



UKnighted

New Programs Initiated to Assist Students to Succeed

Multicultural Academic and Support Services (MASS) kicked-off two new initiatives during the '07-08 academic year. To better serve underrepresented students, MASS launched programming for first generation students and multicultural males. Both programs are designed to provide academic support services and workshops to increase the retention and graduation rates for students in these cohorts.

The first MASS initiative is the First Generation Program. First generation students are those students whose parents or guardians have not completed a baccalaureate degree. Currently, more than 7,000 UCF students are first generation, comprising 14 percent of UCF's total population. Recognizing the importance of meeting this population's needs, MASS created the program to facilitate the students' academic and social integration and to increase their probability of success throughout college. The First Generation Program offers students peer mentoring, academic success workshops and scholarship information. Additionally, first-time-in-college first generation students receive valuable connections and transition services when they attend their orientation session.

"Many first generation students are excited to know there is an office just for them at UCF," said Diane Aronowitz, program coordinator. According to first-year nursing student Cheyenne Pandoff, "The encouragement and advice offered would make any freshman feel confident. The MASS staff sincerely cares about students and I know I will have a successful college career because of First Generation support."

MASS is working with the Office of Student Financial Assistance and serves as a connection point for students as they search for financial resources. Aronowitz notes that, "It's obvious that these students need an office to support and address their educational, personal and social concerns." And the facts support this need; according to a 2007 College Board report, first generation students have the odds stacked against them. First generation students:

- Who are multicultural are underrepresented.
- Are less likely to enroll and attend college.
- Will receive less guidance from their parents.

The report continues by stating that the first generation population continues to grow:

- 6.5 million first generation students attend colleges and universities in the U.S.
- 97,000 first generation students are in the southern region.
- There has been a 27 percent increase in the number of first generation students from the southern states attending college over the past four years.

In addition to aiding first generation students, MASS is reaching out to another population with its Brother to Brother Program (BTB). Established during Fall 2007, the program is designed to help retain and graduate multicultural and first generation males. The six-year graduation rate among the 2,000 cohort for African-American and Hispanic males was 36.8 percent and 39.1 percent, respectively. Because of the low graduation rate for multicultural males, the MASS office provided the opportunity to develop a program to help increase the retention and graduation rate for this population of students. BTB is a collaborative effort with representatives from MASS, Career Services, Housing and Residence Life, and Office of Diversity Initiatives.

There are currently 48 multicultural males in the program, who completed a comprehensive application process and were invited to join the program. The program's primary focus is on academic achievement, leadership development and mentoring. In addition, the program will provide book scholarships for students, who successfully complete the program.

Another BTB goal is to enhance the leadership skills of program participants and help increase their awareness of leadership opportunities on campus. Wayne Jackson, director for MASS, states he is pleased with the academic performance of the 48 male students. The average cumulative grade point average for the students was a 3.0, with a retention rate of 100 percent from Fall '07 to Spring '08.

Recently, Jackson took a group of male students to the National Black Student Leadership Development Conference in Washington, D.C. According to Jackson,



Left to right: Wayne Jackson, director for MASS, speaking with Winston James, electrical engineering student and participant of the Brother to Brother Program.

"This is part of the attempt to expose and develop the leadership skills of these students." BTB members have leadership roles on several student committees, including the Student Finance Board and the Late Knights committee. Additionally, one member is also a staff writer with the Central Florida Future.

Currently, State Farm is a partner of the BTB and wants to increase its involvement next year in helping to develop and train the multicultural and first generation males on campus. One of the future initiatives is to secure more external partnerships so that the BTB can expand the number of at-risk students invited into the program.

In addition to these two programs, MASS has developed several workshops including: "Graduate School Week," designed to provide students with insight into preparing for admission into graduate school, and "How to Prepare Yourself for the Corporate World," which will provide students with knowledge of tools necessary to acquire while at UCF in order to be competitive later in the corporate world.

For more information, call the MASS office at: 407.823.2716.

If you know of students who might be interested in applying for the BTB program for the '08-09 academic year, call Wayne Jackson at 407.823.2716 or e-mail wjackson@mail.ucf.edu.

Registrar's Office Sees Record Numbers for Spring Enrollment

During the registration period for Spring 2008, nearly 47,000 undergraduates registered for classes, with an increase in credit hours of 4.6 percent. The Registrar's Office itself saw over 5,650 students enter their doors between January 3-11 as part of their triage system, which has been utilized each semester since the Fall 2001. Each staff member in the office took a turn at the front door, answering students' questions, assisting them with forms or directing them to other appropriate offices. This was all part of an effort to reduce wait times for services.



The UCF community marched through the Student Union singing gospel songs.

Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr.

Students, faculty and staff honored Martin Luther King, Jr. with a procession that began at Memory Mall. Members of the UCF community joined the group as they marched through the Student Union and the John T. Washington Center singing gospel songs. At the Reflecting Pond, the crowd gathered as Bryan Arnette, senior Health Service administration student, began to recite, "I've Been to the Mountaintop," the last landmark speech King delivered in Memphis, Tennessee on April 3, 1968. Arnette is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; King was also a member of that fraternity. The march has become a tradition at UCF.

"The Multicultural Student Center and the Xi Iota chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. have partnered for three years now to remember the dream of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," said Arnette. "It is our goal to make his dream become a reality in the UCF and Orlando communities."

Leadership Week 2008: Take It or Lead It

Every year UCF generates graduates who become leaders in a diverse array of fields. As students, they gained valuable experience with servant leadership and discovered the importance of being engaged on campus.

The 11th Annual Leadership Week, taking place February 18-24, will continue to inspire UCF's next generation of servant leaders. It is a week-long event featuring guest speakers, workshops, panels and forums, all based around the theme "Take It or Lead It." Most programs are 50 minutes long and will be held in the Student Union between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Keynote speakers include: Jeff Corwin (as seen on Animal Planet), Jimmy Moore (Housing and Residence Life), Mary Frances "Gert" Garman (alumna), and Brandie Hollinger (Student Government Association).

"In today's connected society, anyone can have their voice heard and be a leader for social change," says Allie Schwartz, undergraduate program assistant, LEAD Scholars Program. "These programs will inspire students, faculty and staff to make an impact as servant leaders."

For more information, visit: www.slp.sdes.ucf.edu/leadershipweek.

Recreation and Wellness Center News Clips

BOOTCAMP at UCF

Group Fitness is taking their classes to the next level and offering an exciting new class called "Bootcamp," which is held on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. at the Recreation and Wellness Center. This is a drill-based class where participants might even be asked to battle the elements outdoors. For more information regarding programs and events at the center, visit: www.rec.ucf.edu.



*** UCF AT THE NATIONAL FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT ***



UCF was well represented at the 2007 National Flag Football Tournament in New Orleans over the holiday break, as its Men's (pictured) and Co-Rec teams both finished second. The men fell to University of Florida in the title game, and the Co-Rec squad was taken down by University of North Carolina.

UCF Davon Estelle Pictured on Sports Illustrated Web Site

Davon Estelle, group exercise fitness attendant lead and instructor for the Recreation and Wellness Center, is pictured on the Sports Illustrated Web site. He is running with the football during the game against University of North Carolina at the 2007 National Flag Football Tournament. Estelle has worked at the center for three years and is responsible for managing the fitness attendants under the supervision of the Kim Halliday, fitness specialist. His primary role is to ensure a safe and helpful workout environment for the center's members, as well as provide assistance to those working out. See Estelle's action photo at: sportsillustrated.cnn.com/multimedia/photo_gallery/0801/campus.IM.championship/content.8.html.

Welcome to the Transfer Connection

Transfer Knights, a student organization promoting transfer student involvement at UCF, introduced Spring 2008 transfers to the UCF community with the first-ever Transfer Connection Welcome event. Campus partners offered academic workshops and information sessions; academic colleges and departments provided information on student involvement in their majors; and student organizations promoted their clubs and events, sharing information on resources and how to become involved on campus.

Breakout sessions offered topics of interest to transfers: off-campus services, experiential learning, power studying techniques, and research opportunities. The event culminated with “Are you Smarter than a Freshman?” game (a take-off from a TV show), based on student involvement information. Transfer students competed against freshman for prizes.

According to Charlene Stinard, director of Transfer and Transition Services (TTS), “The Transfer Knights officers, TTS Peer Mentors, and Student Government Association (SGA) provided an outstanding example of collaboration to create a new event for transfer students. One of the critical elements of transfer student success, both for retention and graduation, is connecting to the campus community . . . getting involved. We had great support from SDES: Dr. Ehasz, and Dr. Poisel are strong advocates for transfer students. We hope to make this an even bigger event in the fall.”

Gerardo Aponte, former TTS Peer Mentor and president of



Students participating in “Are you Smarter Than a Freshman?”

Transfer Knights, reflected the students’ excitement, “We were thrilled to have SGA President Brandie Hollinger participate; the support of SGA is so important to helping transfer students connect at UCF.”

More than 30 departments, offices, clubs and organizations participated; more than one hundred students attended. Transfer Knights partnered with SGA, Transfer and Transition Services, and Career Services to host the January program.

Health Services Kicks-off the Spring with Staff Events

UCF Health Services held their Spring Kickoff and Organizational Day on January 3 to celebrate a successful fall semester and to get ready for the spring semester. Special guests included: Maribeth Ehasz, vice president for SDES; Deborah German, dean for the UCF Medical School; and Jimmy Moore, coordinator of assessment and Off-Campus Student Services for Housing & Residence Life.

The Organizational Day helped to refresh the Health Services’ staff by treating them to a variety of events. The staff was treated to lunch; given tours of the arboretum, Knight Aide—the new Health Services pharmacy and convenience store—and the new UCF Arena; and offered a variety of personal development activities ranging from beginner’s yoga and biofeedback, to a massage.

Presentations and updates on Health Services fall performance were given by members of the Health Services staff, including: Bob Wirag, Dr. Michael Deichen, Dr. James Schaus, Claudia Witcher, Terry Wheeler, Sheryl Gamble, Larry Bridgham and Terri Langford.

Health Services Fall 2007 Successes

- The development and implementation of a new and beneficial, student health insurance plan.
- The launch of the YOUR campaign.
- The launch of the 5th Guy hand washing campaign.
- The combining of the Medical Records, Immunizations and International Student Insurance office into one department: Health Information Management.
- The opening of Knight Aide, near the Towers.

Regional Campuses Welcome Students to the Spring Semester

UCF Daytona Campus

On January 10, Daytona Student Services, SGA, Volusia County Alumni Association, and the Daytona Education Department co-hosted a “Welcome Back & Blood Drive.” Approximately 75 students had the opportunity to meet with student organization representatives who encouraged students to get involved on their regional campus. SGA provided free food and drinks, and the UCF Alumni Association gave away a portable cooler. Additionally, 19 units of blood and three units of plasma were donated to Florida’s Blood Center. Another blood drive is scheduled in April.

UCF Cocoa Campus

Students were welcomed to the spring semester at the UCF Cocoa Campus with a barbecue lunch, and had the opportunity to meet the faculty and staff. They were provided information on Student Government Association, Southern Regions Student Services and campus spring activities. In addition, Southern Region Student Services showcased scholarship opportunities and sponsored a drawing for UCF Bags and UCF Creed promotional items. A total of 133 UCF students attended the event in the new student lounge. The Spring 2008 Student Welcome event was hosted by UCF Cocoa SGA.



Welcome to SDES

- **Carol Bartley**, fiscal assistant, Housing and Residence Life
- **Ketsia Caudio**, certified medical assistant, Health Services
- **Roberta Nogueira**, coordinator, Student Affairs, Recreation and Wellness Center
- **Lazette Wetzel**, senior fiscal assistant, Health Services

The UCF Creed

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

SDES Awards and Recognition

- **DeLaine Priest** was nominated for the Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate Award from the National Resource Center for the First Year Experience and Students in Transition. She was selected out of 116 qualified individuals throughout the country and was one of ten winners. This honor is awarded to educators who have had an impact on first-year students and their institution by enhancing the first year experience. Priest will be recognized in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and at the annual conference on the First-Year Experience.
- **Elsa Nieves**, registrar specialist, and **Aaron Christensen**, program assistant, were named the Registrar's Office (RO) Fall 2007 Employees of the Semester. Nieves has worked in the RO since 2001. Christensen has been with the department for a year and a half. Each will receive a plaque, a pair of movie tickets and a RO shirt. In addition, their names will be added to the list of recipients on the main Employee of the Semester plaque in the office lobby.



Brian Boyd, associate university registrar (center), presents Aaron Christensen, program assistant (left), and Elsa Nieves, registrar specialist (right), with their Employee of the Semester plaques for the Registrar's Office.

Shadows Assist at Graduation

The Registrar's Office employed SDES and College of Medicine staff to assist as "shadows" during the December commencement ceremonies.

Gloria Laureano, Mark Gumble, Mark Allen Poisel, Mayra Hoffman, Myrna Ubides, Teresa Michaelson-Chmelir (SDES staff) and Teresa Lyons-Oten (College of Medicine) volunteered as inaugural "shadows." They provided

assistance for key Registrar Marshals in directing deans to lead undergraduate students. Also, they assisted with the robing and hooding the Platform participants and faculty, and provided additional assistance, insuring that each commencement was an efficient and well-honed ceremony.

"Thanks to those who helped," said Dennis Dulniak, university registrar. "We'll welcome you back in May for an encore performance."

SDES Reconsidered: The Discussion Continues

Kerry Welch

Director, Office of Student and Involvement
Primary Facilitator, SDES Reconsidered

SDES Reconsidered is the process of adjusting the current Student Development and Enrollment Services' vision, "Building collaborative partnerships that empower students to succeed," by adding the phrase "by aligning SDES programs and services around student learning outcomes." Hopefully, this new design will provide opportunities for SDES offices and units to illustrate the student learning that results from our hard work in the delivery of programs and services.

In order to accomplish this objective, many of the leaders in the division have been involved in discussions about student learning goals and student learning outcomes. This group of SDES staff has been referred to as the SDES Reconsidered Core Group; however, that name could be a bit misleading in that it is a fluid group with new members continually being added. They have met in various groupings on numerous occasions to delineate this vision.

Those discussions led to the selection of fifteen Learning Guides (see list) who have been engaged in additional training and have worked diligently to devise innovative approaches toward furthering this vision. The Learning Guides represent a cross-section of units and offices in the division. The Learning Guides have been assigned to all of the offices and units across the division to act as liaisons, to provide technical assistance, and enthusiastically to support the achievement of this vision.

Our division's development of student learning outcomes will be based on the five learning domains of The UCF Creed: Creativity, Community, Scholarship, Integrity and Excellence. The Learning Guides and the Core Group are currently in the process of developing sub-categories of these five learning domains to make it easier for SDES units to develop their own student learning outcomes. By defining the learning domains (Creed) more specifically

(i.e. sub-categories), we will be able to more confidently align student learning outcomes across the division. This may, in turn, lead to discovering how we might tailor our programs and services to be more intentional so that students develop in holistic ways. Ultimately, we hope that students will be able to identify how experiences at UCF, especially those that result from their engagement in SDES services and programs, have influenced their development as responsible global citizens.

On January 28, the Core Group met to further discuss the vision for SDES Reconsidered, continue to learn the terminology associated with learning domains, become more familiar with the timeline and logistics, and also better understand how the Institutional Effectiveness Plans and SDES Reconsidered interconnect. The Core Group members also had an opportunity to practice developing student learning outcomes. The immediate future of SDES Reconsidered calls for reviewing and further editing the sub-categories, additional practice on writing learning outcomes and continuing to develop the vision.

For more information and photos, visit: www.sdes.ucf.edu and click on Staff News and Information.

SDES Reconsidered Learning Guides

Celena Daniels
Felix Daniels
Terry Exum
Matt Fitzgerald
Suzi Halpin
Karen Hofmann
Bernadette Jungblut
Stacey Malaret
Jimmy Moore
Vivian Ortiz
Mary Owens
FritzLaine Powell
Christopher Quintero
Pamela Rea
Jennifer Wright



At Station 2, the Core Group discussed the vision of SDES Reconsidered.



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