Three Special UCF Graduation Celebrations

UCF President John C. Hitt’s fourth goal:
“Become more inclusive and diverse.”

Three cultural graduation celebrations – Nguzo Saba, Lavender and Veterans – highlighted the academic accomplishments of students with the opportunity to celebrate among their family, friends, faculty, staff and supporters.

Nguzo Saba Graduation Celebration
Multicultural Student Center and Multicultural Academic and Support Services hosted the annual Nguzo Saba Graduation Celebration on May 5. The graduation recognized and celebrated the scholastic achievement of approximately 150 minority and first generation students at UCF. Each student received a UCF keynote sash or first generation sash. The UCF Gospel Culture Choir provided two musical selections. Keynote speaker was Anthony Jenkins, SDES senior associate vice president and dean of students.

“Make those around you proud, but remember first to always be proud of yourself. Put yourself in charge of your own destination as you transition from UCF,” stated Brice Yates, Multicultural Student Center coordinator.

Lavender Graduation Celebration
The Office of Social Justice and Advocacy’s Multicultural Student Center and LGBTQ+ Services hosted the annual Lavender Graduation Celebration on May 6. During the event, UCF faculty, and staff and Orlando community members participated in the “pouring of the sand.” This special part of the graduation celebration recognized the colors of the LGBTQ+ flag: Red is for life, Orange is for healing, Yellow is for energy, Green is for nature, Blue is for harmony, and Purple is for spirit.

The graduation recognized and celebrated the scholastic achievement of approximately 20 LGBTQ+ and ally students at UCF a day prior commencements. Each student received a lavender sash or medallion. Keynote speaker was Karen Morrison, chief diversity officer.

“Realizing the important work that has been achieved in a short period of time for our LGBTQ+ students, this wonderful celebration recognizes them for who they are and their amazing accomplishments,” stated Justin Andrade, LGBTQ+ Services coordinator. “It is important that graduates remember who you are and where you came from.”

Veterans’ Graduation Celebration
UCF’s Veterans Academic Resource Center hosted the inaugural Student Veterans’ Graduation Celebration on May 6 in the Harris Corp. Engineering Center. The celebration recognized and focused on the scholastic achievement of 29 of the 176 graduating student military veterans at UCF. Each attending student veteran was given a commemorative UCF VARC coin.

Keynote speaker was Aaron Smith, university mathematics professor and faculty advisor to the UCF Chapter of the Student Veterans of America.

Veteran student Roxanne Griffin, Liberal Studies, BS commented on the event, “It was a great event and a chance for me to talk, and personally thank the people who helped me integrate into UCF.”

Jay Parsons, Business Management, BSBA program: “It was nice to have the recognition and highlight the accomplishments of student veterans. It was nice that the VARC thought about doing this for us.”

In each of the three celebrations, presenters shared a portion of their life’s experience, encouraging and commending students for their efforts, achievements and contributions. The ceremonies and celebrations were opportunities to acknowledge student’s academic achievements and future endeavors; honor and thank their families, communities, and other significant people in their lives; and celebrate the cultural influences that have contributed to their academic success at UCF.
The Order of Pegasus is the most prestigious and significant student award that can be attained at the university. The committee selected 19 students for this honor from 78 nominations. UCF bachelor’s degree students are recognized for their exemplary performance in the areas of academic achievement, outstanding university involvement, leadership and community service. Master’s degree students, doctoral, professional, or MD students are selected separately based on academic achievement, professional or community service, leadership and publication or research experiences. The Order of Pegasus students received commemorative medals, Student Government Association scholarships, keepsakes, and lifetime memberships to the UCF Alumni Association. View recipients at: order.sdes.ucf.edu.

**UCF Celebrates Black History Month**

The Black History Month 2015 Opening Ceremony attracted over 100 members of the UCF community to experience and explore African American history through dance, film, and speech.

The show depicted important figures ranging from activist James Bevel to Orlando natives, Groveland Four, in efforts to highlight this year’s theme, the “Souls of Black Folk.” The melodies of the “Gospel Cultural Choir” and the electrifying dance moves of “Elements” highlighted the artistic diversity of this community’s historical contributions. Attendees received a copy of W.E.B. Du Bois’ critically acclaimed novel, The Souls of Black Folk, as well as T-shirts.

BHM is hosted by the Multicultural Student Center with partners across campus to develop a comprehensive month of events and programs.

**UCF Creed Contest Art on Display**

The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities along with the UCF Parent and Family Fund hosted the 5th Creed Art Contest in November 2014. All students were encouraged to submit original works of art with their reflections that represented the UCF Creed values: Integrity, Scholarship, Community, Creativity and Excellence. The first place winner was Kimberly Montano-Taveras and runner-up Cara Salinas. All Creed Art submissions are currently on display throughout the RWC and the Student Union second floor.

**Excellence in Action Celebrated**

On February 27, the Office of Multicultural Academic and Support Services hosted Excellence in Action, a recognition ceremony for multicultural and first generation college students that have both a fall 2014 and cumulative GPA of 3.5. Over 250 students were in attendance and received a certificate for their academic accomplishments.

The keynote speaker was Senior Associate Vice President and Dean of Students Anthony Jenkins, Student Development and Enrollment Services. Jenkins reflected on his experiences as a multicultural, first generation student, and offered words of encouragement for the students to continue on their paths to greatness. He also took a moment to recognize the families of the student honorees.

MASS Assistant Director Cyndia Morales, stated, “The recognition piece can make all the difference for our students.”

**Students Explore Majors and Minors at Fair**

The Office of Career Services held their annual Majors Fair in February for students to explore potential majors and minors by speaking with representatives from various colleges and programs at UCF.

Superhero was the theme of the Majors Fair because Career Services wanted students to recognize their incredible traits and interests that will give them the advantage to grow into leaders in their desired field. Throughout the event, students had the opportunity to talk to 46 academic programs and gain a multitude of information. Overall, 461 students attended the event. Students were able to take “selfies” with Knightro, enjoy pizza, and have the opportunity to win tickets to Universal Studios.

Jessica Lopez, the winner of the Universal Studios tickets stated, “The Major’s Fair was a great event because of the atmosphere and the social interaction with the academic departments and the ability to explore all our options in one place.”

**Common Reading Book Reveal Party**

April 21 marked the inaugural Common Reading Book Reveal Party hosted by First Year Experience. Attendees were provided with a brief history of the Common Reading Program, information on learning outcomes and the committee/book selection process announced the 2015-2016 selection: The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore.

The Other Wes Moore chronicles the life of two men, both named Wes Moore, with vastly different fates. One is a Rhodes Scholar and White House Fellow while the other is serving a life sentence for murder. Over the course of the school year, students in SLS 1501 and Honors symposium will have the book infused into their curriculum, and events around the theme of the book will occur.

Join First Year Experience on October 27, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. in the Pegasus Ballroom to hear from Wes Moore himself as he addresses students and how they can make their lives a success.
Maitner is Passionate for Women Rights and Social Justice Activism

Amy Maitner is the recipient of the 2015 Eleanor Roosevelt Women’s Studies Scholarship Award. Maitner is a junior majoring in Advertising and Public Relations with a minor in Women’s Studies. She lives her life led by her passion for women’s rights and social justice activism.

She has developed three UCF service-learning projects including a Blue Jeans for True Genes jeans drive event, a human trafficking exhibit, and an eating disorder prevention and awareness course for the UCF community. She also attended two Alternative Spring Break trips centered on women’s issues, with one at a domestic violence shelter for young girls, and another in Charleston for sexual human trafficking awareness work. She is the president of the UCF Registered Student Organization Project HEAL, a non-profit that acts as a support system for individuals recovering from eating disorders, as well as raises money for those who cannot afford treatment.

Maitner said this regarding the LEAD Scholars Academy, “Through the program I gained confidence and awareness of myself, which later grew into many different leadership roles. She also stated, “Women’s studies is not just a minor to me; it is a passion. I plan to continue my schooling through law school, where I hope to gain the skills to become a civil rights attorney, particularly representing women and human trafficking victims.”

UCF Students Honor MLK with Parade and Service

On January 17 in Downtown Orlando, approximately 50 UCF students made a powerful impact in the community. “Our students marched in the annual Martin Luther King Jr. holiday parade and was cheered on by galvanized chants from the crowd,” said Whitney Watkins, LEAD Scholars Academy.

The Knights were well represented, as the students exemplified strength, peace, harmony, and empowerment. Participants from the Multicultural Student Center, LEAD Scholars, and several other organizations stood shoulder to shoulder and connected with the Orlando community.

MLK once asked, “What are you doing for others?” UCF takes that statement to heart. On January 19 in honor of MLK, 114 UCF students participated in the “MLK Day of Service” at Barker Park for a beautification project that included tree planting, scrubbing down dirt surfaces and laying out mulch in honor of MLK. The event was coordinated by Annabelle Gonzales, civic engagement director for Volunteer UCF.

Students Get Ready in the ‘Ready Room’

Approximately 250 companies including Pepsi, Harrison Corporation, Teach for America and Deloitte, were packed into the CFE Arena with employment opportunities for UCF students and alumni at the Spring Career Expo. The event brought in nearly 1,900 students searching for jobs, internships or opportunities to network with employers.

Before entering the expo, students had the opportunity to attend the “Ready Room” where they were able to research employers, practice their infomercial (employer introduction), lint roll their suits, comb their hair, get a professional headshot for their LinkedIn account and pop a mint in their mouth before approaching employers.

Students with resume in hands were able to calm their nerves by getting advice and opportunities to practice with professionals from Career Services and Experiential Learning. The Ready Room was a major asset to the 2015 Career Expo with 453 students participating in this service.

Leadership Week Opens with Carla Harris

This year’s Leadership Week started strong on February 20 with a presentation from Carla Harris, vice chairman of Global Wealth Management, managing director and senior client advisor at Morgan Stanley, and author of Strategize to Win: The New Way to Start Out, Step Up, or Start Over in Your Career. Nearly 50 students attended with the first 20 students receiving a copy of her book.

A sophomore psychology major Maya Rose said she learned never to limit herself. “Have big dreams and reach as far as you can,” she said, and “form important relationships that can help you grow as a person and help further you in your organization.”

Germayne Graham, associate director of the LEAD Scholars Academy that hosts Leadership Week, said Harris’s “pearls of wisdom were practical, witty and impactful. Everyone walked away with inspiration and new knowledge about their own leadership abilities.” Over 77 workshops were offered during week.

Students Offered Experience through Assistantships

This spring semester 29 third and fourth year students were matched with faculty members from across campus for a paid undergraduate research experience through the LEAD Scholars Academy. These assistantships cover academic areas including psychology, biology, sport and exercise science and hospitality.

The 10-hour-per-week position is paid by LEAD Scholars Academy, so students get a paid experience and faculty members get help with their research programs.

Senior psychology major Kailyn Baker spent her semester working with Germayne Graham as a researcher for the Hazing Consortium at UCF through the University of Maine. “At the beginning of the semester I held two focus groups, and collected information from students on their perception of hazing, and their experience with the new hazing module. I then took that information and translated it into an anti-hazing workshop that was presented to faculty and staff.”

The module Baker helped create will be part of the online orientation course new UCF students must take along with alcohol education and sexual consent awareness.

For more information on the Undergraduate Research Program through the LEAD Scholars Academy at: lsa.sdes.ucf.edu/research.

Students Prepare for their Future

The Sophomore and Second Year Center conducted a successful inaugural student outreach event on April 14 called “Now’s the Time, Prepare for your Future.” A standing room crowd of 169 students attended this event to hear from and meet with various student-support offices to assist them with planning for their academic and professional future. Students gained valuable information from UCF partners including advising services, career planning, internships, study abroad, leadership, and engagement with student organizations. One student stated in a survey: “I learned that exploration, experience and ‘employability’ are important; it’s about doing the extra that counts.”

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Knight-Thon: $688,049.19 Raised for the Kids

UCF’s student-run Knight-Thon completed its annual dance marathon early Sunday morning on March 29 raising $688,049.19 to benefit the Greater Orlando Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals. The total raised by the 1,100 students in attendance is the 7th largest amount across all Children’s Miracle Network dance marathons this year.

Knight-Thon, in its 19th year, has grown rapidly over the past several years. In 2011, the event raised $84,640. In 2012, it climbed to $118,972. In 2013, it more than doubled to $258,554, and last year saw another big leap: $392,831.

Participants stand on their feet for 20 hours to give a greater appreciation and understanding of the struggles these kids go through every day. They are faced with both mental and physical challenges in an effort to support these strong children. To inspire students to remain standing, the Miracle Children are welcomed onstage alongside their families, and courageously share their stories of diagnosis, defeat and newfound hope.

Clinton Global Initiative University

Eight UCF students set off to change the world March 6-8 at Clinton Global Initiative University national conference at the University of Miami.

One student group included junior psychology major Desia Bacon, junior political science pre-law major Jessica Momorie, and freshman anthropology and international and global relations major Keenan McMahon. Their project, “I Don’t Stand For,” seeks to inform students about Human Rights issues including sexism, ableism and racism. Bacon said CGIU “[provided] the opportunity to interact with and hear from individuals from around the world who are all working towards making this world a better place or already have done so.”

Graduate education students Hannah Ehrli and LaSonya Moore presented their project, “Women of Haiti Rising” which seeks to create an infrastructure of leadership for women and girls through education, health and alleviation of poverty.

Stacey Malaret, facilitator for CGIU said, “I am very excited that UCF is providing a platform for student social change initiatives to come to fruition through the CGIU program. Our students have such great ideas and a passion for their community that will benefit from this funding and mentoring.”

Students Opportunity to Explore Career Paths

UCF Career Services collaborated with the School of Public Administration to host the annual Nonprofit and Public Service Career Showcase. The showcase connected more than 350 UCF students and alumni with over 40 organizations from the nonprofit, service, and government sectors.

“There are hundreds of students at UCF that are interested in careers in public service,” said Neal Robinson, assistant director of Employer Relations in Career Services, stated, “This showcase provided these students with an invaluable opportunity to explore career paths and find employment, internship, and volunteer opportunities.”

Some of the organizations in attendance included the Department of State, Central Intelligence Agency, Orange County Government, American Cancer Society, Department of Children and Families, Peace Corps, and Easter Seals. “It is not enough to just teach, we need to provide students the opportunity to connect and learn about real world industries and what they have to offer,” said Stephanie Krink, director of Nonprofit Management Programs. “This is a great way to do that, and Career Services has been a wonderful partner in conducting this showcase.”

“The students who come to this showcase are some of the brightest UCF has to offer, giving our employer partners access to the highest achieving candidates,” said Krink.
LEAD Scholars Work to Change a Vicious Cycle

Instead of lounging in the sun having fun during Spring Break, nine LEAD Scholars Academy students participated in the Alternative Break Program working to change the vicious cycle of human trafficking. Attendees included: Julie Deslauriers, David Dill, Clarence Emile, Casey Field, Meghan Ginn, Yejide Giwa, Amy Maitner, Karen Rodriguez and Maya Rose.

Student event coordinator Casey Field chose the social issue and organized fundraisers and educational discussions to inform the team before the trip. “We got to see the first slave mart in Charleston and the brothel across the street, something that seemed so historic but presented an image of the 38.5 billion people still trapped in slavery,” said Field.

Field said the real issue in Charleston wasn’t just the trafficking. “The issue is children growing up in broken households, children that lack confidence, and children that lack mentors,” she explained. To help with this, they worked with a military-base youth camp as well.

“When we asked what we could do to help, one of the main responses was that we need to start tackling insecurities with children early in life, so we made sure to encourage all of the children we worked with,” said Whitney Watkins, LSA graduate assistant and trip advisor.

LGBTQA+ Students Get Insight to Experiences in the Workplace

UCF Career Services in partnership with LGBTQA+ Services hosted a panel of seven employers in the LGBTQA+ community to share their individual and professional experiences about how it is in the workplace. Students were able to network with the panelists and gain valuable insights on beginning their careers in the near future.

Employers spoke on various topics of acceptance and diversity in the workplace and how employers look for hard workers and top talent regardless of their background.

Panelist Gina Duncan from Equality Florida discussed the growing acceptance of transitioning in the workplace for anyone who identifies as transgender saying, “Seventy-five percent of employers in the State of Florida are absolutely on board with employees transitioning on the job.”

A Day in the Life of a Knight

On March 17, 10 children from the US Dream Academy at Memorial Middle School visited UCF for “A Day in the Life of a Knight.” The US Dream Academy focuses on the social and educational development of students in high-risk areas.

Natacha Jerome, senior marketing and finance major and LEAD Scholar Academy student, said the event was organized “so that they would be able to experience an interactive and engaging experience with college students.”

While visiting UCF, the students attended Donald Harrell’s Evolution of Hip Hop class, heard from Housing and Residence Life Associate Director Arian Bryant, and asked their questions about college to a student panel.

This is the second year of A Day in the Life of a Knight, an event Jerome started to give back to the community while also incorporating her love of mentorship. Jerome said, “I am from Orlando and live in a high-risk, poverty-stricken area where most children get lost because they do not have the opportunity to experience mentorship. Through the guidance of mentorship and encouraging parents, I have achieved success. Now, I wish to give back and help others reach their full potential.”
SDES Promotes Healthy Knights

Deichen Receives Public Health Hero Award
Dr. Michael Deichen, director of UCF’s Student Health Services, was awarded the annual Public Health Hero award recently by the Florida Department of Health for his contributions to improving the health and safety of UCF students, employees and local residents.

The award, one of 10 presented at the department’s Orange County office, recognizes individuals who work every day to improve the lives of Orange County residents and visitors. Deichen’s work includes influenza surveillance at UCF that provides Orange County with flu-prevalence data on college students.

For example, during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, Deichen and his staff at Student Health Services provided ongoing additional surveillance information and applied measures to prevent the spread of the disease among the university population, limiting the spread of the illness to the general population.

“Dr. Deichen’s tireless efforts to create a healthier campus and watchful eye on potential impacts in the community make him a public health hero,” said Mary Schmidt-Owens, associate director of medical health administration at SHS and 2013 recipient of the Public Health Hero award. “It should make everyone at UCF feel safe to know that there is someone looking at the bigger picture of our well-being.”

22-Second Campuswide Moment of Silence
While the University of Central Florida currently supports more than 60,000 students, losing just one member greatly impacts the campus community.

On April 9, the UCF community gathered together for this year’s Eternal Knights Memorial Service, which honored the lives of 12 students who passed away during recent academic terms.

In its 15th year, Eternal Knights is an opportunity for families and friends to join the campus community in a solemn tribute to their loved ones. During the eulogy, each student is recognized and given the title, “Eternal Knight.” The event, though somber, is incredibly meaningful and a powerful indicator of what makes UCF special.

In addition, the UCF community participated in a 22-second campuswide moment of silence at 4 p.m. with two seconds dedicated to each Eternal Knight.

Professional Clothing Drive
In honor of UCF’s give-back spirit, Career Services partnered with Knights Helping Knights Pantry to conduct a week long professional clothing drive to all students in need of career-ready attire for job interviews.

Held the week of March 5-12 at Ferrell Commons where the Pantry is located, this new collaboration was a huge success.

SDES members participated in donating over 300 pieces of professional clothing and accessories from blouses, skirts, dresses, pants, ties, belts, shoes and more.

Jaime Morales, assistant director for programming at the Student Union, co-facilitated the drive, stating, “I was humbled by the amount of support the division gave to this cause. I’m excited to work with Career Services in similar future endeavors.”

There was five drop off locations throughout campus with Millican Hall bringing in the most pieces, collecting over three boxes. Shauna Strickler, assistant director for Career Services, said, “There’s now a place for students who couldn’t go out and buy that nice suit for interviews.”

Finding Healing Through Art
Counseling and Psychological Services, in collaboration with School of Visual Arts and Design and Student Accessibility Services, had its third annual Healing Art Exhibition, featuring the artwork of UCF students, faculty, staff and alumni. This year’s theme was “Art out Loud: Emerging from the Shadow.”

The 2015 Healing Art Exhibition Opening Reception in February included the viewing of the artwork, refreshments, live music and award announcements. There were 86 artworks accepted into the exhibition from 47 artists.

The following are award recipients:
• Best in Show: William Elijah Clark, student
• Second Place: Tina Gardiakos, student
• Third Place: Anglynn Watson, alumni
• Staff Favorite: Cecilia Lin, student
The artwork is on display at the Counseling Center through October 2015.

Flag Football Team Repeats as National Champion
The UCF Intramural Sports’ Women’s Flag Football team left no doubt in Pensacola about which team reigns supreme at the NIRSA [National Intramural Sports and Recreation Association] Championship Series National Flag Football Tournament hosted by the University of West Florida.

UCF’s team “Check On It” used a fourth quarter comeback on January 4 to defeat the women from Florida A&M University 7-6 to successfully defend last year’s national championship. Check On It was led by Keimy Milanes, who suffered a serious knee injury on the first day of last year’s tournament, Tatiianne Dearaujo and Charlene Thome. NIRSA honored all three women as part of the All-Tournament team.

UCF now has 42 All-Americans in the tournament’s history and Dearaujo is the 17th UCF student to be named tournament MVP all-time. She says she is proud of this team, “What’s so special about this team is we’re much more than that, these girls and Brandon [Baroody] are family.”

Shane Land, assistant director for IM, credits the team’s hard work ethic for the sustained success, “This is an exceptional group of young ladies. They are coached by NIRSA Championship Series Flag Football Hall of Famer, Brandon Baroody. They practice and play in tournaments year round in preparation for the national tournament and that work ethic is what has led to their success.”

Baroody, a UCF graduate, has been a part of nine of UCF’s 12 titles as a player or coach. He says the success of the team is about much more than flag football, “Talent and experience gave us reason to believe we could win, but character and chemistry is what allowed us to have this run of success.”
UCF Cares Awarded for Outstanding Work

The UCF Cares marketing campaign, consisting of printed materials about the UCF Cares initiative designed by UCF Marketing, was awarded an Award of Excellence in the Programs and Projects Subunit Campaign Category at the CASE III Conference held in Orlando. The marketing materials designed for UCF Cares highlighted ways to identify and assist students in distress. This marketing campaign also features the UCF Cares smiley as the face of UCF Cares. Learn more about UCF Cares at: cares.sdes.ucf.edu.

UCF Cares Day Fosters a Caring Community of Knights

UCF Cares Day took place on March 4 during Safe Knight Week in the Ferrell Commons Courtyard. The event educated students about UCF Cares, an umbrella of care-related programs and resources dedicated to fostering a caring community of Knights. UCF Cares focuses on areas include: safety and wellbeing, respect, sexual violence, and mental health.

Students received a resource passport at the beginning of their journey among resource tables and had the chance to win prizes. Over 230 students participated in the event.

Other campus resource tables included: Victim Services; Counseling and Psychological Services; Student Health Services; Recreation and Wellness Center; Wellness and Health Promotion Services; Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities; Knights Helping Knights Pantry; Pride Commons; Student Accessibility Services; and Student Legal Services.

The event offered students an opportunity to learn more about UCF and SDES services, tour some programs, and identify ways that they can help build a culture of care at UCF.

Community Resource Guide:

Student Care Services’ Community Resource Guide is available on UCF CARES’ home page: www.ucfcares.com. This resource map displays the location of local service organizations that offers affordable mental and physical healthcare, and shelter in the counties that are home to UCF’s regional campuses. In addition, the map allows students to locate organizations by location and service type.

The Light Shines at the End of the Tunnel

The “Tunnel of Oppression” educated students about oppression, discrimination, and social justice. The goal of the event was to expose participants to various forms of oppression and the impact it has on individuals, as well as connect participants to UCF and local resources. Participants were guided through a series of mixed media scenes that each portrayed a different experience of how oppression may be experienced. The event included electronic media and acting performances on topics of racism, hazing, accessibility, heterosexism, intimate partner violence and gender identity.

In one immersive scene, audience members were invited to see the importance of understanding gender identity and the challenges that transgender people face on a daily basis through a short scene showing a transgender man being excluded by a team captain. In another scene, a YouTube video exposed the rant of a college-aged girl who generalized against Asian-Americans at her university. To depict the pain and fear that comes from intimate partner violence, Kendall Josey performed a self-written spoken word piece.

Feedback from the event was overwhelmingly positive, as multiple people expressed their appreciation of the experience. Ursula Recarte, an actor in this year’s gender identity scene, stated, “this event is so important. I even noticed, on my way here, that people treated me differently and looked at me strangely because I was dressed in men’s clothing. It was an experience that showed me how important all of this is.”

After audiences completed the tunnel, they were invited to enter the debriefing room that allowed for conversation and processing about the different oppressed communities. Participants actively engaged in the conversation about oppression, power, and privilege and shared that they were exposed to types of oppression that they never thought of.

All participants that came through this year’s Tunnel of Oppression were able to see the experiences of others in a new perspective that invited understanding, compassion, and empathy. This year’s event was led by the Office of Social Justice and Advocacy with assistance from a campus planning committee, which resulted in over 400 people attending.

Shattering the Silence of Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is a major concern on college campuses across the country. One in four college women report surviving rape or attempted rape at some point in their lifetime. These are anonymous reports on multi-campus surveys sampling thousands of college students nationwide (Fisher, Cullen & Turner, 2000; Tjaden & Thennes, 2006). This rate has remained the same since studies in the 1980s. Universities are tasked with educating students and addressing sexual violence on their respective campuses. Fraternity and Sorority Life along with the Greek Council took the lead in hosting national speaker Angela Rose who presented “Shattering the Silence of Sexual Assault.” Over 700 students attended the program that took place on January 21.

Rose was abducted at knife point outside a suburban Chicago shopping mall when she was 17 years old. She was assaulted by a repeat sex-offender on parole for murder and was eventually released by her attacker. The anguish of her abduction was immediately magnified by anger and a strong sense of injustice at her treatment by authorities. She founded the organization, “PAVE: Promoting Awareness, Victim Empowerment,” to create education and action surrounding the issues of sexual violence and founded “Men Opposing Sexual Assault,” a student group that highlights the importance of men in the anti-sexual assault movement.

“Angela is passionate about the topic of sexual assault,” stated Olivia Escalona, coordinator for Risk Prevention. “Her energy during her presentation was contagious. It was amazing to hear her story and learn the impact it made on her life. This impact has led to an even bigger change in our discussion and awareness of sexual assault.” Krystal Vielman, Greek Council President, commented, “I felt like it was important to really clarify the differences between assault, violence, and rape because it puts a term with the action committed. It was great to hear someone telling their story because at that moment, you become more connected to the topic and start to feel more responsible in the risk reduction process.”

This program brings awareness and conversation and calls on students to be active in addressing and the prevention of sexual assaults.
Welcome to SDES

SDES Staff

- Larry Marks, Counseling and Psychological Services, published an article in the Jan.-Feb. 2015 About Campus, a publication of American College Personnel Association. Read article: onlinelibrarywiley.com/doi/10.1002/abc.21174/full. He also presented a session recently at the ACPA convention: “Developing Student Success: Positive Psychology Based Life Coaching For Students.”

- Cyndia Morales, Multicultural Academic and Support Services, was selected as one of 27 businesswomen in Central Florida to be recognized by Orlando Business Journal as a 2015 “Women Who Mean Business” honoree. OBJ Publisher Robert Bobroff stated, “You [Morales] are one of our honorees in the ‘Women to Watch’ category.” As an honoree, Morales was recognized with an award during the OBJ annual celebration program.

SDES Diversity Certification

SDES’ goal is to have every employee in the division take the challenge to attend SDES diversity classes, and be certified. On April 17, SDES Assistant Vice President Belinda Boston reported the following at the SDES Appreciation Celebration:

Diversity Certified, total employees=408
- July 2011 to June 2012, total certified=131
- July 2012 to June 2013, total certified=130
- July 2013 to May 2015, total certified=147
- July 2014 to May 2015=25

SDES Beats SGA 3-0

In the annual traditional competition, SDES beats Student Government Association playing kickball 3-0. Congratulations to SDES team members.

SDES Merit Awards Recipients

- ABC Award: Abby Nobili
- Commitment to Diversity: Tiana Tucker
- Community Connection: LEAD Scholars Academy
- Outstanding Collaborative Effort: Registrar’s Office and Student Financial Assistance for the Academic Activity Tracking Project
- Pride in Customer Service: Phyllis Kornegay
- New SDES Professional: Erin Butler
- Outstanding New Professional: Tamalia Hanchell
- Experienced SDES Professional: Sharisse Kenney
- SDES Team of the Year: Student Health Services—Women’s Health Team
- Overall Operational Excellence:
  - OPS—Lorine Cisch-Taylor
  - QA—Katherine Bronk
  - USPS—Barbara Sherwood
  - A&F/Faculty—Karen Yerkes

SDES Changes

- Student Accessibility Services is the new office name for Student Disability Services
- LEAD Scholar Academy has moved to Ferrell Commons 165.
- LGBTQ+ and Multicultural Student Services has joined Social Justice and Advocacy in SU 207.
- Inclusive Education Services, office will be launched in fall 2015.

Submit your SDES articles to Judy Pardo at: judy.pardo@ucf.edu.

SDES Recognition

- Open Access Conference: “Women to Watch”
- The Academic Activity Tracking Project
- American College Personnel Association (NACADA), to visit the UCF. Nutt presented to over 125 faculty, staff members, advisors, administrators. He challenged advisors to take a more active role in the academic advising field by constantly staying abreast in the research and literature, to engage in professional development opportunities, and to understand their impact on retention and student success.

In addition, he participated in a roundtable luncheon with the First Year Advising Exploration staff.

Advising Updates, Network and Discussions

UCF transfer students are rapidly increasing and it is essential for advisors to be aware of academic changes in order to deliver accurate and up-to-date information on advising policies and procedures and create pathways for student success. SDES, Academic Advising Council, and Regional Campuses presented the 10th Annual UCF Advising Updates Forum on April 16 to provide these updates. Additionally, regional institution partners provided information on corresponding changes. It is also a professional outlet for networking and exchanging of ideas that impact academic advising, retention, graduation and career readiness. This year’s event welcomed over 150 advisors from UCF, Valencia College, Eastern State College, Lake-Sumter Community College, Seminole State College, and Daytona State College. Garry Capton, vice president of University Partnerships at Fairwinds, presented financial literacy to share with their students.

Barbara Sherwood

USPS Employee of Month

Barbara Sherwood, administrative assistant, Counseling and Psychological Services, was awarded the USPS Employee of the Month for January 2015 Co-workers say, “Her historical knowledge of UCF and CAPS policies and procedure has been invaluable to the director,” and “Barbara is a born leader who motivates others.” 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 surprise presentation, Sherwood is eligible for the USPS Employee of the Year award, which is announced annually at the Employee Awards Program.

Nutt Presents Academic Advising

Student Development and Enrollment Services, in collaboration with Regional Campus and Academic Advising Council, extended an invitation to Charlie Nutt, executive director of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA), to visit the UCF. Nutt presented to over 125 faculty, staff members, advisors, administrators. He challenged advisors to take a more active role in the academic advising field by constantly staying abreast in the research and literature, to engage in professional development opportunities, and to understand their impact on retention and student success.

In addition, he participated in a roundtable luncheon with the First Year Advising Exploration staff.

UCF Stands For Opportunity