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2015, we are once again seeing another significant transition within the

leadership structure of the division.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome Dr. Anthony Jenkins to UCF

as the new Senior Associate Vice President and Dean of Students to

help me lead and execute strategies designed to move SDES forward. In

his new role, Dr. Jenkins will provide leadership for:

• Safety and Neighborhood Relations;
• Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (which includes
  Student Conduct, Student Care Services, Integrity & Ethical
  Development);
• Counseling and Psychological Services;
• Health Services;
• Student Legal Services;
• Wellness and Health Promotion Services.

He will also serve as the point of contact for all far-reaching student

matters, lead SDES training in emergency preparedness and crisis

management, and work with campus partners such as the UCF Police

and Emergency Management to ensure that UCF provides exceptional

student support services to educate, prevent, care and respond.

A native of the District of Columbia, Dr. Jenkins served in the U.S. Army before

he began his 20-plus year career in higher

education instruction and administration, earning a bachelor’s degree from Fayetteville

State University, a master’s degree from North Carolina Central University, and a
doctorate from Virginia Tech. Throughout

his career, he has worked in admissions, financial aid, and residence life before

becoming Dean of Students at the

University of Houston-Clear Lake. Prior to

coming to UCF, Dr. Jenkins served as Vice

President for Student Affairs and Enrollment

at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

There is a common thread in his experiences and career, and that

is increasing access to higher education for all students, especially

underrepresented groups. At each university, he has enhanced

the quality of campus life and of the college experience, creating

comprehensive retention and enrollment plans to strengthen academic

profiles for incoming students and increase graduation rates. He has

extensive experience in higher education mental health matters,

strengthening student conduct processes, crisis management protocols

and procedures, developing student success centers, creating thorough

transition programs, dual enrollment and articulation agreements, and

academic early referral programs.

Dr. Jenkins also delivers presentations and keynotes on a wide range

of issues such as funding, mentoring, high-risk drinking, retention, sexual

assault, first-generation students, enrollment management, diversity

and inclusion. He is a member of many higher educational personnel

and professional organizations such as the National Association

of Student Personal Administrators (NASPA), American College

Personnel Association (ACPA), Editorial Board-Journal for Intercultural

Education, National Association for Student Affairs Professionals

(NASAP), and the Association for Student Conduct Administration

(ASCA) among others. And throughout his career, he has been

inducted into several prestigious honor and leadership societies such as

Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Alpha Pi, and Order of Omega.

We are fortunate to have Dr. Jenkins join SDES as a key member of

the Senior Leadership Team, so please join me in welcoming him to UCF

and the SDES family!

Every year, we are entrusted with the duty to help students as they

strive to fulfill their dreams. They come here because UCF ‘Stands for

Opportunity,’ and with that comes a pledge that we will work hard

to help them succeed, help them become connected, help them gain

the skills necessary for employment, and help them navigate the path

towards graduation and completion of their degrees.

As always, thank you for all you do for our students, the UCF

community, for SDES and for each other!

GO KNIGHTS!!! ChargeON!
Students Experience Diversity Through the “Taste of UCF”

On the first day of the fall semester, the Multicultural Student Center held its annual Taste of UCF. The event increased in popularity and attendance every year since its founding. This year’s Taste of UCF offered food samples from over 25 countries, including dessert and interesting drinks called “concoctions.”

Cultural music filled the venue as students witnessed performances by diverse cultural dance groups and poets. Registered Student Organizations were set up outside of the doors for students to learn more information about UCF’s different clubs and organizations.

Students expanded their minds and palates to cultures that are different from their own, kicking off a great semester of programming from the MSC’s executive board.

Brice Yates, coordinator for MSC, commented on the event’s success, “It’s amazing to see the amount of students that attend culturally-based events. I see a lot of potential for the MSC to grow even more and I’m excited to be a part of that change.”

University Club of Orlando’s goal is to continue working towards maintaining a national level of accomplishment for all sports.”

Students Get Informed

Academic Services for Student-Athletes has consistently shown that hard work from student-athletes, support from coaches, and the collective effort by the Office of ASSA and Student Development and Enrollment Services staff members produce positive results. The Graduation Success Rate is one of the most important metrics that the NCAA tracks, and the latest report shows UCF has earned the highest GSR in the country for public institutions and is tied for 5th in the country overall, behind only Notre Dame, Stanford, Northwestern and Duke.

“The ASSA staff stresses integrity and accountability in all that they do and with the combined support of SDES, faculty and staff on campus, this has allowed for the program to achieve these results,” said Kimya Massey, director ASSA. “Moving forward, we will strive to continue working towards maintaining a national level of accomplishment for all sports.”

SARC’s Learning Fair 2014

The Student Academic Resource Center’s 11th annual Learning Fair aims to foster academic success and retention through student development of academic skills and increased awareness of learning support services.

This year’s “Trivia” was a fun way of breaking the ice between organizations and students. Students were encouraged to participate in a trivia challenge by asking different departments fun facts about their services or UCF. Students could trade completed trivia cards for raffle tickets to win prizes.

This year, 23 university departments and academic organizations participated in the event and over 200 students participated. One student wrote that she was excited about “the wealth of information from all of the exhibits I checked out.” Based on the results of a written questionnaire, 100 percent of participants learned at least two new academic strategies while at the Learning Fair.

Multicultural Transfer Students Get Informed

Approximately 100 multicultural transfer students attended the Multicultural Transfer Student Reception, a networking event to meet representatives from various offices on campus, including LEAD Scholars Academy, Office of Student Involvement, and Student Academic Resource Center.

Several members of the SDES Leadership Team were in attendance, and Assistant Vice President Chanda Torres provided welcoming remarks for the transfer students. She encouraged them to be proactive and take advantage of the many resources UCF has to offer. In addition, students were informed of the Multicultural Academic and Support Services’ Multicultural Transfer Scholarship as well as Tau Sigma, an Honor Society for transfer students.

MASS and the Office of Transfer and Transition Services announced the new collaborative program, “Transferring Into Professional Success” (TIPS), which is funded by the Parent and Family Fund Grant.
UCF Veterans Week, November 6-14, provided many events such as a Central Florida Veterans Job Fair, barbecue, and presentations that included “Subtleties of Trauma Spectrum Disorders” by Col. Jeffrey Yarvis from USC and “Lessons for Today’s Veteran” by VETSports COO and OEF/OIF veteran B. Taylor Urruella and Joseph Sousa, producer of the PBS miniseries “Coming Back with Wes Moore.”

The Air Force ROTC Color Guard honored veterans by presenting the flag for the Veteran’s Commemoration Ceremony. Music was provided by the UCF Brass Quintet and keynote speaker was Matthew Carter II from the State University System Board of Governors. After the ceremony, a Board of Governors luncheon was held at the FAIRWINDS Alumni Center with speaker Deborah Beidal of the Army-funded PTSD therapy program who talked about the results the program had achieved. Also, Chancellor Marshall Criser III, Florida Board of Governors, presented.

On November 10, six UCF veterans and Joshua “JJ” Johnson, Veterans Academic Resource Center program coordinator, participated in the Universal Orlando Veterans Network parade at Universal Studios. VARC also provided a table with information for prospective student veterans. The events continued with the Veterans Resource Fair and Barbecue where six veterans enrolled in the American Legion.

UCF honored veterans Nov. 7 during a ceremony at the Veterans Commemorative Site on Memory Mall. Each flag represented one of the 1,450 student veterans attending UCF.

Open House Connects Students to their Advisors

First Year Advising and Exploration and the Sophomore and Second Year Center seek to create innovative opportunities for students to connect with their respective advising offices. These connections can only be fostered through exchanging meaningful interactions. Therefore, FYAE and SSYC hosted an Advising Open House to encourage students to build relationships with their academic advisors at the inception of the academic year. A total of 315 students attended the Advising Open House, and this number denotes a significant increase (48%) from last year.

During this event, students were able to meet with their academic advisors based upon their assigned office or could schedule an appointment with their assigned advisor.

Several campus partners including Knight Quest, Student Academic Resource Center, University Testing Center and FAIRWINDS Credit Union had tables where students could learn about the resources that each provide for social, academic and personal success.

According to the survey given at the end of the event, 98.6 percent of students strongly agreed or agreed with this statement: “This event was beneficial to me as a first-year student.” Another student stated: “This event opened my eyes to all the resources available on campus that I had previously only heard about in Orientation.”

“It is truly great to read the positive responses from our students and know that they are receptive to establishing relationships with their academic advisors,” said Courtney Demings, academic advisor. “FYAE and SSYC look forward to continuing a fruitful partnership in hopes of launching a larger event next year.”

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Social Justice and Advocacy

Congratulations to Fall Graduates

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Social Justice and Advocacy

SDES’ Inclusive New Office

Social Justice and Advocacy, the newest department within Student Development and Enrollment Services, is responsible for providing oversight to the Multicultural Student Center and LGBTQ+ Services.

SJA will facilitate intentional programming aimed at addressing the following goals:
• Advocate for access and equity throughout the UCF campus community.
• Promote civil conversations on issues impacting campus climate.
• Advocate for the advancement of matters of social justice, equity and inclusion.
• Reduce barriers concerning prejudice and intergroup conflicts.

In addition, SJA offers programming and services such as: multicultural and LGBTQ+ programming and awareness. Workshops included such topics as advocacy, intersectionality and social justice; mediation; campus conversations/dialogues; multicultural resources and community partnerships.

Edwanna Andrews, director for SJA, stated, “Future plans include the Multicultural Student Center and LGBTQ+ Services moving to the second floor of the Student Union suite 207; collaboration with faculty; and development of social justice training programs.” For more information, visit: sja.sdes.ucf.edu.

Congratulations to Fall Graduates

More than 5,000 students graduated on December 12-13 at three Commencement ceremonies. Since classes began in 1968, UCF has awarded over 270,000 degrees.
SDES Connects Students

Pegasus Palooza 2014: Students are Encouraged to Get Involved at UCF

It was another successful first week of the fall semester for several of the Office of Student Involvement’s agencies in support of Pegasus Palooza. Throughout the first week of the new academic year, Knights of the Round Table, Campus Activities Board, Late Knights, Volunteer UCF and Knight-Thon, each offered programming opportunities to encourage new and returning students get involved on campus.

The week kicked off in the Student Union as OSI’s 600 clubs and organizations exhibited what they had to offer to 4,100 students for KORT’s Opening Knight. On the first day of classes, CAB welcomed 1,450 students into CFE Arena for Movie Knight, featuring Captain America 2: The Winter Soldier, and kept the week going with Comedy Knight (Hannibal Buress and Hal Sparks; 3,149 students) and Concert Knight, showcasing YouTube sensation Karmin and UCF alumni Alex & Sierra (2,331).

Late Knights invited students on Friday night to the Red, White, UCF Knights All-American Block Party on the south patio of the union. More than 2,300 students enjoyed inflatable slides, made tie dye T-shirts, and participated in a watermelon eating contest.

OSI continued to engage students as VUCF’s Day of Service sent 121 student volunteers to Clean the World and Second Harvest on Saturday morning where they completed a combined 448 hours of community service. At Second Harvest, students assisted to provide meals to those in need. At Clean the World, UCF students helped provide soap and other hygiene products to over 5,000 people in need. This was done in just five hours of labor.

“We would like to thank everyone who took part in this fruitful event for giving Volunteer UCF a fantastic start to the year,” said Fahad Siddiqui, public relations director VUCF.

Later that night, 125 students participated in Knight-Thon’s annual 5K run. CAB finished off a successful week for OSI with a VIP Pool Party at the leisure pool attended by 927 students.

Through the eight events offered by five OSI agencies, more than 14,600 students were involved and engaged.

More Pegasus Palooza Events

This year, 48 events were held and more than a total of 25,000 students participated in the welcome week. Social events such as LINK Launch introduced students to campus life and provided them with fun things to do during the night time. Day events such as the Welcome Expo, workshops, and service events helped to educate students about campus resources and what they can do to be successful.

The semi-annual LINK Amazing Race, hosted by First Year Experience, had a record-breaking 92 students in attendance despite the stormy weather. Students banded together in teams of 4-5 to complete a 10-question campuswide scavenger hunt using a smart phone or internet connected device.

Teams solved riddles while discovering beneficial campus resources for financial aid at Student Financial Assistance, clubs and registered organizations at the Office of Student Involvement, and academic support programs at the Student Academic Resource Center. Trinity Miller, LINK student assistant, said that “these students did not know each other before the race. The Amazing Race not only introduces students to campus resources, but also to each other.”

The Welcome Expo, hosted by First Year Advising and Exploration, and sponsored by Fairwinds Credit Union, connected students to various UCF and community businesses. The expo had record-breaking 3,422 students in attendance. Students had the opportunity to meet with:

- Over 20 vendors gave free giveaways to attendees and discussed services that each company delivers.
- 34 UCF departments provided students the opportunity to understand their function and ability to assist them with a “successful transition” into UCF.
- 82 Registered Student Organizations showcased how fun it is to become socially integrated into UCF and how students can be active outside of the classroom.

“Palooza 2014 was a huge success. We are so thankful for the support of our many campus partners and a great student led Palooza board that made it all possible,” said Katie Green, student director for UCF’s Welcome Week.

Families Experience UCF Through Family Weekend

During the Family Weekend of September 19-21, students and their families had the opportunity to attend events and programs such as hosted by not only the Office of First Year Experience’s Friday Knight Welcome, but also events by several different departments of Student Development and Enrollment Services and other departments.

Events included the Football Game, Friday Knight Welcome, and Open Houses of the housing communities. Families were introduced to all the services on campus that help their student stay healthy, happy and safe at UCF through the “Health and Wellness Tour” by visiting the Recreation and Wellness Center, Wellness and Health Promotion Services, Health Center and Counseling and Psychological Services.

Families got first hand information of services, workshops, recreational sports and activities, programs offered as well as preventative efforts and educational programming offered to help students maintain healthy lifestyle habits.

The Office of Student Involvement hosted the Annual Family Weekend Jazz Breakfast that included music by the “Jazz Workshop” students, and an opportunity to meet with Maribeth Ehasz, vice president for SDES, and members of her Leadership Team.

The LEAD Scholars Academy hosted a brunch for Scholars’ students and families. Attendees enjoyed the Roaring 20s’ theme and had the opportunity to participate in activities which included a photo booth and a brainteaser challenge. Alex Diaz, second-year LEAD Scholar said, “It was great to be able to show my mom a program that I am so involved with at UCF.”
On September 27, over 110 Jefferson Awards student leaders from Central Florida attended the 8th annual Students in Action Leadership Conference held on the campus of Lake Brantley High School in Altamonte Springs. The conference was designed and facilitated by students in the UCF LEAD Scholars Academy program, a selective, two-year academic leadership development program for students committed to academic excellence and making a difference in the world with thousands of hours of community service each year.

The Students in Action Leadership Conference trains and empowers high school students to think big; choose their own public service passion; engage their entire school and broader communities; and create maximum impact.

Students from seven Central Florida high schools participated in a series of workshops aimed to assist them in leading an action-oriented volunteer service culture in their school while sharpening their leadership skills. The workshops centered on collaboration, innovation, effective communication, team building and problem solving.

For more than 40 years, the Jefferson Awards has recognized the highest levels of excellence in community and national service, and is now focusing on training the next generation of Americans who will go on to become Jefferson Awards winners.

Students in Action’s strategy is to create Jefferson Awards youth leadership teams in each high school that celebrate great volunteers, inspire others to get involved and help raise additional resources to expand volunteer activities in the areas of need. Currently Students in Action is operating in over 325 high schools nationwide.

The “St. Baldrick’s Knights,” a group of six LEAD Scholars led by Joshua Cammarn, hosted a “Head-Shaving” event to benefit the St. Baldrick’s Foundation, a volunteer-driven charity committed to funding research to find cures for childhood cancers and give survivors.

“We had a great turnout with a total of 21 “shavees” and countless volunteers who helped us raise $4,050,” said Cammarn. “We hope to become a Registered Student Organization by fall 2015 and have begun brainstorming new fund-raising event ideas for this spring semester. In addition, we are working to make the head-shaving event an annual fund-raiser every September [Childhood Cancer Awareness Month].”

St. Baldrick’s Knights was developed as part of a leadership class challenge to create social change. The group believes that asking volunteers to shave their heads will unite them with children battling cancer and bring attention to the importance of funding research for the disease.

UCF Gives Back to the Community

Knights Give Back 2014 was record-breaking this year with over 1,000 volunteers who contributed over 4,000 hours of service, and saved the Central Florida community over $90,000.

Knights Give Back is Volunteer UCF’s largest event of the year and with enthusiastic volunteers to help make the event a success once again. In the Central Florida area, VUCF served at 24 different community organizations, including The Mustard Seed of Central Florida, Oakland Nature Preserve, Fern Creek Elementary, Society of St. Andrew, Quest Camp Thunderbird, and New Hope for Kids, but the impact of Knights Give Back extended beyond Central Florida. Thanks to the support of the UCF Alumni Association, 10 regional alumni chapters ranging from close to home in Tampa to New York to Dallas participated.

“The support of our alumni and the UCF Alumni Association was amazing and we look forward to continuing to expand the involvement of our alumni in the future,” stated Fahad Siddiqui, VUCF public relations director.
Healthy Knights Expo Attracted Over 1,100 Students

The Healthy Knights Expo has come a long way in eight years. From what use to be a passive tabling event about services on campus has grown into a signature event for many Student Development and Enrollment Services offices involved in student health. The fall semester Healthy Knights Expo attracted over 1,100 students where they learn about the HK2020 goals and what UCF is doing to help improve the health of the student body.

Highlights from this year’s event included Zumba and kickboxing group exercise demonstrations, health screenings, free flu shots, ping pong station, free relaxation stations—demonstrations, health screenings, free flu and kickboxing group exercise to improve the health of the student body.

HK2020 goals and what UCF is doing to help 1,100 students where they learn about the semester Healthy Knights Expo attracted over offices involved in student health. The fall Student Development and Enrollment Services' passive tabling event about services on campus long way in eight years. From what use to be a in April and September.

Unwanted Drugs Collected
Cleaning out the medicine cabinet at least once per year is a habit the Health Services’ Pharmacists and the UCF Police want you to adopt. To accommodate students' schedules, UCF hosted the Drug Take-Back in the John T. Washington Center breezeway a few days before the national take-back day on Saturday, September 27, 2014.

The event makes it easy for the disposal of expired, unwanted or unused prescription or over-the-counter drugs by offering Drug Take-Back twice per year. UCF has been participating in Drug Take-Back events, sponsored by the DEA, since 2011 and have collected over 354 pounds of unwanted medications since that time.

UCF Police stored all the turned-in drugs until the DEA picked them up. The DEA incinerates all collected items, keeping them out of the hands of abusers and protecting our waterways and landfills. In total, the DEA's drug take-back events have collected more than 4.1 million pounds of medicine.

UCF Police collects unwanted medicine year-round at permanent drug take-back boxes located on the first floor of the Student Union and in the main pharmacy of the Health Center. The bi-annual events are typically held in April and September.

“Be Proud Of Who You Are”
October marked LGBTQ+ History Month at UCF with the theme, “Breaking Down Barriers: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.”

The month began with the kick-off event, featuring Gina Duncan, transgender inclusion director for Equality Florida, who shared some of her own experiences and touched the hearts and minds of attendees of the event. Riley McEuen, graduate assistant for Social Justice and Advocacy, stated, “Of her many words of advice, one overall theme resonated with the audience of LGBTQ+ students and allies – ‘You cannot hide in the shadows; you must be proud of who you are because change only comes with self-acceptance.’”

Programming was geared towards educating students about the LGBTQ+ community including: informational panels, documentary screenings, information-exchange groups and craft pride events At the National Coming Out Day celebration, 25 students and 10 UCF faculty and staff marched in the 10th annual “Coming Out With Pride” parade near Downtown Orlando. Many students also participated in the Zebra Run 5K earlier in the day. Zebra Coalition is a UCF community partner, supporting LGBTQ+ youth between the ages of 13 and 24 with numerous services in the Central Florida area.

Shane Bitney Crone closed out the monthly program as the featured keynote speaker.

UCF Students Break Holiday Record in 48 Hours
In between slurping coffee to stay awake, meeting with study groups and pulling all nighters to get ready for final exams, UCF students took time out to help one another and break a food-drive record. In less than 48 hours, students dropped off 1,050 pounds of food at the Student Union to be donated to the on-campus Knights Helping Knights Pantry. In the end, over 1,300 pounds was collected. Last year’s record was 1,000 pounds. This year, students received a free "Study Union" T-shirt in exchange for their food donation. More than 210 shirts were given away in 24 hours, and when coordinators ran out of shirts, they resorted to giving away union water bottles.

Attendees had the opportunity to get their blood pressure checked at the expo. Students who participated in the Coming Out With Pride parade. UCF Police and UCF Health Services collected expired, unwanted drugs for DEA to dispose. UCF Cares, LGBTQ+ Services, and various researchers and health professors at UCF.

SDES Promotes Healthy Knights

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**Inclusive Recreation Expo Experienced by All**

UCF Knights of all abilities showed up in record numbers for the annual Recreation and Wellness Center Inclusive Recreation Expo. Students experienced yoga poses and played Paralympic sports like Goalball, Wheelchair Basketball and Quad Rugby. The RWC partnered with Student Disability Services, Orange County Clash and for the first-time ever, Special Olympics, to host the day-long event featuring activities available at the RWC for students with disabilities.

The event wasn’t only for students with disabilities, the able bodied student population also participated. Some were blindfolded during yoga and Goalball, and others sat in wheelchairs for the first time to play traditional activities like table tennis. Leandre Horn, nursing student, said, “It’s different to say the least. It’s table tennis. I didn’t think a wheelchair would keep from being able to do it, but it’s hard, it is hard to do anything [in a wheelchair]. I feel like I can see from that point of view better now because I did it in a wheelchair.”

**Health and Safety, A Concern for All Students**

The Office of Neighborhood Relations and Safety Education held a meeting with 39 apartment community managers and leasing professionals to provide them information, updates, resources and a networking opportunity. Also in attendance was Student Development and Enrollment Services’ staff, Orange County Sheriff’s Office deputies and UCF Police Department officers.

Key presentations included: information, precautions, and tips about off-campus living by Captain Steve Garrison (OCSO); safety considerations and pedestrian awareness by Deputy Chief Brett Meade, (UCFPD); instructions and updates by Marcie Kucharyson (UCF Office of Integrity and Ethical Development); resources and assistance by Christey Oberbeck (Victim Services); as well as information and support by Angela Newland (UCF Cares).

The event was hosted the Office of NR&SE staff–A.J. Range, assistant vice president, and Karen Nguyen, executive administrative assistant. Range commented, “We believe our message of collaboration, partnership and teamwork was emphasized to the extent; apartment managers and leasing agents now realize that the health and safety of our resident students are vital to all concerned.”

The apartment manager meetings form relationships between UCF and the local community as well as invite communication updates, conversation and concerns. To keep the communication open, meetings are held every semester.

NR&SE provides relevant unbiased information, services, and programs for students living off-campus and for those seeking to live off campus. Integral to the mission, is providing housing related resource listings, advocacy for the needs of off-campus students, offering referrals, collaborating, and building partnerships with university departments, off-campus property managers and landlords, local businesses and governmental agencies within neighborhoods. NR&SE informs, educates, and encourage off-campus residents to be alert, aware, and responsible in order to prevent and reduce risks and dangers to themselves and others. The office also assists and supports efforts and initiatives designed to build, sustain, and promote a culture of care, non-violence, and concern within the neighborhoods and communities, around and near the university.
Welcome to SDES

- Doris Alcivar, career development assistant director, Career Services
- Victoria Billings, student affairs coordinator, Student Disability Services
- Connie Bristow, physician's assistant, Health Services
- Shannon Calderone, senior art specialist, Housing & Residence Life
- Tinessa Callinan, public functions coordinator, Student Union
- Dianne Campbell, information & coordination services coordinator, HRL
- Joseph Carrick, program assistant, Registrar's Office
- Crystal Colvenbach, marketing specialist, HS
- Katherine Daly, psychologist, Counseling & Psychological Services
- Oxzavious Finley, university housing coordinator, HRL
- Michael Gilmer, student affairs director, Office of Student Right & Responsibilities
- Michelle Ginsburg, senior registered nurse, HS
- Dawn Graziano, program assistant, Undergraduate Admissions
- Andrea Guimaraes, student affairs coordinator, HRL
- Lauren Hansbury, program assistant, CAPS
- Rebecca Heine, teacher's aide, Creative School for Children
- James Hovell, licensed practical nurse, HS
- Katy Latevola, career development services coordinator, CS
- Angélica Lopez, program assistant, UA
- Matthew Lowe, student affairs coordinator, SDS
- Kristin Maas, assistant university registrar, RO
- Elizabeth Manuel, student affairs coordinator, First Year Experience
- Oscar Mauricio, maintenance mechanic, Recreation & Wellness Center
- Steven Mollura, senior property manager, HRL
- Lissette Moody, advanced registered nurse practitioner, HS
- Thomas Morris, office manager, Social Justice & Advocacy
- Jazmin Peralta-Armstrong, academic support services coordinator, SDES
- Sarah Phillips, student affairs associate director, FYE
- Mandy Pleie, teacher’s aide, CSC
- Adaymia Polk, teacher’s aide, CSC
- Gregory Potts, program assistant, HRL
- Nicole Preston, admissions specialist, OSRR
- Jesus Ramirez, custodial worker, RWC
- Valeria Ramos, program assistant, UA
- Carian Sastro, teacher’s aide, CSC
- Erin Sibauste, student financial aid coordinator, Student Financial Assistance
- Ryan Sirmeyer, senior fiscal assistant, HS
- Juliette Slonka, program assistant, UA
- Chelsea Ward, licensed practical nurse, HS
- Celina Yebba, administrative assistant, FYE

SDES Staff

Jorge Olmedo

USPS Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Jorge Olmedo, medical staff credentialing manager for Health Services, for being selected as the USPS Employee of the Month for September.

Olmedo has been described by his nominators as constantly maintaining “a positive attitude which at times is infectious.” His “can do attitude sets the stage for innovative partnerships and excellence.” He recently was entrusted with additional responsibilities when the team was short staffed and did so “without complaint and with no expectation of reward” and “when faced with a difficult problem gives careful consideration and finds creative solutions.” Lastly, Olmedo “aims to make everyone feel comfortable.”

In addition to a one-time $200 cash award, a UCF Business Services (on campus vendor) $25 gift certificate, introduction to UCF’s Board of Trustees, marquee announcement, goody bag, certificate and eligible for the annual USPS Employee of the Year award.

Cyndia Morales, Selected Finalist for the Don Quijote Awards

The Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida, Inc. and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando announced the 15 finalists (5 categories) for the 17th Annual Don Quijote Awards. Cyndia Morales, assistant director for UCF Multicultural Academic and Support Services, was honored as one of three finalists to receive the Don Quijote Awards, “Professional of the Year.”

The winners were announced on November 6 and although Morales was not one of them, being selected as a prestigious finalist for this award, she was recognized her dedication to serve and her outstanding professionalism among Central Florida’s Hispanic community.

Hearts n’ Soles Raise Money for Heart Walk

SDES Hearts n’ Soles’ team, Vice President Maribeth Ehas and members of the SDES Leadership Team were among those who took the ice bucket challenge to help raise money for Heart Walk. Other SDES fund-raising events included $1 Smoothies, $5 recreation workouts and drawings. In total, SDES raised over $2,000.

SDES Holiday Celebration

SDES came together for the SDES Holiday Celebration on December 18. Activities included ping pong, corn hall, ice slide, ice skating, photo opportunity with Mr. and Ms. Santa, and a professional photographer was present to take individual or group photos. The winners for the Holiday Spirit Competition were:

- 1st: Activity Service Fee and Business Office
- 2nd: Student Financial Assistance
- 3rd: Counseling and Psychological Services

The SDES Council looks forward to seeing everyone at the SDES Appreciation Celebration.

SDES Council Members 2014

Melissa Anderson • Alia Asi
Matt Betz • Arian Bryant
Marta De Corral • Toinette Ferrell
Judy Pardo • Alicia Pineiro
Tamara Vassallo Soto
Elvis Wanamaker