The Unprecedented Success of the 2009 Welcome Expo

“Wow! Over 6,700 students attended UCF’s 2009 Welcome Expo which far exceeded the previous record of 2,400 attendees,” exclaims Christopher Quintero, academic counselor/faculty, First Year Advising and Exploration (FYAE). In 1999, the Welcome Expo was initiated by First Year Advising and Exploration with just a few tents and student organizations outside in the heat and rain. “The expo, which is now held in the Pegasus Ballroom, has blossomed into this year’s spectacular success for UCF students, registered student organizations and the UCF community businesses,” said Quintero.

The 2009 Welcome Expo, hosted by FYAE, provided a record-setting partnership with the UCF business community where 23 vendors showcased their services with innovation. For example, this was the first year for the Wellness Center’s free massage clinic and Headlines Salon’s free haircuts and consultation. Clinique was set up to do facials and dispense advice on proper cosmetic care. Carl Black of Orlando Pontiac-Buick, GMC displayed some of their new 2010 models just outside the Student Union. Another “first” was having radio station Power 95.3 emcee the event for two hours providing music and entertainment. Dominos provided free pizza and coupons. Other Central Florida and UCF community vendors included: Macy’s, Florida Hospital Volunteer Services, Humana MarketPOINT, Florida Blood Centers, Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society, UCF Dining Services, UCF Dispute Resolution Services, Student Government Association, UCF Department of Biology, and the UCF Department of Housing and Residence Life. Numerous prizes were awarded, thanks to donations from vendors and student groups.

Students had the opportunity to discuss academics with faculty and staff regarding majors and course requirements. In addition, clubs and organizations were available to talk with students about their personal growth. UCF and SDES student support services were present to increase student awareness of their benefits on how to wisely choose a major, learn college level study skills, and utilize tutoring and Supplemental Instruction. Also, students were offered information on academic support, Housing and Residence Life and financial aid, just to name a few. “Congratulations to all those who participated to make this the greatest Welcome Expo ever,” said Quintero.

Money Raised from Auction Benefits Students

Bicycles abandoned on campus and recovered by the UCF Police Department were sold at auction to the highest bidder on November 17. The annual Bicycle Auction, conducted by the Activity & Service Fee Business Office, raised $3,118 for student scholarships from the sale of 166 bicycles and five loose tires. In addition, $605 was raised from the sale of 10 Star Trac Spin Bikes for replacement fitness equipment for the Recreation and Wellness Center.
Parents and Families Get Connected to UCF Through Family Weekend Activities

Students and their families were invited to participate in Family Weekend on October 2-4, to become better acquainted with UCF. College Day Open House representatives provided information and answered questions for students and their families. Family Weekend, hosted by Student Development and Enrollment Services (SDES), provided informative student services’ open houses and sessions, activities, and events.

The Sophomore & Second Year Center held an event, “SSYC Kick-Off with Accelerated Students, Family & Friends,” to meet and greet, and get connected with the center and other campus resources. An Accelerated First Time In College student reflected the appreciation of the support services provided: “With the individualized attention, e-mail reminders, telephone calls, and routine follow-ups, it really helps me to stay focused, energized, and manage my time effectively, thank you SSYC.” The event was in collaboration with Career Services, Student Financial Assistance, and Multicultural Academic & Support Services.

The Production, hosted by the Student Leadership Development Office, provided a venue to the African-American registered student organizations at UCF to showcase their skills and talents to family and friends during Family Weekend 2009. The Production was filled with entertainment from FACES Modeling Troupe, UCF Gospel Choir, African-American Student Union Dance Crew, University Christian Fellowship and UCF Theatre Performance Major students. The event provided a place for over 250 UCF African-American community members to assemble and get acquainted with each other. The Production was also sponsored by local restaurants: Lowes’s Good Eaton, Mama Nem’s and Oley’s Caribbean Dishes.

On Friday evening, the Late Knights “Outerspace” event attracted over 1,700 students and family members to enjoy food, entertainment, games and giveaways. The Student Union patio accommodated the inflatable activities while Knightcast DJs played music on the outside stage. Registered student organizations provided information for students to get involved at UCF. Inside the Union, attendees could make their own DVD Video with Pop Noggins, do surgery with Alien Autopsy, and create edible art with Sandy Candy. Arts and crafts gave students the opportunity to build their own rockets, door knockers and picture frames. Students and parents competed for prizes such as T-shirts in Game Show Mania. At midnight, food catered by Wackadoo’s was served to nearly 700.

On Saturday morning, students and families had the opportunity to enjoy a free breakfast and meet with various UCF administrators at the SDES Parent Breakfast.

LEAD Scholars and their families enjoyed brunch, prizes and a deeper understanding of the LEAD Scholars Program’s goals. “The brunch offered LEAD families the opportunity to meet other families and connect with each other while getting ready for the day’s football game,” said Sarah Maton, LEAD activities director. While keeping families entertained with a table top decorating contest and afternoon Bingo, the program tied in foundations of serving others through canned food donations for the Hope Foundation.

The Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC) offered students and their families the opportunity to participate in an Open Workout. The free workouts were available for any student and family member 18 years or older. Students and family members were able to access the indoor facility. Parent and family members’ comments included: “This is such an amazing facility for students to take advantage of” and “I cannot wait to come back next fall and see the additional spaces that will be added.” [The RWC expansions include the Fitness space, lap pool, Multipurpose Activity Center (MAC) Gym, racquetball court and an Outdoor Adventure Center.] On Saturday and Sunday, RWC’s Outdoor Adventure offered free boat rentals and games at Lake Claire.

UCF Young Knights Presence at Millican Hall in October

UCF’s youngest Knights’ artwork was on display on the second floor of Millican Hall for the month of October. The drawings and paintings were created by the 2- to 5-year-old children at the Creative School for Children in celebration of Diversity Week. Artwork included a variety of subjects, styles, colors and mediums.

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Creative School for Children’s young Knights, escorted by staff and parents, walked the three-story building of Millican Hall on October 30 for Halloween treats. The children were donned in various costumes such as a princess, fairy, Spiderman, skeleton, flower, firefighter and a police officer. Some staff members were dressed in costume as they greeted the children. Participating offices gave the children healthy treats and toys.

Students and families played Bingo.

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The Production

Late Knights

Late Knights

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Knights Unite to Volunteer
a Day of Service

Knights Give Back has become a UCF tradition for students, faculty and staff to come together for a campus-wide day of service. With approximately 500 participants, Knights Give Back volunteered over 2,000 hours to the Central Florida community. The event began by everyone arriving at 8 a.m. on October 10 at UCF’s Memory Mall for check-in. From there, they went on designated busses which took them to their event.

The participants travelled to organizations such as Greyhound Pets of America, where they cleaned the area that housed the dogs; washed muzzles and collars; spent time with the greyhounds; and toured the facility. Another group worked with Seminole County Lake Management, where they planted native plants and removed invasive plants at Spring Lake. Other service sites included: A Gift for Teaching, Give Kids the World, Quest’s Camp Thunderbird, Society of St. Andrew, and the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens.

Depending on the needs of the organization they were working with, the participants at each site ranged from 12 to 85 volunteers. Alumni, faculty, staff, student organizations as well as students participated in this event. Upon the return of all the busses, Volunteer UCF hosted an event, “Give Back Bash,” in which all participants enjoyed pizza and drinks, and listened to music provided by the Knight-Cast DJ.

“Knights Give Back is a short-term commitment with a long-term impact,” commented Volunteer UCF Student Director Jessica Schwendeman. Volunteer UCF staff stated they were proud of the Knights Give Back event, and hopes to see it grow in years to come.

And the Winner is . . .

Michael Newman, Mr. UCF 2010

On October 30, Michael Newman became Mr. UCF 2010 following the reign of Mr. UCF 2009, Tyson Nales. Newman is from the Tampa area and is a junior in the College of Business majoring in Entrepreneurship Management and minoring in Political Science. He is a member of the President’s Leadership Council, Student Sustainability Alliance, Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity and Hillel at UCF.

Newman is involved in community service as Student Outreach coordinator for the UCF Campus Kitchens Project, and is a volunteer at the HOPE Food Pantry in Oviedo.

Newman looks forward to utilizing the role of Mr. UCF to promote and encourage more involvement in both sustainability issues on campus and providing food and resources for the less fortunate.

UCF Greeks Provide Safe, Fun Halloween for Children

Trick or Treat on Greek Street was held on the UCF campus on Greek Circle and Lake Claire on October 25 from noon to 3 p.m. Registered student organizations teamed up for this yearly event to create a safe, fun alternative for the Halloween holiday. The local chapter of the Boys and Girls Club were in attendance as well as about 200 children from the Central Florida community. A trophy for “Best Costume” was awarded to a 2-year-old who dressed up in a chicken outfit her mom had made for her.

Trick or Treaters could find several activities at each station focused around this year’s theme, “Knightro’s Circus.” Children left with painted pumpkins, balloon animals and prizes. They had the opportunity to participate in carnival games, have their faces painted, attend a magic show and walk through haunted houses. The crowd’s favorites this year were a maze, fun house, arts and crafts tables, and a bounce house set up by Alpha Delta Pi and Alpha Tau Omega. Ice cream was provided by Jeremiah’s Italian Ice and coffee was provided to the parents courtesy of Starbucks.

The UCF Creed

Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance and decisions.
Flu Shots, It’s All About Staying Healthy

The UCF Health Services’ large-scale community event, “Take a Shot,” was held September 30 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the UCF Arena. UCF Health Services staff reported 2,527 faculty, staff, students and local community residents received the seasonal flu vaccine at the UCF campus. Nearly two times the number of students received the vaccine in one day compared to the total for all last year. The event garnered positive media attention from every major news network in the Central Florida area.

Take a Shot was promoted as an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for most flu shots given in one day. Students were encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to improve their chances of staying well, staying in class and being part of the record-breaking event.

Centra Care arranged for the first 500 shots to be free. UCF Health Services partnered with the Student Government Association and Centra Care to offer seasonal flu shots at reduced charges...$10 for students, $20 for others. Although the record was not broken, UCF Health Services staff considered the event a success.

UCF Health Services made one final encouragement for the UCF community to receive their H1N1 vaccinations before the Winter Break. It takes two weeks for the vaccine to become fully effective, so it was prime time to receive the vaccine and return home or travel with the peace-of-mind that one was protected against H1N1 Influenza.

As of November 30, UCF Health Services staff vaccinated 2,188 individuals against H1N1 using both nasal spray and injectable vaccines. Both forms of the vaccine are proven safe and effective in protecting against H1N1.

The vaccines were distributed using a voucher system. Clinic dates and times were announced through the Campus News e-mail. Students, faculty and staff picked up a voucher at the Appointments area on the first floor of the Health Center or at Knight Aide Pharmacy & Convenience Store. Students were able to receive the vaccination at no cost while faculty and staff paid $10.

In addition, Seasonal Flu vaccinations were available. The H1N1 vaccine does not protect against Seasonal Flu. For more information on H1N1 Swine Flu, visit: www.hs.sdes.ucf.edu/news/health_alert.html.

Alcohol Free Tailgates sponsored by LEAD Scholars

The LEAD Scholars Program’s flag flew high during the UCF football tailgating activities on September 5 and 19. LEAD Scholars invited fellow tailgaters to their area to participate in healthy activities and entertainment including: cornhole, face painting, football toss, video games and music. Student leaders served burgers, hot dogs, vegetarian food options, soda, water, chips and watermelon. Alcohol was not offered nor provided for the students during these LEAD Scholar events.

LEAD Scholars students are dedicated to providing safe and fun communal activities prior to UCF home games for their 1st and 2nd year students. “LEAD Scholars‘ tailgates provide a great opportunity for LEAD Scholars to build relationships with their peers in an invigorating and exciting football atmosphere,” said Steven Natale, second-year LEAD Student's Association director. “We feel alcohol is not necessary to get pumped up and excited for the home win. Go Knights.” LEAD Student’s Association Athletic Committee Chair Nathanial Torrech said, “LEAD Scholars exemplifies the popular UCF mantra ‘Do the Knight Thing’ by exhibiting role model behavior for other Knights attending tailgating activities.”

At the UCF vs. Samford game tailgate, 126 LEAD Scholars attended (20 percent of students in the program) and 87 LEAD Scholars participated at the UCF vs. Buffalo tailgate. The LEAD Scholars flag could be seen at other UCF tailgating home games as well.

Rosen Student Life’s Events Sparked Interest and Awareness

The Rosen College of Hospitality Management Student Life Office hosted two events in October, “Caravan of Culture” and “Art Appreciation Day.” Caravan of Culture was held on October 21 in celebration of UCF Diversity Week. Students had the opportunity to learn how to belly dance and receive insight from a palm reader.

On October 27, Art Appreciation Day at Rosen included artwork from UCF staff member, Judy Pardo, as well as representatives from the Orlando Fringe Festival, Central Florida Performing Arts Alliance, and the Orlando Shakespeare Theater. The event offered cultural awareness and appreciation of the arts as well as opportunities to get involved in the community. The Rosen College Clinic was also present to offer Flu shots.
UCF students affected by the economic hardships of the recession have a new outlet. Knights Helping Knights, a volunteer-based organization set up through Rick Falco’s first year LEAD Scholars class, focuses on giving back through a food pantry and a yard sale at Memory Mall.

Located on the third floor of the Student Union, the food pantry is run by shifts of volunteers and includes varieties of canned foods, bottled beverages, toiletries and supplies provided free of charge for students. The pantry will expand to include used electronics, clothing and any other donated goods for students. It is open Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., but can be opened at anytime for students seeking assistance by calling 407.823.2256 or e-mailing smaton@mail.ucf.edu. “The pantry is built on trust,” said Nate Torrech, sophomore and member of Knights Helping Knights. “We don’t require identification because we want students to feel comfortable enough to utilize this resource.”

UCF Upward Bound Program Awarded National Grant

UCF Upward Bound Program was awarded the Tiger Woods Foundation grant. UCF was chosen from hundreds of proposals submitted in this national competition. The program links students, who have been defined as low income and first generation potential college students, to institutions of higher education. The Tiger Woods Foundation grant will be allocated to support the program’s mentoring initiative.

The Upward Bound Program will be developing a formal mentoring program designed to connect its participants with key faculty, staff, peer mentors, alumni and community mentors. Mentoring will be used to enhance academic advising, aid with retention and provide social integration for the program’s participants. Additionally, an e-mail/Online Mentor program will be established.

The Tiger Woods Foundation grants program has supported an average of 100 charities annually and more than 10 million young people have benefited from the Tiger Woods Foundation since its inception in 1996. Through programs and annual events, the Foundation continues to make a difference in the lives of youth around the world.

CIA Visits UCF to Recruit Students

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) made a recruiting visit to UCF on November 12 and 13. In addition to participating in the Public Service Career Showcase, they collected more than 200 resumes from students and alumni and hosted an information session that over 100 interested students attended. The UCF faculty from various disciplines met with the CIA director of Operations and the Southeastern area recruiter. Information was exchanged during this session, including opportunities for faculty to engage CIA representatives through classroom presentations and scenario-based activities. On the second day visit, while the CIA Director of Operations and the Southeastern area recruiter met with UCF Office of Global Perspectives representatives, other CIA recruiters interviewed 16 students for current vacancies. The agency was seeking candidates for many job openings including: analytic methodologists, counter-terrorism analysts, economists, publications officers and various analyst positions.

Lynn Hansen, executive director for Career Services, and Amy Kleeman, director of Employer Relations for Career Services, visited the CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia during summer 2009 and piqued the interest of CIA representatives with regards to recruiting opportunities at UCF. Soon after, the two-day visit was scheduled. Because the Fall visit was so successful and highlighted the strong interest of UCF students and alumni, the agency will make another recruiting visit in the Spring semester in conjunction with the Spring Expo, which is scheduled for January 27, 2010.

Students interested in working for the CIA are encouraged to complete an online application at: www.cia.gov.
Student Development

Highlights of Veteran Services During Fall 2009

ROTC and service men were present at the 9-11 Memorial.

Vice Admiral/U.S. Navy (Ret) Al Harms presented Lieutenant/U.S. Navy Jervia Fickens with his Commendation medal.

Vice President of the Student Veterans Association, Harry’s Famous Flowers, Inc.; UCF Army ROTC; and the Hagerty High School.

Commendation Medal Award Ceremony: Jervia Fickens, UCF graduate nursing student, was awarded a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal in a campus ceremony that was held in the Registrar’s Office on October 15. Fickens was honored for his achievements as a clinical nurse manager at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Va., July 2005 through July 2009. He was recognized for managerial ability, personal initiative and collaborative work that led to more than 100 infants receiving frenectomies to improve their ability to feed. Vice Admiral/US Navy (Ret) Al Harms presented Lieutenant Fickens with the Commendation Medal. Fickens is an active duty lieutenant in the Navy Nurse Corps.

VA Extravaganza: Veteran Services Registrar’s Office hosted the first-ever VA Extravaganza at UCF on November 9. Congresswoman Suzanne Kosmas, who represents the 24th district, presented closing remarks thanking all veterans for their dedication and service. She gave a special thanks to Jason Curtis, who was one of many veterans who was extended overseas.

Over 45 participants set up table displays including SDES offices, such as the Counseling Center, Transfer and Transition Services, Student Disability Services, and Regional Campuses Student Services at Cocoa. Community involvement included: Veterans of Foreign Wars, Orange and Seminole County Veteran Services Officers, Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) coordinator from the VA Medical Clinic, VetJobs and many others.

The VA Extravaganza event was organized by Assistant University Registrar Jim Middlekauff who is responsible for Veteran Services at UCF.

“Veterans Services Registrar’s Office had a busy Fall semester with events such as: 9/11 Memorial: Never Forget, military display in the UCF Library, Commendation Medal Award ceremony and VA Extravaganza. 9/11 Memorial: Never Forget: The UCF community gathered at the Reflecting Pond for the event to remember the September 11, 2001 tragedy. The memorial was a remembrance to the souls that perished, and the soldiers that answered the call to duty to restore justice and peace to our nation. The event opened with the Presentation of Colors by the ROTC Color Guard, followed by a memorial wreath presented by the UCF Student Veterans Association (SVA), and the National Anthem that was sung by the Hagerty High School chorus. Guest speakers Jason Curtis (past-president and founder of the SVA); Chris Galvan (ROTC and former para-trooper Purple Heart recipient); Jacki Fitzgerald (current president, UCF SVA); and Alejandro Mujica (SVA, public relations) reflected on the events of 9/11. There was several pauses of silence. The event was sponsored by the UCF Student Veterans Association, Harry’s Famous Flowers, Inc.; UCF Army ROTC; and the Hagerty High School.

Military Library Display: The Office of Diversity Initiatives, Veteran Services Registrar’s Office, and UCF Libraries hosted military appreciation and history displays in the UCF Library from October 1-30. The exhibition included: photos, letters, medals, paintings, uniforms, a canteen, and flags that were presented to families who lost loved ones who served their country. “I believe it is important to remember and to continue to honor those who have fought to keep us free,” said Barbara Thompson, Office of Diversity Initiatives. The exhibition displayed gratitude to our freedom fighters for those who served, and continue to serve our country. Items exhibited were on loan from the Vietnam Veterans of Central Florida, The National Vietnam War Museum and UCF employees.

Students and Alumni Connect to Explore Majors and Careers

The Sophomore and Second Year Center (SSYC) collaborated with several campus partners, Career Services, the Student Government Association, Alumni Relations and 18 dedicated alumni to conduct the 4th Annual Alumni Mentoring Knight program on November 19. Current undeclared students had the opportunity to connect with UCF alumni and learn about their collegiate experiences in regard to their major decision and career. This year’s event was a success with 67 students in attendance, representing a 98 percent increase when compared to 2008.

Students heard motivational comments from UCF administrators and alumni keynote speaker Brandie Hollinger, former UCF Student Government Association president. Hollinger encouraged students to use the numerous helpful campus resources, stay involved at UCF, and take advantage of these alumni connections as they explore their major and career options. Students also had the opportunity to interact with alumni and gather information via advising representatives from numerous colleges and other student support offices.

A post-event survey indicated that 71 percent of students “overall strongly agreed or agreed” that the event was relevant to them and met their expectations. One student attendee commented, “It was helpful. Don’t change it.” Student attendees will be contacted by SSYC in Spring 2010 to continue to connect with the alumni they met at this year’s event to further develop a “mentor” relationship as they continue their exploration process.

Alumni talked to students about his experiences in college and the workforce.
Events Focused on Student Mental Health and Wellness

The UCF Counseling Center highlighted several events that emphasized student mental health and wellness during the week of October 12-15. The week began with a Strengths Screening event in front of the Marketplace in Ferrell Commons. Students had an opportunity to complete a self-assessment that emphasized personal strengths and could discuss it with a clinician.

The Counseling Center hosted an Open House for all faculty and staff on October 14. As the jazz band played outside the center’s entrance, over 160 guests were welcomed in by the Director Stacey Pearson and clinicians. Attendees had the opportunity to tour the center, talk with clinicians about their areas of specialty as well as read the biographies posted on each clinician’s door, and learn fun facts of the center’s services. Overall, the event created an opportunity to further develop the counseling center’s relationships with its UCF partners.

The Healthy Knight Expo event focused on mental and physical health, and overall wellness in students by increasing awareness, sharing valuable resources and helping students connect to services on campus. UCF representatives, Counseling Center; Health Services; Recreation and Wellness Center; the Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Program; and registered student organizations, Active Minds and Knight Allies, participated in the Expo. Community partners, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and National Alliance on Mental Illness, were present to assist with screenings. Overall, the event created an opportunity to further develop the counseling center’s relationships with its UCF partners.

Students Connect to Employers of the Public Sector

The 8th Annual Public Service Career Showcase, provided opportunities for students of all majors to learn about careers in the public sector. Representatives from non-profits, government offices and agencies related to health, human and social services shared information about career paths within their fields and recruited students for internship, volunteer and paid positions. There was a 60 percent increase in student attendance at this year’s Showcase compared to last year’s.

The November Showcase was hosted by the College of Health and Public Affairs, UCF Career Services and various student organizations.

Both participating students and employers appreciated the opportunity to network and remarked on the need for events focused on careers in the public sector.

LINK Auction Draws Record Crowd

There was excitement in the air as a record-breaking 850+ students crowded into the Pegasus Ballroom on December 2, eager to bid on prizes at the annual LINK Fall Auction. Freshmen can accumulate LINK Loot/points for every LINK program they attend and use the points at an auction at the end of the semester. Raymond Ng was excited to win the grand prize, tuition scholarship. “LINK helped me more than I thought it would and proved to be an extraordinary aid in self edification,” said Ng. “I feel that many of the workshops and events helped me learn a lot more and how to better myself and my education.”

Other prizes included a UCF Dining meal plan for the 2010-2011 academic year, acoustic guitar, Wolverine DVD, Nintendo Wii, Playstation 3 game console, UCF Spirit Packs, tickets to Universal Studios, a Tom Tom GPS unit, and many gift cards donated by local restaurants. There were also raffle drawings throughout the night, which offered the chance to win prizes for any of the students in attendance.

“The bidding for items was competitive and students fiercely tried to outbid each other for the prizes they wanted” said Josh Wheeler, First Year Experience coordinator and auctioneer.

The LINK staff announced they will have a raffle in the Spring instead of an auction. At the Spring Raffle, there will be multiple tiers of prizes. Each tier will have raffle tickets that can be purchased with a corresponding number of LINK Loot. For example, students can purchase raffle tickets for 10,000 LINK Loot at the grand prize table, but can purchase tickets for 500 Loot at the third-tier table. By changing the format, more students will have a chance at the prizes, with or without the most Loot points.

“Having a Spring Raffle will allow us to keep the energy and momentum high, while increasing the suspense and fun of the event,” said Emily Jensen, coordinator for the LINK program.

The Spring Raffle will take place on April 20 at 6 p.m. in the Student Union Pegasus Ballroom. For more information on the LINK program, visit www.link.ucf.edu.
Welcome to SDES

New employees: Sept. 15 – Nov. 15, 2009
• Krishendaye Brissett, program assistant, Counseling Center
• Lacey Carter, facilities scheduler, Recreation and Wellness Center
• Maria Celebre, financial assistance counselor, Health Services
• Joseph Chasko, dentist, Dental Clinic
• Theresa Corral, program assistant, Housing and Residence Life
• Mildred Cousins, office assistant, Dental Clinic
• Pamela Fengish, office assistant, Health Services
• Michelle Greco, coordinator accounting, Housing and Residence Life
• Wendy Hart, dental hygienist, Dental Clinic
• Vanessa Hernandez, office manager, Academic Services for Student-Athletes
• Claudia Pacheco, program assistant, First Year Advising and Exploration
• Ila Tar, program assistant, Health Services

SDES Changes
• Congratulations to Brian Boyd who was selected as UCF’s university registrar. Boyd has been with UCF and the Registrar’s office for over three years, most recently as the interim university registrar. He came to UCF with experience in various aspects of student services as well as serving in the role of registrar at a previous institution. While in the role of UCF associate university registrar, he was able to effectively manage several operational issues for the Registrar’s Office including the integration of new technology into the business processes.

SDES Awards and Recognition
• Rebekah McCloud, director for UCF’s Upward Bound Program, was accepted into the First Year Class of the Southeastern Association of Equal Opportunity Program Personnel’s (SAEOPP) Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI). The program is a two year staff development program with the first year training that will begin January 2010 as a part of SAEOPP’s annual conference to be held in Mobile, Alabama. The association is dedicated to the professional development and support of TRIO professionals and to the advocacy of the TRIO Movement.
• Yselande Pierre, Office of Student Involvement, was selected for the Standing Committee for Women “State and International Liaison Program” for a two-year term.
• Dennis Congos, First Year Advising and Exploration, was invited by the publisher, Starting Out, Inc., to compile his learning skills handouts into a textbook book titled, “Starting Out In College.”
• Suzie Caffery and Diahn Escue, Creative School for Children, presented at the National Marine Educators Association Conference in California. They were able to attend this conference through grant funding from UCF, National Sea Grant College Program, NOAA, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Tampa Bay Estuary Program and the Nature Conservancy.

SDES Learning Guides Update
First of all, thank you for attending to the last Core Group Meeting on September 18, 2009. As you may recall, the horizontal teams were getting ready for a slight facelift. There are now two divisions of horizontal teams: Collaborative Learning Inspires Knights Success (CLIKS)—focuses on student learning outcomes and Deliberate Integrated Service Coupling (DISC)—focuses on staff and service needs. The CLIKS teams include: Economy Blues; Civility Now; Ready, S.E.T., Go; Council for Interfaith Dialogue and Spiritual Practice; and NT (Non Traditional Knights).

The DISC teams include: Learning Guides; Risk Management; Diversity; Self Discovery Knights; Community Engagement Team; and SASI (Support All Staff Involvement).

Congratulations to Eric Coleman and Shelby Ball, coordinators for Academic Services for Student-Athletes, who suggested Collaborative Learning Inspires Knights Success as the name for the student learning outcome horizontal teams. Eric and Shelby received a pizza from Brooklyn Pizza for choosing the winning name.

The SDES Learning Guides are gearing up for an exciting season of student learning outcomes and assessment. Please contact your Learning Guide with any questions about your assessment process.

By the way, here’s a quick tip to help you with your assessment journey. Did you know: indirect measures are at least one step removed from the target learning outcome such as perceived or reported learning (i.e. “Can you drive a car?”). Direct measures of learning are actual representations of how a student's knowledge, behavior, skills and/or values have changed (i.e. “Show me how you drive this car.”). We look forward to seeing you at the next Core Group meeting.

Rita Simpson Named USPS Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Rita Simpson who was awarded the USPS Employee of the Month for October. Since first being employed at UCF in 1993, Simpson has been hired for several positions. In 2007, she began her current position as a program assistant in the Sophomore & Second Year Center (SSYC).

Her co-workers state, “Rita has consistently demonstrated a commitment to student success and in supporting the center’s efforts to enhance undergraduate education for the students they serve” and “She exhibits a positive attitude and her approachability has made her well-known in our area units/department.”

For more information about the USPS Employee of the Month process, call 407.823.0440.