Ever feel like important deadlines are passing you by? The Graduate Affairs Office, located in the College of Education Suite 115, has designed this newsletter to help keep you informed! Keep reading along with us each issue to find out about the latest deadlines, news from the college, and to learn about different grants, special events and much more. In short, anything and everything that is important to College of Education Graduate Students! We welcome your contributions, so email us at edgrad@ucf.edu, or stop on by Suite 115 to find out how you can get involved in the newsletter!

**GET TO KNOW...EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

UCF offers an Educational Leadership MEd program (for those seeking certification in K-12 administration) and an MA program (for those not seeking certification). The MEd program gives students the opportunity to graduate certified in educational leadership in the state of Florida, while the MA program is offered completely online. For a more specific experience, a track may be chosen under the MA degree. There are two tracks to chose from: Higher Education/Student Personnel and Higher Education/Community College. The first track will prepare you to work in an administrative role with college students. The second will prepare you to work in a community college setting, allowing you to hone in on skills and a content area that you are interested in teaching at the college level.

**From one Ed Leadership student:**

By Courtney Faherty

Since this is only my first semester in the Educational Leadership MEd program, I will share some advice as a new graduate student. Firstly, I am taking all my classes online this semester. The freedom of online classes are nice but they definitely take a lot of self-discipline. This semester, each of my classes have some small assignments but mostly focus on one BIG paper or project. Take the opportunity to start early because the date will sneak up on you! This will give you the opportunity to submit your best work and alleviate the stress of rushing through an assignment that could make or break your semester grade! I am looking forward to working more in my program and graduating August 2014!
The Computing and Statistical Technology Laboratory in Education (CASTLE), located in TA305, is a computer lab available to students and faculty for data analysis. The computers are equipped with various quantitative and qualitative software packages.

Walk-in Lab Hours:
MON: 3:00pm-5:00pm
TUES: 10:00am-12:00noon
WED: 10:00am - 12:00noon
3:00pm - 5:00pm
THURS: 10:00am - 12:00noon

Get to Know...Graduate Policy

Graduate Program of Study

A program of study is a listing of course work agreed to by the student and the degree program specifying course degree requirements. A specific program of study must be formulated jointly by the student and the appropriate committee or adviser in the program area and approved by the college. A program of study form should be prepared and signed by the adviser and student, then given to the graduate program director for review. It must comply with the student’s relevant catalog year.

Programs of study for students seeking a master’s or specialist degree should be on file with the College of Graduate Studies by the end of the student’s second major term (based on full-time enrollment). Programs of study for students seeking a doctoral degree should be on file with the College of Graduate Studies by the end of the third major term of enrollment (based on full-time enrollment). The College of Graduate Studies will begin placing holds on student accounts after the Summer 2013 add/drop period if no program of study is on file with them.

All graduate programs of study must include independent learning as part of course and other assignments. This may be accomplished by research papers and reports, evidence of reflective learning in individual portfolios, creation of original works, and/or demonstration of integration of knowledge as part of course work in a capstone course and other requirements for the degree.

The student and his/her advisory committee may make changes in the programs of study at any time with approval of the graduate program director.

Check out your Graduate Plan of Study today!

Looking for a new place to study? Want to stay close by to where your class meets? Graduate students, don’t forget to visit the Kysilka Graduate Study located in the Education Complex, 1st floor lobby. A pass code is required for entry, so be sure to stop by the Graduate Affairs office in ED 115.

April 1, 2013 to April 5, 2013

Keep Calm and Live the Grad Life

2013 Graduate Student Appreciation Week

Graduate Knights presents:
THE GRAD LIFE

For students who need accommodations, please email assist@ucf.edu or call (407)822-6471.
Did you know.......

UCF’s Creative School for Children new evening program offers engaging and fun activities for children of UCF graduate students.

- Dinner will be provided
- Monday through Thursday 5:35pm to 9:15pm
- Ages 2 (potty trained) to 12 years old
- Spaces limited
- For more information, visit www.csc.ucf.edu or call 407-823-2726

Faculty Highlight
Dr. Juli K. Dixon

Q: Tell us a little bit about yourself and how you got to UCF.
A: I began my professional life as a teacher. I taught mathematics in public school in grades K-12 but I also taught figure skating, work place math to sheet metal workers, and college algebra all in New York before getting my doctorate. I am married with two daughters, aged 13 and 15. We enjoy sailing, paddle boarding, and bike riding. After completing my doctorate in mathematics education I took a position on faculty at UNLV in Las Vegas. I enjoyed that position but missed the ocean. I returned to Florida and took a position at UCF in 2000. I have found UCF to be the perfect fit for my academic interests and the surrounding region has also been great for my family. My husband works at Kennedy Space Center so the location is great for him as well.

Q: What program are you working with?
A: I actually work with several programs. I am in the elementary education program but I also coordinate the M.Ed. in K-8 Mathematics and Science and the Mathematics Education Track of the Ph.D. in Education.

Q: What are your research interests?
A: My research interests are as follows:
1) Improving student achievement by focusing on deepening teachers’ knowledge of mathematics for teaching;
2) Supporting communication and justification of mathematical ideas; and
3) Developing mathematics curricula that is focused and meaningful.

Q: What attracted you to UCF?
A: What attracted me most to UCF was the amazing possibilities available to both students and faculty. To me, UCF represents an academic institution that is student centered yet also focused on research. Since I like both aspects of academia, it is a perfect fit for me.

Spring 2013
Important Dates


April 22nd: Classes end.

April 24th-30th: Final Examination Period

May 3rd: Degree Conferral Date

May 2nd-4th: Commencement College of Education - Friday, May 3rd from 2:00-5:00 PM.

May 6th: Grades Available on myUCF (begins 9:00 a.m.)

Faculty Highlight
Dr. Timothy Ackley

Q: Tell us a little bit about yourself and how you got to UCF.
A: I received my bachelor’s degree from Rollins College in Winter Park, FL where I also earned my Master of Arts in Teaching. I earned a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Florida. I taught high school social studies in the Orange County Public Schools (OCPS). I worked at Rollins College for 14 years in various faculty and administrative positions and earned tenure there as a member of the Department of Philosophy and Religion. I also taught in the Rollins Graduate Program in Education teaching educational foundations courses there. Later I worked another 11 years for OCPS in various district level administrative positions. Shortly after the Florida Online High School was first established, I was appointed as the Chief Information Officer in charge of all the technology for the school. Later the school became known as the Florida Virtual School (FLVS). After a few years of the stressful responsibilities attached to this position, I was ready for something a little less stress inducing, and when a visiting position opened up in the College of Ed. at UCF for someone to teach foundations courses, I applied for and was hired into that position.

Q: How are you working with UCF currently?
A: I retired from full-time teaching at UCF about seven years ago. After retiring from the full-time faculty at UCF, I have continued to teach for the University on a part-time basis but only online, as 560 miles is a little farther than I would like to travel for a daily commute.

Q: What are your research interests?
A: My research interests over the years have focused primarily on various ethical issues in education and more recently on issues pertaining to instructional technology.
HAPPY (Having Active Participation Prepares You) Hour is the UCF College of Education Professional Learning for Teacher Candidates initiative that supplements the teacher preparation provided by coursework and field experiences. It enhances the quality of UCF’s initial teacher certification program, contributing to the development of highly credentialed teacher education graduates, and increasing their marketability in today’s competitive job market. HAPPY Hour underscores the importance of life-long learning and professional and personal growth in becoming a highly effective educator.

HAPPY Hour consists of HAPPY Hour workshops conducted by university faculty and PreK-12 educators with expertise in areas of relevance to the teaching profession, such as job interviewing tips and classroom management. These workshops are free and require no registration; students simply show up, learn, and have fun while doing so. HAPPY Hour also includes a HAPPY Hour Student Showcase that highlights our teacher candidates as presenters and provides a tremendous opportunity for professional growth. This in-house conference is held the last Saturday of January.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE MARCH/APRIL 2013

Becoming a CPS (Cognitive Processing Strategies) Instructor
Presenter: Karen Verkler, HAPPY Hour Chair
When: Wednesday, March 27, 2013, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Where: Orlando Campus TA 130

Standing Out as a Professional Educator: How Undergraduate Research Can Benefit Your Teaching Career (workshop facilitator: Karen Verkler)
Presenter: Christy Clarke, Ronald E. McNair Scholar, UCF Office of Undergraduate Research Peer Mentor
When: Monday, April 1, 2013, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Where: Orlando Campus TA 130

Microsoft Excel for Educators: It’s Amazing What You Can Do With Data When You Know How to Make It Dance!
Presenter: Matt Lavery, UCF College of Education Doctoral Student
When: Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Where: Orlando Campus TA 130

Tips for the Interviewing Process (workshop facilitator: Lou Stanley)
Presenter: Pete Gaffney, Principal, Keeth Elementary School
Michelle Walsh, Principal, Milwee Middle School
When: Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Where: Orlando Campus TA 130

RTI to MTSS: Providing Supports for Every Learner
Presenter: Andrea Walsh, College of Education Educator in Residence

Amy Elwood, RTI Coordinator in Seminole County Public Schools
When: Monday, April 8, 2013, 4:30-5:30, p.m.
Where: Orlando Campus TA 130

How Education Majors Receive Their Teaching Certificate (workshop facilitator: Lee-Anne Spalding)
Presenter: Bryan Zugelder and Hardy Davis
When: Tuesday, April 9, 2013, 4:30-5:30, p.m.
Where: Orlando Campus TA 130

Marzano: Creating Scale for Learning Goals (workshop facilitator: Lee-Anne Spalding)
Presenter: Courtney Kavanaugh, Geneva Elementary
Val Brown, Jackson Heights Middle
Kim Dansereau, Hagerty High School
When: Wednesday, April 10, 2013, 4:30-6:00, p.m.
Where: Orlando Campus TA 130

Presenter: Dr. Jan Mcgee, Principal of STEM Charter School
When: Wednesday, April 10, 2013, 5:00-6:00, p.m.
Where: Daytona Campus Bldg. 140 Rm. 305

For a complete list of workshops please visit:
http://www.education.ucf.edu/happyhour/about_workshops.cfm
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
JANE HOPPE

Q: Why did you choose UCF for graduate school?
A: One of the main reasons I chose UCF was honestly because of how friendly and knowledgeable the faculty were in the College of Education. I had visited other schools in Florida but after visiting UCF, I immediately knew it was where I should go for graduate school. Plus, I have a friend who is finishing her undergraduate degree in education at UCF and she has only had great things to say about the university.

Q: What is your favorite thing about your program?
A: Even though I am only in my second semester, I have already learned so much about the field of education and that is because I have had some great professors. The work we do in class is so meaningful and each day I feel more prepared to be in the classroom.

Q: What is the most challenging thing about your program?
A: I think time management is the most challenging thing about graduate school in general. Most of my classes require a lot of reading and writing but that’s part of graduate school. I know that all the work will benefit me when I have a classroom of my own.

Q: What are you hoping to do after graduation?
A: I love working with the primary grades (K-3) so hopefully, I will get a job as a primary elementary school teacher.

DOC VIEW  By Andrew Wood

Well it’s been an entire semester since I asked for your questions, and my! Have the questions been flowing into our inbox! Let’s open one right now and get to it.

Dana G. writes: Can I put off graduation until after I’m done with all my courses? I feel that I will worry about not only my dissertation, but possibly missing deadlines dealing with graduation (e.g., cap and gown, invitations, etc.). Can’t I deal with one thing at a time?

Dana: Well, I sympathize with your stress. Being involved in a graduate program at any level can be tough along with other things that are required of us. The answer to your question is no. It’s a university policy that all students must be enrolled in their graduating semester. That is, if you are graduating in Fall of 2013, you must also be enrolled in at least one course in Fall of 2013. In order to help you with your stress and worry, feel free to come into Graduate Affairs (ED 115) and talk to us for a little bit about any graduate concerns. Keep questions coming to edgrad@ucf.edu.