The Graduate Affairs Office, located in the Education Complex Suite 115, has designed this newsletter to help keep you informed! Keep reading along with us to find out about the latest deadlines, news from the College, and to learn about different resources, special events, faculty, students, and more.

After reading, please take a moment to provide feedback about *The Graduate Record* by completing this brief survey.

---

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Welcome and Important Dates 1
- Graduation 2
- Advising Weeks 3
- Did You Hear About… 3
- Facebook Announcement! 4
- Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Gao & Dr. Safi 5
- Get to Know Your Resources 6
- Did You Hear About… 6
- Elementary Education 7
- Graduate Student Writing Support 7
- Call to Volunteer: Literacy Symposium 7
- Student Spotlight: Timothy Flynn 8
- Counselor Education 9
- Letter from the Editors 9

### IMPORTANT DATES

- **March 7-12:** Spring Break
- **April 8:** Graduate Thesis/Dissertation Defense Deadline
- **April 22:** Graduate Thesis/Dissertation Final Submission Deadline
- **April 26:** Classes End
- **April 27:** Study Day
- **April 28 - May 4:** Final Exams Period
- **May 6 at 1PM:** Commencement
- **May 12:** Grades Available
  
  **Summer**
- **May 16:** Classes Begin (Summer A)
- **May 19:** Drop/ Swap Deadline
- **May 20:** Add Deadline
- **May 27:** Payment Deadline
- **June 24:** Classes End (Summer A)
- **June 27:** Classes Begin (Summer B)
- **August 5:** Classes End (Summer B)
The ceremony will be held on Friday, May 6th, 2016 at 12:00pm in the Morgridge International Reading Center.

More details to come.

Graduation Date:
Friday, May 6, 2016, 2:30 pm

Official Academic Regalia may be ordered online through Herff Jones at colleges.herffjones.com/college/ucf/ from February 8–March 18.

• Regalia Pick-Up: Sunday April 24th – Thursday April 28th at the Barnes & Noble at UCF near the CFE Arena
• Extra Commencement Ticket Lottery: April 25th – April 29th candidates can enter an extra ticket lottery online via the myUCF portal under “Student Self-Service”
• For additional information regarding commencement please visit, http://commencement.ucf.edu/2016/

Commencement Schedule:
• 1:00 PM – Graduates arrive at the CFE arena. Doors open for guests and graduates
• 1:30 PM – Graduates begin lining up
• 2:10 PM – Procession of graduate candidates begins
• 2:30 PM – Commencement ceremony begins (will last approximately 2 hours)
• 4:30 PM – Approximate end of ceremony

Spring Pre-Commencement Doctoral Ceremony

The ceremony will be held on Friday, May 6th, 2016 at 12:00pm in the Morgridge International Reading Center.
Advising Weeks!

Weeks of March 14th and 22nd, 2016

Master’s Students:
- Master’s students can schedule an appointment with our graduate coordinator to check on the progress of your graduation certification.
- These appointments are for students graduating in 2016.

Doctoral Students:
- Doctoral students can make an appointment to file their committee form, or have questions answered about the process for entering candidacy (i.e., dissertation).
- These appointments are for students entering candidacy during Summer or Fall of 2016.

Schedule a Time:
- Call Graduate Affairs at (407) 823-5369 to schedule a time between 9am and 4pm that works for you.
- Email edgrad@ucf.edu with your availability and we will email you back a confirmation.

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE UCF-FAMU HOLMES SCHOLARS DISSERTATION SYMPOSIUM AND RETREAT?

When? Friday, May 27, 2016 to Sunday, May 29, 2016 from 9:00am to 5:00pm

Where? UCF Teaching Academy

The UCF College of Education and Human Performance and Florida A&M University AACTE Holmes Scholars® invite you to join us for the UCF-FAMU Dissertation Symposium and Retreat. The symposium, supported by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), provides doctoral students with mentoring, peer support, and professional development. It is an interruption-free, stress-free, no-excuses-just-do-it writing time for doctoral students. The conference format includes focused mentoring/writing sessions, professional development for faculty who are engaged in doctoral student development, and a town hall meeting focused on research advocacy featuring noted panelists. Participants receive one-to-one/peer mentoring on the dissertation process and support for their dissertation topic.

For more information and to register, [http://education.ucf.edu/hsscholar/conference.cfm](http://education.ucf.edu/hsscholar/conference.cfm)
Have you liked the new Graduate Affairs Facebook page?

www.facebook.com/UCFgradaffairs

It’s Graduate Affairs Facebook Page Launch!

We thought you wouldn’t want to miss a chance to “LIKE” the new Graduate Affairs Facebook page.

Stay updated on all the latest news, deadlines, and information.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!
Dr. Su Gao

Q: Tell us a little bit about yourself and how you got to UCF.
A: I have a Ph.D in Teacher Education from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). I earned my Master’s degree in Chinese Minority Education from Minzu University in Beijing, China. Prior to joining the UCF team, I was a lecturer at the UNLV teacher education program.

Q: What program are you working with?
A: Currently, I am teaching science methods courses and internship in Science Education programs with undergraduate and graduate students.

Q: What are your research interests?
A: My current research interests are: The relationship between teaching approaches and science achievement of students from diverse racial groups, preservice science teacher education, and science teaching reform and transformation.

Q: What attracted you to UCF?
A: First, I enjoy a diverse and inclusive environment. Second, UCF is growing rapidly, providing lots of opportunities and resources to support junior faculty members. Third, the CEDHP provides a balanced platform to develop teaching, research, and service. Fourth, Orlando is a vibrant, beautiful city with many interesting sites and activities.

Dr. Farshid Safi

Q: Tell us a little bit about yourself and how you got to UCF.
A: I pursued my doctorate here at UCF and have spent the better part of the last twenty years teaching at the K-12 school level as well as at universities throughout the U.S. and Canada. After earning tenure and promotion, I was offered tenure at UCF.

Q: What program are you working with?
A: I am a mathematics education faculty member in the School of Teaching, Learning and Leadership in the College of Education and Human Performance working with undergraduate and graduate students.

Q: What are your research interests?
A: My primary research focuses on developing teachers’ conceptual understanding of elementary and secondary mathematics and connecting essential mathematical topics through the use of multiple representations and technology.

Q: What attracted you to UCF?
A: As a leading institution, UCF provides great opportunities and I have the opportunity to work with passionate colleagues. It is a bit of a homecoming to continue to impact our community and help lead in innovative ways.
Kysilka Graduate Student Study - ED 120 A quiet study location in the Education Complex, specifically for our students. Drop by ED115, the Grad Affairs front desk weekdays from 8am-5pm for the code to enter.

Graduate Student Center - a multipurpose room for presentations, study, data analysis, and more!

FTCE workshops - free tutoring and assistance!

TEACH Grant - financial assistance for high-need subject teachers. Visit the website to find out if you qualify for aid.

University Writing Center - free consultation and assistance!

CMC (Curriculum and Materials Center) - ED 194. Print and laminate (for a fee), computer use, production lab, study rooms available for reservation.

CASTLE Lab - TA 305 Computing & Statistical Technology Lab in Education. Check the website for current hours.

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT... ELEMENTARY EDUCATION RANKS FIFTH IN THE NATION!

IMPACT:

According to a national study by the Brookhill Institute of Mathematics, the Elementary Education program is highly ranked in the nation for producing elementary teachers. The program ranks fifth in the U.S. for traditional teacher education programs in universities.

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Coordinated by the College of Graduate Studies, the Pathways to Success program offers the following free development opportunities for graduate students including workshops in Academic Integrity, Graduate Grantsmanship, Graduate Teaching, Personal Development, Professional Development, and Research.

Pathways to Success Calendar of Events can be found at: www.students.graduate.ucf.edu/Pathways/
Graduate Student Writing Support
Spring 2016

The Office of Graduate Affairs is continuing to offer writing support for all Masters, Education Specialist, and Doctoral students within the College of Education and Human Performance through the Spring 2016 academic session. This service is a great opportunity to sit with a recent doctoral graduate and receive specific feedback on grammar usage, syntax, word choice, and APA/UCF Thesis and Dissertation formatting.

Where? Kysilka Graduate Student Study, ED 120

How to make an appointment? 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 to request a writing support session and complete the session request form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday (Ph.D. &amp; Ed.D.)</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday (Master’s &amp; Specialist Only)</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday (Ph.D. &amp; Ed.D.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:30 PM – 7:30 PM</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>4:30 PM – 7:30 PM</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>8 AM – 12 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Can we count on you to volunteer?

The 18th Annual UCF Literacy Symposium invites you to join us Friday April 1, 2016 from 8:00am to 3:30pm for a day filled with professional learning. The Literacy Symposium is designed for all Florida pre-service and in-service educators, teacher educators, district personnel, school administrators, and students interested in literacy.

This year’s keynote speakers include Dr. Nell Duke from the University of Michigan, 2016 Florida Teacher of the Year Diane McKee, Dr. Carol June Maker from The University of Arizona, and Ms. Carrie Morgridge of the Morgridge Family Foundation.

Please use the link to register and sign up for shifts: https://2016lsvolunteer.eventbrite.com
Remember by volunteering, you will receive free registration and may attend sessions outside of your shift hours.
Q: Why did you choose UCF for graduate school?
A: I’m not positive that I chose UCF, I feel as though UCF chose me. Upon completing my undergraduate degree in Political Science, I applied to the M.Ed. Educational Leadership program. I knew my aspirations; however I had an extremely limited understanding of how to reach them. My first semester of graduate school served as a watershed semester in my realization that UCF was in fact where I wanted to continue my education. I can say with near certainty that had I not been for the happenstance that found me in a course with Dr. Rosemarye Taylor, I would not be where I am at in both my academic and professional career.

Q: What is your favorite thing about your program?
A: I am currently enrolled in (and one dissertation away from graduation of!) the Ed.D. Executive Educational Leadership program. The program is designed as a cohort model. Because of the design of the program, I know that I have developed relationships with people who I know have had immeasurable impacts on who I am both personally and professionally. Learning with the same group of people for two and a half years has without doubt been my favorite component of the program.

Q: What are you hoping to do after graduation?
A: Read a book - for pleasure. While I will always treasure the challenge of staying abreast of research and professional readings, I really do look forward to being able to enjoy a good old fashioned piece of fiction.

Q: What advice do you have for students considering a Doctoral program?
A: My advice for anyone beginning a doctoral program is to read, read, read! I do not mean just your course readings, but stay apprised of the current research in your field or interests. One of the greatest pieces of advice I received about navigating a doctoral program was to use course assignments to expand my understanding of what I was interested in. Because of this, many of the course assignments completed throughout the program have helped me in the completion of my dissertation.
Greetings! The Graduate Record focuses on updates, initiatives, and events within the College of Education and Human Performance. We continue to feature Faculty and students from multiple departments—some who have already provided years of service at UCF and others who are just beginning their time here. We hope these insights are interesting to all students and faculty.

This edition features information about: Spring Graduation, PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS, faculty spotlights, special announcements and notes from our coordinators, a student feature, and more!

Do you want to be featured? Are you working on a special project or conducting new research? Our next issue will be during the Fall semester, so please contact us early.

We look forward to hearing from you!

~Luke, Lauren, Moises | Office of Graduate Affairs