



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

2022-23

WWW.UCFPLC.COM



**Jaclyn
O'Neil**

Chair, PLC

CLASS STANDING

Senior

MAJOR

Business Management

MINOR/CERTIFICATE

Leadership Studies Minor

Human Resources

Certificate



UCF

AWARDS:

Florida Bright Futures Medallion Scholar

MASS Excellence Award Recipient

INVOLVEMENTS:

President's Leadership Council

CHAIR

First Year Experience

ORIENTATION LEADER, ORIENTATION TEAM LEAD

LEAD Scholar's Academy

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

College of Business for Student Government

SENATOR

UCF Student Government

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER

Volunteer UCF

SPECIAL EVENTS DIRECTOR

College of Business

AMBASSADOR

STATEMENT:

I was drawn to UCF because of its unique atmosphere and community. I wanted to study somewhere that allowed me to stay close to my family and get the most of my education. I hope to one day be a leader in the events field, creating meaningful and fun programming for attendees. While I have not decided whether I want to continue that in higher education or in the hospitality realm, my favorite events are ones that include parts of professional development, leadership development, and fun.

I enjoy spending time with my family at the theme parks and going on vacation to new places. I enjoy helping others, so when I first got to campus, I discovered a love for servant leadership and found myself involved with organizations that gave back to the UCF and/or Orlando community.



Scott Buksbaum

Vice-Chair, PLC

CLASS STANDING

Senior

MAJOR

Psychology
Biomedical Sciences

MINOR/CERTIFICATE

Legal Studies Minor
Chemistry Minor
Intelligence and
National Security Minor
Global Peace and
Security Studies Minor
History Minor
Diplomacy Minor



AWARDS:

Burnett Honors Scholars

UCF Provost Scholar

President's List

Florida Bright Futures Academic Scholar

Dean's List

International Baccalaureate Diploma

INVOLVEMENTS:

President's Leadership Council

VICE-CHAIR

Moot Court

TREASURER (PAST)

Habitat for Humanity

Legislative Scholars Program

LEGISLATIVE INTERN (PAST)

Burnett Honors College

UCF Undergraduate Law Journal

EDITOR (PAST)

UCF Department of Housing and Resident Life

STUDENT AMBASSADOR

UCF SG Scholarship Committee

STATEMENT:

I knew that UCF was the right choice for me because of the immense diversity in experiences and opportunity that it offers. There is a wide variety of clubs to join, research to participate in and events that overlap into the community at UCF. In my future, I hope to work in the overlap of law and medicine. My goal is to work in healthcare administration but have also considered healthcare policy or foreign policy specializing in humanitarian aid.

My hobbies include running, art, cooking and playing with my dogs. Otherwise, my de-stressing time includes bettering myself. My first year on campus was a rough time for me emotionally and physically, but through the limited exposure I had to organizations on campus, it helped turn my time around. This motivated me to further my involvement in UCF and later direct that energy towards any effort that would help give back to the same university that saved me.



Francesca Allegrini

CLASS STANDING

Senior

MAJOR

Biotechnology
Biomedical Sciences

MINOR/CERTIFICATE

Health Sciences Minor
Digital Media Minor



AWARDS:

President's Honor Roll

Dean's List for College of Medicine

INVOLVEMENTS:

President's Leadership Council

RECRUITMENT COORDINATOR

Pre-Health & Pre-Law Advising

PEER AMBASSADOR

Pre-Med AMSA

VOLUNTEERING DIRECTOR (PAST), CHIEF OF STAFF

Refugee & Immigrant Education Initiative

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR (PAST)

Good News Initiative

FOUNDING SECRETARY (PAST), PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR

STATEMENT:

When first applying to UCF years ago, I knew that I would find my home away from home here. The innovation and excitement that UCF stands for is astronomical, and there's no better place to pursue your dreams than at this welcoming and modern university. In the future, I hope to enroll into medical school and specialize in pediatrics, while also combining my passion for medicine with advocacy, digital media, and communication.

In my free time, I love going to the beach and reading books, as well as finding new recipes to make some good food! As a first-generation student, I intend to break boundaries and build solid foundations for students who are like me. Getting involved on campus, especially with the PLC, allows me to have an elevated platform to speak about my story, and motivate future generations to come.



*Florian
Alushi*

CLASS STANDING

Senior

MAJOR

Biomedical Sciences



AWARDS:

The Global UCF Academic Excellence Scholarship

Global Professional Certificate-Knights in Shining Armor

Florida-Eastern Europe Linkage Institute Award

President's Honor Roll

Recognition from The American Chemical Society, Orlando section for Outstanding Volunteer Service

INVOLVEMENTS:

Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences

OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Fifteenth Annual Medical School Admission Symposium

EXECUTIVE BOARD (PAST)

Housing and Residence Life UCF

RESIDENT ASSISTANT

Pre-Professional Medical Society

PRESIDENT (PAST)

American Chemical Society

VICE PRESIDENT

STATEMENT:

As an international student, I picked UCF specifically for their Global Program, which helps students from every corner of the world to navigate and succeed in the American College experience. In the future, I plan to attend medical school and become a physician. I am passionate to learn about different topics in different areas, so I can see the world in more perspectives, and have a better understanding of it.

UCF is more than a university, it is a community. I have always been inspired by the motto "Reach for the Stars." This simple but very impactful phrase has motivated me to get involved and pushed me to hit the highest heights that I can. As a student leader, my goal has always been to become a role model for other students and help every member of this big community, that I call home, succeed and achieve their goals.



*Jida
Awa*

CLASS STANDING

Junior

MAJOR

Hospitality
Management

MINOR/CERTIFICATE

Information
Technology Certificate



AWARDS:

Iris Larson Award

G.R.I.T. Dean Pizam Award

Dean's List

President's List

INVOLVEMENTS:

President's Leadership Council

SOCIALS COORDINATOR

Cultures Around the World

FOUNDER, PRESIDENT

Rosen College Leadership Council

Dean's Ambassador Peer Outreach Mentoring Program

MENTOR/MENTEE SUPPORT LEADER

Skal International Orlando

YOUNG SKAL INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE OF DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association

SECRETARY

STATEMENT:

UCF has one of the best programs for hospitality management in the world which is why I would like to continue my career in event and restaurant technology management. What motivates me the most to get involved is giving back to students. I have taken so much from this university, so I would like to give back! I enjoy painting, reading, going on walks, and cooking in my free time.



*Sanya
Bansal*

CLASS STANDING

Junior

MAJOR

Biomedical Sciences
Sociology



AWARDS:

National Merit Scholar

President's List

Burnett Medical Scholar

INVOLVEMENTS:

Department of Sociology

RESEARCH ASSISTANT FOR DR. SHANNON CARTER

Indian Students Association

PRESIDENT

UCF Department of Admissions

SCHOLARS PROGRAM STUDENT ASSISTANT

Pediatric Association of Caring Knights

SECRETARY

LEAD Scholars Academy

STATEMENT:

I value community above all else, which ultimately brought me to UCF. I knew that this school was going to give me the opportunity to surround myself with like-minded individuals that would support me and push me to be better. This is also what motivates me to get involved — the opportunity to build a community for myself and for my peers.

In the future, I aspire to be a pediatrician and lead my own pediatric private practice. I am interested in practicing medicine with a sociological perspective, hoping to understand the social determinants of health and how I can best serve my patients. My hobbies include baking (my specialty is snickerdoodles), reading, listening to Taylor Swift, and trying to find the best Thai restaurant in Orlando!



***Brenden
Brown***

CLASS STANDING
Graduate Student

MAJOR
Health Administration



AWARDS:

Florida Bright Futures Academic Scholar

Dean's List

President's List

INVOLVEMENTS:

American College of Healthcare Executive

STUDENT ASSOCIATE

Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP

Black Student Union

EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT DIRECTOR

John T. Washington Honor Society

Multicultural Academic Support Services

GRADUATE ASSISTANT

UCF Department of Health Informatics Management

GRADUATE ASSISTANT

National Association of Health Service Executives

FOUNDER, PRESIDENT

STATEMENT:

Born and raised in Palm Beach, Florida, I always knew I wanted to attend an extremely diverse institution. As a first-generation college student, I was immediately attracted to UCF due to its centralized location and endless opportunities for student involvement. As soon as I began my first year of undergrad, I recognized that UCF stands for opportunity and I had so many resources for a successful career at my fingertips. I joined several clubs and organizations that aided in my personal and professional growth, which allowed me to cultivate strong leadership and interpersonal skills that served as a catalyst for both my undergraduate and graduate careers at UCF. It is my personal mission statement "to encourage and empower students from all walks of life to overcome barriers both personally and professionally through mentoring programs and healthcare experiences".

As a second year graduate student pursuing my Masters in Healthcare Administration, I have strong aspirations to become the Chief Operating Officer of a hospital in the future. It is my goal to be an aid in achieving affordable healthcare and eradicating healthcare disparities. I am a strong believer that inclusion drives innovation, which is why I aim to be an involved student leader during my entire career at the University of Central Florida. Getting involved in leadership positions allows me to ultimately serve the same community that poured into me as a young freshman back in 2016.



*Nola
Browne*

CLASS STANDING

Junior

MAJOR

Psychology - Clinical Track



AWARDS:

Dean's List

Think 30 Scholarship

Florida Bright Futures Medallion Scholar

INVOLVEMENTS:

LEAD Scholars Academy

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE BOARD (PAST)

Center for Research and Education in Sexual Trauma

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

UCF Office of the President

STUDENT ASSISTANT

Introduction to Research & Creative Scholarship Opportunities

MENTEE (PAST)

Research and Mentoring Program

STATEMENT:

I came to UCF because of the location and the various opportunities, as well as the resources provided, especially for research. Research became one of my biggest passions in high school and since being at UCF, I've been able to grow and facilitate this passion. I have the goal of pursuing an MD-PhD degree to become a psychiatrist, then later be able to teach and run a research lab at a university.

In my free time, I enjoy watching documentaries, doing puzzles, going on walks, and painting. UCF has done so much for me to grow as an individual that I do as much as I can to give back, because I want to help contribute to the success of the university.



*Daniela
Castro*

CLASS STANDING

Senior

MAJOR

Biomedical Sciences

MINOR/CERTIFICATE

Diversity and Social
Inequality Minor



AWARDS:

MASS Excellence in Action Award

EXCEL Program

AMSA Volunteer Director of the Year

Dean's List

President's List

INVOLVEMENTS:

President's Leadership Council

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Good News Initiative

FOUNDER

Pre-Med AMSA

VICE PRESIDENT

Refugee and Immigrant Education Initiative

MENTORSHIP COORDINATOR

Undergraduate Research Assistant

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENC

STATEMENT:

Service is the cornerstone for one of the qualities UCF prides itself in, community. I knew UCF was home when I realized the values that the university held align with my own. As a first generation Venezuelan American, this past year I was able to expand on one of my many passions, serving underserved Latin-American communities.

I founded my own faith-based organization called Good News Initiative where I have been able to provide relief to Latin-American communities internationally. Having a passion for service also goes hand in hand with my passion for medicine which has been my driving force here at UCF. I hope to one day become a physician who advocates and serves uninsured and immigrant communities. UCF has truly given me the tools to expand on the values closest to my heart.



Parth Chandan

CLASS STANDING

Senior

MAJOR

Biomedical Sciences

MINOR/CERTIFICATE

Diversity and Social
Inequality Minor
Psychology Minor



AWARDS:

Order of Pegasus

President's Honor Roll

AMSA Officer of the Year

MASS Excellence in Action Award

INVOLVEMENTS:

President's Leadership Council

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Pre-Med AMSA

PRESIDENT

Clinical Volunteering Program

FOUNDER

Refugee and Immigrant Education Initiative

ADVOCACY DIRECTOR

Undergraduate Research Assistant

BURNETT SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

STATEMENT:

UCF flourishes with diverse individuals wanting to make a difference in the world, functioning as a sounding board for innovative ideas. Following graduation, my goal is to attend medical school and become a physician. I plan on using my degree to continue to improve healthcare access to underserved populations across the United States.

My time at UCF has shown me that increased involvement should not be fueled by hunger for a position, but rather, a moral imperative to return the favor. I now know that it's not enough to just learn about the world around me—I have to actively work to change it too. UCF has motivated me to use past trends to solve future problems, whether its local issues in my community or even our country's polarized politics. In my free time, I love to cook new recipes, play ping-pong, and watch Marvel movies.



*Siana
Dattani*

CLASS STANDING

Junior

MAJOR

Finance
Political Science



INVOLVEMENTS:

President's Leadership Council
COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Student Government Leadership Council

Burnett Honors College

Legislative Scholars Program
LEGISLATIVE INTERN (PAST)

Mathnasium Learning Center
MATH INSTRUCTOR (PAST)

UCF Office of the President
STUDENT ASSISTANT (PAST)

Florida High Tech Corridor - Confluence
PROJECT ANALYST

National Science Foundation
RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Dixon School of Accounting Advisory Board
STUDENT ADVISOR

STATEMENT:

I chose UCF because of the environment. I love being on a bustling campus with thousands of students in a city that has so much to offer. No matter what your interests are, UCF has an organization, a class, a group of people that share your passions. In the future, I hope to combine my studies in Finance and Political Science. I aim to work in the finance sector of a government or policy related organization focused on social and political equity.

In my free time, I like to spend time with friends, read, and go to concerts. I choose to be involved on campus because I want to give back to a campus that has done so much for me. Being involved keeps me motivated and invested in UCF and it is a great way to meet some of the most wonderful, kind, and accomplished people that I know.



*Nefertari
Elshiekh*

CLASS STANDING

Senior

MAJOR

Economics
International and
Global Studies



AWARDS:

Honors in Major
Coca-Cola Scholar

INVOLVEMENTS:

Undergraduate Law Journal
EDITOR

Institute for Economic Forecasting
RESEARCHER

Knight-Thon
EXECUTIVE BOARD

Burnett Honors College
HONORS TEAM LEADER

STATEMENT:

I came to UCF because I wanted to experience something new and different for college. After graduating in the spring, I am hoping to start law school in the fall.

During my free time, I enjoy going to cute coffee shops and trying new restaurants and hanging out with my friends. I love getting involved with the UCF community because it is so diverse and everyone brings something unique.



*James
Evans*

CLASS STANDING

Junior

MAJOR

Accounting

MINOR/CERTIFICATE

Computer Science Minor



AWARDS:

Florida Bright Futures Academic Scholar

UCF Safe Zone Certified

Pegasus Gold Scholarship Recipient

INVOLVEMENTS:

UCF Communications and Marketing

PODCAST HOST, AMBASSADOR, SOCIAL MEDIA INTERN

First Year Experience

ORIENTATION LEADER (PAST)

UCF Student Government

SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR (PAST), SENATOR (PAST),
COMMITTEE CHAIR (PAST)

UCF Department of Housing and Residence Life

RESIDENT ASSISTANT

Student Conduct Board

HEARING OFFICER

LEAD Scholars Academy

TREASURER (PAST)

STATEMENT:

I love to ask the big questions. I want to understand the world and the people around me. UCF's energy and culture have empowered me to do just that. As a first-generation student, I chose UCF because it is forward-focused. That momentum inspires me to strive upwards and help others around me along the way. I plan on making an impact by being a business and/or government leader that stays focused on solving problems and inspiring empathy.

I am a creative at heart. Anything like reading or traveling inspires me by exposing me to new cultures and ideas. I love to express myself creatively through photography, writing and podcasting. UCF and Central Florida have enabled me to become my fullest self, and I am immensely grateful for all the opportunities that have been afforded to me.



**Nick
Foster**

CLASS STANDING

Graduate Student

MAJOR

Communication



AWARDS:

Lambda Pi Eta National Communication Honor Society

INVOLVEMENTS:

UCF Student Government

SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE, STUDENT GOVERNMENT CHAIR OF ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS (PAST)

UCF Student Government Black Caucus

VICE CHAIR (PAST)

First Year Experience

ORIENTATION LEADER

First Year Experience Director's Council

Fencing Knights @ UCF

PRESIDENT (PAST)

STATEMENT:

I decided to attend UCF to network at a bigger university in a city. I would like to work for the Department of Homeland Security, defense industry, or the federal government.

I really enjoy dance (salsa and bachata), playing sports and writing poetry. I decided to get involved because I want to speak up and advocate for people who aren't in a position to do so. I also wanted to get to know more about UCF and how it operates.



Sameep Gawaskar

CLASS STANDING

Junior

MAJOR

Biomedical Sciences

MINOR/CERTIFICATE

Health Services
Administration Minor
Psychology Minor



AWARDS:

Burnett Medical Scholar

INVOLVEMENTS:

Burnett Honors College Dean's Leadership Council

Student Organ Donation Advocates

PRESIDENT

Pre-Med AMSA

TREASURER

UCF College of Medicine Cardiovascular Lab

RESEARCHER

UCF Village Mentors

VOLUNTEERING DIRECTOR (PAST)

STATEMENT:

Being an out-of-state student from Michigan, I chose UCF because of stories I heard from students. I heard about a collaborative and encouraging environment where students excelled not only academically, but also as leaders and professionals. As a student now, I am glad to say that I have experienced all of these and more. I am thrilled for the rest of my UCF journey. My career goal is to become a physician who serves as an advocate for patients - especially those who are underserved.

Some of my hobbies include playing violin, basketball, tennis, video editing, and picking up new hobbies! I have found that the best way to keep me satisfied is by helping others through involvement - whether it is through volunteering, advocacy, or as a leader. Staying involved has not only provided me a better college experience but it also keeps me motivated and excited for the future.



Brandon Greenaway

CLASS STANDING

Junior

MAJOR

Political Science,
Pre-Law Track
Media Production
and Management



AWARDS:

Dean's List

President's List

INVOLVEMENTS:

Student Government

CHIEF OF STAFF, ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COORDINATOR (PAST)

Student Government Scholarship Committee

CHAIR (PAST)

Burnett Honor's College

DEAN'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL, HONORS SYMPOSIUM TEAM LEADER

Knight-Thon

MORALE TEAM MEMBER (PAST)

UCF Recreation & Wellness Center

MEMBER SERVICE TEAM MEMBER (PAST)

STATEMENT:

As an out-of-state student from New Jersey, many people ask me why I decided to come to UCF. I first learned about UCF when my older brother, Larry, came here, but did not want to follow in his footsteps as we've always been compared to one another. However, after touring schools all around the country, I realized that the only campus that felt like home to me was UCF.

Some of my hobbies include spending time with my friends and family, as well as staying active through working out, hiking, or other adventurous activities. I am involved on campus because UCF is full of many incredible opportunities. UCF has given me so many life-changing experiences and my goal is to give back through servant leadership on campus. In the future, I hope to attend law school and ultimately run my own firm as a civil lawyer.



*Danielle
Griffiths*

CLASS STANDING

Graduate Student

MAJOR

Event Leadership



AWARDS:

President's List

Dean's List

Director's List

Student Leader of the Year in 2021 for First Year Experience

Florida Bright Futures Medallion Scholar

INVOLVEMENTS:

University Events and Engagement

EVENT ASSISTANT

First Year Experience

GRAPHIC DESIGNER AND LINK STUDENT ASSISTANT AND OUT OF STATE STUDENT MENTOR

UCF Late Knights

MARKETING DIRECTOR

UCF Campus Activities Board (CAB)

SPECIAL EVENTS DIRECTOR

STATEMENT:

Born and raised in Central Florida, I always knew I would become a Knight. Having obtained my Bachelors in Human Communications from the university, I am excited to pursue my Master's in Event Leadership. After earning my Master's in Event Leadership, I strive to continue working events in higher education with an end goal of working in events for the Walt Disney World Company.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time at the theme parks with my friends and family. My passion to be involved in campus started in the Office of Student Involvement where planning events provided new and current knights with fun experiences to feel comfortable with socializing and being themselves.



*LJ
Hall*

CLASS STANDING

Junior

MAJOR

Psychology

MINOR/CERTIFICATE

Human Resources
Certificate



AWARDS:

President's List

Florida Bright Futures Academic Scholar

INVOLVEMENTS:

President's Leadership Council

SOCIAL COORDINATOR

First Year Experience

ORIENTATION LEADER

Athletics Director and Leadership Assistant

LEAD SCHOLARS ACADEMY

Undergraduate Admissions

CAMPUS AMBASSADOR

UCF NAACP

SECRETARY

UCF Late Knights

SPECIAL EVENTS DIRECTOR

STATEMENT:

I came to UCF because I love Orlando and what it provides to its community. I plan to go into Human Resources for a company to manage employee training, performance and evaluation. My goal is to make sure that employees are treated fairly at work and are enjoying their experience.

In my free time, I really enjoy cooking and testing out new recipes. I also like to read and write, as well as relax by playing some video games. Looking at my past involvements and looking into the near future, I can say that my purpose is to make the lives of others easier. That includes making it easy to navigate, find resources and make friends on campus.



***Maddie
Hanewich***

CLASS STANDING

Junior

MAJOR

Marketing - Professional
Sales Track



AWARDS:

Dean's List

President's List

VUCF September 2020 Volunteer of the Month

Florida Bright Futures Academic Scholar

INVOLVEMENTS:

UCF College of Business Ambassadors

CHAIR

LEAD Scholars Academy

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (PAST), REPRESENTATIVE (PAST)

UCF College of Business Dean's Office

ADVOCACY CHAIR (PAST), STUDENT ASSISTANT

UCF Residence Hall Association - Neptune Area Council

ADVOCACY CHAIR (PAST)

UCF Nightmare Advisory Council

REPRESENTATIVE (PAST)

UCF Best Buddies

PEER MEMBER (PAST)

STATEMENT:

I came to UCF because I know that I can accomplish anything that I dream of here. This university stands for opportunity and there are always resources and tools available to help you achieve all you pursue. I also came to UCF because of the energy! As soon as I stepped on campus, I could feel the enthusiasm and positivity that surrounded me, and was immediately in love with it. There is truly no place like UCF!

In the future, my goal is to become a Corporate Sales Specialist at a Fortune 100 company. In this role, I would be working to sell goods and services, building relationships with customers and improving brand awareness. In my free time, I love cooking, yoga, playing volleyball, going to the gym, reading, and baking. What motivated me to get involved on campus is the opportunity to give back to my community. In my first two years at UCF, I have grown so much as a person and learned more about myself than I ever have before. For that reason, I want to give back to UCF. I feel more connected to UCF through being involved, and it has helped me make lifelong friends. I have loved every second of being involved here.



***Jake
Hanson***

CLASS STANDING

Junior

MAJOR

Political Science
(International Relations
and Comparative Politics)

MINOR/CERTIFICATE

Sociology Minor
Diplomacy Minor



AWARDS:

UCF Pegasus Scholar

President's List

Florida Bright Futures Academic Scholar

Sarasota Community Foundation Scholar

INVOLVEMENTS:

President's Leadership Council

RECRUITMENT COORDINATOR

Honors Congress

TREASURER

Student Government Judicial Branch

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

UCF Global Perspectives and International Initiatives

INTERN

Office of Undergraduate Admissions

CAMPUS TOUR GUIDE, STUDENT ASSISTANT

STATEMENT:

Always involved in organizations and every aspect of my academic environment, it was important to find a place where I would be encouraged and supported to pursue my interests both in and out of the classroom; which is why I chose UCF. My academic interests lie in international relations, sociological interaction, and global cultural studies. In the future, I hope to either advocate for sustainable development practices in urban policy or work in marketing and communications for emerging media platforms.

I am involved on campus because I think it is the best way to shape your college experience, in both meeting new people and gaining a better sense of community - and also in giving back to the student body. My hobbies include traveling and exploring new places, concerts, trying new food, reading, and watching movies (my favorites are Dead Poets Society and Harry Potter).



*Sydney
Martinez*

CLASS STANDING

Junior

MAJOR

Health Sciences
Pre-Clinical Track



INVOLVEMENTS:

UCF Be The Match National Bone Marrow Registry

PRESIDENT

UCF Red Cross

VICE PRESIDENT

UCF Marching Knights

SECRETARY (PAST), MAJORETTE

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Student Undergraduate Research Council

Knights Powerlifting

FUNDRASING CHAIR, PHOTOGRAPHER

Pre-Med AMSA

PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTOR, VOLUNTEERING DIRECTOR (PAST)

CHPS Student Advisory Council

STATEMENT:

UCF has been my home for as long as I can remember. This is because I've lived a minute from campus my whole life. I essentially grew up on this campus. From going to various sporting events, field trips, and other large events hosted by UCF, I can recall such fond memories from a young age. I knew that UCF would be my forever home!

With aspirations to attend medical school, I hope to ultimately become a physician and potentially specialize in pediatric oncology or urology. My hobbies include kayaking, hiking, and baton twirling! Since I came to UCF with a strong personal connection, I found myself more than eager to become involved, especially with feeling isolated due to COVID. I knew that I wanted to make a difference both in the UCF community and the Orlando area that I'm proud to call home. I find fulfillment in volunteering so I was drawn towards volunteer-based and servant leadership involvements.



*Tiana
Mason*

CLASS STANDING

Junior

MAJOR

Social Studies



INVOLVEMENTS:

First Year Experience

ORIENTATION LEADER

Volunteer UCF

National Society of Leadership and Success

Campus Activities Board

STATEMENT:

I chose UCF in order to step out of my comfort zone. I felt like this university would provide me with unique opportunities that would allow me to set the foundation for my career path. Once I became a student at UCF, I made the most of my college experience by joining organizations that connected me with the campus community and developed my leadership.

After earning my bachelor's degree, I plan on earning a master's in higher education on the student personnel track, and then work at UCF. I want to work directly with students aiding and guiding them in their future endeavors through advising, recruitment and outreach. In my free time, I enjoy reading, hanging out with my friends, playing on the Nintendo Switch and sitting at the reflection pond.



Nick McCutcheon

CLASS STANDING

Senior

MAJOR

Marketing

MINOR/CERTIFICATE

Cinema Studies Minor
Digital Media Minor



AWARDS:

President's List

Dean's List

INVOLVEMENTS:

Campus Activities Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD DIRECTOR

Campus Activities Board Promotions

DIRECTOR

Student Government

OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Marching Knights Band

VICE PRESIDENT

LEAD Scholars Association

SECRETARY

Anna V. Eskamani Campaign

INTERN

STATEMENT:

What brought me to UCF was the engaging campus, community, culture and the countless involvement opportunities that I could become a part of. I've found that UCF has been a great place for me to make new friends and develop myself, both personally and professionally. What motivated me to get involved and to stay involved on campus was my desire to give back to the campus that has provided so much to me.

My hobbies include spending time with friends, watching movies, discovering new music, and traveling (which includes discovering cool places in the Greater Orlando Area). After I graduate from UCF, my current plan is to become a marketing coordinator at a distribution company within the film and television industry.



**Caitlin
Moore**

CLASS STANDING

Senior

MAJOR

Psychology-Neuroscience
Track

MINOR/CERTIFICATE

Pre-Law Minor



AWARDS:

President's List

Dean's List

3rd Best Orator, Top Seed, 5th Best Orator, 14th Best Orator,
10th Best Orator

AMCA MOOT COURT

INVOLVEMENTS:

UCF Student Government

ATTORNEY GENERAL AND JUDICIAL ADVISOR, ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR OF
ELECTIONS (PAST)

Moot Court at UCF

VICE PRESIDENT

UCF Panhellenic Conference

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Gamma Phi Beta

ADMINISTRATIVE VICE PRESIDENT (PAST)

Congressman Pete Sessions

CONGRESSIONAL INTERN (PAST)

Charles Group LLC

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS INTERN

STATEMENT:

My grandparents taught me what it meant to live a life you can be proud of. Their philosophy of loving boldly, doing good, and walking humbly has inspired me for as long as I can remember. I've carried these same values throughout my time here at UCF. I'm motivated by a sense of gratitude, which feeds into a spirit of giving back. I feel indebted to the inspiring people, brilliant professors, and unforgettable experiences UCF has given me. From joining Student Government and Panhellenic my first year, to Moot Court and PLC—I continuously am challenged and molded into a better person.

My future entails applying to law school and furthering my legal education in Washington, D.C or Michigan after taking a gap year and working in the governmental affairs or legal research industry. During my free time, I enjoy taking cycling classes—SoulCycle is superior—and exploring Disney World with my friends!



Sampada Nyalapatla

CLASS STANDING

Senior

MAJOR

Legal Studies

MINOR/CERTIFICATE

Business Minor
Gender Studies Minor



AWARDS:

Knights of Distinction Scholar

President's Honor Roll

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Candidate

Phi Delta Phi Society of Scholars

INVOLVEMENTS:

Indian Student Association

PRESIDENT

Girl Up Orlando

PRESIDENT, FOUNDER

UCF Phi Delta Phi Legal Honor Society

VICE PRESIDENT

UCF Student Government Judicial Branch

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

Peerknights FTIC

ALL-ROUND PEER COACH (PAST), FTIC PEER COACH

Undergraduate Admissions

CAMPUS AMBASSADOR

Undergraduate Law and Policy Research Lab

RESEARCHER

STATEMENT:

After undergrad, I plan to attend law school and become a practicing attorney. I hope to one day open my own law firm and non-profit that focuses on bringing awareness to cultural issues women face around the world. I am very passionate about gender equality and empowering women. My passion for advocacy is my biggest motivation for going into the legal industry as I hope to make a change in the world to some extent. Apart from this, one of my favorite hobbies is dancing, as well as teaching it.



*Caitlin
Pham*

CLASS STANDING

Senior

MAJOR

Biomedical Sciences

MINOR/CERTIFICATE

Mathematics Minor
Diversity and Social
Inequality Minor



AWARDS:

UCF Pegasus Gold Scholarship

Fairwinds Foundation Scholarship

President's List

Florida Bright Futures Academic Scholar

INVOLVEMENTS:

President's Leadership Council

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

UCF Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences

PRIVATE PRACTICE CLINICAL INTERN

Period. At UCF

VICE PRESIDENT, MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICER

Refugee and Immigrant Education Initiative

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER, OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Pre-Med AMSA

ADVOCACY DIRECTOR

UCF School of Social Work

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

STATEMENT:

When beginning my journey as a UCF Knight, I found myself being welcomed into an incredibly supportive community. Since then, UCF has given me the resources, mentors, and faculty that have allowed me to develop myself as both a student and a leader. I will carry the knowledge, experiences, and friendships I've gained with me as I pursue my MD/MPH degrees to work in Medicine and Health Policy.

I plan to continue to serve as an advocate for my patients and the underserved, working to give back to the same communities that have supported me throughout my journey. Outside of my studies, I enjoy going to concerts and exploring the local food scene!



*Geela Margo
Ramos*

CLASS STANDING

Senior

MAJOR

Computer Science

MINOR/CERTIFICATE

Cognitive Science Minor



UCF

AWARDS:

National Active Minds Adam Carlson Student Leader of the Year 2021

Stokes Educational Program Scholar

South Florida IT Women Ambassador

Honors Undergraduate Thesis Scholarship Recipient

Distinguished Undergraduate Researcher Award

Laboratory for Advanced Cybersecurity Research (LACR) Demonstrating Initiative Award

INVOLVEMENTS:

President's Leadership Council

RETREAT COORDINATOR

ACTIVE Minds

NATIONAL SAC TREASURER, UCF CHAPTER PRESIDENT (PAST)

Student Undergraduate Research Council

Sport Club Council

VICE PRESIDENT

Knight Hacks

VICE PRESIDENT

Wearable Engineering and Assistive Robotics Lab

RESEARCH TEAM LEAD

Department of Defense

LOUIS STOKES EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM INTERN

STATEMENT:

Diverse opportunities in research and leadership contribute to my continued appreciation for becoming a Knight. I hope to carry the UCF spirit with me as I develop a career with the Department of Defense, specializing in cybersecurity research and intelligence analysis. In the future, I also aim for a graduate degree in computational cognitive science.

Outside of my studies, I spend a lot of time cooking in the kitchen. Like the inspiration behind the food I cook, what motivates me to get involved is the excitement with planning "new recipes" for change, especially when it comes to initiatives for diversity, equity, and inclusivity. When we want to make an impactful statement in our community, I believe it's important to have curiosity, take risks, and not be afraid to add a little spice to the plans we curate.



***Kate
Rumisek***

CLASS STANDING

Junior

MAJOR

Political Science

MINOR/CERTIFICATE

Leadership Studies Minor
Service-Learning Certificate



AWARDS:

Women's Executive Council Scholarship
SGLC "Undercover" Member of the Year
Dean's List
President's List
Matthew A Knight Scholarship
Florida Bright Futures Academic Scholarship

INVOLVEMENTS:

Women Student Union
Knights Pre-Law
Student Government Leadership Council
LEAD Scholars Association
ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR (PAST)

STATEMENT:

I found my home at the University of Central of Florida after learning about all the opportunities at UCF including Student Government and LEAD Scholars. Currently I am majoring in Political Science Pre-Law with intentions to attend law school upon graduation and become a real estate attorney.

On campus, I am involved in numerous organizations. My motivation to get involved stemmed from my experience of starting college during COVID. I faced many challenges trying to get acclimated to this new environment. This inspired me to get the most out of my experience at UCF and to make up for lost time. In addition to the many organizations that I am involved in, I am also currently working as a legal assistant at Brusca Law. Outside of classes and extracurriculars my hobbies are gymnastics and painting. My favorite event in gymnastics is floor, where I enjoy practicing my tumbling.



*Mariana
Sorroza*

CLASS STANDING

Junior

MAJOR

Mechanical Engineering
International and
Global Studies

MINOR/CERTIFICATE

Leadership Studies Minor
Mathematics Minor



AWARDS:

Congress Bundestag Vocational Youth Exchange Program Alumni
Machining Technologies Vocational Diploma
UCF Engineering Leadership (Eli²)
1ST PLACE IN GOOGLE SPRINT PROCESS WITH TEAM
Knights of Distinction
MASS UCF Excellence in Action Award

INVOLVEMENTS:

President's Leadership Council
SECRETARY

Anything Works Nonprofit
FOUNDER, PRESIDENT

Girls EXCELing In Math and Science
MENTOR

Undergraduate Admissions
CAMPUS AMBASSADOR

Honors Undergraduate Thesis
RESEARCHER

UCF Homecoming
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

LEAD Scholars Academy
STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAST)

Fairways to Leadership

Student Advisory Council at UCF

iSTEM
STEM AMBASSADOR

STATEMENT:

UCF being a leading university in engineering is what first attracted me. When I visited, I loved the multitude of programs and clubs offered, the campus, and the balance of newer innovative ideas and historical preservation that UCF has. My desire to help others is what motivates me to be involved on campus. I strive to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Career-wise, I want to work with the federal government in a capacity that allows me to combine my passions for STEM and international relations to keep others safe. My hobbies include playing soccer, running cross country, knitting, sewing, crocheting, cooking, fishing, visiting new places, trying new activities, and most of all, spending time with my family and friends and in worship of gratitude to God.



*Destiny
Spencer*

CLASS STANDING

Senior

MAJOR

Legal Studies



AWARDS:

President's Honor Roll

National Society of Leadership and Success

INVOLVEMENTS:

UCF Legislative Scholars Program

LEGISLATIVE INTERN

UCF National Council of Negro Women

Knights Pre-Law Association

Seminole County Public Library

Black Female Development Circle - UCF Chapter

UCF Student Kaplan Brand Ambassador

STATEMENT:

The University of Central Florida has changed my life. I thought that once I transferred to UCF it would be hard to get involved, make friends, and find new opportunities. Becoming a knight has taught me to "reach for the stars" despite my setbacks. I would like to pursue a career in the legal field, attending law school, making sure to seek different opportunities to help my understanding of the legal field. After a few years of being a practicing attorney I would like to get sworn in as a judge and work my way up in the courts.

The future is unknown; however, I know my future will be built from my past experiences. Some of my favorite hobbies include cooking, singing, and watching crime shows. What motivates me to get involved on campus is the idea that I can help UCF's legacy of helping students "reach for the stars".



*Jada
Strowbridge*

CLASS STANDING

Senior

MAJOR

Health Sciences



AWARDS:

Dean's List

College of Health Professions and Sciences Honors
Undergraduate Thesis Scholarship

INVOLVEMENTS:

UCF Department of Housing and Residence Life
RESIDENT ASSISTANT

LEAD Scholars Academy
LEADERSHIP ASSISTANT (PAST)

Office of Undergraduate Research
S.U.R.C. STUDENT LEADER

Knights of Distinction

Academic Advancement Program
RESEARCH AND MENTORING PROGRAM

Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship

National Residence Hall Honorary
SERVICE COORDINATOR (PAST)

Residence Hall Association
ADVOCACY CAPTAIN, ADVOCACY CHAIR

Burnett Honors College
HONORS UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

STATEMENT:

The University of Central Florida's campus diversity brought me to the institution. I admire the divergent cultures present at UCF; it allows me to embody cultural awareness. In the future, I aspire to be a physical therapist. After graduating from UCF, I intend to pursue a Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree.

My hobbies consist of shopping, going to the gym, cooking, and reading books. Being a first-generation and first-time in college student motivated me to get involved. I recognize that to be successful, I must work to the best of my abilities during my undergraduate years at UCF. Doing so allows me to take advantage of a surplus of opportunities that helps shape me into the leader I am today.



*Isabeau
Tyndall*

CLASS STANDING

Junior

MAJOR

Biology

MINOR/CERTIFICATE

Cognitive Sciences Minor



AWARDS:

UCF “Best in Public Education” Award Recipient

AMY ZEH SERVICE LEARNING STUDENT SHOWCASE

SAG-AFTRA Foundation John L. Dales Scholarship Recipient

**University Club of Orlando LEAD Scholars Academy
Scholarship Recipient**

Florida’s Bright Future Academic Scholar

INVOLVEMENTS:

Campus Connect Newman Civic Fellowship

UCF PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE

UCF Department of Housing and Residence Life

RESIDENT ASSISTANT

Student Support Foundation Club

PRESIDENT

Foundations of Leadership Class

PEER MENTOR (PAST)

STATEMENT:

One of the reasons I chose UCF is because I enjoy the large and vibrant campus community. I’m surrounded by people with diverse backgrounds and skills, which cultivates deeper personal growth and makes for a richer experience. I love spending my time pursuing artistic endeavors and have been an actor for over a decade. To balance out my studies, I find artistic outlets within student organizations on campus.

Experiencing my freshman year online made the transition to college life especially tricky. As a result, while a sophomore, I chose to dedicate my time to working with first year students in their transition to college to increase their overall success. This led me to become a Peer Mentor and an RA in housing. Upon graduation, my goal is to participate in the United States Fulbright Student Cultural Exchange Program.



***Kathleen
Velez***

CLASS STANDING

Senior

MAJOR

Biology



AWARDS:

Transfer-Student Research and Integration (TRIP) Scholar
Dean's List

UCF Violence Prevention Certificate Series

UCF Diversity and Inclusion Certificate

INVOLVEMENTS:

Knights of Distinction

Honor Undergraduate Thesis

RESEARCHER

Pre-Veterinary Society

Transfer-Student Research and Integration Program

Student Undergraduate Research Council

STATEMENT:

Like many of students at UCF, I am a transfer student. I understand the need for an environment on campus that is welcoming as students transition. The start of my college experience was not what I expected. I decided that joining student government and becoming a student ambassador would be an excellent place to start to make my impact.

My motivation at my community college was to enhance the campus community, and it follows me here to UCF as well. I came to UCF because of the strong STEM programs, the beautiful campus, and the numerous opportunities to get involved. From my experiences at UCF, I found a passion for research in science and plan to pursue a DVM/Ph.D. degree. Some of my hobbies include painting, hiking, and beekeeping.



*Gianna
Wegman*

CLASS STANDING

Senior

MAJOR

Finance
Accounting



AWARDS:

President's List

Florida Bright Futures Academic Scholar

Top 10 Knight

INVOLVEMENTS:

Kappa Alpha Theta

PRESIDENT, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (PAST)

College of Business

STUDENT AMBASSADOR

UCF Student Government

SENATOR

UCF Finance Office

STUDENT AT LARGE

STATEMENT:

UCF always caught my eye for its unique and modern atmosphere and intentionality with students. In high school, I had many friends who attended UCF and always shared stories with me about their positive experiences and I wanted to make my own memories here! Upon graduation, I am considering attending law school, as well as getting my CPA. Although I have not necessarily decided on a specific position I want to hold, I am making sure I am taking as many proactive steps as possible to set myself up for success in the future.

Some of my hobbies include watching sports games and volunteering with my church. I'm a big Tampa Bay Lightning hockey fan! I believe my purpose is to be a light to those I encounter in my life. Although it may seem cliché, I'm very aware that college can be hard for a lot of people. Getting involved in different organizations empowers me with the purpose to reach people where they are and help connect them and lift them up. Organizations like PLC have taught me that life is so much better lived when we pursue it intentionally while loving those around us. It gives me a desire to stay the course on my goals and dreams in life.



*Austin
Wilson*

CLASS STANDING
Graduate Student

MAJOR
Public Administration



AWARDS:

Order of Pegasus 2022 Recipient

President's List

Dean's List

INVOLVEMENTS:

Academic Integrity Committee
CO-CHAIR

Student Government
VICE CHAIR (PAST)

Agency & Department Strategic Planning Board
CHAIR

UCF Alumni Board
EX OFFICIO CORPORATE OFFICER

Faculty Senate
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Habitat for Humanity at UCF
DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY

Hearts for the Homeless
RECRUITMENT DIRECTOR

STATEMENT:

What brought me to UCF was the boundless optimism that I felt each time I visited or stepped onto campus. What has kept me here and encouraged me to get involved on campus is the amazing community. My fellow Knights and staff have given me the ability to make an impact from the moment I stepped onto campus and stepped on the Pegasus Seal to unleash my potential. Fortunately, this will be my 3rd year serving on the President's Leadership Council which will allow me to continue to lead a life in servant leadership.

I hope to take the lessons I learned in my undergrad at UCF and now apply them once more as I navigate the path of a graduate student. Knowing that PLC will continue to shape me into the right person for the right time with a goal of serving in university government and community relations.