



# UKnighted

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## Pegasus Palooza Events Welcome Students to UCF

Students were welcomed to the Fall semester with Pegasus Palooza 2008, a week of events, activities and competitions. These events provided an opportunity for students to connect with other students, the UCF community and local area vendors. Some of the fun and informative events included a Kickoff Speaker, The Gauntlet, Welcome Expo and Late Knights.

- **Kickoff Speaker:** Chris Skinner, who once was involved in a car accident that forever changed his life, shared his story of tragedy-to-triumph with students. He presented an inspiring, motivational talk for students to stay focused and make their school year a success. Skinner was recipient of the 2007 National Spinal Cord Hall of Fame's "Emerging Leader Award."

- **The Gauntlet:** On August 27, over 1,500 students had the opportunity to meet prominent UCF Athletics staff members, players, cheerleaders and band members. Activities and entertainment included photo opportunities, inflatables, a quarterback challenge course and a field-goal-kicking competition.

- **Welcome Expo:** The expo was a showcase of information and giveaways to welcome students and acquaint them with the UCF community. Over 140 tables of UCF clubs, organizations, academic departments, student services offices and local area vendors were represented. Students were able to make connections and ask questions directly to staff members. The colleges of Arts & Humanities, Sciences, Education and Rosen

College of Hospitality Management were among the many colleges represented. Student Development and Enrollment Services offices were also represented with the Student Academic Resource Center, University Testing Center, Career Services, Orientation Services, Registrar's Office, Health Services, Housing and Residence Life and more. Several vendors from the local community included: Giovanni's, Macy's, Florida Hospital, Wet 'n Wild, Universal Studios and others.

Over 1,960 participants attended the Welcome Expo. The event was hosted by the Office of First Year Advising and Exploration and co-sponsored by the Student Government Association.

- **Late Knights:** Over 2,300 students participated in the fun, safe and free Late Knights event, "Rush Black and Gold Pep



At the Welcome Expo, a student asks a question about Health Services.

Rally." Dressed in school spirit, students got energized for the first home football game of the season the following day. The activities and entertainment included a DJ, postcard pictures, face painting, caricature artists, prizes and eight inflatables. Highlighted events included a bungee run, rock wall, velcro wall, gladiator joust, human foosball and human bowling. At midnight students enjoyed hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans, and Asian donuts from Wackadoo's.

Pegasus Palooza 2008 events offered 12,000 LINK (Learning and Interacting with New Knights) Loot points. The points can be used to bid on free prizes at an auction at the end of each semester.



Student with football at The Gauntlet



Chris Skinner, Kickoff Speaker



Late Knight fun

## Fitness Programs Offered at Center

The Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC) offers a variety of fitness programs, including Half Marathon Training Course, F.I.T. Course and Triathlon Cardio Challenge.

- **Half Marathon Training Course** – An enrollment-based class offered twice per week through the Fall semester. It starts off slow, and gradually prepares participants to compete in the OUC Half Marathon held on December 6 at Lake Eola, Downtown Orlando. Participants are expected to attend a minimum of one of the two class meetings per week, but attending both is preferred. The course is free for UCF students, but participants are responsible for their own registration to the marathon (deadline: September 10).

- **Fitness Instructor Training (F.I.T.) Course** – The training is especially for individuals interested in becoming a certified group fitness instructor. The participants will meet once-a-week for a 5-week period at the end of the Fall semester, and students will be taught the skills necessary to succeed as a group fitness instructor. The class will meet again for a few times at the beginning of the Spring semester to review before Aerobics and Fitness Association of America (AFAA) Primary Group Fitness Certification, held at the RWC on February 6.

- **Triathlon Cardio Challenge** – Students will be given one month to work towards and complete each of the values of a triathlon: 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike and 26.2 mile run. Each participant will be given a folder with a log to track their progress that will be kept at the RWC. Each time a participant comes in and works toward the values, it will be recorded in their folder by a fitness staff member. Fitness staff members will be on hand and ready to assist participants. Prizes will be awarded to those who finish before the month is up.



Devon Estelle teaching students a variety of techniques to fine tune their abs for the F.I.T. Course.

## Testing Center Receives National Recognition

The University Testing Center (UTC) received national recognition from the College Board as being one of the top 100 College Level Examination Program (CLEP) test centers in the country administering the most CLEP exams in 2007-08. This is the 5th consecutive year that UTC has been recognized with the outstanding honor. The center is committed to the CLEP program and providing exams as an educational opportunity that will help connect students to college success.

## UCF FRATERNITY RECEIVES NATIONAL TOP HONORS

The Mu Psi Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. was named a “2008 Rock Chapter” at the Fraternity’s 63rd Grand Chapter, a biennial convention held July 11-16 in Austin, Texas. Of the more than 180 active chapters and colonies, Mu Psi was one of only four chapters honored with this prestigious award.

The Rock Chapter recognizes collegiate chapters that attain excellence in 11 overall areas of chapter operations including: recruitment, candidate education, alumni, finances, chapter home, social program, scholarship, chapter organization, campus leadership, interfraternal participation, and community service. The criteria for the Rock Chapter award must be met and sustained for an extended period of three years. To give the award added significance, a piece of The Rock, upon which the Fraternity was founded, is the focal point of the engraved plaque.

From its very inception, the Mu Psi Chapter has set its sights on excellence. The chapter was officially chartered at UCF just three years ago, making this the first year Mu Psi could have been eligible for this distinction.

“We are extremely excited for this acknowledgment of our hard work and dedication to excellence,” said current chapter Commander (President) Marcus Baum. “It is incredibly rewarding to know that our commitment to values and strong stance against hazing is recognized nationally, and that really sets us apart from other chapters on campus.”

Additionally, Baum was selected to fill a coveted Collegiate Grand Councilman position. As one of four appointed members, Baum will serve as a voting student representative on the Fraternity’s High Council (Board of Directors), where he will make policy decisions and help guide and shape the future of the international organization.

## RA Training 2008: Ordinary Heroes

The Department of Housing and Residence Life completed its annual Fall training for 175 Resident Assistants (RA) working on the main campus, Rosen College of Hospitality Management and at Pegasus Landing. Of the 175 resident assistants, approximately 75 are in the RA job for the first time.

The residence life staff got back to basics this year with its theme for 2008-09, “Ordinary Heroes.” While learning many competency skills to assist them with their RA position such as crisis response and community development, the RA staff also received a great deal of intentional focus from presenters and supervisory staff on how to be active and ordinary heroes on a daily basis with community residents.

During the 10-day training, residence life staff also had the opportunity to play ultimate frisbee, plan a community roll call and lip-sync, and were welcomed into their training by the RA Reception of Heroes event.

Many SDES and other university staff and faculty assisted in making this year’s training another wonderful success for Housing’s RA heroes.

## Rosen Welcomes Students For Fall Semester

Rosen College of Hospitality Management students were welcomed to the Fall semester with a variety of events including the “Jamaican Me Crazy” Luau 2008. Students enjoyed the sounds of steel drums and danced the Limbo. Other activities included hair braiding and hermit crab races. Students enjoyed Caribbean Jerk seasoned hamburgers (grilled with pineapple), hot dogs and snow cones. In a raffle drawing, students had the opportunity to win prizes, such as Universal Studio tickets and UCF-Rosen College license plates. The event was hosted by Rosen Student Life and Housing and Residence Life.



Students pose for a photo at the Luau.

## Connecting to the UCF Community:

### A Letter from Sharisse Kenney, Transfer and Transition Services Peer Mentor

For transfer students, adjusting to UCF can be a little overwhelming. In addition to housing, class sizes, tuition and books, becoming part of the campus community can only add to the anxiety. As a transfer student myself I am fully aware of these pressures and I can honestly say that once students establish a connection, everything else will fall into place. On that note let me suggest my recent experience as a way to make that connection – Study Abroad Program.

During this summer, I took a trip that impacted my life in more ways than one. I took a chance and decided to travel to Spain for the UCF Study Abroad program in Nerja. At first I was hesitant to go, I mean even though the price was reasonable, I still had to get a loan, plus I didn't really know anyone who was registered for the program. The more I researched the program, however, the more excited I became. I met with Professor Consuelo Stebbins, program advisor, and that was it for me. Before I knew it I was packed and sitting on a 7-hour flight to Spain.

While in Spain, I met Amy Bauschlicher (transfer student), Gerardo Aponte (TTS Peer Mentor), Dr. Mark Allen Poisel (SDES) and Ms. Beverly Azure (Academic Services). Our adventures began in Madrid where we visited everything from the Prado Real to the Prado Art Museum. After a couple days, we traveled to southern Spain, Andalusia, to a quaint seaside town called Nerja. This beautiful place was where we began our 2-week intensive Spanish program, completely immersed in the native culture. Over the next couple weeks, we had so much fun. We spoke Spanish, studied on a Mediterranean beach; hung out in tapas bars [serves Spanish appetizers]; learned to dance salsa; prepared paella [Spanish rice dish with various meats and seafood]; and



Left to right: Students Jen Rosen, Sharisse Kenney, Kristy Carter, Max Rappaport, Gerardo Aponte and Chaperone Mark Allen Poisel in Almunecar, Spain

traveled to places like historic Seville and exotic Morocco.

The entire experience undoubtedly changed my life. I visited and fell in love with a country that I never imagined I would ever see. I made lifelong friends and bonded with fellow transfer students and it was all made possible by UCF. Study Abroad enabled me to make a connection with my university that I will forever treasure, and it is an opportunity that I encourage all transfer students to take advantage of.

## Peer Mentor Program Assists First Year Office

The Office of First Year Advising and Exploration (FYAE) coordinates a Peer Mentor Program to assist the advising team in connecting with the large number of freshman students. The purpose of the program is to ensure that each freshman student is able to receive advising assistance when needed.

The Mentors support FYAE during First Time In College orientation sessions and the freshmen registration period. In addition, they also assist office staff with advising outreach programs. The Peer Mentors are available on a walk-in basis to help students navigate myUCF, answer general questions regarding their degree audit, and assist with basic course selection. In addition to working individually with students, these student mentors present a variety of workshops during the year with topics ranging from major exploration to understanding UCF policies and procedures. During the Spring semester, they conduct sessions that help students complete online Transient Forms and answer questions about the transient process.



Peer Mentor helping student

## UCF Welcomes Returning Veterans

James Middlekauff, assistant university registrar, Registrar's Office, was recently named chair of the Returning Veterans Program at UCF and has initiated several programs to assist and honor them.

Middlekauff has already identified 41 veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom and is re-establishing the Student Veterans Association on campus. In collaboration with Student Disability Services, Middlekauff has initiated a point paper for deans and faculty to create awareness of some of the issues, problems and concerns that our veteran students may encounter.

To honor returning veterans, a special section of 60 seats were set aside for the season opening football game, and the group was honored on the field before the game began. Furthermore, for each of the other home games, one seat will be set aside for a veteran who will also be recognized for his/her service at the game.

Middlekauff is collaborating with SDES to seek grant funds to expand the program to include advising, counseling, registration and much more. He will also be working on admissions issues, community college connections, and recognizing all the veterans attending UCF.

### The UCF Creed

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

## Welcome to SDES

- **Heather Anderson**, program assistant, Registrar's Office (RO)
- **Anasara Cosme**, administrative assistant, Office of Student Involvement
- **Renita Culpepper**, cashier supervisor, Health Services (HS)
- **Mario Damaso**, maintenance specialist, Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC)
- **Donovan Faustino**, senior computer specialist, RWC
- **Lynell Hodge**, area coordinator—Libra Community, Housing and Residence Life
- **Katherine "Katie" Kanable**, area coordinator—Apollo Community, Housing and Residence Life
- **Nicole Lamoureux**, program assistant, college support, RO
- **Joseph Negrillo**, coordinator, administrative services, HS
- **Sarah Parbels**, academic advisor, Academic Services for Student-Athletes (ASSA)
- **John Parker**, program assistant, certification and transient students, RO
- **Erik Range**, coordinator, academic support services, Multicultural Academic and Support Services
- **Abby Riggenschach**, coordinator for academic advising services, Student Academic Resource Center
- **Kavita Sawh**, program assistant, Counseling Center
- **Melanie Thomas**, academic advisor, ASSA
- **Corey Tickner**, coordinator—Nike Community, Housing and Residence Life
- **Joshua Wheeler**, coordinator, student affairs, Orientation Services

## SDES Division Changes

• **Rebekah McCloud** is the new director for the UCF's Upward Bound Program. She has accumulated over 30 years of service as an educator and administrator (K-12 and higher education, including former positions at UCF) and professional journalist. McCloud has earned a B.A. in Communications/Journalism, M.Ed. in Educational Leadership, M.S. in Business Management, and an Ed.D in Curriculum and Instruction. McCloud was previously employed at UCF in a number of positions, including associate director of the Office of Diversity Initiatives, director of Minority Programs in Education, and director of Academic Support Services, College of Education. Throughout her career, McCloud has received numerous professional and civic awards.



Rebekah McCloud

## SDES Awards and Recognition

- **Jeff Novak** completed his doctorate degree in Educational Leadership.

## SDES Reconsidered

### Kerry Welch

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It has been just over a year since we first began developing core learning domains (The UCF Creed), devising divisional learning objectives, and integrating student learning outcomes into the work of SDES offices. We have moved quickly for a division of this size and diversity of programs and services, and it is a real tribute to SDES staff that this process has gone so well. Isn't it amazing how time flies when we are having fun?

The next stage of mapping the division continues with the SDES Core Group meeting in September. In preparation for that meeting, SDES offices were asked to submit all their student learning outcomes for 2008-09. This request included, but was not limited to, those outcomes that were part of the 2008-09 Institutional Effectiveness plans. By using all student learning outcomes that have emerged from SDES Reconsidered, we will be able to better identify some of the strengths of the division and also areas that might warrant additional emphasis.

Over the last several months five horizontal teams within the division have emerged – focused on student assistant training, risk management, non-traditional student services, spirituality, and SDES staff orientation and training. In some ways, these five teams are similar. For example, each team includes a cross-section of SDES staff and is based on common student learning outcomes. Each team has its differences as well, for example, in terms of meeting frequency and leadership style. Additional horizontal teams will evolve as we continue to pursue best practices and attainment of student learning outcomes.

I encourage each of you to consider how you might promote SDES Reconsidered as a model for student program and service delivery by continuing to reach out to students and to your SDES colleagues.

Please attend Core Group planning sessions when you are available, and take an active role on the horizontal teams that best serve your students, your office and your expertise or interests.



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Stands for Opportunity

## Registrar's Office Recognizes Elizabeth Cooper



Elizabeth Cooper

Elizabeth Cooper, program assistant, was named the Registrar's Office (RO) Summer 2008 Employee of the Semester. According to Paul Viau, associate university registrar, Cooper was recognized for her willingness to go above and beyond her usual set of duties and take on additional responsibilities. "For Elizabeth, doing this was never a chore but an opportunity to learn new skills and to work with a wider group of people," said Viau. Cooper has been with the RO for three years. She received a plaque, UCF shirt and a pair of movie tickets. In addition, her name will be added to the list of recipients on the main Employee of the Semester plaque in the office lobby.

## Health Services Builds Teamwork

On August 18, UCF Health Services hosted the Fall Kickoff '08, themed "Teamwork." Student Development and Enrollment Services Vice President Maribeth Ehasz and Associate Vice President Mark Allen Poisel presented an overview of SDES and then Christopher Quintero and Mary Owens discussed the progress SDES Reconsidered continues to make.

Linda Gooch, UCF cheerleading coach, gave a highly motivating keynote address along with videos of her national championship team. The Health Services leadership team reviewed program highlights and goals for the coming year, followed by the presentation of the Unsung Hero Award to Carol Miller, Medical Records Specialists in the Health Information Management Department. This Unsung Hero award is presented to an individual that works behind the scene, going beyond the "call of duty" to create a work environment that encompasses the mission of the UCF Health services.

A spirited Tailgate Party followed to kick off the new season.



Staff members cooked hot dogs, chili, sauerkraut and baked beans for Health Services' Fall Kickoff luncheon.