Order of Pegasus
Class of 2010

University of Central Florida
Student Development and Enrollment Services
THE UCF CREED

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

INTEGRITY
I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.

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

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

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

EXCELLENCE
I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.
Dear Friend of the University:

It is my pleasure to introduce the 2010 Order of Pegasus awardees. The Order of Pegasus is the highest honor the university gives to students. It recognizes outstanding graduating seniors and graduate students who have demonstrated exemplary involvement, leadership, academic achievement, and community service. This year, sixteen students were selected to receive the prestigious award.

The biographical sketches in this handbook provide information on the academic accomplishments, leadership experiences, and UCF and community involvement of the individual awardees.

We are extraordinarily proud of the outstanding achievements of these students and hope you join with us in offering our congratulations and best wishes.

Cordially yours,

John C. Hitt
President
GRADUATE STUDENTS

**Shelly Frick**  
College of Business Administration

**Timothy Harnden**  
College of Education

**Carla McKnight**  
College of Education

**Sergio Tafur**  
College of Sciences
Shelly Frick

Shelly is a master’s of business administration student in the College of Business Administration. She received her B.S. in finance from UCF in 2008. She was on the Dean’s List, is a member of the President’s Leadership Council, and served as an intern and consultant for Protiviti Independent Risk Consulting. She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Institute of Internal Auditors, Financial Management Association and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She was a member of the UCF Women’s Softball team, served on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and the UCFAA Board of Directors, and received a C-USA Post Graduate Scholarship. She volunteers with UCF Relay for Life, Junior Achievement, Central Florida Children’s Home and Heart Walk.

Future Plans:
I will continue to work in consulting and eventually return to academia to pursue a Ph.D. in finance. I hope to never stop learning.

Shelly’s UCF Experience:
Student-athletes are too quickly pegged with negative stereotypes and other labels. As an undergraduate athlete, I proved the falseness of these stereotypes by graduating on time with a 3.6 GPA while holding leadership positions in athletic and non-athletic organizations. By continuously participating in community service activities, I upheld The UCF Creed on and off the field, encouraging others to do the same. As a graduate student, I bring to others the diversity of my education and experience, as well as a passion for learning to enhance scholarship, leadership and service. As a member of the President’s Leadership Council, my mentee group and I proposed the idea of the “PLC Pay It Forward” to promote awareness and adherence to The UCF Creed. Four wallet-sized cards stating The UCF Creed were given out. One was to be kept as a constant reminder of UCF’s expectation of every student and the other three were used to “Pay It Forward.” These three cards were to be given to three other students, friends or strangers of whom we asked the same: exemplify the Creed. As an undergraduate and graduate student, I have influenced scholarship, leadership and service at UCF. I am eternally thankful for the opportunity to have such an influence at UCF as well as for the change it has made in me.
Timothy Harnden

Timothy “TJ” is a sport and fitness master’s degree student in the College of Education. He received his B.A. in interpersonal and organizational communication in 2009. He was on the Dean’s List and Commissioner's Honor Roll. He is a member of the UCF Football team and served as team captain for the UCF-Miami game in 2009. He was a member of UCF’s first-ever C-USA Championship team, and won the coveted Kodak Award given to the player that does the right things both on and off the field at all times. As an athlete, he has had speaking engagements, and visited hospitals and youth football teams. He serves as a mentor for the children and assistant director of event planning at the Central Florida Children’s Home where he raised $60,000 for the organization.

Timothy’s UCF Experience:

UCF has dramatically influenced my nature and character. I have excelled on the football field and in the classroom through leadership roles and service to the UCF community. At UCF, I had numerous opportunities for speaking with underprivileged children. I served as a mentor for local Pee Wee Football leagues, and was a leader on the UCF football team both academically and on the field. This made a difference in my community and continued my desire to spark an interest in young athletes to pursue learning and academic challenges. On behalf of the football team and with other players, I spoke at Ronald McDonald House, Florida Children’s Hospital, and youth football teams in Oviedo and Orange County. I am the Central Florida Children’s Home assistant director of event planning, and mentor to the 20 children that live there. I have completed more than 400 hours of community service at the Central Florida Children’s Home thrift store that provides funding for the home. As an undergraduate, I was an academic honor roll recipient while a full-time athlete on scholarship. As a graduate student, I maintained over a 3.7 GPA taking more than six hours in Summer and 12 hours in the Fall during football season. UCF has given me an opportunity for higher education, and a reason to enjoy learning and become the student-athlete I am today.

Future Plans:

After graduation, I plan to work with elite sports training programs in the Orlando area with a focus on youth sport and player personnel.
Carla McKnight

Carla is a master’s degree student in the higher education and policy studies program in the College of Education. Her graduate research centers on black student retention: the causes and solutions. She received her B.S. in business administration from UCF and an A.A. in business administration from Santa Fe Community College, Gainesville, Florida. She is a graduate assistant in the Department of Housing and Residence Life, was a graduate intern with the Upward Bound Program, and a Service Learning reflection leader with Career Services. She was a statewide winner of the Master’s Case Challenge Competition, National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, Florida Region, and is a Delores A. Auzenne Fellowship recipient. She serves as a mentor in the REGAL Program for minority females at Valencia Community College, and has volunteered with Junior Achievement.

Future Plans:

I plan to continue my career in higher education and eventually pursue a doctoral degree in the field.

Carla’s UCF Experience:

The combination of theoretical and applied knowledge has aided my professional and personal growth. As an emerging student affairs professional, I am more equipped to understand the varying needs of students, particularly those from traditionally underrepresented populations. I have learned a great deal from my cohort; exposure to diverse backgrounds has broadened my perspective and renewed my faith in the prospect of brighter days. I have made a significant impact on the UCF community in the areas of scholarship, leadership and service. As Department of Housing and Residence Life graduate assistant, I serve as a resource for 800 students and take an active role in fostering a safe living environment conducive to academic and personal growth. By incorporating The UCF Creed and Ultimate Knight themes into my community’s programming, I assist students to integrate into the culture of UCF and teach them what it means to be responsible leaders in our community. Furthermore, as a trained student conduct officer, I have intentional conversations with students about their behavior, decision making processes, and how the two may affect their career goals. During my time at UCF, I acquired knowledge, established meaningful relationships, and learned what it truly means to be a responsible member of society.
**Sergio Tafur**

Sergio is a physics Ph.D. candidate in the College of Sciences. He received his M.Sc. and B.Sc. in physics from UCF and presently serves as an HPC Systems administrator at the UCF Institute for Simulation and Training. He was instrumental in the procurement and development of the STOKES high speed computer project funded by the U.S. Army. He is founding president of the NanoScience Technology Society and a member of Delta Epsilon Iota, Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honors Society, American Physical Society, Society of Physics Students, Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, SIAM Activity Group on Dynamical Systems, and the Astronomy Club. He is a teaching assistant in the Department of Physics, tutors both mathematics and physics, and has numerous publications and research experience. He has received several fellowships for study both here and abroad.

**Sergio’s UCF Experience:**

My educational experience at UCF has bolstered my academic growth, elevated my goals, invigorated my passion for learning and broadened my social perspectives. I learned the meaning of cutting-edge research, met academic leaders, and had the opportunity to contribute to local, national and international conferences. I participated in outreach programs such as the Society of Physics Students’ Blake Lilly Award and the National Science Foundation (NSF) GK-12 Fellowship. I helped organize academic events, symposia, and tutoring in collaboration with the Student Government Association, the Departments of Physics, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, the Nano-Science Technology Center, the Institute for Simulation and Training, and the Student Academic Resource Center. My contributions to UCF service communities include organizing a physics tutoring service, serving as a mathematics tutor and as a teaching assistant, and organizing as well as participating in outreach activities in the local middle and high schools through the Society of Physics Students’ Blake-Lilly Award and the NSF GK-12 Fellowship. UCF has given me the opportunity to participate in world-class research, expand my commitment to innovation and leadership, and helped me realize my personal goals while contributing to the local, national, and international communities.

**Future Plans:**

Upon graduating with my Ph.D. in physics, I plan to continue my academic studies by pursuing a post-doctoral position. I hope to continue working in the area of quantum physics and making novel contributions to research efforts in quantum optics and electrodynamics.
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Anthony Battaglia  
College of Sciences

Jennifer Bazemore  
College of Medicine, Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences

Natália Marques da Silva  
College of Arts and Humanities

Amber Dukes  
College of Sciences  
Office of Undergraduate Studies

Brenna Egan  
College of Health and Public Affairs  
College of Arts and Humanities

Lisa Kipersztok  
College of Medicine, Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences

Stephanie Koffler  
College of Business Administration  
College of Sciences

Andrea Long  
College of Nursing

Stephanie Neubert  
College of Medicine, Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences

Lauren Rehm  
College of Business Administration

Patrick Stauffer  
College of Engineering and Computer Science

Miguel Ubiles  
College of Sciences  
College of Education
Anthony Battaglia

Anthony is a political science and psychology double major in the College of Sciences, and is minoring in criminal justice. He has been on the President’s Honor Roll and Dean’s List, and is a member of Golden Key International Honour Society, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society, Order of Omega, and Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology. He is a member of the President’s Leadership Council, Student Government Judicial Council, Office of Student Conduct Review Board, Interfraternity Council and Tau Kappa Epsilon International Fraternity. He is a career peer advisor in the UCF Career Services office and has served as an intern for Florida State Senator Lee Constantine. He serves on the Orange County Sheriff’s Office Task Force and volunteers for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America.

Anthony’s UCF Experience:

My educational experience at UCF helped me develop tremendously as an individual and leader. Academics are an imperative component of success in the professional community, and I have taken advantage of many valuable resources available at UCF. My involvement as a campus leader contributed to my personal growth and development, and provided me with invaluable skills. I also made a positive impact on other individuals through my endeavors. As a campus leader, I have been faced with many challenges. I quickly learned that my actions affected everyone with whom I worked, making my commitment to each issue absolutely imperative. My service to UCF and the community is something I am particularly proud of because I believe community service is something that can easily be overlooked when involved in other activities. I consider the philanthropic efforts of our campus one of the most admirable focuses of the student body, and I look forward to continuing my participation with these philanthropies. During my years at UCF, I feel confident I have developed the essential skills to pursue a successful and promising future. The relationships I have established, along with the life skills I have attained, will stay with me throughout future endeavors.

Future Plans:

After graduation, I will be attending The George Washington University to pursue my master’s degree in legislative affairs and hope to work as a national security policy analyst.

Weston, Florida
Jennifer Bazemore

Jennifer is a member of The Burnett Honors College and is a molecular biology and microbiology major in the Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, College of Medicine with a minor in health sciences. She is a former LEAD Scholar and is on the President’s Honor Roll and Dean’s List, and was the recipient of the Henry Landwirth Heart of UCF Scholarship. She is participating in undergraduate research in infectious diseases, is an Honors Biology Lab teaching assistant, and peer tutor for General and Organic Chemistry with the Student Academic Resource Center. She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Pre-Professional Medical Society, International Medical Outreach, and the UCF Women’s Lacrosse Club. She completed a mission trip with Mision Medica Catholica to Panama and volunteers at Florida Hospital and Camp Boggy Creek.

Future Plans:

Following graduation, I will be attending medical school and hope to pursue a specialty in one of my current areas of interest which include oncology, dermatology and emergency medicine.

Jennifer’s UCF Experience:

Upon entering UCF, I set a goal for myself to use my leadership skills and knowledge to make a difference. My educational experience at UCF taught me about responsibility, time management and communication. These characteristics are highly desired and will help me be successful in my career and life. The biggest difference I made at UCF was in scholarship by enhancing student learning through tutoring at the Student Academic Resource Center. This enabled me significantly to improve my communication skills and understanding of science. I also enjoyed mentoring students who plan to pursue a professional career. I assumed two director positions in the Pre-Professional Medical Society (PPMS) and am currently the organization’s vice president. As a leader in PPMS and accepted medical student, I serve to motivate younger students struggling in their classes. Since May 2009, I have participated in the Department of Molecular Biology and Microbiology Program for Undergraduate Research (PURE). My project focuses on therapeutic and prophylactic drugs for cholera intoxication. This is beneficial because it may reduce the time course of the disease and serve as medication for travelers to prevent illness.
Natália Marques da Silva

Natália is an art history major in the College of Arts and Humanities. She is a Ronald E. McNair Scholar serving as a teaching assistant and a senior scholar mentor, Research and Mentoring Program Scholar, and a member of the Student Undergraduate Research Council. She is on the Dean's List and President's Honor Roll, and is an Honors in the Major thesis student in The Burnett Honors College. She is co-curator of the Crealde School of Art exhibition, Requesting Miracles: Votive Offerings from Diverse Cultures, and chief curator, Dolls of Marakatu exhibition at the UCF Library. She holds membership in the National Art Education Association, Latin Rhythm, Knights Capoeira Club, and is a Challenge Course facilitator. She volunteers with the Audubon Society, Coalition for the Homeless and Girl Scouts of Citrus Council.

Natália’s UCF Experience:

Coming from a family of educators, and being a first generation American, made school a difficult endeavor. UCF, however, introduced me to a diverse student body where I connected with peers from multiple cultures. Publishing independent work inspired me to pursue a doctorate, a goal I could not undertake without the help of the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program. The program gave me the confidence to present my research at conferences throughout the United States where I met other scholars from diverse backgrounds and discussed ways to improve the lives of other minorities. The biggest difference I made at UCF was in demonstrating how research can directly benefit our community. In an effort to share my research with others, my mentor and I are co-curating an exhibition at the Crealde School of Art. The Florida Division of Cultural Arts and several UCF entities have provided $30,000 to support a catalog to document and share this scholarly work. As a member of the Student Undergraduate Research Council, I was able to use these experiences to mentor others and advocate research opportunities. UCF has taught me the path toward discovery has no boundaries, and that good will and dedication cannot be defeated, especially when we work together to achieve our goals.

Future Plans:

I plan to attend graduate school for museum studies and anthropology.
Amber Dukes

Amber is a psychology major in the College of Sciences, an interdisciplinary studies major in Undergraduate Studies, and is minoring in hospitality management. She is a Ronald E. McNair Scholar and has completed two Honors in the Major theses in The Burnett Honors College. She is founding president of Active Minds at UCF, a peer educator with Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Programming, and is involved in research with the Real Project. She is a member of the Student Undergraduate Research Council, Psychological Society, American Psychological Association, Psi Chi National Honor Society, and Eta Sigma Delta Honor Society. In addition, she has been a teaching assistant and has several publications and presentations to her name. She volunteers as a peer mentor with Narcotics Anonymous and has served on the Tunnel of Oppression Steering Committee.

Future Plans:

After completing my degrees, I will pursue my Ph.D. in evolutionary psychology. I plan to have an active and engaging research career as a professor.

Amber’s UCF Experience:

I am a living second chance due to the opportunities provided to me at UCF. I am a first generation college student and struggled with depression and alcoholism. Today, I am driven by a profound passion for research and pursuing answers to questions that intrigue me. Research in psychology, through the Honors in the Major Program, the Leadership Alliance Summer Research Program at the University of Pennsylvania, and as a Ronald E. McNair Scholar allowed me to explore psychopathy, evolution and morality. My efforts were rewarded with first place at the Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence. I am a peer educator and research assistant for UCF Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Programming using my past experiences to reduce student addiction problems. I am one of two undergraduate representatives serving on the 2009-2010 campuswide alcohol and drug task force. I take a great deal of pride in my position as the founding president of the Active Minds UCF chapter, an advocacy organization and student voice to the mental health community. I get deep satisfaction from giving back to the UCF community what was shared with me.
**Brenna Egan**

Brenna is a legal studies major in the College of Health and Public Affairs and English major in the College of Arts and Humanities. She is both an Honors in the Major thesis student, member of The Burnett Honors College, and is a former LEAD Scholar. She is a member of the UCF Mock Trial Team where she has won many awards and recognitions. Additional memberships include Burnett Honors Congress, College Republicans, Chocolate Club, Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Honor Society and Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society. She is a registered Girl Scout receiving the highest honor, the Gold Award. She gives back to her community by volunteering with Junior Achievement, Orange County Teen Court, HERO Program, UCF Young Women Leaders Program and the Seminole County Citizen-Volunteer in Victim-Witness Program.

**Brenna’s UCF Experience:**

In my freshman year, I discovered the UCF Mock Trial Team. As captain, I led my team to victory at the Harvard Crimson Classic, gaining national recognition for the UCF Legal Studies Program. After earning five Outstanding Attorney awards, I realized I could compete at any level and accomplish my dreams. I volunteered with the Victim-Witness Center at the Seminole County State Attorney’s office and completed the UCF Victim Services training, building my passion for victims’ rights. The unique volunteer opportunities UCF provided have shown me I can make a difference in the lives of others, fueling my plans for a career in public service law. My Honors in the Major thesis, “The Battered Man: An Evaluation of Equal Justice Under the Law,” will be in the UCF Library as a resource for other students. Male victims of domestic violence are under-researched in the law; my original empirical study will contribute to the legal knowledge base. Additionally, I trained hundreds of students in service learning classes for participation in Junior Achievement to inspire local elementary school students with the confidence to succeed. In strengthening the UCF Junior Achievement Partnership, I not only enhanced this nationwide model for other schools, but also helped connect UCF students with the Central Florida community.

**Future Plans:**

I will be attending Georgetown Law School in Washington, DC to pursue a legal career in public service and hope to eventually become a judge.

Orlando, Florida
Future Plans:

After graduation, I will attend medical school to get an MD/MPH. Although I am not sure what field of medicine, my current plan is primary care with a focus on preventative medicine and education.

Lisa Kipersztok

Lisa is a member of The Burnett Honors College and is a molecular biology and microbiology major in the Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, College of Medicine. She is on the President’s Honor Roll and Dean’s List, and is a Pegasus Gold Scholarship recipient. She was a researcher with the Daniell Lab for Molecular Biotechnology and held a clinical internship with Hand Surgery of Central Florida. She is a former LEAD Scholar and a member of the Burnett Honors Congress, Student Union Environmental Think Tank, Student Sustainability Alliance Council president, UCF Health Services Advisory Council, Student Government Association Advocacy Committee, and Hillel at UCF. She is an Emergency Room volunteer at Florida Hospital East and with the Campus Kitchens Project at UCF, Junior Achievement and participated in Alternative Spring Breaks both in Israel and the Gulf Coast.

Lisa’s UCF Experience:

As president of the UCF Student Sustainability Alliance, I found that progress can be achieved through delegation, compromise and communication. Service learning gave me the opportunity to consider how I want to impact communities. In Junior Achievement classes, I met students from different backgrounds and socioeconomic classes who were excited about their education because of my presence in their classroom. This experience taught me to focus on bettering my community; I will continue to volunteer throughout my life. The UCF Creed has not only been imprinted on my mind, it has become a part of me. As a team leader for The Burnett Honors College, I introduced freshmen to university life. I led students in discussion groups, facilitated service learning and provided resources for success. I spent football game days digging through trash bins to recover recyclables and speaking with students about the importance of sustainability. Through persistence, more students have become environmentally responsible, understanding the importance of cleaning up their community. I enabled them to serve their community by changing their habits and being less wasteful. By embracing UCF’s culture of opportunity, I have developed into the person I am today.
Stephanie Koffler

Stephanie is an economics major in the College of Business Administration and a political science major in the College of Sciences. She is on the President’s Honor Roll and Dean’s List, and is a Pegasus High Achievement Scholar. She has received many scholarship awards including the UCF Scholars Award, College Assistance Program Scholarship, Charles N. and Frances Millican Scholarship, and Walter Komanski Scholarship. She is chair of the President’s Leadership Council, an Undergraduate Admissions Ambassador, member of the Student Government Executive Cabinet where she serves as coordinator for the Student Body President’s Advisory Council, and College Leadership Florida Class X. She is a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority and the Order of Omega. She volunteers her time with the Ronald McDonald House, Orlando and Miami Children’s Homes Society, Give Kids the World, and UCF Relay for Life.

Stephanie’s UCF Experience:

Watching a documentary in Latin American Politics, I learned about the fair trade movement and the progressive strides a young leader in Ecuador was taking. This unearthed an undeniable, inescapable passion which has driven me to use international law to give others an opportunity in life, empowering the powerless. My experiences at UCF led me to seek and discover the language of the law and how that language, with all its brilliant complexities, can act as the ultimate trustee of human rights. My courses in economics taught me how to analyze and provide solutions; political science empowered me as a global citizen. I am excited by the possibility of being a solution to the problems that burden our world. In 2007, I created an initiative at UCF partnering with the Orlando Children’s Home Society and Student Body President’s Advisory Council during the holiday season. Establishing a campus and community philanthropy that has grown from adopting 200 to 550 children and raising $10,000 to $20,000 worth of donations, showed me how my drive to better the lives of the less fortunate can move others to act as well. UCF empowered me to excel academically and personally, and my experiences taught me consistently to strive for excellence, providing an invaluable foundation for my future.

Future Plans:

After graduation, I will be attending law school where I aspire to pursue a career practicing international law.

Miami, Florida
Andrea Long

Andrea is a nursing major in the College of Nursing. She is on the Dean's List, and is a recipient of a Mary G. Hitt Scholarship and Walter Komanski Scholarship. She is a former LEAD Scholar, Housing and Residence Life resident assistant and a member of the Student Nurses Association, and was vice chair of the President's Leadership Council. She is a referee at the Recreation and Wellness Center and was a crew member for the UCF Women's Crew Team. She planned and participated in Cycling +1, biking 1,000 miles through China, Vietnam and Lao. She gives back to her community by serving as a volunteer with Hope in Hand, Boys and Girls Town, Heart Walk, UCF Relay for Life, Give Kids the World, and she participated in an Alternative Spring Break with Habitat for Humanity’s Critical Home Repair.

Future Plans:

I plan to pursue a doctorate in nursing and work with underserved populations globally.

Andrea's UCF Experience:

As a UCF College of Nursing student, I have the pleasure of working with some of the most brilliant professionals in nursing. My professors inspire me to work hard scholastically and to remember the true meaning of being a nurse: to serve others. This passion for excellence and service fostered by UCF has transformed me into a strong, service oriented leader, and compassionate nurse. While excelling academically, I have involved myself in philanthropic activities in the local and global community. The activity closest to my heart is Helping Hands, a project that works to feed the homeless, but more importantly strives to reintroduce people back into society through conversation and acceptance. Helping Hands taught me the importance of tolerance and humility because ultimately we are all people with the same needs. I recently planned and participated in a 1,000-mile philanthropy cycling trip through Southeast Asia. As a group of six college students, we raised and donated over $25,000 to the Save the Children Foundation. Our funds were used to build elementary schools in Western China and Africa. I hope that in the future, schools built with our money will be able to offer children opportunities so they can grow in the manner I have grown as a student at UCF.
Stephanie Neubert

Stephanie is a molecular biology and microbiology major in the Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, College of Medicine with a minor in American Sign Language and Deaf Studies. She is on the President’s Honor Roll and Dean’s List, and is a member of Golden Key Honour Society and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She is a former LEAD Scholar, member of the President’s Leadership Council, Latin Rhythm, and is a founding member of the American Sign Language Club. She participated in Knight-Thon to benefit the Children’s Miracle Network, Alternative Spring Break, and is a UCF Homecoming volunteer. She gives back to her community by volunteering with the Women’s Residential and Counseling Center, UCF Relay for Life, Heart Walk and Pet Rescue by Judy.

Stephanie’s UCF Experience:

UCF taught me that going to college is not strictly about academics, it is about finding one’s niche in the world to help make a difference. At UCF, I balanced my education with my involvement in organizations. This involvement helped me focus, strengthen my work ethic, and develop my skills into passions. The LEAD Scholars Program was my stepping stone where I surrounded myself with people who brought out the best in me. As a mentor, I empowered others and advocated involvement. This led to my membership in the President’s Leadership Council where I am grateful and honored to serve and represent my university. UCF enabled me to pursue interests outside my major, piquing my interest in deaf culture. I sought other like-minded students, and we banded together to establish the American Sign Language Club. After two years, we have become an official organization on campus. Through Volunteer UCF, I helped Hurricane Katrina victims in New Orleans during two Spring Breaks, and this year I am building houses with Habitat for Humanity. Witnessing the devastation to homes was heartbreaking, and I felt it was my calling to help rebuild people’s lives and try to instill hope. All these experiences shaped me into who I am today. My aspiration is to exemplify a successful woman who remains determined and optimistic despite the obstacles.

Future Plans:

I plan to work at a molecular biology research facility and then become a physician's assistant to pursue my dreams in the medical field. I aspire to continue learning, stay involved in deaf culture, serve my community and raise a loving family.
Lauren Rehm

Lauren is a marketing major in the College of Business Administration with a minor in legal studies. She received the Founder’s Scholar Award and is on the President’s Honor Roll. She is a former LEAD Scholar and a member of the President’s Leadership Council, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, and Beta Gamma Sigma. She won first place award in UCF’s Bernard C. Kissel Outstanding Student Speaker Competition, serves on the Student Conduct Review Board, and is an Honors in the Major thesis student in The Burnett Honors College. She is a founding member of Sigma Phi Lambda Christian Sorority, a member of the Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity and Young Women’s Leadership Mentoring Program. She volunteers with Boys Town of Orlando, UCF Relay for Life, Heart Walk, Alternative Spring Break and Salvation Army Christmas Toy Drive.

Future Plans:

After graduation, I plan to attend law school and pursue a meaningful career in an area of law that I am passionate about, and never stop learning.

Lauren’s UCF Experience:

During my first semester at UCF, I dramatically improved in an area I always considered my greatest weakness. My speech professor invited me to participate in UCF’s annual Bernard C. Kissel Outstanding Student Speaker Competition. My professor saw something in me I did not see in myself, encouraged me to take a chance, and I reluctantly conceded. Walking up to that stage and facing a full auditorium, I felt a surge of excitement I will never forget. I was facing my biggest fear and absolutely loving it. No one expected a freshman to win the university’s annual speech competition, but I took first place and conquered a fear. Sophomore year, friends and I became interested in joining a sorority where we could form lifelong friendships, have fun, serve our community and encourage one another to grow. Although there were many wonderful organizations to join, I did not feel a special connection with any existing sororities because I felt a sisterhood rooted in faith would be the best place for me. We brought Sigma Phi Lambda Christian Sorority to campus in Fall 2007. Sigma Phi Lambda has since become a recognized sisterhood with almost 100 members who strive positively to impact our campus and community through service and outreach. It is my sincere honor to have played a part in laying the foundation for this organization.
Patrick Stauffer

Patrick is a member of The Burnett Honors College and is an industrial engineering major in the College of Engineering and Computer Science with a minor in economics. He is a National Merit Scholar, UCF Founders Scholar, National Advanced Placement Scholar, and is on the President’s Honor Roll and Dean’s List. He is a member of the President’s Leadership Council, Burnett Honors Congress and the Institute of Industrial Engineers. He served as a Senator and Speaker of the Senate in the Student Government Association, and chaired the Activity and Service Fee Budget Committee. He is a member of the UCF College Republicans and the President’s Leadership Council. He is a tutor at the Student Academic Resource Center and volunteers with Junior Achievement, Give Kids the World, and Knights Give Back.

Patrick’s UCF Experience:

As a student at UCF, I experienced tremendous personal growth. My involvement in the College Republicans helped me develop my personal political philosophy and gave me an early opportunity for professional and leadership development. This early leadership experience led me to participate in the Student Government Association (SGA), which has been the most effective educational experience for me at UCF. SGA consistently pushed me to realize my leadership potential and taught me new skills for effective leadership. I learned technical aspects of budgets and organizational dynamics, and was educated in dealing with people and leading them effectively. During my two-and-a-half years as a student senator, I assisted numerous engineering student organizations. Last year, I chaired the Activity and Service Fee Budget Committee directing the allocation of $14.3 million to the benefit of the student body. For the past eight months, I served as Speaker of the Senate, leading the legislative branch of SGA. I used the leadership skills I developed to train elected student senators to be effective student leaders. True excellence requires a focus on positively impacting the community in which we live. I have constantly sought to exhibit this excellence and make a difference in the leadership, scholarship and service communities at UCF.

Future Plans:

I plan to attend graduate school for a master’s degree in operations research and then pursue a career in engineering and business.
Future Plans:

After graduation, I plan to become a high school social studies teacher and work on a master’s degree in political science. After completing my master’s degree, I plan to attend law school.

Miguel’s UCF Experience:

My educational experience at UCF has strengthened my character and personal qualities of diligence, prudence and efficiency. I maintained high academic performance in spite of numerous scholastic duties and work obligations. I defied my economic situation: throughout my time at UCF, I lived at home with my disabled mother who is dependent on government assistance. I did not own a vehicle, nor have Internet access at home. These circumstances prove I am resilient, humble and industrious. I exhibited leadership when I was one of only two students granted the opportunity to present at a Minority Programs in Education workshop in the College of Education. In my presentation, “The Importance of Education,” I told my fellow scholars we must be leaders for our minority students, and we must inspire, mentor, guide, and lead all our students to success. As a UCF student, I have maintained my community involvement and service. At Project Homeless Connect, I assisted a homeless man acquire identification, VA services, clothing and food. At the BETA Center, I assisted in the nurseries and with maintenance. I am committed to excellence and will continue to strive for the highest standards of performance.
Prior Recipients

CLASS OF 2009
Gregory Austin, Jr.
Gaston Blanchet
Tamara Chaplin
Katherine Ferstadt
Demetrius Frazier
Satyender Goel
Samantha Gil
Mustafa Gül
Ashley Jordan
Hye Jung Kim
Stephanie Morales
Michelle Murphy
Margaret Ann Shillingford
Ruth Strakosha
Thomas Blake VanBrunt, Jr.
Carissa Van Dalen

CLASS OF 2008
Ayoolabode “Ayo” Ajaja
Bryan Arnette
Lalita Booth
Kimberly Bryant-Davis
Tabatha Calabrese
Ashley Conyers
Tai Do
Samiullah Durrani
Scott Kirkman
Cassandra Korsvik
Maribeth Kuenzi
Brittany Moscato
Maria Pecoraro
Megan Policastro
Stephanie Kyla Tan

CLASS OF 2007
Rénee Bleczinski
Naomi Brownstein
Courtney Douglass
Christopher “Kit” Fuhrman
David Givens
Brandie Hollinger
Nicola Johnson
Cassandra Long

CLASS OF 2006
Meghan NeSmith
Ana Suarez
Evelyn Tonn
Rachel Wasserman
Zephyr Wilkins
Julie Zimmerman

CLASS OF 2005
Maria Noel Blanchet
Katherine Brown
Arianne Buchanan
Jennifer Curry
Morgan Cyphers
Sohang Gandhi
Jennifer Hartzler
Melissa Lanzone
Trenton Scott
Amy Schwartz
Kelly Simonz
Ravi Todi
Alison Valentine

CLASS OF 2004
Oluwaseun Aduloju
Vanessa Bowman
Venkata Sri Harsha Cherukumilli
Ericka Dunlap
Lindsey Eppleman
Vanja Grbic
Nicolette Hopson
Marianne Howe
Stacy McCord
Sandra Miles
Brian Monacelli
Lissa Stovall
Shreya Trivedi

CLASS OF 2003
Jaann Bollinger
Kimily Burgess
Bethany Ensor
Tyler Fisher
Yahaira Franceschini
Faraz Kureshi
Sunita Modani
Sarika Patel
Erika Phifer
Shakeba Thomas
Duc Tran
S. Anne-Marie Wolff

CLASS OF 2002
Gregory Auerbach
Scott Broadway
Alexcia Cox
T‘ieshia Daniels
Delia Goolsby
Carol Mancero
Peggy Moch
Wayne Nguyen
Sergey Polyakov
Sandra Schaal

CLASS OF 2001
Anna Berger
Jennifer Carroll
Carolyn Hopp
Seth Jonas
Sarah Kureshi
Christine Kurle
Sara Levinson
Eddie Ruiz
Jennifer White
Special Thanks
Student Development and Enrollment Services would like
to thank members of the administration and faculty for nominating students,
and the committee members listed below for undertaking the difficult task of
selecting the outstanding UCF students receiving this distinguished honor.

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Dr. Nancy L. Marshall, Office of The President
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Judy Pardo
Student Development and Enrollment Services