

# ORDER *of* PEGASUS

CLASS OF 2012



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND ENROLLMENT SERVICES

# THE UCF CREED

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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.



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Spring 2012



Dear Friend of the University:

It is my pleasure to introduce the 2012 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 university and community involvement, leadership, academic achievement, and community service.

This year, twenty-five 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

**SARINA AMIN**

M.D. DEGREE

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, CHARTER CLASS

**KELVIN ANG**

SPORT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**BRANDY ESPINOSA**

COUNSELOR EDUCATION

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**AMANDA LAGER**

CREATIVE WRITING

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

**ZAINAB NASSER**

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**KEVIN STEVENSON**

PHYSICS

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

## SARINA AMIN



Sarina Amin  
Longwood, Florida

Sarina is a third-year M.D. program candidate in the College of Medicine Charter Class. She completed her B.S. in biomedical sciences at the University of South Florida. She held several leadership positions including primary representative to the American Association of Medical College's Organization of Student Representatives, historian and secretary of the COM Student Council, student representative to the COM Council on Diversity and Inclusion, and physicians chair for the COM Health Fair Committee. She completed several academic medicine projects that were presented at national conferences regarding mobile technology in medical education. She was involved in peer mentoring programs as well as programs to improve student physician cultural competence. She was awarded second place at a COM Research Symposium for her research involving the use of a medication to decrease brain injury in neonates undergoing cardiopulmonary bypass for congenital heart defect repair.

### *Future Plans:*

After receiving my M.D. degree, I hope to pursue residency training in oncology while maintaining strong ties to research, academic medicine, and volunteerism in global and local health initiatives.

### *Sarina's UCF Experience:*

Through the generosity of the Edyth Bush Foundation for a full scholarship, I had the opportunity to attend medical school in the Orlando community where I grew up. It was a privilege to be chosen as a member of the Charter Class in which each student has the unique role of creating the traditions and culture of a newly established medical school. Through my experiences this year in the various clinical settings affiliated with the college, I learned that each patient has a unique and compelling story and that it is the duty of the clinician to treat the person as a whole rather than just the illness. Several patients had special influences on me during my training and they helped shape me into the physician that I aspire to be. My numerous leadership positions have facilitated the development of skills that are paramount to clinicians as the center of the health care team. In addition, the College of Medicine has instilled within me the core values expected of any exceptional physician – compassion, integrity, perseverance and sense of community. The UCF faculty and physicians in the Orlando community have been excellent role models and are a testament to the strength of the UCF COM program.

## KELVIN ANG

Kelvin is a student in the DeVos Sport Business Management program in the College of Business Administration. During his time at UCF, he served as the primary editor of the internationally renowned studies published by DeVos program chair Richard Lapchick examining racial and gender hiring trends in sports industries. He went on three community service trips to New Orleans to help rebuild houses damaged by Hurricane Katrina and spent more than 100 hours volunteering at the Orlando Magic Recreation Squad and Camp Boggy Creek youth organizations. He was a graduate assistant for The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport. Having received his Master of Business Administration in December 2011, he is currently interning at ESPN for the spring semester and is a candidate for a Master's of Sport Business Management degree. He received his B.A. from Syracuse University and previously worked as sport editor for a newspaper in Idaho.



Kelvin Ang  
Singapore

### ***Kelvin's UCF Experience:***

During my time at UCF, I matured on both a personal and a professional level so much more than I thought was possible when I first set foot on campus. On a personal level, I worked under international activist Dr. Richard Lapchick who taught me more than anyone else about making a positive impact on society. Under Dr. Lapchick's leadership, I had the chance to join my classmates from the DeVos Sport Business Management program on three community service trips to New Orleans to help rebuild houses devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Those experiences taught me about the responsibility we all hold toward society and completely changed the way I see the world. On a professional level, I was fortunate to study under some of the brightest minds in the business of sport. I had the opportunity to meet movers and shakers within the business and study the best practices of some of the finest organizations in the industry. My time at UCF opened up career opportunities I would have never enjoyed elsewhere, culminating in an internship at ESPN. Enrolling in the DeVos program is one of the best decisions I have ever made and I am extraordinarily grateful for my UCF experience.

### ***Future Plans:***

I plan to continue pursuing a career in the sports media business and to develop a better understanding of how the industry is evolving globally.

## BRANDY ESPINOSA



Brandy Espinosa  
Orlando, Florida

### ***Future Plans:***

After graduation I hope to start my own practice in which I provide academic coaching as well as mental health counseling services, while also serving the community both locally and abroad.

Brandy is a master's degree student in the counselor education program in the College of Education. She is on the mental health counseling track and working towards a certificate in marriage and family therapy. She is a member of the national and international honor societies of Chi Sigma Iota and Phi Kappa Phi. For the last two years, she has worked as a graduate assistant at the Student Academic Resource Center where she serves as a learning specialist and Supplemental Instructor supervisor. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.A. in Psychology from UCF. As an undergraduate student, she served as a peer advisor, Honors team leader, research assistant, teaching assistant and intern at the Mental Health Association of Central Florida. She has presented at local and national conferences. Her volunteer service includes A Grateful Mind, Harbor House and Junior Achievement.

### ***Brandy's UCF Experience:***

UCF has greatly influenced me professionally and personally with its many opportunities and supportive community. As an undergraduate student, I took advantage of opportunities to explore new possibilities and held several leadership roles. These positions led to discovering strengths and interests, sharpening essential skills, and networking with community leaders. In my roles as a graduate student and graduate assistant, the responsibilities I assume foster growth in which I am able to increase my potential as a professional and recognize my truest personal pursuits. My involvement in extracurricular activities has greatly contributed to my personal growth and sense of home at UCF. In return, as a proud and grateful Knight, I contribute to the campus to share the impact it has had on me. I aid others by advising, mentoring, teaching and creating new materials on learning skills, and improving and expanding programs provided on campus such as Study Union. My hope is to influence the next generation of Knights' successes and memories through my passion and example, promoting the UCF Creed values that shaped my journey. In all, my experiences helped me develop as an individual and member of society, expand and sharpen my perspectives and proficiencies, challenge myself to elevate my goals, and be inspired to continue my education and service to others.

## AMANDA LAGER

Amanda is a master's degree candidate in creative writing in the College of Arts and Humanities. She is a recipient of an MFA Provost's Fellowship. Her writing and research focus on women's issues, the South in past and present fiction and non-fiction, and regionalism in contemporary literature. Her volunteer work includes ArtsBridge, the Writes of Spring Student Writing Competition in Orange County Public Schools, and UCF Book Festival, and she serves as a mentor to undergraduate students through the Office of Prestigious Awards in The Burnett Honors College. She is a founding officer of the Graduate Writer's Association, which seeks to advance the professional development of graduate students pursuing careers in the literary arts. She was a graduate intern at *The Florida Review* representing UCF locally and nationally. She received her B.A. in English literature from the University of South Carolina in 2010.



Amanda Lager  
Blythewood, South Carolina

### ***Amanda's UCF Experience:***

My abilities as a graduate student best help other students feel as passionate about creative writing and education as I do. While I cherish the courses I have taken and the lessons about my craft the English Department faculty have shared during the course of writing my thesis, it is outside the classroom where I feel I have made the strongest impact on UCF and my own career. Through the Graduate Writer's Association, I advocate for students to take charge of their futures through professional development workshops and to have a bigger role in the Creative Writing program. Also, I feel that all people deserve the right to literacy and have volunteered throughout my college career to help improve the quality of education for elementary school children. I assisted a fellow master's student who conducted ArtsBridge lessons in a 4th- and 5th-grade class to better their reading comprehension and writing skills, and to instill in them a love of learning. I have served as a teaching assistant for Creative Writing and now advise UCF students as they pursue national and international scholarships. It is my hope that these activities will inspire other students to take advantage of the time they have at UCF and to grow as writers and as Knights.

### ***Future Plans:***

After graduation, I plan to pursue a career in publishing and continue my volunteer work improving childhood literacy.



## ZAINAB NASSER



Zainab Nasser  
Mombasa, Kenya

### *Future Plans:*

I plan on obtaining international corporate experience in the finance field before pursuing my Ph.D. and fulfilling my passion to promote global poverty awareness.

Zainab is pursuing her master's in business administration with a concentration in finance in the College of Business Administration. As a graduate teaching assistant, she has completed numerous research endeavors pertaining to organizational structure. Her latest work includes conducting a strategic financial analysis of Google, Inc. and surveying the economic overview of Turkey. She currently serves as a member on the President's Leadership Council and an ambassador on the Graduate Student Advisory Board. She served as the president of the International Student Association and vice president of finance for the business professional fraternity, Delta Sigma Pi. She is the recipient of the Boeing Scholarship, BE Leadership Scholarship, and the Outstanding Student Award in Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society. Her volunteer activities are associated with African Poverty Relief Fund, Walt Disney World Marathon, Relay for Life and rebuilding New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

### *Zainab's UCF Experience:*

As an international student from Africa, not only did UCF prove to be the perfect fit for me academically but it provided me with an exceptional platform to grow as an individual. One of the most remarkable traits of UCF's culture is its willingness to encourage and celebrate diversity, while simultaneously allowing students the freedom to express themselves on several levels. I have always had a burning desire to make a difference to all that I encounter, and my years at UCF have enabled me to effectively execute that passion through leadership and community and volunteer service. My service as a leader on student organization boards such as the President's Leadership Council gave me the opportunity to meet some of the most inspiring individuals within the university and the Orlando community. Serving as a funding board member for the Multicultural Student Association gave me the chance to financially manage about \$100,000 on behalf of more than 50,000 students – a powerfully, humbling experience that will always be close to my heart. My journey at UCF began as an undergraduate and progressed to the graduate level. I know when I walk across that stage, in addition to my diploma, I will walk away with the experience of a lifetime—and for that, I will forever be indebted to this great institution.

## KEVIN STEVENSON

Kevin is in his final year as a physics Ph.D. candidate in the College of Sciences. He earned his B.Sc. in physics at Simon Fraser University and his M.Sc. in astronomy at the University of Western Ontario. As a member of UCF's Planetary Sciences Group, his research utilizes the Spitzer Space Telescope to observe transiting extrasolar planets. He is the lead author of a paper published in *Nature*, one of the most prestigious interdisciplinary scientific journals in the world, in which he reveals the surprising atmospheric composition of a planet called GJ 436b. Most recently, he discovered two extrasolar planet candidates in the same system, both of which are smaller than the Earth. In addition to research, he has spent several years as a teaching assistant for the Department of Physics and a volunteer at the Robinson Observatory.



Kevin Stevenson  
Kelowna, B.C., Canada

### ***Kevin's UCF Experience:***

UCF provided the opportunity for me to pursue my goals in the field of extrasolar planets and, through my educational and research experiences, I now have the ability to fulfill these ambitions. My graduate coursework enriched my understanding of planetary sciences and illuminated the important scientific questions being raised by the community. In turn, as a teaching assistant, I connected with students in a highly collaborative, computer-rich and interactive-learning environment for physics, enabling me to enrich the educational experiences of my fellow UCF students. Guided by my research advisor's own experiences, I have specialized in time-series photometry of extrasolar planets and numerical methods. I developed and advanced numerous techniques to enhance photometric precision, more precisely handle instrument systematics and expedite light-curve modeling. The application of these techniques led to a first-author paper in the scientific journal *Nature* and facilitated the detection of the first exoplanet discovered by UCF. To continue the cycle of knowledge sharing, I have mentored and advised graduate and undergraduate students in many additional extrasolar-planet analyses and have volunteered my time at UCF's Robinson Observatory to educate and inspire students, scout troops, and the general public. The culmination of my experiences at UCF has proven to be invaluable—opening doors to prospective jobs and exciting career opportunities.

### ***Future Plans:***

I will be conducting postdoctoral research in the field of extrasolar planets at the University of Chicago.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

**JENNIFER BLACK**

HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

ROSEN COLLEGE OF HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

**ADAM BROCK**

ADVERTISING/PUBLIC RELATIONS, POLITICAL SCIENCE

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

**KELLY COX**

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

**ANNA ESKAMANI**

POLITICAL SCIENCE, INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES, UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

**IDA ESKAMANI**

SOCIOLOGY, POLITICAL SCIENCE

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

**ANDREA-LI MEDINA FLORES**

LEGAL STUDIES

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

**CHRISTOPHER FRYE**

PHYSICS, MATHEMATICS

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

**JAMIE GREGOR**

MARKETING, ADVERTISING/PUBLIC RELATIONS

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

**ANYA KROYTOR**

PSYCHOLOGY

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

**MATTHEW McCANN**

POLITICAL SCIENCE

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

**LEE NOTO**

MANAGEMENT

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**ALANA PERSAUD**

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND MICROBIOLOGY

BURNETT SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

**YISELL RODRIGUEZ**

LEGAL STUDIES

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

**AMBER SCHEURER**

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

**LESLIE SHILLINGTON**

ATHLETIC TRAINING

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

**MARLA SPECTOR**

HISTORY, POLITICAL SCIENCE

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES, COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

**ADAM STRAKA**

FINANCE

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**COLTON TAPOLER**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS EDUCATION, ENGLISH LITERATURE

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

**TATIANA VIECCO**

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

## JENNIFER BLACK

Jennifer is pursuing a degree in hospitality management in the Rosen College of Hospitality Management, coupled with a minor in dance and certificate in leadership. She is a resident assistant within the Rosen College Living Learning Community, a member of Theta Alpha Christian Sorority, and former member of the Orientation Team. She had the opportunity to accumulate hospitality experience at Marriott's Grand Vista Resort and Universal Studios. She currently serves on the President's Leadership Council, Student Government Association's Election Commission and is a former LEAD Scholar. She is on the President's Honor Roll and dean's list, and a recipient of UCF Founders' Award for the Rosen College. She volunteers as a mentor at a local Title I school, Fern Creek Elementary, and co-plans the annual school carnival. She has participated in Relay for Life, Knight-Thon and Alternative Spring Break program. Her volunteer service includes Orlando Children's Church, Second Harvest Food Bank, Conductive Education Center of Orlando and Switzerland Point Middle School.



Jennifer Black  
Jacksonville, Florida

### *Jennifer's UCF Experience:*

I became a UCF Knight the moment I set foot on campus as a prospective student; I knew it was a perfect fit because of the sense of community I felt and the opportunities I would be able to experience academically and professionally. My educational and professional career stemming from the Rosen College of Hospitality Management has equipped me with transferrable skills enhancing my potential for future endeavors. I have a passion for working with students throughout their collegiate experience and aiding them during their journey. I discovered this passion during my first year working as a resident assistant—my supervisor continually challenged and encouraged me, and with his support I explored more options within the field of higher education and student affairs. Accruing additional experience in the Office of First Year Experience through the Orientation Team further affirmed my desire to pursue a career within higher education. UCF has provided me endless opportunities to connect with students, staff, faculty and community partners. The relationships I developed are essential in aiding me to achieve my personal and professional objectives.

### *Future Plans:*

After graduation, I will be attending graduate school to pursue my master's in higher education and student affairs with the goal of advocating for and working with college students in a university setting.

## ADAM BROCK



Adam Brock  
Davie, Florida

### ***Future Plans:***

I plan to pursue a master's degree in integrated marketing communication shortly after graduation, followed by a career in the public affairs sector.

Adam is a member of The Burnett Honors College and is an advertising/public relations and political science double major in the College of Sciences, with a legal studies minor. He is a proud brother of Alpha Epsilon Pi International Fraternity and is currently completing his term as Student Body vice president. Before being elected, he served as the director of KnightLynx, where he founded the university's first late-night bus shuttle aimed at providing a safe and reliable form of transportation to all students. He served as president of the Interfraternity Council, where he was instrumental in the creation of the organization's first service-based leadership conference to New Orleans, LA and Tuscaloosa, AL. His community service includes Knight-Thon, Relay for Life and Give Kids the World. He is currently working to complete his undergraduate thesis, which details the emerging role of social media in the world of politics.

### ***Adam's UCF Experience:***

They really aren't kidding when they say UCF stands for opportunity. Throughout my entire college experience, I was given opportunities that have helped me become the man that I am today. Whether I succeeded or failed, I took advantage of each of them and learned from my mistakes along the way. Through the Interfraternity Council I was instrumental in creating the Building Leadership Service Conference, demonstrating as a fraternity member what it meant to be a leader in the community. I believe that we all go to college for three distinct reasons: to learn as scholars, learn as leaders and learn as citizens. As a scholar, I was constantly challenged by my advisors and professors, which led me to adopt an entirely new approach to my education. As a leader, I found myself making difficult decisions that better our university, even though they weren't always the most popular. As a citizen, I realized that a single person can easily make a contribution but the ones that mean the most come from an entire community. From the highs to the lows and everything in-between, UCF has been the common denominator throughout this rollercoaster journey in my life. Although my time here might be coming to a close, the lessons that I have learned from those I interacted with have just set in and will continue to guide me into the future.

## KELLY COX

Kelly is a mechanical engineering major in the College of Engineering and Computer Science with a mathematics minor. She is a member of the President's Leadership Council, The Burnett Honors College and Society of Women Engineers. She has served as an Honor's College team leader and peer ambassador. Her achievements range from winning first place in the Showcase of Undergraduate Research to becoming the first runner up in the Miss UCF Pageant. As an engineer, she has served as the SWE Outreach Committee co-chair and the Section president. She is a member of honor societies: Phi Kappa Phi, Tau Beta Pi, and Pi Tau Sigma. She attends Summit Church and leads a community group through Campus Crusade for Christ. She gives back through Odyssey of the Mind, Summit Niceserve and Girl Scouts.



Kelly Cox  
Titusville, Florida

### ***Kelly's UCF Experience:***

UCF has encouraged me, challenged me, developed me and given me opportunity, while providing the most rewarding experience I could have ever asked for and then some. As a UCF Knight, I have been called to continually pursue excellence. I learned that excellence comes through humility, and that to be significant one must never forget the extreme significance of each individual they meet. Here at UCF, I have been able to define achievable dreams for myself, while also making sure to be willing to let my dreams be temporarily interrupted to assist others in reaching theirs. Having been introduced to such an outstanding environment as a freshman, it is my responsibility to pay it forward through leadership roles. I have grown to become a leader and an encourager. In addition, I have learned that the most cherished possessions in life are things that cannot be earned but are instead gifted to us. I have learned to grow and develop these gifts while standing in appreciation for the opportunity to do so. I desire to create significant impact wherever I go, no matter how large or small my circle of influence. I will follow God, serve others and put forth my best effort towards any goal I attempt. And as my grandmother taught me, I will always make sure to eat enough sweets so that I never turn into a sour person.

### ***Future Plans:***

I plan to become a mechanical engineer and also pursue certification as a professional engineer while working to develop innovative technologies in the field. I also aspire to raise a loving family and cultivate genuine community wherever I go.



## ANNA ESKAMANI



Anna Eskamani  
Orlando, Florida

Anna is a political science major in the College of Sciences and is also pursuing an interdisciplinary studies degree with an emphasis in women's studies in the Office of Undergraduate Studies. She is on the President's Honor Roll and dean's list. She is a recipient of the Founders' Scholar Award and has self-funded her education through numerous merit-based scholarships. She completed her Honors in the Major thesis in spring 2011 and was awarded a Student-Mentor Academic Research Teams grant in spring 2012. She serves as vice president of the College Democrats at UCF and Women's Caucus chair for Florida College Democrats. She developed her political skills through internships with local campaigns, consultant groups and Ruth's List Florida. She continually gives back to her community and volunteers with Dress for Success, Young Women's Leaders Program, League of Women Voters and Planned Parenthood. She is a frequent writer for the *Central Florida Future* and empowers her colleagues through voter registration drives.

### ***Future Plans:***

After graduation, I plan to start my career within progressive politics and pursue a graduate degree in non-profit management.

### ***Anna's UCF Experience:***

Growing up in Orlando, my UCF experience started early. As a child I would roll down the hill towards the Reflecting Pond and run up the stairs to the UCF Library. I watched my Dad graduate in 1993 and soon I was sitting in the same lecture halls as he did. My decision to attend the school that stands for opportunity has been the best decision of my life. UCF is more than just a place of learning; it's a place to discover yourself and your passions. I've tackled two majors, maintained a stellar GPA, volunteered for numerous organizations for countless hours, and held leadership positions for organizations ranging from honor societies to cultural clubs. I found my niche within the College Democrats at UCF, and my political work within this group has opened up many doors for me, including a personal invitation to the White House. Overall, my UCF experience has equipped me with the skills needed to organize and mobilize my community for change. Still, there is one thing that has been missing—my Mom. She passed away when I was 13 and she never got to see me become a Knight. I like to think that she would be proud of me, and I owe a big part of that to UCF.

## IDA ESKAMANI

Ida is a political science and sociology major in the College of Sciences. She is on the President's Honor Roll and dean's list. She completed an Honors in the Major thesis and has presented her research at several conferences. She is a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha, Political Science Honor Society, and was invited to the White House twice for her work in the community. She serves as the president of the College Democrats at UCF and has interned for Organizing for America, the Office of State House Representative Scott Randolph, as well as the Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida. She calls herself a full-time student and an overtime organizer. She is a regular opinion contributor to campus and local newspapers, and has organized canned food and supply drives for local non-profits. She volunteers weekly helping the homeless and registering students to vote, reflecting her passion for volunteerism and student empowerment.



Ida Eskamani  
Orlando, Florida

### *Ida's UCF Experience:*

UCF has stood for opportunity even before I was born. I can remember my father's graduation from UCF when I was just a toddler. Immigrants from Iran, my parents had very little but knew that UCF truly stood for opportunity. Since then, I have been committed to one day calling myself a UCF Knight. My family history instilled within me the ideal that each individual deserves equal opportunity for success. UCF enabled me to put this ideal into practice. Academically, I learned of the inherent inequalities in our country. I realized that positive change starts with the individual and dedicated myself to encouraging civic engagement among fellow Knights through voter registration drives and service. I became involved in several different student organizations, finding my second family, the College Democrats at UCF. This organization provided me the resources to mobilize students, organize service events and travel the nation. In the past year, I have visited the White House twice and met President Obama. And in all of these experiences, I have proudly represented our university. UCF gave me opportunities, and it is my duty to give back to ensure we keep moving forward in a positive direction.

### *Future Plans:*

I plan to pursue a career in community organizing and a master's in public policy in Washington, DC and ultimately come back to Central Florida to serve this wonderful community.

## ANDREA-LI MEDINA FLORES



Andrea-Li Medina Flores  
Caracas, Venezuela

Andrea-Li is a legal studies major in the College of Health and Public Affairs, minoring in criminal justice and currently completing an Honors in the Major thesis. She is a member of the President's Leadership Council, Justice #13 for the Judicial Branch of Student Government Association, former Mock Trial chair of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International and tutor and mentor for the Seizing Opportunities for Achievement and Retention program. She is on the President's Honor Roll and dean's list and has received the UCF President's Honors Award. She is a resident assistant for Housing and Residence Life, a student assistant for the Office of General Counsel and a peer counselor for Student Financial Assistance. Her volunteer service includes Boys and Girls Club of Central Florida, Relay for Life, Heart Walk, Ronald McDonald House and Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida.

### ***Future Plans:***

I will be attending law school to pursue a legal career in immigration law; I hope to have my own practice and one day become a judge.

### ***Andrea-Li's UCF Experience:***

The University of Central Florida has given me the opportunity to obtain an education even with all the obstacles that my immigration status has presented to me. UCF opened its doors and gave me the chance to work for my education. UCF allotted me more than just the ability to attend college and get an education; it helped me mature into a determined, career-oriented woman. During my time as a student, tutor, mentor, mentee and employee at UCF, I have grown into the leader I always wished I could be. Slowly I began to blossom as an individual, and with this new found success, I began to give back to younger students. I could not have acquired this confidence if I did not have the guidance of my mentors and peers. They have always believed in me and have supported me even through my toughest time here at UCF. I became involved within my majors through fraternities, clubs, teams, councils and tutoring programs. I am leaving UCF with confidence to reach for the goals I had only dreamed of. I have very high expectations for myself and my future career, and I thank everybody that has touched my life at this university for believing in me.

## CHRISTOPHER FRYE

Christopher is a member of The Burnett Honors College and is a physics and mathematics major in the College of Sciences. He works on independent research projects with Dr. Costas Efthimiou in theoretical physics and has presented his results at numerous national conferences, where he won awards for best presentation. He also participated in an internship at Lockheed Martin, spent a summer as a researcher in high-energy experimental physics at the University of Minnesota, and will work at CERN in summer 2012. In addition, his team won first place in the University Physics Competition, an international contest. He serves as the president of the Society of Physics Students and is an active participant in the Innovation through Institutional Integration project and the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math initiative. He also led an outreach project that gave UCF students opportunities to present physics lectures to high school science classes.



Christopher Frye  
Orlando, Florida

### *Christopher's UCF Experience:*

My wonderful UCF experience began with the close interactions I shared with professors, many of whom exhibited genuine interest in my personal maturity as a scientist. These relationships blossomed into research mentorships, through which I experienced the struggle and excitement of scientific research and developed strong intellectual curiosity and persistence. I also enjoyed opportunities offered by the Office of Undergraduate Research which allowed me to attend numerous national conferences where I collaborated with other researchers and learned about the latest advancements in physics. My role as a leader complemented my academic excellence. I grew as a leader when I embraced the responsibilities of holding presidential and vice presidential offices in the Society of Physics Students. I led two teams in physics competitions and one team in a mathematical modeling contest. I developed teaching skills through our high school outreach projects, my position as a teacher's assistant, and my collaborations with the art department where I taught ideas of modern physics to painting classes. Learning to creatively teach scientific concepts to non-science students is an invaluable skill to me as I pursue my goal of becoming a professor.

### *Future Plans:*

Following my graduation, I plan to earn a Ph.D. in physics in order to pursue a career as a professor, conducting research and teaching at the university level.

## JAMIE GREGOR



Jamie Gregor  
Palm Harbor, Florida

### ***Future Plans:***

After graduation next spring, I hope to work in corporate social responsibility or community relations and one day start a family.

Jamie is a junior majoring in business marketing and public relations and a member of The Burnett Honors College, as well as a graduate of the LEAD Scholars Program. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA while serving a multitude of organizations, including internships with the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Limited Brands. Her love of service led to involvement as the director of volunteer affairs for Honors Congress and activities chair for Relay for Life. In addition, she promoted the involvement and leadership of other students as organization relations chair of Knights of the RoundTable. Her faith is integral to her success and she has served as retreat director, social chair and hospitality chair for Catholic Campus Ministry. Her love of UCF is evident in her commitment as 4EVER KNIGHTS' director of marketing and public relations chair of President's Leadership Council.

### ***Jamie's UCF Experience:***

When describing my experience at UCF, opportunity – as cliché as it sounds – is the only word to truly capture it. I feel so blessed that I was not only able to attend but become an active member of this university. The number of opportunities for students to improve professionally, academically and personally, as well as to give back to the community and university, are seemingly endless. My goal in life is to be passionate, positive and productive in all things and I feel I was able to bring this mission to life during my time at UCF. Whether encouraging honors students to volunteer at Give Kids the World, speaking with a guest at an Alumni Association event, or planning a cookout for Catholic Campus Ministry, I know that my leadership and service make a difference. Likewise, those whom I've interacted with at UCF have made an immense difference in my life. My professors, organizations' sponsors and classmates have had a profound impact on the way I see the world. The university has truly allowed me to see how much is possible with creativity and hard work. I can honestly say, I would not be who I am today without my experiences at UCF. I am confident I will be equipped to serve my employer, community and family because of the experiences and opportunities I've been blessed with at this university.

## ANYA KROYTOR

Anya is a psychology major in the College of Sciences with a minor in cognitive sciences. She serves as the recruitment coordinator on the President's Leadership Council and is a former LEAD Scholar. She is on the President's Honor Roll and dean's list. Currently, she is working on an Honors in the Major thesis. She was actively involved with Volunteer UCF giving back to the community through agencies such as Harvest Time International, Boys and Girls Club, Relay for Life, Junior Achievement, and Second Harvest Food Bank. She was an active undergraduate research assistant in the Children's Learning Clinic and the Anxiety Disorders Clinic as well as a member of Psi Chi National Honor Society. She has published and presented posters at conferences such as the Anxiety Disorders Association of America. She is continuing her research in psychology and planning a career focusing on predicting and assessing psychological abnormalities as well as providing evidence-based treatments.



Anya Kroytor  
Miami, Florida

### ***Anya's UCF Experience:***

Every opportunity I had at UCF has been a valuable experience that has strengthened my commitment to pursue my goals. My wide range of involvement in various community and university endeavors allowed me to impact the lives of others and enhanced my ability to lead by example. Through service, scholarship and excellence, I had the opportunity to grow as an individual and inspire others to give back and make a difference. When I see so many of those that I have mentored working by my side as fellow university representatives, I believe that I have achieved my personal goal of encouraging others to become leaders. My dedication to develop a solid foundation in psychology and its research led me to the opportunity to work as a research assistant in UCF's Anxiety Disorders Clinic as well as the Children's Learning Clinic. The involvement in research helped develop my strong interest in assessment, interventions and evidence-based treatments for various pathologies. It is the opportunities that UCF has provided me, along with my fervor to impact the lives of others, that has led me to pursue a career in clinical psychology. The diverse experiences and opportunities I have encountered in my four years at UCF have not only shaped me personally and professionally but will continue to motivate me daily.

### ***Future Plans:***

Following graduation, I plan to pursue a career in clinical psychology with aspirations of becoming an experienced researcher and clinician.

## MATTHEW McCANN



Matthew McCann  
Windermere, Florida

### ***Future Plans:***

Post graduation, I plan on attending law school so that I may be a change agent in state politics and the business sector.

Matthew is a political science major in the College of Sciences. He is the current Student Body president and member of the university's Board of Trustees. He has been active in the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, as well as in the Student Government Association, serving as the chief justice and assistant chief justice. He is on the board of directors for the Florida Student Association and is a member of the Student Conduct Review Board. He served as chair of the University Fee Assessment Committee and as an intern for Florida State Senator Lee Constantine. He is the recipient of the Kenneth F. Murrah scholarship and is consistently on the President's Honor Roll and dean's list. He has been involved in several ongoing community efforts, including the Children's Miracle Network and Habitat for Humanity.

### ***Matthew's UCF Experience:***

My UCF experience has proven to be invaluable in sculpting me into the person I have always wanted to be. As a student, UCF has offered an unparalleled education where I have been challenged to approach problems creatively to find solutions. My professors have been active in my education, working with me to reach my potential. As a leader, UCF has taught me the importance of being a servant leader, working as a team to reach a common goal. Through mentors and ample experience, I adopted a unique skill set that will prove to be useful in my post-graduate success. As a community member, UCF helped me to better understand the disparities that exist in the world; it also taught me how to work to rectify them. As a friend, UCF has provided me with the opportunities to interact and engage with individuals that are different than me—I am thankful for these interactions and call these individuals my friends. UCF provided me with the unique opportunity to grow in a diverse, engaging and scholastic environment which allowed me to better understand myself, others and cultural differences which make the world such an exciting place. I feel equipped to more than adequately handle any real-life situation that I may be faced with upon graduation. The Matthew McCann that entered UCF in 2007 is very different than the Matthew McCann leaving in 2012. I am leaving a better person, ready and eager to tackle what the future may hold.



## LEE NOTO

Lee is a management major in the College of Business Administration with a minor in Spanish. She is a Bright Futures Scholarship recipient as well as a recipient of various UCF scholarships including Pegasus Bronze and UCF Alumni Legacy. She has consistently earned dean's list honors for academic achievement. She is a former LEAD Scholar and a current member of the President's Leadership Council as well as an active brother of Delta Sigma Pi, Professional Business Fraternity. She works as a resident assistant in the Hercules Community and received the Resident Assistant of the Year award in spring 2010. She also works as a management intern in the CBA Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Her community service includes Heart Walk, Relay for Life, Knights Give Back, Junior Achievement Bilingual Program, and March of Dimes KnightWalk for Babies.



Lee Noto  
Boynton Beach, Florida

### *Lee's UCF Experience:*

Deciding to come to UCF was the first major decision I made on my own, and to this day, it has been one of the best decisions I've ever made. My time here at UCF is one that is hard to find words for. Through my involvement and extracurricular activities, I have met individuals and gained experiences that I will take with me throughout the rest of my life. I have been fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to form interpersonal relationships with faculty, staff, co-workers, fraternity brothers and friends. Through these experiences, I have grown immensely as a professional, a student and an individual, and I hope that I have impacted others in the same manner that UCF has impacted me. Without the trials and tribulations I encountered during my time here, I would not be nearly as wise, humbled or downright happy as I am now. The opportunities that I have taken advantage of here at UCF have not only provided me with a wonderful college experience but they have helped me to begin to shape my future. In all sincerity, I can say that the UCF experience has changed my life and I am beyond enthusiastic about the future possibilities that exist as a result of my time here.

### *Future Plans:*

Following graduation, I will be moving to Hawai'i to serve as a fellow with Teach for America and will continue to graduate school thereafter.



## ALANA PERSAUD



Alana Persaud  
Ocoee, Florida

### *Future Plans:*

After graduation, I plan to attend medical school and hope to work in the field of cardiovascular disease.

Alana is a member of The Burnett Honors College and a molecular biology and microbiology major in Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, College of Medicine with a minor in humanities. She has been on the President's Honor Roll every semester since she began at UCF and was selected as a Founder's Day Scholar in 2011. She received the India Program Fellowship from the Office of Global Perspectives and has written articles for the UCF Newsroom. She was recipient of a UCF's Student-Mentor Academic Research Teams grant and a Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence award. She currently serves as a member of the Student Conduct Review Board and a teaching assistant in the Quantitative Biological Methods laboratory. She is a member of the Pre-Professional Medical Society and Sangam, UCF's Indian student organization. Her volunteer service includes the Coalition for the Homeless, Junior Achievement and Give Kids the World.

### *Alana's UCF Experience:*

My experience at UCF has been nothing short of an incredible and life-changing journey. The innumerable opportunities I was given have influenced my scholastic growth as well as my personal beliefs and character. While working on a research project, I examined the biological foundations of *Staphylococcus aureus* nasal carriage. This experience demonstrated to me the integral role of biomedical research in clinical medicine. While a challenge, this opportunity revealed that there is no substitute for fortitude and dedication when striving for scientific excellence. Through the academic liaison directorship, I developed leadership skills by assisting my peers in achieving their professional ambitions. The satisfaction that I received from witnessing their triumphs fueled my enthusiasm to serve both UCF and the Orlando community. As a President's Scholar, studying abroad exposed me to a diversity of perspectives and offered me a better understanding of global issues. Whether through renovating Kittitian elementary schools or witnessing healthcare concerns in the Caribbean, I realized my great passion for serving others in need. During my time at UCF, I learned that while academic excellence is essential, the experiences which challenge our intellectual capabilities and help us connect with the community allow us to leave a truly meaningful and lasting impact on society.

## YISELL RODRIGUEZ

Yisell is a legal studies major in the College of Health and Public Affairs with a minor in business administration. She is an Honors in the Major thesis student in The Burnett Honors College and a member of UCF's inaugural Moot Court Team. She is on the President's Honor Roll and dean's list, and is a Founders' Day Scholar. She is a member of Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society. She serves on the Disciplinary Sanction Review Board and Student Conduct Review Board. She is a student assistant for Student Development and Enrollment Services. Her volunteer service includes Orlando Health and Rehabilitation Center, Ronald McDonald House, Relay for Life, Junior Achievement and Susan G. Komen for the Cure foundation.



Yisell Rodriguez  
Orlando, Florida

### ***Yisell's UCF Experience:***

While at UCF my motto has been to work hard, be passionate and achieve excellence. As a freshman, I joined Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society and Phi Alpha Delta Pre-law Fraternity. In these two organizations, I had the opportunity to expand my horizons and come out of my shell. This was the best thing that UCF offered me – an opportunity to be different, to learn new things and meet new people. Despite being involved in numerous organizations and projects, writing an undergraduate thesis has been the most challenging aspect of my academic journey. My thesis in immigration law and the constitutionality of states enforcing federal laws has been demanding but also immensely rewarding. As a member of UCF's inaugural Moot Court Team, I was fortunate to represent the Legal Studies Department in a regional competition. My partner and I not only represented UCF commendably but also pioneered what will soon be another successful program at the university. The opportunities for learning and volunteering are immense. UCF has allowed me to engage in undergraduate research and service projects that have encouraged me to pursue my passions in immigration law and civil rights. As I reflect on my experiences at UCF, I recognize that if you work hard and be passionate about everything you do, you will surely achieve excellence.

### ***Future Plans:***

After graduation, I will be attending law school where I aspire to pursue a career practicing complex business litigation, appellate litigation and immigration law.

## AMBER SCHEURER



Amber Scheurer  
Melbourne, Florida

Amber is a member of The Burnett Honors College and is an electrical engineering major in the College of Engineering and Computer Science. She conducted research in the Nanophotonic Device Group in the College of Optics and Photonics for two years and completed her Honors in the Major thesis during that time. She participated in the Research and Mentoring Program, a National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates, and was a Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence award recipient. She was the president of the Society of Women Engineers and is a member of the Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, and Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society. She has consistently demonstrated her commitment to the community and to inspire young students to pursue higher education through her involvement in the Society of Women Engineers, Honors HERO program, Junior Achievement and College of Engineering and Computer Science outreach initiatives.

### *Future Plans:*

Upon graduation, I will begin working as a process engineer at Texas Instruments in Dallas, TX where I will draw upon the experience I gained in my research on semiconductor materials.

### *Amber's UCF Experience:*

UCF provided me with the chance to participate in many events and activities throughout my time here and each has truly helped me develop my academic excellence and scholarship. I believe that the university's emphasis on undergraduate research has been a significant driving force behind many of my achievements. Through programs like Honors in the Major and Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence, UCF helped me become an analytical thinker and to develop my ability to share technical information with others. These skills will be extremely valuable in my professional career. Furthermore, I credit UCF's support of student organizations for not only fostering personal and professional development but also a sense of community. Through my experience in UCF clubs and organizations, I have been able to personally interact with numerous K-12 teachers and assist in guiding their students in understanding the value of higher education. Based on my positive experiences at UCF, I am intrinsically motivated to make sure that others know that UCF truly does stand for opportunity.

## LESLIE SHILLINGTON

Leslie is an athletic training major in the College of Health and Public Affairs. She is a former LEAD Scholar and a current member of the President's Leadership Council. She served as a peer mentor for Strategies for Leadership and Success, honorary member liaison for Golden Key International Honour Society and marketing director for the LEAD Scholars Program. She was involved with the Student Government Association as a member of the Student Advocacy Council and Student Senate. She is member of the UCF Student Athletic Trainers Organization, National Society of Leadership and Success and Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society. As an athletic training student, she interned with two local high schools as well as the UCF Athletic Association with an emphasis on football, baseball and softball. Her community service includes Helping Hands, Heart Walk, Relay for Life and UCF Creative School for Children.



Leslie Shillington  
Miami, Florida

### ***Leslie's UCF Experience:***

Coming from a small high school, I was provided excellent opportunities to become integrated into the UCF campus and the neighboring communities by the LEAD Scholars Program. I developed the skills needed to work as a team member and a leader; whether it was to run a carnival for an inner city school or work as a team during intramural sports. The LEAD Scholars Program allowed me to expand my leadership throughout the UCF campus by connecting me to other student organizations and introducing me to various faculty, administration leaders and mentors. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to work with the Student Government Association to advocate for students' rights. I was trained to be a diverse individual while relating to many issues and events on campus. UCF has given me the opportunity to have practical experience in my field of study, sports medicine. I had the privilege of working side by side with athletic trainers and medical personnel at the collegiate level, as well as in the Orlando area schools and other athletic events. While at UCF, I have seized every opportunity available to me, which enabled me to develop into the well-rounded, hardworking, diligent person I am today.

### ***Future Plans:***

I aspire to pursue a career in physical therapy specializing in sports medicine or pediatrics.

## MARLA SPECTOR



Marla Spector  
Parkland, Florida

### ***Future Plans:***

I plan on attending law school to pursue a career in elder law and fulfilling my dreams of traveling the world one day.

Marla is a history major in the College of Arts and Humanities 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 member of The Burnett Honors College. She is serving her second year as a member of the President's Leadership Council and is a recipient of the Charles N. & Frances Millican Scholarship and UCF Pegasus Scholarship. She was an active member of the Student Government Association as student lobbying coordinator and chair of the Student Senate's Governmental Affairs Committee. As a member of Alpha Epsilon Phi, she served as both vice president of social standards and president of her chapter. She has been actively involved in fund raising for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Sharsheret and Susan G. Komen for the Cure foundation.

### ***Marla's UCF Experience:***

I chose to attend UCF because I truly believed that "UCF Stands for Opportunity." My four years at UCF proved the undeniable truth behind that motto. From the second I set foot on campus, I was welcomed by a wide range of opportunities that allowed me to grow and develop in the classroom and as a student leader. I engaged in new challenges, learned from mistakes and most importantly, developed confidence in my abilities to lead and make critical decisions. In the classroom, I developed strong analytical and writing skills that will be beneficial in law school. These incredible opportunities opened the door to greater opportunities to develop professionally as an intern with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee in Washington, DC and a member of the President's Leadership Council. I developed interpersonal relationships and friendships with faculty, staff and students that will last a lifetime. Mentoring younger students to pursue their dreams has been one of the most rewarding parts of my UCF experience. UCF will always hold a special place in my heart as I pursue my passions in life. The opportunities I took advantage of and the guidance I received at UCF helped me find my dreams and develop the confidence and skills needed to pursue them.

## ADAM STRAKA

Adam is a finance major in the College of Business Administration. He is a proud brother of Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity and an active member of the President's Leadership Council as projects chair. He is a former LEAD Scholar and the current vice president of finance for the Rowdy Knights organization. He is a member of Sigma Alpha Pi and has participated on the Student Government Association Street Team and in numerous intramural sports. His professional collegiate experience includes creating his own startup business venture, working business events with Cybis Communications and interning as a financial analyst at a local Fortune 100 company. His extensive community service includes Junior Achievement, Relay for Life, Heart Walk and Give Kids the World.



Adam Straka  
Longwood, Florida

### *Adam's UCF Experience:*

My experience at UCF has truly been an amazing journey. I credit the university with filling my collegiate career with diverse experiences and adventures which will serve as the strong foundation of a lifetime. I jumped right in as a freshman joining organizations aimed at making a positive impact throughout our community. In the LEAD Scholars Program, I gained leadership skills through classes and community projects. As a result of this involvement and the stimulating world evolving around me, I bonded to the university and truly became a Knight! To move ahead professionally, I joined Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity. Membership in this prestigious brotherhood all four years has proven to be one of the best decisions of my college career as it has afforded me the opportunity to gain indispensable leadership skills as I worked as an intern, networked with business leaders, participated in campus activities, and fostered life-long friendships. UCF strives to be the nation's leading Partnership University. My three-year internship at Lockheed Martin has provided me with invaluable experience in the corporate world. Serving on the President's Leadership Council has truly been a monumental honor as it allowed me the rare opportunity to meet prominent area leaders while serving at numerous council functions. These unique opportunities provided by UCF helped create the person I have become today.

### *Future Plans:*

After graduation, I plan on completing my MBA at UCF while working as a financial analyst at a Fortune 500 company and aspire to climb the corporate ladder.

## COLTON TAPOLER



Colton Tapoler  
Wellington, Florida

### *Future Plans:*

I will receive both a master's degree and Ph.D. in English with the goal of owning a major publishing house.

Colton is a dual major in English language arts education in the College of Education and English literature in the College of Arts and Humanities. He served as a senator for the Student Government Association and as the founding president of the Education Student College Council. He has served as a member of the President's Leadership Council, Golden Key International Honour Society, Student Conduct Review Board and Greek Council. He was a member of the 2011 Homecoming Royalty Court and was the recipient of the 2011 Keeper of the Creed scholarship. He has served as the chair of the Office of Student Involvement Board of Student Directors and as the student director of Knights of the RoundTable for the past two years where he developed the KnightQuest program to promote student involvement across campus. He volunteered in the community through Florida Virtual School, Knight-Thon and Walt Disney World Marathon.

### *Colton's UCF Experience:*

After four years as a UCF Knight, I look at who I was as a freshman and who I am today, and can say with confidence that I am the product of my UCF experience. The leadership roles, focus on scholarship, and enthusiasm for student growth that UCF fosters has shaped me into the individual that I have become. Through my classes, I learned to stay true to my passions to ensure that I am enjoying everything I do. It was in one of my literature classes that I conducted my Veteran's History Project that has since been published in the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. Through my involvement on campus, I learned a tremendous amount about myself as both a person and as a leader. I developed the KnightQuest program to promote this same development and growth in future student leaders who will no doubt continue to work towards improving our campus and community. I was able to give back to my community by tutoring Florida Virtual School students and interning with FLVS as a student teacher. This experience allowed me to blend my passions for literature and education while enabling me to have a positive impact on the lives of others.



## TATIANA VIECCO

Tatiana is a member of The Burnett Honors College and is an industrial engineering major in the College of Engineering and Computer Science. She was born and raised in Colombia and moved to the United States at the age of 15. She attended Seminole State College graduating Summa Cum Laude with an A.A. degree. She is a recipient of the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship and a member of the McNair Scholars Program. She works as a peer mentor for the PRIME STEM Project, is an active member of the Industrial Engineering Honor Society Alpha Pi Mu, and participates in leadership roles such as president of the Institute of Industrial Engineers (2011-12). She enjoys sharing her culture by performing folklore dances with the Colombian Student Association and volunteering her time with STEM outreach programs and foundations like “Niños Por Un Nuevo Planeta” in Colombia.



Tatiana Viecco  
Bogota, Colombia

### ***Tatiana's UCF Experience:***

When I transferred to UCF, I knew I had incredible possibilities ahead of me, and today I can proudly say that it was my initiative, drive and the unconditional support from family, mentors and friends that not only helped me see these opportunities but aided me in making them my reality. UCF opened the door for me to pursue research and professional development while receiving an outstanding education in my major. UCF provided me the opportunity to become a McNair Scholar, an honor that helped me feel confident in pursuing a career in academia as a guide and mentor as a university professor. UCF has also offered me the opportunity to develop professionally. My involvement in the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and the Institute of Industrial Engineers has granted me countless networking opportunities through state and national conferences, social, and volunteering events. My involvement with IIE, as well as other organizations, guided me to make a difference by mentoring students in and outside of UCF. As a mentor for the PRIME STEM Project, I have led by example, inspiring underrepresented students to continue their undergraduate education in the STEM fields and to think bigger about their dreams and possibilities.

### ***Future Plans:***

I plan on attending graduate school, pursuing a Ph.D. in industrial engineering and then a career in teaching.



## Prior Recipients

### CLASS OF 2011

Aaron Alva  
Keristen Black  
Melissa Blette  
Jacqueline Boehme  
Ashley Curry  
Brennan Dobbins  
Ashley Ewh  
Adam Giery  
Kumail Merchant  
Michelle Messina  
Anika Mirick  
Jasmine Rosa  
Stephen "Kyle" Schumacher  
Kyle Simpson  
Rachael Spangenberg  
Gabrielle Swaby  
Sylvia Torres-Thomas  
Zachary Walker

### CLASS OF 2010

Anthony Battaglia  
Jennifer Bazemore  
Natalia Marques da Silva  
Amber Dukes  
Brenna Egan  
Shelly Frick  
Timothy Harnden  
Lisa Kipersztok  
Stephanie Koffler  
Andrea Long  
Carla McKnight  
Stephanie Neubert  
Lauren Rehm  
Patrick Stauffer  
Sergio Tafur  
Miguel Ubiles

### 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 Bleczynski  
Naomi Brownstein  
Courtney Douglass  
Christopher "Kit" Fuhrman  
David Givens  
Brandie Hollinger  
Nicola Johnson  
Cassandra Long  
Meghan NeSmith  
Ana Suarez  
Evelyn Tonn  
Rachel Wasserman  
Zephyr Wilkins  
Julie Zimmerman

### CLASS OF 2006

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

## Prior Recipients continued

CLASS OF 2005  
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 2004  
Marshal Blessing  
Andrei Boyarshinov  
Anne Cecil  
Laura Creegan  
Haydee Cuevas  
Helen Gelber  
Barry Kudrowitz  
Alexis Miseyko  
Amanda Ramos  
Charles Reuter  
Lisa Wall  
Gabriela Wolf

CLASS OF 2003  
Jacann 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  
Ti'eshia 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.

## 2012 Order of Pegasus Selection Committee

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Dr. Stacey Malaret, Student Leadership Development, Chair

Mr. Karl Sooder, College of Business Administration

Dr. Nancy L. Marshall, Office of The President

Dr. Vivian Ortiz, Student Development and Enrollment Services

Dr. Carolyn Walker-Hopp, College of Education and Order of Pegasus, Class of 2001

Dr. Michael D. Hampton, College of Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies

Ms. DeLaine Priest, Student Development and Enrollment Services

Ms. Kelly Astro, The Burnett Honors College

## Order of Pegasus 2012 booklet

designed by

Judy Pardo

Student Development and Enrollment Services

