Welcome to SDES

• Jacqueline Bellucci, program assistant, Registrar’s Office (RO)
• Harry Jermain, academic advisor – Sophomore Center
• Jeffery Manges, associate director, Office of Student Involvement
• Ross Leshinsky, program assistant, RO
• Evelyn Lora-Santos, assistant director, Career Development Services, Career Services & Experiential Learning (CSEL)
• Jeffrey Mangs, coordinator, Career Development Services, CSEL
• Fiona Murphy, program assistant, RO
• Suzanne Ricketts, counselor/advisor, First Year Advising and Exploration
• Maxim Sakoe, maintenance specialist, Student Union
•Debra Sembrano, computer specialist, SSC
• Tracy Thomas, assistant director, Career Development Services, CSEL
• Chris Todd, senior secretary, Budget and Personnel Support
• Jennifer Williams, coordinator, Career Development Services, CSEL

SDES Changes

• Linda Anderson has recently been promoted to office manager of the University Testing Center (UTC). Anderson has been employed as a program assistant within the State University System for over 30 years; 20 years of service have been directly with UTC. She coordinates all national and state standardized paper-and-pencil exams that are offered on campus providing administrative support to the department.
• Brian Boyd was recently hired as an associate university registrar. Prior to joining the UCF family, he was the registrar at Carroll College, a small private college in Wisconsin. “It’s an opportunity to work with a larger staff, which is so talented and has a deep understanding of the work and the processes,” said Boyd.

SDES Aides and Recognition

• Dennis Donului, Registrar’s Office, attended the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Personnel (AACRAO) Leadership meeting in Washington D.C., held December 8-10. He served on the current Nominations and Elections Committee and will be up for re-election for AACRAO Yr in Orlando.
• Anna Mack, Student Academic Residence Center, completed her Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership.
• Greg Mason, Housing and Residence Life, was recently awarded the Distinguished Service Award at the 30th Annual Association of Fraternity Advisors (AFA) meeting. Pi Beta Phi donated approximately $250 to the AFA Foundation in his name.
• Katie Shepherd, graduate assistant for the Student Union, was awarded the Norman A. Whitten Memorial Award for Outstanding Student Leadership for Region 6, Association of College Unions-International. The highest honor for a student within the region, she was also elected to be student regional director for Region 6.

Presentations

• Iara Dunnda, Supplemental Instruction mentor, was the Student Academic Residence Center, presented with Maria de Jesus Goulart, Art Department, “Body and Soul, photographs by Mariana Yampolsky” at the VII Congreso de las Artes, Art Department, “Body and Soul, photographs by Mariana Yampolsky” at the VII Congreso de las Artes in Puebla, Mexico held November 8-10.
• Craig Ullom conducted a workshop entitled “Turning Partnerships into Relationships” for Office Meetings on November 13 at the 41st Leadership Center in Harris County.
• John Welch, Office of Student Involvement staff (OSI), Chancellor Carter (OSI), and Mackenzie Jordan, (former OSI student assistant), presented “Structured Diversity Education: Is It Necessary for Developing Cultural Competency?” at the SACSA (Southern Association for College Student Affairs) Region II Conference in Florence, Alabama on November 2-4.
• William Ehing, Indu Asanto, and James Huey, presented “Are you smarter than your grass? What’s in your wallet?”
• Sarah DiSabato, Kevin Bates, and Marcia Cogue, presented “Who’s in your office? And are they safe?”

Publications

• Lee Parker, Registrar’s Office, has published an article, “Using your GI bill,” in Best Practices: A Quarterly Journal of High School Guidance Publications, New Rochelle, NY. Approximately 10,000 copies are distributed and distributed to high school counselors who have accumulated up to $30,000 in tuition benefits through the New GL Bill, Arms College Fund and Navel College Fund. More information, visit: www.schoolguides.com; article.aspx?pagel=76.

SDES Council

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

SDES Staff

www.sdes.ucf.edu

Check out the Staff News

Web link for SDES Celebration photos and contest winners.

Volume IX, No. 7

New Sophomore Center Focuses on Retaining Students

Changes are happening in Student Development and Enrollment Services. In early fall of ’06, the Student Success Center (SSC) introduced the innovative Sophomore Center, an office created to support and enhance the retention of sophomore and second-year UCF students.

Almost 5,400 sophomore student were enrolled at UCF during the fall ’06 term.

Approximately 40 percent of sophomores and second-year students have attended UCF for 2 terms or more.

The Sophomore Center signifies a change in SSC’s focus. Previously, SSC had offered retention programs only to first-year students, which historically needs much efforts. While these programs will remain an integral part of SSC’s services, the Sophomore Center will provide new levels of attention and assistance to sophomore students.

Students who have successfully survived their first year in college may have been struggling to identify in their sophomore year. The Sophomore Center evolved out of the increasing research which indicates that sophomores may need as much retention assistance as freshmen.

Additionally, second-year students experience somewhat different sets of problems than freshmen and are not expected to satisfy their situations.Nationwide, colleges and universities have begun to realize this and have recently focused increased attention to these students. UCF in adherence to its mission to be on the leadership of edge of communities across the nation, created the Sophomore Center to facilitate the academic needs of its second-year students.

This endeavor began last fall ’05, when Mark Allen Pous, associate vice president for Academic Affairs, ‘01, had meetings with representatives from the SDES academic service units, the advising support offices in each college, and Campus Life departments to discuss ways to effectively address the sophomore challenge. Additionally, a work group with representatives from Career Services and Experiential Learning (CSEL), Campus Life-Leadership, and SSC, convened to design strategies and programs that would best promote sophomore retention as well as academic, personal and social engagement.

The mission of the Sophomore Center is to retain sophomore and second-year students at the University of Central Florida. This will be accomplished by providing outstanding academic and support services to targeted populations, programs that guide students towards declaration of a major and success advising services, and creating a support network that promotes student success.

The Sophomore Center is located in Robert Snow, director, with staff member Harry Jermain, graduate assistant, is currently located in Howard Phillips Hall room 223.

Right: Left to right: Harry Jermain, Robert Snow and student

Student Development and Enrollment Services
Building collaborative partnerships that empower students to succeed!
Rosen Event Raised Money for Foundation
The third annual Casino Knight was recently held at the Rosen College of Hospitality Management. Rosen Campus Life and an Event Management class hosted the event, which was free to all UCF students.

The Las Vegas style event included food and a poker tournament. Each poker player was asked to donate a $10 entry fee to benefit the Hugh McInnis Foundation, an organization for children and families with HIV/AIDS. A total of $365 was raised.

The tournament winner received a prize pack value of $500, which included a dinner for two at the Capital Grille restaurant, a cooking class at Roy’s Restaurant, a polo shirt and more. Many other prizes were raffled off at the end of the night.

RWC Officials Receive Officiating Honors
UCF Intramural Supervisors Vladimir Vosud-Tidali and Donna Barnes officiated at the Western Kentucky University Regional Flag Football tournament, and were both selected as all-tournament officials. Twenty-four officials from all over the country attended this tournament, and the top four were given all-tournament honors and the opportunity to officiate at the national tournament. There will be six officials from UCF at the national tournament this year, breaking the record of five set back in 2003.

Students Win Big Prizes at LINK Auction
On November 28, over 200 first-year students participated in the fourth annual Learning and Interacting with New Knights (LINK) Fall Auction for a chance to win $5,500 in tuition, Hewlett-Packard and Dell computers, X-Box 360 game system and more. A short delay caused by a false fire alarm only heightened the excitement of students bidding against each other using their LINK loot. Students earn LINK loot points by attending academic, cultural, community-building, lifestyle and wellness programs and events throughout the semester. Lauren Sackett, who attended over 75 LINK programs during the fall semester, won the tuition prize with a bid of 10,000 LINK loot points. When asked what she liked about LINK, Lauren replied, “I liked meeting new people and getting involved in our school… I learned about new resources at UCF through LINK events.”

The LINK program sponsored more than 240 programs during the fall 2006 semester, with more than 75 percent of freshmen participating in at least two programs. "LINK would like to send a big thank you to SDES and all participating offices, programs and students,” said Kelli Williamson, coordinator for LINK. “We look forward to the LINK Spring Auction, scheduled for April 18, to be an even greater success.”

Helping Others in the Community
This was the ninth year the National Consortium for Academics and Sports (NCAS) collected donations and gifts to bring to the Salvation Army Women and Children’s Living Center.
"This is such a special event as I have gotten close with many of the women as some of them have been staying there for over a year," said Sue Katz, director for NCAS. "This was a record year for the number of women and children at the shelter. There were even some women who were left homeless [Haitian Katrina victims] in New Orleans and relocated to Florida."

With assistance from the UCF Athletics Association and SDES, they presented at least four gifts to each of the 19 clients at the shelter as well as a special package for each of the 39 women there. According to Katz, “the joy that is brought to the women and the appreciation was tremendous.”

In addition to sharing gifts with the shelter, NCAS collected seven boxes of books from the UCF Bookstore that will be used in the Storybook Knights program. Student-athletes, who participate in this program, visit local schools in underserved areas, read the books to students and then donate the books to that school.

SARC Auction Raises Money for Tutor Club
SARC’s Tutor Club, Tutors Advancing Student Knowledge (T.A.S.K.), auctioned off one-on-one private tutoring sessions to UCF students in preparation for final exams. Eight tutors auctioned over 12 hours of tutoring in six different subject areas. Bid ranged from $10 to the highest bid of $50. Over $135 was raised for the T.A.S.K. future club functions.
"We are very proud of the success of the first-ever T.A.S.K. Tutor Auction and look forward to making this a semester event," commented Alicia Orra, president for T.A.S.K. and SARC peer tutor. "We are very thankful to all of the SARC tutors who donated their time to this cause to raise money for our developing club.”
SARC biology tutor JJ Leissinger, who donated an hour of private tutoring last week, said, “I was thrilled to have been able to assist a student in preparation for their final exam and more importantly, help T.A.S.K. to raise funds.”

UCF Student-Athletes Establish New Academic Records
• 11 of 17 varsity teams ended the semester with a 3.0 term and UCF cumulative GPA. This marks the first time that the average team GPA exceeded the 3.0 barrier in both categories.
• Women’s Golf led all teams with a 3.3 semester team GPA and Men’s Soccer lead all male teams with a 3.1.
• 22 of 28 (75.5 percent) student-athletes earned a 3.0 or better semester GPA. Football led all teams with 41 students earning a 3.0 or better in four terms. This is the third consecutive semester that more than 50 percent of student-athletes have earned a 3.0 semester GPA or better.

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Celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Dream
The Multicultural Student Center will be hosting the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration on Wednesday, January 17. The MLK event is planned in a way to relive the march in Washington that culminated with King’s historic speech, “I Have A Dream.” Anyone who would like to participate in the procession is asked to meet at Memory Mall at 11:15 a.m. The procession will begin at 11:30 a.m. and end at the Reflecting Pond.
There will be a 30-minute program consisting of an excerpt from King’s speech, a speaker, closing remarks and the singing of “Lift Every Voice and Sing” at the Reflecting Pond.

Donnie Barnes officiating the flag football tournament.

Lauren Sackett, a freshman from Longwood, won the tuition prize at the LINK Fall Auction.

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The UCF Creed

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

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Rec Center Moves to Phase II Expansion

The Recreation and Wellness Center is currently planning the Phase II Indoor Expansion process. This project is funded by student Capital Improvement Trust Fund (CITF). Plans are in progress with the architects to decide what the expansion will include. According to surveys, student priorities are: fitness space, court space, multi-purpose room and Outdoor Adventure center.

The center’s new area is estimated to open spring 2009.

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Students who have successfully survived their first year in college may have been struggling to identify their sophomore year. The Sophomore Center evolved out of the increasing research which indicates that sophomores may need as much retention assistance as freshmen.

Additionally, second-year students experience somewhat different sets of problems than freshmen and were less likely to satisfy their situations. Nationwide, colleges and universities have begun to realize this and have recently focused increased attention to these students. UCE in adherence to its mission to be on the leading edge of institutions across the nation, created the Sophomore Center to fulfill the academic needs of its second-year students.

This endeavor began late fall '05, when Mark Allen Poisel, associate vice president for Acacemics and Student Life/Leadership, and SSC convened to design a Sophomore Center. The following SDES staff presented at the at the National Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) Region II Conference in Florence, Alabama held December 3-6:

- Rick Falco, Student Union (SU), "Partnership and College Construction Projects" (keynote speaker)
- Jessica Falco and Tyler Sims, SU, "At your service-Satisfaction Guaranteed"
- Robin Walmsley, SU, "Motivating Student Employees: It is more than just a job"
- Kevin Walsh, Office of Student Involvement staff (OSI), "Chattel Carter (OSI), and Mackenzie Jordan, (former OSI graduate assistant), presented "Structured Education: It's Not Necessary for Developing Cultural Competency" at the SACS (Southern Association for College Student Affairs) 2007 Region II Conference in Florence, Alabama.

- William Eliung, Indio Asunto, and James James, "Your vision is better than your grass. What's in your wallet?"
- Sarah DiSabato, Kevin Bates, and William Ehling, "Who's on your campus? And are they safe?"

Publications


- Bill Blank, Amy Kleiman and Melanie Parker, Career Services and Experiential Learning, present "WRG Out, Achieving Your Organization's Most Important Goals," at the Central Association of Colleges and Employers (CACE) 2006 Conference held August 22-25.

- Kenneth Staack, Mark Allen Poisel, and William Ehling, "Connecting with 70 percent of targeted undeclared students so that at least 40 percent of sophomore and second-year undeclared students will declare a major by the end of the spring '07 semester.

- Connect with 70 percent of targeted sophomore populations through outreach programming, newly developed interventions, and academic advising.

- Develop an efficient and effective transition program that facilitates a "seamless" connection for targeted sophomore students to the appropriate college or department advising support office.

- Identify key campus partners to serve as the Sophomore Center outreach and contact monthly meetings to discuss programs, services, and strategies for connecting sophomore students to the entire university community.

The Sophomore Center will provide academic advising to the following targeted populations: undeclared sophomore and second-year students;

- First Time In College students who enter UCF with 45 or more credits earned through accelerated courses (AE II, CLEET and/or dual enrollment), and students seeking to change majors.

During the fall '06 semester, the Sophomore Center provided support services to more than 975 students. Almost 25 percent of sophomore and second-year undeclared students were able to choose a major.

The Sophomore Center Web site will be unveiled in the spring '07 to increase awareness of the many activities, programs and services offered on campus. It will include links to college advising and other campus support units.

A program to connect sophomore students with the appropriate college advising support office staff will occur early spring semester in preparation for the next multi-term registration cycle. In addition, the center will promote connections to faculty and potential undergraduate research opportunities through the Undergraduate Research Office.

The Sophomore Center is led by Robert Snow, director, with staff members Harry Jernigan, administrative coordinator, and Amy Kleiman, coordinator, located in Howard Phillips Hall room 221.