Welcome to SDES

- Miriam Cabrera, custodial worker, Student Union (SU)
- Teresa Michaud-Chenuite, associate director, Counseling Center
- Lindsey Ervin, coordinator for aquatics, Recreation and Wellness Center (RWSC)
- Lynell Hodgto, Apollo area coordinator, Housing and Residence Life
- Christopher Holmes, educational supervisor, Health Services
- Jaime Morales, facility specialist, RWC
- Wendie North, executive secretary, Health Services
- Christopher Quiñtero, counselor/advisor, First-Year Advising and Exploration (FYAE)
- Thomas Raburn, custodial worker, SU
- Chelsea Worthington, counselor/advisor, FYAE

SDES Presentation

Academic Services for Student Athletes (ASSA) hosted the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics (N4) Region II Conference at the Marriott Hotel Downtown Orlando from September 27th to October 2nd. Over 75 people registered from 31 different universities, high schools and organizations. Richard Lapchik, UCF program director and chair for DeVos Sport Business Management Program, was the keynote speaker. The National Consortium for Academics and Sports hosted one of nine breakout sessions. ASSA staff members presented the following breakout sessions:

- Mark Grumble: “Developing an Academic Improvement Plan”
- Tim Anderson and Valerie Brown: “Dealing with Academic Dishonors”
- Sarah Hill: “Academic Coordinators Round Table Discussion.”

SDES Changes

- Pamela Rea has been appointed to the position of director for Student Disability Services. Rea replaces Phil Kalins who will be retiring from UCF this month. For the past three years, Rea has served as the Student Disability Services and most recently as assistant director. She has served as a content instructor at both UCF and Valencia teaching American Sign Language. Rea has spent much of her professional years serving as a sign language interpreter as well as working for the Orange County School district and Vocational Rehabilitation. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in Educational Leadership from UCF.
- James “Jim” Wilkening is now the new director of the Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC). He has been employed as associate director of the RWC at UCF since 2000. He brings a long history of commitment to recreation and Intramural Sports and is a certified basketball official for National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I, II and JUCO [for junior and community college]. With over 12 years of experience in student and program development including management of comprehensive recreation programs and facilities, Wilkening brings a student centered approach to the next phase of growth for the RWC.
- Dana Juntaune, former assistant director for the Office of Student Conduct, has been promoted to associate director.

SDES Hosts Kentucky Community and Technical College System

Recently, Mark Allen Poielt, associate vice president for Academic Development and Retention, and Delante Dorit, assistant vice president for Student Success Center, hosted a campus visit by eight members of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). The administrators spent the day visiting with several offices and individuals to gather information and resources on virtual student services and PeopleSoft, a recently installed system at KCTCS. After returning to Kentucky, Michael Kraus, group leader, shared that his group was “bustling” about all they learned. He lauded the wonderful hospitality and the willingness of the units to share information about the process involved in delivering services in such areas as: student records; data driven services; first-year, second-year, and transfer advisement and tracking; academic assistance; and student services on regional campuses.

Experience Universal's Halloween Horror Nights on October 21

The Activity & Service Fee Business Office has partnered with Universal Orlando® Resort to provide the UCF community with discounted tickets to Halloween Horror Nights on Sunday, October 21. Discounted tickets are $30 including tax and are only available at the SGA Ticket Center located in the Student Union. These discounted tickets also include admission to Universal’s Islands of Adventure® starting 4 p.m. and free admission to select Universal CityWalk® clubs with your ticket stub.

Tracy Balkham Awarded USPS

Employee of the Month

Tracy Balkham, office assistant in the Student Union, was selected as the university’s USPS Employee of the Month for August. Balkham has been employed with the Student Union since 1998. Prior to that, she worked 17 years in the Office of Student Activities.

“She is always willing to give 110 percent to help out students. She is a wonderful asset to our team.”

Diversity Committee Formed

The UCF Creed, integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance and decisions.

- Josh Striker, student records trainer for the Registrant Office, is serving as interim assistant director for Veteran Services.

SDES Ambassador Promote Responsible Tailgating on Game Day

The 2007 Good Sport Ambassador program, coordinated by Student Development and Enrollment Services’ Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Programming (AOD), is encouraging students to “Do the Knight Thing” for responsible tailgating during UCF home football games. The idea of “Do the Knight Thing” is to have fun, be safe and to encourage fans to behave in ways that reflect the values of UCF, including:

- Maintain respect and ensure the safety of all fans;
- Respect the law, do not drink if you are under 21;
- Be responsible if you choose to consume alcohol;
- Encourage activities that do not include the rapid consumption of alcohol;
- Dispose of all trash and recyclables in appropriate receptacles.

The role of the Good Sport Ambassador is of hospitality and assistance, not enforcement. Ambassadors promote “Do the Knight Thing” by locating resources and greeting fans, and giving out freebies, such as temporary tattoos, “Do the Knight Thing” frisbees and towels. Student Government Association (SGA), Office of Student Involvement (OSIS), Fraternity and Sorority Life, Housing and Residence Life, and AOD worked in collaboration to promote Good Sport Zones and provide fans with pre-game entertainment, food, water bottles and freebies.

“Most of the fans were great. There was tremendous excitement across the whole campus for this first ever game on the UCF campus and hopefully, it will continue,” said Kerry Welch, director for OSIS. “Fans were tailgating across the campus, grilling food, watching television (attached to portable satellite dishes), and tossing a football or frisbee. Memory Mall was a great location; lots of fans, students, staff and alumni were there. SGA did an excellent job setting up a Good Sport Zone, giving away Rock Star (energy drink), Combos (chips) and Domino’s Pizza. Some water was also provided for designated drivers. All-in-all, it was a great day for UCF.” Approximately 32 Ambassadors and many student volunteers assisted fans and promoted the message, “Do the Right Thing” and “Do the Knight Thing” in the Good Sport Zones.

“Do the Knight Thing: “The Good Sport Ambassadors are an important part of game day,” said Brittany Resnann, student. “Their presence and the giveaways really helped make tailgating a fun and safe experience. I believe that the ambassadors are essential to the establishment of positive traditions at UCF.”

“After a great time during the first home game as an Ambassador, that I would like to volunteer for all the games,” said Todd Luzar, research scientist for the Institute for Simulation & Training at UCF. “The student body was receptive to our presence and loved that we gave out free stuff (I had a few complaints the tattoos didn’t work sometimes), but what an exciting experience it was for all.”

The Good Sport Campaign

The Good Sport Campaign supports responsible fan behavior by sponsoring activities at tailgating events, such as food, soft drinks, intramural games and music. The campaign also encourages being a designated driver, exhibiting UCF spirit and sportsmanship, keeping the tailgate clean, having food and non-alcoholic beverages available and having no glass bottles.

Have Fun, Be Safe, DO THE KNIGHT THING!
Beta Theta Pi was recently recognized with the John Reily Knox Chapter of Excellence Award. The Knox Award, given only to the top 4% of chapters, is the ultimate honor for Beta Theta Pi chapters, rewarding those who exemplify the values of the fraternity. The Knox Award is named in honor of John Reily Knox, a former Beta Theta Pi and one of the fraternity’s most dedicated alumni. The Knox Award recognizes chapters that have achieved excellence in a variety of areas, including scholarship, community service, leadership, and philanthropy.
UCF Fraternity Recognized for Excellence

Bet Therta Pi was recently recognized with the John Reilly Knox Chapter of Excellence Award. The Knox Award is the highest honor given to a fraternity chapter, recognizing achievements embodying the values and objectives of the organization. Only 10 of the more than 120 chapters made it to this pinnacle.

The award was the result of a year-long effort by the UCF chapter to improve the image of the fraternity and community. The Betas’ hard work earned them other awards, including the Sunion Award (four consecutive award for this chapter, given to 13 superior chapters), Excellence in Recruitment Award and the Virginia Tech Award for Academic Achievement.

At UCF, Beta earned the superior chapter (Superior Chapters), Excellence in Recruitment (Excellence in Recruitment) and was presented with the Knox Award, the highest honor given to the John Reilly Knox Chapter of Excellence Award.

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Diversity Committee Formed Within Registrars Office
Staff from the Registrar’s Office recently came together to form a Diversity Committee. The 15-member office-based committee has been working with the support of the Office of Diversity Initiatives at UCF and university registrar. The goal is to create a more inclusive community in all realms of service, grounded in respect and appreciation for individual differences. They are endorsing a broad definition of diversity and seeking to draw from programming, presentations, and university and community resources that enhance knowledge and understanding of diversity. The committee’s first project is a presentation board, which includes artwork that represents the interpretations of each other’s perspective of diversity. The board is displayed in the Registrar’s Office, 161 Millikan Hall.

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