

ORDER *of* PEGASUS



CLASS OF 2016



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
DIVISION OF 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.



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Spring 2016



Dear Friend of the University:

It is my pleasure to introduce the 2016 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 service.

This year, 20 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 we hope you join with us in offering our congratulations and best wishes.

Cordially yours,

John C. Hitt
President

SWETHA BARKAM

Swetha Barkam, College of Engineering and Computer Science, is pursuing a doctorate in material science and engineering. She has already co-authored 10 scientific papers in the area of nanotechnology. Her work focuses on investigating sustainable and inexpensive health care solutions for underprivileged populations in developing countries. Her research focus is on the interaction and application of nanoparticles in biology and potential sensors. She is a graduate research assistant and serves as a mentor for undergraduate students through the National Science Foundation's Research Experiences for Undergraduates program. She has won several awards and is a member of several professional societies.

Swetha's UCF Experience:

"As an international student, I have a deep appreciation for the freedom and opportunities in this country. It is at UCF that I conducted cutting-edge research, initiated international research collaborations, and translated an idea from inception to a viable prototype for future commercialization. The research-centric graduate program and the essential helping hands of Dr. Sudipta Seal's group fueled my passion to excel in research. I attended international symposiums that allowed me to develop a professional network, which nurtured my professional personality. The UCF cultural diversity and sense of community inspired my involvement in several student community services. One of my most rewarding experiences was to mentor talented undergraduates in nanotechnology: providing research experience and education far beyond classroom knowledge. I am proud to admit that my mentors and colleagues have never failed to challenge me as a researcher and a leader; making this a highly memorable experience in my life."



Swetha Barkam
Hyderabad (Telangana), India

Future Plans:

Barkam aspires to be an entrepreneur, commercializing research to make sure that technology created in the lab is available for practical use. She hopes to benefit developing countries where there is a dire need for low-cost healthcare solutions.

CHRISTIN GIORDANO



Christin Giordano
Wilton, Connecticut

Christin Giordano, College of Medicine, is earning her medical degree. She is an active member of several academic societies and has also mentored other students pursuing medicine. She was a chief peer academic coach, and serves as a member of the medical school's admissions committee. She has also co-authored six journal articles. She has earned the Academic Excellence Award, the Excellence in Clinical Skills Award and took first place in the Florida American College of Physicians' medical student poster competition.

Christin's UCF Experience:

"UCF stands for opportunity and my experiences demonstrated that, and much more. From my fellow students to the committed and dedicated faculty and staff members, I have been surrounded by individuals who support one another in the endeavor to achieve a common goal: our individual and collective successes. I have been afforded opportunities to pursue funded research, a rare opportunity in medical school, and to serve on a national committee. When my father passed away during my first year, classmates, faculty and staff members surrounded me with love and compassion, which helped me to academically succeed during my time of grief. On my first day of medical school, Dean German asked us to write down our dreams. While interviewing at top internal medicine programs around the country, I recall the words of Thoreau, 'Go confidently in the direction of your dreams'... my dream is to be a future leader in medicine."

Future Plans:

After graduation in May, Giordano intends to begin training in internal medicine with the prospect of subspecializing in nephrology. She plans to remain in academic medicine where she will have the opportunity to teach future physicians, conduct research, and take care of patients.

SARAH GITTO

Sarah Gitto, Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, is a senior Ph.D. graduate student in the cancer biology division. She has worked on myriad research projects studying diseases including pancreatic, ovarian and breast cancer; glioblastoma; diabetes; ALS; and chlamydia. At the Burnett School, Gitto has been a mentor to undergraduate students and a graduate teaching assistant. She also was instrumental in launching a science day for students at Maitland Middle School, organizing a field trip so they could spend a day in a research laboratory. To build a sense of community at the Burnett School, Gitto launched an annual student vs. faculty kickball game and picnic. She is the current vice president and former secretary of the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Student Association, for which she helped create an annual career symposium. She has spent more than 1,000 hours volunteering as a counselor at Camp Boggy Creek, which serves chronically ill children. Gitto wants to become a medical researcher.

Sarah's UCF Experience:

"UCF provided me with the opportunity to grow as a leader and scholar. I have always been encouraged to strive for excellence, ask questions, think critically and creatively, and take risks. With the support of my faculty mentor, Deborah Altomare, I researched a field of upmost importance in improving the lives of those with pancreatic cancer. Due to UCF's excellent research environment, I developed a true sense of excitement and passion for identifying new discoveries and future treatments of diseases. UCF provided limitless opportunities to excel as a biomedical research scientist. I am truly grateful for the experiences, which allowed me to achieve my dreams."



Sarah Gitto
Jupiter, Florida

Future Plans:

Gitto will apply to medical school to follow her career goals of earning a M.D. and Ph.D. Her dream is to discover scientific breakthroughs in medicine and translate her findings from bench to bedside.

JOSEPH “JOEY” GRANT



Joseph Grant
Apopka, Florida

Joseph Grant, College of Business Administration, was a four-year starting letterman for the UCF football team, playing center on the offensive line and serving as team captain. He enrolled as a freshman with the goal of graduating with enough time to complete a master's degree during his athletic career. He earned his baccalaureate degree in three years and was accepted into the DeVos Sports Business Management graduate program. Grant earned two graduate degrees in December: a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Sports Business Management. Grant served two years on both the student-athlete advisory committee and the Leadership Institute in Athletics.

Future Plans:

Grant plans to work diligently in his new role for Johnson and Johnson, creating value and continuing to make a difference in the community.

Joseph's UCF Experience:

“As a second-generation legacy and scholar student-athlete, UCF allowed me to achieve the highest level of my academic ambitions. UCF offered me the access to a sports program that focused on academics as a priority, and the tutelage from institutional leadership such as Dr. Richard Lapchick. My most memorable moments are the times I was given the platform as a student-athlete to make a difference in the community. Through mission trips to New Orleans, hospital visits, and elementary and middle school speaking engagements, I was able to give back to young people and those in need. During my time with the football program, I met lifelong friends and fulfilled my dream of playing college football at a championship level. While under my scholarship, the DeVos program supported my desire to complete two master's degrees and made it possible to achieve my academic goals as an incoming freshman.”

MELISSA WESTBROOK

Melissa Westbrook, College of Health and Public Affairs, is in the dual master's program for nonprofit management and public administration. During her undergraduate career, she served in many roles, including student director of the Multicultural Student Center, vice president of the Pi Psi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and president of Greek Council. She was the former Student Government Association president and served on UCF's Board of Trustees. As a graduate student, she was the region chair for College Leadership Florida and an intern for both Feeding Children Everywhere and the Florida Division of Emergency Management. Westbrook is a graduate assistant for Kerry Welch, Student Development and Enrollment Services, research assistant to Qian Hu, College of Health and Public Affairs, and works on special projects with Olga Bedoya at Global UCF, and is a member of the distinguished President's Leadership Council.

Melissa's UCF Experience:

"The extraordinary lessons that I have learned occurred inside and outside of the classroom. Words cannot express how grateful I am for the faculty and staff members at this university. They dedicate their lives to helping students reach their fullest potential. Through both academic and student affairs environments, I found my passion within international affairs. I developed the skills necessary to articulate and apply a public service perspective towards humanitarian policies. Staff members mentored and helped me to maintain my charismatic personality while developing a unique set of leadership skills. God has blessed me to receive an education from such a distinguished institution and to meet a diverse group of people that I will never forget. I want to spend every day sharing my love and light with the world, changing hearts, and developing a safe place for everyone."



Melissa Westbrook
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Future Plans:

Westbrook desires to find a job in international humanitarian affairs, leading to a career with the United Nations or U.S. Agency for International Development, advocating for fair trade in developing countries as a solution to ending world hunger.

AMY BONILLA TORRES

Amy Bonilla Torres, College of Business Administration, is majoring in finance, with minors in international business and leadership. She has already put that education to work as a student coordinator for UCF's Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, where she supervises a staff of 15. Bonilla Torres is a founding student ambassador for the College of Business Administration, LEAD Scholars Academy student, and serves on the President's Leadership Council.



Amy Bonilla Torres
Orlando, Florida

Future Plans:

Upon graduation, Bonilla Torres will join the Integrated Supply Chain department of Florida Power and Light as a Sourcing Specialist in Juno Beach, FL. She plans to pursue a graduate degree, continue learning languages and work towards a future in global economic development.

Amy's UCF Experience:

"UCF's unique opportunities, only possible through its incredible professors and leadership, acted as the catalyst for my development and growth as a student, professional, and servant leader within our community. UCF has challenged my risk-taking comfort levels, empowered me with the knowledge and tools to own my tomorrow, and the zeal to be a leader in my field that embodies the values of integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence. UCF is a place to do more than complete a degree - it's a place where you can find your niche in the world and your purpose. That is exactly what UCF did for me."

JAMES “JIMMY” BRIGGS

James Briggs, College of Engineering and Computer Science, is majoring in industrial engineering and minoring in engineering leadership. During his time at UCF, Briggs, an Eagle Scout, has been a tutor in the Office of Academic Services for Student-Athletes and a student government senator. He is a member and former president of Sigma Pi Fraternity and the former vice president for recruitment of the UCF Interfraternity Council. Briggs is a member of the The Burnett Honors College and President's Leadership Council.

James' UCF Experience:

“I chose to attend UCF because I wanted to blaze my own trail. In August 2012, I never could have imagined where that trail would go, all of the wonderful experiences I would have, or the amazing people I would encounter. Since then, I have learned so many valuable lessons through my engineering and leadership curricula, and I have learned even more about myself and about life through my relationships with others. By attending UCF, I watched the sun set over the Caribbean Sea, befriended an Olympic athlete, stood For The Kids [Knight-Thon], learned the value of hard work, and discovered the joy as a result of serving others. I am blessed and grateful for the opportunities I have been afforded, and I am excited to see where this trail will take me next.”



James Briggs
St. Petersburg, Florida

Future Plans:

After graduation, Briggs plans to work as a traveling engineering consultant for several years before pursuing a Master of Science in Health Systems or a Master of Business Administration; ultimately becoming an administrator at a children's hospital.

ALEX CARCIENTE MORENO



Alex Carciente Moreno
Caracas, Venezuela

Alex Carciente Moreno, College of Sciences, is majoring in political science – international relations with two minors in emergency management and homeland security and public administration. As a member of the LEAD Scholars Academy, he became the founding president of Knights Go Pink, an organization that raises awareness and money for victims of breast cancer. Carciente Moreno's interest in politics led him to serve as a student government senator at UCF, and as a Legislative Scholars intern working on the staff of Florida House Speaker Steve Crisafulli. He is a member of Chabad Jewish Student Group, Hillel at UCF and Knights for Israel, and is a legislative student assistant in the Office of University Relations.

Future Plans:

After graduation, Carciente Moreno plans to work for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, as a part of their two-year fellowship. He then plans to seek a master's degree in public policy with the goal of championing pro-Israel bipartisan support in the United States Congress as a lobbyist.

Alex's UCF Experience:

"UCF has surpassed my expectations in preparing me to enter the workforce and become a contributing member of society, all within a short four years. The time I spent at UCF has included rigorous academics, challenging leadership positions, mountains of professional and personal development, and relationships that will benefit every sphere of my life moving forward. I received unparalleled professional experience when working for the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives. I acquired the skillset to bring about positive social change through my time in the LEAD Scholars Academy. My academic courses have granted me the knowledge to thrive in my field. UCF taught me that the impossible is actually attainable, and the future is exciting when you have the right preparation. My time at UCF has been exceptional, and I look forward to representing this institution with the pride that comes with being a Knight for life."

KAMILLIA CRAWFORD

Kamillia Crawford, College of Health and Public Affairs, is majoring in legal studies and minoring in business, aerospace studies and leadership studies. She plans to attend law school. She is a member of the Air Force ROTC, and hopes to serve as a judge advocate general in the Air Force. Crawford is also a member of the LEAD Scholars Academy, The Burnett Honors College, and the President's Leadership Council at UCF.

Kamillia's UCF Experience:

"Choosing UCF has been one of the best decisions I ever made. UCF provided me with life-long skills, relationships, and opportunities. The organizations I was involved with gave me a rich college experience. The financial support UCF provided alleviated a heavy burden that enabled me to focus on my academic and career goals. UCF gave me the platform that allowed me to leave my legacy through my residents, peers, academic achievements, and research. The prestigious curriculum and distinguished professors allowed me substantial academic, professional and personal growth. My time at UCF equipped me with the motivation and resources to overcome adversity and achieve my dreams. I am proud and honored to be a UCF Knight, bleed black and gold, and forever represent my alma mater throughout my endeavors."



Kamillia Crawford
Orlando, Florida

Future Plans:

After graduation, Crawford plans to commission as a lieutenant in the United States Air Force (USAF) and serve a four-year commitment as a personnel officer. Subsequently, she plans to pursue a law degree specializing in estate planning and aspires to become a judge advocate general in the USAF.

JULIE DESLAURIERS

Julie Deslauriers, College of Sciences, is majoring in biology with a minor in business administration and a certificate in leadership studies. She hopes to be a veterinarian.

Deslauriers was a student leader for the LEAD Scholars Academy and serves on the President's Leadership Council. She is vice president of the Pre-Veterinary Society at UCF, and co-founded a registered student organization that promotes pet adoption.



Julie Deslauriers
Fort Myers, Florida

Future Plans:

Deslauriers will attend Purdue University in the fall where she will pursue a degree in veterinary medicine.

Julie's UCF Experience:

"Reflecting on my college experience, I could have never imagined that a university would make such a profound impact on my life. I am so thankful that UCF has continuously pushed my limits and shaped me into a well-rounded leader and a passionate student. UCF inspired me to embrace my personal growth, challenge my leadership skills and ignite my professional development. I am thankful for the guidance I received from faculty at UCF and will cherish these mentorships beyond college. Throughout my experiences, I learned critical life lessons such as the power of an open mind and the importance of collaboration. I will continue to reach for the stars by pursuing a lifestyle of academic excellence, servant leadership and community involvement. As a forever Knight, I will strive to live out the creed and humbly give back to the university I love."

GETASHA DOOBAY

Getasha Doobay, College of Medicine, is in the pre-professional track in the Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, with a minor in chemistry. She is conducting stem cell research on heart disease in the lab of Dr. Dinender Singla. She is a LEAD Scholars Academy graduate, a Burnett Honors College student, a longtime volunteer at Shepherd's Hope Clinic and a member of the Pre-Professional Medical Society and the American Medical Student Association.

Getasha's UCF Experience:

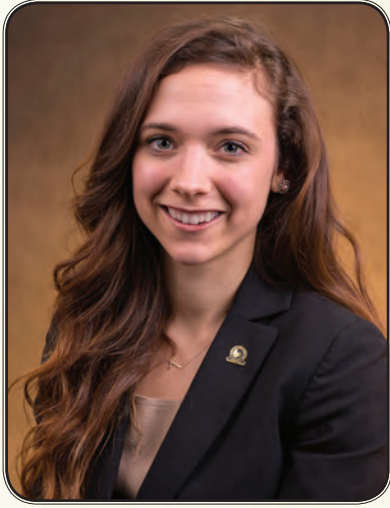
"In Spring 2013, I graduated as valedictorian from a very unique educational journey at Oak Ridge High School. This journey turned obstacles into opportunities that have empowered me to pursue my education. As a native to Orlando and with my eldest sister earning her degree here many years ago, I have always been a UCF Knight at heart. However, my experience here as a student greatly surpassed my expectations and wildest dreams both in and out of the classroom. I discovered my potential and the opportunities to learn and succeed, all within a supportive environment comprised of one-of-a-kind faculty. I am truly grateful to have been a part of this school. It is unbelievable to think that I am leaving a mark on the school that has left a mark on me."



Getasha Doobay
Orlando, Florida

Future Plans:

Doobay has been accepted to six Florida medical programs for matriculation in August 2016. She hopes to have a final decision made by April, but ultimately, whichever school she chooses, she will continue learning in this field in both practice and theory.



Casey Margarite Field
Tampa, Florida

CASEY MARGARITE FIELD

Casey Margarite Field, College of Business Administration, is majoring in finance and economics. She participated in the LEAD Scholars Academy, The Burnett Honors College, and served on the President's Leadership Council. She chairs the College of Business Ambassadors, implemented a student-run speaker series within the College of Business, and was accepted to the Clinton Global Initiative University program. Field founded the SCARF Society, an organization that encourages women to become involved, mentor, share their stories, and become agents of social change.

Casey's UCF Experience:

"The opportunities I have experienced at UCF have fostered cherished mentorships and friendships, and ignited my passion for the global economic empowerment of women. Through the support of altruistic faculty, I found my voice in the research community and learned the importance of being a life-long learner, mentor, and innovator. As a freshman in the LEAD Scholars Academy, I never imagined standing on the field as a member of UCF's Royalty Court, representing UCF at the Clinton Global Initiative University conference, or creating an international company for the empowerment of women. UCF has allowed me to see my potential as a passionate social change leader, find my voice in the field of finance, and embrace opportunity at every step on my journey. I am grateful and honored to be a member of UCF's prestigious and diverse community."

Future Plans:

After graduation, Field will pursue a graduate degree and then build a career in financial inclusion. By combining her passions for the economic empowerment of women and international development, she will work to give women around the world a more powerful voice in both the financial system and their lives.

ELAINE GERLT

Elaine Gerlt, College of Nursing, is pursuing a bachelor's of science in nursing. She participated in the LEAD Scholars Academy and serves on the President's Leadership Council. Gerlt is a member of Chi Omega Fraternity and the Panhellenic Council. She is a member of the Student Nurses Association and the UCF Student Conduct Board, and is a member and former president of Sigma Alpha Pi National Leadership Honor Society. Gerlt hopes to work as a registered nurse in labor and delivery.

Elaine's UCF Experience:

"As a UCF legacy, I have always thought of UCF as my second home. I have been an avid UCF athletics fan since I was a little girl. I bleed black and gold. Becoming a Knight myself has surpassed all of my expectations. I have excelled academically and grown as an individual while at UCF. Thanks to incredibly supportive faculty and staff members, I have become the woman I always wanted to be. UCF allowed me to find my voice, which aims to help others and has given me the platform to dive into community service. I made meaningful, life-long relationships and connections through on-campus involvement. I became confident in my abilities and found my strengths through leadership opportunities. UCF has become a part of my identity. After graduation, I will hold on to the values I developed during my undergraduate years. UCF has equipped me with both the knowledge and skills to be a force for good in the Orlando community and beyond."



Elaine Gerlt
Orlando, Florida

Future Plans:

After graduation, Gerlt plans to pursue a career in nursing at a community-based hospital. Thereafter, she hopes to earn her doctorate in nursing practice. This will enable her to accomplish her life goal of creating a healthier tomorrow by promoting preventative care.



Paulina Le
Oviedo, Florida

PAULINA LE

Paulina Le, College of Medicine, is majoring in biomedical sciences in the Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, with minors in statistics and psychology. She also is a student in The Burnett Honors College, where she is an officer of Honors Congress, its official student organization. Le is a teaching assistant, a member of the President's Leadership Council, and an ambassador and charter member of the UCF Foundation's Student Philanthropy Council. She has been accepted at several medical schools.

Paulina's UCF Experience:

"The past four years were the most dynamic period of growth in my life. The opportunities at UCF allowed me to discover who I am as a student, professional and person. I found a passion for medicine when I started to teach anatomy labs in just my second year at UCF. Most significantly, I found that I reveled in sharing this passion with others. Through Shepherd's Hope, Knight-Thon, and numerous local service projects, my compassion for humanity grew even stronger. UCF enabled me to combine my love for medicine and desire to serve people. I credit UCF with my multiple medical school acceptances. The abundance of opportunities, my mentors, and my fellow Knights made me the strong leader and person I am today. UCF taught me how to lead and humbly serve others. I know what it means to be a UCF Knight, and will always proudly wear my black and gold armor over my white coat."

Future Plans:

After graduation, Le will be attending a top-tier medical school where she will pursue a career in academic medicine. She plans on becoming a cardiothoracic surgeon at a teaching hospital, where she can contribute to medical education and lead groundbreaking research in cardiovascular diseases.

AMY MAITNER

Amy Maitner, College of Sciences, is majoring in advertising and public relations, with a minor in women's and gender studies. As part of the LEAD Scholars Academy, she created the Purple Ribbon Program, an eating-disorder certification course for faculty and students. She is president of an eating-disorders awareness organization, Project HEAL, and runs biweekly support groups. Maitner is a member of Phi Alpha Delta pre-law fraternity, and serves on the UCF Women's and Gender Studies Advisory Board and the Student Development and Enrollment Services Advisory Council. Maitner is also a member of the President's Leadership Council.

Amy's UCF Experience:

"I have grown personally, professionally and intellectually in a safe and inclusive space due to my UCF experience. The invaluable education I have gained both in and out of the classroom through leadership roles, has prepared me for my journey after college. Community service has empowered my passion for social change. I was inspired to help others going through similar struggles that I had experienced, and UCF embraced my vision wholeheartedly. Seeing the impact I could make on campus to help others motivated me to make the most of every opportunity and bloom where I was planted. Coming to UCF from a different country was a daunting experience, but I quickly found a home within our community of Knights. UCF taught me that opportunities would not be handed to me; every opportunity I could ever want is within reach, but I have to be willing to pursue it."



Amy Maitner
Wurzburg, Germany

Future Plans:

After graduation, Maitner plans to attend law school with a concentration in gender equality and women's rights. Her focus will be on domestic violence and human trafficking, and eventually work in the judicial system and aspire towards greater social change.

MICHAEL SCIMECA



Michael Scimeca
Oviedo, Florida

Future Plans:

Scimeca will attend graduate school for an M.A. in applied linguistics and romance studies. Following this, he plans to obtain his Ph.D. in neurolinguistics to research the complex relationships between cognitive processing, language acquisition, and bilingualism as they apply to different language families.

Michael Scimeca, Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences and College of Arts and Humanities, is majoring in biomedical sciences and the Spanish language. He is a member of The Burnett Honors College as well as a member of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, the President's Leadership Council, and the Honors Congress. When he's not working as a resident assistant at UCF, he's volunteering his time to translate for patients and doctors at Shepherd's Hope Clinic, a free clinic open to low-income families. Because he wants to give back, he also dedicates his time to helping undergraduate students taking Biology I and as a Provost Scholar mentor.

Michael's UCF Experience:

"I credit UCF with pushing me beyond my comfort zone and encouraging me to seek educational outlets beyond the classroom. For me, language has been a passport to the Spanish Golden Age through both Honors in the Major and study abroad, to the Italian Renaissance through my honors courses, and to contemporary Central America through volunteerism. These global experiences have laid the foundation for transforming both my personal goals and career aspirations. UCF has consistently challenged me to adapt my leadership style to any situation and to maintain confidence in my own abilities. The tough love I have received from caring peers and dynamic mentors has taught me the true meaning of Knighthood. Looking to the future, I am excited and honored to showcase the value of a UCF education and a spirit of excellence in each of my prospective endeavors."

ARJUN WATANE

Arjun Watane, College of Engineering and Computer Science, is majoring in computer science and hopes to attend medical school. Watane is a scholar of The Burnett Honors College who is working on medical imaging research, an artist who plays the piano to help keep patients' spirits high at ORMC, and a student athlete dominating the tennis court. He also understands that children need role models, so he works hard in the classroom and on the court to show children how important it is to stay in school. Through the LEAD Scholars Academy and the Student-Athlete Advisory Council, he helps organize trick or treat events for Boys & Girls Clubs as well as helping with Relay For Life and a Special Olympics Winter Formal. His efforts are not limited to the United States. Watane joined Knights Without Borders on a trip to Costa Rica where he constructed a multipurpose sports court for children.

Arjun's UCF Experience:

"I chose UCF because of the opportunity to contribute to the world, improve what has already been created, and grow into something better. I am so grateful for the privilege of conducting cutting-edge medical imaging research with talented faculty who serve as professional mentors for me. They inspire me to be creative and relentless in my efforts to improve healthcare and society. As a student-athlete at UCF, I learned to use tennis as a vehicle to make a positive impact in people's lives. My coaches challenge me on a daily basis to develop as a leader and scholar on my journey to become a physician. UCF catalyzed my personal involvement into civic engagement, and further reinforced my clinical interests through partnerships with local surgeons. I will always pay forward the support, education and opportunities UCF has provided me."



Arjun Watane
Orlando, Florida

Future Plans:

Watane is excited to combine medicine and engineering to design a better world. After medical school, his dream is to advance the healthcare industry using computer science, and he intends to continue using the unifying power of sports to positively impact communities.

GABRIELA WOLK



Gabriela Wolk
Merritt Island, Florida

Gabriela Wolk, College of Arts and Humanities and College of Sciences, is majoring in English Literature and Political Science with a minor in Russian Studies. In addition to challenging coursework in two distinct areas, Wolk is a member of the Russian Club and was a co-captain for a Knight-Thon team. She is the Honors Congress secretary and vice chair for the operations and reviews committee in the Student Government Association Senate. When she is not working to improve the campus, she is volunteering with Give Kids the World.

Gabriela's UCF Experience:

"The past three years at UCF have been an incredibly transformative experience. I had the ability to broaden my interests and refine my future plans in the process. The diverse community offered me the opportunity to teach, explore, and obtain guidance from constructive mentors. With research through Honors in the Major, I explored both dystopian novels of the Cold War and the effects of emigration on healthcare in Poland and Romania. Reaching out to the community through civic engagement combined with the lessons from STARTALK and honors classes encouraged me to be a more mindful and globally aware citizen. The culmination of these experiences at UCF led me to apply for a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to the Slovak Republic and to law schools across the country. This university and the myriad of opportunities provided here have accumulated into a driving force behind my future ambitions, creating an undergraduate experience that has been developmental, rewarding, and open to my own contributions."

Future Plans:

After graduation, Wolk plans to attend law school and study international law with a focus on immigration policy. She hopes to ultimately make a positive impact on the lives of refugees and migrants through advocacy and legislative reform.

BRIAN ZAGROCKI

Brian Zagrocki, College of Education and Human Performance, is a Burnett Honors College student majoring in social science education. He holds multiple leadership positions within Student Government Association. He also served on the Greek Week executive board and President's Leadership Council. He served as Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity's philanthropy chair where he helped organize various events that benefit local children. He also joined Best Buddies and served as a mentor for an individual with a disability, who Zagrocki said taught him to cherish life and the value of human decency. He has also conducted research into the limits of standardized testing.

Brian's UCF Experience:

"I came to UCF driven by its dualistic vision of opportunity and excellence. UCF's faculty, staff members, and student body are driven by this vision that manifests itself in every aspect of our university; whether it be the timeless school traditions, compassionate support or the enduring strive to reach higher. My experience at UCF has been one of immersion in a culture of personal growth. UCF gave me the opportunity to pursue leadership development through my co-curricular involvements, where expectations for achievement spurred growth of my communication skills, empathy, delegation, malleability, guiding principles and visionary approach. One of my proudest experiences at UCF is working on my undergraduate thesis for Honors in the Major. I receive outstanding support from UCF faculty that serve as mentors for me in my academic pursuits. As a UCF student, I hope that I leave a positive impact like a drop in a bucket of outstanding contributions on the development of our cultural success."



Brian Zagrocki
Clermont, Florida

Future Plans:

As Zagrocki looks to the future, he plans to travel the world and continue his never-ending pursuit of personal development. He will apply to law school for the class of 2020, where he will use his legal education to pursue a career in public servitude through political office.



Caitlyn Zona
New Smyrna Beach, Florida

CAITLYN ZONA

Caitlyn Zona, College of Sciences, is majoring in political science and spends a lot of her time trying to improve the UCF and broader community through many volunteer activities. She is the Student Government Association president, a member of the UCF Board of Trustees, and a member of the Creative School for Children advisory board. Among her many accomplishments, she has served on the President's Leadership Council and was the Youth and Mentoring director for Volunteer UCF. She also has volunteered for Second Harvest Food Bank and traveled to Haiti on a service trip.

Future Plans:

After graduation, Zona will take a year off of school to dedicate that time to service. Subsequently, she plans to attend graduate school and continue her long-term career plan of working with the international adoption community.

Caitlyn's UCF Experience:

"Before entering college, I would have never imagined how much of an impact my choice of school would make on me. I wanted to come to UCF to grow as a person, and I felt that potential as soon as I stepped on campus. Each year at UCF, I have grown a little more than the year before and I have accepted various challenges and opportunities. I have had personal growth through mentorship and through my extracurricular experiences. My various university roles made me more poised and polished, and provided me with professional development growth opportunities. My academic experience has guided me to be confident of my career path and has inspired me to truly reach for the stars. UCF has given me an experience that has shaped me into a person that I am proud to be today and for that I will always be grateful."

ORDER OF PEGASUS LOUNGE

The Order of Pegasus Lounge, located on the second floor of the Student Union overlooking the Pegasus Grand Ballroom, is dedicated to the Order of Pegasus inductees. In honor of the inductees, a plaque with the 2016 Order of Pegasus names and a group photo will be on display on the lounge wall along with previous Order of Pegasus inductees.



2016

Order of Pegasus Committee Members

Dr. Stacey Malaret, Chair, *LEAD Scholars Academy*

Dr. Amy Barnickel, *College of Arts and Humanities*

Mr. Arup Guha, *College of Engineering and Computer Science*

Dr. Nancy Marshall, *Office of the President*

Dr. Vivian Ortiz, *Division of Student Development and Enrollment Services*

Mr. Rex Roberts, *The Burnett Honors College*

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

The Division of Student Development and Enrollment Services would like to thank members of the administration and faculty for nominating students, and the committee members listed above for undertaking the difficult task of selecting the outstanding UCF students receiving this distinguished honor. A special thank you to the Student Government Association for sponsoring the generous scholarships for the Order of Pegasus recipients. Congratulations to the 2016 Order of Pegasus inductees.