UCF will soon be occupying space in a new building on the Osceola campus! Beginning in January 2013, Building #4 will be the new home of the UCF Regional Campuses on the Valencia Osceola Campus. Regional Campuses will occupy over 29,000 square feet of the largest building while Valencia will house their library and state-of-the-art laboratories in the new facility.

The new building will initially house seven Regional Campuses staff and five faculty. When academic programming is at full capacity, UCF will have 12 staff and 12 faculty at the facility. Initial programming for the Spring 2013 semester will include public administration, psychology, elementary education, and criminal justice. Plans are underway to significantly expand academic programming leading to a bachelor's degree in Fall '13, pending budgetary approval.

As the first public university to offer bachelor's and master's degrees in Osceola County, UCF recognizes the importance and value of offering higher education opportunities to an area comprised of many first-generation, college-going students.

This event, and the progress it represents, has students at both Valencia and UCF Regional Campuses excited about the new facility and the additional access it will provide for the entire community.
A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM VICE PROVOST

It has been another very busy fall semester at Regional Campuses. In spite of major budgetary reductions, we have managed to provide the academic programming needed for each of our regional campuses. Hiring of replacement personnel has become increasingly strategic.

We’ve also revised our strategic plan to provide direction over the next several months. Faculty and staff continue to offer access to a growing number of students, showing positive results in registrations and student satisfaction. We’ve initiated a merger of Advising and Student Services. A routine, 5-year internal audit is near completion and we anticipate minimal issues being cited. The Division of Continuing Education successfully completed their move to a new Research Park location and gained additional classroom space as a result.

A major initiative this fall has been planning the opening of the new building on the UCF Valencia Osceola campus scheduled to open in Spring ‘13. The majority of faculty and support staff have been hired.

My thanks for the role you have all played in making adjustments during these difficult times. I marvel at the commitment and dedication of each and every one of you. May you have a wonderful holiday and best wishes for a happy new year!   - Joyce

DIRECT CONNECT TO UCF

CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT

The umbrella of the Central Florida Consortium has provided a platform to address curriculum alignment strategically, recognizing the gaps existing within the course numbering and learning outcomes. Math, biology, chemistry and physics committees meet together each year at the Curriculum Alignment Conference led by Dr. Mike Hampton (UCF) which is scheduled for February.

Each of the academic areas met during the fall semester. A brief synopsis follows:

- Biology faculty and program leaders met in Leesburg on the LSCC campus. It was agreed pedagogy must be addressed along with technology policies and media use in teaching. Agenda items for the upcoming conference include:
  1. Best practices need to be shared.
  2. Safety and integrity issues need to be shared.
  3. Teachers need guidance on how to refine resources in stimulating active learning.
  4. Use of technology in modeling.

The first interdisciplinary team of chemistry and math met in October. Primary discussion centered around math skills needed in the sciences, specifically chemistry. The differences in learning outcomes and the K-12 math curriculum series indicated a gap in the applicable math skills needed for successful transition into the sciences—theory vs. application.

Physics faculty met at the LSCC South Lake campus. Following discussion about the new 9-12 curriculum changes, it was recommended that a summer institute be provided to train science teachers in the rudiments of teaching physics.

DIRECTCONNECT TO UCF PARTNER MEETINGS

Updates on data sharing, personnel changes and academic programs were discussed at the DirectConnect to UCF meetings held this fall. Focus group research on the path of DirectConnect students into UCF will occur in November and the results may provide indications of gaps that could be strategically addressed in the future.

CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT

The Central Florida Higher Education Resolution (branded DirectConnect to UCF) will be modified after recommendations go to the presidents and the chief academic officers of the partnering institutions. These modifications will be forthcoming in the spring.

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC INITIATIVES

Greetings! I trust you all survived the presidential election blitz and are just as glad as I am that it is now officially over. The phone calls, radio and television commercials and junk mail we have all received have been enough to drive a sane person crazy. While this time in our history is now over, the work at Regional Campuses is never done. This fall we are gearing up for the opening of the new building at Valencia’s Osceola campus. Currently, we plan to open this spring with five new faculty on this campus. At the beginning of the spring semester we will have faculty representing criminal justice, public administration, psychology and health services administration. Further, in the fall we plan to add faculty from a series of other degree programs including, but not limited to, bimolecular sciences and religious studies.

We are also in the process of building the schedule for the next three semesters beginning in summer of 2013. As you know, the budget situation within the state university system is extremely volatile. As such, we and the university as a whole are trying to serve as many students as we can with the limited financial resources available. What this means to faculty is that we may not be able to offer as many sections as in the past. We will do our best but faculty can expect to see slightly higher caps to make sure we serve our students.

The last thing we want is to delay the graduation plans for those enrolled in our majors. We will know more as the new year approaches; however, it is important that faculty understand that this is not a situation of our own making.

As we move forward to a new year, we have much to be thankful for. We have an economy that is looking like it is starting to rebound. We have new faculty and programs at a state-of-the-art facility in Osceola and probably most importantly we can honestly say we are making a difference in our students’ lives. And that, after all, is why we all went into academe.

- Steve Holmes
Since July, I have had the pleasure of serving as Regional Campuses’ Director of the Division of Continuing Education. My work experience has always been in higher education. I started out as a Student Advisement Coordinator and went on to serve in other roles including Assistant Dean of Continuing and Graduate Studies, Director of Continuing Education and Continuing Studies and Director of Learning Communities and Faculty Development. My academic credentials include a BFA from Kutztown University, an MA from New York University and an EdD in Adult Learning and Leadership from Teachers College, Columbia University.

I arrived in Orlando just in time to help move the office to its new location at Research Park’s Innovative Center, Suite 700. The move was just up the street, but DCE had been housed in the University Tech Center since 2003 and, during that time, DCE had accumulated many truckloads of files, furniture and equipment. However, under the leadership of AVP David Laney and Assistant Director of DCE Martin Malpica, the move went smoothly. The new location is bright and airy, has 16 offices (plus storage and media space) and four new classrooms that are equipped with the latest technology. The new space also boasts a large conference room with floor to ceiling windows, beautiful views of a lake, full conferencing capabilities and seating for up to sixteen.

The real jewels of the new location are the four new state-of-the-art classrooms. After all, that’s what UCF DCE is all about! The classrooms contain walltalkers®, a dry erase surface (applied directly on the walls) that is used for writing (with special dry erase pens) and which also serves as a surface for projection needs. Walltalkers® eliminate the dust created from chalk, which can create havoc for technology. Other goodies in the classrooms include the latest projectors, document cameras, wireless gyro “mouses,” and computers with Blu-ray players. Crestron units control all of the technology, including the lights, from one user-friendly and easy-to-activate touch panel on the podium. Classroom #722 is designated the “Adobe® Connect™ Room” as it has enhanced capabilities for streaming live content and video to users online. This affords us the ability to present to an international audience. Classroom 730 can be converted into two classrooms (A and B) by an accordion divider with each side having their own technology. So, if we need five classrooms, we have them in one location.

Continuing Education Conference Services has just concluded several conferences in October including IEEE IPCC 2012, 13th International Conference on Molecule-based Magnets, Statewide Research Symposium, and the South Atlantic Moot Court Tournament. The Unit continues to expand its services and partnerships and is currently working on partnering with the State of Florida to host the annual MatchMaker conference hosting 1,000 attendees. Upcoming conferences include the 2013 Higher Education Teaching and Learning Conference; the 2013 Information Fluency Conference at UCF; the IEEE IPCC 2013 in Vancouver, Canada; Florida’s Writer’s Conference; and The Florida Science Olympiad.

Although there is much more to report, this article has already exceeded the space allotted for it. But, I have saved the best news for last. We will celebrate our new location with an Open House on Friday, December 2, from 2 - 4 p.m. Please come and enjoy the new Division of Continuing Education!

- Dr. Linda Cirocco
Director of the UCF Division of Continuing Education
What an exciting fall term it has been with transition plans underway integrating Student Services and Advising. Joint communications with these teams have initially paved the way for effective program planning, student services and advisement.

Welcome new Student Services and Advising team members in the Region:
- Angie Jones, Associate Director of Student Services, Southern Region
- Raphel Robinson, Associate Director of Student Services, Eastern Region
- Jim Smith, Coordinator of Student Services, Central Region
- Salema Mohamed, Coordinator of Academic Advising, Central Region

Traditional events continue making a difference with our students:
- Regional Campuses partnered with the Office of Diversity Initiatives to host DiversiTea at all of our sites, including UCF Ocala for the first time. Held September 13, the event featured Ilenia Colon Mendoza (visual art & design) presenting the works of Frida Kahlo.

New Initiatives launched to provide resources for success and retention:
- Student Tracking Alert Retention System (STARS)
  The STARS program is an early alert and tracking program for student academic success and retention. Lisa Cruz is chairing this initiative along with a working group including Jackie West-Lee, Melissa Hanberry, and Waheeda Illasarie. Initially, this program will be launched with our B.A.S. students and will be expanded for all regional campus program students.

- Virtual Leadership Academy
  Students in the region are invited to participate in the newly revised Virtual Leadership Academy that has been a partnership effort with Office of Student Involvement’s Stacey Malaret. Designed with Regional Campuses in mind, students can participate in the leadership components through online course involvement to receive a certificate of completion and recognition from Regional Campuses and the Office of Student Involvement. Leading the way in this effort is Ashley Squillante.

- Partners Advising portal on Knowledge Management System (KMS)
  Andrea Velez-Vazquez and Caroline Kennedy have launched a “Partners Advising” resources link that is hosted on our KMS site under Regional Campuses Partners (https://www.rc.ucf.edu/dashboard.action).
  This initiative is an effort to develop resource files on KMS for all of our shared work in both advising and student services. This initial project is for sharing with our advising colleagues at partner colleges.

- Working with Students in Distress & Dealing with Emotionally Charged Students
  Stacey Pearson-Wharton, Executive Director, UCF Counseling & Psychological Services and Patricia MacKown, Associate Vice President of Student Development and Enrollment Services, conducted the workshop for faculty and staff from the UCF Cocoa campus on Thursday, November 15. It was broadcasted across Regional Campuses with audience participation and it will be recorded for future use.

- Student Disability Services Enhances its Outreach
  Student Disability Services has new assistive technology that is now available in the regions to expand services to students in need. It is also launching a new software database, KnightsAccess, to provide intake, professor notification, notetaking and other services more efficiently and effectively.

Welcome Dr. Bryan Batien from the VA’s VITAL program
AS UCF and the VA have partnered together to bring the VITAL (Veterans Integration To Academic Leadership) program to campus, it will also have reach to our Regional Campuses. Batien was officially welcomed to the region at a “Meet & Greet” reception on Monday, November 5, with student services professionals, site directors and Regional Campuses representatives. The program is designed to help increase access to VA services as well as help veterans overcome any problems they may experience at UCF. Batien will be serving veterans on the Orlando campus and Regional Campuses on a scheduled basis.

Professional Development
Angel Edgecombe, Angie Jones and Sheryl Schagen were all accepted to present posters at the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) meeting held in Nashville on October 4-7. Titles of their presentations include: Striking the Right Chord to Empower Transfer Adult Learners in a Regional Campus Advising Office and Advisor Conservation: How to Maximize and Empower Peer Advisors in a Transfer Setting.
The Assistant Directors in Enrollment Services have been selected to present at the annual meeting for the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers (AACRAO) in San Francisco, California in April. They will present on the collaborative efforts within the regional campuses and among our partners. This topic ties in nicely with this year’s theme of “Collaborating Toward a Global Community: Bridges to the Future.”

Deborah Bradford will present at the AACRAO conference with Edward Trombley (Embry Riddle Aeronautical University), their focus being mentoring programs and succession planning. The UCF Leadership Enhancement Program will serve as the model.

The American Association of University Administrators (AAUA) selected Deborah Bradford’s dissertation on “emerging and disruptive technologies in education” to receive the Leo and Margaret Goodman-Malamuth Dissertation Award for 2012.

**...around the region**

**DAYTONA BEACH CAMPUS:** Enrollment Services was sad to say good-bye to Assistant Director Raphael Robinson as he moves to his new position as Associate Director of Student Services at the Daytona Beach campus. Congratulations, Raph!

**COCOA/PALM BAY CAMPUSES:** Jessica Houts is the new Coordinator for Enrollment Services and has been with RCES since September 2011. She previously worked on the Cocoa campus.

Student Ambassador Sarah Sacra and DirectConnect Adviser Kimberly Poppert attended multiple Welcome Back fairs and events for Brevard Community College in Cocoa, Melbourne, Titusville, and Palm Bay. These events included the Titan Tailgate Kickoff series, Care Fare/Blood Drive, Constitution Day/Rock the Vote, and Go Pink Day. Both Kim and Sarah represented Enrollment Services at Brevard County’s Boo at the Zoo. Jessica Houts and Nick Pantloni attended the Brevard County College Fair on October 24 in Melbourne and met with over 200 prospective students. UCF Cocoa staff also conducted 46 classroom visits connecting with nearly 400 students.

Sarah Sacra won the Debbie K. Phillis Scholarship (UCF Space Coast alumni chapter).

**VALENCIA WEST/OSCEOLA CAMPUSES:**

Jessica Matos is the new Coordinator for Enrollment Services at the soon-to-open UCF Osceola campus. Jessica served at Valencia West in an OPS capacity before becoming the Program Assistant there.

**SOUTHLAKE/LEESBURG/OCALA CAMPUSES:**

Thomas Silarck and Advisor Beth Larson participated in a College of Central Florida Careers and College Expo event at Ocala on September 24. The event was open to local high school students/parents to meet and talk with college representatives from Florida and Georgia about future college plans.

Christy and Scott Larson participated in College Night at Lake Sumter Community College—Leesburg Campus on October 8 with 750 students and family members in attendance.

**SANFORD/LAKE MARY CAMPUS:**

Kia Anderson, Pam Williams and Maya Moumnine attended the “Tips to Transfer” event at Seminole State College on October 4 with a great turnout. Kia and Pam also attended the Diversity Breakfast.

SLM began the Knight’s Connect program on October 17 with the intent of replacing Decision Days and Express Decisions. During the events, students received information regarding the admission and financial aid process as well as assistance with completing the undergraduate application in the computer lab. Staff from Seminole State were in attendance and are exploring the use of an on-line application.

Knightro came over to the Sanford/Lake Mary Campus to raise excitement and distribute tickets to Seminole State College students for the DirectConnect to UCF football game.

RCES staff celebrating “Pinktober” supporting breast cancer awareness.
CAMPUS NEWS

Several staff changes took place this fall: Nick Pantioni - Assistant Director of Academic Support Services, Angie Jones - Associate Director of Student Services, Jessica Houts - Coordinator for Enrollment Services, and Megan Haught - Office Assistant for Business Services. A welcome to Gerald Deveau - Coordinator of Business Services and Daniel Baldwin - Program Assistant/Advising. Jim Smith has accepted a position as Coordinator of Student Services at the Valencia-Osceola campus.

Choice magazine featured the BCC/UCF Joint-Use Library in Palm Bay on the cover of their August issue. Cover shown on opposite page.

The Southern Region and the Office of International Studies partnered to broadcast a Fulbright Information Session to faculty at the regional campuses; consortium partner institutions also participated. Future Fulbright sessions will be broadcast by OIS this academic year.

STUDENTS

Students from UCF and BCC took part in a seminar with the Writing Center which focused on writing for the spoken word in preparation for the Spoken Word Monster Mic Night sponsored by the Writer’s Haven on the Cocoa campus.

Rachel Chmura and Caitlyn Eskew attended the NASA Pre-Service Teacher Institute, a two-week program at Kennedy Space Center which is limited to 20 pre-service teachers.

Four Cocoa nursing majors graduated this August with Honors in the Major recognition: Breanna Anderson, Samantha Bainbridge, Amanda D’Ambra and Cecelia Dinh. A majority of the 31 members of the class graduated cum laude.

Sarah Sacra was awarded the Debbie K. Phillis Scholarship (UCF Space Coast Alumni Chapter).
CAMPUS NEWS

October 31 SOS hosted the second annual campus-wide event, Fall Halloween Festival and Homecoming Bash.

Saturday, October 20, was the “Knights Give Back Day,” whereby students, staff and faculty volunteered to clean up the neighborhood around Turie T. Elementary School as part of Community Clean-Up. Box lunches were provided to all volunteers.

Monday, October 15, faculty and staff participated in the Diversity Breakfast in Orlando and on campus.

Several faculty and staff attended the Volusia County “Hob Nob” on October 16, sponsored by the Regional Chamber.

On Thursday, October 4th, staff, faculty and students threw a Tailgate Party in anticipation of the UCF football game being broadcast on ESPN that evening.

STUDENTS

Photography graduate, Clarissa Bonet, in her new series City Space, explores the mysteries of Chicago as felt during her master’s study there. As a resident of Central Florida and graduate of the UCF B.S. in Photography program, Clarissa was inspired by the environmental change which created a dramatic shift in her work. While pursuing her MFA at Columbia College-Chicago, her work has traveled abroad to France, Switzerland, Israel and China. She also has collections in the Southeast Museum of Photography and Calumet Photographic.

Dylan Martin won a Student-Mentor Academic Research Team (SMART) Award to pursue his undergraduate research project on “transgendered identity development.”

Kaylin Ratner has been awarded an Honors In the Major (HIM) scholarship in the amount of $1,000 for her undergraduate thesis work on the relationship between parenting style and adolescent identity.

The Daytona chapter of Psi Chi sponsored a workshop on taking the GRE’s.

The Clinical Psychology MA program sponsored a workshop on “acceptance and commitment therapy” this semester. The program also welcomed a new cohort of 16 students this fall, joining the fall cohort of 15.

The Psychology Club sponsored a workshop on conducting Field Placements and one on “Writing Your CV.”

On November 1, the Nursing cohort (36-40 students) for Spring 2013 was announced.

On October 25, all current nursing students went to Orlando campus to participate in a simulation experience aimed at teaching the students what it is like to be a nurse caring for a fresh post-operative patient. The students are observed from a control room by the nursing instructors and “debriefed” after the exercise so they can improve their performance.

Daytona’s SNA was represented at the Florida Nursing Student Association convention by 11 student members along with FNSA co-consultants Betty Mayer and Debbie DiChiara.

Faculty and Staff

Steve Berman has been nominated to serve on the Psi Chi (International Honor Society in Psychology) steering committee for the Southeastern United States Regional Division.

Congratulations to Raphael Robinson on his promotion to Associate Director for Student Services.

Michael Lanford, UCF-DSC Writing Center Consultant, will have an article published in the November edition of College Music Symposium, the premier journal of the College Music Society. The article is entitled “A Reevaluation of Isorhythm in the ‘Old Corpus’ of the Montpellier Codex.”

Congratulations to Cynthia (Cindy) Gray who has accepted a full-time position with the Domestic Abuse Council as a case worker. Cindy is a graduate of UCF and will be returning to complete her MSW.

Congratulations to Linda Bradley who will be married to Andrei Thacker in St. Augustine on November 24.

Angeline Bush (nursing) is a co-PI on a multi-million-dollar grant with the College of Health & Public Affairs to study “international rural health.”
Campus News

“Sweet Treat on DirectConnect Street” event was held, with treats provided to prospective students.

In September, Andrea Velez-Vazquez hosted the FTCE Workshop for our education majors.

Welcome Back breakfast for faculty held and the Sanford/Lake Mary Faculty Forum created, with officers Lisa Brooks (president), Peggy Gunnell (vice-president) and Jay Brophy (secretary).

On October 4 Pam Williams-Gruen, Kia Anderson, and Maya Moumnine participated in the “Tips to Transfer” event on the Seminole State College campus.

During Advising Week Jacqueline West-Lee and Andrea Velez-Vazquez did classroom visits to make students aware of academic advising and other services on campus.

Pamela Williams-Gruen gave a presentation for the Seminole State College admissions team on how the UCF online application works.

Knightro made a visit to our campus to promote DirectConnect and the UCF vs. East Carolina football game.

Several staff members attended the Diversity Breakfast in Orlando on October 15. In addition, staff brought an ethnic dish to a potluck lunch during the week-long observance.

Russ Muller, IT manager, recently held a Microsoft Outlook training for staff members.

Kia Anderson, “our resident Excel expert,” has expressed an interest in providing a Microsoft Excel training session.

The staff wore pink on October 18 for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

STUDENTS

The Student Outreach Office provided a number of fun activities and events throughout the semester:

• Back to School Bash and Meet the Staff activities
• Service Day, promoting volunteer activities in the community
• Movie night with theme of “Avenge Your Knight Pride”
• Cupcakes for students to observe Breast Cancer Awareness
• Elementary ed students decorated pumpkins with stickers & paint
• Homecoming activities, including concerts, comedy night, & Spirit Splash
• Veteran’s Day observance in collaboration with Seminole State College
• Cram 4 the Exam during finals week

FACULTY AND STAFF

Lisa Brooks will be presenting at the National Council for Teachers of Mathematics national conference in Denver in April 2013. She also co-authored a manuscript entitled “Changing the Rules to Increase Discourse” which was just accepted by Teaching Children Mathematics.

Jonathan Matusitz had a book published: Terrorism & Communication.

Brett Meltzer hosted a roundtable discussion in his Capstone class. In attendance were Assistant United States Attorney Keisa Mosley, Assistant State Attorney Nicole Peques, and private attorney Marc Consalo.

Susan Ricci passed the National Academic Nurse Educator exam and is now a “certified nurse educator.” Ricci also contributed two chapters to the textbook, Health Promotion Throughout the Life Span (8th ed., 2013).

Office manager Valerie Brackman recently served as a Game Day Ambassador supporting “Do the Knight Thing.”

The first seminars of the Inter-Disciplinary Research Group (IDRG) took place this semester. The group, formed by Ray Sturm, promotes the exchange of current research among faculty and across disciplines to broaden the perspective of scholarly knowledge. All faculty members are welcome to be a part of the group, with additional presentations scheduled for the Spring 2013 semester.

Shahram Ghiasinejad recently presented two separate studies at the Society for Mathematical Psychology and the Society for Text and Discourse.
CAMPUS NEWS

Community residents have become more aware of DirectConnect to UCF as they visit the Cooper Memorial Library at the UCF South Lake campus. Staff has been hosting information tables at the library on a weekly basis to answer library patrons’ questions and assist those ready for application or reentry. Many of the patrons have expressed gratitude for access to a great partnership library and easy access to a UCF college degree all in one location.

On October 22, an Open House was held at the Lake Sumter Community College Leesburg campus for the public to learn more about available programs and services. Over 60 people attended the event which included breakout sessions presented by Angela Ritten (nursing) and Cynthia Walters (elementary education). Plans for a Spring Open House are currently underway.

Several workshops have been held this semester for the region’s elementary education students. “HAPPY Hour 10” was held on September 10 at the Teaching Academy on the Orlando campus. Juniors from the UCF Leesburg campus attended “TESOL Notebook – It’s a Piece of Cake!” which was simulcast on September 12 and 19 respectively to students at the Ocala, South Lake and Leesburg campuses. Students interested in seeking ESOL endorsement attended.

Congratulations to the following staff who received recognition for years of service at UCF’s 40th Annual Employee Awards Program held on August 14:

- Barbara Antonisen - 10 years
- Tanya Armstrong - 10 years
- Jeanne Battersby - 5 years

Christy Pannisin was selected to be a member of the West Orange Chamber of Commerce 2012-2013 Leadership program. Leadership West Orange is a hands on, community-oriented program designed to educate future leaders about team building, the environment, education, economic profiles, legal and government issues, healthcare, media & communications and quality of life.

Chrysalis Wright recently published “Dating Behavior Variations in Central American, Cuban, and South American College Students” in the Brazilian journal Revista Latino-Americana de Geografía e Gênero (Latin-American Journal of Geography and Gender) and was published in three languages: Spanish, Portuguese and English.

Gary Nichols (business) was selected to serve on the Regional Campuses Faculty Forum for 2012-2013.

CeCe Rivers has been elected to serve a second term on the West Orange Chamber of Commerce’s Board of Directors. UCF is a Chamber Supporting Trustee and CeCe serves as UCF’s representative.

CeCe Rivers was instrumental in the redevelopment of the West Orange Chamber of Commerce’s Education Committee Scholarship program.

CeCe Rivers and Pam Brady attended the FLOWHE (Florida Office of Women in Higher Education) Conference at Stetson University on October 12.

Welcome UCF Ocala’s newest team member - Shakiira Rahaman who provides part-time evening computer lab support.

Collaborative efforts: Stephen Saunders and Chrysalis Wright are assisting students in establishing a Western Region Psychology Club. The goal of the club is to increase student involvement and student opportunities in the WR. A new website links to the psychology departments’ undergraduate student organizations page, making the organization recognized by both the Psychology department and the College of Sciences. The club has been granted preliminary approval by the Office of Student Involvement (OSI) and is completing the registration process. The club’s website is under construction.

Kudos to IT manager Mei Wong and other IT team members, David Ballagh, Monte Hazboun, and Michael McCombes for successfully piloting regional testing of the full features of LYNC. Currently, only LYNC IM (instant messaging) is in use at UCF. Mei sets up Q&A meetings with Computer Services messaging team members for our Regional IT team members. If you wish to view the LYNC Demo Videos, please send a note to Mei at mei@ucf.edu.


**STUDENTS**

**“SHINING KNIGHT” SPOTLIGHT**

**Jessica Brandt** is being recognized for her academic accomplishments as a full-time student on the UCF Ocala campus. She is an Honors in the Major (HIM) student and was recently awarded a competitive scholarship for her HIM thesis entitled, “Media Influences on the Sexualization of Women.” Jessica is one of the region’s first Research Assistant (RA) for Dr. Wright’s Media Migration Lab. She is also spearheading the establishment of the Western Region Psychology Club. Her strong academic, leadership, and organizational skills were characteristics that made her an easy choice to serve as the region’s new Director for Student Outreach Services. Jessica truly is a “shining knight.” Go Knights!

Congratulations to the following UCF South Lake students who received scholarships* awarded by Faith Neighborhood Center at its 6th Annual Scholarship Luncheon held on August 10 in Clermont: **Danis Bailey** and **Noryang Oliveros Lopez** (psychology); **Nicole Bulla** (business administration); and **Nicole Fulton, Elizabeth Morse, and Luis Alfredo Robles** (elementary education).

*The Dele Smythe Scholarship provides assistance to low income individuals to obtain job training or to further their education.

The 5th Annual Student Picnic, hosted by the UCF Leesburg elementary education seniors, was held on September 12 at the Leesburg campus. The picnic serves as a great networking and social opportunity for the two EE cohorts (juniors/seniors).

**Scott Wise** of the College of Education held an FTCE (Florida Teacher Certification Exams) Brown Bag Lunch Workshop for 37 students at the UCF Leesburg campus on September 26.

Elementary education juniors in Leesburg practiced Teacher Read Alouds with their peers as a part of their Basic Foundations of Reading course. (photo left)

Congratulations to **Kendra Bartel** (psychology/South Lake) who was recently awarded a competitive scholarship for her HIM thesis—“The Influence of Music on Mood.”

Leesburg seniors participating in a student-led lesson on Stars. This lesson was part of their Integrated Arts class where they integrated visual art and movement. (photo right)

Congratulations to **Matt Bennett** (sport and exercise 2012), who was recently hired as the new Recreation Program Specialist for the town of Winter Garden.

**Kendra Bartel & Sarah Dierking** (psychology/South Lake) hold regular office hours for the first psychology lab in the Western Region—the Media and Migration Lab. The lab is staffed from 1-5 every other Tuesday and is located on the 2nd floor faculty office area of building 2 on the South Lake campus.

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**C A M P U S  E V E N T S**

On November 1, the region celebrated its 6th Annual Black and Gold Knight during UCF Homecoming.

On November 5, Provost **Tony Waldrop** made his 3rd visit to the UCF South Lake campus to meet with faculty, staff, and students.

On November 9, UCF South Lake hosted students from Gray Middle School’s AVID program to help students get a better understanding of the college experience. As part of the visit, students attended a mock class instructed by **Jeff Duke** (sport and exercise science). A tour of the campus and presentations on DirectConnect, library resources and financial aid were also on the agenda.

On November 13, the region hosted the 1st Annual Undergraduate Research Showcase at the Cooper Memorial Library. Forty-one students presented on research projects they have been working on this semester.
CAMPUS NEWS

UCF Valencia West and Osceola celebrated our 4th annual Degree Expo with over 600 Valencia students attending from both campuses as well as it’s 3rd annual UCF Spirit Day with over 100 UCF students attending.

The UCF Central Region hosted their Annual Masquerade Potluck this past October in which the staff members displayed their colorful assortment of costumes and personalities. All contestants’ outfits were evaluated by impartial judges to announce the top three costumes. The office assistant Nicole Simms took first place dressed as an angel, trailed by the director Edgar Martinez outfitted as the “Green Hornet,” followed in third place by IT manager Jason Mayer, who adorned himself with traditional Pakistani garments.

Valencia College Night was a huge hit for the Valencia Osceola and West campuses. This event offers the community of Osceola and Orange Counties the opportunity to talk with representatives from over 100 colleges and universities from the surrounding states. Direct Connect was represented at both Osceola and West campuses and they spoke to over 900 potential students. Valencia Osceola calculated more than 5000 attendees.

UCF SOS hosted its annual UCF Valencia West and Osceola Spirit Days. The students enjoyed themselves meeting each other and staff members.

UCF Central Region faculty hosted an information table at Valencia’s Spirit Day. Information on our degree programs and services were available to all Valencia students.

Faculty and Staff

There are several new additions to the Osceola campus:
Jessica Matos joined the Osceola staff as the new Coordinator of Enrollment Services. Jessica earned her bachelor’s degree in elementary education from UCF in 2010 and is currently seeking her Masters with UCF;
Melissa Rojas joined the staff as the new Office Assistant and is currently seeking her bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies. She is expected to graduate this semester; and
James (Jim) Smith joined the Osceola staff as the new Coordinator of Student Services. Jim was previously with the Cocoa campus.

GO KNIGHTS!

Spirit Day 2012