STUDENTS: All information below is explained in greater detail on the website.

HAPPY (Having Active Participation Prepares You) Hour consists of a HAPPY Hour Student Showcase from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 30, 2010, that highlights you, our students, as presenters. HAPPY Hour also consists of HAPPY Hour workshops conducted by university faculty and PreK-12 educators on areas of relevance to you, our education undergraduates. HAPPY Hour, because it supplements the teacher preparation provided by coursework and field experiences, enhances the quality of UCF’s initial teacher certification program, contributing to the development of highly credentialed teacher education graduates.

The HAPPY Hour workshops are offered on a weekly basis throughout the academic year. The workshops, which are usually 1-1 ½ hours long, are typically scheduled for late afternoon. Workshop participants can expect to be interactively involved and to receive a comprehensive handout to add to their ever-growing resource files. The 2009-2010 workshop schedule can be found at http://education.ucf.edu/happyhour. No pre-registration is required; simply show up, learn, and have fun while doing so. Participation in HAPPY Hour adds to your teaching credentials, provides you with valuable experiences that can be added to your resource files and professional resumes, and increases your marketability in today's highly competitive job market.

The HAPPY Hour Student Showcase, the ultimate form of professional development, is a mini-conference in the Teaching Academy and Education Building Complex during which students share their best work with their peers. This event is a tremendous opportunity for professional development in which students can enhance their teaching credentials, scholarship, and presentational skills. As a presenter, you will participate in an actual conference experience by learning how to write a proposal to present at the Showcase and how to implement your presentation. If desired, you will have a faculty mentor to help you through the entire process.

You can present course assignments of which you are proud, and/or strategies/activities learned in classes, internships, and workshops/seminars. You can share strategies learned from peers, supervising teachers, and/or course instructors. Presenting at the Showcase demonstrates to future employers that you have initiative and the desire to be a life-long learner. Consider being a presenter! Challenge yourself to become a highly qualified educator!

This year’s HAPPY Hour Student Showcase will be the 5th anniversary of the Showcase. In commemoration of this milestone, HAPPY Hour Student Showcase Scholarships will be given for the very first time to two deserving student presenters. For the scholarship application guidelines, go to the HAPPY Hour website.

How you can get involved:
• Attend HAPPY Hour workshops. The 2009-2010 schedule can be found at http://education.ucf.edu/happyhour
• Serve on the new HAPPY Hour Student Leadership Council.
• Attend the HAPPY Hour Student Showcase on Saturday, January 30, 2010.
• Give your student organization exposure by partnering with HAPPY Hour.
• Volunteer to be a student assistant and help HAPPY Hour faculty with registration and running the Showcase.
• Participate in the ultimate form of professional development by being a student presenter at the HAPPY Hour Student Showcase. Faculty mentors are available to help you prepare and implement your presentation during the Showcase. This experience, which you can definitely include on your professional resumes, looks VERY impressive to future employers. In today’s competitive job market, it is highly recommended that you try to enhance your teaching qualifications as much as possible. If interested in presenting at the Showcase, please contact Dr. Verkler for specifics.
• Donate door prizes for the HAPPY Hour Student Showcase.
• At the Showcase, donate instructional materials (new or used) for a Gift for Teaching, a resource center for impoverished teachers and students.

For additional information, please feel free to contact: Dr. Karen Verkler, HAPPY Hour Chair, kverkler@mail.ucf.edu