



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

ORDER OF PEGASUS



CLASS OF 2022

THE UCF CREED

INTEGRITY

I will practice and defend
academic and personal honesty.

SCHOLARSHIP

I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental
purpose of my membership in the UCF community.

COMMUNITY

I will promote an open and supportive campus environment
by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.

CREATIVITY

I will use my talents to enrich
the human experience.

EXCELLENCE

I will strive toward the highest standards of
performance in any endeavor I undertake.

SPRING 2022

WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome, and thank you for helping us honor the Class of 2022 Order of Pegasus recipients.

The Order of Pegasus is the highest honor a student can receive from UCF, recognizing outstanding graduating seniors and graduate students who have demonstrated exemplary academic achievement, university involvement, leadership and community service.

This year's 26 students are remarkable and are already making an impact on the world. While at UCF, they helped secure patents, started nonprofits, coached and mentored other students, won athletics championships, taught as teaching assistants and advised university leadership. They developed their leadership skills within honor societies, the President's Leadership Council, Student Government, the President's Student Advisory Council, LEAD Scholars and a variety of other organizations and programs — including some they founded themselves. They also conducted, presented and published research in a wide range of subjects, including contributing toward advances in the research of Type 1 diabetes; equity in education and healthcare; the impacts of tourism; brain, colon and other cancers; mental health and suicide prevention; and solving the opioid crisis.

They are among our brightest students — with a collective GPA of 3.82 — and they are also some of our most compassionate. They have volunteered extensively within our community and beyond at food banks, shelters, clinics, schools, fire stations and other service organizations.

The UCF community is incredibly proud of these recipients and all they have accomplished. Please join us in offering your congratulations and best wishes for a very rewarding and impactful future.

Best,

Alexander Cartwright

Alexander N. Cartwright, Ph.D.
President





IAN BIAZZO

Degree Program

Conservation Biology, Ph.D.

College

College of Sciences

Hometown

Jackson, NJ

Ian Biazzo is a Ph.D. candidate in the conservation biology program at UCF with research interests in fire ecology, herpetology, cave ecology, ecological modeling, ecological ethics and DEI initiatives. His undergraduate degrees in biology and mathematics influenced his dissertation, which explores the effects of fire on amphibian populations in Central Florida. Ian previously worked as a firefighter and an expedition trip leader, and he now uses those skills in his field research with the hope that he can influence more young researchers to safely explore beyond the beaten path. As a naturalist and explorer, Ian spends free time birding, hiking, rock climbing, SCUBA diving and exploring caves — and he loves to share these passions with others! When not in the wild, you can find Ian exploring the best vegan food around Orlando.

“ **I came to UCF on a fellowship to conduct research and earn a Ph.D., but I quickly decided that there was way more to my experience than that. I decided to be a voice, to help where I could and to lead by example in my community.** ”

IAN'S FUTURE PLANS

While my immediate future is somewhat unclear, I know I will never stop learning and advocating for unheard voices. I have five main, long-term goals: continue absorbing knowledge whenever possible, continue to work in nature, direct my own research, help people in a meaningful way, and advocate for environmental health and animal welfare. This will likely lead me to a career in academia or land stewardship.

GRADUATE



CHUCK DIDIER

Degree Program

Biomedical Sciences, Ph.D.

College

College of Medicine

Hometown

Dunedin, FL

Charles “Chuck” Didier ’15 ’19MS graduated from UCF in 2015 with dual undergraduate degrees in Biomedical Sciences and Biotechnology, and again in 2019 with his M.Sc. in Nanotechnology. Currently, he is a Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. candidate researching how nanoscience-enabled microelectrode arrays can improve biomedicine. Specifically, through a nationwide effort to help end the opioid crisis, he is developing biosensors for safer neural analgesic screening. Chuck has also accomplished much at UCF, earning second place in the “3-Minute Thesis” competition and he was also awarded the ORC Doctoral Fellowship, the UCF Doctoral Research Support Award, and the Wodzinski Scholarship. His lasting impact at the university includes helping to establish the UCF chapter of the Scientista Foundation, which is an organization seeking to empower women pursuing STEM careers. He additionally founded the UCF chapter of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and is a dedicated Knight-Thon supporter and participant.

“

My UCF experience has been one of immense growth and personal improvement. Life may present its challenges, but UCF gives you the tools to overcome them and thrive.

”

CHUCK’S FUTURE PLANS

After graduation, I plan to continue working in the biomedical engineering industry. I aim to further how we utilize technology in studying biology, to create more accurate diagnostic tools, and to increase the efficacy of therapeutics. In the future, my hope is to return to academia, so I may continue advocating for more diverse and interdisciplinary research environments, as well as to continue student mentorship and doing what I can to remove societal barriers.

GRADUATE



MAKSIM GODOVYKH

Degree Program

Hospitality Management, Ph.D.

College

Rosen College of Hospitality
Management

Hometown

Yekaterinburg, Russia

Maksim Godovykh is a doctoral candidate and research associate at the Rosen College of Hospitality Management. He explores the dynamic nature of customer experience in tourism, hospitality and public service using a multidisciplinary methodology and runs international research projects on the economic, social, environmental and psychological impacts of tourism development. Maksim previously received the UCF Multidisciplinary Doctoral Fellowship Award and UCF Seed Funding Award. His research results were published in premium academic journals, as well as disseminated in books, encyclopedias, industry magazines and news media. He has developed several government programs and organized more than a hundred conferences, forums and workshops.

“ **In addition to the extensive research skills I gained during my Ph.D. course, UCF taught me that teamwork and multidisciplinary collaboration are key aspects of successful research. As a result, I am currently making every effort to collaborate with other UCF colleges, industry partners, government agencies and numerous researchers from different parts of the world.** ”

MAKSIM'S FUTURE PLANS

I plan to establish and run an international, multidisciplinary center for tourism impacts research. As one of the driving forces behind regional and national economic growth, tourism's positive economic impacts are often outweighed by the negative social, environmental and psychological impacts on local communities. I intend to shift the focus of tourism statistics and management from attendance and revenues to improving the quality of life, health and well-being of local people.

GRADUATE



JUVENS JEAN-NOEL

Degree Program

Public Administration and Nonprofit Management, MPA/MNMM

College

College of Community Innovation and Education, Burnett Honors College

Hometown

Queens Village, NY

Juvens Jean-Noel '19 graduated with honors from UCF in 2019 with a B.S. in Public Administration. He returned to his alma mater for his graduate education and is currently pursuing a dual master's degree in Public Administration and Nonprofit Management within the College of Community Innovation and Education. Juvens works as a graduate assistant at the Burnett Honors College, where he oversees the Inspire Scholars Program. Juvens also serves UCF in several other capacities. He is a member of the President's Leadership Council, an inaugural member of the College of Graduate Studies Advisory Council, and is a member of the Nonprofit Advisory Board within the School of Public Administration. Committed to servant leadership, Juvens also has an impressive service record outside of UCF. He is an AmeriCorps NCCC alumnus, an SGA President at Eastern Florida State College and recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award.



UCF has not solely been a place for me to attend class and gain a degree. It has been a place and an opportunity for me to develop as a person, construct lifelong relationships, exercise leadership and initiative, and truly forge my legacy.



JUVENS' FUTURE PLANS

Following graduation, I intend to work within the federal government or within university administration. My experiences at UCF, especially as a graduate assistant, have sparked an interest in higher education administration. Whether it be through federal employment or at a university, I desire work that is involved in higher education in some capacity. I look forward to continuing to help others achieve success within college while preparing them for what lies beyond.



MICHAEL ROHR

Degree Program

Medicine/Biomedical Sciences,
M.D./Ph.D.

College

College of Medicine

Hometown

West Palm Beach, FL

Michael Rohr's passion for the sciences began with studying weather patterns. That changed in college after conducting biomedical research at The Scripps Research Institute, volunteering at Jupiter Medical Center, and shadowing gastroenterologists at Cleveland Clinic Florida. Throughout these experiences, Michael witnessed the interplay between research and clinical care, which influenced his desire to become a physician-scientist who can move from bench to bedside — a path he now trailblazes as UCF's first M.D./Ph.D. student. Michael is actively engaged in medical volunteering, teaching (peer academic coach and FIRE mentor), and research projects probing autocrine-paracrine loops and bile acid signaling in colorectal, pancreatic, and gastric cancers. He has represented UCF at three national conferences, resulting in several award-winning presentations, and has published over 10 research articles.

“ Since joining the UCF family in 2016, I have worked diligently to maintain excellence in academics, mentoring, community service, research and the practice of medicine, while trailblazing a path for future physician-scientist candidates with the continual support and guidance from faculty and peers. ”

MICHAEL'S FUTURE PLANS

After completing my M.D./Ph.D., I plan to complete a residency and fellowship in gastroenterology at a research hospital. During my training, I will focus on researching and treating malignant and non-malignant diseases of the hepatobiliary tree. Afterwards, I hope to establish a career in academic medicine that integrates research with clinical care and teaching, with the goal to continue investigating how bile acids and related components can be leveraged for therapy and diagnosis.



ASHLEY STONE

Degree Program
Sociology, Ph.D.

College
College of Sciences

Hometown
Chicago, IL

Ashley Stone is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology. A recipient of the Office of Research and Commercialization (ORC) Fellowship, she holds a B.A. in Communication from the University of Illinois at Chicago and an M.A. in Sociology from DePaul University. A native of Chicago, Illinois, she was raised in the prominent Bronzeville community, where her family taught her the importance of activism. This awakened her interest in social justice and her decision to study social inequalities. Her dissertation research focuses on the diffusion of Black women's scholarship in sociology curricula and the factors that contribute to the inclusion and exclusion of their intellectual contributions in graduate-level classical theory courses. In addition to serving on UCF's Student Conduct Board, she is the founding president of the Sociology Graduate Student Association (SGSA). Her work has been published in *Women, Gender, and Families of Color* and *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*.

“

In a word, my UCF experience has been *transformative*. I have been mentored by faculty who recognized my skill sets and encouraged me to apply them in new ways that have advanced my professional development.

”

ASHLEY'S FUTURE PLANS

After earning my doctorate, I will continue my research on epistemological segregation and the exclusion of diverse theorists from curricula in higher education. Additionally, I plan to collaborate with scholars in education to develop a rubric that guides faculty toward including diverse scholars in their syllabi. Moving from theory to praxis, my research will support faculty in developing curricula that are reflective of the increasingly diverse populations of students.

UNDERGRADUATE



JUSTIN BARTHEL

Degree Program

Biomedical Sciences

College

College of Medicine,
Burnett Honors College

Hometown

Jacksonville, FL

Justin Barthel is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Biomedical Science with a minor in Psychology. He is a member of the Burnett Honors College, the President's Leadership Council and Knights of Distinction, and is a distinguished LEAD Scholars Academy graduate. In LEAD, he served as the Leadership Excellence Board's Executive Director, where he oversaw their recruitment and promotions process. He also served as the Professional School Information Officer of the Pre-Professional Medical Society, where he helped organize the Medical School Admissions Symposium for undergraduate students. His research consists of creating an in silico novel miRNA design for the downregulation of the Human Peripheral Myelin Protein 22 for Charcot Marie Tooth Disease Type 1A and an honors thesis on COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy on a college campus. As an active member of the Orlando community, he volunteers weekly at the Orlando Regional Medical Center, where he assists nurses in patient care.

“

During my time at UCF, I was able to utilize my leadership, academic and service experiences to collaborate with various campus organizations and conduct original research projects. I was provided the tools and instruction to innovate new, robust ideas of action in my endeavors.

”

JUSTIN'S FUTURE PLANS

As an aspiring physician, I want to focus on healthcare outreach to disadvantaged minorities and provide them with medical resources to increase their quality of life. During my gap year, I will begin an internship at Mayo Clinic, where I will be studying cancer health disparities in minority populations.

UNDERGRADUATE



ABEL BIRCHFIELD

Degree Program

Mechanical Engineering

College

College of Engineering and Computer Science, Burnett Honors College

Hometown

Sammamish, WA

Abel Birchfield is a mechanical engineering major with a minor in computer science. He is a member of the Burnett Honors College and a graduate of the LEAD Scholars Academy. Some of his most notable involvements at UCF are his roles as president of the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society and as a research assistant in the NeuroMechanical Systems Lab, where he develops devices to enhance neurological rehabilitation. He also serves on the President's Leadership Council and as a teaching assistant for the Introduction to Engineering courses. His most memorable experiences as a Knight have been the two study abroad trips he took to South Africa and Brazil. Other fun facts: Abel plays intramural flag football and volleyball, has performed in Knights Got Talent twice, and is an officer in UCF's Unicycle Club.

“

Finding a balance between academics and extracurriculars at UCF has allowed me to grow as a student, a leader and a citizen in ways I hadn't anticipated. I have traveled 3,000 miles to make Orlando my home, and UCF gave me 3,000 times what I could have ever imagined in friendships, opportunities and memories.

”

ABEL'S FUTURE PLANS

After graduation, I will be joining Qualtrics as a Product Specialist. Eventually, I hope to pursue a Master's in Business Administration or Engineering Management to lead innovative teams in engineering a brighter future.

UNDERGRADUATE



JAYLEN BROWN

Degree Program

Finance

College

College of Business

Hometown

San Angelo, TX

Jaylen Brown is a finance major in the College of Business Administration with a minor in Marketing. He has been significantly involved within the College of Business, leading as Chair of the College of Business Student Ambassadors, receiving the 2020 UCF Founders' Award for Business, and hosting as Master of Ceremonies for UCF's 2022 Hall of Fame. During his time at UCF, Jaylen has also been active with the Marching Knights drum line, the President's Leadership Council, LEAD Scholars, and as the first-ever Student Success Coach for Online Students. Off campus, Jaylen has developed a strong passion for diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and has served as the Student Director of DEI for Pearson Education. In this role, he helped develop a national and award-winning webinar series, called "Unwritten," which focused on current issues such as racial injustice and civil/equal rights. Additionally, he volunteers as a leader in Pearson BOLD, which focuses on the empowerment of Black people and our allies.

“ I have developed a strong sense of community while being a student at UCF. Because the university is filled with those who constantly motivate and inspire me, I have, in turn, been able to do the same for others. ”

JAYLEN'S FUTURE PLANS

After graduation, I plan to join Holiday Inn Club Vacations as a College Program Manager as well as pursue a graduate degree. My long-term goal is to produce multiple streams of income which will be accomplished through financial investing, real estate, entrepreneurship and public speaking.

UNDERGRADUATE



PARTH CHANDAN

Degree Program

Biomedical Sciences

College

College of Medicine

Hometown

Jupiter, FL

Parth Chandan is a junior majoring in Biomedical Sciences with minors in Diversity and Social Inequity and Psychology. Born and raised in India, he immigrated to the United States in 2006 and has been on an H-4 visa for his entire educational career. During his time at UCF, Parth founded the university's first-ever, student-run Clinical Volunteering Program. In partnership with other local medical clinics, this program has delivered vital medical care to hundreds of immigrants and other uninsured patients in the Orlando area. Parth has also served in numerous leadership roles at UCF, including the executive boards of President's Leadership Council and Pre-Med AMSA. He is also one of the founding directors of the Refugee and Immigrant Education Initiative, an organization that helps immigrants, like himself, get into higher education programs. He has also conducted research within the UCF College of Medicine and the Orlando Immunology Center, along with his own independent, multidisciplinary research in the implementation of novel gap-year internships.

“

UCF flourishes with diverse individuals waiting to make a difference in the world, functioning as sounding boards for innovative ideas. As a result, I've been motivated to give back to a community that has given me so much.

”

PARTH'S FUTURE PLANS

Following graduation, my goal is to attend medical school to one day become a physician. I plan on using my degree to continue to improve healthcare access to underserved populations across the United States. The next chapter of my life's story will be filled with even more opportunities to empower and advocate for those around me.

UNDERGRADUATE



CHRISTOPHER CLIFFORD

Degree Program

Electrical Engineering

College

College of Engineering and Computer Science, Burnett Honors College

Hometown

Titusville, FL

Christopher Clifford '21 is an Electrical Engineering major with a Bioengineering minor. Christopher was president of the Type 1 Group at UCF, a community that helps students transition to college while living healthy and fulfilled lives with diabetes. Christopher's interdisciplinary research focuses on developing a cure for Type 1 diabetes. His research at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, focused on differentiating stem cells into insulin-producing beta cells for transplantation into people with diabetes. At the AdventHealth TRI, Chris was a volunteer researcher where the group pursued novel biomarkers relevant to Type 1 diabetes onset and diagnosis. Chris was a Burnett Honors Scholar, an Astronaut Scholar and UCF's first Gates-Cambridge recipient.

“ **UCF has been a great place for me to discover my academic interests and encourage my personal growth. Being such a large university, I found my home in my student organization, the honors college and the engineering department, where I built great relationships with my peers and professors.** ”

CHRISTOPHER'S FUTURE PLANS

In the coming fall I will be moving to Boston, Massachusetts, where I will start my Ph.D. program in Medical Engineering and Medical Physics at Harvard-MIT. I am so excited for this next step, where I plan to study how the immune system is implicated in Type 1 diabetes, with the goal of developing robust cell therapies for people like me living with diabetes. In the future I look forward to making new friends, becoming a teacher and a young scientist!

UNDERGRADUATE



AUSTIN JOHN EASON

Degree Program

Health Sciences

College

College of Health Professions
and Sciences

Hometown

Fort Lauderdale, FL

Austin Eason's Type 1 diabetes diagnosis has led him down a path that he never would have been on otherwise. Due to that life-changing event, Austin didn't enter the military as previously planned. He was lost, yet UCF welcomed him with open arms. His diagnosis exposed him to others with similar conditions, and the pain he witnessed upset him greatly. To help ease this suffering, he wanted to become a physician, and since starting this journey, he has experienced fulfillment for the first time in his life — and he looks forward to experiencing that same feeling for the rest of it as well. In addition, Austin, as a first-generation college student, has had the support of his family on every step of his journey.



UCF houses all the goals and dreams of every student that resides in its classrooms, including my own. To look back at the opportunities that I have received at this institution, as well as the resiliency, adaptability and work ethic that I've gained over the years, leaves me proud to be a Knight.



AUSTIN'S FUTURE PLANS

Once I graduate this semester with my degree in Health Sciences, I will be attending the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville to enter the class of 2026. There, I will train to become a physician whilst pursuing my research interests in Type 1 diabetes. I hope to investigate the etiology and immunologic mechanisms/therapies that contribute to the condition.

UNDERGRADUATE



CLEOPATRA ELSHIEKH

Degree Program

Biomedical Sciences

College

College of Medicine,
Burnett Honors College

Hometown

New York, NY

Cleopatra Elshiekh is majoring in Biomedical Sciences with a minor in Sociology on a pre-medical track. As a member of the Burnett Honors College, she served on the inaugural Dean's Leadership Council, where she worked directly with the deans of the honors college. She has pursued research pertaining to suicide prevention and awareness in the Central Florida community and will publish her undergraduate thesis on suicide ideation in college students in December. She has also worked as a student assistant at the Office of the President, as well as being a member of the Student Conduct Board. She also works as an intern with Dr. Gideon Lewis at the Foot and Ankle Sports Medicine Institute in Orlando. Cleopatra volunteers her time at Give Kids the World Village, Shepherds Hope and Orlando Regional Medical Center.

“ UCF has provided me with opportunities to grow as a student, a leader and an academic, while allowing me to advocate for and improve the communities I have been a part of. I have found mentors and professors who have guided me through my college journey, and now I have been able to pay it forward as a mentor to younger UCF Knights, helping them find their place at UCF. ”

CLEOPATRA'S FUTURE PLANS

After I graduate from UCF in the Fall, I plan to go to medical school and pursue a career as an interventional radiologist, where I will focus on minimally invasive techniques to diagnose and treat cancers, strokes and heart attacks. I also plan to pursue a Master of Public Health to use my medical background to improve public health policy and advocate for the thousands across the country who are unable to afford healthcare.

UNDERGRADUATE



MEG HALL

Degree Program

Legal Studies

College

College of Community Innovation
and Education

Hometown

Saint Petersburg, FL

Meg Hall is a senior majoring in Legal Studies, minoring in Sociology, and pursuing a certificate in Behavioral Forensics. During her time at UCF, Meg has been an orientation leader, a resident assistant and a member of the President's Leadership Council. She has also been heavily involved with the Panhellenic Community and was recognized as member of the UCF Homecoming Court. In Spring of 2020, Meg participated in the Legislative Scholars Internship Program, which fostered her passion for civic engagement and advocacy. Within Student Government, she has been involved in the Student Government Leadership Council and served on the Executive Branch as the Governmental Affairs Coordinator. She currently has the honor of serving UCF as Student Body President and as a member of the Board of Trustees.

“ **My UCF experience has been one of incredible opportunities and experiences. I feel fortunate to be a part of such a passionate and hard-working campus-community that strives to make a positive impact daily.** ”

MEG'S FUTURE PLANS

I plan to attend law school and pursue a career in legal and governmental relations. In my free time, I will serve as a Guardian Ad Litem, where I will act as a volunteer child advocate. This summer, I plan to participate in the Walt Disney Professional Intern program. Finally, I hope to continue to act as an advocate and represent members of the UCF community as a proud alum!

UNDERGRADUATE



JACEY KOO

Degree Program

Health Sciences

College

College of Health Professions and Sciences, Burnett Honors College

Hometown

Orlando, FL

Jacey Koo is a Burnett Medical Scholar, a National Merit Finalist and a Burnett Honors Student. At UCF, she has been involved with the Honors Congress and Hearts for the Homeless clubs, served as vice president for the organization Reformed University Fellowship, and been a teaching assistant. Additionally, she has served communities of all backgrounds from babysitting infants at the Orlando Union Rescue Mission's homeless shelter to ushering at Orlando's hub for the performing arts — The Dr. Phillips Center. She has also volunteered at Shepherd's Hope and at a nursing home. One of her greatest accomplishments was performing virtual reality research at the Institute for Simulation and Training where she ran human participants in a research study, presented a poster for which she was the first author, and wrote multiple literature reviews. During spare moments, Jacey sketches custom drawings and loves learning new piano music.



As a lifelong homeschool student, my experience at UCF has been nothing but exciting. Within a large student population, I have found several pockets of community with incredible friends, mentors and professors who have made UCF a place where my aspirations can turn into reality.



JACEY'S FUTURE PLANS

I plan to begin an honors interdisciplinary thesis this summer and apply to medical schools soon, as my dream is to become a physician. I want to make an impact on my community by giving my future patients the tools they need to live the best lives possible. Having already completed several of the most challenging parts of being a pre-medical student, I look forward to the next steps of this journey.

UNDERGRADUATE



TRINITY MCCALL-PEAKS

Degree Program

Marketing

College

College of Business

Hometown

Greensboro, NC

Trinity McCall-Peaks is a senior majoring in Marketing on the Professional Sales Track. At the University of Central Florida, she fostered a passion for leadership through her roles as a 2019 Orientation Team Leader, an academic advisor for the College of Business, a member of the President's Leadership Council and a change management intern for Knight Vision. Trinity has also been involved in numerous registered student organizations as a member of Legacy Mentoring Program and the John T. Washington Honor Society; vice president of chapter development for the UCF Chapter of American Marketing Association; historian for the Mu Iota Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; a Professional Selling Program student; and an inductee to the Order of Omega. Trinity was crowned Miss Congeniality in the 2020 Miss UCF Scholarship Pageant, and in her final year, she had the distinct honor of being crowned 2021 UCF Homecoming Royalty.



As a UCF Knight, my passions found purpose and allowed me to tap into my greatest potential. UCF unveiled the natural-born leader within me and has given me the tools to mightily charge on through every challenge and success.



TRINITY'S FUTURE PLANS

After graduating from UCF, I will be relocating to Chicago, where I will be joining the world's leading professional social media network, LinkedIn. At LinkedIn, I will utilize the skills and tools learned as a UCF marketing and Professional Selling Program student in my new role as a business leadership program associate.

UNDERGRADUATE



MCKENNA MELVILLE

Degree Program

Finance

College

College of Business

Hometown

Eagan, MN

McKenna Melville '21 graduated Magna Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in Finance. She is a member of the NCAA Division 1 Volleyball team at UCF, where she led the team to four consecutive conference championships. She was named First Team All-Conference four times and an All-American twice. She served as a part of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee to implement ways for athletes to be involved in the Orlando community. While at UCF, she balanced her time in the classroom as well as on the volleyball court. She has been a two-time member of the CoSIDA All-American Team, which recognized both athletic and academic performances.

“

My time as a student-athlete here at UCF has given me the opportunity to expand my leadership abilities and prepare for my future — all while pushing me to be the best student, athlete and peer I can be. UCF has given me a second home, and I am grateful for the experiences, opportunities and impact I have been able to have here at UCF.

”

MCKENNA'S FUTURE PLANS

Over the next year, I am finishing my master's degree in Secondary Mathematics Education here at UCF, while still representing the Knights on the volleyball court. This master's degree will give me the opportunity to teach high school mathematics. My future also includes coaching volleyball at the high school level. I am excited to have an impact on young athletes and students in the future.

UNDERGRADUATE



STEPHANIE OLIVEIRA

Degree Program

Health Sciences

College

College of Health Professions and Sciences, Burnett Honors College

Hometown

Orlando, FL

Stephanie Oliveira is earning a bachelor's degree in Health Sciences (pre-clinical track) and a minor in Medical Sociology. As a research assistant within the Honors Undergraduate Thesis Program, Stephanie combines her interests in athletics and medicine by examining the function and significance of blood-based biomarkers to improve evaluation of sports-related traumatic brain injuries. In her role as a biology teaching assistant and peer mentor, Stephanie utilizes her subject expertise and experiences to assist fellow UCF Knights. As former presidential advisor and current treasurer of International Medical Outreach, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to expanding cultural awareness regarding medicinal practices and living standards across the globe, Stephanie has advanced UCF's core values of community and inclusivity.

“ As a UCF Knight, I have been able to serve as a leader for underserved communities around the world, assist within a classroom setting to support children with cerebral palsy, and volunteer at various medical centers under physicians of varying specialties. ”

STEPHANIE'S FUTURE PLANS

Upon graduation, I plan on taking a growth year to acquire additional knowledge and skills before attending medical school. As a future physician, I hope to continue reducing barriers to care and promoting healthcare for all. During my growth year, I plan to actively continue my exposure in the medical field as a medical assistant and volunteer. I also intend to continue expanding my business, PrimalPins, with my twin brother.

UNDERGRADUATE



VICTORIA ORINDAS

Degree Program

Health Sciences

College

College of Health Professions and Sciences, Burnett Honors College

Hometown

Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

Victoria Orindas is a first-generation student majoring in health sciences and striving to become a doctor. During her undergraduate career, she witnessed one of the most persistent social issues — homelessness. She decided to tackle this issue and took on the position of vice president for H4H Orlando and will continue her community work as a CGI U scholar. She has also initiated a new student organization called SALT Outreach at UCF that was awarded the 2020-2021 New Registered Student Organization of the Year Award. Victoria is also involved in several student organizations on campus such as Russian American Student Association, where she serves as its vice president, and a member of the President's Leadership Council. Furthermore, she was a research fellow at Mayo Clinic (SURF), and she presented her work at several conferences: GMiS 2021, ABRCMS 2021, and FURC 2022. Lastly, she takes pride being a LEAD and Burnett Scholar — and most importantly a UCF Knight.

“ **UCF has created a steady support system for first-generation immigrant students, such as myself, via numerous outreach programs that have served as pillars toward my growth as a scholar and leader.** ”

VICTORIA'S FUTURE PLANS

The breadth of all my experiences during my undergraduate career pivoted me towards geriatrics, motivating me to work ceaselessly to become a geriatrician. Throughout my college career, I have explored different medical specialties, yet my heart always returned to geriatrics. I am excited for what the future holds for me and to dedicate the rest of my life to improving the healthcare provided to this vulnerable population, while witnessing my dream become reality.

UNDERGRADUATE



ABBEY REYNOLDS

Degree Program

Political Science

College

College of Sciences,
Burnett Honors College

Hometown

Fort Myers, FL

Abigail “Abbey” Reynolds is a Political Science major with a minor in Philosophy. After studying in South Africa with the Burnett Honors College (BHC) freshman year, she developed an interest in African politics and cultures. The following summer, she served as the African affairs intern at UCF’s Office of Global Perspectives, which inspired her honors thesis studying the intersections of health and governance in sub-Saharan Africa. Alongside Dr. Jonathan Powell, she studied coups across the continent through UCF’s Research and Mentoring Program. Abbey supported fellow undergraduates through the thesis process as a peer advisor at the Office of Honors Research. As a 2021 Boren Scholar for Swahili, she also assisted her peers in applying for language acquisition scholarships through the Office of Prestigious Awards. An inaugural member of the Burnett Honors College Dean’s Leadership Council, Abbey was able to give back to a community, which greatly shaped her personal and professional growth.

“ I would not be the person or student I am now if not for the investment and care of my mentors and friends, and I am certain that my time at UCF has well prepared me to pursue my dream career in foreign policy. ”

ABBEY’S FUTURE PLANS

After graduation, I will continue my studies at Yale University, pursuing an M.A. in African Studies. This degree program will allow me to further explore my interests in the African continent through an interdisciplinary lens. Throughout my career, I hope to combat monolithic and ultimately deficient understandings of Africa in Western policy spheres and public perceptions.

UNDERGRADUATE



PARSHVA SANGHVI

Degree Program

Biomedical Sciences

College

College of Medicine,
Burnett Honors College

Hometown

Canton, MI

Parshva Sanghvi is pursuing a major in Biomedical Sciences and a minor in Business. He is a National Merit Scholar, member of the Burnett Medical Scholars Program and a graduate of the LEAD Scholars program. As a member of the President's Leadership Council, Parshva serves as a student body ambassador to UCF's president and dignitaries who visit the university. He is also a participant in UCF's Honors in the Major Undergraduate Thesis program, through which he studied the effect of novel compounds on advanced stage prostate cancer cells. Parshva has held several leadership roles, from serving as treasurer of Pre-Medical AMSA to vice president of Honors Congress. Passionate about serving his community, Parshva regularly volunteers at both AdventHealth East Orlando and Give Kids the World Village in Kissimmee — an organization that provides meaningful experiences to children facing terminal-illnesses.

“

UCF is where my passion for learning was met with endless opportunities. Coming from Michigan, I found a home at UCF and felt supported in any endeavour I pursued.

”

PARSHVA'S FUTURE PLANS

I plan on attending medical school this upcoming fall and pursuing an M.D./MBA dual degree. As an aspiring physician, I aim to make healthcare more affordable and equitable for underserved communities. Eventually, I also plan on serving as a mentor and leader in academic medicine.

UNDERGRADUATE



ERIN NICOLE TONKIN

Degree Program

Nursing

College

College of Nursing,
Burnett Honors College

Hometown

Washingtonville, NY

Erin Tonkin is pursuing a bachelor of science in Nursing. Erin currently serves as the president of Student Nurses' Association at UCF. She also served as president of the Association of Pre-Nursing Students at UCF while completing her prerequisite courses. In both roles, she has been able to stay involved in the community through volunteering and leading the organizations to excellence. Additionally, she is a member of Burnett Honors College, completing an Honors Undergraduate Thesis. Her thesis is titled, *The Lived Experience of Simulation in Nursing Education Related to Postpartum Depression and Health Care Disparities*, which is set to be completed by graduation. Erin's greatest joy has been working as a student nurse intern at Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies, where she gets to help bring new life into the world and provide care to new mothers and babies in the Orlando area.



My time at UCF has allowed me to grow professionally, academically and personally, while simultaneously becoming the place I consider home. I will leave UCF prepared and confident to succeed in my future career as a nurse and also with memories that I will cherish for the rest of my life.



ERIN'S FUTURE PLANS

After graduation, I will become a labor and delivery nurse at Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies. I hope to pursue a doctoral degree later on in my career to potentially become a certified nurse midwife and a women's health nurse practitioner. My passion has quickly become taking care of pregnant women and helping them bring their babies safely into the world, and I hope to continue to serve them as long as I can!

UNDERGRADUATE



CYDNI TURNER

Degree Program
Computer Science

College
College of Engineering and Computer
Science, Burnett Honors College

Hometown
Pembroke Pines, FL

Cydni Turner is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science along with a French minor. She is a member of the Burnett Honors College and has been an active member of several student organizations during her three years at UCF. She acted as the Knight Hacks Mentorship co-director and served on the NSBE Membership Committee. Cydni is a member of the UCF Track and Field and Cross-Country teams. As a member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, she is a liaison between fellow student-athletes and the NCAA. She also serves on the committee's Diversity and Inclusion Board, where she plans events for Black History Month and Diversity Week. In addition to her activities at the university, she works as a tutor for Orlando Math Circle, teaching fundamental mathematical concepts to children.

“ **During my three years here, I have gotten to know classmates, teammates, professors and mentors that have both inspired and supported me. Thanks to the university's amazing faculty and resources, I secured my first internship as a member of the Oracle IoT Team, and experienced winning a college Conference Track and Field Championship.** ”

CYDNI'S FUTURE PLANS

Following graduation, I plan to pursue a graduate degree in machine learning (ML). My long-term goal is to use ML to correct both race and gender-based biases in medical technology. I also plan to continue my athletic career in track and field at my graduate institution.

UNDERGRADUATE



ALEX WARD

Degree Program

Mechanical Engineering

College

College of Engineering
and Computer Science

Hometown

Fort Walton Beach, FL

Alexander “Alex” Ward '21 graduated UCF with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in December 2021. Between 2019 and 2021, he held a two-year, part-time internship with Lockheed Martin through the College Work and Experience Program, while earning a continuous place on UCF’s Dean’s Honor Roll list. Alex has been a member of the football team as the long snapper for five seasons, and is returning to UCF for his last remaining year of NCAA eligibility. He was named a Phil Steele Third Team All-American and a Patrick Mannelly Award Finalist, recognizing him among the best long snappers in college football. Alex has used his platform as a member of the football team to give back within the community through various methods. He enjoys using his football-specific knowledge to mentor and inspire younger athletes to become long snappers as well as enhance the craft of snapping.

“ **My time at UCF has been more beneficial to my development than I ever anticipated. I have been faced with both challenges and opportunities that have molded me into the man I am today while being surrounded by role models for me to look up to and aspire to emulate.** ”

ALEX’S FUTURE PLANS

After ending my time at UCF, I plan to pursue a career in the NFL as well as continue to coach young long snappers. I also intend to continue my education into an MBA program in the coming future and, using my engineering background, pursue starting my own business.

UNDERGRADUATE



AUSTIN R. WILSON

Degree Program

Political Science/Criminal Justice

College

College of Sciences, College of
Community Innovation and Education

Hometown

Cape Coral, FL

Austin Wilson is a senior double-degree seeking student pursuing bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Criminal Justice. He has been heavily involved in Student Government, the President's Leadership Council and Habitat for Humanity at UCF. He has found a passion and commitment for higher education and UCF through the many university committees he has served and serves on, including the UCF Alumni Board, University Budget Committee, Office of Diversity and Inclusion Leadership Council and numerous others. Among other achievements, he has traveled many times to Tallahassee to lobby for student and university legislative priorities. Lastly, through his role as Student Body Vice President, he often finds himself as the sole student voice on committees, and he also chairs the agency and department strategic planning board — which oversees departments, such as the Student Union and the Office of Student Involvement, and agencies, such as Homecoming, Knight-Thon and many others.

“ UCF will forever be a part of my story. This community has allowed me to meet incredible students and staff and has given me the ability to make an impact from the moment I stepped onto campus — that will continue even after I graduate and step onto the Pegasus seal. ”

AUSTIN'S FUTURE PLANS

After graduation, I feel fortunate to say I will be continuing my education at UCF. While pursuing a master's in Public Administration, I will be working in the university's Office of Government and Community Relations, putting me one step closer to a career in higher education and university relations. I am excited to continue my involvement within this community and to eventually be a double Knight!

UNDERGRADUATE



SCOTT WOLFE

Degree Program

Integrated Business

College

College of Business

Hometown

Oviedo, FL

Scott Wolfe is a graduating senior majoring in Integrated Business with a Professional Selling minor. After joining the Professional Selling Program, Scott represented UCF in several sales competitions and completed a summer pharmaceutical sales internship, where he discovered his passion for helping others. Scott's various leadership positions — such as vice chair of the President's Leadership Council, onboarding committee chair for the College of Business Student Ambassadors and precedence committee chair for Student Government — enabled Scott to discover his leadership potential while giving back to students and faculty. Scott also volunteers his time for organizations committed to fighting hunger and homelessness in the Orlando community, non-profit health organizations and various UCF departments including the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.



My UCF experience can be summed up by one word: *community*. For it is the UCF community that motivated me, transformed me and enabled me to reach new heights I never thought were possible — with people who will always be lifelong friends.



SCOTT'S FUTURE PLANS

Following graduation, I have accepted an offer to work as a pharmaceutical sales representative at Eli Lilly, where I will pursue my passion for helping others. In this role, I will have the privilege to communicate groundbreaking medical advancements to health care professionals and improve the lives of their patients. In the future, I wish to pursue a Master of Business Administration degree with the hopes of a career in executive leadership consulting.



ORDER OF PEGASUS LOUNGE

The Order of Pegasus Lounge is located in the UCF Student Union, near the Pegasus Grand Ballroom. In honor of the inductees, a plaque with the 2022 Order of Pegasus names and photos will be on display on the wall along with previous Order of Pegasus inductees.

2022 ORDER OF PEGASUS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Melinda Cartwright, UCF First Lady

Vivian Ortiz, Student Development and Enrollment Services

Chris Hixon, UCF Advancement

Jeffrey Stout, College of Health Professions and Sciences

Carolyn Hopp, College of Community Innovation and Education, Retired

Manoj Chopra, College of Engineering and Computer Science

Devon Jensen, College of Graduate Studies

Kathleen Richardson, College of Optics and Photonics

Zenaida Gonzalez Kotala, Office of Research

Germaine Graham, University Events and Engagement

Joshua Roney, College of Business Administration

[UCF.EDU/LEADERSHIP/PRESIDENT/ORDER](https://ucf.edu/leadership/president/order)