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June 2013 (Spring 2013 News)

Helping Students Stay in School, Be Healthy, Live Ethically

Maribeth Ehasz, Vice President
Student Development and Enrollment Services

That is the mission of the Division of Student Development and Enrollment Services, “to engage students in the total college experience at the University of Central Florida; from matriculation, to successful progression, graduation, and employment in a global workforce.” We do this every day by providing opportunities for enriched student development, leadership growth, experience-based learning, values education and civic engagement, which lead to overall student success.

However, SDES is so much more than its mission and goals. SDES has dedicated staff members, resources, programs, and services for students. As a division, we have made a strong commitment and affirmed that the “student who comes to UCF should not be the same student who leaves UCF.” And so SDES moves forward everyday as a division with the understanding that we will do our very best to ensure that students are engaged, successful, and connected to the UCF community. We embrace the tenets of the UCF Creed – Integrity, Scholarship, Community, Creativity and Excellence – as a framework for developing student learning outcomes to facilitate the transformational learning necessary to aid each student in their journey towards graduation and beyond UCF into productive employment.

On February 13, SDES staff members came together for the State of SDES Address to hear how the Division of SDES is doing, not merely in what we have accomplished, but also in what direction UCF is going and how SDES will help in those efforts. It is important to recognize the achievements as a division across our many

departments, so here is some updated information:

- Over 250 SDES staff members have been certified through the SDES Diversity Certification
- UCF is now equipped with Accessible Technology for Everyone, a program that enables people of all abilities to utilize technology (Student Disability Services and SDES IT partnered to provide new computer stations at six Orlando campus locations and at each regional campus.)
- Student Volunteer UCF Activities
 - Sites: 226
 - Volunteers: 3,838
 - Total hours: 31,288
- Knights Helping Knights Pantry
 - 64 partners
 - Provided 21,940 lbs. of food to 6,404 UCF students
 - 17,995 lbs. of food provided by UCF faculty, staff, students, and community members (of which 90% were UCF groups/employees)
- UCF Smoke-free Campus (fall 2012)
- Knight-Thon 2013
 - 1,004 participants
 - \$258,554 raised for the Children’s Miracle Network
- Study Union 2012 (student attendance: 455,276 for the year)
- Recreation and Wellness Center recorded 1,000,359 student visits (26% increase from the previous year)
- Academic Advising connected with over 93% of FTIC population
- RWC @ Knight’s Circle was opened (spring 2013)
- All Knight Study @ Ferrell Commons was opened (spring 2013)



SDES Vice President Maribeth Ehasz walked around the room among staff members as she presented the SDES State of Address.

What does the future hold for SDES? UCF with strong support from SDES is moving towards a new Student Success Project to help in the retention and graduation of students, utilizing a four-step plan which includes predictive analytics, a new degree audit, a mapping system, and the UCF PROGRESS team. The UCF PROGRESS team is comprised of a leadership team, a steering committee, and four functional teams (core services, support programs, academic programs, student representatives) made up of faculty and staff from across the UCF community.

We have also updated and revised our retention plan, identifying at-risk groups (i.e., male FTIC students; transfer students; first generation students; low-income students; etc.) and strategies on how to better support these populations. And we, as a division, will continue working hard to ensure that each Knight who comes to UCF is not the same student who graduates from UCF.

2013 SDES Appreciation Celebration

Congratulations to the SDES Merit Award Recipients

[SDES staff: visit the “Internal SDES Staff Site” at www.sdes.ucf.edu for celebration photos and information.]

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| • Commitment to Diversity: Ashley Hathcock, RWC | • The Experienced Professional: Jaime Morales, RWC |
| • Community Connection: Joanne McCully, RWC | • SDES Team of the Year: Housing and Residence Life |
| • Outstanding Collaborative Effort: Student of Concern Committee | • Operational Excellence OPS: Deborah Watkins, MASS |
| • Pride in Customer Service: Omesh Persaud, RWC | • Operational Excellence GA: Devon Fagan, FYE |
| • New SDES Professional: Simone Teel, SSYC | • Operational Excellence USPS: Richard Arce, H&RL |
| • Outstanding New Professional: Grace Moskola, SDS | • Operational Excellence A&P: Jimmy Moore, H&RL |



SDES Educates Students

Students Honored at Order of Pegasus Ceremony

On April 8, families, friends, administrators and faculty gathered at the Order of Pegasus Ceremony to witness and celebrate 19 UCF students who were honored as named recipients of the 2013 Order of Pegasus, the most prestigious student award that can be attained at the university.

President John C. Hitt, Provost and Executive Vice President Tony Waldrop, and Student Development and Enrollment Services Vice President Maribeth Ehasz remarked on students' academic achievements, campus and community service, and personally congratulated the students on their accomplishments.

Carolyn Walker-Hopp, coordinator of the Teacher Leadership Master's Program in UCF's College of Education and recipient of the Order of Pegasus, Class of 2001, read each student's biography.



President John C. Hitt and the 2013 Order of Pegasus recipients

The Order of Pegasus recipients were honored with a medal, shadowbox keepsake and a \$500 scholarship. The 2013 group photo is located in the Order of Pegasus Lounge on the Student Union second floor.

2013 Lavender Celebration

UCF LGBTQ+ Services [Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Questioning/Queer] and Pride Coalition's second annual Lavender Celebration took place on May 2. The ceremony recognized LGBTQ+ students graduating in the spring, summer and fall of 2013. Family, friends and administrators attended the celebration of 34 students who were recognized for their academic and personal achievement. Randy Stephens, executive director for GLBT Community Center of Central Florida, was the program's keynote speaker.



Lavender Celebration participants with SDES Assistant Vice President Belinda Boston [bottom row right]

Students Learn How to Become Entrepreneurs

Almost 100 students over a four-week period attended the Multicultural Academic and Support Services Entrepreneurial Series, sponsored by the Comerica Fund. The students attended various workshops from local experts on how to develop their own businesses.

Students learned how to market their business, how to get funding for a new startup project and some of the legal pitfalls were identified that could impede them further developing and implementing their idea. Students also learned that starting a business is not easy, but if they are able to persevere, it can be very rewarding.

Anastacia Colon, junior health services administration major, says, "Venturing off as a small person into this big world with a new idea is one thing, but financing it, protecting

Career Expo Exceeds Expectations

On February 5, Career Services showcased the highly anticipated spring 2013 Career Expo at the UCF Arena. This annual event gave students the opportunity to network with career professionals from a wide-variety of industries. This year's event attracted over 1,700 students and 191 corporations. Business professional attire was a requirement for all attendees and everyone came out looking their best. Students and alumni eagerly distributed their resumes and business cards to employers while actively engaging in resourceful communication.

Dannielle, a senior majoring in hospitality management, stated "the career expo provided a great opportunity for students to interact with a variety of employers for a chance to obtain full-time employment." Overall, employers remarked in being jubilant about this year's event and the superb professionalism displayed by UCF students, alumni and staff.



Student and employer

it, and expanding it takes a small person with immeasurable ambition and heart. The goal is within reach if you just stretch your arms out and step out of your comfort zone to reach it."

The MASS students who attended majority of the presentations will receive a stipend from the Comerica Foundation, which can be used toward the purchasing of their Florida Limited Liability Corporation license.



Entrepreneurial Series participants

Successful Early Exploration

On February 1, Transfer and Transition Services co-hosted the first annual "Successful Early Exploration" program: S.E.E. UCF.

In collaboration with Valencia College East's Learning Support office, approximately 60 students, enrolled in Valencia College's Student Success classes, visited the UCF campus. They explored major and career options, engaged in a faculty/student panel discussion, and considered opportunities to become involved at UCF.

UCF Career Services featured directed discussions at individual tables with career counselors and advisors from both colleges.

One attendee wrote, "I've been here before on a tour, and it does not compare to this new S.E.E. program. It was enjoyable and a lot of useful information was given."

Students Honored with Scholarships

On April 19, the Office of Multicultural Academic and Support Services honored students, who completed the scholarship requirements for the First-Generation and Brother-to-Brother Programs as well as their 2013 Entrepreneurship Series, at the Scholarship Awards Luncheon.

Maribeth Ehasz, vice president for SDES, opened the event by reflecting on her experiences as a first-generation college student, and offered her congratulations to the scholarship recipients. Elsie Olan, College of Education, presented the keynote address referencing renowned poet Maya Angelou and encouraged students to continue on their paths to success. Several scholarship recipients had the opportunity to share their experiences at the program.

Each of the 54 students received a \$300 scholarship. Desiree Reeves and Miguel Zaldumbide, were also awarded a scholarship for graduate school entrance exam preparation. Scholarships were funded by Target, Orlando Magic Youth Fund and Kaplan.

Accessible Technology for Everyone, a Commitment to Inclusion

Student Disability Services started the spring semester with many new opportunities, technologies and easier access for students with disabilities. Accommodation letters going to professors can now be processed within 24 hours of the student's request. The services and accommodations have expanded so students feel inclusive in every aspect of campus from the latest Video Relay Service (video phone) installed in the library to UbiDuo, a communication device that uses face-to-face communication.

SDS also utilizes social media like Twitter and Facebook to update students with the latest opportunities. The office collaborated with SDES IT on a Technology Fee Grant that installed AT4E [Multicultural Academic and Support Services Entrepreneurial Series Accessible Technology For Everyone] in eight areas on the Orlando campus and nine regional campuses.

The technology includes:

- Dell Optiplex 9010 desktop computer
- Dell Keyboard KB212-B
- Dell AX510 Speakers
- MAGic Large Print Keyboard
- Headphones
- JAWS screen reading software
- MAGic screen magnification software



AT4E-adaptive software and hardware

These technologies are offered at different locations around the main campus such as the Curriculum Materials Center, Library, Mathematics Assistance and Learning Lab, Student Academic Resource Center Lab, and Student Union. In addition, SDS expanded these services to regional campuses. Access equals opportunity.

The Office of Student Involvement partnered with SDS to begin OSI Assist program that allows students to arrange for the service or accommodations for events. The process begins with OSIAssist@ucf.edu. This email address and the OSI Assist program allows students to easily inform SDS of their needs and give them a chance to arrange for the services or accommodations needed for the student. Services can range from interpreters at a student organization meeting to making sure a van is accessible for a trip with a Volunteer UCF service project to close captioning a movie.

"As we consider the diversity of students on campus, it is time to take pause and consider students with disabilities and the new opportunities our community can establish to provide a more inclusive environment at UCF," says Mark Gumble, assistant vice president SDES.

The mission of SDS is "to ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to participate in and benefit from educational opportunities within the UCF community."

Prestigious Presenters at each Commencement

UCF awarded over 5,700 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees during the five commencement ceremonies of 2013 which was held May 2-4. Celebrating UCF's 50th anniversary, President William "Bill" Jefferson Clinton served as one of the commencement speakers, only the second time a United States president has done so.

During the first ceremony, the College of Arts and Humanities and the College of Engineering and Computer Science together had over 1,000 graduates participate. The commencement address was delivered by D. Peter Delfyett, a professor with CREOL, UCF's College of Optics and Photonics, whose research has earned him national recognition.

The afternoon of Thursday, May 2, President Clinton addressed over 1,200 graduates from the College of Health and Public Affairs and the College of Medicine. "My advice is, do what makes you happy," said President Clinton. "Most people are happiest doing what they're best at. Most people are happiest doing well and doing good, doing something for someone else. I hope you will do well. I hope you will do good. I hope you will have a good time doing it." President Clinton was also awarded by UCF President John C. Hitt with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

The College of Business Administration and the College of Nursing started things off on Friday, May 3, as approximately 1,000 graduates listened to an address from James Heekin, Jr., a partner in the Orlando law firm of Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed. For the Friday afternoon ceremony, Dr. Michael M. Crow, president of Arizona State University, was presented with a Doctor of Humane Letters degree and addressed nearly 1,000 graduates from the College of Education as well as the Rosen College of Hospitality Management.

Florida Supreme Court Justice James Perry wrapped things up with an address for the Saturday morning ceremony, with the College of Graduate Studies, the College of Optics and Photonics, the College of Sciences, and the Office of Undergraduate Studies presenting well over 1,400 graduates for recognition.



L-R: President Clinton and UCF President Hitt
[Photo copyright and courtesy of Gradimages]

Academic Achievements Recognized

On January 28, the Office of Multicultural Academic and Support Services hosted its student recognition reception, "Excellence in Action." Approximately 200 first-generation and multicultural students were recognized for their academic achievement. Not only did these students achieve a 3.5 GPA or higher in the fall 2012 semester, but they also stand with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. The students convened with their families and friends, and several UCF faculty and staff attended, congratulating students individually for their accomplishments during the reception. Students also had the opportunity to network and talk to professionals and guests.

PRIME STEM Peer Mentor Wins

Senior Sharanah Ridore is the 2013 recipient of the Black Faculty and Staff Association Mentee Award at the UCF. She has been a peer mentor for PRIME STEM/Student Support Services at UCF since 2011 and a Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences peer mentor since 2010. In her role as a peer mentor, she is available to her mentees through social media, face-to-face meetings, email, social events and one-on-one opportunities.

Ridore is a double major in molecular and microbiology as well as English literature, and has received several academic honors since 2009. After graduation, she plans to attend an allopathic or osteopathic school of medicine in hopes of becoming a physician.

Record-setting Year in the Classroom for Student-Athletes

UCF student-athletes compiled a 3.17 grade-point average for the spring term, the highest student-athlete GPA for a single semester in school history. In addition, they compiled an average GPA of 3.14 for the 2012-13 academic year, which was also the best mark for the Knights.

"We knew it would be a good term overall, but to break records and continue to push the standard even higher is a credit to our student-athletes and their desire to be excellent in whatever they do," said Kimya Massey, director for Academic Services for Student-Athletes. "I must also complement the ASSA staff for their constant support and willingness to help our student-athletes achieve their goals."



SDES Connects Students

Dance for the Kids Who Can't



UCF's largest student-run philanthropy raised more than a quarter of a million dollars for the Children's Miracle Network, which support children's hospitals, medical research and community awareness of children's health issues. Nearly 800 students participated in this year's Knight-Thon's dance marathon, which asks participants to stand for 18 hours to "dance for the kids who can't." Hundreds of students from more than 60 organizations raised funds for the event year-round, and the effort culminated at the dance marathon raising \$258,554.17.

"We have worked so diligently to make Knight-Thon have a real presence on campus, and I think that this year, we finally made it," said Valerie Greco, KT fund-raising chair. "Our goal of \$170,000 seemed like a stretch and at times, there were set-backs and people said that we couldn't do it."

This year, the philanthropy beat its goal thanks in part to a few large donations, including a \$25,000 gift from former Orlando Magic guard J.J. Redick.

Don't Stop the Music

More than 900 Knights danced the night away at Orlando's best club: UCF Late Knights. In January, Late Knights themed "Don't Stop the Music" took over the Student Union, turning it into the ideal alcohol-alternative event.

The Pegasus Ballroom housed performances by several of our talented student organizations, including Rukus, Gemini Boulevard, and the Crescenduos. Coca-Cola products were served in colorful martini glasses, adding to the atmosphere. In the atrium, guests became the entertainment as they sang their hearts out performing karaoke, "busted a move" at Dance Dance Revolution, and showed off their breakdancing skills as the ever popular Late Knights T-shirts were given out. The Key West Ballroom served as the main dance floor, fully equipped with Knightcast DJs, lights and glowing decorations. The party continued until 1 a.m., proving to be a great late knight.



Students posed for a photo opportunity.

ASB Student Shares Experience

The Volunteer UCF Alternative Break Program offers students the opportunity to serve others, grow as individuals and impact lives. UCF ABP sends teams around the country, and internationally, to engage in community service and learn about a large variety of social issues.

Each trip for Alternative Spring Break included eight participants, one student site leader and a faculty advisor. Students had to apply for the programs online and attend group and individual interviews. Trips varied in services: they ranged from assisting people with disabilities through a therapeutic horseback riding program to attending disciplinary hearings at a jail and to constructing hiking trails.

Shelby Olson, health director for Volunteer UCF, shared her experience: "In Costa Rica, I was fortunate to not only volunteer in the small town San Miguel de Sarapiquí, but also become immersed in the culture. I bonded with my host family and made lifelong friends. I learned how to plant coffee and fish for tilapia, with my volunteer group. As a group, we were able to bring donated dresses to girls in elementary



Students planted coffee trees at Mi Cafecito in Costa Rica.

school, help restore nature trails with translated signs, and reconstruct bridge trails. From this experience, I learned that I am capable of doing more to improve myself and the world around me than I realize. I also learned that our life experiences truly shape us more than we could ever imagine. I am truly an advocate for learning about ourselves through service and giving more than we receive. Service is a civic responsibility, and we have so much power to do good. As students, we are very fortunate to be provided an education that we can use to change the world."

Medical Professionals Share Career Advice With Students

Healthcare providers at the UCF Health Center flipped the script January 31 and let the students ask all the questions as a variety of professionals attended "Ask a Doc-Careers in Health Care."

Megan Pabian, coordinator of the center's community relations and public affairs, said, "Not only are we educating students about their own health, but we recognize the responsibility we have as medical professionals on a college campus to provide career mentoring."

Ask a Doc is held at the beginning of each fall and spring semester and allows students to attain first-hand knowledge about medical

professions. This year the panel included doctors, a physician assistant, advanced registered nurse practitioner, registered nurse, dietitian, physical therapist, pharmacist, dentist and a dental hygienist. The event is supported by the Office of Pre-Professional Advising and includes experts who can address graduate-school options, and admission expectations for the various fields.

Long Nguyen, a health sciences pre-clinical major said, "I was able to get great advice from a dentist on how to further expose myself to dentistry, and many other things that can enrich and strengthen my dental-school application."

Mr. UCF Roberto Canalas and Miss UCF Erin O'Flaherty Crowned

On February 9, 18 contestants participated in the Miss UCF Scholarship Pageant presented by the Campus Activities Board. Erin O'Flaherty was crowned Miss UCF 2013 and will compete in the Miss Florida Scholarship Pageant in July in hopes of moving on to Miss America. O'Flaherty is a senior majoring in accounting with a minor in leadership studies. She is a former Orientation leader, LEAD Scholar and Knight-Thon morale member and an ambassador for the QPR Suicide Prevention program. Her platform is "Suicide Prevention - We're All Responsible."

The night before, the new Mr. UCF 2013, Roberto Canalas, competed along nine other Mr. UCF contestants to win the title. Canalas is a junior majoring in interpersonal and organizational communications with a minor

in leadership studies. He is a former LEAD Scholar and is currently the morale director for Knight-Thon.



Erin O'Flaherty, Roberto Canalas

\$75,000 to Help UCF First Generation Students

Do you believe in Magic? Well the Multicultural Academic and Support Services office certainly does after the Orlando Magic Youth Fund announced the department will receive \$75,000 to assist UCF students. MASS Director Wayne Jackson says the money will be used to enhance current and implement new student programming, as well as provide scholarships to UCF first generation students.



Mass Director Wayne Jackson and SDS Assistant Vice President Belinda Boston

The MASS program was one of 17 community agencies in the Central Florida region who received funding from the Magic. The funds will be used to:

- Provide \$25,000 in scholarship money to students during the 2012-2013 and part of the 2013-14 academic years
- Develop the MASS Lunch and Learn Program, The First Generation Speaker Series and the MASS College Prep Day, which is a day designed to help multicultural and first generation high school and middle school students prepare for college
- Implement two new programs, the First Generation Success Retreat and the First Generation Institute.

Jackson says, "This is a great opportunity for our students. Many of them struggle financially and the money received from the Orlando Magic will help defray some of their college costs and better prepare UCF students for success."

OMGraduation!

Career Services hosted OMGraduation on Saturday, April 6 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. This event was designed to be a one-stop workshop for graduating seniors which covered resume writing, job searching, networking, interviewing, salary negotiation, and more. Even dining etiquette for interviewing was discussed (and seemed to be a favorite topic among participants). The goal was to reach students who have not been able to visit Career Services due to busy schedules, working full-time jobs, or attending classes at one of the regional campuses.

OMGraduation had an overwhelming response of interested students wanting to attend. A total of 46 students participated – many who had traveled from the Daytona and Palm Bay campuses. A total of 97.2 percent of the students who attended stated that they felt prepared, very prepared, or extremely prepared to begin their job search process.

Due to the positive feedback and a waiting list with over 150 students interested in attending this program, a second session was held on April 27.



Dining etiquette

Study Union Receives National Recognition

The Study Union program has been recognized by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators as a 2013 NASPA Excellence Award Recipient. The program received the Gold Award, the top recognition in its category. The Study Union program offers students: 24-hour access to the Student Union, quiet study rooms, group study space, laptops and test supply use, tutoring, test review sessions, supplemental instruction, free massages and exercise classes, to name a few.



Students studying for finals at Study Union.

Every year more and more students participate in this program as they learn about the key resources that are offered to them. As a participant said, "The Study Union has exceeded my expectations. I had never before thought that the Student Union was a good place to study but this week has proved me wrong. Another great reason why I love UCF."

The Study Union was selected for the NASPA Excellence Award on the basis of its positive impact on student learning, success in addressing critical campus and student needs, collaboration with departments, originality and creativity, amongst other criteria. prepare UCF students for success." Recipients were honored at the NASPA Annual Conference in March 2013. Study Union, partially funded by the UCF Parent and Family Fund, is a collaborative effort between the Student Academic Resource Center, Student Union, and the Student Government Association.

UTC, Commitment to Excellence

In partnership with the Florida Department of Education and the UCF College of Education, the University Testing Center began administering the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations and the Florida Educational Leadership Examinations late fall 2012. Students are required to receive passing scores on all sections of the FTCE exams in order to graduate from a state-approved teacher preparation program. UTC welcomes this partnership as an opportunity to enhance their commitment of providing quality testing services that are essential to admission, retention, graduation, and post-graduation testing needs of UCF students and the surrounding community. Since its inception (October 2012), the center has administered over 2,000 tests to over 960 candidates.

Opportunity for Students to be in the "Know"

The sixth annual Pre-Spring Break Fiesta, held at Tower 1, Courtyard on February 28, focused to enhance student awareness and prepare them for the upcoming multi-term registration.

The event provided a fun setting for students to interact with many support offices and a chance to discuss programs and services with many campus representatives face-to-face. It was an opportunity for students to learn ways to stay connected with UCF including an environmental focus through the on-going recycling initiatives on campus and the safety initiative to promote safety issues in preparing students for Spring Break. The fiesta theme added to the event's atmosphere along with music provided by Power 95.3 FM radio station, pizza and refreshments, numerous donated gift card prizes, and the College Optical Express at UCF donated a gift basket. The event was coordinated by the Sophomore and Second Year Center in collaboration with Housing and Residence Life, and Transfer and Transition Services.



Students viewing office information

Basketball Team Wins it All



Former NBA star and host of Inside the NBA on TNT Sports, Kenny Smith (center) presents tickets to the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship Game to UCF students and Intramural Sports participants Kwan Gaston (left), Brian Chariff, (2nd left) Michael Orr (2nd right) and Justin Rose (right) after winning the PowerAde 3 vs. 3 tournament.



SDES Promotes Healthy Knights

Big Knights, Little Knights

Creative School for Children celebrated UCF's 50th Anniversary hosting several events. Over 150 volunteers from the Diversified Greek Counsel and various fraternities and sororities came to

the CSC playground to celebrate the "50 Activities Day." Children and their families participated in 50 activity stations that included painting on the sidewalk with chalk; making ice cream; creating origami;



Parent and child with butterfly

face painting; dancing; storytelling; playing football and basketball; conducting science experiments; woodworking; learning yoga; and playing with bubbles. The highlight for the "Littlest Knights" was having all the "Big" Knights at their school for the day.

On May 1, CSC hosted "Butterfly Release Day." Each child enrolled at the preschool had the opportunity to release their own butterfly. Parents, friends and UCF staff joined in the butterfly release, a memorable event to bring forth best wishes and beautiful way to celebrate UCF's 50 years.

UCF Honors 'Eternal Knights'



Flags were flown at half-mast on April 10 to honor UCF's Eternal Knights.

Families and friends of UCF students who have passed away during recent academic terms joined campus leaders and other members of the UCF community to pay tribute to them during the Eternal Knights Memorial Service. The service recognized 11 students and gave each of them the title of "Eternal Knight."

In its 12th year, Eternal Knights invited students' family and friends to join the university community in remembering loved ones and offering condolences. In addition to the ceremony, students, faculty and staff members from across UCF's campuses commemorated the lives of lost students by participating in a moment of silence at 3 p.m.

"When we lose a fellow Knight, we also experience pain together and mourn together, as a community does," said Cortez Whatley, former Student Government Association president.

UCF C.A.R.E.S - I am UCF

UCF C.A.R.E.S. Student Development and Enrollment Services' team representatives: Jeff Novak, Dana Juntunen, Stephanie Spies, Ann Marie Palmer and Maureen Hawkins attended the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators [NASPA] Alcohol, Other Drug and Violence Prevention/Mental Health joint conference. The conference focused on systems, policies, and procedures that are in place to sharpen institutional decision making and policy development with campus administrators, alcohol education specialists, health promotion and prevention staff, and researchers.

The team presented the staff initiative that has been the area of focus for this past year in SDES to provide the training for over 450 SDES staff members. The team focused the round table presentation on the staff initiative from conception to implementation to over 75 NASPA attendees.

"When sharing our efforts and progress with our colleagues, it was encouraging to have them respond positively to the UCF C.A.R.E.S. initiative," said Palmer. "This has reaffirmed the importance of continuing our effort to educate our peers and students."

UCF C.A.R.E.S. was established under the direction of SDES Vice President Maribeth Ehasz where the team was charged with creating a campuswide consistent message; UCF C.A.R.E.S. stands for Communicate, Ask students question, Respect boundaries, Empower everyone to get involved, and Support students who are trying to make changes. For more information, visit: www.ucfcares.com.

Knights Rank Highest in Club History

UCF's athletics program is not the only contributor to national attention. The UCF Recreation and Wellness Center Sport Clubs program is also helping the university gain respect as the Knights club baseball team ranked in the top five nationally. After 17 weeks, the National Club Baseball Association ranked the Knights number four in the nation. This is the highest ranking in the club's history and the Knights were only two points away from taking third. Prior to the Week 17 Poll, UCF ranked number 10, which at the time was the team's highest ranking. For more information, visit: rwc.sdes.ucf.edu.



Fresh Veggies Donated to Pantry

Wellness and Health Promotion Services harvested the first crop of produce from their Arboretum Plot of the year. The staff has been busy pruning, weeding, watering and caring for their organic garden plot. The staff's garden yielded carrots, sweet potatoes, green beans and various leafy greens.



Delivery of fresh veggies to the pantry

"Our staff believes it is important to work side by side with students even if it means getting our hands dirty. We value wellness and strive to model healthy practices," stated Tom Hall, director for WHPS.

Under the supervision of Stephanie Spies, specialist, student counseling at WHPS, students like Jacques Werleigh was able to work directly with the Arboretum staff to manage the garden.

"It's so rewarding to be able to provide students fresh produce at the Knights Helping Knights Pantry," stated Spies.

Screening Promotes Mental Health and Wellness

Counseling and Psychological Services held a Strengths Screening as part of the Student Union's Happiness Week. Students had an opportunity to complete a brief strengths inventory, learn information about personal strengths, write positive quotes/sayings, read the inspirational messages that students wrote at past Strength Screening events. After completing the inventory, each student had a brief conversation with a clinician about their strengths. Approximately 100 students stopped by the table during a two-hour period. The event provided space for students to interact with CAPS staff in a positive, fun manner, and to promote mental health and wellness in a positive light.



Students filled out an inventory in the Student Union Atrium

UCF Healing Art Exhibition: Embracing and Celebrating Differences

UCF Healing Art is an annual, juried art exhibition created through Counseling and Psychological Services in collaboration with the School of Visual Arts and Design that showcase artworks created by UCF students, faculty, staff and alumni. The UCF Healing Art Exhibition is designed to create campuswide awareness of the CAPS at UCF, increase inclusivity across campus and to create an open exhibition space for creativity and healing. There were 160 artworks submitted with 99 accepted into the exhibition. All winners received a plaque and ribbon along with prizes:

- Best of Show: Tina Gardiakos
- First Place: Danielle Pavlat
- Second Place: Anaëli Ramos
- CAPS Staff Selection: Cecillia Lin

Approximately 200 students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members attended the exhibition reception on February 28. The

exhibition theme, “Embracing and Celebrating Differences,” focused on diversity, i.e., embracing differences and identities. Art can be used for healing purposes and is a safe and creative place for students to express themselves in the way of speaking across all languages.

“The Healing Art Exhibition’s aim is to further UCF’s vision of fostering a community where we welcome differences in people and ideas, enhance creativity, and inspire others to connect with one another,” said Meredith Malkin, licensed mental health counselor CAPS and art curator Healing Art exhibition. The next call for artists begins August 19 through November 1.

For more information, visit: caps.sdes.ucf.edu/art.



L-R: Karen Hofmann, CAPS; Patti MacKown, associate vice president SDES; Meredith Malkin, CAPS; and Maribeth Ehasz, vice president SDES

Students Show Support for Smoke-free Policy



Students with bags of cigarette butts.

On March 21, the Student Health Advisory Committee, a student group overseen by Health Services, hosted the first UCF Butt Clean-up. The event brought together 40 volunteers who combined contributed 60+ hours of community service. Students were excited to be involved in beautifying their campus, and it was another way to show support for the Smoke-free Campus policy. The top four collectors each had at least one gallon size Ziploc bag stuffed to the max with cigarette butts, and they were given a \$50 gift card for their efforts. Winners were: Kristen Wallace, Brandon Richards, Jenny Ho and Chase Wade.

Peer Mentor Program Awarded International Certification

The College Reading and Learning Association awarded the International Mentor Training Program Certification to the UCF PRIME STEM Project’s Peer Mentoring Program. The PRIME STEM Project is a federally funded Student Support Services TRIO program.

“Peer Mentors create a spirit of teamwork in our program by involving our scholars, staff and the UCF campus community” according to Rebekah McCloud, project director.

The goal of SSS is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants. Peer mentors are trained in their role and responsibilities. However, PRIME STEM staff wanted to expand their efforts and offer our peer mentors certification credentials and extensive training. This is a new perspective and opportunity to attract highly motivated mentors into the program and secure greater student and faculty confidence in our services.

NorthView: Newest Housing Community Opening in Fall

Over 300 faculty, staff and students attended “NorthView’s Premiere” event on Memory Mall. Guests were entertained by a DJ, light show and magician, in addition to photo opportunities and a video tour of NorthView. The NorthView Mobile Preview Center bus was also on site for walkthrough tours of the new community.

Opening in fall 2013, NorthView will be the UCF area’s newest student apartment community. Located just across McCulloch

Road from the UCF campus and Bright House Networks Stadium, the community offers the convenience of campus living with the amenities of off-campus apartment life for 600 residents. In addition, UCF managed housing means access to the resources and support each student needs on their on path to graduation.

NorthView will be complete with a resort style pool, exclusive sky deck, a flat screen TV in every apartment, a private fitness center, a sand volleyball court and garage parking.

Artistic Reflections of the Creed

The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities in conjunction with the UCF Parent and Family Fund hosted the Spring 2013 Creed Art Contest. UCF students were encouraged to submit original works of art that represented the UCF Creed values. Twenty-two talented students submitted their original artwork with their personal artistic reflections.

Artist Courtney Tinnesz wrote, “Represented in my artwork is the University of Central Florida’s creed value creativity. Creativity is the ability to transcend typical ideas, standards, and rules to create a meaningful interpretation; originality. My piece tests traditional art and challenges the viewer to look beyond the surface. UCF not only challenges its students to do more than learn principles and theories, but to expand upon their knowledge to enrich the overall human experience.”

The winners were: Cara Salinas, sophomore; Christine Gilbert, junior; and CJ Frontera, senior.

Creed Art submissions were on display in Wellness and Health Promotion Services, Nicholson School of Communication, and the University Writing Center.



Cara Salinas and her artwork

◆ Welcome to SDES ◆

*New Employees or employees who
changed positions within SDES:
January 2013 - May 2013*

- **Danielle Aming**, coordinator, First Year Advising and Exploration
- **Anthony Blanchard**, maintenance worker, Recreation and Wellness Center
- **Bradley Loomis**, assistant director, Career Services
- **Arian Bryant**, assistant director, Housing and Residence Life
- **Bethany Glassbrenner**, assistant, Registrar's Office
- **Jillian Griffin**, financial assistance counselor, Health Services
- **Viveca Hudson**, coordinator, H&RL
- **Ellen Hughey**, assistant director, H&RL
- **Michael Husted**, coordinator, Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities
- **Jesus Martinez**, custodial worker, Student Union
- **Stacie McLeod**, coordinator, RO
- **Dr. Steven Meyer**, physician, HS
- **Martin Nyenkan**, custodial worker, RWC
- **Richard Phillips**, coordinator, Activity and Service Fee Business Office
- **Joshua Pineiro**, registrar specialist, RO
- **Shirdricka Roberts**, program assistant, TRIO Programs
- **Raquel Santana**, custodial supervisor, RWC
- **Vanessa Stein**, social work services specialist, Counseling and Psychological Services
- **Kimberly Thrash**, administrative services, HS
- **Dr. Susan Tweeten**, psychologist, CAPS
- **Elisse Vaughn**, coordinator, SU

SDES on the Move

- **Off-Campus Student Services and Student Neighborhood Relations** is now located in Ferrell Commons, building 7C, suite 152.
- **Knights Helping Knights Pantry** has moved within Ferrell Commons. The pantry is now located on the back side of All Knight Study II. [just past the Ferrell Commons courtyard where the former Brooklyn Pizza was located]
- **LGBTQ Services** is now located in Ferrell Commons directly across from the Marketplace—formerly KHK Pantry space.

SDES Awards and Recognition

- **Dennis Congos**, academic advisor for First Year Advising and Exploration [now retired] was selected as the 2013 co-winner of the Commitment to Excellence in Academic Support Award presented by American Counseling and Personnel Association's Commission for Academic Support in Higher Education.
- **Kristina Grabnickas**, nurse practitioner for the College of Medicine and SDES Health Services, participated in the "Music Under the Stars" at the College of Medicine in December. She performed two piano pieces, dedicating them to her mother, who was in the audience.

French Delegation Visits UCF

On March 15, UCF welcomed five members of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators-CNOUS French Delegation of student affairs professionals. SDES sponsored their visit, and members of the SDES Internationalization Committee coordinated the day's events. The delegates, Catherine Miaux, Christian Chazal, Philippe Prost, Thierry Bégué, and Jean-Paul Roumegas, met with SDES staff, students and faculty members throughout the day, sharing experiences and best practices. They also had the opportunity to tour the UCF campus and residence halls.

Brittany Johnson, Housing and Residence Life, noted that the delegation members "were very impressed with our campus and the people that work here. I think they were really able to take some good information back to their institutions and share the wonderful things that UCF does for our students."

Let's Play Ball! SDES vs. SMCA 21-1

On April 26, Student Development and Enrollment Services and Strategy, Marketing, Communications, and Admissions met on the field to determine the UCF 2013 Softball Championship. The game was decided early with SDES jumping to a 6-1 lead after the first inning. TEAM SDES played extremely well offensively scoring in every inning and defensively giving up only one unearned run. The game was called in the fourth inning with a final score of 21-1.

Thank you to the many staff that came out to support TEAM SDES, it meant a lot to have so many co-workers cheering us to victory.

SDES donated 10 lbs. of food to support Knights Helping Knights Pantry. Also note since TEAM SDES scored 21 runs, SMCA will be donating at least 210 lbs. of food.

Thanks to the SDES TEAM, coaches and especially the Recreation and Wellness Center for providing outstanding IM student referees and a beautiful field to play the game.

SASI Wellness Expo

On April 26, SASI [Support All Staff Involvement] hosted its Second Annual Wellness Expo at the Recreation and Wellness Center. The afternoon began with a rigorous Pilates workout followed by line dancing. Noel Crespo, Health and Environmental Safety, spoke with the group about "Ergonomics" ending the day with Beth Scheitzach, Human Resources, talking about "emotional intelligence." The event was well attended.

UCF50
1963-2013 YEARS



Jean-Paul Roumegas presented SDES Vice President Maribeth Ehasz information relative to their education system in France.

SDES Associate Vice President DeLaine Priest, who led the coordination effort, highlighted the importance of these types of culture exchanges in promoting mutual learning with colleagues in other countries.

SDES Share African Experience

At the Office of Diversity Initiatives Spring DiversiTea, DeLaine Priest, associate vice president SDES, and Tiffany Greenis, assistant director Office of Student Involvement, shared their experiences while in Africa. They both shared stories and images of the culture and people of African nations of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. The African treasures displayed were beautifully crafted.

SDES Healthy Knights Staff Wellness Challenge

Approximately 174 SDES members participated in the spring SDES Staff Wellness Challenge, representing 19 departments.

Office winners received 2 FitPro bikes to use:

- **1st Place:** Student Leadership Development
- **2nd Place:** Registrar's Office
- **3rd Place:** Health Services
- **4th Place:** SDES Information Technology

Individual winners were:

- **1st Place:** Jeremiah Morris, RO, won a FitPro bike to use at his office or home

Each of the following individuals won a 1-hour massage and a biofeedback session:

- **2nd Place:** Angela Fryfogle, HS
- **3rd Place:** Elsa Nieves, RO

DeLaine Priest's Unit Celebrates UCF 50th Birthday

DeLaine Priest, associate vice president SDES, and her units kicked off the spring term with a UCF 50th Birthday Bash held on January 24. The celebration featured a variety of fun birthday festivities and a tribute to UCF's 50th history. Over 100 employees attended the event representing 12 departments in SDES. Attendees also had the opportunity to compete in various games and awards. As a part of their continuous commitment to students, SDES collected approximately 80 lbs. of donated items for the Knights Helping Knights Pantry.