for Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Region III Summer Symposium on June 12 in Savannah, Georgia.

Publications

Dennis Congos, First Year Advising and Exploration, published an article, “12 Cognitive Distortions That Limit College Success,” in the online June publication, The Learning Center Exchange Journal. The article describes thinking patterns that limit academic success and personal growth for college students. These cognitive distortions may be overcome to allow students to reach their potential for success in college more easily.

Best Wishes for Miss UCF 2006 on State Competition

June 21, a send-off ceremony was given to Miss UCF 2006, Megan Clement, wishing her well on her trip to compete in the Miss Florida Pageant. In attendance were members of the university community, as well as Clement’s family and Orlando Magic dancers who work with her.

Clement will compete with 39 other pageant winners, six of whom are also UCF students. Preliminary competition will be July 5-7 with the finals on July 8 at the Miami Dade Auditorium. SDES wishes Miss UCF 2006 and the other UCF students competing the best of luck.

Parent Calendar on Web

A Summer Motivational Extravaganza

“This summer we’re getting students pumped up and energized,” said Sandra Macaulay, Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) in collaboration with Multicultural Academic and Support Services, and the Student Government Association, is presenting a motivational and fun event.

UCF Idol – Motivational Event

Wednesday, July 5 @ 6:30 p.m.

Student Union, Pegusas Ballroom

Professor Joe Martin, award winning motivational speaker (Real World University) and author, will be the keynote speaker. The UCF Idol entertainment show will follow with approximately eight dance or singing performances, complete with Randy, Paula and Simon’s [television show—American Idol] notorious comments. Prizes will be awarded for the best dance and best vocal performance. The winner will be determined by the audience.

“Keep your eyes open for more information to come,” says Macaulay. “Tell all your students, advisors and co-workers to come out to this event. Experience a night of motivation, talent and fun-filled entertainment... and remember, your vote determines the next UCF Idol.”

Rosen College Event Benefits U.S. Troops

On May 31, Rosen College of Hospitality Management students, faculty and staff participated in a day to “Support Our Troops.” Students were able to sign-up to “Adopt a Soldier” at www.operationmilitarysupport.com and get individualized dog tags printed free. Everyone who donated money or items was entered into a raffle for a $25 gift certificate to Za-Bistro restaurant in Maitland. Amanda Carrusco was the lucky raffle winner. “We are very thankful to the Army and Navy recruiters who came out to show their support,” says Tiffany Greenes, assistant director for Campus Life and Fitness coordinator.

Retention Program Changes Will Benefit Students

The Knight Success Program (KSP) is a first-year retention program, utilizing a data mining statistical procedure that identifies students at risk for attrition. The program was implemented by First Year Advising offices.

Throughout the first year of implementation the program facilitated advisor/advisee “Meet and Greets,” utilized the College General Knowledge Workshop inventory to assess the concerns of 200 of its students, included a series of targeted communications, and designated sections of SLS 1501 in the spring to assess students on academic probation.

In 2006-07, KSP is being revamped to include two sections of SLS 1501 in the fall and will implement Strengths-Based advising using the Strengths Quest assessment tool. This program will assist students who change as they transition to the university, assess their strengths and help them identify resources on campus that will lead to their success.

For more information on KSP contact Jaycey Cezar or Nanette Martin and Stephanie Morales. The peer mentors will assist in contacting and connecting with students, designing and facilitating cultural enhancement workshops, and assist with Orientation and schedule planning. The addition of this new programming will support expansion of services and peer-supported activities available to Multicultural and First Generation College Students.

UCF Announces TOEFL iBT Now Available

The University Testing Center (UTC) is pleased to announce that the Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-based test (TOEFL iBT) is now available. International applicants, who are from countries where the official language is not English or who have not received a bachelor’s degree from an accredited U.S. institution, must submit a score on the TOEFL.

The TOEFL iBT tests all four language skills that are important for effective communication: speaking, listening, reading and writing. The test helps students demonstrate that they have the English skills needed for success in a college or university setting. TOEFL iBT also emphasizes integrated skills and provides better information to institutions about students’ ability to communicate in an academic setting and their readiness for academic coursework. Testing will be offered nine times a year, at least one time per month, with specific administration dates during peak months in the fall. For more information about TOEFL iBT, as well as registration and payment information, visit: www.ets.org/toefl.

SOAR Students Headed to UCF for Summer B

This year marks the 26th year for the Seizing Opportunities for Achievement and Retention (SOAR) Program. SOAR is an intensive academic program that provides access to UCF and offers academic support services to program participants.

There are many exciting opportunities planned for this year’s students. Students arrived on campus June 19 to attend Orientation and then attended SOAR Encounter on June 21. This event provided a welcoming environment while connecting students to the UCF campus as they started their six-week summer residential experience beginning June 26. During this time, students will attend academic classes, evening tutoring sessions, Friday Freshmen seminars, and special motivational and social events. The closing awards ceremony will be held in the Communications Building, room 101 on August 4 from 2-4 p.m.

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Math Workshop Assists Students to Succeed

The Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) has been serving UCF students and teachers from the surrounding community in record numbers through their General Knowledge Math Workshops and in the use of other academic support services. These services include tutoring, access to study guides and online practice tests. SARC offers General Knowledge Workshops specifically focusing on the math portion of the test three times a year. In the spring of 2006, 36 individuals participated in the workshop session which represents an increase of 100 percent as compared to spring 2005. Students have also taken advantage of SARC’s free tutoring sessions and over 1,000 people have used the online Web site for additional practice.

SARC is offering assistance for the math portion of the General Knowledge Test in time for the next paper/pencil administration on July 2. SARC provides the information needed to assist students to be prepared and feel confident of success.

For additional workshop registration information, tutoring schedule, and access to the online Web site, call SARC at 407.823.5130 or visit: www.sarc.ucf.edu/tutoringmath.html.

Roc’s Personal Trainer Competes Internationally

Emilio Rivera, a personal trainer at the Recreation and Wellness Center, made international headlines May 12 after competing in the 2006 Puerto Rico Track and Field National Championships at Paquito Montaner Stadium in Fonce, Puerto Rico and winning the 100 meter race. This qualified Rivera for the Puerto Rican National Track and Field Team.

In addition, recently, Rivera helped his team win a bronze medal, running the anchor leg of the 4x100-relay at the Beroamerican Championship, a competition that included 29 Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries. At the end of July, Rivers will participate in the Central American and Caribbean Games held in Cartagena, Columbia featuring over 10 different sports with 7,000 athletes participating.

Peer Mentoring Program Begins for Multicultural Students

The Multicultural Academic and Support Services Office announced the launch of their new peer mentoring program. Peers include: Kimberly Benjamin, Renee Eide, Megan Johnson, Tamika Martin and Stephanie Morales. The peer mentors will assist in contacting and connecting with students, designing and facilitating cultural enhancement workshops, and assist with Orientation and schedule planning. The addition of this new programming will support expansion of services and peer-supported activities available to Multicultural and First Generation College Students.

General Knowledge Workshop participants
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