This past year has been one of excitement, challenges, and numerous rewards.

Growth across all of the campuses continued for an overall increase in SCH’s of over 7%. A total of 14,988 students enrolled in coursework offered through Regional Campuses, which represents 18.8% of the total percentage of UCF student enrollment. Our students, faculty, and staff continue to be recognized for their numerous achievements, and DirectConnect to UCF continues to receive national recognition as a model for access and delivery of higher education.

Provost Waldrop appointed a Task Force early in the academic year to review the Regional Campuses’ mission, vision, goals, operational and budgetary effectiveness with its partnerships across the university and the communities served. The committee issued its final report late in the spring semester, endorsing the mission and vision of Regional Campuses and approving the addition of Continuing Education. A number of recommendations were made, including the appointment of an ongoing Advisory Committee to the Provost regarding Regional Campuses. That committee will convene for the first time in late June.

Continuing Education initiated a search for a director, with an appointment anticipated in the near future. David Laney is to be congratulated and thanked for his role in working with the division during the interim. CE program offerings have continued to expand with significant growth in the area of Corporate Education. Steve Holmes has prepared a business plan as well as routine policies and procedures for the program and is working closely with an advisory committee appointed by the provost to assist in policy decisions.

DirectConnect meetings were held with each of the partners throughout the year, resulting in numerous recommendations for enhancement of service delivery to students. DirectConnect was featured in an article in the Chronicle of Higher Education which culminated in separate visits from faculty and staff at Columbus State College and the University of Hawaii to identify ways in which the model could be utilized at their institutions.

Moreover, DirectConnect received further recognition at the January meeting of the consortium presidents, receiving the first joint philanthropy award of over $3 million for student scholarships from the Johnson Scholarship Foundation. A special thanks to Angé Peterson for her outstanding work in making this possible.

College Access made significant progress throughout the year with the hiring of Pam Cavanaugh to work directly on the initiative. Curriculum Alignment convened a meeting in the fall semester for a second year, followed by the College Access Summit held at Valencia College in the spring semester featuring student focus groups and their DirectConnect experiences.

UCF Regional Campuses continues to impact student and faculty success through numerous awards, national presentations, advising accolades, and graduation honors. In May, we celebrated the first graduation class for the new CAH Bachelors of Design in Architecture. In the near future, we will welcome a new concurrent nursing cohort located at UCF Leesburg. These are exciting times for all of us.

My thanks to each and every one of you for the commitment you make to students and Regional Campuses on a daily basis.


Achieving College Completion 2009-10
- 19% (11,523) of Florida AA/AS degree completers are from Direct Connect Consortium colleges (4 of 28 colleges).
- 59% (23,380) of UCF Florida college transfers are from Direct Connect Consortium colleges.
- 78% of Direct Connect Consortium college transfers enroll at UCF.

2010-11
- 54% (5,489) of UCF bachelors completers transferred from a Florida public college.
- 69% (3,795) of all UCF bachelors transfer student completers transferred from Direct Connect Consortium colleges.
- 41% of Direct Connect Consortium college students who completed a UCF bachelor's did so in 2 years; 82% completed in 3 years; 95% completed in 4 years.

II. Consortium Partners Represent Team Florida at AAC&U!
American Association of Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) and Project Kaleidoscope (PKAL) selected our Consortium partners as a Florida team and one of six national institutional groups for a workshop focusing on STEM transfer students. Our team was comprised of Pam Cavanaugh, Director of Academic Initiatives, UCF Regional Campuses; Mike Hampton, Director of Interdisciplinary Studies, UCF; Kurt Ewen, Assistant Vice President for Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness, Valencia College; Xiaodi Chen, Professor of Physics & Astronomy/Chair, Science Department, Brevard Community College; and Michelle Balon, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Lake-Sumter Community College.

The work of the Consortium through College Access Initiatives and the nationally-distinctive DirectConnect to UCF was featured in their workshop. They showcased the history of the partnership and its design to develop communication, system and support plans to impact access and success, including the College Access Summit, Data Working Group, Resources Working Group, and Curriculum Alignment Working Group.

TECHNOLOGY
Anthony Recascino and Minesh Patel, RC Marketing and Web, met with the newly formed Social Media Team on April 26. Team members include Christopher Quintero (South Lake), Kristina Watkins (Cocoa), Tanya Armstrong (South Lake), Sean Armstrong (Seminole), Christina Udell (Daytona Beach), Raphael Robinson (Daytona Beach), Angelis Jones (Cocoa), Ashley Harper (Cocoa), Kallie Reyes (Seminole). The Social Media Team is chaired by Anthony and reports to Angé Peterson. This group meets twice each semester to discuss strategies that will better serve our Regional Campuses stakeholders. As you all know, social media will play a bigger part in the years to come at the regional campuses.

Marylou Wade (graphic designer) received a recognition citation from Seminole State at the DiversiTea Breakfast in Lake Mary in April for designing the diversity kaleidoscope events poster.

Sean Armstrong (Associate Director, Academic Support Services) also received a thank you award for his support co-sponsoring the event.

Minesh is working with Craig Tidwell (Seminole State/UCF) and Pam Cavanaugh (RCHQ) on the newly-updated Curriculum Alignment web site. Anthony and Minesh are also updating the UCF Regional Campuses web site with a variety of new features, such as faculty and staff directory and more detailed site specific information.

Anthony is currently enrolled online with the University of San Francisco and is working on his Advanced Social Media certification.

Student Services
Regional Campuses Student Services Accomplishments, 2011-2012:

- Documented a total of 147,062 duplicated student services contacts over the academic year; contacts consisted of office visits, phone calls, e-mails, program and event attendance at our regional campuses.
- Tabulated a total of 94,370 duplicated student services contacts, a 56% increase.
- Arranged for the broadcast and transmission of major programs, events, and celebrations in Orlando to the five regional campuses during the year.
- Compiled a total of 29,936 duplicated student services contacts at UCF Daytona Beach during 2011, a 27% increase over 2010.
- Recorded a total of 9,048 duplicated student services contacts during the month of November 2011 at UCF South Lake, UCF Leesburg, and UCF Ocala campuses.
- Amassed a total of 12,492 duplicated student services contacts during the month of March 2012 at UCF Valencia West and UCF Valencia Osceola campuses.
- Served a total of 7,018 duplicated student services contacts at the UCF Sanford/Lake Mary campus.
- Reported a total of 2,202 duplicated students with disability services contacts during the month of January 2012 at UCF Cocoa and UCF Palm Bay campuses, a 77% increase from the previous year.
- Provided access, opportunity, and transition for approximately 7,226 Direct Connect and/or regional campus students to regional campuses during the 2011-2012 by offering services, events, and activities which contributed to the growth, learning, retention, and graduation of transfer students.
With the spring semester behind us, the Office of Academic Initiatives is planning for the next academic year. As you may know, we have our plates full for next year. We will be adding a new complement of faculty and staff at the Valencia/Osceola campus scheduled to open in Spring 2013. At the current time, we expect to have six faculty and staff members on board by fall and ready to move into this new facility.

Regional Campuses survived the first round of budget cuts without significant losses to our summer schedule for A, C & D terms. However, when the 54 million dollars we lost for this year is passed down, we are not sure how well off we will be for B term and next year. It is for this reason that I sent out a note to all faculty encouraging them to enroll in the 12-month payroll option for next year.

We have also been working with our newly-formed Corporate Education Advisory Committee to assist us in setting up and defining university rules and policies that govern our “market-based” and “cost recovery” programs. This group has met six times this year and has really made a lot of headway in defining how these programs are run and operated. The outcome has been the drafting of a business plan that we anticipate rolling out to the colleges during the summer or early fall. For those of you who served on this committee, we thank you for all of your assistance.

We have additional exciting news. The Office of Academic Initiatives is proud to announce the addition of another staff member to our group. Ms. Kallie Reyes (formerly of Sanford/Lake Mary) has joined our staff and will serve as the Accounting Coordinator for the Corporate Education division. Kallie will be working across units as well as with the colleges and departments to assist in understanding the revenues and expenses for each of the programs in our stable. We are happy to have her with us. If you find yourself at headquarters, please stop by and say “hi.”

In April Regional Campuses sponsored a meeting for UCF and its partner registrars. The thirty attendees discussed many issues: grade forgiveness, transfer credit on transcripts, international evaluations, associate of science degrees, and the newest transmission formats for transcripts. A grant proposal requesting funding was submitted to the Resource Working Group. Regional Campuses extends a special thanks to Debra Reynolds who facilitated the discussion.

A group of Enrollment Services staff working on the Florida Institute for Strategic Enrollment Management (FiSEM) Certificate made two additional site visits during May to Flagler and Valencia Colleges. These visits complete the requirements for the certification awarded by the Florida Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers (FACRAO). All ES professional staff will attend the Florida Higher Education Summit in St. Augustine scheduled for June 3-5.

34 students on the Valencia West campus were the first to graduate from UCF with a Bachelor of Design in Architecture. The students from first Concurrent Nursing cohort graduated with their AS from Valencia College and now have one year at UCF to complete their BSN degree. ES staff at Valencia West participated in the Chancery High School Career Fair on May 31. Raphel Robinson (Daytona) volunteered at Community Clean-Up Day for Volusia County Schools.
Faculty and Staff

When Karen Mattarella was awarded the UCF 2012 Undergraduate Mentor of the Year award, one of her students offered these comments, based on her personal experience with the faculty member:

“This is a very prestigious honor awarded to only one professor in the university each year and it is a true tribute to the dedication Dr. Mottarella offers her students each and every day. Her guidance, encouragement, and dedication to her students enables them to reach further, strive harder, and dream larger.

. . . The summer I enrolled in the Honors in the Major course, Dr. Mottarella and immersed myself in my research study allowing me to gain a head start on my project.

. . . her dedication was proven time and time again by her willingness to exchange emails and phone calls concerning the research until all hours of the night, ensuring that we had viewed the existing literature from all possible vantage points. Her invaluable guidance has allowed my writing, presentation and networking skills to mature.

. . . Since completion of my research study in the early spring semester, Dr. Mottarella has assisted me in gaining acceptance to a number of regional and national conferences to present my research. She has opened doors of opportunity for my career, both academic and professional. Congratulations, Dr. Mottarella! You fully deserve this very prestigious award.”

--Emily Edwards

Daniel Marien provides a weekly analysis of American politics for the morning radio program of the Quebec City affiliate of Radio-Canada, the French-speaking sister organization of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Florin Mihai, (modern lang. & lit.) presented “Publishing An Academic Book: An Author’s Perspective” at the Cocoa Brown Bag luncheon. He also received tenure this semester. Congratulations, Dr. Mihai!

Ty Matejowsky, (anthropology) presented “The Incredible, Edible Balut: Ethnographic Perspectives on the Philippines’ Favorite Liminal Food.”


COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Sheryl Schagen and Jessica Houts represented UCF Cocoa and Palm Bay at the annual Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame Induction Gala where Brevard County business leaders who have made outstanding contributions to free enterprise and society are recognized.

Denise Young attended an invitation-only announcement of a new enterprise in Brevard County sponsored by the Economic Development Council and hosted by Governor Rick Scott.

CAMPUS NEWS

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

Spring DiversTea activities included a Panera for Peace session on “The Help” for the staff with almost 30 participants; “An Overview of Music Created by African Americans” via polycom was offered in March.

Rachel Ruffin who serves as a clinician for the Trauma Management Therapy Program for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans at the UCF Anxiety Disorders Clinic in Orlando presented on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders at the UCF Cocoa and UCF Palm Bay Campuses in March.


COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Sheryl Schagen and Jessica Houts represented UCF Cocoa and Palm Bay at the annual Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame Induction Gala where Brevard County business leaders who have made outstanding contributions to free enterprise and society are recognized.

Denise Young attended an invitation-only announcement of a new enterprise in Brevard County sponsored by the Economic Development Council and hosted by Governor Rick Scott.

CAMPUS NEWS

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

Spring DiversTea activities included a Panera for Peace session on “The Help” for the staff with almost 30 participants; “An Overview of Music Created by African Americans” via polycom was offered in March.

Rachel Ruffin who serves as a clinician for the Trauma Management Therapy Program for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans at the UCF Anxiety Disorders Clinic in Orlando presented on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders at the UCF Cocoa and UCF Palm Bay Campuses in March.


COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Sheryl Schagen and Jessica Houts represented UCF Cocoa and Palm Bay at the annual Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame Induction Gala where Brevard County business leaders who have made outstanding contributions to free enterprise and society are recognized.

Denise Young attended an invitation-only announcement of a new enterprise in Brevard County sponsored by the Economic Development Council and hosted by Governor Rick Scott.

CAMPUS NEWS

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

Spring DiversTea activities included a Panera for Peace session on “The Help” for the staff with almost 30 participants; “An Overview of Music Created by African Americans” via polycom was offered in March.

Rachel Ruffin who serves as a clinician for the Trauma Management Therapy Program for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans at the UCF Anxiety Disorders Clinic in Orlando presented on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders at the UCF Cocoa and UCF Palm Bay Campuses in March.


COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Sheryl Schagen and Jessica Houts represented UCF Cocoa and Palm Bay at the annual Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame Induction Gala where Brevard County business leaders who have made outstanding contributions to free enterprise and society are recognized.

Denise Young attended an invitation-only announcement of a new enterprise in Brevard County sponsored by the Economic Development Council and hosted by Governor Rick Scott.

CAMPUS NEWS

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

Spring DiversTea activities included a Panera for Peace session on “The Help” for the staff with almost 30 participants; “An Overview of Music Created by African Americans” via polycom was offered in March.

Rachel Ruffin who serves as a clinician for the Trauma Management Therapy Program for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans at the UCF Anxiety Disorders Clinic in Orlando presented on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders at the UCF Cocoa and UCF Palm Bay Campuses in March.


COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Sheryl Schagen and Jessica Houts represented UCF Cocoa and Palm Bay at the annual Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame Induction Gala where Brevard County business leaders who have made outstanding contributions to free enterprise and society are recognized.

Denise Young attended an invitation-only announcement of a new enterprise in Brevard County sponsored by the Economic Development Council and hosted by Governor Rick Scott.

CAMPUS NEWS

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

Spring DiversTea activities included a Panera for Peace session on “The Help” for the staff with almost 30 participants; “An Overview of Music Created by African Americans” via polycom was offered in March.

Rachel Ruffin who serves as a clinician for the Trauma Management Therapy Program for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans at the UCF Anxiety Disorders Clinic in Orlando presented on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders at the UCF Cocoa and UCF Palm Bay Campuses in March.


COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Sheryl Schagen and Jessica Houts represented UCF Cocoa and Palm Bay at the annual Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame Induction Gala where Brevard County business leaders who have made outstanding contributions to free enterprise and society are recognized.

Denise Young attended an invitation-only announcement of a new enterprise in Brevard County sponsored by the Economic Development Council and hosted by Governor Rick Scott.

CAMPUS NEWS

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

Spring DiversTea activities included a Panera for Peace session on “The Help” for the staff with almost 30 participants; “An Overview of Music Created by African Americans” via polycom was offered in March.

Rachel Ruffin who serves as a clinician for the Trauma Management Therapy Program for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans at the UCF Anxiety Disorders Clinic in Orlando presented on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders at the UCF Cocoa and UCF Palm Bay Campuses in March.


COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Sheryl Schagen and Jessica Houts represented UCF Cocoa and Palm Bay at the annual Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame Induction Gala where Brevard County business leaders who have made outstanding contributions to free enterprise and society are recognized.

Denise Young attended an invitation-only announcement of a new enterprise in Brevard County sponsored by the Economic Development Council and hosted by Governor Rick Scott.
Palm Bay psychology students have won awards at the Showcase for Undergraduate Research Excellence (SURE) annually since 2008 where undergraduates from all disciplines present their research or creative projects. The projects are judged on the basis of scientific merit, quality of scholarship, and presentation.

This year, Emily Edwards won second place award in the Social Science division for “Preserving the Right to a Fair Trial: An Examination of The Prejudicial Value of Visual and Auditory Evidence in The Context of a Criminal Case.” The PB Psych Research Team won an honorable mention for “The Language of a Creative Mind: Exploring the Relationship between Creativity and Lexical Choice.”

Heidi Moore, Symone Gibson, Marcy Csuhran, Gary Moore, and Chad Covert presented research completed with Grace White at SURE titled “Authenticity in Relationships.”

Students Marie Sabbagh, Tess Hare, Holly McFarland, and Erika Wheelhouse won the University of Central Florida Libraries Annual Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research for their essay “Self-Silencing in Response to Sextist Behavior: Exploring Women’s Willingness to Confront Sexism.”

The EEX 3450 class volunteered at the Very Special Arts Festival at the Brevard Zoo to staff an arts and crafts booth. This year they helped special needs children make Prehistoric Party Picture Frames.

The UCF Speech Team (based in Palm Bay) gained active membership in the Florida Intercollegiate Forensics Association (FIFA) when Stephen Sherbin II competed in Poetry Interpretation and Impromptu Speaking; he also competed later in National Forensics Association competition.

Amanda D’Ambra, (nursing) is the recipient for the Spring 2012 Honors in the Major thesis: “Minimizing Incivility in the Workplace to Increase Retention of New Graduate Nurses,” directed by Diane Andrews.

The UCF Cocoa nursing program raised a total of $466.54 last month for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society with their “Pasta for Pennies” fundraiser.

Stacey Yount, an Interdisciplinary Studies major, was awarded the Morcom Family Scholarship.

Sarah Sacra won the USBI scholarship which provides $500 to dependents of laid off aerospace workers.
CAMPUS NEWS

In April Michael Furlong joined the UCF Daytona Beach campus as the new Librarian. He has worked at Valencia West and Indian River Colleges, has a second master’s degree in literature criticism and theory, and has published in the genres of science fiction and fantasy. Michael has been a featured guest writer at the International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts. Welcome, Michael.

Staff Appreciation Day was held at the ball park where everyone enjoyed a barbeque buffet and a baseball game. Special invited guests included Joyce Dorner, Angé Peterson, and Steve Holmes.

We welcomed Michael Lanford as our new Learning Specialist for the DSC-UCF Writing Center in May. Michael received a bachelor’s and master’s degree in music, a second master’s degree in American Studies and another in Higher Education Policy and Administration from the University of Hong Kong.

On April 26 the DSC-UCF ribbon cutting and Grand Opening for the Writing Center took place. Special guests included President John Hitt, Provost Tony Waldrop and Senator Evelyn Lynn along with other distinguished guests, the Daytona staff and several students.

On May 4 Darryl Greeley, Raphel Robinson and Linda Bradley participated in the 2012 Chick-Fil-A Leadercast. Among the speakers were Soledad O’Brien (CNN anchor), Tim Tebow (NFL quarterback), Urban Meyer (football coach), Andy Stanley (author) and Roland Fryer (economist), to name a few.

Darryl Greeley, John Mosso, Jeanne Walker, Raphel Robinson, Sheri, Dunn, Ginny, Desiree, and Linda participated in the annual Spelling Bee to support the Literacy Council of Volusia County.

Raphel Robinson is also taking part in the Daytona Beach Regional Chamber Leadership Class. Leadership Daytona provides the opportunity to meet local and state leaders to enhance your personal leader style while learning the importance of being active and “leaving your mark” in the Daytona Beach community.

STUDENTS

May 2 was the opening of two exhibits at Southeast Museum of Photography: “Departures 2012” and “UCF Photography Thesis Exhibition.” The former is a juried selection of AS in Photography degree recipients while the latter is a display of BS in Photography degree recipients’ final portfolios. http://www.smponline.org/upcoming.html

Jason Greene (2010 photography alum) has been accepted into highly-regarded masters programs—Syracuse University and Ohio University. Now comes the hard part: he has to make a decision as to where he wants to go.

Nicole Blue, Shayla Rodney and Jillian Browning were the 2011-2012 SOS team and they did an excellent job. This year’s team is Jon Bolback (director), Claire Mitchell and Charlise Stephens (assistants). Congratulations and welcome aboard.

The D-School Design Thinking Fair took place on our campus on May 9. Coordinated by Vicki Cardullo (elem ed), this is the second year on our campus and was attended by approximately 100 students and parents. KDP volunteered to help set up and run the event.

Monday, April 23, UCF Daytona Beach hosted its end-of-semester Graduation Reception to recognize and celebrate our local Spring 2012 graduates. Student Outreach Services provided light refreshments and congratulatory gifts.

Darryl Greeley, John Mosso, Jeanne Walker, Raphel Robinson, Sheri, Dunn, Ginny, Desiree, and Linda participated in the annual Spelling Bee to support the Literacy Council of Volusia County.

Raphel Robinson is also taking part in the Daytona Beach Regional Chamber Leadership Class. Leadership Daytona provides the opportunity to meet local and state leaders to enhance your personal leader style while learning the importance of being active and “leaving your mark” in the Daytona Beach community.

Darryl Greeley, John Mosso, Jeanne Walker, Raphel Robinson, Sheri, Dunn, Ginny, Desiree, and Linda participated in the annual Spelling Bee to support the Literacy Council of Volusia County.

Raphel Robinson is also taking part in the Daytona Beach Regional Chamber Leadership Class. Leadership Daytona provides the opportunity to meet local and state leaders to enhance your personal leader style while learning the importance of being active and “leaving your mark” in the Daytona Beach community.
Students with clinical instructor Ariana Gross, MSN, RN and Bunnell's Chief of Police.

The Flagler Community Nursing Coalition students assisted with the first “Total Health” event at a public housing site as part of their final teaching project. Clients were educated on nutrition, stroke prevention, and smoking cessation. A group of students provided free helmets and taught bicycle safety to more than 70 local children. Students were recognized by the community liaison coordinator for the Housing Authority.

The Daytona and Deland Community Nursing Coalition nursing students participated in the annual “Banana Day” at the Homeless Coalition, an event sponsored by UCF’s College of Nursing for the past 6 years. Students provided a variety of health education topics to more than 150 participants.

Sue Mahan (criminal justice) and Diana Weidman (student services) co-hosted Dr. Gina Pezzano, a visiting Dean of Students at Universidad del Norte in Barranquilla, Columbia and president of Partners of the Americas NE Colombia/FL from Columbia, South America, as she explored UCF and Daytona State College programs. With visits to both the Orlando and Daytona Beach campuses, Pezzano was introduced to many of the exciting programs offered at UCF along with potential partnership opportunities.

BS in Photography student Christopher William Wegman won the only undergraduate scholarship awarded by the Society for Photographic Education SE Region in 2012.

Laine Wyatt currently has work in several exhibitions at galleries in New York City, Colorado, California and New Mexico.


Betty-Ann Cyr presented her Honors in the Major thesis entitled “The role of communication technology in adolescent relationships and identity” at UCF’s annual Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence in Orlando.

The Psychology Club of UCF Daytona hosted an Undergraduate Fieldwork Information Session by Stacey Dunn in April.

Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology, hosted a workshop on CV writing by Ed Fouty during March and held their annual induction ceremony in May.

Diana Weidman, who has been Director for Student Services for the past 19 years in Daytona, has been reassigned to the Orlando campus to work with transfer students. We have enjoyed working with Diana and will miss her on the Daytona Beach team.
March 14 Student Outreach Services (SOS) hosted a Student Appreciation Bash. Vendors gave out free snacks and goodies to recognize UCF and Seminole State students, staff, and faculty. The YMCA gave out free gym memberships to SLM students. At the event students had the opportunity to donate school supplies to Knights Banding Together, a cause to help our U.S. troops support an impoverished Afghanistan village where 45 students are in need of school supplies.

On April 9, Andrea Velez-Vazquez hosted an elementary education info session, giving students information on admission into the education program.

A “Meet & Greet” was held for the upcoming A.S. to B.S. in Early Childhood Development and Education program with Seminole State College in April.

Sarah Zoll hosted a DirectConnect event, recruiting students for the DirectConnect program and giving away Jeremiah’s Italian Ice. We had over ninety students sign up in one day.

FACULTY AND STAFF

Ray Sturm had his paper “A Turning Point Method for Measuring Investor Sentiment” accepted for publication in The Journal of Behavioral Finance.

Congratulations to Jackie West-Lee on her completion of the Diversity Initiative’s LEP Program.

Bernie Jensen recently presented a paper at the meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association in New Orleans entitled “Treatment Acceptability of Sport Psychology Interventions for Precompetitive Anxiety.” Co-authors were Leanna Serretiello (undergraduate) and Jeanine May (graduate student).

On April 12, Financial Executives International held their annual scholarship banquet to recognize outstanding students from the Central Florida area. Ray Sturm, UCF representative, selected and presented the awards and scholarships to three outstanding UCF students: Maureen Furino, Valerie Gutierrez and Anis Nizam.

The group hosted their first guest speaker Sandee Nebel of White Picket Fences who discussed her center and the issues of body image and eating disorders.

Alana Jo Alvarez and Ricardo San Jose recently pitched a resolution at the National Convention for Student Nurses to eliminate gender bias in nursing education. As part of that pitch, Alanna designed an original poster representing their overall goals. In addition, they have written an article to summarize their initiative.

Santa Rowley (psychology) has been accepted into Rollins College Hamilton School to pursue a Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling.

Melissa Fernandez (psychology) has been accepted into UCF’s Master of Clinical Psychology. She has also been chosen as a recipient of the 2011-2012 Who’s Who Among Students Scholarship at UCF.

This semester’s Cram 4 Exam was a success. Each day was a different theme, lunches one day, breakfast another. The last day was a pancake breakfast which we served to all our Sanford/Lake Mary students. Thanks to Ashley, Melissa, and Shala for their hard work.
CAMPUS NEWS

Central Regional West & Osceola Research Event

Under the leadership of Jason Chestnust (psychology), Valencia West and Osceola hosted the first coordinated research event for undergraduate students in April. Other faculty members who participated in mentoring the students included Carlos Valdez (marketing), Chrysalis Wright (Psychology), and Carlos Barrios (architecture). Over 60 students participated, with 30 presentations, including posters and architectural models.

April 19 was Architecture Pin Up whereby students display their design work as part of the architecture program’s admission process.

Architecture students had a final showing of their projects at the UCF Downtown Center for Emerging Arts in Orlando. Their work was critiqued by faculty and local architects.

As members of the first graduating class, 34 students walked across the stage and received their Bachelor of Design in Architecture degree this spring. Of that number, over 50% have chosen—and been accepted—into the University of Florida’s master’s program, part of the 2+2+2 collaborative program with Valencia, UCF and UF. In addition, nearly all the remaining graduates are pursuing higher degrees at institutions around the country. Congratulations to all!

Work is progressing on the Osceola building. It is expected the building will be ready for occupancy by Spring 2013.
CAMPUS NEWS

CeCe Rivers served as local host of the 15th annual National Association of Branch Campuses Administrators (NABCA) Conference held on April 11-14 in Orlando. Conferees, representing 23 states, enjoyed a plethora of sessions which addressed the unique challenges and opportunities of regional and branch campuses across the country. Conferees spent one full day of the conference at the UCF Valencia campus to learn more about the DirectConnect model. The conference was sponsored in part by UCF Regional Campuses with conference services coordinated by Continuing Education. Special thanks are extended to Joyce Dorner for greeting the group at the opening reception, and to Martin Malpica, Kourtney Dinkins and Ricardo Suarez for their outstanding customer service.

An Open House was held at UCF Ocala on April 19 to increase awareness in the Marion County community about UCF programs and services. The event was well attended by prospective students and alumni and included a special workshop facilitated by Roberta Ergle on the Elementary Education program.

UCF Leesburg students and instructor Cynthia Walters celebrated the 4th annual UCF Spirit Day at the Leesburg campus. This student-coordinated event featured special guest Megan Allen, Florida’s 2010 Teacher of the Year who is on special assignment at the UCF College of Education as Educator in Residence.

UCF Regional Campuses was a proud Platinum Sponsor of Lake Sumter Community College’s annual Gala event – All that Jazz. The April 21st affair was held at the Savannah Center in The Villages to raise scholarship funds which benefit many of DirectConnect students. UCF attendees included CeCe Rivers, Jeff & Dana Duke, Jeff & Junie Biddle, Sheryl Cohn, Gary Nichols and Tanya Armstrong.

UCF Leesburg class with Teacher of the Year!

Faculty and Staff

Welcome new OPS staff: Lisa Dunn, Program Specialist Student Services

Congratulations to Min Tong, Librarian, on the birth of her son Timothy.

On April 19, Sheryl Cohn presented her book, The Boy in the Suitcase: Holocaust Family Stories of Survival, to the local community at the Cooper Memorial Library. She also had an opportunity to present at UCF’s Book Fest with acclaimed author James McBride. At semester’s end, faculty and staff bid farewell to Sheryl after 10 years of dedicated service to the Western Region.

Kudos to Chrysalis Wright (psychology) for appointment to the editorial board of the UCF Undergraduate Research Journal.

CeCe Rivers, Robbie Ergle and Brian Zugelder (COE) attended the UCF Ocala/Marion County Education Advisory meeting held at Hammett Bowen Elementary School on April 4.

A Staff Appreciation Luncheon was held in honor of the Western Region team on May 7 at the UCF South Lake campus. Tanya, Pam and CeCe had fun decorating the dining room in a “western” theme complete with bandanas, lemonade-filled Mason jars and country western music playing in the background. The staff had the most fun though enjoying a menu of BBQ, baked beans, corn salad, green beans and cole slaw. Yummy!
Rachel Bennett (UCF Ocala), Theresia Jackson (UCF Ocala) and Erum Qureshi (Valencia West) each presented posters at the UCF Undergraduate Research Showcase on April 5 at the Orlando campus. Kudos to instructor Chrysalis Wright for encouraging her students to engage in research and assisting these three with their outstanding presentations. Theresia commented that, thanks to Dr. Wright, she went from hating the thought of research to being excited about her next project.

This year’s recipient of the Patrick Roche Memorial Scholarship was Jordan Weber. The scholarship was presented on May 1 at the 1st Annual Sport and Exercise Awards Luncheon held at the South Lake campus. Students, faculty and administrators attended the luncheon where an outstanding graduate of the Sports and Exercise Science program was recognized and donations were presented to two worthy organizations.

The luncheon was supported with funds raised from the April 13 annual 5k run coordinated by students in the program’s Public Relations class. The “Rising Alumni” award was given to Scott Armatti, a 2008 graduate of the program. Nancy Sawyer of the Special Olympics and Jeff Muddell of Arnold Palmer Medical Center Foundation thanked the students for the generous contributions.

On April 3, UCF Elementary and Early Childhood Education students attended their Internship II Senior seminar at the South Lake campus. Students heard from a K-12 Principals Panel and PK-12 First Year Teacher Panel who shared tips on the qualities principals look for in job applicants and the characteristics of an outstanding teacher.

Congratulations to Sport and Exercise Science program graduates Darryl Blackall (Class of ’08) and Esteban Bejarano (Class of ’12), and coaches of the South Lake High School Baseball team. Their team just won the District Champions award. Both credit the excellent education they received in the South Lake program for helping them to become great coaches. Go Knights!
I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SHARE a little about my time with UCF, and I will start by saying it has been a great ride. I came to UCF from Seminole Community College (now Seminole State) with an Associate of Arts degree in fine arts and music. I thought I was interested in pursuing an accounting degree but it took me only one term to decide I was not into numbers and I changed my major to management.

My first job at UCF was in Admissions where I was the Transfer Evaluation Clerk. I worked with some wonderful people who helped me learn the idiosyncrasies of UCF and State of Florida policy and procedures. This experience with the colleges gave me a great opportunity to see the value of an education. By working full-time and going to school part-time, I was able to complete my BSBA with a major in management. My children were in middle school and high school at that time, and we spent many nights around the dinner table doing homework.

After three years in Admissions, I moved into Undergraduate Student Services in the College of Business where I dealt with student records as a Senior Clerk V. In those days, we drew up work sheets and filled in grades on a plan of study as we helped our faculty advise the students. As a USPS employee, I found my niche, working with students. After that I moved into an instructor position as an Academic Advisor. We did orientations, registrations, advising, certifications and everything in between. I rediscovered that working with students was not work at all and I was getting paid to do something that I loved. Oh the stories we shared, so much life and wonder as these young people grew up before my eyes.

Working with Dr. Michael Kilbride was an experience that stays with me to this day. His mentoring/coaching style of leadership helped me to grow and pushed me forward in my studies. I completed my Masters of Arts in Education and then went on to complete my doctoral studies in Educational Leadership.

When I made the decision to retire, I also made the decision to leave the College of Business and come over to the Regional Campuses to complete my last five years. I wanted to experience one additional area within the university. I have enjoyed being a part of the advising team and working with this group—it has been a great way to end my working career. One of the most important things the university and my family have taught me is that you never stop learning and that a job is just another word for friendship. Each person brings something special into your life and the whole makes for a mosaic of beauty that will last forever. So, all I can say is thanks for the privilege of knowing each of you and for the beauty you have brought into my life. I shall miss you all.

—Helen Hill

Both the book and the quote above represent the way Helen Hill lives her life. From humble beginnings and surrounded by her family, Helen will always live in the hearts of those who think the world of her because at any given time she is the “world” to them. Though Helen shares a story of her professional life, it is her personal life that exemplifies how to live each day. She doesn’t just have an immediate family, she creates family wherever she is and continually changes lives in the process. Each day Helen makes the world a better place and all of us are better for knowing her.

I like to think of Helen as the embodiment of what a DirectConnect to UCF student can aspire to be. I asked Helen to share a reflection of her professional life with us. UCF loses Helen but her legacy will remain and continue with all who know her.

Helen is the person she was born to be. What joy it is to share this with our Regional Campuses!

“"You may be only one person in this world, but to one person at one time, you are the world.”
—Anonymous