Welcome to SDES

- Heather Anderson, program assistant, Registrar’s Office (RO)
- Amanda Cosme, administrative assistant, Office of Student Involvement
- Renita Culppeyer, cashier supervisor, Health Services (HS)
- Mario Damaso, maintenance specialist, Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC)
- Donnae Feinstein, senior computer specialist, RWC
- Lynell Hodge, area coordinator–Libra Community, Housing and Residence Life
- Katherine “Katie” Kanable, area coordinator–Apolis Community, Housing and Residence Life
- Nicole Lamoureux, program assistant, college support, RO
- Joseph Negriello, 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, Multidisciplinary Academic and Support Services
- Abby Riggenbach, coordinator for academic advising services, Student Academic Resource Center
- Kavita Sanyal, program assistant, Counseling Center
- Melanie Thomas, academic advisor, ASSA
- Corey Tickner, coordinator–Nika 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.

SDES Awards and Recognition

- Jeff Novak completed his doctorate degree in Educational Leadership.
- Registrars Office Recognizes Elizabeth Cooper

It has been just over a year since we first began developing core learning domains (The UCF Core), 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 well. It’s not always an easy road, and we’re still learning.

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 the 2005-09 period. 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 program student 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.

SDES Reconsidered

Kerry Welch
Director, Office of Student Involvement
Primary Facilitator, SDES Reconsidered
407.823.6471 • kwelch@mail.ucf.edu

Health Services Builds Teamwork

On August 18, UCF Health Services hosted the Fall Kickoff ’08, themed “Teammwork.” Student Development and Enrollment Services Vice President Murthibh Elsas and Associate Vice President Mark Allen Ponsell 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 addressing the process of her national championship team. The Health Services leadership team reviewed program highlights and goals for the current 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.

Welcome Expo: The exhibition is 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: GDG, 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, “Flash Black and Gold Pep 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 more 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 Interact with New Knights) Lost points. The points can be used to bid on prizes at an auction at the end of each semester.

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.
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Student Development and Enrollment Services
SDES empowers students to succeed by adding values
Fitness Programs Offered at Center
The Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC) offers a variety of fitness programs, including Half Marathon Training Course, ELT Course, and Triathlon Cardio Challenge.

Half Marathon Training Course – An enrollment-based class offered twice per week throughout 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 classes 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 (ELT) 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 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 residence life. The Rock Chapter recognizes collegiate athletes who put in the effort and shape the future of the international relationship. As one of four appointed members, Middlekauff was selected to fill a coveted Collegiate Grand Councilman position. As one of four appointed members, Middlekauff was selected to fill a coveted Collegiate Grand Councilman position.

The Mu Psi Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. was named a “2008 Rock Chapter” at the Fraternity’s 6th 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 significant meaning, 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 Grand Council 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.

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. Many students used this 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.

Peer Mentor Program Assist First Year Office
The Office of First Year Advising and Exploration (FYAE) coordinates a Peer Mentor Program to assist the incoming students 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.

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 Baschlicher (transfer student), Gerardo Aponte (TTS Peer Mentor), Dr. Mark Allen Fisel (SEDES) and Ms. Beverly Azure (Academic Services). Our adventures began in Madrid where we visited everything from the Palacio 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 [serve Spanish appetizers], learned to dance salsa, prepared paella [Spanish rice dish with various meats and seafood], and 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 thought I knew. I have many wonderful memories that I forever treasure, and it is an opportunity that I encourage all transfer students to take advantage of.
Rosen Welcomes Students for Fall Semester

Rosen College of Hospitality Management students were welcomed to the Fall semester with a spirit of excitement, as they were introduced to 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 during 26 Fall Welcome events. 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.

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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.

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

Connecting to the UCF Community:
A Letter from Sharisse Kenney, Transfer and Transition Services Peer Mentor

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Registrar’s Office Recognizes 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.

SDES Reconsidered
Kerry Welch
Director, Office of Student and Involvement Primary Facilitator, SDES Reconsidered 407.823.6471 • kwelch@mail.ucf.edu

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