Student Success — Make It Your Business

Maribeth Ehasz, Vice President
Student Development and Enrollment Services

We are at the start of a new year and with that, our students are either continuing their journey or they are just starting it. We have been entrusted to deliver quality resources and services that will help guide them along their paths, as we support their success from the start of their time here to graduation and beyond.

The Division of Student Development and Enrollment Services is designed to help students be successful and engaged within the UCF campus and the broader Central Florida community. With over 25 departments within the division, we have the opportunity to assist students from “matriculation, to successful progression, graduation and employment in a global workforce.” Student success is our business and it is the responsibility of us all as SDES staff members, regardless of our positions, to ensure that we do what we can to help our students.

We have a major initiative across UCF and SDES that is designed to help students be successful while here at UCF. The P.R.O.G.R.E.S.S. (Probing to Remove Obstacles toward Graduation and Retention for Enrolled Student Success) team is a task force comprised of staff and faculty members from across the UCF community. The P.R.O.G.R.E.S.S. team has been charged with identifying and removing barriers that may be impeding students in retention and graduation. The initiative has three areas: Core Services (e.g., financial issues); Student Support Services (e.g., communication of services); and Academic Support Services (services that would assist students in their academics). In working with this team, SDES will continue to work towards student success and engagement.

We have a commitment to our students through initiatives such as values education, leadership, experience-based learning, personal wellness, student development, transition efforts, course planning, academic advising, support and progression. Student success is everyone’s business and I challenge you to find ways that you personally can aid the P.R.O.G.R.E.S.S. initiative.

We have a commitment to our students through initiatives such as values education, leadership, experience-based learning, personal wellness, student development, transition efforts, course planning, academic advising, support and progression. Student success is everyone’s business and I challenge you to find ways that you personally can aid the P.R.O.G.R.E.S.S. initiative.

Each student comes here with their story and experiences, striving to fulfill their dreams. We, as SDES staff members, are trusted to help them navigate the path towards graduation and completion of their degrees. In working with them towards their success, we have opportunities to engage students on a range of issues that will help in their success and engagement as members of the UCF community.

Remember, We are SDES, helping students stay in school, be healthy, live ethically!

Thank you for all the hard work you do for our students, the UCF community, for SDES and for each other!

Have a great year and GO KNIGHTS!!!

SDES Commitment

SDES in 2013-2014: As I do every year, I continue to reaffirm my commitment to the SDES strategic plan and offer these priorities for our attention during this academic year.

1. Safety and Security – Safety and security of our students and staff members will always be our highest priority. The SDES “UCF CARES for You” initiative is a highlighted collaborative effort that provides students with care-related programs and resources. For more information, visit: www.ucfcares.com.

2. Student Success and Graduation –
   We have identified some target populations:
   • Veterans
   • Male students
   • Transfer students (DirectConnect)
   • Students with disabilities
   • STEM students
   • Multicultural students
   • First generation students
   • Greek students

3. Diversity and Inclusiveness

4. Ethics and Compliance

5. Technology and Virtualization

6. Graduate Student Support

7. Healthy Knights 2020

8. Partnerships

9. Professional and Staff Development

10. Division Communication

The UCF Creed

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

INTEGRITY
I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.

SCHOLARSHIP
I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.

COMMUNITY
I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.

CREATIVITY
I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.

EXCELLENCE
I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.
Greek Students Achieve Record GPAs

UCF’s sorority and fraternity members posted their highest-ever GPAs during the spring 2013 semester. The all-Greek GPA was 3.136. Leading the way were the sorority women who achieved a GPA of 3.241. Fraternity men continued to inch closer to the 3.0 mark as they had an all-fraternity GPA of 2.992.

About 3,100 students are members of the 47 fraternities and sororities at UCF. Greek students are committed to the tenets of Scholarship and Excellence within the CREED as they strive for excellence in all that they do.

UCF Athletics Academics Progress

For the eighth consecutive year, Academic Progress Rate numbers have improved for UCF student-athletes. The Knights’ four-year average is up one point to 976, which is two points above the national average of 974. A perfect APR score is 1000.

Recent 2011-12 academic year data APR provides a “snapshot” look at a team’s academic success on a yearly basis. The APR score takes into account graduation, retention and eligibility to determine a clear picture of the current academic culture of a program.

“Our young people have done a great job balancing all of the responsibilities of a student-athlete for many years now,” said Kimya Massey, director for Academic Services for Student-Athletes. “Our coaches recruit high-quality student-athletes who have the will and the drive to do well in the classroom as well as in competition. The academic support staff works very hard to help our students develop to their full potential academically.”

None of UCF’s teams fell below the multi-year threshold where teams could be penalized by the NCAA. This is the sixth-straight year the Knights have seen each of their teams come in above the threshold.

SARC Offers Academic Support

The Student Academic Resource Center provides over 250 hours per week of peer tutoring at three campus locations in over 30 academic subjects.

Tutorial services offered at these locations are always free and available on a drop-in basis to all currently enrolled students. Additionally, SARC offers academic success workshops, as well as Supplemental Instruction, one-on-one learning skills consultations and improved on-demand resources.

For SARC programs, services and schedules, visit: sarc.sdes.ucf.edu.

Get Smart, Get Connected

The Sophomore and Second Year Center held a Summer Social on July 24 for Accelerated FTICs (students coming to UCF for the first time with 30 hours or more college credits). The event, themed “Get Smart, Get Connected,” was held in the Academic Village’s Nike Programming Center.

Academic advisors from SSSY, including staff members from the Student Academic Resource Center and Career Services, met with 38 student attendees. Students learned about valuable academic resources and strategies for academic success. They heard from a panel of their peers who discussed their prospective as to what helped them become successful in the Summer B session. The panel answered questions followed by an interactive tic-tac-toe game. Students earned 1,000 LINK points for attending. Comments included: “I loved the coordinators, their energy, and the educational games;” “I’m very glad I came out;” and “The student panel was more than helpful.”

Let’s Get REEL

The LEAD Scholars Program geared up for another great year of leadership development, social change projects, fun times at UCF tailgates and many more campus events. This fall approximately 300 high-performing freshmen joined the LEAD Scholars team eager to become involved in the UCF community.

Prior to the start of the fall semester, 80 of these students participated in the annual two-day REEL Retreat. The retreat consisted of team building exercises, value-based activities, leadership lessons and an acclimation to the UCF community.

“REEL helps the students immerse into the LEAD Scholars community. They become more open to opportunities and break out of their shell…they become more open-minded individuals,” said Sang Lee, 2013 REEL Retreat counselor.

Binita Devkota, first year REEL Retreat participant, said, “After the retreat I felt closer to everyone in LEAD Scholars—it was a really great bonding experience with other freshmen. It was a lot easier to make friends once school started since I already made connections during the retreat.”
The Recreation and Wellness Center is proud to announce eight of its graduating seniors have accepted graduate assistant positions at various universities including at UCF and across the Southeast Region of the United States. Over the past two years, 17 RWC student staff seniors have now accepted graduate assistantships across the country in the past two years.

Graduate assistants play a vital role in helping recreation facilities to reach annual goals. GA's gain experience in operating recreation programs while having a chance to earn their master degrees. Institutions waive their tuition in exchange for their work.

The seniors and their new universities include: Alana Cilwick, Fitness (Georgia State University), John Conley, Intramural Sports (UCF), Jack Crumley, Fitness (Florida International University), Jason Gosch, Outdoor Adventure (University of South Florida), Victoria Landron, Intramural Sports (Louisiana State University), Jonecia Mahan, Member Services (Georgia Southern University), Heather Marshall, Intramural Sports (University of Georgia) and Manica Pierrette, Facilities (UCF).

The 2013 crop of graduate assistants are all recognized and honored on the RWC Wall of Fame including: Pierrette 2013 Employee of the Year; Cilwick 2013 Wellness Champion Award Winner; Landron 2013 Team Champion Award Winner; Mahan 2012 Facilities Employee of the Year and 2011 Team Champion Award Winner; and Crumley 2011 Program Employee of the Year. Marshall and Gosch were honored by their peers as Employees of the Month in 2012.

The recognition goes beyond the walls of the RWC, Conley, for example, is a 2011 All-American Basketball Official. Marshall says the officiating program is just one reason for her success at UCF, “My four years as an official and three years as an intramural sports supervisor here at UCF has taught me about leadership, management and professionalism. I can’t imagine entering another career after I finish my masters at Georgia in 2015.”

RWC is funded by the Student Government Association. Its continuing mission is to enrich campus life through efficient services, comprehensive programs and high-quality facilities programs that foster healthy lifestyles.

Grindstaff earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration at the university in 1978 before earning his law degree at Mercer University in 1982.

The afternoon ceremony bore witness to graduates from the College of Engineering and Computer Science, College of Health and Public Affairs, College of Medicine, College of Nursing, College of Optics and Photonics, and the College of Sciences as they crossed the platform in recognition of their achievements.

Afternoon graduates heard from Jo Anne Puglisi, a 1973 mechanical engineering graduate who has spent 40 years working in military aviation simulation and aircraft development. She has worked with Lockheed Martin Mission Systems and Training in Orlando since 1993. She has provided UCF engineering students with invaluable expertise and mentoring as they completed their senior projects. She also has spearheaded and sponsored special “Donuts and OJ” events during final exams.

The fall 2013 commencement ceremonies will take place Friday and Saturday, December 13 and 14. More information can be found at http://commencement.ucf.edu.

[Photograph by GradImages]
Melissa Westbrook and Jacob Kahn became the official Student Government Association Student Body president and vice president, respectively, on May 9, 2013. They oversee a budget of $18.8M.

SGS: What goals did you set for yourselves when you first came to UCF?

Westbrook said, “The O-Teamers talked about us being the Ultimate Knight, I always wanted to be that person...to be the best Knight I could be, helping other people, and doing well in school.” As president, she says, “I just try to remain humble.” It is important for students to know that they have an open door policy; students can talk or email them anytime. Westbrook-Kahn are willing to meet and work with students, not just showing up and making appearances at events. “You will see us working behind the scenes as well.”

Kahn’s mom inspired him to get involved at a young age. It was a matter of finding his “niche” at UCF beyond the classroom and “where I would grow as a leader and person.” Kahn held various positions in SGA since he was a freshman. “One of the things that attracted me to UCF is how strong the diversity initiative is here and how SGA can make a big impact on the Student Body.”

SGS: How did you both get together to run for election?

They knew each other since their freshmen year. Not just through their involvement in SGA, but they had the same mentor, Kersti Myles, diversity initiative specialist education, Multicultural Student Center. Through Myles, they met and have been working together through the years. With both their SG background and knowledge, they felt they were the most capable to be president and vice president.

Their platform covers an array of issues pertaining to academics, campus life, health, sustainability and an expansion of opportunities for students to work on. “We’re really get-it-done type of people,” says Westbrook. “We are distributing the work; each cabinet member has 3-4 platform goals.” For a full list of platform items, visit: ucfsga.com/#/the-platform.

One priority is the locked-in tuition contracts which they are working with the Florida Student Association. “This will take a great deal of effort,” says Westbrook, but students will benefit financially because tuition is always rising.

SGS: What is your “pet” project?

Interesting response from Westbrook, she says her pet project is a “surprise and it will be revealed in spring.” She gave SGS no clues. . .

Kahn’s pet project is the “BigBelly,” solar trash compactor. The BigBelly harnesses the sun’s rays for 100 percent of their energy needs, has five times the capacity for trash as traditional bins, and can alert collection vehicles wirelessly when the receptacles are full. “Other universities have seen success and have placed them campuswide,” said Kahn. SGA will be placing BigBellys at the Student Union and Recreation and Wellness Center.

Westbrook-Kahn has brought back a hybrid of the former SGA position, Health and Safety specialist. “We are making our own decisions and developing habits that we will have till the day we die,” says Kahn. “It is really important to shape them now.” SGA is partnering with Wellness and Health Promotion Services, Recreation and Wellness Center, and the Health Center to advertise their services as well as increase the awareness on certain issues such as diabetes, eating right, exercise, and sexual health. SGA is also working on a free breakfast in the Student Union.

In addition, they are working with the provost to transition strong minor programs such as Women Studies into majors. Kahn said, “We want to make our school more unique in academic areas. What can we offer to set us apart?”

“Ultimately, I want this year to mark when SGA broke down the proverbial ivory tower that some students find SGA leaders to reside in,” said Kahn. “This will be a year where students will feel we are one with the student population on campus. After all, we are students first, and it is something everyone on campus needs to see.”

Westbrook said she is not a person who sees challenges; she just works through what needs to be done. Many years ago, she came up with a personal quote that still resides with her here at UCF: “Don’t dream for yourself, envision for the masses.”

Summer 2013 brought the collaboration of Knightcast, UCF’s student-run radio station and DJ agency, and the Recreation and Wellness Center back together for the Knightcast’s Second Annual Pool Tour.

On Fridays during Summer B, Knightcast provided live music, games and prizes at the Leisure Pool. Beginning at noon, students filed in as the voice of Knightcast DJs and music could be heard throughout Academic Village.

The first Friday party brought over 425 students to the pool. Fellow Student Government Associations participated in the events, including Late Knights, Campus Activities Board and Volunteer UCF, along with the Student Union and housing affiliates.

“The Pool Tour is a great way to show our talents to the UCF community through our own events,” said Knightcast’s LIVE! Director Brian Tewes. “The exposure was huge for us and the organizations we partnered up with. It was fun for us and the students.”

Students participated in games hosted by Intramural Sports and the Knightcast Street Team, including inner tube volleyball, water balloon dodgeball, canoe battleship, inflatable races and dance contests.
The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life has officially moved into their new building. Located at 4100 Greek Park Drive, the state-of-the-art, 4,500-square-foot facility contains office space for the professional staff, student work area for student leaders, and a multipurpose room that can seat up to 50 people. This programming space will be utilized for various student meetings, leadership and development workshops, as well as space for educational programming. Clay Coleman, director for F&SL, states, “The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life is elated to have a building dedicated to our students' needs as it relates to engagement, outreach and leadership development. This is the student's building and our staff is excited to help facilitate their experiences to become the premiere Fraternity and Sorority Life community in the country.” To schedule a meeting in the multipurpose room, contact Phyllis Kornegay, administrative assistant (or better known as “Ms. PK”) at Phyllis.Kornegay@ucf.edu or 407.823.2072.

In addition, two new sorority houses will open in August. Located next to the F&SL office, each house is just over 12,000 square-feet and will house 40 students each, including a graduate assistant house director. This will bring the number of houses in Greek Park to 13 and will house over 465 students. There are 47 fraternities and sororities at UCF, with membership of over 3,100 students. The two facilities will house Kappa Kappa Gamma and Chi Omega sororities, which were both part of an application and presentation process.

“The women are beyond thrilled” said Greg Mason, director for F&SL Housing. “It has been a labor of love to get these projects up and running and is a great testament to the university’s commitment and support of the fraternity and sorority community.” The buildings are owned, staffed and managed by the Department of Housing and Residence Life. The individual house corporations are responsible for furnishing the common spaces in the houses.

An open house for these buildings will be planned at a later date this fall, as part of UCF’s 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Pride Coalition and LGBTQ+ Services
UCF’s newest Student Government Association-funded agency, Pride Coalition and LGBTQ+ Services, announced the opening of a new space for students called Pride Commons. Pride Commons is located in Ferrell Commons across from the Marketplace, the space formally known as Knights Helping Knights Pantry (FC 171). Pride Coalition and LGBTQ+ Services invited the UCF community to visit the newly opened Pride Commons, an affirming study space and gathering spot for students of all genders and sexual orientations.

Developing a collaborative and productive team is one of the Recreation and Wellness Center’s goals and staff members showed their commitment to students during a trip to the Marine Corps Base in Quantico, VA, June 24-28. RWC Director James Wilkening and Coordinator of Facilities and Aquatics Lacey Carter participated in Marine Officer training hosted by the Marine Corps Recruiting Command in an effort to hone in on their leadership skills and gain a better understanding of what men and women entering the Marine Corps go through.

During the four-day “MCRC Educators’ and Key Leader’s Workshop” Wilkening and Carter trained like Marine recruits receiving briefs on education and training benefits, patrolling with Marine officers and firing M-16 service rifles at the Officer Candidates School. They attended a Sunset Parade at the Marine War Memorial in Washington, D.C. and toured the Marine Helicopter Squadron [HMX-1] and President’s Squadron.

Carter, in her seventh year at the RWC, says if she had any questions about the Marine way of life, she doesn’t anymore. “The experience was great. It left me very intrigued with Marine life. I would definitely encourage students interested in joining the military after graduation to become an officer and look into joining the Marines. They promote core values of honor, courage, and commitment and create great leaders through tough mental, physical, and emotional training.”

For more information about the workshop, contact the nearest Marine Officer Selection Officer or visit www.MarineOfficer.com. To view more photos, go to: www.flickr.com/photos/marinecorpsrecruitingcommand.

RWC is funded by the SGA. Its continuing mission is to enrich campus life through efficient services, comprehensive programs and high-quality facilities that foster healthy lifestyles.
SDES Promotes Healthy Knights

Donations Support Athletic Training Program

More than a million students, faculty, staff and alumni worked out or participated in an event at the UCF’s Recreation and Wellness Center in 2012. As an unprecedented number of people continue to use the RWC, the need for quality care after an injury also rises. With that in mind, the RWC and Jewett Orthopaedic Clinic are proud to announce an extension of a partnership which will now go through the 2018-19 school year. Jewett Orthopaedic is donating $190,000 to the center to help support the facilities growing Athletic Training program. The partnership began back in 2006.

The Jewett Orthopaedic gift makes it possible for the RWC to employee athletic training professionals including Gaby Bell, Athletic Training and Risk Management coordinator. Bell, who oversees two graduate assistants and seven other part-time athletic trainers, says the partnership is ‘unique’ in campus recreation: “The student’s may not realize how fortunate they are to have open access to certified athletic trainers five days a week for injury assessments, rehabilitation programs and injury prevention tools.”

The RWC’s athletic trainers offer free open clinic hours during the week for students and are on hand for special events, Intramural Sports league and tournament play, and higher risk Sport Club events. In 2012-13, Bell’s staff treated more than 240 injuries an 84 percent increase from the 2011-12 academic year. The athletic trainers refer injured students to the UCF Health Center’s Sports Medicine Program and Dr. Douglas Meuser, M.D. and Dr. Ashlee Warren, M.D.

Additionally Bell has easy access to Jewett and Dr. Kenneth Krumins, M.D., who is the medical doctor of record for the UCF RWC Athletic Training program. The clinic specializes in arthroscopy, hand and foot deformities, spine reconstruction and joint replacement and has served the Central Florida community for 75 years.

On July 15, students in the Hercules community learned how sleep has a direct impact on their academic performance. The informational workshop, hosted by Health Services, was led by Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Kristina Grabnickas. Topics included the importance of sleep, tips for getting a good night’s sleep, drowsy driving, and UCF resources that can assist students with sleep difficulties. The program is held throughout the year as part of the LINK program and in partnership with Housing and Residence Life.

“My goal is to change student’s mindset that college students aren’t supposed to sleep,” said Grabnickas. “They need to understand how important sleep is and how it can really impact them in ways they probably never considered.”

“Being a student, it’s difficult to make sleep a priority, so good sleeping habits are often taken for granted,” said Heather Burke, a senior studying molecular biology and microbiology. “Events like these remind us sleep is just as important as going to the gym and eating a well-balanced diet.”

Burke said that her biggest take away from the event was how to unwind before bed. “I was surprised when I found out using my phone before sleeping was unhealthy. Now I try to stay away from bright screens like computers, TVs and phones at least an hour before I go to sleep.”

PANTRY FACILITY OFFERS MORE SPACE

The Importance of a Good Night’s Sleep

The Knights Helping Knights Pantry has moved to a new home. The pantry is located in Ferrell Commons on the back side of All Knight Study II (just past the Ferrell Commons courtyard).

The pantry is larger and able to accommodate more food, toiletries and clothing for UCF’s fellow Knights. KHK helps all Knights that are in need. Students can come to the pantry and receive six pounds of food and unlimited toiletries. Clothing available is business casual and business professional, perfect for an interview or conference. For more information, call 407.823.3663 or visit: knightspantry.org.

The pantry is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday during the fall and spring semester.

Students can get up to 6 pounds of food a day, unlimited clothes and toiletries.
Express Your Inner Creative

Every summer, the workshop series: “Express Your Inner Creative” is facilitated by Meredith Malkin, licensed mental health counselor and expressive arts therapist in training at the Office of Counseling and Psychological Services.

The workshop series is open to all students, whether a student is a client of CAPS or not. Express Your Inner Creative is for students who want to tap into their inner creativity for healing purposes using Intermodal expressive arts (ie: visual arts, music, movement, storytelling, poetry and meditation).

This group is grounded in two philosophies: the first includes “everyone is creative” and the second is: “everyone has a story to tell” – whether through words or through images.

This open workshop series is for students who are struggling with low self-esteem and/or have a difficult time expressing themselves. No art experience is necessary; only trust in the creative process.

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

Knight Camp: Traditions, Pride, Spirit

In July, the Office of Student Involvement launched its inaugural “Knight Camp” with 42 incoming students who came to campus for a weekend filled with fun, activities, friendship and UCF spirit.

Knight Camp fosters school pride by teaching UCF traditions and demonstrating to students what being a Knight is all about. After experiencing memorable icebreakers, adventures, games and group sessions, students left feeling like they found a new home at UCF.

Campers were asked how they felt about their Knight Camp experience: Tyler Petresky said, “The sense of family and friendship was so evident in everything we did.” Kasey DeHaan also saw the value of UCF’s community at Knight Camp, “I’ll never forget all the friends I met, and the memories we made together in this amazing weekend.”

In July 2014, Knight Camp will be coming back in hopes of continuing to grow and inspire students to get excited of becoming a UCF Knight.

Students Clean-Up Lake Claire Trail

Every two weeks, environment director for Volunteer UCF Tasneem Ibrahim provides leadership to the Lake Claire Trail Clean-Up. This is an opportunity for student volunteers who give back to the UCF community and environment.

On the morning of June 25, a group from the College of Democrats came out and helped clean up trash from the trail. Not only does the group pick up litter, but is an opportunity to form friendships, observe and appreciate the beautiful vegetation and animals that inhabit the trail, and create memorable experiences.

“Many times, there are unusual findings throughout the path,” said Ibrahim. “This time, the group found a grill top intertwined with miscellaneous items and weighed about 30 pounds. We all joined together to dispose of the obscure item and by the time we were finished it was time to head back.”

Ibrahim continued to share his adventure, stating, “On our way out, there was a huge beehive that was blocking the exit. We attempted to find another way out until the bees moved in a different direction, finally allowing us to make our way back to the Lake Claire Pavilion.”

Volunteer Chelsea Aldrich exclaimed, “This is so much fun, I feel like I am on an episode of Survivor.”

Counseling and Psychological Services
Fall Semester’s Drop-in Workshop

Groups are open to all students regardless of being a client of CAPS.

• Sister Circle: Mon. @ 3:45 p.m.
• Life Coaching: Tue. @ 3:45 p.m.
• Gender Spectrum: Tues./Wed. @ 1:30-2:30 p.m.
• Relax & Flow: Yoga Workshop: Wed. @ 1:30-3 p.m.
• Thesis/Dissertation Coaching: Thu. @ 3:45 p.m.
• Strategies for Managing Anxiety: Fri. @ 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
• Drumming Circle: TBA
Welcome to SDES

New employees or employees who changed positions within SDES:
June – August 2013

• Luriel Abreu, senior fiscal assistant, Health Services
• Tanner Anthony, coordinator, Housing and Residence Life
• Bret Biance, assistant director, HRL
• Derick Brown, coordinator, Academic Services for Student-Athletes
• Dillon C. Burleson, coordinator, First Year Advising and Exploration
• Mireya Cortes, accountant, Activity and Service Fee Business Office
• Matthew Dunigan, coordinator, Recreational and Wellness Center
• Jeremy Foskett, coordinator, HRL
• Mark Greenwood, assistant director, Career Services
• Pamela Grega, coordinator, RWC
• Harriet Holaday, instructional specialist, Creative School for Children
• Michael Killbride, coordinator, Student Union
• Briceli Llavona, coordinator, HRL
• Bradley Loomis, assistant director, CS
• Adam Meyer, director, Student Disability Services
• Sarah Moi, certified medical assistant, HS
• Troy Morris, assistant director, HS
• Angela Newland, coordinator, HRL
• Jennifer Noboa, dental assistant, HS
• Jerron Parker, coordinator, HRL
• Richard Phillips, director, ASF
• Kristal Pollack, social work services specialist, Counseling and Psychological Services
• Cynthia Rahrele, executive administrative assistant, SDES
• Jesus Ramirez, custodial worker, RWC
• Ada Rodriguez, coordinator, Registrar’s Office
• Katherine “Bonniblue” Rodriguez-Valentine, program assistant, Student Government Association
• Casey Shadix, coordinator, HRL
• Shauna Strickler, coordinator, CS
• Dorrenda Thompson, applications systems analyst programmer, RO
• Heriberto Vallescorbo, psychologist, CAPS

SASI Email Etiquette Workshop
On July 26, SASI (Support All Staff Involvement) hosted an Email Etiquette Workshop for SDES USPS staff members. Jennifer Wright, director, Integrity and Ethical Development, presented valuable information regarding the “do’s and don’ts” of sending emails. Approximately 40 USPS staff members attended the workshop.

FAYE Advising Space Expanded
In addition to the original suite in Howard Phillips Hall, room 116, First Year Advising and Exploration has expanded and relocated some of the advising team to PH, room 102. This space was formerly occupied by Multicultural Academic Support Services MASS. Students will continue to check-in at the main desk located outside of room 116, and advisors can be reached at 407.823.3789.

Krav Maga Self-Defense
On May 28, SDES invited staff and faculty to a self-defense session utilizing the fighting-style, Krav Maga. The self-defense tactics are known for their focus on real-world situations and extremely efficient and brutal counter-attacks. The two-hour session was taught by Ken Brayman from Premier Martial Arts of Sanford, Florida. Everyone was very pleased with this session, learning simple basic techniques of self-defense.

Thanks to SDES for Donations
A big thank you goes to the SDES members for their generous school supply donations. Special thanks to the SDES Council and volunteers Carolyn Standner and Patrice Fairweather for their efforts in the Bonneville Elementary School Supply Drive. The school secretary called Judy Pardo, SDES Council chairperson, whoexplained the school’s appreciation: “Children were able to get supplies prior to the school start day and how they would be able to come to school with the proper supplies needed and not feel ‘different’ because they did not have them.”

Conference Focuses on Challenges Campuses Face
On May 17, the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities hosted its first-ever “Case Management Drive-In Conference” for case managers and those who work with “students of concern or students in distress.” Dean of Students, Counseling Center directors, case managers and support staff from 11 Florida institutions participated in the day-long conference. Keynote speaker Peggy Symons, UCF alum and member of the National Alliance on Mental Illness in Orlando, shared her personal struggles and mental health journey. Associate Vice President Patti MacKown, UCF Student Development and Enrollment Services, reviewed case studies from a variety of institutions and presented on the future of case management.

Karen Hofmann, director SDES Counseling and Psychological Services, reflected, “The UCF drive-in conference was an informative meeting that allowed us to understand the challenges we are all facing on a college campuses and to share best practices with our neighboring universities on how to best meet the demand to serve our high-risk or at-risk students.”

SDES IT’s Reorganization Revealed
On August 13, SDES IT flaunted new talent at its 5th annual Technology Showcase. Attendees witnessed demonstrations and had their technology questions answered while snacking on popcorn and cookies. An animated organizational chart was displayed by SDES Information Technology’s newly-acquired design team.

The showcase also featured complimentary software training provided by Microsoft. Employees could choose to attend one or more of these workshops to brush up on their Excel, OneNote, Outlook, or Windows 8 knowledge. The goal was to make these sessions a regular addition to future showcases.

The highlight of the event—particularly for those concerned about the ramifications of the IT reorganization—was the special information session given by the SDES IT Leadership Team. Here, attendees learned about IT’s new “team” structure and its business model as a whole.

SDES Changes
• Karen Hofmann is now the director for the Counseling and Psychological Services.
• Adam Meyer is the new director for the Office of Student Disability Services.
• Richard Phillips is the new director for the Activity and Service Fee Business Office.

SDES Awards and Recognition
• Richard Berwanger, a senior maintenance superintendent for Housing and Residence Life, was named USPS 2013 Employee of the Year.
• SDES Heart 'n Soles Team participated in the American Heart Association Heart Walk and raised $3,359.95.

The event showcased SDES IT teams and their job duties.