Volunteer Service Rewards All in Many Ways

Spring Break is one of the most anticipated times of the year for students. Although most students see Spring Break as a time for themselves, a group of UCF students chose to use their Spring Break for the benefit of others. They participated in an opportunity in hope of making a positive change in the lives of others. These students took part in UCF’s Alternative Spring Break, sponsored by Volunteer UCF, Student Government Association, Housing and Residence Life, LEAD Scholars Program, and the Recreation and Wellness Center. ASB places teams of UCF students in communities around the country to engage in volunteer service projects with local non-profit agencies.

This year's ASB trips sent students to volunteer sites across the U. S. southeast. Projects involved students in a variety of activities from repairing damaged homes that had been untouched since Hurricane Katrina to working in the classroom with underprivileged children. ASB participants volunteered at the following service sites:

- Mid Atlantic Border Collie Rescue, Chestertown, MD
- Hurricane Katrina Relief, New Orleans, LA
- Stop Hunger Now, Charlotte, NC
- Habitat for Humanity, Pontotoc, MS
- Habitat for Humanity, Maryville, TN
- Save a Sato San Juan, PR
- Cumberland Trails, Crossville, TN
- Junior Achievement, Birmingham, AL
- YMCA, Savannah, GA
- Long Branch Environmental Education Center, Leicester, NC
- Key Deer Refuge, Big Pine Key, FL
- Team OCEAN, Key West, FL
- Therapeutic Horseback Camp for Autistic Children, Virginia Beach, VA

Each trip is comprised of eight students, one student site leader and one faculty/staff advisor. The site leader goes through an extensive training program and takes an integral role in planning the trip and in the development of the service learning plan for the entire experience.

Many of the students attending this year’s ASB are returning participants, some of which have accepted the additional responsibility of becoming a site leader for their trip. According to Naomi Parks, a site leader for Savannah GA trip, the most rewarding thing was “seeing the friendships that were made through the service experiences together, and how much of a positive difference we can make when we work as a team.”

Dave Moran, graduate assistant for the Office of Student Involvement and faculty adviser for the Key West Trip said, “Connecting to the students on a different level and seeing how passionate they became for the organization we were helping really made me appreciate what we do in the OSI office.”

The participants of ASB displayed a dedication to community and personal values rooted in a strong sense of integrity, that reflect the values exemplified in the UCF Creed.

**LEAD Scholars plus ASB Program: A Perfect Merger**

LEAD Scholars Program is an organization that represents: academic excellence, leadership and service. ASB was an opportunity for LEAD scholars to develop and grow. Ten scholars traveled to Big Pine Key Florida to assist in improving the environment of the native endangered Key Deer of the area.

During their ASB experience the scholars had the opportunity to reside on a section of the Wildlife Refuge Area, and become more acquainted with the Island of Big Pine Key and the native animals that freely explore the land.

LEAD scholars picked up debris and litter in the woods in Big Pine Key, Florida.

ASB program’s area facilitator Chad Anderson prepared the agenda of service projects for the week:

- Operation plant invasion: students imported new plant life for the wildlife to enjoy for years to come;
- Environmental clean-up: scholars cleaned up waste products left by litterers; and
- Beach clean: LEAD participants traveled to Long Beach where they conducted a trash-clean-up along the inner shores, as well as areas intertwined amongst the mangroves of the Island.

Students also bonded throughout the course of the their week through group discussions, game nights and a Friday trip to Key West for a sight-seeing adventure and later on a final farewell dinner.

Jenna Montana had this to say of her experience, “Through ASB, I feel like I learned more about myself in so many facets, rather than anything else. I was able to assess myself on a multitude of levels by physically challenging work, team/group dynamics, and interpersonal communication. Overall, the experience was exceptionally unique and rewarding by that feature.”

“The Alternative Spring Break Program is an experience that all UCF students should consider,” said Amirica Nicholson, LEAD site leader. “The opportunity to acquire new leadership skills, work-hard to improve the world, and meet new friends that you will have for a lifetime are all motivational components of the program.”
Melissa Gregory Honored with Congressional Award

UCF student Melissa Gregory, SDES supplemental instruction leader, was presented the gold Congressional Award in December 2010 by Valerie Gunther, a representative for former Congress woman Susan Kosmas, and UCF Vice Presidents, Dan Holsenbeck and Rick Schell.

“I have been working on this accomplishment for three years and have completed over five hundred hours of volunteer service,” said Gregory. “I volunteered with various agencies including Salvation Army, Pet Rescue by Judy, Red Cross, and the Tremont Independent Living. I started the first and only Seminole County chapter of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts. I taught dance to middle school students at a local school, as well as performed in various Nutcracker performances for underprivileged children.”

The Congressional Award is the United States Congress’ only award offered to youth, ages 14 to 23. Participants are required to set challenging goals in four levels: Expedition/Exploration, Personal Development, Physical Fitness and Volunteer Public Service. In order to earn the gold Congressional Award, participants first have to earn the bronze, silver and gold certificates, as well as the bronze and silver medals. One thousand hours of work is required, including over four hundred hours of volunteer service.

“Earning a Congressional Award is a long and enjoyable learning experience,” commented Gregory. “This success requires commitment, hard work, dedication and responsibility to complete. The long journey is worth the victory.”

Students no longer have to search the UCF web for campus services and support concerning their physical, emotional and social issues they may be experiencing. Healthy Knights 2020, created through Student Development and Enrollment Services, provides a one-stop website for well-being with on-campus resources, off-campus links, self-assessment tools and preventive health guidance for students’ well-being.

SDES has embarked on a Campus Health Initiative to evaluate UCF’s efforts and resources to address the health of students, faculty and staff, and to plan the most effective administration and use of services. In 2007, the Health Promotion in Higher Education Committee was formed by UCF Health Services to identify high priority student health needs and evaluate existing campus resources. The Healthy Knights 2020 site was modeled after the Surgeon General’s Healthy People campaign, a national effort to promote wellness and prevent disease.

Healthy Knights, Making the Difference

This on-going, collaborative effort of many SDES staff is student-centered and focuses on student learning and healthy behavior outcomes. The program’s outreach began with the Healthy Knights Resource Guide which was provided at orientations, Healthy Knights Week in March 2010, and the spring semester 2011 launch of the Healthy Knights 2020 website: healthyknights.ucf.edu.

The website aims to positively influence and increase the participation of the health and well-being of the UCF community by providing a calendar of workshops, programs and access to relevant information on a wide variety of challenges facing college students today from stress, sleep problems, common colds to relationship issues, computer overuse and alcohol concerns. The site addresses students’ challenges through education, treatment and support. Preventive Health educates students to process and make healthy decisions, taking positive steps to be Healthy Knights.

“Healthy Knights 2020 is UCF’s answer to the Healthy People 2020 challenge by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,” said Bob Wirag, director for Health Services. “The goal is to positively influence the overall health and well-being of UCF students, faculty and staff. By the time we reach 2020, we will look back with pride in knowing we truly made a difference in improving the health of our community.”

Knight-Thon 2011 Raises $85,000

Knight-Thon 2011 “Dance for a Chance” celebrated its 15th year at UCF on February 26-27. Knight-Thon is UCF’s Dance Marathon benefiting the Children’s Miracle Network and is UCF’s largest student run philanthropy.

This year over 350 students participated, standing for 15 hours for the children. Participants were entertained throughout the event with inflatables, games, performances and Knight-Thon favorite, hypnotist Dale K. Over the past several years Knight-Thon has experienced tremendous growth; the 2011 goal was $80,000, an increase of $18,000 over what was raised last year.

“Through the tireless efforts of all of the students, organizations and teams involved with Knight-Thon 2011, we were able to break this goal, raising $84,640 as of the night of the event with money still coming in,” said Kelly Sparks, coordinator for special events, Office of Student Involvement. “Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make Knight-Thon 2011 a huge success.”

Students boosting the morale of Knight-Thon participants.
Regional Student Awarded SGA Scholarship

Myriam-Lise Guillaume, an international student from Haiti, was a recipient of a 2010-11 SGA Regional Student Achievers Scholarship. She received her AA from Florida State College of Jacksonville in summer 2010 and began UCF Daytona in fall 2010. She is currently majoring in psychology and hopes to also complete the Daytona nursing program.

Guillaume has worked as a student assistant in the UCF Daytona Student Services Office since October 2010. She also volunteers with a church youth group to assist their efforts to raise money for the Haitian earthquake victims.

“We’re delighted that she has been recognized for her volunteer and collegiate efforts,” said Diana Weidman, director for UCF Daytona Student Services.

IFC Volunteers at Freedom Ride

The UCF Interfraternity Council hosted their inaugural Community Service Day on February 12 at Freedom Ride in Orlando. Freedom Ride is a registered non-profit horse ranch dedicated to provide therapeutic horseback riding for anyone with a disability. Children and adults with disabilities such as cerebral palsy, muscular sclerosis and autism are among some of their most frequent riders.

“Giving back to the community is what Greek life is all about,” said Tyler Rits, community service chair.

The council members spent their Saturday morning painting most the ranch’s fences, routine yard work and cleaning out horse stables. Nearly every single IFC fraternity was represented at the event.

“It’s great to see our boys giving up their day off from school to help a great cause and get their hands dirty,” said Adam Brock, IFC president.

Volunteer uKnighted Residents Finish a Successful Pilot Year

UCF Housing and Residence Life piloted the first community service and civic engagement living-learning community in the Lake Claire Apartments this year. With the leadership of Area Coordinator Jeremy Foskitt, the residents of the Volunteers uKnighted commUNITY have committed over 2,000 service hours to community projects and initiatives this year.

The Volunteers uKnighted commUNITY promotes service through citizenship to increase social awareness, civic responsibility, and one’s appreciation, involvement, and engagement in local and global communities. The Department of Housing and Residence Life partners with Volunteer UCF to assist various service-based organizations in the Orlando area.

Whether it is sorting enough food to feed 20,000 people a day at the Second Harvest Food Bank, painting fences for Freedom Ride, Inc., or building a house in Pontotoc, Mississippi for a family over spring break, these students understand the value of community service. Resident George Lau commented, “Living here gave me the opportunity to give back to people in a different way than I previously thought of . . . knowing that the people in the building loved to volunteer as well made our efforts of helping those in need that much stronger.”

Residents have also volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club, Coalition House for the Homeless; various elementary, middle and high schools; Habitat for Humanity; Harbor House; Hope Foundation; Orlando Rescue Mission; Pet Rescue by Judy; Susan G. Komen Foundation; Walk for Autism and Quest Camp Thunderbird. As Wayne Carter, Habitat for Humanity volunteer noted, “As these young people interacted with members of our community, their good conduct, their enthusiasm for life, and their willingness to help others was exemplified again and again and duly noted by our residents.”

Foskitt concluded that “what a difference our students make in the UCF and Orlando communities. . . I could not be more proud to work with these outstanding students and our campus partners to offer this experience – I look forward to continuing the tradition next year.”

Scholarships Benefit Students with Disabilities

Student Disability Services hosted a visit from the Johnson Foundation Board of Directors on March 25. The Johnson Foundation has provided scholarships to students with disabilities at UCF since 1991. Their generosity, over $1M, has supported 162 students with 338 scholarships.

During their visit, three UCF students currently benefiting from Johnson Scholarships personally thanked the board members for their assistance. Meeting with the students was the highlight of the visit for the board members.

Pam Rea, SDS director, along with President John C. Hitt, presented Malcolm McLeod, president/CEO of the Johnson Scholarship Foundation, with the “H. Trevor Colburn” plaque for their contribution of over $1M in scholarships for UCF students with disabilities. Before moving on to their next campus destination, they were given a tour of the SDS office.

Resident of the Volunteers uKnighted commUNITY take a break after sorting food at Second Harvest Food Bank.

Spring Rush Hits Record Numbers

The UCF Interfraternity Council had each of its 18 organizations set up along the Memory Mall lawn for spring Rush. The January 18-21 event was a success with over 400 students registered and almost 300 new additions to the Greek community. “It was great to see all fraternities together in one location, recruiting the future leaders of UCF,” said Adam Brock, IFC president.

The three-day event, which began at 8 p.m. and ended at 11 p.m. each evening, saw such outstanding numbers even though the third day was cancelled due to unsafe weather conditions.

With such a large, open, and centralized location, the event attracted a diverse cross-section of the UCF community, as well as the attention of many individuals in the student body who would not have investigated Greek life otherwise.

Nick Cattafiaux, Phi Gamma Delta president, summed up the event stating, “I think the higher exposure of rush at Memory Mall was beneficial, not only to our chapter, but to the entire Greek community. It was the best spring Rush I have seen in three years.”
UCF Recipient of Outstanding Service Project of the Year

The Association of College Unions International has awarded UCF the “Outstanding Service Project of the Year Award” for their program, Knights Helping Knights Pantry. The award honors outstanding programs and program leaders on individual campuses who have made significant contributions to the community and campuses in which they live.

The Knights Helping Knights Pantry started in the spring 2009 in a small storage room at the Student Union where students came to get donated food and share their stories with volunteers . . . stories about lost jobs, lost homes and more.

The Pantry has since moved to a bigger location in Ferrell Commons and is now serving nearly 2,000 students and providing over 5,000 lbs. of food per semester. Still, none of this would ever be possible without the outstanding group of over 40 student volunteers who dedicated their time and commitment to the Pantry. These volunteers go through training hours and last semester donated nearly 600 hours of service to the Pantry.

“We are honored to be the recipients of ‘The Outstanding Service Project of the Year Award’ presented to us by the ACUI,” commented Willis Chico, community outreach coordinator, Student Union. “We dedicate this award to all of the KHK Pantry volunteers who not only believe in the UCF Creed, but also practice it.”

Lake Claire Residents Learn How to Live Well

The Healthy Lifestyles living-learning community at the Lake Claire Apartments provides first-year students the opportunity to live in a substance-free environment with intentional programming and a commitment to a smoke and alcohol free lifestyle.

Each month has a theme of healthy living that includes topics such as: relationships and safe sex, physical and emotional health, spring break safety, alcohol awareness, diversity and social justice, and many other contemporary college health issues. Campus partners, including the Office of Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention and Intervention Services and the Recreation and Wellness Center provide literature and educational activities related to the monthly themes. Some of the events that have been hosted by resident assistants Ryan Iocco and Matt Smolinksy include a "Healthy Cooking Showcase" and a "Wii Fitness Knight."

Residents living in Healthy Lifestyles enjoyed the experience, as resident Sara Pratt praised the community by noting “it gives you an opportunity to live and be surrounded with people with similar ideals.” Resident Justin Smith corroborated, “it provides opportunities to grow academically and emotionally through programs and events.”

The first year of the Healthy Lifestyles community has been a tremendous success. Under Area Coordinator Jeremy Foskitt’s direction, Lake Claire Apartments will continue to expand and develop the community, building on the programming and partnerships that have been established and incorporating a peer education course in fall 2011.

It’s Not Just a Game

Sophomore and Second Year Center collaborated with the Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy on April 6 in providing a general information session on UCF’s video game development graduate program. Forty undergraduate students attended this session to talk to FIEA staff and gain more information about the video game industry and how students can gain admission to UCF’s program. Students had the opportunity to learn about exciting jobs in the video industry, what undergraduate classes are useful to prepare for FIEA admission, the various program tracks and the process to apply for admission. Donna Mercado, advisor for Digital Media, attended to expand her knowledge of the FIEA program and how to better assist students wishing to further their education through the program.

“This information session was perfect, since I’ve been considering FIEA after graduating with a digital media degree within the game design track,” said Amy Threlkeld. “Some of the facts and statistics they threw out about video games, the FIEA program, and the video game industry was pleasantly surprising.”

Full House at Student Disability Services

Student Disability Services opened its new facility doors to UCF friends on March 25 and had the most non-student visitors on this one day than in all of its history on the UCF campus.

The staff enjoyed leading guest tours around the facility, showing off its new testing rooms, additional testing area, cameras and adjustable tables in the testing room, among other new additions. Special thanks and appreciation goes to the Eccleston-Callahan Memorial Fund for their generous gift of adjustable tables. Among the Open House visitors was Zoila Marcia, Eccleston-Callahan grants manager, Community Foundation of Central Florida. She asked questions about SDS services and photographed the new facility including the tables SDS purchased with the grant support.

SDS has relocated to Ferrell Commons Building 7F, room 185 in January 2011. The space allowed SDS to expand its testing facilities and provide additional space for an assistive technology area for students to test and train on specialty software and equipment. It also provides more space for a reception area and a separate seating area for student and parent workshops.

What’s next for SDS! The currently titled “Future Adaptive Technology Lab” is pending additional needed support to get off the ground and running. When ready to unveil, SDS will host another Open House and offer hands-on experience with this technology.
March 19 marked an exciting week as Multicultural Student Center celebrated the Week of the Woman, themed “It’s a Woman’s World.” This week-long event focused on educating the UCF community on the importance of diverse women’s issues. “I wanted to put a twist on all the events so students could learn different things they are not accustomed to,” said Melissa Westbrook, student director MSC.

The Parade of Hats kicked off the week honoring all women and giving six UCF faculty and staff members special recognition. That afternoon men joined the celebration with the “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes,” an on-campus race in heels to raise awareness for domestic violence. “The laughing crowd thoroughly enjoyed the race as their male friends attempted to run in high heels,” said Westbrook.

Maci Bookout, from the hit MTV show Teen Mom, spoke on her life and related her day to the average young women with no parental responsibilities. Special events included a forum that recaptured the young life of a UCF’s fellow faculty member as she interacted with family friends; a presentation by Mya Angelou, a Renaissance woman who is hailed as one of the great voices of contemporary literature; a fun, interacting belly dance workshop; and a sexual workshop concerning the sensory and anatomy of one’s body. A social that attracted powerful conversations that empowered females to look inside themselves for beauty.

Hair stylists came to UCF with their scissors, brushes and combs to prepare the women who were participating in the “Hair Show: It’s A Hair AfFAIR.” Women received haircuts and styles for the cultural hair showcase. The audience was led on a flight around the world watching women showcase their hairstyles, many donned in their cultural apparel, as they marched on stage. The event also engaged the students with diverse dances and activities.

The Week of a Woman engaged students in education, thoughts, diversity and laughter.

Men ran around campus in women’s shoes.

Women proudly displaying their hairdos and culture.

On-campus Service Opportunity for Freshmen

Thirty students came out to the Arboretum to participate in the first annual freshmen service project. The event was themed around The Ultimate Knight Program of the Month, “Get Global.” In an attempt to help the students get global, the Office of First Year Experience planned “LINK Serve: Lend a Hand with LINK” offering students the chance to participate in on-campus community service, and to learn about the Arboretum’s resources all in one experience.

Students dressed in shorts, T-shirt and closed-toed shoes started arriving at 10 a.m. Participants had to work for at least one hour in the garden, filled with various fruits, vegetables and herbs, to receive their 2,000 points of LINK Loot.

Students had worked throughout the day picking weeds that would be harmful to their crops and planting seeds. The progress that the students made and the impact that they left in the Arboretum was clearly noticeable. Students departed, not only with the knowledge of the garden and a better understanding of what the Arboretum does, but also with a handful of carrots, basil, onions, and other products that they had freshly picked to take home and enjoy.

LINK [Learning and Interacting with New Knights] is an incentive-based program to help First Time in College students get involved on campus. Students obtain Loot by attending LINK events and can use their loot at the LINKO, a Bingo-style event.

Quiet Study Space

Student Government Association has provided students with a quiet space to study. “All Knight Study,” located on the left side of the UCF Arena, provides students with computer usage, small group study rooms, large group study lounge, wireless access, free printing, free scantrons, mini-refrigerator and microwave usage. Similar to a library setting, students are expected to follow all study room rules and regulations, allowing them to study in a non-distractive environment. Students have the ability to reserve rooms for two hours with a current UCF student identification.

The study facility is open to students on Sunday 9 a.m. through Friday 9 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
New Initiatives for Eternal Knights

The UCF flag flew half mast on March 30 as the UCF community honored the lives of 14 students. Eternal Knights, in its tenth year, memorializes UCF students who have passed away during recent academic terms. It enables families and friends to join with the campus community in a solemn tribute to their loved ones. During the eulogy, each student is recognized and given the title, "Eternal Knight."

A team of SDES and SGA representatives volunteered to plan the program, with the goal of increasing awareness of the ceremony and making it more personal for the families in attendance. This year, the planning committee implemented a number of initiatives, including:

- A campuswide moment of silence
- Eternal Knights awareness ribbons, which were worn by SDES staff members and students prior to and day of the ceremony
- Large black ribbons tied around first and second floor pillars in the Student Union atrium
- Decoration of the Pegasus logo in the Student Union Atrium with candles and yellow roses, in students' honor
- Memorial sheets, completed by family and friends, to be submitted to University Archives so students are eternally preserved in UCF history

At the reception following the ceremony, SDES Leadership Team members presented a Certificate of Achievement, the Senate resolution, and an etched vase to each family, on behalf of the university.

Student-Athletes Continue to Excel in the Classroom

For the sixth consecutive term, the average team GPA for varsity teams exceeded 3.0 during the fall 2010 semester. The average team GPA for the fall was 3.117, the highest in school history. Volleyball had the highest team GPA (3.565) and is one of seven teams to have a team GPA in excess of 3.2. The others include: men's and women's tennis, cross-country track, women's golf, and rowing. In total, 55 percent of student-athletes earned a 3.0 GPA or higher during the term, including 5.2 percent who earned a perfect 4.0 GPA.

During the fall, the men's and women's soccer teams qualified and won a game in the NCAA championship tournament; the men's basketball team went undefeated; and the football team won the conference championship and the Liberty Bowl.

"When one considers the remarkable accomplishments our student-athletes achieved in athletics this fall and that they were equally as successful in the classroom, it makes us all proud to be members of the UCF community," says Mark Gumble, assistant vice president SDES and director for Academic Services for Student-Athletes. "Our student-athletes are embracing the UCF Creed and striving for excellence in all that they do."

ASSA offers a wide range of services for all varsity student-athletes at UCF. These services extend from the time a recruited student-athlete makes an official visit to UCF to the point when a student-athlete leaves the university, which is typically upon graduation. ASSA provides student-athletes with academic advising, academic support and tutoring. In addition, ASSA's mentoring program provides assistance for student-athletes in developing the skills necessary to be a successful student and lifelong learner.

Life Coaching for Students

The Life Coaching for Students workshop attracted students who want to thrive in their personal and academic lives using principles from positive psychology to facilitate their identifying, setting, working toward, and achieving their goals.

The Life Coaching workshop assists students to live happier, more fulfilling and satisfying lives. Participants identify areas of their lives that they want to enhance such as personal wellness, academic and career success, and/or relationship development. Participants then establish specific goals in these areas, learn strategies for achieving their goals, and get motivated to take action toward making their vision a reality.

At the end of the workshop, students filled out evaluations sheets. Student comments on what was most helpful included:

- "Being able to set goals and being held accountable for them."
- "The mechanisms for setting goals and how important self-care is. They can be applied to virtually every facet of my life and I feel motivated to apply them practically even beyond the confines of this workshop series."
- "Meeting in a group session was very effective; I felt more comfortable sharing."

It's all about Racing

Late Knights reached the checkered flag with approximately 1,000 people in attendance at its "Race Knight" February 25 event. The evening included Race to the Top inflatables, Spider Zone, Bath Tub Racing and Horse Racing. The first 200 attendees who raced to the finish line received customized street signs. Everyone had the opportunity to receive free T-shirts, Late Knights lanyards and totes, prizes, free Smoothie Kings and free food at midnight. Throughout the event, Knights could talk with registered student organizations to learn more about UCF involvement.
Weeklong Greek Efforts Benefit Others

March 25 marked the beginning day where thousands of UCF students in fraternities and sororities celebrated an annual tradition, Greek Week. The week’s theme, “Legends of the Greek Temple,” was based on the hit Nickelodeon show Legends of the Hidden Temple. Events included Greek Extrav, Greek Games, Block Party, Greeks Strolling for a Cause, Comedy Night and Greek Gala.

Community service, a large part of Greek Life, played an important role throughout the week. At the Greeks Strolling for a Cause event, over $300 was raised from voting for Royalty Court Fan Favorite. By the end of the week, Greek teams raised over $12,700 for the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life. Lastly, UCF Knights Helping Knights, a food and clothing pantry open to all UCF students, received over 1,000 pounds of donated food.

At Greek Gala, teams were recognized for their participation throughout the week and contributions to the Greek community during the previous year. Chi Omega, Theta Chi, Sigma Lambda Gamma and Alpha Kappa Alpha were recognized as the Chapter of the Year for their respective councils. The 2011 Greek Week overall winner was the Tie Dye Triceratops, comprised of Alpha Delta Pi, Beta Theta Pi, Kappa Sigma, Delta Sigma Theta and Phi Beta Sigma.

Career Services has More Space

In January, Career Services has moved into their new 25,000-square-foot, three-story building which is located on the north side of campus along Memory Mall. Career Services is housed on the first two floors and the Office of Experiential Learning on the 3rd floor.

Career Services continues to offer students services including drop-in hours for resume, cover letter, or CV [curriculum vitae] critiques, career counseling, practice interviews, employer information sessions, on-campus interviews and workshops on many career related topics.

UCF Young Knights School Earns Accreditation

The UCF Creative School for Children has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children – the nation’s leading organization of early childhood professionals.

The school’s philosophy, “Encouraging Children to Become Lifelong Learners,” embraces the belief that all children have the basic right to be educated in a safe and nurturing environment. All children should be provided with time, space, and opportunities needed to discover, accept, and develop themselves to their highest potentials. In order to become lifelong learners, young children need to be provided with concrete meaningful experiences to help them develop a positive self-esteem, skills in problem solving, creative thinking, self-reliance, and interpersonal communications.

To earn accreditation, the CSC went through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against the 10 NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related accreditation criteria.

“We’re proud to have earned the mark of quality from NAEYC, and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards,” said Rhonda Moore, CSC director. “NAEYC Accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible.”

Provost Tony Waldrop Presents at the NorthStar Summit

The NorthStar Summit Leadership Conference, KoRT’s annual leadership conference, challenges student leaders to reach new heights for themselves and their organizations by discussing a range of topics that every leader should know.

This year the Keynote Speaker was the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Tony Waldrop. The provost first asked the audience what are the good and bad qualities of a leader. He then presented different situations to each group of students and asked them to resolve the issue at hand. The interaction that the provost exerted towards the students was very well received.

“I came here with a leadership foundation but this has really helped me build on it,” said Lauren Evans, a sophomore majoring in Political Science.

KoRT, a student group of the Office of Student Involvement, offers student organizations and student leaders the opportunities to constantly improve themselves and their organizations.
Welcome to SDES

New Employees: Jan. 15–Apr. 1, 2011
• Shari Carew, office assistant, Health Services
• Russell Garno, custodial worker, Recreation and Wellness Center
• Alan Holtz, program assistant, First Year Experience
• Abby Paul, academic advising services coordinator, Student Academic Resource Center
• Andres Pipa, maintenance mechanic, Housing and Residence Life
• Michael Preston, director of student affairs, Office of Student Involvement
• Jonny Realpe, custodial worker, RWC
• Edwin Rivera, maintenance worker, RWC
• Carol Thompson, coordinator academic support services, PRIME STEM Project
• Michael Williams, custodial worker, RWC

SDES Changes
• SDES Organizational Chart: Many changes were made in the chart, to view all changes, visit the SDES website: publishing.ucf.edu/sites/sdes/Documents/ongchart.pdf

Robert Snow Named Co-Chair of National Interest Group
Robert “Bob” Snow, director for Sophomore and Second Year Center, was recently named as co-chair of the Advising Second-Year Students Interest Group, an affiliate of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA).

Due to the growing recognition of second-year issues and their impact on student success, the Advising Second-Year Students Interest Group intends to bring together advisers, faculty and other student services staff who work with sophomores. Through online dialogue, and meetings at the national conventions, participants can share advising strategies, programs and resources.

Lacey Carter Named USPS Employee of the Month
Congratulations to Lacey Carter, facilities scheduler for Recreation and Wellness Center, who was awarded the USPS Employee of the Month of May. Carter coordinates the logistics for events that student organizations, faculty and staff need assistance with when planning their event. Her co-workers say, “Lacey is the glue that holds the RWC team together” and “She is willing to roll up her sleeves and be on the front line staffing an event.” Furthermore, “Lacey is highly involved with diversity training and initiatives.”

UCF Collaborates with Brevard Zoo
UCF Creative School for Children instructors Suzie Caaffery and Diahn Escue, were one of several partners to collaborate with the Brevard County Zoo to present the 1st Annual Oyster Appreciation Day on January 15.

The event was an opportunity for zoo guests to learn about the value of the eastern oyster and the reefs they form as well as the ongoing Mosquito Lagoon Oyster Reef Restoration Project. The day at the zoo provided education regarding the importance of oysters in our environment. Lagoon species depend on oysters and their reef structures for survival. Oysters are filter feeders that are important for helping clean the water.

Caffery and Escue signed copies of their book and hosted two book readings. Other activities included an opportunity to meet with scientific experts on oysters and learn about local and global restoration efforts; experience hands-on oyster restoration mat making; and enjoy oyster-themed crafts and games.

“Oyster Appreciation Day was a great success with record breaking attendance at the Brevard County Zoo,” commented Caffery.

URSA Advisor Wins State Award
Nike Community area coordinator and advisor of the United Resident Student Association, Corey Tickner was named “Norbert W. Dunkel Advisor of the Year” at the Florida Association of Residence Halls state conference. URSA student leaders submitted a bid to the state organization in recognition of Tickner. “Corey has been an amazing advisor,” the bid insists, “He is willing to help anyone in need whether it is for academic reasons or social or personal problems.”

Tickner says he was honored and to win “was a very humbling experience because we, as student affairs professionals, often do not get to see the end result of the impact we have. By winning this award it was validation and motivation for the work that I do.”

UCF’s delegation also took home several other awards at the FARH state conference.
• First Year Student Award–Allison Newbold and Cristian Rivera
• FARH Recognition of Outstanding Growth–Evin Ershock
• FARH Scholarship Award–Selina Mullennax

The URSA is UCF’s second largest student organization on campus representing over 6,000 on-campus residents and is affiliated with state, regional and international student leadership organizations.

2011 SDES Appreciation Celebration
Congratulations to all service award recipients and the following merit awardees: Exceptional Partnership Award: Office of Diversity Initiatives
• UCF Keeper of the Creed: Faculty/Staff: Student:–Integrity: C. Chad Cronon; Jessica Feels –Scholarship: Caroline Massiah; Colton Tapoler –Community: Michael Freeman; Megan Kizzart –Creativity: Wanda Raimundi-Oritz; Christopher Pombonyo –Excellence: Kelly Astro & Jacqueline Boehme
• First Year Advocate: Faculty: Student: Cynthia Hutchinson, College of Education: Meghan Van Camp
• Outstanding Collaborative Effort: Office of Student Involvement & First Year Experience
• Community Connection: Suzanne Caffery & Diahn Escue
• Commitment to Diversity: Eric Coleman
• A&P Operational Excellence: Willis Chico Centeno
• The Experienced Professional: Rhonda Moore
• The Experienced Professional: Dr. Michael Deichen
• SDES Team of the Year: Academic Services for Student-Athletes
• OPS Operational Excellence: Sandra Rodenbrook
• A&P Operational Excellence: Sheryl Gamble

Hidden Artists Display
For the third year, UCF faculty and staff of the Hidden Artists group displayed artwork at the UCF Library.

Many of the artists are in the Division of SDES. The exhibition displayed January 2-23 featuring the talents of: Dawn Herrod, Kathy Hudson, Jacqui Johnson, Amy Kleeman, Simona Loh, Russ Muller, Brian Pate, Judy Bragg Pardo, Ken Rabac, Diane Colvin Reitz, Mary Roskowksi, Tina Tran and Jimmy Watson.

The group displayed a variety of mediums from paintings, drawings, mixed media, sculpture, photographs, digital manipulations, and more.

The Hidden Artists is scheduled to exhibit at the UCF Library in August 2012. The group welcomes faculty and staff who are working at UCF to join the Hidden Artists, contact Judy Pardo, coordinator, at: judy.pardo@ucf.edu.