UCF and SDES Celebrate Diversity and Inclusiveness

UCF and SDES celebrated the month of February with various events including the 15th Annual Joseph C. Andrews Mentoring Breakfast, SANKOFA Museum on Wheels, Stogie Kenyatta and “Cousin” Jeff Johnson. The theme of the 15th Annual Joseph C. Andrews Mentoring Breakfast is the capstone celebration of the LEGACY Mentoring Program, as well as other student mentoring relationships. The event celebrates the formal and informal student mentoring relationships at UCF and promotes the value of faculty and staff mentoring as an effective strategy for student recruitment, retention and success.

Reflecting on the event’s theme ‘A Dream for a New Year’, soft spoken artist, Catherine “Vicky” Clark cited her poem, ‘Freedom’ and keynote speaker Farruh Gray, entrepreneur and self-made millionaire, spoke about his experiences ranging from selling homemade lotion and hand painted rocks at the age of six to being the youngest person to have an office on Wall Street. “Recognize your gifts and seeds, and take it to the next level,” said Gray. He offered encouraging advice to students to find their life’s purpose and be of service to the community.

The breakfast, hosted by UCF Black Faculty and Staff Association, Office of Diversity Initiatives, and Student Government Association, attracted over 450 faculty, staff and students. Several SDES staff members served on the Mentoring Breakfast Committee including Patricia Pates, DeLaShane Priest, Laine Powell and Ashley Dieudonne.

The Multicultural Student Center (MSC) hosted the following events:
- The SANKOFA Museum on Wheels, curated by Angela Jennings, led an audience on a journey through slavery, the era of King Cotton and the uplifting days of Emancipation. The exhibit consisted of art, collectibles and memorabilia relative to the contributions of African Americans to the United States and the world. It also conveyed stories of such notables as Ida B. Wells, the Negro Baseball League, the Tuskegee Airmen and Martin Luther King, Jr. One of the exhibits of SANKOFA was its display of inventions by African Americans.
- Stogie Kenyatta presented his one-man show and captured the essence of famed scholar, performer and political activist Paul Robeson. Portraying 10 characters, Kenyatta thrilled the audience through the life history of Robeson, a dominant figure during the Harlem Renaissance. This event is one of the highlights of MSC and the Campus Activities Board.
- Political motivator “Cousin” Jeff Johnson discussed the State of Hip-Hop with students. The students enjoyed the history and the dichotomy of the elements in Hip-Hop and how it affects college student perspectives.

Although February is Black History Month, the MSC strives to incorporate the rich culture of Black American Awareness year round. The center is looking forward to providing more education, workshops, and awareness year round to cultures that incorporate the richness of multiculturalism and diversity.

[Vicky Clark’s poem ‘Freedom’ can be found in back of newsletter.]

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

Kerry Welch
Director, Office of Student and Enrollment
Primare Freshman, SDES Reconsidered
(407) 823-6471 • kpwelch@mail.ucf.edu

The Vision Evolves: The SDES Reconsidered core group met on February 17, and had the opportunity to see where we’ve been in this year-long journey, where we are now, and where we are going into the 2009-2010 school year. The SDES Reconsidered leadership presented the vision of the movement recognizing and celebrating the challenges, mistakes, successes and growth the division has experienced through SDES Reconsidered. “As promised in the beginning, this is a fluid process with a fluid vision that has truly changed to meet our needs as we learn how to put learning at the center of our focus,” said Welch. He noted that 2009 is about elevating horizontal teams and upholding student learning outcome focus. Participants were given an opportunity to ask questions about the vision and direction of SDES.

The program spotlights various departments and creates awareness of the services available on campus. A table will be set up in the library across from the Circulation Desk for an office to give out information and answer questions in the morning or afternoon session of each Tuesday. In participation in the Campus Connections, contact Hal Mendelsohn at (407) 823-3604 or e-mail hmendelsohn@mail.ucf.edu.

Health Center Offers New Service to UCF Students and Athletes
The Health Center has color-coded units or "pods" that provide specific services, such as the Purple Pod is the Women’s Clinic. The Gold Pod is specifically designed to accommodate the needs of Sports Medicine, a service recently introduced by the Health Center. Dr. Douglas Meuser, Sport’s Medicine physician, provides medical service to UCF students and athletes with orthopedic and/ or sports related health concerns. These problems can include controlling asthma in a runner, working with a UCF basketball player with migraines or the many injuries people can sustain while participating in sports. In addition, Meuser provides medical support to UCF Athletics and Recreation and Wellness. Previously, Meuser was on the faculty of the Florida Hospital Family Practice Residency and serves as an Associate Professor with the Florida State University, College of Medicine. This year, he was named by his peers as one of the best physicians in Central Florida. For appointments, call 407.823.3850.

FOCUS ON “S” WORKSHOPS
The SDES Spring Diversity Learning Conference March 12 and 13, 2009
Watch for details at: www.sdes.ucf.edu, SDES Staff Announcements and Information.

Veterans Collaborates with the UCF Library to Reach Out to Students
Veterans, represented by Jim Middelkauff, assistant university registrar, and Stephanie Marino, Veterans services assistant, participated in the 2009 UCF Library Connections, a new UCF Library program. Middelkauff and Marino answered questions for students concerning Veterans Services.

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SDES Changes
• Dr. Kyu Kim Jina has joined UCF Health Services and is working in the Gold Pod in the Health Center. Dr. Jina oversees the UCF MRI/ MRA studies and will be relocating to the Orlando Health Pavilion. She spent four years as a health care officer and family practice physician at Pope Air Force Base in N.C. and then four years working in a family practice medical group in West Seneca, N.Y. Her family relocated to Orlando, and during the past year she was working at urgent care medicine locations in Orlando.

SDES Awards and Recognition
• Rebecca Piety was nominated and accepted the position of Assessment Committee Chair for the Florida Association of College Test Administrators (FACTA), which was established in the State of Florida, Fall 2008. The purpose of the organization is to advance the collaboration among testing professionals, testing companies, and state-policy making agencies while enhancing professional testing practices, and providing opportunities for professional development and understanding of emerging issue and trends for Florida testing administrators.
• Dennis Dulnack, university registrar, was the guest of UCF’s first registrar, Dan Chapman, at the Kinnear Club of East Orlando on February 16 at Darnedred. He gave the luncheon speech on “UCF – Facts and Growth.”
• Myla Cassillar, fiscal assistant supervisor, was named the Registrar’s Office (RCO) Fall 2008 Employee of the Semester. Cassillar has been with the RCO for over two years and oversees the payment process for transcripts and duplicate diplomas. She received a plaque 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. She received a plaque and a pair of movie tickets. In addition, her name will be added to the Employee of the Semester plaque in the office lobby.
Over 90 students spent their Saturday at Night of Champions, a Scholarship Awards ceremony, held this year as part of the 2019 Scholarship Appreciation Weekend, to recognize and celebrate the achievements and contributions of scholarship recipients and students who have received scholarships.

The Student Development Office (SDO) at the University of Central Florida (UCF) offers a wide range of programs, services, and opportunities to help students develop academically, personally, and professionally. These programs include leadership development, academic support, career services, and cultural and community engagement activities.

Marketing Staff wins Award

The Recreation and Wellness center recognized Marketing Staff for their outstanding work in 2019. Marketing Staff was awarded a gold award for their innovative and effective marketing efforts, which helped to promote the center's programming and increase student engagement.

Marketing Services – “Twenty-six Important Ingredients in Leadership”

Kylie Dunlap and Shannon Gabarda, along with the Student Development Office, hosted a workshop called “Twenty-six Important Ingredients in Leadership” to help students develop the skills and knowledge needed to be successful leaders in their personal and professional lives.

UCF Daytona Invites Students to Get Involved

UCF Daytona Beach introduced a new initiative to engage students in campus life and encourage them to get involved in extracurricular activities. The initiative, called “UCF Daytona Invites Students to Get Involved,” aims to provide opportunities for students to connect with each other and with the larger community.

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Unlocking the Keys to Success – Spring Learning Fair

The Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) held its first-ever Spring Learning Fair on January 26 showcasing the academic support services available to assist UCF students. The event was co-sponsored by Kaplan Test Prep. The Spring Learning Fair goals were to foster the academic success and retention of first-year students, identify personal and academic skills, and increase awareness and use of learning support services on campus.

Display tables included: SARC Tutoring, Supplemental Instruction (SI), University Testing Center, Math Lab, University Writing Center, Counseling Center, Career Center, Student Disability Services, Office of Undergraduate Research, Office of Student Involvement, Learning and Interacting with New Knights (LINK), American Medical Student Association and Allies, Staff, faculty members, and peers answered students’ questions and provided information on how students connect with resources for success both inside and outside the classroom. SARC staff provided hands-on demonstrations on effective study strategies applied to different disciplines.

The Learning Fair also offered three academic success workshops to enhance students’ learning skills, covering topics on Understanding Financial Aid, How to Succeed in a Math Class and Time Management. By attending the Learning Fair, first-year students earned 1,000 LINK Auction points, which can be used at the LINK Auction at the end of the semester. A total of 245 students participated in the Learning Fair. Students’ comments included: “Being able to talk to peers about the best ways to study was very helpful,” “I learned about academic clubs I can join here at UCF,” and “It’s great to know that tutoring at UCF is free.”

Jennifer Wright, director of SARC, commented, “As a first-time initiative, we consider the SARC Spring Learning Fair a success and a necessary resource for all students at UCF. We look forward to making this event a SARC tradition in continuing to provide UCF students with intentional and purposeful academic programming.”
Marketing Staff wins Award
The Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC) and the Office of Student Involvement (OSI) hosted the Fall Student/Faculty Learning Fair on January 26. The Student Academic Resource Center (SARC), which is housed in the RWC, held its first-ever Learning Fair to provide a unique opportunity for students to explore academic support services at UCF. This fair is a celebration of the different resources available on campus and the academic support services that help ensure student success. Students were able to gather information about more than 50 different services. The Student Academic Resource Center, located in the Recreation and Wellness Center, is dedicated to providing opportunities for students who seek academic tutoring and assistance with resources both inside and outside the classroom. The event featured hands-on demonstrations on study strategies, effective learning techniques, and ways to use the academic support services available at UCF. The event was co-sponsored by the Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) and the Office of Student Involvement (OSI), and was open to all students.

First Year Scholars Recognized at Reception
Encouraging administrators, high-achieving students and proud parents and families came together on January 27 for the First Year Scholars Reception. Over 1,200 UCF First-Time-in-College freshmen received a 3.5 or higher grade point average for Fall 2008, making them this year’s First Year Scholars. Students were honored with their names printed in a full page ad in the Central Florida Future, a campus newspaper.

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First Year Scholars were honored with a certificate of achievement and were given the LEAD Scholars’ Leadership Excellence Award. The LEAD Scholars’ Leadership Excellence Award is given to students who have demonstrated academic, leadership, and service involvement on campus. The LEAD Scholars Students visit Florida High Schools
The LEAD Scholars program at the University of Central Florida (UCF) is a select group of students who are nominated and selected for their leadership qualities. The program aims to encourage students to pursue their academic and professional goals. The LEAD Scholars Students Visit Florida High Schools event was presented by second-year LEAD Scholars students, discussed high school students’ frequently asked questions concerning college. This question and answer type session allows high school students to learn more about topics that concern them, such as those regarding campus residence life, making friends, involvement in campus organizations, and maintaining a good GPA. It is a relaxed, non-confrontational setting. The board hopes to reach students from diverse populations and ethnic backgrounds, while mutually recruiting highly qualified, well-rounded future LEAD Scholars.
Welcome to SDES

• Eric Coleman, coordinator of academic services, Academic Services for Student-Athletes
• Jonah Egol, system administrator, Counseling Center
• Kyu Kim Jana, physician, Health Services (HS)
• Nicolas Merolle, associate director, Creative School for Children
• Yelmi Veles-Acevedo, pharmacist, HS

SDES Changes

• Dr. Kyu Kim Jana has joined UCF Health Services and is working in the Gold Pod in the Health Center. Dr. Jana received his BS in biochemistry from Vassar College; MD from the University of Hawaii; Family Medicine Residency at University of Illinois in Chicago; and Gastroenteric Fellowship at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia. She spent four years as a military officer and family practice physician at Cape Air Force Base in N.C. and then four years working in a family practice medical group in West Seneca, N.Y. Her family relocated to Orlando, and during the past year she was working at urgent care medicine locations in Orlando.

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Anu Mack, Nick Olefsky and Shane Jentzen shared their journeys, successes and challenges in the practical application of learning as a focus in each of their offices. “Writing student learning outcomes really made us take a hard look at creating intentional opportunities for learning, and as a result, the assessment proved that our efforts we’re successful,” said Mack, Jentzen commended Mack for putting forth the number of outcomes we work towards in a single year, “Choose just a few outcomes at a time and grow from them.” After allowing for a lively discussion around the successes and challenges each office was having, participants were treated to a brief theatrical production starring the learning leads, highlighting the difference between committees and horizontal teams. “A horizontal team is more of a dynamic forward moving force, while a committee is more of a steady process,” says Suzi Halpin, lead Student Enhancement Team (SET). “I like to focus on being task oriented, flexible and utilizing technology.” Leaders of the seven emerging horizontal teams gave a brief overview of their mission, outcomes and progress.

Veterans Collaborates with the UCF Library to Reach Out to Students

Veterans, Services, represented by Jim Middelkauff, assistant university registrar, and Stephanie Marino, Veterans Services assistant, participated February 3 in “Campus Connections,” a new UCF Library program. Middelkauff and Marino answered questions for students concerning Veterans Services. The program spotlights various departments and creates awareness of the student services available on campus. A table will be set up in the Library across from the Circulation Desk for an office to give out information and answer questions in the morning or afternoon session Tuesday. To participate in the Campus Connections, contact Hal Mendelsohn at 407.823.3604 or e-mail hmendelsohn@mail.ucf.edu.

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[Clark’s poem’s “Freedom” can be found at: www.sdes.ucf.edu/freedom.]

Save this date . . .

SDES A&D Faculty, USPS and full-time OPS are cordially invited to

SDES Annual Breakfast Celebration
April 24, 2009

Nomination forms and Information can be found at: www.sdes.ucf.edu in the Staff Announcements and Information section.
Freedom

“I’m free… praise the Lord I’m free; no longer bound, no more chains holding me. My soul is rested; it’s just another blessing. Praise the Lord hallelujah I’m free.”

This was a song that was song by many of our ancestors. While miners search for gold, freedom was their greatest treasure. To hope, to live, to dream ignited freedom in their hearts. The strongest slaves were displayed and children’s families were torn apart. But hate cannot be a factor; a price had to be paid. If history did not take place where would you be today? Freedom is not free and it never will be.

Even as a nation Freedom will forever be fought. Has Dr. King’s dream come to pass or is it still just a thought? Engulfed in a culture where the length or grade of your hair is more important than the clothes…I mean the character you wear. Where the size of your wallet, how deep are your pockets represent only happiness and no despair. What profitith a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul. Or do we even care? Where lyrics and videos like lick that lolli pop captivates the youth’s mind, when we could be constructively developing our minds. Chains were once on our hands and feet, but now they’re on our minds. Don’t be enslaved to the ways society portrays as beauty. Let us see through the eyes that realizes our worth. Then….to true freedom; you will give birth. On Nov. 5th history was made, but we must all walk this journey through. One man can only do so much; the most powerful change lies within you.

By: Catherine “Vicky” Clark
Biography of Catherine Victoria Clark (Vicky)

Vicky Clark is an inspirational Spoken Word Artist, a Poetry Workshop Facilitator, and college student at UCF. She currently resides in Orlando Florida where she is obtaining a Bachelor’s Degree in Interpersonal/Organizational Communications with a minor in Non-Profit Organization Management. Ms. Clark is originally from Campbellton, FL, a quaint town in the Northwest Panhandle area.

Ms. Clark is a senior and an honor student at UCF. She has received numerous awards and honors for her academics at UCF. She has been on the Dean’s List since 2006. Ms. Clark is a Florida Bright Future’s recipient, a nominee for the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and a presidential member of Sigma Alpha Pi, which is the National Society of Leadership and Success.

Ms. Clark is extensively involved on campus as an active member of Women’s Prayer Band, the American Humanics Student Association (where she serves as Secretary for Spring/Fall ‘09), and she works and volunteers with the UCF Upward Bound Program. Ms. Clark has received superlatives from Women’s Prayer Band such as “Most Likely to Be a Minister” and “Most Likely to Make you Laugh.” Ms. Clark enjoys working with the Upward Bound Program where she has also received communal recognitions. Ms. Clark has a heart for young people because she sees their value and the importance of making a positive impact in their lives.

Having a pure passion for love, life, and seeing people prosper inspires Ms. Clark to strive for dreams and goals set before her. Writing poetry has been a part of Ms. Clark’s life for over 10 years and she has been ministering through Spoken Word for over 3 years. On many occasions Ms. Clark travels to share her Spoken Word. She has also been featured in plays; such as “You Must be Born Again” and “The Hardest Lyrics Ever.” Life experiences and the message of freedom have ignited each gifting on the inside of Ms. Clark as she continues to spread light and hope.