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.

DeLaïne Price, 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 how their in pursuit 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, Valerie King, A. J. Range and Terry Exum. A special award was presented to Steve 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.

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 specific need, whether it be academic counseling, advising or 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. Belle leaving MASS in 1992, Valerie King directed the office from 1993-1994. In 1994 during this 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.

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Eternal Knights Memorial Service Honors Students

Sixteen new members were inducted into the Order of Pegasus, Class of 2009 on April 22. SDES Vice President Munirah Elrose presented 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.

Carolyne Walker-Hopp, College of Education faculty member and Order of Pegasus Class of 2001 recipient, and Laura Cregg, 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.

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diploma, custodial worker, Student Union

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Victoria Vighetto in RWC Recognized with National Award

The Recreation and Wellness Center staff announced lifetime Victoria Vighetto as a recipient of this year’s William N. Wissom 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.
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 and in-person interview sessions. Those 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 conference. John Concilio, the district’s director of educational technology, referred to UCF as a great partner for those interviews. He 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.

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 over the 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 side social interaction, and the building of new friendships and connections.

The week consisted of the following events: Greek Week Kick-Off Concert-featuring Jacob Jeffries, and Hard Rock. Greek Sing-teams performed a 10 minute song and skit about UCF Greek Life; Greek Games—wag of, trivia, painting, and a charades race; Greek Comedy Knight—featuring SAKS Comedy Club; and Greek Extravaganza.

The National Pan-Hellenic Council has produced 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 professional comedians. In addition, many Greek organizations from the Intramural Fraternity 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 $500 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 5,500 participants throughout the week and concluded with the Greek Gala Awards Ceremony where individual and chapter awards were presented.

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

Student-Athletes Excel Academically

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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 Dana Weidman, regional director for student services. This was accomplished through a Web conference. The Scholars on both the Orlando and Daytona campuses 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 and their parents and educators with tools and resources to succeed in the UCF community, and provide peer mentoring to students with disabilities. In addition, they will promote disability etiquette and awareness throughout the UCF campus, and provide the opportunities to develop leadership skills.

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Each virtual interview was conducted by a representative in Alaska who communicated with candidates via video conference. In addition, the district's director of educational technology, referred to UCF as a great partner for future virtual campus visits. The director also expressed his interest for the career services to meet candidates that they would never normally get the opportunity to consider.

Student-Athletes Excel Academically

UCF placed the most student-athletes onto the National Honor Society (NHS). Founded in 1992, the NHS was established to honor students who have demonstrated exceptional scholarship, character, integrity, service, and leadership. The first priority was to get students involved and bring new life to the student lounge at the Daytona region–UCF Daytona, southern region–UCF Cocoa and UCF Palm Bay, and western region–UCF South Lake Campuses. The eastern and southern regional education, John and advisory groups went into action to support the initiatives. Student feedback was gathered through questionnaires and student advisory groups went into action to support the initiatives. Student feedback was gathered through questionnaires and student advisory groups.

Greeklife

Greeklife Week consisted of the following events: Greek Week Kick-Off Concert–featured comedian, Benji Brown. In addition, many Greek Sing-teams performed a 10-minute song and skit about UCF Greek Life; Greek Games–rug of war, trivia, scavenger hunt, and a charade race; Greek Comedy Knight–founded by SAE; Comedy Club; and Greek Extravaganza. The National Pan-Hellenic Council will produce their annual Greek Extravaganza step show. The 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 season. Since the beginning, RWC athletic trainers have been able to provide great care and services for UCF students. The program offers general first aid, strenuous education, testing, 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 continue to provide quality coverage and care.

UCF Student Government Association (SGA) in collaboration with the UCF Student Government Association (SGA) in collaboration with the SDES horizontal team, and provided resource information to students on campus. 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 way to improve your health" and UCF Cocoa student Rebecca Schilling felt "the Wellness Fair provided fun ways to learn about being healthy." The UCF Palm Bay collaborates with the Brevard Community College (BCC) to co-sponsor with SGA Fall and Spring UCF/BCC Health and Wellness Fairs. The BCC student representative Lauren 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. 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 Partnerships to Support Success on Regional Campuses

SDES Partnerships to Support Success on Regional Campuses was implemented as a joint event for the UCF South Lake and Leesburg campuses. Many non-traditional students brought their friends to enhance the fun. A representative from SAE Director of Career Services, Diana Jackson and student assistants Kristy Butler and Widnette Vassor coordinated the event. Russ Muller provided technical expertise.

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 on campus. 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 way to improve your health" and UCF Cocoa student Rebecca Schilling felt "the Wellness Fair provided fun ways to learn about being healthy." The UCF Palm Bay collaborates with the Brevard Community College (BCC) to co-sponsor with SGA Fall and Spring UCF/BCC Health and Wellness Fairs. The BCC student representative Lauren 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. 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.

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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. 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 adapted some 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. The Multicultural Academic and Support Services (OMSS) office, 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 social and cultural activities. The founding director of OMSS, Rev. Leroy Lloyd headed the office from 1978-1979.

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