

ORDER *of* PEGASUS

CLASS OF 2011



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.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Spring 2011



Dear Friend of the University:

It is my pleasure to introduce the 2011 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, eighteen 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

ASHLEY CURRY

M.D. PROGRAM

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, CHARTER CLASS

ADAM GIERY

HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY STUDIES

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

ANIKA MIRICK

M.D. PROGRAM

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, CHARTER CLASS

SYLVIA TORRES-THOMAS

NURSING

COLLEGE OF NURSING

ZACHARY WALKER

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

ASHLEY CURRY



Lewistown, Pennsylvania

Ashley is an M.D. Program candidate in the UCF College of Medicine. A member of the Charter Class, she is a student representative for the M.D. Program Curriculum Committee and the Student Self-Study Committee for licensing and accreditation of the medical school. She is former administrative vice president for the M.D. Program Student Council and a founding member of the Family Medicine Interest Group. She is active in her local community as a volunteer at free health clinics for the underserved, and abroad as a founding member of a service-learning trip for medical students to the Dominican Republic. Her research focuses on vision care habits of individuals with diabetic retinopathy, and she plans to work with Lighthouse Central Florida to use her findings to promote independence for individuals with vision loss. She also enjoys running half-marathons, rock climbing, scuba diving and medical adventure racing.

Future Plans:

After graduation, I plan to enter a residency in primary care and continue to be active in community service both locally and abroad.

Ashley's UCF Experience:

UCF allowed me to pursue medicine for passion, not profit, and passion is the sentiment that echoes in the halls of our new medical education building. I have always valued learning, human interaction, and service, but I feared the rigors of medical education would leave me jaded and I would lose myself in the process of building my future career. What I found at UCF was a community of physicians and scientists that has not only kept my education on the cutting-edge of science and medical innovation, but also nurtured the human side of caring for patients. I learned in order to care for patients, physicians must first care for themselves. UCF nurtured my development as a person and a physician-to-be, with ethical discussions to emphasize the importance of physician integrity, new and creative learning modalities to challenge me academically, and opportunities for local and international service to emphasize the importance of community. UCF's drive for excellence inspires me to work to become the best physician for my patients, and perhaps even live up to the expectation that Dr. German extends to all students: to become the future surgeon generals, Mother Teresas and Nobel prize winners of the 21st century.

ADAM GIERY

Adam is a master's degree student in the Higher Education and Policy Studies program in the College of Education. His graduate work focuses on developing programs that promote student success. He is currently representing UCF as a Gubernatorial Fellow working for the Department of Education in Tallahassee, Florida. During his tenure at UCF, he developed a Study Union program, the "Black Gold & Green" sustainability initiative, and was instrumental in the implementation of the Student Enhancement Training program. In 2010, he was awarded the Student Development and Enrollment Services Operational Excellence Award. In addition, the Association of College Unions International awarded him the 2009 Brightest Idea Award for the Study Union program. He earned his B.S. in Social Science Secondary Education from UCF in 2008 and was on the College of Education Dean's List. He volunteers with the Second Harvest Food Bank and Warm Hearts Coat Drive.



Smithtown, New York

Adam's UCF Experience:

UCF played a vital role in my emotional, psychological, spiritual, educational, and ethical development. The opportunity to explore my core values shaped me into the individual I am today. My professors were willing to delve into the deepest of topics and the diversity of my fellow students served to broaden my horizons. Involvement outside the classroom in Student Government further magnified my passion for serving others and I truly began to explore my creativity and established my "can do" personality. As a graduate student, I developed a zeal for creating educationally-based programs and used my talents to impact UCF. Furthermore, my involvement in a variety of student groups and activities such as Study Union molded me into the leader I am today, and my volunteer experiences broadened my understanding of benevolence. I collaborated in the development of the Knights Helping Knights Pantry providing food, clothing, and support services to students in need, and created the "Black Gold & Green" sustainability campaign focusing on recycling on campus. As a leader in my graduate program, I orchestrated the development of the first online comprehensive examination platform through my use of campus partnerships. Finally, in my current role, I am representing UCF in Tallahassee as a Gubernatorial Fellow.

Future Plans:

After graduation, I plan on attending law school where I aspire to couple my passion for education and my interest in law in a career in educational policy.

ANIKA MIRICK



Wausau, Wisconsin

Anika is a second-year M.D. Program candidate in the College of Medicine. She received her A.B. in Neuroscience from Dartmouth College. After graduating, she spent two years working at the National Institutes of Health as a coordinator for two large-scale cancer sequencing projects. Her latest research efforts include improving the delivery of pediatric resuscitation medications. She has been involved in two Nature publications, numerous presentations, and was invited to lecture about genomics at Dartmouth College. As a member of the UCF College of Medicine Charter Class, she served on the founding Curriculum Committee and Student Professional Conduct Committee. She recently traveled to Port-au-Prince, Haiti to volunteer after the 2010 Earthquake. With the help of two classmates and her scholarship sponsor, Dr. Clarence Brown, she was able to arrange life-saving treatment for a young man with leukemia at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Orlando.

Future Plans:

My passion is oncology and I plan on pursuing a career in academic medicine and hope to maintain a clinical practice while conducting research and teaching.

Anika's UCF Experience:

At UCF, community donors have made it possible to attend a medical school where students pioneer new roles in medical education and where the environment is both instructive and collaborative. The support of the school has facilitated my involvement in experiences which have demonstrated to me that it is possible to make a difference in the world. While volunteering in Haiti after the earthquake, I learned to work in disaster situations and had the opportunity to care for a young man with advanced leukemia. His situation was dire as he had no access to the treatment that could keep him alive. My scholarship donor demonstrated the best of medicine and helped me arrange for the man's care at his facility in Orlando. In the whirlwind of medical education, it is easy to lose sight of the possibilities inherent in practicing medicine – the ability to change people's lives for the better. UCF is teaching me what it means to be a physician – the compassion, generosity, and collaborative spirit it takes to build a community from its foundation and to apply this same integrity to every patient and colleague with whom we interact.

SYLVIA TORRES-THOMAS

Sylvia is a Ph.D. nursing candidate in the College of Nursing. She received her M.S. in nursing from UCF and her B.S. in nursing from Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan. She is the recipient of the Drs. Linda M. and E. Glenn Hennig, Jr. Endowed Scholarship. She presently serves as the vice president of the Organization of Doctoral Students in Nursing at UCF and holds memberships in Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society, the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, Delta Epsilon Iota, and Phi Kappa Phi. Service to her community includes work as a volunteer nurse for Shepherd's Hope and extensive involvement in family and children's ministries in her church. She has presented her work at a national conference in Washington, DC and has participated in National Institute of Health funded research.



Winter Springs, Florida

Sylvia's UCF Experience:

My educational experience at UCF intensified my passion for scholarship, magnified my commitment to community service, and heightened my desire to achieve excellence. Having gained more than 20 years of hands-on direct patient care experience prior to beginning graduate studies, I originally envisioned my formal education would terminate with a master's degree and teaching nursing at a community college. During my master's education, I was inspired to expand my educational goals to include a much broader vision for my future. Pivotal in my education was encouragement from UCF nursing professors who urged me to pursue a doctoral degree. As a doctoral student, I have had the privilege of participating in NIH funded research and developed creative strategies for working with middle school girls. My commitment to scholarship and excellence resulted in an invitation to present at the 35th annual meeting of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses in Washington, DC. My community service contributions have significantly impacted the lives of others providing health services for the uninsured, extensive leadership service and involvement with families and health outreach programs in my church. UCF has provided me with tremendous educational opportunities to expand my vision of scholarship and excellence while contributing to the local and national communities.

Future Plans:

As a nurse educator, I plan to teach and mentor nursing students; as a nurse researcher, I plan to make contributions to nursing science in the area of Hispanic health issues.

ZACHARY WALKER



Wichita, Kansas

Zachary is a Ph.D. candidate in the College of Education. He is a Project LEAD Scholar in exceptional education and a recipient of a Provost Fellowship. His dissertation research focuses on technological innovations and their impact on social and functional skill training for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. He is an active member of the Council for Exceptional Children, Division of Career Development and Transition, Teacher Education Division, and Students for International Teaching and Education. He is the founder of Students for the Poor, a national organization dedicated to providing young people life-changing experiences through international service work. He received his B.S. in Health and Human Development from Penn State University, his M.B.A. from Pittsburg State University, and his M.Ed. from the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

Zachary's UCF Experience:

My educational experience at UCF invigorated my love of learning, bolstered my awareness of the possibilities in the field of special education, and deepened my understanding of both personal and professional success. My impact in leadership, scholarship, and service is demonstrated through my commitment to providing students the opportunity to experience a global education, advocating for those who are underrepresented in educational settings, and working to develop teachers currently in the classroom. My leadership in service learning may be best demonstrated by the \$24,000 I raised to send UCF students on a service journey to Jamaica. Participants had the opportunity to build a house, visit schools and orphanages, and see educational conditions drastically different than what we have in the U.S. It is fulfilling to provide students meaningful learning opportunities beyond our traditional culture, classroom, and economic condition. In addition to my leadership in service, I impact scholarship by participating in state, regional, and national presentations as well as serving my local community at UCF. I try to serve UCF and the greater Orlando community in many ways and I am proud to have had the opportunities so to do.

Future Plans:

I plan on pursuing a career in higher education enabling me to advocate on behalf of students who are underrepresented in educational settings, engage in the professional development of teachers in the K-12 schools, and continue to support young adults in service work here and abroad.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

AARON ALVA

POLITICAL SCIENCE

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

KERISTEN BLACK

MANAGEMENT

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

MELISSA BLETTE

MARKETING, INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

JACQUELINE BOEHME

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND MICROBIOLOGY

BURNETT SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

BRENNAN DOBBINS

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

ASHLEY EWH

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

KUMAIL MERCHANT

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND MICROBIOLOGY

BURNETT SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

MICHELLE MESSINA

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

JASMINE ROSA

GENERAL BUSINESS

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

STEPHEN “KYLE” SCHUMACHER

FINANCE

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

KYLE SIMPSON

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND MICROBIOLOGY

BURNETT SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

RACHAEL SPANGENBERG

ENGLISH LITERATURE

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

GABRIELLE SWABY

FRENCH

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

AARON ALVA

Aaron is a political science major in the College of Sciences and is minoring in Secure Computing and Networks. He serves as the technology chair on the President's Leadership Council and is a former LEAD Scholar. He is on the President's Honor Roll and Dean's List. He was an active member in the Student Government Association, serving in governmental affairs. He has conducted cyber security research at the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory for the past four years. His internships in cyber security have included the Cyber Conflict Studies Association and the Center for Information Assurance and Cyber Security in Seattle. He volunteers with UCF Relay for Life, Children's Home Society of Florida, and the Orlando Heart Walk.



West Richland, Washington

Aaron's UCF Experience:

I moved from Washington State to become a UCF Knight leaving friends and family behind. UCF became my family and the inclusiveness and wealth of opportunities have strengthened me as an individual and prepared me for the future. My educational experiences impacted my purpose in merging excellence and creativity. I have a passion for cyber security and intend to use that passion to implement law into cyber space. The field of cyber law is in its formative stages and demands that practitioners constantly devise innovative approaches. In my Secure Computing classes, I was challenged with creative projects such as designing a new concept for a cryptographic cipher and developing secure policies for small information networks. Mentorships with experts and UCF professors have been invaluable and these connections allowed me to be creatively engaged in my field. Being honored in information assurance research by the Department of Energy and receiving Outstanding Performance Awards at a National Laboratory are recognitions I have humbly received in my area thanks to these mentorships. UCF does stand for opportunity, and the impact this institution had on my professional and personal formation will always stay with me.

Future Plans:

I plan on attending graduate school for a master's degree in information management and a Juris Doctorate at the University of Washington for a career in cyber law.

KERISTEN BLACK



Navarre, Florida

Keristen is a management and entrepreneurship major in the College of Business Administration. She is a former LEAD Scholar and a current member of the President's Leadership Council. She has also served on the SDES Student Advisory Council, the Inspire Young Women's Leadership Program, as an Orientation team leader, and a SARC tutor. She is a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, and is a Pegasus Scholar. She has spent much of her college career traveling abroad, exploring more than 20 countries. She plans to add six countries and a new continent to that list before 2012. She serves her community through Junior Achievement, the Walk Now for Autism Speaks, Orlando Heart Walk, Helpings Hands, Thinking Caps, arts and music festivals, and various vocal performances.

Keristen's UCF Experience:

My greatest desire in life is to become a living symbol of the principles I cherish most, distinguishably. Throughout my outstanding journey as a UCF student, much has taken place within me to bring me closer to this goal. The primary source of my personal growth springs from educational experiences inside and outside the classroom. As a student, I formed a wealth of interpersonal relationships which influenced my nature and personality. UCF provided an extraordinary opportunity for me to interact with my peers, faculty and staff, executive staff, community members and world leaders. Through these opportunities, I had the chance to learn, share, grow, practice, fail, pick myself up and learn all over again the values of patience, humility and service. My dedication to enhancing the lives of others was amplified through examples set by my mentors. Watching our university leaders give so much, I was infected with the desire to do the same. Without the opportunity to build and learn from these relationships, my experiences would be much less substantial and my values would not be such a significant part of who I am today. UCF provided me a lifetime of wisdom in just four short years, and these experiences have been the catalyst to share my value for service with my peers.

Future Plans:

I will be pursuing my entrepreneurial dreams with a career at EF Education First, an international education corporation specializing in language training, educational travel, academic degree programs, and cultural exchange.

MELISSA BLETTE

Melissa is a marketing major in the College of Business Administration and an interdisciplinary studies major in Undergraduate Studies. She is on the President's Honor Roll and Dean's List, completed an Honors in the Major thesis, is a member of The Burnett Honors College, and is a former LEAD Scholar. She self-funded her college education by earning over \$60,000 in merit scholarships from various sources. She serves as a leader in organizations including President's Leadership Council, Collegiate DECA, Golden Key International Honour Society, Phi Beta Lambda, Towers Area Council, and Omicron Delta Kappa. She has given back to her community by volunteering with Relay for Life, Books for BBQ, Threshold Center for Autism, and Junior Achievement. She developed her marketing skills through internships with Mr. Youth Advertising Agency and Procter & Gamble, Nurse on Call, and the UCF Convocation Corporation.



Coral Springs, Florida

Melissa's UCF Experience:

The decision to attend UCF was the most impactful choice I have ever made. Everything I've learned at UCF has enabled me to fulfill my potential as a leader, positively changing the course of my life in a way I never could have anticipated. UCF's personalized touch provided unique leadership and academic opportunities, and it not only felt like the right school, it felt like a second home. I've tackled 17 credit hours per semester while leading in the President's Leadership Council, marketing competitions, residence hall councils, and other organizations. I truly believe I'm positively contributing to the UCF community to the best of my ability. I've succeeded academically, gained leadership experiences, and mentored others. I recently published my Honors in the Major thesis, something few marketing students have accomplished, and I encourage others to pursue undergraduate research endeavors. I co-presented UCF Chapter's Books for BBQ Service Project at the 2010 Golden Key International Honour Society Summit Service Showcase, receiving second place honors for best presentation and a service project that can be applied anywhere. At UCF, I've succeeded academically, gained leadership experiences, and mentored others.

Future Plans:

I plan on earning an MBA and pursuing a challenging career in marketing that will allow me to use my leadership skills and creative thinking and inspire others to cultivate their passions and pursue their dreams.

JACQUELINE BOEHME



Orlando, Florida

Jacqueline 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. Her ultimate goal is to attend medical school and specialize in pediatric cardiology. She is a National Merit Hispanic Scholar and has participated in biomedical research for three years, including stem cell therapy for heart failure and bacterial toxin research. For the past three years, she has volunteered at Shepherd's Hope free clinic in Oviedo. In 2009, she was awarded the President's Scholars Program, and she not only enjoyed the study abroad experience, but also took the initiative to start a volunteerism and medical donations project. This year, she was crowned Miss UCF 2011. She intends to fully pursue her platform, "The Power of One," and to represent the university at the Miss Florida Scholarship Pageant this summer.

Future Plans:

After graduation, I plan to earn a certificate in nonprofit management before continuing on to medical school to specialize in pediatric cardiology.

Jacqueline's UCF Experience:

As a freshman, it seemed UCF was made just for me offering academic challenges, options for growth, service possibilities, and support. I certainly honored education as an integral part of my involvement with the UCF community, and as a result, I excelled in and out of the classroom with biomedical research as my primary scholarly concentration. In the stem cell research and bacterial toxin labs, I was able to help build UCF's repertoire by working with scientists focused on curing prominent diseases. I was humbled by becoming UCF's marketing academic representative where I spoke on behalf of the university in freshman orientation videos, and was featured on the university homepage, Viewbook, and Facebook. With this visible position, I helped convey the idea even those of us with the most modest of origins can excel in a scholarly setting and achieve their dreams. With the Honors College President's Scholars Program, I studied abroad and created my own public health project in St. Kitts; I earned the trust of community donors in the U.S. and received both monetary donations and supplies to create the vision of my public health event. While such a project turned out to be much more difficult than initially assumed, the lessons I learned from it were infinite.

BRENNAN DOBBINS

Brennan is a mechanical engineering major in the College of Engineering and Computer Science. He is a member of the UCF Baseball team, was on the C-USA and UCF Athletic Director's honor rolls, and was the UCF representative to attend the NCAA Student-Athlete Development Conference. He served as the vice president for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee as well as the UCF representative to the Conference USA Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. He was awarded the Dr. Richard Lapchick Award and the C-USA Sportsmanship Award. He has volunteered with Knights Give Back, Miracle League, Walk Now for Autism Speaks, UCF Athletes Haiti Relief, Junior Achievement, Adopt a Family, C-USA 'Let's SAAC Hunger' Food Drive, and the Central Florida Children's Home.



Longwood, Florida

Brennan's UCF Experience:

My UCF education has been an enormous influence on both my nature and character. The College of Engineering and Computer Science helped me to develop the technical mindset that has invoked discipline, hard work, and perseverance into everyday life. The support of faculty and friends in classes helped me to conquer each challenge with an assertive and open mind. I am someone driven to excellence in every academic and athletic endeavor, and that ambition is fostered through my learning experiences and exposure to others. My UCF education has instilled both honesty and integrity through my relationships with faculty, classmates, and teammates. Being able to represent UCF athletics on the field and in the academic community is a great honor, and I take pride in developing a positive reputation for other athletes that will follow in the engineering program. It's my hope that the term "Student-Athlete" will be personified with great respect and admiration at UCF and in the community. I can honestly say I am excited about the possibilities quickly approaching after graduation. Education is the staple of our society and a UCF education has truly provided me with ample opportunities for the future.

Future Plans:

Following graduation, I plan on pursuing a career in mechanical engineering with aspirations of starting my own engineering firm.

ASHLEY EWH



Melbourne, Florida

Future Plans:

Following graduation, I will pursue a master's degree in materials science and engineering at UCF followed by a Ph.D. in order to eventually become a professor.

Ashley is a member of The Burnett Honors College and is a mechanical engineering major in the College of Engineering and Computer Science. She is a research assistant studying solid-state diffusion in the laboratory of Materials and Coatings for Extreme Environments within the Advanced Materials Processing and Analysis Center. She received the Astronaut Foundation Scholarship and the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship for research and academic excellence. She has published articles in scientific journals and has presented at several international materials science conferences. She participated in an internship at Idaho National Laboratory in the Materials and Fuels Complex. She volunteers with STEM outreach programs, such as Society of Women Engineer's Sweet College Day, Expand Your Horizons, and Materials Camp to encourage young men and women to pursue careers in science and engineering.

Ashley's UCF Experience:

I experienced a true education at UCF. Through my classes and research, I developed my intelligence and character. The course work that I have taken made me think intensively, not only because of the complicated math and science involved in engineering, but also because of the curiosity it has developed within me. Traveling nationally and internationally presenting research to the scientific community helped me grow as a speaker and become more confident as a person. As an undergraduate research assistant, I conducted "hands-on" research in materials science, presented my work at several national and international conferences, and published in various scientific journals. Research enhanced my critical thinking skills and delved past the surface, digging deeper to innovate and problem solve. As a senior researcher in my lab group, I am responsible for training co-workers which further develops my leadership and teaching skills. One of my goals is to motivate other students like my peers or the primary and secondary school students that I mentor in outreach programs. Some students I have mentored are now attending UCF's engineering program and due to my inspiration are involved in research. I feel that if I have encouraged even a few people to pursue engineering or science majors, I have truly made an impact.

KUMAIL MERCHANT

Kumail is a molecular biology and microbiology major in the Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences with a minor in psychology. He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Golden Key International Honour Society, Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society, and Delta Epsilon Iota Honor Society. He is a member of The Burnett Honors College, a former LEAD Scholar, and was the Academic Liaison for the UCF Pre-Professional Medical Society. He volunteers with organizations such as the Coalition for the Homeless, Shepherd's Hope, and Junior Achievement. He has conducted undergraduate research on diabetes and stem cells, was an Anatomy Lab teaching assistant, and is currently in the PILOT program. He is working as a scribe in the Florida Hospital Emergency Room, and plans to start medical school in the fall in the UCF College of Medicine.



Orlando, Florida

Kumail's UCF Experience:

The knowledge and experiences I gained at UCF laid the foundation for who I am as a student and person. As a LEAD Scholar and through The Burnett Honors College, I was fortunate enough to take eye-opening and insightful classes. One of my most impressive courses was "Leadership and Homelessness." I was introduced to the problems and challenges of homelessness for individuals and our community, and worked on several projects proposing creative solutions. Transportation is a barrier for homeless adults so we proposed a transportation system to employ homeless individuals as drivers and provide free transportation. Several of my classes broadened my horizons and changed the way I looked at the world. In Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases, I learned about public health policy and the effect of healthcare limitations on the impoverished. This and other courses within my major of molecular biology and microbiology prepared me for my future as a UCF College of Medicine student by imparting knowledge and teaching me the importance of open-mindedness. The sum of my educational experiences molded me into the intelligent, compassionate, and broadminded individual I am today. UCF has given me so much over the last four years that I feel privileged to say I have been able give back through my leadership and service.

Future Plans:

I have been accepted and plan to attend the UCF College of Medicine and then practice as a physician in the Central Florida area.

MICHELLE MESSINA



Orlando, Florida

Michelle is an interdisciplinary studies major in Undergraduate Studies and is minoring in English and leadership studies. She is a former LEAD Scholar, and a member of The Burnett Honors College, Golden Key International Honour Society, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and Order of Omega. She is the recipient of the SGA Campus Involvement Scholarship, the SGA Board of Trustees Scholarship, and the University Club of Orlando Scholarship. She is a current member of the President's Leadership Council, Undergraduate Studies Advisory Board, Student Government Association Judicial Council, Student Conduct Review Board, Alpha Delta Pi Sorority, and 4Ever Knights. In addition, she was the 2010 UCF Homecoming Queen. She is on the President's Honor Roll and Dean's List. Her volunteer service includes the Ronald McDonald House Charities, Junior Achievement, Relay for Life, and March of Dimes.

Future Plans:

After graduation, I will be attending law school and plan to work in the field of corporate law.

Michelle's UCF Experience:

My interdisciplinary degree allowed me to think critically in ways a traditional discipline does not, and my areas of study afforded the opportunity to take a wide range of classes. Because this discipline extends beyond the academic realm, it helped me take a step back and make the best decisions possible in my life. This translates into my character and nature making me a more practical and realistic person. Educational capability happens outside the classroom and my campus and community involvement enriched my life through hands-on experiences and created a culture of giving back. I nurtured new Knights through mentoring experiences such as the Orientation Team, Panhellenic Recruitment, and the President's Leadership Council. I believe as Knights, we are committed to ensuring their success as students and vested members of the community. I feel what you learn inside the classroom provides a foundation for morals, ethics, and values that is shown through action. My personality showcases the results of my academic education and involvement. UCF helped me become the person I am today and I am grateful.

JASMINE ROSA

Jasmine is a general business major in the College of Business Administration and is a Nonprofit Fellow in the Certification in Nonprofit Management program, College of Health and Public Affairs. She is the president of Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc., a member of Circle K International, the Hispanic American Student Association, and Order of Omega. She is the recipient of the President's Student Diversity and Leadership Award, the President's Honor Roll, and Dean's List. She has worked with Multicultural Academic and Support Services and studied abroad in Europe. She was a part of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute and the Latinas Learning to Lead program in Washington, DC. She actively volunteers with the Boys & Girls Clubs, Upward Bound, Homeless Coalition, American Cancer Society, and Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.



New York, New York

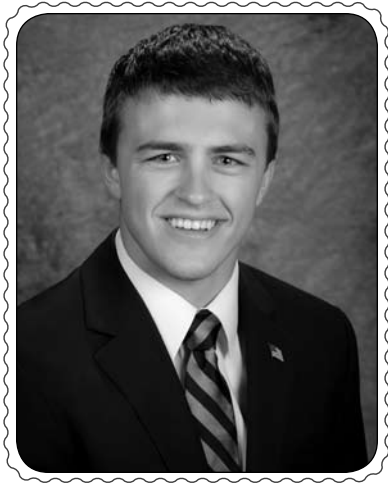
Jasmine's UCF Experience:

My UCF experience influenced me first and foremost by teaching me to never give up. I learned not to quit because while failure is temporary, quitting is permanent. Being a Knight is truly a blessing, and I appreciate everything I've learned. Although I may not have liked it at the time, the challenging team projects and individual assignments taught me a valuable lesson and helped me immensely with public speaking. UCF taught me to give back academically by always striving for academic achievement even in the most challenging of classes. I applied what I learned in the classroom by working with nonprofit organizations in the community and being active in my campus organizations. I motivated my peers to a higher level of academic excellence by partaking in research and taking higher level classes. With this motivation comes the leadership to make a difference in people's lives, be a role model to my peers, and show the world what it is to be a true Knight. Dedication and commitment were two of the words I lived by while at UCF. I was always passionate in my organizations which led other people to become passionate, dedicated, and committed. Caring is my way of life and serving the community is my career goal.

Future Plans:

I plan on attending graduate school for a master's in business administration followed by a career in the nonprofit sector.

STEPHEN “KYLE” SCHUMACHER



Niceville, Florida

Future Plans:

I plan to pursue a master's of business administration shortly after graduation, and ultimately become a successful entrepreneur and civic leader.

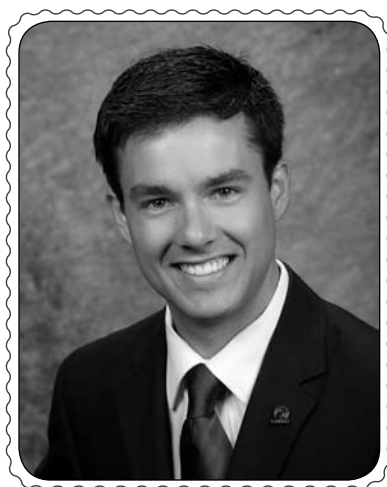
Kyle is a member of The Burnett Honors College and is a finance major in the College of Business Administration. He is a proud brother of Delta Upsilon International Fraternity and active member of the President's Leadership Council. He also served as president of the Interfraternity Council, and in 2009, he was selected as the University of Central Florida's Homecoming King. As a Burnett Honors College President's Scholar, he studied abroad in St. Kitts and Nevis in the Caribbean. He has been involved in numerous community initiatives including Junior Achievement and College Shadow Day. His professional collegiate experiences include running his own business, serving as an intern for the White House, and working as a finance intern at a local Fortune 100 company.

Stephen's UCF Experience:

UCF provided me an unparalleled educational experience both inside and outside of the classroom leaving a lasting impact on my character. Within hours of stepping onto campus, I developed relationships with peers and faculty that would forever expand my intellectual horizons. Inside the classroom, I attained knowledge directly related to my future goals. Outside the classroom, I became well versed in skills such as time management and interpersonal relationships. As a campus leader, I had the privilege of being exposed to the finer aspects and challenges of leadership. Over the past four years, the UCF community was always willing to give me constructive advice and encouragement. Most importantly, the UCF community provided me with the skills to succeed and the humility to ensure I help others do the same. I strived to lead by example scholastically by retaining a competitive GPA and remaining intellectually curious. As Interfraternity Council president, I led our group to raise the minimum GPA to a 2.8, understanding that effective leaders must have scholarship as a concrete priority. During my tenure, I brought leaders together to help rebuild New Orleans and united the fraternities to "Tailgate for the Team and Troops." I am confident these will become lasting traditions that will leave a positive impact in the community for years to come.

KYLE SIMPSON

Kyle 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. He served as a resident assistant for the Department of Housing and Residence Life, student health specialist for the Student Government Association, and Burnett Honors College peer ambassador. He currently serves as chair of the President's Leadership Council. He is a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity where he has held roles as the public relations chair and the recruitment chair. He has also been a committee member of the Student Insurance Work Group where he advocated for affordable and effective student health insurance policies. He has volunteered in the community through Junior Achievement, Relay for Life, Orlando Heart Walk, and Walt Disney World Marathon.



Brandon, Florida

Kyle's UCF Experience:

My UCF experience created lifelong friends, a degree from a highly regarded university, and the confidence to move into the next chapter of my life knowing I have been prepared for success. My leadership roles included selection to the prestigious President's Leadership Council where I later served as chair. As a Peer Ambassador, I had the privilege of helping incoming honor students become acclimated to the campus and enroll for their classes giving me an opportunity to mentor them in making the most of their UCF experience. As a resident assistant, I hosted interactive programs aimed at familiarizing and informing residents about the many benefits that accompany being a student. This allowed me to express my creativity and passion for helping people. I became active in Student Government serving as the Student Health Specialist and was able to exercise my enjoyment of health sciences while advocating for students' rights. During my time at UCF, dedication and contribution to community service led me to positively affect scholarship, leadership and service communities, and I have learned to value the acquisition of knowledge. I take great pride in knowing I will always be a part of the UCF community.

Future Plans:

I plan on attending the University of Alabama-Birmingham School of Optometry where I will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to become a successful optometrist.

RACHAEL SPANGENBERG



Oviedo, Florida

Future Plans:

Graduated in December 2010 and plans on attending graduate school to pursue a master's degree in education while continuing to teach high school English.

Rachael received her B.A. in English literature in the College of Arts and Humanities in 2010 and is currently enrolled in the Gifted Education Certificate Program in the College of Education. She was on the Dean's List and was a member of Golden Key International Honour Society. She received the UCF Alumni President's Scholarship and Junior Achievement's "Heroes Among Us" Award. She was a member of The Burnett Honors College, serving as a team leader and peer ambassador. She was on the President's Leadership Council, and served as vice president of Sigma Phi Lambda. She volunteered with Junior Achievement, tutored for Page 15, UCF Relay for Life, and participated in Alternative Spring Break with Habitat for Humanity. She served on mission trips to Haiti and South Africa, and helped establish a scholarship program for high school students in Swaziland.

Rachael's UCF Experience:

My educational experience at UCF has challenged my worldview, strengthened my understanding of community, and developed a character of compassion and commitment. My English professors inspired me to be critically engaged with the world around me and to develop and instill in others a passion and commitment to learning. My involvement in serving local and international classrooms and the desire and influence of my professors inspired me to pursue a career in education, sharing my thirst for knowledge, understanding, and exploration of self and others through reading and writing. UCF taught me that success is based not only on excelling in academics, but on expanding your involvement into active organizations and engaged communities. As my ideas and passion for education grew, I organized a scholarship program in Swaziland for at-risk students to afford high school. Thirteen students began high school this January and I plan to continue my commitment to raise funds and awareness for these students long after my career at UCF ends. I believe differences are made by investing in the human relationships that hold communities together. My commitment to developing UCF's future leaders challenged me to dedicate myself in assisting them in academic and personal challenges.

GABRIELLE SWABY

Gabrielle is a French and environmental studies track double major in the College of Arts and Humanities, and interdisciplinary studies, Undergraduate Studies, with an international and global studies minor. She placed first at the Outstanding Student Speaker Competition in 2008, and is on the President's Honor Roll and Dean's List. She is vice president for Pi Delta Phi National French Honors Society, on the Multicultural Student Center Executive Board, and has been involved with the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Caribbean Students Association and Student Advocacy Council. She is a certified tutor with the Mathematics Assistance and Learning Lab, and has participated in research with the Global Perspectives Office as an intern and a Chastang Global Fellow. She has volunteered with the "Black Gold & Green" sustainability initiative, Arboretum, Knights Give Back, and Ronald McDonald House.



Kingston, Jamaica

Gabrielle's UCF Experience:

UCF allowed me to grow and flourish into the goal-oriented person I am today. Earning two degrees in four years was demanding, but my passion for French and environmental science allowed me to meet the challenge. I constantly strive for achievement and excellence because I believe higher education is a privilege. Through organizations and community service, I learned how to be an effective leader and citizen in my community. Through my membership on the Multicultural Student Center Funding Board, I learned how to manage a \$110,000 budget, plan events, and foster dynamic relationships among agencies. Although I am thriving academically, I understand success does not depend solely on scholastic achievement. It is important to build positive changes that will last and I think my role as an algebra tutor has allowed me to fulfill that goal. It is very rewarding to witness the triumph students feel as they discover their potential. When the light goes on, it's all worth it. With the Student Union's "Black Gold & Green" campaign, I co-organized and maintained the first composting project to promote sustainability. I have every intention of making the most of my UCF years because I am willing and eager to improve my life and the lives of those around me.

Future Plans:

I plan to pursue a master's degree in international environmental policy to promote sustainability, fight climate change and travel and experience different cultures across the globe.

Prior Recipients

CLASS OF 2010

Shelly Frick
Timothy Harnden
Carla McKnight
Sergio Tafur
Anthony Battaglia
Jennifer Bazemore
Natalia Marques da Silva
Amber Dukes
Brenna Egan
Lisa Kipersztok
Stephanie Koffler
Andrea Long
Stephanie Neubert
Lauren Rehm
Patrick Stauffer
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 Lanzzone
Trenton Scott
Amy Schwartz
Kelly Simonz
Ravi Todi
Alison Valentine

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

Prior Recipients continued

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 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

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





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.

2011 Order of Pegasus Selection Committee

Dr. Stacey Malaret, Student Leadership Development, Chair

Mr. Karl Sooder, College of Business Administration

Dr. Nancy L. Marshall, Office of The President

Mr. Bryan Arnette, Order of Pegasus, Class of 2008

Ms. 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. Veronica Livesay, Student Development and Enrollment Services

Order of Pegasus 2011 booklet

designed by

Judy Pardo

Student Development and Enrollment Services

