The UCF Creed

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

SDES Division Changes

• Jennifer Alger was promoted to assistant director for the Office of Academic Services for Student-Athletes.

• Lynn Hansen is the new director for Career Services. She has spent sixteen years in the field of Career Services and Experiential Education.

Hansen comes to UCF from the University of West Florida (UFW) in Pensacola where she was the director for Career Services for seven years. Her career started at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIUC) and continued at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and Illinois University at Carbondale (SIUC) where she developed and managed career services. Hansen's expertise includes professional development, career counseling, and administration of career services.

SDES Reconsidered

Karen Welch
Director, Office of Student and Involvement
Primary Faculty SDES Reconsidered
407.823.6471 • kpwelch@mail.ucf.edu

SDES Learning Conference in December

We are currently designing a December 2008 SDES Learning Conference to continue building on the work we have already done to better understand and promote student learning. We envision a three-day conference to facilitate our collective growth and emerging expertise in student learning outcomes and assessment. While we hope all SDES Reconsidered Core Group members, Learning Guides, horizontal teams, Career Success grant recipients, and other SDES staff members will participate all three days, we realize this may not be possible. Therefore, we have a menu of options for participation.

On Wednesday, December 17, all SDES staff members are invited to attend morning and early afternoon interactive sessions based on the campus-wide Core Commitments project and nationwide best practices in values education – and to network with other representatives from our faculty colleagues during their afternoon poster session and reception. On Thursday, December 18, multiple capacity building sessions will focus on developing qualitative values education programs in SDES. Participants will engage in hands-on, cost-based activities to explore student learning outcomes, learning strategies, program development and delivery, and assessment.

Friday will showcase current SDES efforts in values education, including a lunch and poster presentations. This will be an opportunity to learn from our peers by attending presentations of those programs that are “best practices” in our division. Those units whose work has resulted in learning gains for students – and who have developed horizontal team activities to reduce duplication, enhance existing programs and services, or develop new ones – will have an opportunity to share with participants the extent of those gains and the processes they have used to attain their positive results.

It is important to remember, however, that this Learning Conference is just one step in a longer process. We expect building staff capacity and expertise in delivering programs and assessing student learning outcomes will require one to three years of professional development experiences, depending on the frequency and intensity of those activities. (Piper, 2007). In addition, as with many initiatives that attempt to increase institutional accountability, the assessment of student learning outcomes will need to be flexible and adjustable to changing institutional contexts. Therefore, professional development is not

Performance Promotes Awareness: Dangers of Eating Disorders

The Recreation and Wellness is partnering with Fraternity and Sorority Life to bring nationally acclaimed performance to the UCF campus titled, “Eaten Alive Adaptive”. Broadway actress Eva Van Dijk is performing the one-woman theatre piece about the dangers of eating disorders. The 75-minute show is about the lives of five women who suffer from some form of an eating disorder. The production will illustrate the behaviors and thought processes of these five women as they struggle through their lives battling with their disorders.

The UCF Upward Bound Program was established in late 1965 as one of the initiatives of President Lyndon B. Johnson's “War on Poverty” campaign. The program was an effort to link students, who have been defined as low income and first generation potential college students, to institutions of higher education. Upward Bound is sponsored by the Federal Office of Education and is the oldest and most successful Federal TRIO Program. UCF received federal Upward Bound Program grant funding for fiscal years 2008-2011 – the proposal is funded for the full $250,000 per year budget requested, for a total of $1,000,000.

The UCF Upward Bound Program (UBP) had a successful six-week summer residential program. The inaugural class of 50 students were predominantly rising 9th graders attending either Colonial High School (18 students) or University High School (12 students). Of the 50 students, 49 are first generation, 45 are low-income, 15 are male and 35 are female. During this free, six-week program, students had the opportunity to reside in the on-campus residence halls and experience UCF.

The UBP provided a number of services and workshops such as: note-taking, reading comprehension, memory, test-taking skills, study skills, learning styles, technology utilization, goal setting, motivation, self-esteem, leadership development and time management. The following individuals supported the program’s efforts: Edwanna Andrews, Melanie Ballock, Ana Mack, Sarah Hill and Felix Daniels (SDIES); and Kureen Campbell, Michael Freeman and Renee Marshall (Student Activities and Leadership Community). The program also received support from the following individuals and their departments: Dennis Berrin (UCF Bookstore) provided each student a book, 7 Habits for Highly Effective Teens, book bags and T-shirts; Wendy Shevly (UCF Dining Services) worked with UBP's schedule, often opening early; Tamara Jones (Housing and Residence Life) provided a graduate assistant as a contact and presented at UBP’s orientation; and Elizabeth Kilguff (UCF Libraries) provided Information Fluency training for UBP staff and was supportive of the UBP program and students.

Highlights of the summer included the Mr. and Ms. Upward Bound Pageant and the first annual awards ceremony. The pageant provided a creative environment for students to showcase their talents as singers, dancers, poets, actors and musicians. Newly crowned Mr. and Ms. Upward Bound, Marcos Magana and Julia Schaffer, will represent Upward Bound this academic year. The pageant helped build students’ self-esteem and leadership skills. President John C. Hitt was in attendance at the awards ceremony to congratulate scholars and their parents on their success completion of the summer residential program.

What's Next for Upward Bound?

The academic year will continue to provide learning opportunities that were started in the summer resident component. Curriculum will continue to target FCAT deficits and core-curriculum subject areas.

Facilitated in part by UCF tutors and Orange County Public School teachers, instruction will be provided throughout the academic year in math, science, language arts and foreign language. Students will receive face-to-face tutoring twice a week with additional online support. The program will also include a monthly Saturday session.

In addition to the tutoring program, the UBP will be developing a formal mentoring program. This past summer, all of the Upward Bound students were informally monitored by a UCF undergraduate student or staff member. The informal mentoring will be ongoing and as the program progresses, a formal mentoring program will be established.

Designed to connect UBP students with key faculty, staff, peer mentors, alumni and community mentors, the program will be used to enhance academic advising, aid with retention, and provide social integration for UBP participants. Additionally, an e-mail/online mentor program will be established.

Upward Bound helps to prepare first-generation, low-income students to successfully complete the high school and enter post-secondary school as full participants,” said Rebekah McCloud, UBP director. “It is a critical element that provided a K-20 link and access to higher education. I’m excited to present the program and our partnership with Orange County Public Schools. The Upward Bound Program is a wonderful opportunity for UCF to build partnerships and collaborations with colleges and universities across the nation. I’m honored to have been selected as the program’s director.”

Julie Schaffer and Marcos Magana
The LEAD Scholars were introduced to personal leadership through various workshops and team-building activities such as a ropes course and other activities. The aim was to help students learn about the college experience, how to deal with change, and coming to college as a freshman may be the most difficult of their lives. Students were encouraged to move forward and make the most of their time at the university. The retreat was held at the Warren Student Union Center, Counseling Center, The Princeton Review, Graduate Studies, Office of Undergraduate Research, Office of Student Involvement, LINK, Kaplan (test prep for exams, such as GRE, SAT, etc.), American Medical Student Association, Golden Key International Honour Society, and Tutors Advancing Student Knowledge. Staff, faculty, and peers answered students' questions and provided informational materials as well as promotional items. Tutors and SI Leaders provided hands-on demonstrations on effective study strategies applied to different disciplines.

The Learning Fair, co-sponsored by The Princeton Review, offered academic workshops to enhance students' learning skills, covering topics such as test-taking strategies for GMAT, GRE and LSAT, How to Manage Test Anxiety, Learning Styles, and How to Study Science. By attending the Learning Fair, first-year students earned 1,000 LINK points, which can be used later in the semester at the LINK Association. Learning Fair attendees also enjoyed free food and door prizes. A total of 519 student participants participated in the Learning Fair. This was an increase of 19 percent from last year's event. Students enjoyed the opportunity to mingle with the Disney international students on September 12 at the "International Mix & Mingle." Students enjoyed live music by a Mariachi band, free mocktails and food prepared by the international students representing France, Mexico, Africa, Brazil, Portugal, and China. They decorated their food tables with their country flags and colors. The UCFA/Disney program is a continuing education program in which students from all over the world come to take hospitality courses at UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management and get practical experience working in the field at Walt Disney World for six months. When the course is complete, the students receive a certificate in hospitality management.

The 1st Place winning team included Jared Greenbaum, Jordan Palmaquior, Zach Merz and Daniel Andrews. Each participant received a pair of tickets to Universal Studios' Islands of Adventure. They found a card in the middle of the room, followed the next clue, and returned back to claim their victory in less than 30 minutes. "The Amazing Race is great because it gives students an opportunity to find out about the campus," said Palmaquior.

Second Place recipients received $25 Best Buy gift cards and the 3rd Place recipients received $15 Barnes and Noble gift cards. Participants in the top 20 teams received gift bags with T-shirts, pencils, folders and water bottles. The Amazing Race is coordinated by the Learning and Interacting with New Knights (LINKS) program.

**Student Development**

The Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) held its fifth annual Learning Fair on September 10 showcasing the academic support services available to assist UCF students. The event's goal was to target first-year students to foster academic success and to retain students through the development of relevant personal and academic skills, and through increased awareness and use of learning support services offered.

Display tables included SARC tutoring, Supplemental Instruction (SI), University Testing Center, Math Lab, University Writing Center, Recreation and Wellness Center, Counseling Center, The Princeton Review, Graduate Studies, Office of Undergraduate Research, Office of Student Involvement, LINK, Kaplan (test prep for exams, such as GRE, SAT, etc.), American Medical Student Association, Golden Key International Honour Society, and Tutors Advancing Student Knowledge. Staff, faculty, and peers answered students' questions and provided informational materials as well as promotional items. Tutors and SI Leaders provided hands-on demonstrations on effective study strategies applied to different disciplines.

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**Enrollment Services**

**Informative and Fun Events at UCF Orlando and Other UCF Campus Locations**

**UCF Cocoa and UCF Palm Bay**

Over 200 UCF students didn’t let the possibility of more rain showers dampen their Fall welcome sponsored by Student Government Association (SGA) on September 10. UCF students turned out for food, fun, and a chance to connect to UCF Cocoa resources that included SGA, student organizations, the Writing Center, Library, Bookstore, Regional Campuses Student Services, and Academic Advising.

The UCF Palm Bay and Brevard Community College (BCC) program partnered on September 3 to welcome new and returning students to the Palm Bay Campus. The event included resource tables and a scavenger hunt facilitated by Regional Campuses Student Services. Students were encouraged to ask questions and get information about everything the resource table had to offer. Once students visited a table, a staff member would sign their resource table forms. Students who completed their forms were entered in a drawing. A total of 536 UCF and BCC students, faculty, staff, and community members attended the event (492 were students: 60 UCF, 451 BCC and one UCF/BCC).

**UCF Daytona Beach**

UCF Daytona Beach held a Welcome Back Bash for students on August 26. The bash was co-hosted by UCF Student Government Association (SGA) and student organizations. The Student Nursing Association collected school supply donations for Volusia County schools as an admission fee. Fun and games included hula hoop contests, bean bag tosses, balloon darts, video games, snow cones and face painting. The popular dunking booth was co-sponsored by SGA and the Education Department. Food and drinks were provided. Over 150 students, faculty and staff attended the event.
The Learning Fair 2008: Building Blocks of Success

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Accelerated Students Get Special Attention

The Sophomore and Second Year Center (SSYC) provides numerous transitions to UCF including intentionally focused, advising support services to Accelerated First Time In College (FTIC) students. These students come to UCF with 45 or more college credits earned from Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, College Level Examination Program, and dual enrollment accelerated mechanisms.

The advising services and on-going communication begins before orientation and continues through the completion of the students’ first year of college. The retention rate of Accelerated FTIC’s for continued enrollment into the following year has increased from 70 percent in 2004-2005 to 87 percent in 2005-2006. Since Fall 2004, 546 Accelerated FTIC’s have enrolled at UCF. In 2008, SSYC staff connected with counselors and students to provide information on admissions, financial services and advising support. This year, 15 Accelerated FTIC’s entered UCF from Collegiate High School (through Broward Community College), and 13 from College of Education at Broward Community College. A testimonial received from a recent accelerated student reflects the appreciation for this individualized attention: “Without the help of the Sophomore and Second Year Center orientation and acclamation to UCF would have been very difficult and challenging. The e-mail reminders really helped me stay on task to get things done on time.”

Students Develop Leadership Skills at Retreat

First-year students were given an introduction of leadership through various team-building activities such as a ropes course and reflection sketches. They were introduced to personal leadership through various workshops and given an introduction of personality assessment and a presentation based on the bestselling book, “Who Moved My Cheese?” by Spencer Johnson. This book focuses on leadership development by introducing to personal awareness and use of learning support services.

Students enjoyed music from the live band as they danced around the room.

Housing Residents Offered Opportunities of Leadership

Housing and Residence Life announced that the United Resident Student Association (URSA) hosted the 1st Annual Resident Leadership Institute on September 7. The event was a way for residents of the core campus and the extended campus to learn new leadership skills and network with other leaders within the residence halls. URSA staff members facilitated sessions on topics such as leadership styles, conflict resolution and communication skills. The event was also designed to recruit residents to apply for student leadership positions within their organization. Over 50 residents attended, representing 11 housing communities. URSA thanks SDES staff and area council advisors who assisted in the success of the 1st Annual Resident Leadership Institute.

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UCF Daytona Beach

Wouldn’t Daytona Beach hold a Welcome Back Bash for students on August 28? It was co-hosted by Undergraduate Research Office, Student Government Association (SGA) and campus student organizations. The Student Nursing Association collected school supply donations for Volusia County schools as an admission fee. Fun and games included bag hoop contests, bean bag tosses, balloon darts, video games, snow cones and face painting. The popular dunking booth was co-sponsored by SGA and the Education Department. Food and drinks were provided. Over 150 students, faculty and staff attended the event.

UCF South Lake and UCF Leesburg

The Fall 2008 semester began strong with Welcome Back Bashes as the UCF South Lake and UCF Leesburg Campuses partnered with Lake-Sumter Community College. The UCF Association for Childhood Education International table in Leesburg attracted many students because their apple bobbing activity. It was a great attraction along with T-shirts, calendars and other giveaways from Student Government Association. South Lake students were able to show their interest in helping to start new organizations by signing-up for future meetings. Candy, truffles, pizza and soda were enjoyed by all. A great way to start the new academic year.

Orlando Campus

…and they’re off! Fifty teams of four freshmen met at the Reflecting Pond to take part in the ultimate scavenger hunt, Fall 2008 Amazing Race, on September 4. They followed catchy clues that led them to useful resources around campus, including the Library, Counseling Center, Career Services, Student Academic Resource Center, Health Center, and the Office of First Year Advising and Exploration. Volunteers stationed at each location provided freshmen with a prop to take a photo with, and gave them their next clue. The 1st Place winning team included Jared Greenbaum, Jordan Palmaqui, Zach Merz and Daniel Andrews. Each participant received a pair of tickets to Universal Studios’ Islands of Adventure. They found it. They called it. They returned back to claim their victory in less than 30 minutes. “The Amazing Race is great because it gives students an incentive to find out about the campus,” said Palmaqui.

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The Amazing Race winners stopped at the Registrar’s Office to pose for a photo with their ‘diplomas’ (props).
Welcome to SDES

- Jason Balma, coordinator, Student Affairs, Recreation and Wellness Center
- Timothy Forney, psychologist, Counseling Center
- Emily Gerber, program assistant, Graduation, Registrar’s Office
- Dana Glaser, psychologist, Counseling Center
- Lynn Hansen, director, Career Development Services, Counseling Services
- Cristina Lorenzo, specialist, Social Work Services, Counseling Center
- Jean Moore, pharmacist, Health Services
- Jenna Nobili, faculty/advisor, First Year Advising and Exploration
- Paul Pierre-Louis, program assistant, Office of Student Involvement
- Charles Smith, assistant director, Housing and Residence Life

Kerry Welch
Director, Office of Student and Involvement
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On Thursday, December 18, a longer day and evening with 6,212 students being served. Through the UTPD system that the RO has employed since 2001, 2,685 students were assisted by rotating staff members at the entrance of the office, greatly decreasing the number of students needing assistance by the front counter staff.

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Left to right: Patricia Pales (director for Research, Grants & Evaluation), Assessment and Planning, and co-principal investigator for UBP, Rebekah McClusky (director for UBP), Jennifer Mascadin (assistant for UBP), Delilah Pineda (assistant vice president for SDENS and principal investigator for UBP), and Eric Range (coordinator for Seizing Opportunities for Achievement and Retention)