Welcome to SDES

• Brian Briggs, program assistant, Registrar’s Office (RO)
• Myle Castillo, fiscal assistant supervisor, RO
• Veronica Ingram, program assistant, RO
• Kathleen Rancourt, coordinator, Career Development Services, Career Services & Experiential Learning
• Derrys Richardson, program assistant, RO
• Bradley Silcox, computer analyst, RO
• Daniel Suckli, intern, administrative statistical research, Assessment and Planning
• Troy Thayer, custodial worker, Student Union
• Justin Williams, coordinator, Housing and Residence Life

The UCF Creed
Integrity, scholarship, community, responsibility, resilience, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance and decisions.

Meet the new SDES Council 2006-07

Left to right back row: David Crafts, Tyler Sima, Jessica Pallo and Kelsie Halil (Housing and Residence Life), Jenney McClellan and Zubiya Abdulrahim (Office of Student Involvement), Heather DeLosa (Office of Student Involvement), Mary Savarese, Ricardo DeSantis, Joseph Capobianco, Maribeth Ehasz, measuring, and Kery Walsh (Office of Student Involvement). Front row: Lauren Mount, Victor Nakashima, Carol Kousa and Pamela Risa (Chair).

SDES Awards and Recognition

• Maribeth Ehasz, SDES; DeLaine Priest, Student Success Center (SSC); and Pat Pates, Assessment and Planning, were recipients of the Consortium for Retention Data Exchange (CSRDE) 2006 Advising Technology Innovations Award for their paper, “A Winning Duo for Transfer Success.”

• DeLaine Priest, SSS, and Steven Johnson, Registrar’s Office—A Winning Duo for Retention: Data Mining and Academic Advising

The following SDES staff presented at the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) 2006 National Conference, held in Indianapolis on October 28-31: Ritchie served on a panel during the presentation, “Expanding the Classroom from the Top: The NODA Internship Program.” Other staff members, Danny Meuninck and Judi Farstein, Orientation Services, attended this conference. Meuninck attended the pre-conference Orientation Professionals Institute workshop during October 26-28.

• Celeste Ferguson and Beatrice Turkpen, Multicultural Academic and Support Services— “Cross-Cultural Advising: Enhancing Advisor and Student Relations through Summer Bridge Programming.”

• Charseline Stinchard and Jacqueline Jessup, TTS—“Transfer Transition–Two Approaches” with Oklahoma State University.

• Charseline Stinchard, TTS—“Transfer Preparations for Students with Disabilities” and “Three Approaches to Transfer.”

• Cecilia Kodeman, TTS Peer Mentor, and Prince Phillips, Tau Sigma president, presented “Honor Society Students Speak Out” with Florida Atlantic University and Lehigh Carbon Community College (Pennsylvania).

• The following SDES staff presented at the National Symposium on Student Retention (sponsored by the Consortium for Student Retention and Data Exchange) held October 9-11 in Albuquerque, New Mexico:

• DeLaine Priest, SSS, and Terry Exum, Academic Support Services—“Up, Up and Away! Increasing Retention through Summer Bridge Programs.”

• SDES Winter Holiday Celebration

December 14, 2-4 p.m., Student Union, Pegasus Ballroom
SDES faculty, ADR, USS and full-time OPS employees are invited to attend the SDES Winter Holiday Celebration. Come take part in refreshments, games, holiday contests, special holiday guests and more. The celebration will also feature a Winter Wonderland and Gingerbread House Decorating Contest. For contest information and registration, visit: www.sdes.ucf.edu and click on SDES Staff News and Information.

• Mark Allen Poisel, Academic Development and Retention (ADR), and Charlene Stinchard, TTS, co-presented—“Effective Programming for Transfer Success.”

The following SDES staff presented at the National Orientation Directors Association conference held in Salt Lake City from October 28-31: Ritchie served on a panel during the presentation, “Expanding the Classroom from the Top: The NODA Internship Program.” Other staff members, Danny Meuninck and Judi Farstein, Orientation Services, attended this conference. Meuninck attended the pre-conference Orientation Professionals Institute workshop during October 26-28.

• Mark Allen Poisel, Academic Development and Retention (ADR), and Charlene Stinchard, TTS, co-presented—“Effective Programming for Transfer Success.”

• DeLaine Priest, SSS, and Steven Johnson, Registrar’s Office—A Winning Duo for Retention: Data Mining and Academic Advising


After the symposium, a team of six SDES leaders went on a site visit to Arizona State University (ASU) to learn how they provide effective and efficient student services to their quickly growing student population. ASU had four campuses with over 60,000 students and is growing at a faster rate than UCF. The site team, Mark Allen Poisel (ADR), Sharon Ekers (Administrative Services), A.J. Range (Regional Campus Student Services), Patt MacKown (Campus Life), DeLaine Priest (SSS), and Tom Hall (Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Programming), visited with many staff members in their division of Undergraduate Student Initiatives, similar to UCF’s SDES. Over the two-day visit, the team members toured three campuses and met with counterparts from the various areas. ASU had a very clear mission that they were, “The New American University with one university and many campuses.”

• The following SDES staff presented at the 13th National Conference on Students in Transition held in St. Louis on November 3-5:

• Craig Ullom, Campus Life—“Promising Practices for Partnering with Parents.”

• Mark Allen Poisel, ADR, and Charlene Stinchard, TTS—“Creating Programs and Partnerships for Fostering Transfer Student Success,” a pre-conference workshop.

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The University of Central Florida

Stands for Opportunity

A.J. Range, Robinson Career Services & Experiential Learning

The Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) showcased its Pegasus Success Program at the annual Institutional Effectiveness President and Provost Presentation and Foster Session. Poster session highlights included an overview of the Pegasus Success Program, a nationally recognized program designed to assist selected students in pursuing and achieving their academic goals, and assist students with their transition from high school to college.

Additional highlights included: program institutional effectiveness goals, data collection, measurements, outcomes and the constantly strong retention record established by the Pegasus Success Program over the past 11 years. As a result of the program’s retention record, SARC received the 2006 Lee Nord-Randi Levitz Retention Excellence Award.
**New Online Resources on Career Web Site**

Several new online employment preparation resources have been added to Career Services & Experiential Learning's (CSEL) Web site (www.ucf.edu/careers) to create a dynamic, current resource center.

- **Optimal Resume** is an interactive, Web-based tool for students and alumni to create, present and manage their resume. Students are able to browse through sample resumes, including a Flash Web page, word documents and plain text documents.
- **Perfect Interview**, a multimedia interviewing skills development tool, has 1,500 challenging interview questions and answers that engage students in a practice interview. It also provides positive modeling answers with an on-screen tutorial for each question.
- **Vault** assists students and alumni with career and job exploration. Vault provides access to career-related guides, current industry and company profiles, and career-advice articles covering topics from resumes to employee rights.
- **H1 Base** offers solutions for international students and alumni who want to work in the U.S. after graduation. The site provides online access to the largest active network of employers that sponsor H1B work visas.

**Money Raised Benefits School’s Activities**

Recently, the Creative School for Children’s Parent Association held their Annual Fall Silent Auction and Basket Raffle with over $8,000 worth of donations from local businesses. The funds raised by the association help sponsor the Creative School for Children’s International Dinner and Dance and Fun Day, in addition to providing money to support the classroom educational activities and experiences. The association also helps to raise funds to replace large outdoor equipment as needed.

**Students Offered Opportunities for Public Service**

On November 14, the Organization for Public Administrators, in collaboration with the Department of Public Administration and Career Services & Experiential Learning, hosted the 5th Annual Public Service Career Job Fair. The fair involved 40 vendors from the public and non-profit realm. Employers recruited students for various positions as well as provided information, resources and insights for those interested in exploring careers. A wide range of opportunities were represented through the participation of diverse public service entities including: Orange County Government, Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Department of Corrections, Heart of Florida United Way, Center for Drug-Free Living and the Community Service Center of Central Florida.

**SAFE Program Impacts Student-Athletes**

The Stay Alive For Education (SAFE) Program made its second appearance at UCF, presenting “Street Smart” to student-athletes. Created by firefighters and paramedics from Orange County, the program shows what really happens when you’re the victim of a car accident. They asked the students questions about seat belt compliance, including if they checked that their passengers were wearing seat belts. No hands were raised.

The leading cause of death and injury among young adults in the U.S. is trauma caused by accidents. Street Smart takes young adults into the graphic, real-life dangers and consequences of reckless driving as they work to save the lives of those who have made poor choices regarding drinking, drug use and/or not wearing seat belts. “This was a powing program that affected what every person who attended,” said Sari Katz, CHAMPs/Life Skills coordinator. “It is important to not only tell, but also to show the realities of what happens on the streets.”

**Students Explore Their Majors with UCF Alumni**

The Student Success Center (SSC) hosted an inaugural program, Alumni Mentoring Program, at the Four Winds Alumni Center on November 14. The event brought together 13 distinguished UCF alumni with 85 current UCF students wanting to know more about how majors could connect graduates to specific career fields. The speakers at the program included professionals in Nursing (Sophomore Center, SSC), Mark Allen Posel (Academic Development and Retention), Bill Blank (Career Services & Experiential Learning) and Zojia Bean (Student Government Association). There was a question and answer session from four alumni panels. The alumni representatives then met individually with students to share additional information and strategies on the major selection process they pursued, and connections to their professional careers.

Students gathered information from the SSC offices, UCF colleges, Career Services & Experiential Learning, and from Student Financial Assistance. Based on feedback, students felt this program was worthwhile and enjoyed hearing the personal stories from the alumni about how they chose their major and their career experiences. This program will become an annual event to assist UCF’s many majors and career-exploring students to be proactive and engage with the many university resources and alumni contacts.

**TTS Peer Mentors Celebrate a Different Holiday**

The Peer Mentors of Transfer and Transition Services (TTS) were recently invited into a Turkish home to celebrate Ramadan and enjoy a holiday feast. Omer and Ezra Teel, who were guides for the Student Development and Experiential Learning’s ‘tour to Turkey in August, hosted TTS guests. The Peer Mentors, accompanied by TTS staff Chuckle Sturndale and Jackie Jessup, enjoyed delicious Turkish food served in five courses. Not only did the peers enjoy the food, they also learned about Turkish culture and the Ramadan holiday. They learned about the educational system, where schooling is free; however, it is much more difficult to get into a university because of the highly competitive national entrance exams.

The Peer Mentors are planning several activities involving their new Turkish acquaintances, both holiday celebrations and workshops for transfer students.

**UFC Officials Shine at Pensacola Regional National Flag Football Tournament**

Two UCF football officials from around the country attended the tournament. Menkes and Sankey were originally selected as two of the four officials for the tournament officials at the 2006 Pensacola Regional Flag Football Tournament. The tournament is an annual event where teams from around the country attended the tournament. Menkes and Sankey were also selected to attend the National Flag Football tournament in December, joining fellow UCF officials Rob Smyth and Matissa Dienstag this year.
Model Programs continued...

The Department of Housing and Residence life assessed student satisfaction with computer purchases in both main campus and affiliated housing. Financial commitments, personnel additions, and infrastructure and equipment improvements were made to the main campus network connections as a result of the assessment. This resulted in a 10 percent increase in satisfaction from last year to a rate of 87 percent satisfaction on the main campus.

First Year Advising and Exploration (FYAE) focused on the 2004-05 institutional effectiveness plan, assessing effectiveness, demand, student learning and student planning. The poster session highlighted the outcome, addressing planned improvements in connecting with first-year students and the FYAE oface. The results included an increased number of outreach programs (83%), student attendance (15%) and student contacts (90%). They identified critical test for demand of advising services, effective and efficient use of current resources, expanded outreach services, increased collaboration with academic support and campus life departments, and enhanced office operations.

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The Stay Alive For Education (SAFE) Program made its second appearance at UCF, presenting “Street Smart” to student-athletes. Created by firefighters and paramedics, the SAFE program shows what really happens when you’re the victim of a car accident. They asked the students questions about seat belt compliance, including if they checked that their passengers were wearing seat belts. No hands were raised.

The leading cause of death and injury among young adults in the U.S. is trauma caused by accidents. Street Smart aims to change this trend by providing students with an opportunity to meet with representatives from schools across the nation since it began in 2005, with 483 students in attendance. Additionally, 68 schools registered for this event. As in the past, the majority of the students at the fair were seniors, however, junior and current graduate students had an increase in numbers this year. When asked what was the best part of the fair, a junior replied, “Getting to talk to representatives one-on-one and having my questions answered.”

The Burnett College of Biomedical Sciences (66 students) and the College of Science (65 students) nearly tied for the highest number of students represented. Microbiology and Molecular Biology were the number one majors represented by students. Other high-turnout majors were biology, psychology, business, political science and legal studies.

Students Receive International Career Advice

Career Services & Experiential Learning partnered with the Office of International Studies to develop the International Career Experience Opportunities event, held on November 14. Over 50 UCF students attended the event, which featured representatives from European Study Abroad, Foreign Service, Marriott International, Peace Corps and Universal Studies Resort. Representatives from UCF departments and organizations also participated, including the International Studies Center, Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies, Office of International Studies, Political Science Department—International & European Studies, and United Nations Association of UCF.

During the event, students met with representatives and listened to an employer panel speak about career and experiential learning opportunities for international students. Students seeking opportunities abroad also received information about preferred skills and qualities for potential candidates, as well as career-related advice.

Students Rally at Spirit Splash

The Friday before homecoming was an exciting day, but that did not deter the spirit of thousands as they gathered in and around the Reflecting Pool for a huge pep rally, Spirit Splash. This year, the UCF band played along the Library side of the pond capturing the attention of hundreds to move in that direction (as pictured). Spirit Splash included live music, performances by the UCF cheerleaders and the introduction of the football team.

Safe Connections with School Reps

The UCF Graduate and Professional Schools Fair provided students the opportunity to meet with representatives from schools across the nation since they were introduced to UCF in 2005, with 483 students in attendance. Additionally, 68 schools registered for this event. As in the past, the majority of the students at the fair were seniors, however, junior and current graduate students had an increase in numbers this year. When asked what was the best part of the fair, a junior replied, “Getting to talk to representatives one-on-one and having my questions answered.”

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UCF Officials Shine at Pensacola Regional Congregationals

Menkes and Sarah Crytzer (pictured center) as they were selected as two of the four alumni alumni officials from the 2006 Pensacola Regional Flag Football Tournament. Two TTS officials flew around the country attended the tournament. Menkes and Crytzer were presented with the National Flag Football tournament in December, joining fellow UCF officials Rob Smyth and Marissa Dienstag this year.
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  - Celeste Ferguson and Beatrice Torpin-Peek, Multicultural Academic and Support Services—“Cross-Cultural Advising: Enhancing Advisor and Student Relations through Summer Bridge Programming.”
  - Robert Snow, Charlene Stinard and Jacqueline Jessup, TTS—“Transfer Transition—Two Approaches” with Oklahoma State University.
  - Charlene Stinard, TTS—“Transfer Preparations for Students with Disabilities” and “Three Approaches to Transfer.”
  - Tyco Coleman, TTS Peer Mentor, and Prince Phillips, Baja Sigma president, presented “Honors Society Students Speak Out with Florida Atlantic University and Leigh Carbon Community College (Pennsylvania).”

- The following SDES staff presented at the National Symposium on Student Retention (co-sponsored by the Consortium for Student Retention and Data Exchange) held October 9-11 in Albuquerque, New Mexico:
  - DeLaine Priest, SSC, and Terry Exum, Academic Support Services—“Life, Love and Learning.”
  - A.J. Range, Office of Student Involvement, presented “A. The Late Knights Prep Conference were well planned and successful.”

- Melanie Parker, Career Services & Experiential Learning, presented “Tapping into the College Talent Pipeline” at Workforce Central Florida’s 4th annual State of the Workforce Summit held in Orlando on October 31.

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December 14, 2-4 p.m.

Student Union, Penguin Ballroom

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- DeLaine Priest, SSC, and Steven Johnson, Registrar’s Office—“A Winning Duo for Retention: Data Mining and Academic Advising.”
- DeLaine Priest, SSC, and Mary Beth Brink, associate vice president for SDES, Pat Ates, Assessment and Planning—“A Decade in Review: 1995-2005 Building Institutional Collaboration for Successful Student Retention.”

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- Craig Ulle, Campus Life—“Promising Practices for Partnering with Parents.”
- Mark Allen Poisel, ADR, and Charlene Stinard, TTS—“Creative Programs and Partnerships for Fostering Transfer Student Success,” a pre-conference workshop.

SDES Presents Model Programs and Success Stories

Six SDES departments achieved the status of “Model Program” for the 2004-05 Institutional Effectiveness cycle. Office of Student Involvement, Career Services & Experiential Learning, Student Academic Resource Center, Housing and Residence Life, Student Union, and First Year Advising and Exploration showcased their success stories in a poster presentation at the annual assessment report to the president.

Each year SDES departments, along with the rest of the university’s academic and administrative units, report their institutional effectiveness assessment plans and results to the SDES division and university’s Assessment Committee. The committee reviews the plans and results to measure how well the departments are progressing toward their goals for continuous quality improvement. Model Programs demonstrate exemplary data collection and reporting methods, and use of outcomes to improve programs.

Career Services & Experiential Learning (CSEL) implemented a new, integrated program called “PRO” which is a result of employees’ feedback of student performance during the interview process. The Employee Practice Interview Program (EPI) is a component of “PRO.” Both programs were well received by students, and participation exceeded expectations.

The Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) showcased its Peeguss Success Program at the annual Institutional Effectiveness President and Provost Presentation and Poster Session. Poster session highlights included an overview of the Peeguss Success Program, a nationally recognized program designed to assist selected students in pursuing and achieving their academic goals, and assist students with their transition from high school to college.

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