The secretary to the university president, who is the next in line for the position, has 10 years of experience and is currently overseeing the university’s information technology department. She aims to work closely with students and faculty to ensure smooth transitions and efficient operations. Her role includes managing budgets, leading projects, and collaborating with various departments. With her expertise, she hopes to bring a fresh perspective and innovative solutions to the university. Changing the dynamics of student success, personal and career development, and diversity training, the Degree Completion Award from the National Society of Minorities Scholars Program (Most Creative), and Registrar’s Office (Best Student-Athlete). CHAMPS is a program mandated by the NCAA which focuses on five areas including: academic and athletic success, personal and career development, and diversity training. Students who are interested in participating in CHAMPS can contact the office of Workforce Development Boards and the National Consortium for Academics and Sports (NCAS) located at UCF in the Wayne Densch Sports Center, room 110. The National Consortium for Academics and Sports (NCAS) is located at UCF in the Wayne Densch Sports Center, room 110. The offices over the 26 member institutions in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Member institutions of the NCAS have access to programs including the Menors in Violence Prevention (MVP) programs, Teamwork Leadership Institute for diversity training, the Degree Completion Program (allows former students to return to school to complete their degree at no tuition cost in exchange for at least 10 hours per week of community service) and Alcohol and Other-Related-Functionality for Student-Athletes, an online alcohol education program designed specifically for student-athletes. National STUDENT-ATHLETE Day, which is held virtually nationwide, is one of the NCAS’ largest programs and honors student-athletes nationwide who have achieved excellence in academics and athletics, while having made significant contributions to their school and community. In addition, the NCAS override the NCAA Champs Life Skills Program in conjunction with Academic and Sports for Student-Athletes. CHAMPS is a program mandated by the NCAA which focuses on five areas including: academic and athletic success, personal and career development, and diversity training. For more information, contact Suzi Katz at 407.823.5595.

Welcome to SDES!
• Larry Hull, maintenance specialist, Student Union
• Evelyn Lora-Santos, assistant director, Career Development Services, Career Services and Experiential Learning (CSEL)
• Jeffrey Mangos, coordinator, Career Development Services, CSEL
• Rachel Ogles, office assistant, First Year Advising and Exploration

SDES Changes
• Terry Exum, former interim director of Academic Services, is now director for Student Services at Southern Region
• Charles Norburn is the new SDES senior technology manager for Administrative Services. Norburn graduated from UCF with both a B.S. in Management Information Systems and an M.B.A. focusing on Change Management. He recently worked as a senior project manager for Power Generation where he led large scale IT infrastructure implementation projects. Norburn has numerous certifications from Microsoft, IBM, Dell and VMWare and brings with him a wealth of experience that will be beneficial to UCF. When asked about his new position with SDES, he stated, “I am very excited about this opportunity to work in such a dynamic and diverse group as SDES. I look forward to the challenges involved in bringing exceptional technology services to SDES and to the students we serve. Go Knights!”

SDES Awards and Recognition
• Kathy Rancourt, Annie Ware and Melanie Parker, Career Services and Experiential Learning (CSEL), were presented with Ann Dziadon, University of South Florida’s career centers.

SDES Council Corner
Mark your calendars! April 16, 2007 SDES Graduation and Recognition Breakfast

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Dave Jenkins received the National founders Award from the National Society of Minority Students in Hospitality (NSMHI) at the national conference in Seattle held on February 24. This national honor is bestowed to a student and the chapter advisor who has shown outstanding commitment to NSMHI members, his chapter and the National NSMHI Board.

SDES Presentations
• Dennis Dulniak, Registrar’s Office, co- presented with Ann Dziadon, University of South Florida, “To Print or Not to Print And Do You REALLY Need a Catalog?” at the 60th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers (SACRACO) in Little Rock, Arkansas. In addition, Dulniak facilitated the PeopleSoft Users Group, participated in the presentation of CSEL’s new online registration system. In addition, Dulniak is currently the chair of the chapter committee and was recognized for his SACRACO Journal article, “Redesigning the Registrar’s Office for Functionality, Fit and Success.” He was also selected for the slate of Nominations and Elections Committee candidates.

• Heather Engkeling, CSEL, presented, “Transferring from Student to Professional,” at UCF’s 6th Annual Non-Profit Roundtable held at the Rosen School of Hospitality Management in January.

• David Manecke and Nicholas Oleksy, Office of Student Conduct, presented “Minimizing Risk: Creating Effective Policies to Implement a Campus Mental Health Policy” at the 2007 National Association for Judicial Affairs Conference held in February. A panel made up of Dr. Michael Deichen (Health Services), Vivian Yamada (Counseling Center), Lt. Kelli Smith (UCF Police Department), Pamela Brady (Academic Services), Jeff Novak (Housing and Residence Life) and Patricia MacKown (Campus Life) assisted in facilitating the presentation.

• Melanie Parker, CSEL, co-presented “Developing Partnerships between Workforce Development Boards and Universities” at the Florida Workforce Summit held in Gainesville on January 30.

Students Spend Spring Break Helping Others in Need
Spring break is often seen as the height of collegiate fun and frivolity. Students plan getaways that provide an experience that takes them far away from the rigors of everyday life. This spring break a group of UCF students will be partaking in opportunities that will take them far away from their everyday world, not simply in the pursuit of pleasure, but in hopes of making a positive change in the lives of others. Those students will participate in UCF’s Alternative Spring Break (ASB), sponsored by Volunteer UCF and LINK. ASB places teams of students in communities around the country to engage in volunteer service projects with local non profit agencies. ASB trips this year will take students as far as Guilford, Miss. to partner with Mississippi State University to build homes for disadvantaged families; Florence, S.C. and Alburn, Ga. to build homes with Habitat for Humanity; Nashville, Tenn. to build a bird sanctuary for injured birds; Jekek Island, Ga. to work with environmental conservation projects; Atlanta, Ga. to help the homeless community; and New Orleans, La. to continue the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, and remembering UCF’s commitment to its Orlando neighbors with a trip planned for right here in town. Nine trips in all will take place this year, engaging 90 participants.

Each trip is comprised of eight students, one member Site Leader and one Faculty Advisor. The Site Leader goes through an extensive training program and helps the Site Leader in planning the trip, overseeing the Faculty Advisor leads the logistical oversight. The role of Faculty Advisor is an opportunity to interact with those students who chose to spend their spring break helping others. Last spring was shocking, even though it was nine months after Hurricane Katrina. I wanted to go back this year and help with rebuilding New Orleans, and to help the people who were so open to us last year.” The participants of Alternative Spring Break display a dedication to community and personal values rooted in a strong sense of integrity, that reflect the values exemplified in the University’s Creed.

This year two more groups will be going back to New Orleans; students will have the opportunity to work with a variety of different issues such as homelessness, poverty and the hurricane relief effort. The groups will work directly with Eastech Storm Station, a dedicated hurricane relief organization that works with some of the city’s most vulnerable residents and neighborhoods. They will spend their days continuing the clean-up efforts, getting even more homes and will help with the construction of new homes. Since Hurricane Katrina in 2005, a lot has been accomplished. However, there is still a great deal of work needed, and many people who need the help. Lindsay Weiss, a junior who has volunteered to return this year, noted, “Arriving in New Orleans last year was shocking, even though it was nine months after Hurricane Katrina. I wanted to go back this year and help with rebuilding New Orleans, and to help the people who were so open to us last year.”
Ten contestants vied for the title of Miss UCF 2007 in a near full house event on February 10. Denesha Jenkins entered UCF as a freshman in the Pegasus Success Program. Now as a 23-year-old senior elementary education major from Belle Glade, Fla., she walked away with the crown.

In addition to her work with the campus group Volunteer UCF, Jenkins’s platform is “Get Excited About Reading: Literacy Education.” She accomplishes this through reading and storytelling with young children in schools, libraries and community events. “I want parents to be present as their presence is more opportunities to participate in activities that will foster the mastery of their literacy skills,” Jenkins’ ambition is to become an elementary school teacher and eventually earn a Doctorate in Educational Leadership.

Lauren Meyer was first runner-up; Ery Tom, second runner-up; and Alisha Roberts, third runner-up. “All 10 contestants were academically sound and very involved both on campus and in community service,” says Veronica Livesay, executive director of pageant. They are all great ambassadors for UCF however only one contestant could win the title. Jenkins will represent UCF this summer at the Miss Florida Scholarship Pageant in St. Petersburg.

The UCFA Creed

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

UCF makes a difference. Student Development.

The Recreation and Wellness Center partnered with the Athletics and Fitness Association of America (AFAA) to host the annual event. AFAA APEX on February 9-11. AFAA APEX, the world’s largest fitness and Well Nestness educator, offered various certifications and workshops throughout the weekend. The following certifications were offered at this year’s event: Primary Group Exercise, Personal Fitness Trainer, Fitness for Women, Kickboxing and National Board Review.

Total participation included 220 people throughout the sessions. The event is similar to “Build a Bear,” but students can choose from many different critters and dress them in extravagant outfits. The Recreation and Wellness Center Co-hosts APEX Event.

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For the second straight year, the UCF Ice Hockey club headed to the national tournament. UCF really turned it up the second half of the season to qualify as the #4 seed from the South. This is an accomplishment for the team and a huge step towards building a great program. Last season the Knights went 2-2 at nationals, losing a sudden death shootout to #3 in the country, Penn State Berks. The Knights finished #10 in the country last year. They look to build on that this year and finish higher.

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Multicultural Office Coordinates Community College Visit

On January 26, the Office of Multicultural Academic and Support Services (MASS) coordinated their first community college visit at the University of Central Florida’s main campus to provide informational sessions to prospective students at the community college or high school level. This event was formerly coordinated through Transfer and Transition Services.

The following center and educational institutions were represented: the RETA Center, TRIO Student Support Services Programs of Daytona Beach Community College, Hillsborough Community College, Indian River Community College and St. Petersburg College. The total attendance was 95 and included presentations from Jackie Jessop (Transfer and Transition Services), Jennifer Wright (Student Financial Assistance Office) and Jennifer Wright (Student Academic Resource Center). The event concluded with the option of taking a housing tour or visiting with various academic colleges.

FTICs Honored for Outstanding Academic Achievement

This year Learning and Interacting with New Knighit (LINK) First-Year Program, in partnership with Housing Life, recognized over 1,400 First-Time-In-College (FTIC) students for their academic achievement during the fall 2006 semester. The reception included words of encouragement from Ali Pasricha, interns dean for Undergraduate Studies; and Julie Ohleszczuk, chapter president of Golden Key National Honour Society; among others. Students who attended the reception received a certificate of achievement and a First Year Scholar lapel pin.

We are very proud of these students and enjoy recognizing them for their academic accomplishments,” said Kelli Williamson, LINK coordinator. Special thanks to Housing and Residence Life, Undergraduate Studies and Campus Life for making this year’s reception a success.

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Registrar’s Office Updates

The Registrar’s Office is hard at work on assigning appointment times, dealing with the College of Nursing split and addressing changes with Multi-Term Registration (MTR). In addition, Dennis Dubnik, university registrar, was involved in the accreditation process for UCF’s new College of Medicine.

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Rosem College of Hospitality Management Campus Life provided 100 students through “Critters on Campus” with the opportunity to make that special someone a Valentine’s gift. It was so popular, they are going to have it again on April 12. The event is similar to “Build a Bear” but students can choose from many different critters and dress them in extravagant outfits.

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Jenkins is Crowned Miss UCF 2007

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Student Development

Veteran Services Passes Inspection

Veteran Services, part of the UCF Registrar's Office, underwent an inspection in January by the Bureau of State Approving for Veteran's Training. The bureau inspects schools and education programs that provide training to veterans to determine their qualification for furnishing Veterans’ approved courses and programs. Inspector Jenny George did not find any errors made by the teams led by Lee Parker, assistant university registrar George noted, “It was a pleasure to visit such a well run organization. Mr. Parker and his staff should be recognized for the outstanding job they do. Other schools would do well to model their operation in a similar fashion.”

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Housing and Residence Life recognized housing communities that attained outstanding levels of academic success. The First Year Scholars and their parents were very pleased to participate in a program that acknowledged the achievements of their students.

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Enrollment Services

Center Provides Academic Support for Chemistry Courses

The Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) is offering tutoring and Supplemental Instruction (SI) sessions for the new chemistry courses, CHM 2930 (Fundamentals of Chemistry I) and CHM 2931 (Fundamentals of Chemistry II). The Chemistry Department now offers this two-semester sequence as an alternative to Fundamentals of Chemistry I (CHM 2945) for students whose background in chemistry is not strong enough to meet this requirement in one semester.

In fall 2006, SARC provided tutoring and SI sessions to 385 students enrolled in two sections of CHM 2945. Almost half of these students attended SI sessions, with 67 percent of SI participants receiving grades of A, B and C, compared to only 33 percent for non-SI participants. Over 130 students (duplicated headcount) participated in CHM 2930 tutorial sessions and fall exam review. “So far, attendance for tutoring and SI has been strong for both subject areas and we anticipate many students will use our services throughout the spring semester,” says Jennifer Wright, associate director for SARC.

Pedro Fatias, the instructor for these chemistry courses, has been an enthusiastic supporter of SARC services and regularly encourages his students to participate in tutoring and SI.

Multicultural Support Services

Southern Region Student Services and BCC co-hosting

UCF Southern Region Student Services and Brevard Community College (BCC) co-hosted the February meeting of the Interagency Council of Brevard at the UCF Cocoa Campus. UCF Southern Region Student Services and BCC are charter members of the Interagency Council of Brevard, which started in 1990 on a grant from Brevard Public Schools’ Project Connect Program. The council consists of service providers who work with individuals with disabilities from 25 local agencies and organizations within Brevard County. BCC and UCF presented updates on resources available for students with disabilities. A highlight of the meeting was a discussion regarding the collaboration between UCF and BCC provided from the Central Florida Higher Education Consortium Agreement and DirectConnect to UCF programs.
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SDS Council Corner

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April 16, 2007 SDES Convention and Recognition Breakfast

Welcome to SDES

- Larry Hull, maintenance specialist, Student Union
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- Jeffrey Mangos, coordinator, Career Development Services, CSEL
- Rachael Ogles, office manager, First Year Advising and Exploration

At the 2006 Holiday Celebration, we hope to have started a new tradition. Our Gingerbread House competition was fun and we received many positive reviews. Congratulations to the winners: Counseling Center (People’s Choice Award), LEAD Scholars Program (Most Creative), and Registrar’s Office (Best Representation of UCF). Get your department involved. Maybe next year we’ll be congratulating you.

Do you know all 35 departments in SDES?! Only 12 percent of the people surveyed during the Holiday Celebration could name all 35. Hence, the creation of our monthly spotlight article where we will showcase a new department each month. This month, we showcase the National Consortium for Academics and Sports (NCAS).

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The University of Central Florida

Stands for Opportunity