For the third year in a row, the Higher Education and Policy Studies (HEPS) program welcomed prospective HEPS master’s students to its annual event, HEPS Visiting Days. To honor the memory of one of the program’s graduates and most ardent advocate, Dillon Burleson, HEPS Visiting Days was rebranded as the Dillon Burleson HEPS Visiting Days. The annual event serves as an orientation to the HEPS master’s program and assists students in gaining valuable graduate assistantships that are congruent with their professional goals.

Since its inception in the spring of 2013, this event has tripled in size and student placements. Under the leadership of Amy Pagano and the Visiting Days Planning Committee, as well as advisement by Dr. Brenda Thompson, HEPS Program Coordinator, this year’s event drew in 40 students.

Dillon Burleson HEPS Visiting Days is a collaboration between the College of Education and Human Performance and Student Development and Enrollment Services (SDES). The collaboration commenced under the tutelage of Drs. Rosa Cintron, Tom Owens, and Kerry Welch. Willys Michel and Karen Monteleone spearheaded the event into existence with support from Dillon Burleson.
Student Awards
2015 Order of Pegasus Award Recipients

Spring 2015 recipients of the UCF Order of Pegasus Award were announced, and two of the four graduate level awards went to scholars in the Department of Child, Family and Community Sciences. The Order of Pegasus Award is the highest honor that UCF bestows on students.

Hannah Ehrli
Ed.D. Candidate
Exceptional Education

UCF has given Hannah Ehrli a platform as an educational professional to develop into a global leader - one who is able to advocate for vulnerable populations in order to create humanitarian and equitable social change. Through her studies, professional research opportunities, community service, and the professional support of her professors, she has been able to evolve into an effective global citizen that can address a wide variety of populations with passion, confidence, and expertise. Hannah contends that “to receive the Order of Pegasus Award is such an honor and a privilege. It is a testament to the education and opportunities that were made available to me while at UCF.”

Manica Pierrette
M.A. Candidate
Educational Leadership, HEPS

Manica Pierrette considers it a true honor to be selected for the prestigious Order of Pegasus Award at UCF. She has been at the University since 2008 when she first started as an undergraduate. No one could have told her during those four and half years that she would one day be honored in the Pegasus lounge as an inductee. There were many times when she stared at the wall and smiled at some of the previous inductees that she recognized. Manica’s involvement within her community and campus have always been intrinsically motivated by the hopes of being able to make a small difference every day in someone’s life. Receiving this award ignites further motivation within her, confirming that one person can make a difference.

Best in Education
UCF Graduate Research Forum Winners

Shainna Ali: 1st Place in Education
Doctoral Student, Ph.D. in Education
Counselor Education

Poster Title: Coming-out in Counseling: Are counselors prepared to assist clients through the coming-out process?

Erika Nicsinger-Timpe: 2nd Place in Education
Doctoral Candidate, Ph.D. in Education
Communication Science Disorders

Poster Title: Teaching Social Skills to Promote Community Inclusion and Independence

Neffisatu J. C. Dambo
Ph.D. Candidate, Counselor Education

Neffisatu won the Young Alumni Achievement Award from the University of Illinois.

Jessica Gonzalez
Ph.D. Candidate, Counselor Education

Jessica won the 2015 Association for Multicultural Counseling & Development (AMCD) Emerging Graduate Student Leader Award.

Jessica Martin
Ph.D. Candidate, Counselor Education

Jessica was awarded the Holmes Scholars Teaching Award from the AACTE Holmes Scholars.

Willys Michel
Ph.D. Candidate, Higher Education & Policy Studies

Willys was awarded the Franklyn C. Williams Outstanding Holmes Scholar Award from the AACTE Holmes Scholars.

National Student Awards
Richelle Joe
Counseling Program, School Counseling

Richelle Joe began her career in the public school system, serving as a secondary education teacher for eight years and a middle school counselor for five years, including three years as the director of the school’s counseling program. Her research agenda reflects both personal interests and professional experiences with children, adolescents, adults, and families. She will join UCF’s faculty this fall after graduating from the College of William and Mary where her dissertation research explored counseling students’ perceptions of HIV/AIDS as they relate to moral reasoning. In addition to her work with HIV/AIDS, Joe’s research agenda includes scholarship related to group work preparation, ethics, family counseling, school counselor preparation, and school-family relationships.

Viki Kelchner
Counseling Program, Marriage & Family Therapy

Viki Kelchner will join UCF this fall as a faculty member in Marriage and Family Counseling. Her research goals are directed towards dropout prevention, the implementation of programs to support at-risk students and families, as well as evaluating the effectiveness of those programs. For the past eight years, she has been involved in clinical, research, and supervisory efforts that examine different ways to engage students and families to ensure school success. Kelchner’s professional experiences include working as a school and family counselor in the public school system.

Kathleen P. King, Ed. D.
Higher Education & Policy Studies Program

Dr. Kathleen P. King will join the Higher Education and Policy Studies (HEPS) faculty at the University of Central Florida in August 2015. Her major areas of research and expertise include transformative learning, instructional technology innovations, leadership, international education, faculty development, and diversity. The International Continuing and Adult Education Hall of Fame recognized Dr. King’s outstanding contributions to adult and higher education with her 2011 induction. As an award winning author who has published 30 books, she is also a popular keynote and conference speaker, mentor, and professor who has designed and built several online learning portals, programs, and courses. Since 1999, she and co-host Mark Gura have served over 6.5 million educators worldwide with their Teacher’s Podcast series. King is widely recognized for her research, service, and contributions to education by such groups as AERA, POD, NYACCE and UCEA. Most recently she was elected to her second term on the executive committee of the international Commission of Professors of Adult Education (CPAE).
AHEA Conference

Dr. Thomas Cox, Assistant Professor of HEPS, is the current President of AHEA and served as the program chair for this year’s conference. His leadership created a culture of engaged practitioners in the field of adult education and produced the first standalone conference that AHEA has had since 2010. Dr. Cox credits this accomplishment to the participation of colleagues throughout the organization that were willing to attend and present at the conference.

Dr. Kathleen P. King presented the keynote address, *Adult Learning for the Digital Age: Equipping Adults for Success Amidst Exponential Change*. Her keynote illustrated and addressed the tremendous demands that adult learners face today in higher education as they cope with adjustments to formal education, and the shifting demands of the digital age. During the conference, Lauren Murray, Ph.D. candidate in the Higher Education and Policy Studies program, received the Arthur Chickering Scholarship Award. Approximately 50 professionals attended the conference.

Counseling Conference

The 7th Annual Counseling Conference took place on February 6-7, 2015 at UCF’s Morgridge International Reading Center, and the Teaching Academy. The conference provided training opportunities for professional development. The two day event included over 80 presentations on topics pertinent to counselor education. Participants attending the conference included the following professionals: mental health counselors, school counselors, addictions counselors, career counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists.

PULSE Conference

Orange County Public Schools hosted its annual PULSE (Parents United with Leaders, Students & Educators) Conference on Saturday, February 21, 2015 at University High School. The purpose of the conference was to provide awareness and strategies to inform, promote and support the achievement of students with disabilities and their families. UCF faculty and Exceptional Education graduate students contributed to the planning and presentations at this conference, which was attended by almost 750 participants.

Dr. Juli Dixon and her daughter Alex were keynote speakers, describing educational experiences and support for students with disabilities. Presentations included innovative and engaging workshops on resources and techniques that families can incorporate in home and school settings for their students. Three doctoral students in Exceptional Education, Taylor Bousfield, Claire Donehower, and Matthew Taylor presented strategies to a standing room only audience!

AHEA Conference

On March 6-7, 2015 the Adult Higher Education Alliance (AHEA) held its national conference at UCF’s Morgridge International Reading Center (MIRC). At this year’s event, several dynamics allowed UCF to stand out in an exceptional manner. Among them were exemplary faculty and student participation as presenters and leaders.
Conferences (continued)

NASP Conference

During the week of February 17-20, 2015, the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) hosted its annual conference at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort in Orlando, Florida. Over 4,000 attendees participated in the conference. Members of UCF’s School Psychology Program and Student Association of School Psychologists participated in the conference by engaging in workshop sessions, presenting original research, and serving on conference committees. Attendees had the opportunity to meet and network with other graduate students and professionals in the field, and share a common passion for working with families and children. Educational Specialist students majoring in School Psychology, Kaylarin Marcus, Lisa Perez, and Alex Spoon, assisted as local student coordinators in ensuring a successful conference, and Lauren Patrusky presented original research to a well attended session.

Expanding School Partnerships

A school-based counseling intervention program for high need elementary school students and their families

Under the leadership of Dr. Glenn Lambie, Professor and CFCS Department Chair, a collaboration between Seminole County Public Schools (SCPS) and UCF’s College of Education and Human Performance was established to provide a school-based counseling intervention program to high need students and families at Hamilton Elementary School. The collaborative partnership also aims to initiate research examining the impact of the school-based counseling intervention program on elementary school students’ academic achievement and social-emotional development. Work is in progress to develop a satellite UCF Community Counseling & Research Center (CCRC) at Hamilton Elementary School that will serve as a practicum counseling site for graduate family counselors-in-training, mental health counselors-in-training, and school counselors-in-training. The satellite center will offer individual and family counseling services afterschool to students and families. Appointments for students and families will be available on an hourly basis from 3:00 to 3:50 p.m., 4:00 to 4:50 p.m., and 5:00 to 5:50 p.m., to best serve the school and community population.

For more information on scheduling, please contact Hamilton Elementary School at (407) 302-6050.
The State of the Florida HBCU: A Pathway to Preeminence for Retention and Graduation was an inaugural event held at Orlando’s Rosen Centre on Sunday, November 23, 2014 during the weekend of the Florida Blue Florida Classic. The Classic bolsters the largest football rivalry between fans of Florida A&M University (FAMU) and Bethune Cookman University (BCU) and significantly impacts Orlando’s economy each year.

More than 350 people were in attendance at the Rosen Centre to participate in a conversation led by university presidents, top administrators, and faculty representing the University of Central Florida (UCF), and the four HBCUs in Florida: Bethune Cookman University (BCU), Edward Waters College (EWC), Florida A&M University (FAMU), and Florida Memorial University (FMU). Amanda Wilkerson, UCF doctoral student in the Higher Education and Policy Studies (HEPS) program, skillfully moderated the discussion which focused on exploring solutions for improving retention and graduation. Additionally, members of the audience were invited to ask questions of panelists regarding their ideas, strategies and goals for increasing students’ graduation rates at HBCUs.

To organize the event, Amanda contacted current Florida HBCU presidents including, Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis, FMU; Dr. Elmira Mangum, FAMU; Dr. Edison D. Jackson, BCU; and Nathaniel Glover, EWC and asked them to participate on a panel. Additional speakers included Thomas Joyner Jr., Dr. John Michael Lee, and Dr. Rosa Cintron. Inspiration for the event spawned from Amanda’s realization that HBCUs were talking about retention and graduation within their own institutions; however, the conversations had yet to be extended to open discussions between HBCUs and the communities they serve. Current nuances that HBCUs now have to face include retaining students that enroll in programs and guiding those students through paths that will directly lead to graduation.

Following the event, Amanda commented that “HBCUs are a subset of the higher education system… they have a historical lineage of really trying to provide students with access.” Thus, her aim for the conference was to “turn the conversation inside out” by also including input from the communities that support HBCUs through their inspiration and financial support. Amanda described the importance of pastors recognizing Black community members who are working toward higher education degrees, and referenced that more supportive structures and change agents “…need to be involved in order to make an impact on young people’s lives. It can be as simple as making phone calls to students you know that are attending colleges and actually telling them that you understand that there will be difficult times and challenges to face, but hang in there – it will be worth it.” It is important to know that mentorship and sound guidance have been linked to student success in higher education and career success.

Amanda secured funding for the event by collaborating extensively with major philanthropic organizations that have a history of supporting HBCUs. These organizations included the Tom Joyner Foundation, the Thurgood Marshall Foundation, and the United Negro College Fund. Plans are underway to develop a follow-up event that aims to connect high school students and parents with career counselors and provide information about the nuances of higher education for the Poinciana community.

More information on the HBCU event can be found here: www.stateoffloridaHBCU.com
Faculty Update: Awards & Publications

Awards

Dr. Lisa Dieker was selected as a recipient of the 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Illinois Education Alumni Association (EAA).

Dr. Glenn Lambie was recognized as an American Counseling Association Fellow (2015), and received two awards for Excellence in Graduate Teaching from the College of Education & Human Performance, and from the University of Central Florida.

Dr. Eleazar Vasquez received the National Technology Leadership Summit Service Award, and the 2014-2015 Inaugural iSTEM Fellowship Award from the University of Central Florida.

Dr. Mary Little was awarded the UCF Women Making History 2015 Award for her contributions in the field of Exceptional Education.

Publications


Faculty Update: Publications & Presentations

Faculty publications continued from page 7


Presentations


Pearl, C., & Vasquez, E. (2014, July). Preparing highly qualified personnel to serve students with severe or profound disabilities: A personnel preparation project at UCF. Poster presented at the OSEP Project Directors Conference, Washington, DC.


Vasquez, E., (2015, Jan.). What we can learn from gaming? Otronicon event hosted by Orlando Science Center. Orlando, FL.

Dr. Orin Smith joined the College of Education and Human Performance in a supportive role to develop graduate students’ writing skills. Students needing basic help with theses, research, dissertations, or even general writing assignments now have writing support available right here in the college. Assistance that may be received includes grammar, syntax, word choice, punctuation, and APA formatting.

To request a writing support session or view the schedule, go to the College of Education and Human Performance, Graduate Affairs website (www.education.ucf.edu/grad/) and click the link at the bottom of the page.

Graduate Student Writing Support
UCF College of Education and Human Performance

Calendar of Events

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Classes End</td>
<td>April 27</td>
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<td>Last Day to Remove Incomplete Grades</td>
<td>April 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study Day</td>
<td>April 28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exams</td>
<td>April 29 – May 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEDHP Doctoral Pre-Commencement</td>
<td>May 8 (12:00 Noon)</td>
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<td>Reception and Ceremony (MIRC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCF Spring Commencement (CFE Arena)</td>
<td>May 8 (1:30 p.m. Graduates line-up)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:10 p.m. Processional</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:30 p.m. Program begins</td>
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<td>Grades Due in myUCF</td>
<td>May 8 (12:00 Noon)</td>
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<td>Grades Available in myUCF</td>
<td>May 11 (9:00 a.m.)</td>
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<td>Summer Sessions “A”, “C”, “D” Begin</td>
<td>May 18</td>
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<td>Memorial Holiday</td>
<td>May 25</td>
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<td>Summer Session “B” Begins</td>
<td>June 29</td>
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<td>Independence Day Holiday</td>
<td>July 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEDHP Summer Commencement</td>
<td>August 8 (Time - TBA)</td>
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<td>CFE Arena</td>
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