



ORDER OF PEGASUS

CLASS OF 2017



MARCH 27, 2017

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Spring 2017



Welcome from the President

It is my pleasure to introduce the 2017 Order of Pegasus awardees.

The Order of Pegasus is the highest honor the university awards 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, 21 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

ANDREW ABOUJAOUDE



Andrew Aboujaoude
Allen, TX

Future Plans:

After graduation, I plan to attend medical school and become a physician to serve my community.

Andrew Aboujaoude, College of Medicine, is majoring in biomedical sciences with a minor in political science. He is a Clinton Global Initiative University Scholar, LEAD Scholar, RAMP Scholar and a member of The Burnett Honors College. In addition, Aboujaoude conducts research on malaria and has been awarded multiple undergraduate research grants. He is the founder and president of Hearts for the Homeless Orlando, a nonprofit organization that provides free blood pressure screening opportunities and general health education to the homeless in downtown Orlando. Aboujaoude also has served in multiple Pre-Professional Medical Society directorships and as a Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences peer mentor. He has been a recipient of the Henri Landwirth Heart of UCF Award, the Capacity Building Scholarship and the prestigious Resolution Project Fellowship.

Andrew's UCF Experience:

I arrived at UCF as an out-of-state student who was new to one of the largest universities in the nation. The consistent mentorship of my professors and the passion of my peers helped me thrive as a student. Looking back, without UCF I would have never had the courage nor the acumen to start a nonprofit organization, conduct scientific research, or serve in several leadership roles. I was blessed to work with many incredible people who helped me to start my charity. I have been able to do many things that are bigger than me because of this amazing community around me. There are not enough words for me to express my gratitude to an educational institution that positively impacts me as a student, a leader and a person.

SANDEEP BALA

Sandeep Bala, College of Medicine, is majoring in biomedical sciences in the Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences. He proudly embraces The Burnett Honors College's emphasis on service learning as an involved Honors student. Bala spent a summer with a team of Honors students in South Africa where he led a medical service project at a rural orphanage and helped rescued cheetahs learn to hunt. He values camaraderie and has established new service, philanthropic and academic initiatives as president of UCF's chapter of Phi Delta Epsilon Medical Fraternity. He also enjoys helping students reach their academic goals as an MCAT instructor for a test prep company. Bala's eagerness to learn and teach is reflected in his participation in the UCF surgical internship, where he was mentored by renowned surgeons and now helps train new interns.

Sandeep's UCF Experience:

UCF's commitment to integrity, scholarship, community, creativity and excellence creates a richly collaborative environment that fosters innovative students. UCF connected me with many students, faculty, and professional mentors who provided guidance and helped me implement new initiatives. I also encouraged students to get involved in diverse extracurricular activities at UCF. From planning my own service projects, to walking cheetahs while learning about their population challenges, and being quizzed by a surgeon during an open-heart surgery, I credit these personal experiences to UCF's commitment to grow action-oriented student-leaders. I am grateful for my fellow students for teaching me the meaningful elements of leadership and teamwork. I hope that students who read our profiles are inspired to be active student-leaders, for this is an institution where passionate students will always be able to implement their ideas.



Sandeep Bala
Orlando, FL

Future Plans:

I plan to combine my multidisciplinary interests as an academic physician involved in clinical care, research, community outreach and teaching. I aim to help reduce healthcare costs and chronic disease burdens by improving public health education and investigating the intersecting roles of genetics and environmental factors in chronic disease.

AUSTIN BURNS



Austin Burns
Helena, MT

Austin Burns, College of Medicine, is majoring in biomedical sciences and minoring in leadership studies. He is a graduate of the LEAD Scholars Academy, a member of The Burnett Honors College, and has been a peer mentor to Honors students for the past three years. He has served as the president of the Pre-Med American Medical Student Association at UCF and mentored aspiring physicians. When not working with pre-medical students, Burns conducts research in the fields of biomedical sciences and nanotechnology, and volunteers with several Orlando charities that focus on addressing the needs of the underserved.

Future Plans:

After graduation, I will be attending medical school in the fall. I intend to become a practicing clinician dedicated to providing care to underserved and at-risk populations, and plan to educate and encourage prospective doctors.

Austin's UCF Experience:

The invaluable experiences at UCF made me a more competitive applicant for medical school. The support I have experienced during my time at UCF has empowered me to attain my highest aspirations, and I attribute much of my success to the quality and passion of my professors. Outreach programs facilitated by The Burnett Honors College and the LEAD Scholars Academy allowed me to discover my passion for providing medical care to underserved populations, as well as helped me to develop the cultural competencies required to effectively practice medicine. My experiences at UCF revealed a passion for teaching, which I intend to continue as a physician.

CHRISTOPHER CLEMENTE

Christopher Clemente, College of Arts and Humanities and College of Sciences, is majoring in history and political science with a minor in philosophy. Throughout his college career, he dedicated his time to the Student Government Association and currently serves the student body as SGA president. Clemente also is a member of the UCF Board of Trustees and the advisory board for the UCF Creative School for Children. Among his accomplishments, he served on the President's Leadership Council, volunteered as a Knight-Thon staff captain, and advocated successfully for a prayer room in the Student Union.



Christopher Clemente
Tampa, FL

Christopher's UCF Experience:

I never could have dreamed of the opportunities I would have at UCF. With every passing year, I grew in my academic pursuits and leadership roles. A love of learning and service was instilled by the education and mentorship I received from professors and administrators. I will always be reaching for the stars — to do more and be more. As a Knight, I will always advocate for my peers and serve them in any way that I can while embracing diversity. UCF has given me the margin of excellence needed to become the best version of myself by allowing me to develop my skills as a leader and by challenging me to excel as a scholar.

Future Plans:

After graduation, I plan to attend law school to study constitutional law. After practicing law, I would like to become a history teacher and then a professor.

EMILY DOVYDAITIS



Emily Dovydaitis
Orlando, FL

Emily Dovydaitis, College of Sciences, is majoring in anthropology and biology. She is a member of The Burnett Honors College, where she was a team leader for Honors Symposium and participated in a service-learning trip to St. Kitts and Nevis. Dovydaitis served on the President's Leadership Council and as an ambassador for the 90.7 WMFE Dare to Listen campaign. When not in class, she may be found presenting at Nerd Nite or testing her green thumb at the Arboretum. She also participated in the Student Government Association for four years, acting as both the health and sustainability coordinator and the director of campus life.

Future Plans:

Looking to the future, I plan to serve as an environmental educator with the Peace Corps in South America. I intend to pursue a M.S./J.D. program with a focus in environmental studies or climate policy. I want to advocate for social justice, build resilient communities, and defend populations jeopardized by anthropogenic climate change.

Emily's UCF Experience:

Attending UCF imparted upon me the significance of passionate, altruistic individuals on both a local and global scale. My tenure as health and sustainability coordinator and my experiences through Volunteer UCF exposed me to a multitude of compassionate, dedicated people working collectively to improve the world. Through my professors and insightful classmates, I have gained the necessary background knowledge and critical thinking skills to inform my decisions as a global citizen. I am incredibly grateful for my Honors in the Major research experience and for travels to Nepal, which demonstrated to me the importance of humility in research and further steered me to be a defender of climate and social justice.

ERIN DRISCOLL

Erin Driscoll, College of Medicine, is majoring in biomedical sciences with a minor in English literature. She is a member of The Burnett Honors College and worked as a physics tutor at the Student Academic Resource Center and the Veterans Academic Resource Center. Driscoll also volunteers at Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), and is conducting research in the area of tuberculosis drug discovery. As the assistant director of UCF's Undergraduate Surgical Internship Program, she helps provide students with opportunities to observe surgeons in the operating room.



Erin Driscoll
Longwood, FL

Erin's UCF Experience:

Through my majors and beyond, I met outstanding mentors who challenged and encouraged me to pursue my passion for science and medicine. The UCF Surgical Internship Program, as well as the research I conducted for my Honors in the Major thesis, gave me the opportunity to learn and grow in these areas. Through my literature minor, I had the unique opportunity to explore the complexities of healthcare through the humanities course, Literature of AIDS. The humanities foster a greater sense of empathy and compassion, values that were also strengthened through my service in the UCF and Orlando communities. From volunteering in the NICU to learning from surgeons in our community, so many opportunities have truly allowed me to learn and grow in every way necessary to reach my greatest potential. UCF has made me both a better student and a better person. It has been a great honor to serve my classmates and community. I will always be proud to be a UCF Knight.

Future Plans:

I have been accepted to several medical schools and will begin in the fall. While in medical school, I plan to contribute to healthcare through research and compassionate patient care.

LAUREN GANDY



Lauren Gandy
Bellevue, WA

Future Plans:

I will attend a chemistry Ph.D. program after graduation. After obtaining my doctorate, I plan to enter the U.S. Department of Defense chemical and biological defense sector, working to improve protections for soldiers and civilians against chemical and biological warfare agents.

Lauren Gandy, College of Sciences and College of Arts and Humanities, is majoring in forensic science and French, with minors in chemistry and biomedical sciences. During her time at UCF, she served as the president of the Forensic Science Association and as vice president of the American Chemical Society. Gandy also is a member of The Burnett Honors College, LEAD Scholars Academy and President's Leadership Council. She completed her Honors in the Major thesis on French science fiction while also conducting research on gunshot residue. Additionally, Gandy was the global health intern and the Sibille H. Pritchard Global Peace Fellow at UCF Global Perspectives.

Lauren's UCF Experience:

Diversity is the word I would use to define my undergraduate career. Never would I have imagined in my freshman year that I would experience such extraordinary things, from exploring international relations and analyzing French literature to investigating gunshot residue and working at an Army crime lab. The myriad of ways that UCF empowers its students allowed me to make my own decisions within a strong and vast framework of support. These experiences were available to me because of the wonderful UCF faculty. The professors and staff exemplify the excellence that UCF seeks to impart in its students. I know that I would not be where I am today without the support of my research faculty and my organization faculty advisor. Their passion for their research, dedication to their students and tireless efforts to improve themselves are things I aspire to embody in my future path. Forever will black and gold run through my veins, and I am proud to have spent time contributing to the undergraduate experience at this wonderful institution.

ARI HADAR

Ari Hadar, College of Medicine, is majoring in biomedical sciences with a minor in business administration. He is a proud member of The Burnett Honors College, President's Leadership Council, RAMP Scholars and Chabad Jewish Student Group. Hadar is conducting research to reduce carcinogen exposure in drinking water, and earned second place at the UCF Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence in 2016. He particularly enjoyed serving as a team leader in The Burnett Honors College for two years, teaching first-year Honors students about the importance of community engagement.



Ari Hadar
Boca Raton, FL

Ari's UCF Experience:

During orientation, I was told that "UCF Stands for Opportunity." For me, this could not have been more true. UCF continuously provided me with opportunities to channel my passion for service into my work in the medical field. UCF has cultivated an environment that stimulates both personal and professional development. As a Knight and aspiring physician, I utilized my time at UCF to make an impact in the Orlando and global communities. I feel proud to have represented UCF when I volunteered in the Florida Hospital East Orlando Emergency Department, served as a medical technician in Tel Aviv, Israel, and traveled to Changuinola, Panama with International Medical Outreach on a mission trip. I have no doubt that my incredibly formative four years at UCF have prepared me to excel in medical school and beyond.

Future Plans:

After graduation, I plan to attend medical school to fulfill my lifelong dream of serving as a physician practicing in hematology and oncology. As a physician, I look forward to treating my patients with compassionate care, and helping to train the next generation of medical professionals in a university setting.

SABRINA JÉRÔME



Sabrina Jérôme
Orlando, FL

Future Plans:

I am excited to incorporate multicultural appreciation into my professional career. After graduation, I plan to attend law school and eventually practice diplomacy at the international level.

Sabrina Jérôme, College of Arts and Humanities and College of Sciences, is double majoring in religion and cultural studies and political science. She is a LEAD Scholar and a B.L.A.C.K Institute peer mentor, as well as a member of Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity and President's Leadership Council. Her passion for multicultural affairs and social advocacy inspired her to lead many educational forums and advocacy demonstrations, such as serving on the Black History Month Committee for the Multicultural Student Center. As Soirée Director for Club Kreyòl, Jérôme helped showcase the richness of the creole culture to the Greater Orlando community. Her interest in politics led her to serve as an intern for United States Senator Marco Rubio and as Assistant Chief Justice for the judicial branch of the UCF Student Government Association.

Sabrina's UCF Experience:

UCF's impact on my personal, professional and intellectual development has catapulted me to become an impactful mentor, scholar and social change agent in my community. The growth that I have undergone since first embarking on my undergraduate career allowed me to realize my potential as a dynamic leader and motivated me to uphold an unyielding thirst for knowledge. Throughout my experiences, I have been able to exercise my passion for culture and social advocacy and encountered the most incredible mentors and friends along the way. I learned critical life lessons and have been challenged to excel no matter the circumstances. I am thankful for having chosen the best university to foster my passions and to live the college experience of a lifetime. Now empowered to unleash my own legacy of service and advocacy, it is with profound honor that I attest to the promised, "UCF Stands for Opportunity."

DANIEL KLEIMAN

Daniel Kleiman, College of Sciences, is majoring in psychology and minoring in marketing. He is a member of the President's Leadership Council, Student Development and Enrollment Services Vice President's Student Advisory Council, and conducts research as a member of The Burnett Honors College. Kleiman held multiple leadership roles with UCF Homecoming, most recently serving as executive director. He was also a member of Greek Life and the 4EVER KNIGHTS ambassador program. His favorite service experiences include the Volunteer UCF executive board, in which he served as director for animal awareness, the Day & Knight of Service committee, and the spring break service trip to Cumberland Island, Georgia, where he led student volunteers.



Daniel Kleiman
Miami, FL

Daniel's UCF Experience:

My UCF experience has been a transformative period of growth in my life. UCF afforded me the needed education and opportunities to discover my passion for community engagement and service. Over the years, I developed a strong belief in the importance of higher education, not only in the life of the individual student, but also in the strength of communities. I owe a large portion of this development to my programming experience in the Office of Student Involvement. My most gratifying experiences have been taking part in coordinating two new UCF traditions: Volunteer UCF's 24-hour Day & Knight of Service and UCF Homecoming's Knights Got Talent. These, along with my academics and other campus involvement, led to special connections with others, as well as a much better sense of myself. I am grateful to be a UCF Knight, and will continue to proudly represent my alma mater throughout my endeavors.

Future Plans:

After graduation, I will devote a year to service as a City Year AmeriCorps member in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Subsequently, I plan to attend graduate school to further my career in the field of higher education and community relations.

BARBARA MENDEZ-CAMPOS



Barbara Mendez-Campos
Monterrey, Mexico

Future Plans:

Upon graduation, I will attend graduate school to earn a master's in social work specializing in older adults and families with a concentration in management and research. I plan to obtain my license as a clinical social worker and start my own business to meet the health care needs of the baby boomer population.

Barbara Mendez-Campos, College of Health and Public Affairs, is pursuing a bachelor's degree in social work with a health sciences minor and an aging studies certificate. During her undergraduate career, she served as a peer mentor for the LEAD Scholars Academy, an Undergraduate Admissions ambassador, the alcohol awareness director for Late Knights, and a membership coordinator for the Phi Alpha National Social Work Honor Society. As an Honors in the Major student, Mendez-Campos also pursued her own research based on the use of a music and memory program she helped create for the Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center, which focuses on caregivers of dementia and mental health patients. Her passion for serving the aging adult population reflects in her work with the Westminster Winter Park skilled nursing unit, where she conducted mental health assessments, assisted in discharge planning, and acted as the Spanish translator for the social services department.

Barbara's UCF Experience:

UCF provided me with invaluable experiences, from the guidance of the stellar faculty and staff in the classroom and the LEAD Scholars Academy to the support in my advocacy efforts for Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers through my research with The Burnett Honors College Honors in the Major program. I have gained so much through these experiences and I am extremely grateful for the opportunities UCF has offered me. I know no matter where I am in the world I will continue serving others and will hold my head up with pride because I will forever be a UCF Knight.

CATHERINE NINAH

Catherine Ninah, College of Engineering and Computer Science, is a Provost scholar, Astronaut Scholarship Foundation scholar, and Society of Women Engineers scholar studying industrial engineering and mathematics. She held student leadership roles in The Burnett Honors College, Student Government Association, Student Academic Resource Center, Office of Undergraduate Research and Academic Advancement Programs. Ninah combined her engineering skills with her passion to serve the community as vice president of Engineers Without Borders. In addition, she conducted logistics, sustainability and nanotechnology research at UCF and Duke University, and travelled around the nation sharing her work at conferences and organizations, including the Clinton Global Initiative University, American Association for Advancement of Science, National Science Foundation and Environmental Protection Agency.

Catherine's UCF Experience:

My UCF experience has shaped my perspective and filled me with the passion and tools to engineer a more sustainable future for myself and the community — and to continue to improve myself as a scholar, leader, change-maker and innovator. These include creating a first-in-the-world supply chain model of nanoparticles that resulted in an invitation to the EPA. I'm grateful to apply my academic knowledge by interning at Fortune 50 companies to globally standardize manufacturing procedures and create global multi-million dollar savings models. I never imagined I would be recognized by President Bill Clinton, Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer and Astronaut Andrew Allen during my time at UCF. God blessed me with a great network of UCF Knights who support and inspire me to work harder and achieve more every day.



Catherine Ninah
Orlando, FL

Future Plans:

After graduation, I plan to start my journey as a technology leader and innovator with a focus on sustainability in industry. Bringing strong research and work experiences paired with technical and soft skills, I will pursue a graduate engineering degree to work towards bridging the gap between academia and research.

ANGEL E. SANCHEZ



Angel E. Sanchez
Miami, FL

Future Plans:

I was recently named a 2017 graduate scholar by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, which will allow me to attend law school this fall. I plan to work as a public interest lawyer fighting to protect civil liberties and to promote social justice.

Angel E. Sanchez, College of Health and Public Affairs and College of Sciences, is a student in The Burnett Honors College majoring in legal studies and political science. A proud DirectConnect to UCF student, he was Valencia College's 2014 Distinguished Graduate and a commencement speaker. Sanchez is the recipient of the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Foundation College Scholarship. He served as president of the nationally-ranked UCF Moot Court Team, member of the Research and Mentoring Program and researched on political redistricting commissions and felony disenfranchisement. Under the mentorship of his political science professor, Sanchez co-authored a published law review article and won first place at UCF's Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence. He served as a UCF Legislative Scholars intern and is currently a social justice advocate partnering with the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, Southern Poverty Law Center and Campaign for Youth Justice.

Angel's UCF Experience:

My UCF experience has been one of opportunity. I was a troubled teenager who earned a GED in prison and attended a local community college from a homeless shelter. Now, I am an Honors student conducting research and winning awards at UCF. Thanks to the DirectConnect to UCF program, I was encouraged to believe that I could someday attend The Burnett Honors College. On the Moot Court Team, I developed my constitutional debate skills, won tournaments, and ranked fifth in the country. Through the Honors in the Major and RAMP programs, I developed my research, writing and presentation skills, culminating in award-winning published research. As a legislative scholar, I learned how to lobby and advocate in the Florida capitol. I now say with confidence that I can research, debate, lobby and advocate thanks to my UCF experience.

ELIZABETH SANTIAGO

Elizabeth Santiago, College of Sciences, is majoring in psychology, with a minor in legal studies. As a first-generation college student, she seized a variety of opportunities through the LEAD Scholars Academy, President's Leadership Council, LEGACY Scholars and Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Santiago was president of the Alpha Xi Chapter of Chi Upsilon Sigma, as well as the Diversified Greek Council. She also wrote as a columnist for the UCF Forum opinion series. As current president of the Latin American Student Association, Santiago oversees the planning of the university's month-long celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month. Passionate about Latino student success, she serves as a mentor for the CREAR Futuros program, which is dedicated to guiding first-time college students.



Elizabeth Santiago
Cape Coral, FL

Elizabeth's UCF Experience:

To understand my UCF experience, one must first understand the personal growth I have undergone. Entering through SOAR's summer access program, my expectations of what I could accomplish were low. Instead, I was uplifted by the components of the UCF Creed and motivated to personify them throughout my college experience. With each class attended, organizations joined and community serviced, I grew closer to the person I wanted to be. I found myself appreciating the art of learning, taking initiative in leadership roles and transforming goals into accomplishments. UCF ensured that I had every tool I needed to achieve success. My experience has been shaped by a type of learning that transcends the academic realm. Through this amazing university, I have developed into a person capable of eliciting change and succeeding in my future endeavors.

Future Plans:

After graduation, I plan to attend law school with a focus in family law. I want to become an attorney who specializes in helping domestic violence victims who cannot afford private representation.

TAYLOR SCIMECA



Taylor Scimeca
Oviedo, FL

Taylor Scimeca, College of Sciences and College of Undergraduate Studies, is majoring in political science and interdisciplinary studies with a minor in terrorism studies. As a member of The Burnett Honors College, she served as an orientation peer ambassador, freshman team leader, and the president of Honors Congress. She currently divides her time as the chair of the President's Leadership Council and the chief justice of the Student Government Association Judicial Council. These roles have allowed her to advocate for student rights through participation in the University Fee, Golden Rule Review, and Parking and Transportation Advisory Committees.

Future Plans:

After graduation, I will attend graduate school to earn a master's degree in international security with a focus on terrorism and homeland security policy. Following this, I plan to seek a career as a counterterrorism analyst for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Taylor's UCF Experience:

UCF opened doors for me that I never knew existed as a first-generation college student. I was encouraged to discover my passions and fully realize my potential. My faculty mentors pushed me to challenge myself through research opportunities such as Honors in the Major. The program allowed me to analyze the effects of terror attacks on refugee populations in Western Europe. UCF prepared me for my personal and career aspirations through the knowledge I gained in and out of the classroom. Each peer, professor and mentor that I met over the past four years taught me how to be a better member of this community. Long before my first undergraduate course, I witnessed the potential of a UCF education. I lived up to that potential, distinguishing myself as a leader, scholar and community advocate. As an alumna, I will forever take pride in my Central Florida roots and continually reach for the stars.

HALLE SCOTT

Halle Scott, College of Business Administration, is a marketing major, as well as a member of The Burnett Honors College and the Women's Volleyball Team. She completed her major requirements in three years while remaining on the President's Honor Roll or Dean's List. Scott has completed internships with Conquest Clinics, which specializes in cutting-edge neurocognitive treatments for patients recovering from concussions, and Primary Wave Entertainment, a management and publishing firm in New York City. She enjoys giving back to communities by using her platform as a student-athlete to help foster the development of young women through volleyball. Scott also volunteered with Orange County Public Schools as a Partner in Education and with Hands on Orlando. In addition, she served alongside Adonal Foyle's Kerosene Lamp Foundation to benefit communities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines through Knights Without Borders.

Halle's UCF Experience:

UCF has provided opportunities that have allowed me to compete in both the classroom and on the court. One of my favorite memories as a Knight was being a member of the 2014 American Athletic Conference Championship Volleyball Team and earning a bid to the NCAA Volleyball Tournament. Throughout my time at this university, I learned to go outside my comfort zone to take chances and face adversity head on, which helped shape me academically, personally and professionally. My experiences at UCF have inspired me to put forth all of my effort in every situation that I face. This drive to succeed is a quality that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.



Halle Scott
Tallahassee, FL

Future Plans:

Upon graduation, I plan on continuing my education by pursuing a master's degree in business administration with the hope to one day become a chief marketing officer for a financial services or health services company.

RIMA SULEIMAN



Rima Suleiman
Port Orange, FL

Rima Suleiman, College of Sciences, is majoring in psychology with minors in English (creative writing) and political science. She is co-founder of Advocates for World Health and a justice in the judicial branch of the Student Government Association. Suleiman is a global fellow for the Office of the Special Assistant to the President for Global Perspectives and works as a writing consultant at the University Writing Center. When she is not working to improve campus experiences, she is volunteering to improve educational opportunities for others, either locally at Journeys Academy for expelled students or abroad for refugees and impoverished children.

Future Plans:

After graduation, I plan to attend law school in the pursuit of actualizing a new cooperative international model capable of addressing the acute issues of violent conflict, refugee crises and extreme poverty. Ultimately, I plan to enact positive change through galvanizing effective international action to tackle these risks.

Rima's UCF Experience:

UCF, with its mission of preparing students to embrace their passion to the fullest, transcended all of my expectations. The diverse abundance of educational programs, student activities and leadership opportunities assisted in my self-discovery. Impassioned to share my experiences of living in Syria, I found a creative means of self-expression in my English minor. I interned with Journeys Academy, a school for expelled students, where I applied my field knowledge by designing creative writing lessons and leading workshops focused on developing students' language skills as an expressive construct. Through learning about political governing foundations, I discovered a desire to identify and prevent surrounding inefficiencies. Consequently, I served on the judicial branch of the SGA. As a UCF student, I intend to overcome inequality on a global level.

EMILY HERRINGTON

Emily Herrington, College of Sciences, is pursuing her master's degree in anthropology with a focus in food studies. She began her UCF journey as a LEAD Scholar, where she adopted the service-learning model of leadership. Herrington contributed her time as a member of Volunteer UCF, as a manager in the UCF Student Union and as a graduate teaching assistant. As the current president of both the Graduate Anthropology Association and the Graduate Student Association, she is dedicating her graduate career to connecting UCF students from diverse backgrounds and disciplines. Similarly, her ethnographic research focuses on gathering student perspectives from within public school cafeterias to help inform and improve food and health policies. Herrington has presented her research on the national and international level and participated in health science research at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School.



Emily Herrington
Orlando, FL

Emily's UCF Experience:

As a first-generation scholar, I have found UCF to be an edifying place to experience and appreciate cross-cultural understandings and develop the tools of scholarship required to enact social change and build strong communities. Surpassing my expectations for academic rigor, this university provided me with a strong appreciation for diversity, inclusion and social justice that has reinforced my purpose as an anthropologist. I learned how people connect with their food by growing up in a family of restaurateurs. UCF instilled in me unparalleled lessons that gave new depth to these connections, enabling me to learn about our diverse yet connected food culture. Thanks to my UCF education, I feel propelled towards a scholastic journey to understand food, both as a basic, nutritional need, as well as a cultural medium.

Future Plans:

I plan to apply to Ph.D. programs while practicing public anthropology and advocating for the inclusion of children's perspectives in food policy. In the future, I hope to become an international food researcher, working on revising food policies that affect children and families in the United States and abroad.

JACQUELINE BABB



Jacqueline Babb
Coconut Creek, FL

Future Plans:

After graduation, I plan to begin training in general surgery with future plans to pursue a fellowship in pediatric surgery. My long-term career goal is to develop into an academic surgeon dedicated to patient care, education and research.

Jacqueline Babb, College of Medicine, is earning her medical degree and has been active in leadership and academic development efforts in her role as class of 2017 Student Council President, student representative for the Curriculum Committee Program Evaluation Subcommittee, and chair of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education Independent Student Analysis for the upcoming accreditation process. She was involved in several student interest groups and most notably contributed to expanding service efforts in the Orlando community. Babb also served as a peer academic coach and enjoys the opportunity to not only teach, but also to mentor other students. She has been involved in numerous research projects affording her the opportunity to author and contribute to several poster presentations and publications. Her main goals are to contribute to the constant advancement of the UCF College of Medicine through quality improvement.

Jacqueline's UCF Experience:

UCF's College of Medicine was founded on a dream — to create a world-class institution to support students in achieving their dreams. Here, I unleashed my passions and dedicated myself to scholarship, leadership and service. I developed an empowering spirit, a driving ambition and a fierce sense of determination to contribute to the future. The College of Medicine provided me with the foundation to truly become an extraordinary physician. Over the past four years, I have experienced limitless opportunity, an exceptional education, transformative research involvement, academic development endeavors, vigorous leadership roles, robust community service opportunities, vast avenues of extracurricular activities, and most importantly, unwavering support of my ambitions and dreams.

MADELINE R. MARKS

Madeline R. Marks, College of Sciences, is a Ph.D. student in clinical psychology. She earned a bachelor's degree in sports psychology with a minor in psychology from the University of Connecticut where she was recognized as a Babbidge Scholar and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Her research and clinical mentors support her focus on the prevention and treatment of anxiety disorders and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in high-stress occupations. Marks works at the UCF RESTORES Clinic, which has become known across Florida and the country as an institution that is helping to enact culture change in the emergency services. The partnership between the Orlando Fire Department Peer Support Team and UCF is considered groundbreaking and a model for other emergency services departments, and Marks has spearheaded these efforts at the local fire and police stations.

Madeline's UCF Experience:

I credit my current accomplishments to my mentors and fellow graduate students, as well as the overall mission of the university. UCF's emphasis and recognition as America's leading partnership university fosters not only dialogue, but also action. UCF provided me with opportunities and resources to develop a professional identity as a scholar-practitioner, to combine science and practice, and to serve the military and first responder communities—all in the context of mental health.



Madeline R. Marks
Fairfield, CT

Future Plans:

I aspire to be a leader who combines science and service, bridging the gap in the area of mental health for high-stress occupations. Next year, I will be applying for a doctoral internship to continue my training.

WHITNEY WATKINS



Whitney Watkins
Miami, FL

Future Plans:

My future goals include becoming a full-time college faculty member and further exploring my research agenda. Ultimately, I plan to become a national consultant in the areas of college student achievement and black student success.

Whitney Watkins, College of Education and Human Performance, is pursuing a doctoral degree in higher education and policy studies. Her research agenda includes exploring the success of high-achieving black female students in college. She is a graduate assistant for the LEAD Scholars Academy, where she has taught approximately 20 leadership development courses and mentored more than 100 students. Watkins has been the national president of the AACTE Holmes Scholars Program, engaging and supporting doctoral students from underrepresented populations. She presented her research at several national conferences and contributed to a national blog. Watkins also organized student leaders in community events, advised student organizations, facilitated long-term student service initiatives, and was named Advisor of the Year for 2015-16 by the LEAD Scholars Academy. Service has been a large component of her doctoral experience and she plans to continue that effort in the future.

Whitney's UCF Experience:

I began my journey at UCF as an enthusiastic student with dreams of one day being called Dr. Watkins. Over the course of almost three years, UCF helped me cultivate my immovable passion for education and my desire to help women who look like me. The sum of my experience is most evidenced in the opportunities I pursued, both on campus and nationally. I have encountered amazing individuals who have mentored, challenged and encouraged me to water the seed within. I am proud to say I attend a university that nourishes the potential of its students and pushes them to levels beyond their own beliefs. UCF fueled the vigor in my faith and made me believe beyond what I can do and trust God's plan for my life.

THE UCF CREED

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ORDER OF PEGASUS LOUNGE

The Order of Pegasus Lounge is located on the second floor of the Student Union overlooking the Pegasus Grand Ballroom. In honor of the inductees, a plaque with the 2017 Order of Pegasus names and a group photo will be on display on the lounge wall along with previous Order of Pegasus inductees.



2017 ORDER OF PEGASUS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Stacey Malaret, Chair, LEAD Scholars Academy

Dr. MC Santana, Women's and Gender Studies

Mr. Arup Guha, College of Engineering and Computer Science

Dr. Nancy Marshall, Office of the President

Dr. DeLaine Priest, Division of Student Development and Enrollment Services

Dr. Vivian Ortiz, Office of Assessment and Grants

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.