

# UKnighted



## MASS Recognized Past Directors at 30th Anniversary

The Multicultural Academic and Support Services (MASS) office celebrated its 30th Anniversary with a universitywide reception on April 22 in the Student Union. The event allowed the present staff and administrators to meet the “founding fathers” of the office in an informal and relaxed atmosphere. The attendees were brought up-to-date on MASS, its new programs and accomplishments.

DeLaine Priest, associate vice president SDES, delivered a warm welcome followed by some past reflections from Alan Flores, member of the Board of Trustees and an alumnus of UCF. Flores stated what an important role the MASS Office played in his transition into the university and in his pursuing leadership roles after being encouraged to join organizations on campus. Marcus Sanderlin, president of the Men of Integrity organization, presented MASS moments and events in a historical slide show. Keynote speaker Linda Landman-Gonzalez, vice president Community Relations and Government Affairs Orlando Magic, spoke of her employment role at the Orlando Magic and the importance for a company to be inclusive and diverse.

The past directors were recognized for their contributions and dedication to the MASS office: Robert Belle, Valarie King, A. J. Range and Terry Exum. A special award was presented to Inez Ford who led the MASS Office for six years as associate director and for her 23 years of longevity in the MASS office. The event was an opportunity to say thank you to those individuals who have been successful in leading the MASS department and helping thousands of students become successful over the years.

MASS has seen some incredible growth over the years. The office continues to be “a home away from home” for many students and, to paraphrase its current director, Wayne Jackson, endeavors to continue working for the successful retention and graduation of our Multicultural and First-Generation College students at the University of Central Florida. For more information, contact the MASS office at 407.823.2716 or e-mail: [mass@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:mass@mail.ucf.edu).



Left to right: A.J. Range, Terry Exum, Wayne Jackson and Robert Belle

social and cultural activities. The founding director of OMSS, Rev. Leroy Lloyd headed the office from 1978-1979.

After Lloyd’s departure, Robert Belle was the OMSS director from 1979-1992. During Belle’s tenure, there was a dramatic increase in the number of multicultural students attending UCF. With Belle leaving MASS in 1992, Valarie King directed the office from 1993-1994. It was during this time the six-week Summer program, Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), changed its name to the Seizing Opportunities and Achieving Retention (SOAR) Program, of which it is still named today.

When A.J. Range took over in 1994, the Office of Minority Student Services changed its name to the Multicultural Student Services office. That name remained until it was changed to the Multicultural Academic and Support Services office under the helm of Associate Director Inez Ford. She led the department as the associate director from 1998-2005.

In 2005, Terry Exum became the MASS director from 2005-2007 during which the First Generation Program was established.

Wayne Jackson is the current director for MASS and has served in this position since January 2007.



Linda Landman-Gonzalez, Orlando Magic

### History of MASS:

The Office of Minority Student Services (OMSS), as it was originally called back in 1978, was founded to assist minority students in obtaining a quality education at the University of Central Florida. Students could depend on the OMSS for support in almost all areas of academic life, whether it be academic counseling, advising or

### Multicultural Academic and Support Services

*The mission of Multicultural Academic and Support Services (MASS) is to maximize student success by assisting Multicultural and First-Generation College Students in their transition to the University of Central Florida and by connecting with the university community and our partners to promote and facilitate academic support services and programs.*

## The UCF Creed

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

## Reaching Out To Students with Disabilities at Regional Campuses

Members of the Society of Scholars with Disabilities were able to connect with a member on the UCF Daytona campus during their March meeting with the assistance of technology, Course Development and Web Services, UCF Daytona IT staff, and Diana Weidman, regional director for student services. This was accomplished through a Web conference. The Scholars on both the Orlando and Daytona campus were able to view and interact with each other. The conference provided a great way to connect with students with disabilities attending Regional Campuses.

The Society of Scholars with Disabilities is a group of students with disabilities who are working to become a Registered Student Organization. Their goals are to equip students with disabilities to become self-advocates and provide peer mentoring to students with disabilities. In addition, they will promote disability etiquette and awareness throughout the UCF community, and provide the opportunities to develop leadership skills.

## Student-Athletes Excel Academically

UCF placed the most student-athletes onto the Conference-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll for a third consecutive year. Two hundred thirty-two UCF students were recently honored, representing 60 percent of all student-athletes—an increase of 38 percent from a year ago.

UCF teams that led the conference in their respective sports included: football, baseball, women's track and cross-country, and men's golf. Men's basketball and soccer finished second within their sport.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Academic Progress Rate report card shows that UCF's teams are also successful in the classroom. Fifty percent of UCF teams had a report card score of 980 or higher in 2007-08. Five teams scored a perfect 1,000, and all teams are at least 25 points above the NCAA minimal acceptable score of 900. In addition, the UCF student-athlete's graduation rate is on the rise and is now at an all time high of 67 percent. This is an increase of eight points in the past year and 20 points in the past two years.

## Virtual Interviews: A reality at UCF

On March 20, Career Services, in partnership with the College of Education and Alaska's Bering Strait School District, held its first virtual employment interview sessions. These non-traditional interviews were held as an alternative for the school district, which was unable to attend UCF's upcoming Education Career Fair.

Each virtual interview was conducted by a representative in Alaska who communicated with candidates via video teleconference. John Concilus, the district's director of educational technology, referred to UCF as a great partner for future virtual campus visits. Concilus also expressed his excitement for "the clear advantage" provided by Career Services to meet candidates that they would never normally get the opportunity to consider.

Bryan Zugelder, director for the Office of Clinical Experiences in UCF's College of Education, referred to the interviews as a creative alternative that provided opportunities for cost effective interviewing, while still enabling the interview process.

Applicants who participated in the interview process provided positive feedback. Dolores Arrington, elementary education major, stated, "With Career Services providing the means to conduct a virtual interview service, it was convenient, easy and free of a lot of the anxiety that comes with a face to face interview."

Career Services staff Earnestine Gould-Jackson and student assistants Kristy Butler and Widnette Vassor coordinated the event. Russ Muller provided technical expertise.

## Greek Week 2009 Showcases Events and Activities

The UCF Greek community in collaboration with the Student Government Association, Greek Council and Fraternity and Sorority Life hosted Greek Week 2009. Various UCF Greek chapters were brought together to produce week-long events and activities from March 28 through April 5. Student Director Alicia Rose (member of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority) and the Greek Week Committee worked to create a week of inclusive events that showcased Greek unity, positive social interaction, and the building of new friendships and connections. The week consisted of the following events: Greek Week Kick-Off Concert—featured Big 10-4, Jacob Jeffries, and Hours Eastly; Greek Sing—teams performed a 10 minute song and skit about UCF Greek Life; Greek Games—tug of war, trivia, jousting and a chariot race; Greek Comedy Knight—featured SAKS Comedy Club; and Greek Extravaganza.

The National Pan-Hellenic Council held their annual Greek Extravaganza step show,

"The Clash of the Titans." Over 1,500 UCF students and Orlando community members gathered at the UCF Arena to watch the free event. The show was hosted by popular comedian, Benji Brown. In addition, many greek organizations from the Intra Fraternal Council, Pan-Hellenic Council and Diversified Greek Council performed dance routines on stage. The winning step team of the night was Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., winning a \$700 cash prize. Second place winners were Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. from Florida Memorial University, winning \$300. Greek Extrav was the finale to the Greek Week events sponsored by Greek Council, Campus Activities Board and the Student Government Association.

Greek Week was an enriching experience, with over 5,000 participants throughout the week and concluded with the Greek Gala Awards Ceremony where individual and chapter awards were presented.

## RWC Athletic Training Program at a Glance

The athletic training program at the UCF Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC) is entering its fifth year. Since the beginning, RWC athletic trainers strive to provide great care and services for UCF students. The program offers general first aid care, stretching, education, taping, and clinical impressions of various orthopedic injuries. In March, RWC athletic trainers offered an educational workshop open to all students for National Athletic Training Month. The program and its staff continues to provide quality coverage and care.



Left to right: Jennifer Milos, Gabrielle Bell, Myra Segarra and Stephanie Baum



## SDES Partnerships to Support Success on Regional Campuses

Student Government Association (SGA) in collaboration with the SDES Horizontal Team of the Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC), Regional Campuses Student Services (RCSS), and the Office of Student Involvement have been working to develop a continuum of new recreation and wellness programs and activities to support the success of Regional Campuses students. Each region through this collaborative effort was able to expand recreation and wellness events and resources.

The first priority was to get students involved and bring new life to the student lounge areas at the eastern region—UCF Daytona, southern region—UCF Cocoa and UCF Palm Bay, and western region—UCF South Lake campuses. The eastern and southern regional SGA student teams and advisory groups went into action to support the initiatives. Student feedback was gathered through questionnaires and student advisory groups. New foosball tables, pool tables, a ping pong table and game stations were high on the student priority list and were purchased. UCF Cocoa SGA initiated Game Day tournaments to showcase the new recreation equipment available in the student lounge.

Over the past year, cooperative agreements were established for regional campuses student access to area fitness centers to include the National Training Center (South Lake Campus), Daytona State College (UCF Daytona), YMCA (UCF Cocoa), and In-2-Fitness (UCF Palm Bay). Bowling Knights was implemented as a joint event for the UCF South Lake and Leesburg campuses. Many non-traditional students brought their families to enjoy the fun. RCSS Director Pamela Brady stated, “student feedback was positive and the students have identified this as an event they really want to do again.” UCF Cocoa and Palm Bay also have Bowling Knights. The word got out on how much fun the students were having that participation has increased from 1-2 lanes to filling every lane at the last Bowling Knight.

RWC facilitated Wellness Fairs on the Orlando and regional campuses. There were 800 students who attended the event on the



UCF Daytona nursing students provided health screening at the Wellness Fair.

Orlando campus. The Wellness Fair was well received at the regional campuses with a total of 874 students. Victim Services, Dispute Resolution Services, Health Services, Counseling Center, and AlcoholEdu joined the SDES horizontal team and provided resource information to students. The events on each regional campus included massage therapy, resource tables, community vendors, blood pressure checks, and dance and exercise demonstrations. UCF Cocoa student Deanna Blake stated, “the vendors gave very good information especially positive ways to improve your health” and UCF Cocoa student Rebecca Schilling “felt the Wellness Fair provided fun ways to learn about being healthy.”

UCF Palm Bay collaborated Brevard Community College (BCC) to co-sponsor with SGA Fall and Spring UCF/BCC Health and Wellness Fairs. UCF Palm Bay SGA student representative Laura Raymond stated, “The collaboration enabled us to expand vendor participation that we would not have had without them.” The Spring fair included a blood drive, bone marrow screening and a fund raiser for Relay for Life. UCF student Steve Lloyd commented that the UCF Palm Bay Wellness Fair was “. . . filled with fun and games for a good cause in an exciting atmosphere.”

Next on the horizon for the team, is working together to create a student driven plan for future recreation and wellness activities.



SDES  
Horizontal  
Team at the  
UCF Palm Bay  
Wellness Fair

## UCF Upward Bound Scholars Chosen to Participate in National Youth Leadership Forum

Upward Bound scholars Julia Shaffer and Jerald Villaver were recently nominated to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) this Summer. Students are nominated by a recommendation from teachers, alumni, or their superlative test scores. Both students attend Colonial High School and were recently recognized for their academic achievement on the “A” honor roll.

Founded in 1992, the NYLF is an independent, educational organization established to help prepare



Julia Shaffer



Jerald Villaver

extraordinary young people for their professional careers. Its mission is to bring various professions to life, empowering outstanding young people with confidence to make well-informed career choices. NYLF programs are held in eight cities throughout the United States. The National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine introduces outstanding high school students to the world of medicine. This 10-day program introduces students to professionals from some of the nation’s top

medical centers and faculty from renowned institutions of higher education.

Earlier this year, Upward Bound sponsored four students who attended the Carroll F. S. Hardy National Black Student Leadership Development Conference in Washington, D.C. The students—Breeana Henderson, Marcos Magana, Benjamin Nagle, and Janee Nathan—will take a leadership role in the development of the Upward Bound Student Government this coming Summer.

## Welcome to SDES

- **Richard Baro**, senior specialist programmer, Housing and Residence Life
- **Maureen Genoa**, coordinator University Housing, Housing and Residence Life
- **Jared Krause**, senior computer specialist, Housing and Residence Life
- **Stephanie Marino**, program assistant, Veteran Services, Registrar's Office
- **Marta Romo**, custodial worker, Student Union

## SDES Changes

- Nicholas Oleksy was promoted to assistant director, Office of Student Conduct.

## SDES Reconsidered

Jimmy Moore

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**SDES Core Group Meeting Highlights New SLO Format:** On April 15, the SDES Core Group met to discuss this past years' learning outcomes and to outline a new format to assist in creating more effective outcomes for the new academic year. Kerry Welch, primary facilitator for SDES Reconsidered, presented the 2009-2010 format that now incorporates The UCF Creed as the foundation for each outcome. All 2009-2010 Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) will now be grouped into specific Learning Domains that follow the five values of The UCF Creed: "Integrity, Scholarship, Community, Creativity, and Excellence." After each outcome has been grouped into a Learning Domain, the design continues in the original format.

The SDES Reconsidered Learning Guides served as a "stimulus" for all of the attending units to review and revise their current SLO to fit the new format for outcomes. In addition, the Learning Guides will be meeting with all of the units in the near future to clarify and review the 2009-2010 SLO format and to assist with any questions.

## Victoria Vighetto in RWC Recognized with National Award

The Recreation and Wellness Center staff announced lifeguard Victoria Vighetto as a recipient of this years' William N. Wasson award. The National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) award recognizes top undergraduate and graduate students who are participants of and/or employed by various Department of Recreational Sports and who "set the standard" on campuses across the country.



Left to right, Front row: Tamara Chaplin, Ruth Strakosha, Stephanie Morales, Margaret Ann Shillingford  
Middle row: Katherine Ferstadt, Carissa Van Dalen, Hye Jung Kim, Michelle Murphy, Ashley Jordan, Samantha Gil  
Back row: Vice President SDES Maribeth Ehasz, Thomas Blake Van Brundt, Demetrius Frazier, Satyender Goel, President John C. Hitt, Gregory Austin, Mustafa Gül

## UCF Students Inducted to Order of Pegasus

Sixteen new members were inducted into the Order of Pegasus, Class of 2009 on April 22. SDES Vice President Maribeth Ehasz presided over the ceremony, which was held in the Pegasus Ballroom. President John C. Hitt and Provost and Executive Vice President Terry Hickey were in attendance to congratulate the students and assist with the presentation of their award medals. Family members, faculty and administrators were on hand to celebrate the accomplishments of these talented students.

The Order of Pegasus is the highest university honor recognizing exemplary UCF students who demonstrate outstanding university involvement, leadership, academic achievement and community service. This year, four graduate and 12 undergraduate students

were selected for this prestigious award from among a student body population of over 50,254 students. Students are nominated annually by high ranking university officials. A separate selection committee reviews their credentials and interviews them.

Carolyn Walker-Hopp, College of Education faculty member and Order of Pegasus Class of 2001 recipient, and Laura Creegan, Student Conduct staff member and Order of Pegasus Class of 2004 recipient, assisted in the ceremony. Each student was given a medallion and a scholarship from the Student Government Association and a lifetime Alumni Association membership.

## Eternal Knights Memorial Service Honors Students



The UCF flag flew half-staff on April 2 as the UCF community honored the lives of 16 students during the Eternal Knights memorial service. Eternal Knights, in its eighth year, memorializes UCF students who have passed away during the recent year. This event enables families and friends to join with the campus community in a solemn tribute to the loss of their loved ones. During the eulogy, each student is recognized and given the title, "Eternal Knight."

This year, representatives from Student Development and Enrollment Services (SDES) and the Student Government Association (SGA) formed a committee to plan the Eternal Knights program. The goal was to increase awareness of the ceremony and provide an event that was more personal for the family

members. While the heart of the ceremony remained the same from previous years, the planning committee added special touches in an effort to make the families feel welcomed.

SGA purchased sympathy cards for each Eternal Knight memorialized. Attendees had the opportunity to sign the cards, which were then given to the families. The committee also solicited volunteers to serve as escorts for the families on the day of the ceremony. Eight SDES staff members volunteered to serve in this role, each providing an assigned family with personalized attention. During the reception following the ceremony, the SDES Leadership Team presented a Certificate of Achievement, an etched vase, and a yellow rose to each family on behalf of the university.