

ORDER *of* PEGASUS

CLASS OF 2015



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
STUDENT DEVELOPMENT
AND ENROLLMENT SERVICES

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Spring 2015



Dear Friend of the University:

It is my pleasure to introduce the 2015 Order of Pegasus awardees.

The Order of Pegasus is the highest honor the university gives to students. It recognizes outstanding graduating seniors and graduate students who have demonstrated exemplary university and community involvement, leadership, academic achievement, and service.

This year, 19 students were selected to receive the prestigious award.

The biographical sketches in this handbook provide information on the academic accomplishments, leadership experiences, and UCF and community involvement of the individual awardees.

We are extraordinarily proud of the outstanding achievements of these students, and we hope you join with us in offering our congratulations and best wishes.

Cordially yours,

John C. Hitt
President

GRADUATE STUDENTS

HANNAH EHRLI

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION, ED.D. CANDIDATE
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE

AMY IARROBINO

MD CANDIDATE
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

ALBERT MANERO

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, PH.D. CANDIDATE
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE
THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

MANICA PIERRETTE

MA CANDIDATE
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE

HANNAH EHRLI

Hannah is a National Board Certified teacher in Exceptional Education. She has been teaching in Orange County Public Schools for 14 years. She received her Master of Arts from UCF and is a doctoral candidate in Exceptional Education in the College of Education and Human Performance. She worked extensively in Serbia for five years with the NGO Mali Tesla, as well as currently developing inclusive best practices for educators in Cap Haitian with Projects for Haiti. She is a member of the Council for Exceptional Children, Division of International Special Education Services and the International Association of Special Education, and is the co-chair for the Florida State Advisory Council for the Education of Exceptional Learners. She was the UCF representative for the Clinton Global Initiative University for two years and now is a commitment mentor for disabilities for CGIU. In 2012, she was awarded Teacher of the Year for the Council for Exceptional Children. She is also involved with The World Academy for the Future of Women as an advocate for the rights of girls access to education around the world. Her passion is fueled through her involvement as a parent of a child with special needs, and as the only preschool teacher of students with Autism served on a public high school campus in Orlando.

Hannah's UCF Experience:

UCF has given me the platform as an educational professional to develop into a global leader, one who is able to advocate for vulnerable populations in order to create humanitarian and equitable social change. Through my studies, professional research opportunities, community service, and with the professional support of my professors, I have been able to become an effective global citizen that can address a wide variety of populations with passion, confidence, and expertise.



Hannah Ehrli
Washington, D.C.

Future Plans:

I feel that by remaining a teacher in the classroom, it allows me to be a grassroots leader as a voice not only for children and families, but also for teachers around the world. Through the disability international platform, I will have the ability as a teacher and a leader to continue acting upon the United Nations millennium goals in addressing poverty alleviation, health, human rights, and girl's education that will have the capacity to benefit all individuals nationally and abroad.

AMY IARROBINO



Amy Iarrobino
Valrico, Florida

Future Plans:

In the upcoming months, I will begin my training in internal medicine. I look forward to honing my interests in oncology and medical education. I intend on remaining in academic medicine where I can actively contribute to shaping the next generation of physicians while furthering the bounds of our current medical knowledge.

Amy is a senior medical student at the UCF College of Medicine and received her Bachelor of Arts in biology from Rollins College. As a medical student, she excelled academically, earned several scholarships, received the COM Academic Excellence Award, and served as a peer academic coach and co-president of the highly competitive Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. Additionally, she served her community by establishing volunteer opportunities at local pediatric hospitals. She serves as a founding member for the UCF student branch Reach Out and Read Florida program, which promotes childhood literacy and develops student-led initiatives such as the “Teddy Bear Clinic,” teaching local elementary students healthy habits. She is dedicated to scholarly work and the advancement of medical knowledge. Her highly successful efforts have focused on melanoma and basal cell carcinoma which resulted in the publication of four peer-reviewed manuscripts. Her research findings have been disseminated both nationally and internationally.

Amy’s UCF Experience:

At UCF, I found myself surrounded by a community with an outstanding reputation, and an environment that breeds success. As a result, I have been supported in pursuit of new initiatives, such as melanoma research or a play-clinic for first graders. My dreams were articulated, emboldened and executed. I had the opportunity to work with faculty who valued their roles as mentors and educators. They welcomed me to seek guidance, share new ideas and plan new research projects. I had the opportunity to work with technology at the forefront of utilization in medicine. By providing feedback, trying new models, and offering suggestions for improvement, I have been part of a unique group who shape the future of medical education. UCF has equipped me with the tools for success: flexibility to adapt to new systems, knowledge and clinical skills to hold my own among an elite group, and the confidence to pursue my goal of becoming a leader in my field.

ALBERT MANERO

Albert is pursuing his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering in the College of Engineering and Computer Science, and earned his master's and bachelor's degrees in aerospace engineering from UCF. He is currently conducting research at the German Aerospace Center on the Fulbright Academic Fellowship, and is a graduate laboratory research assistant in Aerospace Structures and Materials. His research uses synchrotron X-Rays to non-destructively test and evaluate advanced aerospace materials on jet engine blades and hypersonic vehicles. He committed his extracurricular activity to use engineering for more than just the laboratory. He is the founder of Limbitless Solutions, a non-profit devoted to bringing 3-D printed bionic arms to children around the world at no cost to their families. He is a recipient of the STEAM Dream Team award and Microsoft Collective Project. His team now works to encourage other UCF students to use science, engineering, and art to impact their community and pursue global innovation and research.



Albert Manero
East Lake, Florida

Albert's UCF Experience:

The University of Central Florida impressed upon me the importance of outreach, leading me to pursue opportunities to impact the development of students and my community through engineering. I have learned how to “dream big dreams” and about global innovation, which has encouraged me to pursue my aerospace and biomedical engineering research on a global scale. The support of my faculty mentor, Seetha Raghavan, and the university has given me the tools and resources to develop and grow. Our collaboration with the German Aerospace Center and Argonne National Laboratory has provided incredible research opportunities and innovation. Learning in such a diverse and globally minded campus prepared me to lead a team spanning nine time zones and across cultural differences. I am most thankful to have met my wife, Katie, who is also a proud UCF alumni.

Future Plans:

My dream is to design space planes for the commercial space race, and I intend to continue to advance the cause of my nonprofit around the globe to assist children in need of a helping hand. Whether in academia, industry, or around the globe, I am excited to use engineering to design a better world.

MANICA PIERRETTE



Manica Pierrette
Miami, Florida

Future Plans:

My plans are to work at a research university with a focus on retention, health, wellness, and student success. I hope to develop a non-profit youth leadership camp for boys and girls that will focus on academic excellence, service, as well as professional and personal development.

Manica is pursuing her Master's in Educational Leadership, Higher Education and Student Personnel from the College of Education and Human Performance. She graduated from UCF with her B.S. in Communication Sciences and Disorders. As an undergraduate, she served on the executive board of the Multicultural Student Center, John T. Washington Honor Society, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated while working at the Recreation and Wellness Center. Currently, she serves as a graduate assistant for the RWC, the graduate representative on the Admissions and Standards Committee, and the spring intern for Fraternity and Sorority Life. Last summer, she interned with the Office of Student Involvement. Additionally, she participated in a mission trip to Haiti for the inauguration of the Delta Sigma Theta Elementary school. In 2014, she co-chaired the First Annual Heart of Mercy Back to School Bash which provided thousands of school supplies, free food and haircuts for school-aged children. As southern regional representative for her sorority, she led the region and made history by raising over \$8,000 for two historically black colleges and universities, and also raised \$3,000 for St. Jude Hospital.

Manica's UCF Experience:

One of my favorite quotes is "Service is the rent we pay for being" by Mariam Edelman, and I hope that during my time at UCF, I have been able serve many communities through my involvement. My experience for the last six years was life-changing and unforgettable because of caring administrators, quality faculty members, mentors, and innovative campus programs encouraging me to take risks and succeed. Being part of a vibrant and diverse environment allowed me to step out of my comfort zone, develop my identity, and build confidence in my capabilities to impact the world around me. The relationships I built with diverse student populations also taught me the importance of inclusion, awareness, social activism, and healthy lifestyle choices. I hope that I can inspire the lives of students as a student affairs administrator the same way UCF has inspired me. I am proud of the decision I made in 2008 to become a UCF Knight.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

SYDNEY ALEXANDER

LEGAL STUDIES
COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAVEL AUSTIN

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE
THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

ELIZABETH CONNOR

MANAGEMENT
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

TODD CURRIE

EVENT MANAGEMENT
ROSEN COLLEGE OF HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

JILL DUTMERS

ENGLISH LITERATURE
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES
THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

JORGE “ANDRES” HERNANDEZ

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
BURNETT SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

DWAYNE HOUSTON

MARKETING
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

SHERIDAN KUSHNER

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE

TAYLOR LAURENT

CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE
THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

RICHARD MURDOCK

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE
THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

ALICE NEIRA

POLITICAL SCIENCE
COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

SHANNON PAYNE

ANTHROPOLOGY, COLLEGE OF SCIENCES
THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

AARON POLLOCK

HEALTH SCIENCES, PRE-CLINICAL TRACK
COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

GERALD RICHARDSON

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
BURNETT SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

JEREMY TRAN

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
BURNETT SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
THE BURNETT HONORS COLLEGE

SYDNEY ALEXANDER

Sydney is pursuing a degree in legal studies from the College of Health and Public Affairs and a minor in Writing and Rhetoric. Her academic achievements include the President's Honor Roll and dean's list each semester, and she is currently a member of the President's Leadership Council. Additionally, she participated in Honors in the Major, focusing her thesis on child custody for same-sex couples after dissolution of their relationship. She found her passion for community service through Knight-Thon: UCF's Dance Marathon where she served as a team captain, fundraising director, and currently serves as the event manager. She is a proud member of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women and was the 2014 chapter president. She also served on the Panhellenic Executive Board as the vice president. She has been involved with Moot Court, Knights of the RoundTable, Student Government Association, and the SDES Vice President's Student Advisory Council. She was nominated as Greek Woman of the Year in 2014 and is the recipient of the UCF Founder's Day Award on behalf of her college.



Sydney Alexander
Pembroke Pines, Florida

Sydney's UCF Experience:

There is no doubt in my mind that choosing UCF was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Each year, I have learned to become a better version of myself through the opportunities provided to me. My UCF experience has challenged and developed me personally, professionally, and intellectually to ensure my success and prepare me for the future. I have learned the meaning of servant leadership and the importance of building relationships in the community. This academic journey through the legal studies program allowed me to apply what I learned inside the classroom, compete regionally for the Moot Court team, and perform undergraduate research to fulfill my passion for law. I will never be able to give back to this university as much as it has given to me in this short time, but I am committed to showing others how I am a successful product of this university.

Future Plans:

After graduation, I will serve as a resident leadership development consultant for Pi Beta Phi Fraternity. After that, I plan to attend law school, and my long-term career plan is to become a judge.



Cavell Austin
Kingston, Jamaica

Future Plans:

Ultimately, I want to earn my Ph.D. so that I can contribute more profoundly to the education system that will empower students to become future leaders.

CAVEL AUSTIN

Cavell is a fourth year student pursuing a Bachelor of Science in English Language Arts Education through the College of Education and Human Performance. She is a student of The Burnett Honors College and successfully completed and defended her undergraduate thesis titled: "The Representation of Poverty in Great Depression American Literature," for which she was awarded the Honors in the Major Scholarship. She maintained her position on the President's Honor Roll since spring 2014 and was on the dean's list in fall 2013. She founded and coordinates the Honors in the Major Mentors Program. She is the sole recipient of the Founder's Award for the College of Education and Human Performance, serves as president of the Sigma Alpha Pi National Society of Leadership and Success, and received the National Engaged Leadership Award Certificate. She is a council member of the Professional Development Committee in the Education Student College Council, a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Golden Key International Honour Society, and Phi Theta Kappa. She volunteers at the Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida, and as a chaperone for The Burnett Honors College Achieving a College Education Day, and tutors high school students.

Cavell's UCF Experience:

As a researcher, I attribute UCF for planting seeds that will germinate into a career geared towards service and the future development of our nation's education system. I presented my thesis at the Showcase of Undergraduate Research Findings and will also present at the Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence. As a result of my thesis, I am now given the opportunity to participate in The International Conference on Poverty, Globalization, and Schooling: A Holistic Approach, the brainchild of UCF's extraordinary faculty. Embarking on added research will allow me to contribute to the field of education and curricula while networking with experts from around the globe. I am published in the *UCF Undergraduate Research Journal* and Elsie Olan, committee chair, seeks to publish an article from my thesis in the *English Journal*.

ELIZABETH CONNOR

Elizabeth is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in the College of Business Administration with an emphasis in management, minor in leadership studies, and certificate in service learning. Her academic achievements include President's Honor Roll and dean's list every semester. As a transfer student from Valencia College, she was eager to make a difference in the lives of students as a Transfer and Transition Services peer mentor and Transfer Knights president. She currently serves as the coordinator of the SDES Vice President's Student Advisory Council, member of the President's Leadership Council, and career peer advisor for Career Services. She serves on the Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies Search Committee, the Foundations of Excellence Faculty Committee, and the Foundations of Excellence Student Advisory Council. She enjoyed participating in service-learning opportunities for the UCF Center for Multicultural and Multilingual Studies and as a volunteer for Pet Rescue by Judy. She was selected and featured as a UCF DirectConnect student and served as a student ambassador at the University Innovation Alliance, a national conference held in Washington D.C. that is dedicated to making high-level college degrees accessible for all students.

Elizabeth's UCF Experience:

Through campus involvement, I now have the confidence to share my talents, encourage others to reach their goals, and I developed a desire to make a difference through service. As a motivator and leader, I learned to take part in opportunities and life changing experiences and to share them with others. Assisting and bridging students' transition to UCF and preparing them for future career opportunities helped me to discover my true passion for guiding and mentoring students. Seeing students become engaged and actively involved on campus is one of the most exciting and rewarding feelings because they are experiencing the university I love. UCF has made a significant difference in my life. I hope to continue to leave a positive, lasting impression in the lives of others as a proud member of the UCF community.



Elizabeth Connor
Orlando, Florida

Future Plans:

After graduation, I plan to pursue a Master's in Educational Leadership, Higher Education and Student Personnel at UCF. Thereafter, I hope to earn a Ph.D. and accomplish my goal of positively impacting the lives of students and community members as a university vice president.

TODD CURRIE



Todd Currie
Pawling, New York

Future Plans:

I plan to pursue a career as vice president of community relations for a sports team. I believe a position in community relations will allow me to combine my passion for supporting the community with my knowledge of the events industry.

Todd is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Event Management through the Rosen College of Hospitality Management. As a Knight, he is involved in many different extracurricular activities which is the hallmark of his UCF experience. His involvement began through the LEAD Scholars Academy and has expanded ever since. He credits the program with providing him valuable foundational skills and experiences from which to expand his leadership. His main area of involvement has been with Volunteer UCF and he now holds the position of student director. VUCF allowed him to make an impact on campus and in the community. Through his involvement with VUCF, he was able to create the Sunday Knight Food Share, a volunteer program that provides meals to over 100 homeless people in Downtown Orlando. Additionally, he has been involved with the President's Leadership Council, which he regards as his most unique leadership role. Furthermore, he was able to connect with alumni as an ambassador for the 4EVER KNIGHTS Student Alumni Association. He believes that his leadership experience has helped prepare him to be successful as a UCF alumnus.

Todd's UCF Experience:

The past four years have been the most significant period of personal growth I have experienced in my life. I had two main goals when I entered college: I wanted to get involved, and I wanted to make a positive impact on campus and in the community. UCF has certainly provided me the opportunity to achieve both of my goals and then some. Overall, I believe that my UCF experience has prepared me to be successful in life. As a student, I have been able to grow personally and professionally, and have developed as a leader. The two biggest lessons I will take with me from my UCF experience are the importance of making positive change and giving back. Through organizations such as the LEAD Scholars Academy, VUCF, and the President's Leadership Council, I gained the confidence and understanding of how to give back and create positive change. I hope to represent UCF proudly as an alumnus, and plan to give back to the university that has given me so much.

JILL DUTMERS

Jill is pursuing an English literature degree in the College of Arts and Humanities with minors in both Legal Studies and Spanish. She is a member of The Burnett Honors College. She is currently the president of the 4EVER KNIGHTS Student Alumni Association and the historian for the President's Leadership Council. She served on the officer board of Honors Congress as the fundraising and recruitment director. Her academic achievements include the President's Honor Roll and dean's list. She most recently spent her summer working for the National Student Leadership Conference, teaching high school students fundamental business and leadership skills at Northwestern University. Her community service includes teaching elementary-age children about college through the AVID program, serving as a volunteer advocate for children through the Orange County Guardian ad Litem program, volunteering at the Walt Disney World Marathon for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and participating in Knight-Thon.



Jill Dutmers
Spring Lake, Michigan

Jill's UCF Experience:

My four years have afforded me incredible opportunities and experiences that have shaped not only how I view the world, but also how I view myself. The places I travelled, the mentors who guided me, and the insights I gained in the classroom have all furthered me in becoming the leader I am today. UCF gave me the tools to set and achieve any goal I decided to set for myself. Through my time as 4EVER KNIGHTS president, I learned that it is important not only to be a strong leader but also to be a compassionate leader. I found a permanent home here at UCF that will exist no matter where I am in the world. The friendships I formed here will last for a lifetime. My time here may be drawing to a close but I am leaving as a stronger, more polished, more confident woman and above all, a UCF Knight.

Future Plans:

After graduation, I plan to attend law school in the fall. Through my passion for advocacy, I plan to be a voice for my clients in the courtroom.

JORGE “ANDRES” HERNANDEZ



Andres Hernandez
Miami, Florida

Future Plans:

I will be attending medical school this August where I will pursue a joint M.D./M.B.A. degree.

Andres is a fourth year student majoring in biomedical sciences in the Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences. He is a member of The Burnett Honors College and a graduate of the LEAD Scholars Academy. He participated in numerous volunteer programs that support the underprivileged and underserved communities in Orlando, Tampa, and Miami working as a mentor, medical translator, teacher, and caregiver. In addition, he contributed to his community as a volunteer at Shepherd's Hope, BASE Camp, Clean the World, and the San Jose Mission Clinic. Throughout his undergraduate career, he participated in research involving amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a genetic neurodegenerative disease, through the RAMP Program. He's been named to the President's Honor Roll every semester and was a recipient of the Hispanic Heritage Scholarship and the Emerging Leaders Scholarship in 2012 and 2014, respectively. He was named as a 2nd Team All American pitcher of the UCF Club Baseball Team in 2014, and was a captain of over 12 intramural sports teams since his freshman year. He participated in the Knights Write Annual Showcase and the SURE Showcase, where he presented his writing and basic science research.

Andres' UCF Experience:

As I began my journey at UCF four years ago, I had dreams of becoming a physician and a true agent of change within my community. I experienced first-hand how “UCF Stands for Opportunity” as I engaged in countless opportunities which contributed to my growth both in and out of the classroom. I am surrounded by an environment that fosters the attainment of my goals. I am extremely grateful, as this has also helped set the course for my future aspirations in medicine and as a civically engaged member of my community. I have made life-long friends in both the classroom and the athletic fields while being able to achieve my academic and personal goals. I can honestly say that I am not only very grateful, but also very blessed by this reality.

DWAYNE HOUSTON

Dwayne is a fourth year student pursuing a degree in marketing in the College of Business Administration. He currently serves as the vice chair for the President's Leadership Council and vice president of the Xi Iota chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. As a RAMP Scholar, he participates in undergraduate research studying student engagement within the CBA. He also served as a student executive director for the LEAD Scholars Academy and continues to contribute to the program as a leadership assistant. His honors include serving on the 2013 UCF Homecoming Court, as well as, receiving the Bill & Ksenia Merck Endowed Scholarship, and the J.C. Aspley Foundation Scholarship. Throughout his time at UCF, he volunteered with various service organizations including BASE Camp of Orlando, Feeding Children Everywhere, and Habitat for Humanity. He is a rising young professional and will join Proctor & Gamble as a marketing manager upon graduation. He credits his success at UCF to the support of his family, mentors and faith.



Dwayne Houston
Wesley Chapel, Florida

Dwayne's UCF Experience:

The opportunities I received here laid the foundation for me to become a social change leader in my community and innovative contributor to my field of study. I was empowered to serve and was provided with the development to become a respected leader. With the mentorship of world class faculty members and modern day curriculum, UCF's partnerships opened the door to my career in corporate America. UCF equipped me with the tools to successfully transcend past the barriers of society to serve my community, while achieving professional success. My experience here served as a cornerstone in my life, handcrafting within my heart, a spirit of excellence. Reflecting on my journey, I am grateful for the opportunity to be called a UCF Knight. Looking into the future, I am excited to represent my alma mater while showcasing the heart of the UCF Creed in all of my forthcoming endeavors.

Future Plans:

Following graduation, I will be joining Proctor & Gamble as a marketing professional. I plan to obtain my MBA from Stanford University and later become the CEO of a Fortune 100 company.

SHERIDAN KUSHNER



Sheridan Kushner
Cooper City, Florida

Sheridan is an early childhood development major in the College of Education and Human Performance. She has been on the President's Honor Roll and dean's list throughout her time at UCF. Currently, she is performing receptive and expressive vocabulary assessments on children in low-income areas to gather research on the use of iPads in education. She is a proud sister of Delta Delta Delta and member of the Student Government Association. This year, she had the privilege of representing SGA on the 2014 Homecoming Royalty Court. She serves on the President's Leadership Council, SDES Vice President's Student Advisory Council, Golden Rule Review Committee, Capital Improvement Trust Fund Fee Committee, and the Agency and Department Strategic Planning Board. She is a Way Forward ambassador and was named the Greek Campus Leader of the Year. She is the recipient of the Campus Leadership and Extreme Leadership Scholarships. She volunteers at Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children and UCF Knight-Thon, where she previously served as the communications chair. Her passions lie in fostering the growth and development of young children to ensure that every child has the chance for a successful future.

Future Plans:

I plan to teach for two years while I pursue my master's degree in school counseling so that I can ultimately be a guidance counselor. In addition, I plan to advocate for children's rights on both the state and national levels.

Sheridan's UCF Experience:

As a Knight legacy, I had found a sense of comfort and safety on this campus from the time I was a little girl. I am a firm believer that a university is so much more than just a place of education, and UCF has proven that to be true. I have grown immensely as a person, leader, and student both in and outside the classroom. I have truly become the woman I've always wanted to be thanks to the help of my professors, advisors, and incredible faculty and staff. UCF has provided me with so many opportunities to be the voice for those around me, give back to the community, and become confident in my abilities and aspirations. My passion for children has been strengthened through the opportunities I've had to work with families in Parramore, and I am positive that UCF has given me the tools to make a difference in a field that needs so much support. Being a Knight has been both a blessing and an honor. Because of UCF, I have been changed forever.

TAYLOR LAURENT

Taylor is pursuing dual degrees in Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering in the College of Engineering and Computer Science. She is an active member of The Burnett Honors College and a LEAD Scholars Academy graduate. She is on the President's Honor Roll and dean's list, a recipient of the Robert D. Kersten Founders Award in Engineering Leadership. She serves as president of Chi Epsilon, a National Civil Engineering Honor Society, and organized a peer tutoring program for advanced engineering courses. She is a founding member of a cooperative STEM Outreach Program with Hamilton Elementary School that is designed to incorporate science and engineering into the Kindergarten through fifth grade academic curriculum. She also served as a university student representative for ABET Accreditors, a student leader and elementary school liaison for Achieve a College Education Day, and an event coordinator for the Knowledge Quest School Supply Drive. She has been engaged in the UCF and surrounding community as a peer tutor for five courses through Chi Epsilon, a teaching assistant for Engineering Fluid Mechanics, a research assistant in the Storm Water Research Laboratory, Honors student assistant, and Honors peer ambassador.

Taylor's UCF Experience:

UCF provides each individual student the opportunities to formulate their own success. The extensive faculty experience at The Burnett Honors College was instrumental in my education and mentorship. As a member of the LEAD Scholars Academy, I was inspired to become a source of positive change in the community, and serve in multiple leadership roles throughout my academic career. As a result of UCF's partnerships with community organizations, I have been able to volunteer with A Gift for Teaching, Habitat for Humanity, and Coalition for the Homeless. UCF provided an intellectually challenging environment and foundation for my education by providing unique dynamic learning experiences, community service ventures, and unforgettable memories, culminating in what I see as a future without limits. UCF truly paved the path for me to pursue my passion for engineering and has shaped my future as a civil and environmental engineer. I am extremely proud to call myself a UCF Knight.



Taylor Laurent
Clermont, Florida

Future Plans:

I will pursue a Master's in Civil Engineering with a focus in transportation and earn my professional engineer licensure.

RICHARD MURDOCK



Richard Murdock
Orlando, Florida

Future Plans:

I plan to pursue a Ph.D. in Bioengineering with an emphasis on micro/nano-scale engineering and medical therapeutics. My long term career goal is to become an industry research scientist, leading research and development teams to advance translational technologies with the aim of revolutionizing patient care.

Richard is a mechanical engineering major in the College of Engineering and Computer Science with minors in bioengineering and mathematics. He conducted research at UCF for an Honors in the Major thesis and was selected as a 2013 summer intern at The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and a 2014 Amgen Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley where he studied nano-biotechnology and biosensor development. As an Astronaut Scholarship recipient for two consecutive years, he represents UCF nationally by meeting with astronauts and speaking to influential STEM education patrons. He volunteers with Junior Achievement, Honors Educational Reach Out Help the Homeless program with IDignity, Achieve a College Education Day, and staying involved in his local church. As a member of The Burnett Honors College, he held numerous leadership roles. Most recently, he worked with a team of senior engineering students developing a centrifuge to be integrated into the International Space Station to conduct scientific studies on interplanetary dust collisions.

Richard's UCF Experience:

I am grateful for the privilege of conducting cutting-edge research with talented faculty and peers who model the commitment to excellence and focus on societal impact which I strive to emulate. My peers and mentors challenge me on a daily basis to develop as a leader and discerning scholar on my journey to become a biomedical engineer. UCF has been my gateway to the world, paving the way to research experiences. The Burnett Honors College catalyzed my personal involvement in civic engagement in my community and has inspired me through the Honors Symposium course to leave a legacy at UCF and in the Orlando community. With the strong technical and practical education, I endeavor to stay active through scholarship, leadership, and service. UCF's impact on my professional, academic, and personal life, has helped me to become a more socially conscious citizen, stronger mentor and leader, more proficient student and researcher, and proud Knight. By traveling one rewarding path to success, I am honored to have lived the promise, "UCF Stands for Opportunity."

ALICE NEIRA

Alice is pursuing her Bachelor's in Political Science in the College of Sciences while earning a minor in education, and a certification in leadership studies. Her academic achievements include President's Honor Roll and dean's list every semester and she maintains membership in the Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She received the Walter Komanski Scholarship and the Extreme Leadership Scholarship, among many others. As a McNair Scholar, she conducted and presented research at international conferences in Croatia and England. She is a LEAD Scholars Academy alumna, former community service director, and a member of the President's Leadership Council. Her commitment to the community led to her involvement as Hunger and Homelessness director for Volunteer UCF, assistant student director for Pride Coalition, and ambassador for UCF Undergraduate Admissions. A recipient of Florida Campus Compact's Excellence in Service Award and the President's Volunteer Service Award, she completed over 1,000 service hours.



Alice Neira
Miami, Florida

Alice's UCF Experience:

I have learned the true meaning of UCF's motto, "reach for the stars," by becoming a servant leader, engaging in exciting research, and implementing new initiatives. Throughout my time at UCF, I have strived to "stand for opportunity" by showcasing the best UCF has to offer and empowering students to create their own legacy. Two of my most memorable experiences include planning and executing the 21st Annual Hunger Banquet, an event designed to teach students about hunger and homelessness issues, and the 3rd Annual Lavender Celebration, an occasion dedicated to recognizing the achievements of LGBTQ+ and Ally graduates. In addition to this, I "charge on" with school pride at some of UCF's greatest traditions, such as Spirit Splash and Knights Give Back. I am forever grateful for the UCF community that is committed to supporting and inspiring students. It is because of these reasons that I am both honored and proud to bleed black and gold.

Future Plans:

I plan to attend graduate school to acquire a Ph.D. in Education Policy.

SHANNON PAYNE



Shannon Payne
Hampton, Virginia

Future Plans:

I hope to pursue a career in the Foreign Service, working with public diplomacy and educational exchange programs. Following graduation, I plan to take a year off before entering graduate school for international relations, in a program that incorporates my background in cultural anthropology.

Shannon is an anthropology major with a diplomacy minor, and also studies Russian language. She is a National Merit Scholar and a member of The Burnett Honors College, both through University Honors and Honors in the Major. Her co-curricular involvement includes serving as an Honors Congress officer, an Honors Symposium team leader, a dancer on the Knight-Thon Morale Team, a member of the UCF Russian Club and International Relations Club, and a proud sister of Chi Omega. She had the distinct honor of representing Honors Congress on the 2014 Homecoming Court. She has interned with the UCF Office of Global Perspectives and was selected as their 2014 MacArthur Scholar, researching the European Union and Russia. She spent two months as a Department of State intern with the Cultural Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, Russia. She was also the first recipient of the Kathryn Busch Foreign Affairs Internship Award. Currently, she interns with the World Affairs Council of Central Florida, working with State Department International Visitor Leadership Programs and educates and engages Americans in global affairs.

Shannon's UCF Experience:

Starting with that leap of faith taken four years ago at my freshman orientation, I have learned just how UCF Stands for Opportunity. Through Honors Congress, I had the ability to pursue leadership in my first semester of college. I have become involved in many aspects of campus and community life. I volunteered with local elementary schools, Give Kids the World Village, and will finish my undergraduate thesis this semester. I would never have believed as a freshman that I would eventually serve on the UCF Homecoming Court, or spend a summer living and working in Russia. These are only a handful of the dozens of opportunities I have taken advantage of at UCF that I might never have pursued without the unwavering support I received from my friends, family, peers, and mentors. I owe all of my success over these four years and beyond to that support, and to UCF's dedication to opportunity and excellence.

AARON POLLOCK

Aaron is a fourth year student studying Health Sciences Pre-Clinical in the College of Health and Public Affairs. He is a LEAD Scholars Academy graduate, research technician at the Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, supervisor of guest services at the UCF Student Union, technology chair of the President's Leadership Council, and College Leadership Florida class XVI member. In The Burnett Honors College, he defended and published his Honors in the Major undergraduate thesis, "Mycobacterium tuberculosis regulation of efflux pump Tap by transcriptional activator WhiB7." His research accomplishments include award winning presentations at the Southeastern American Society for Microbiology, and the Student Undergraduate Research Excellence forums. He has a passion for serving his community through his involvement in the VITAS Healthcare hospice program, Shepard's Hope healthcare clinics, American Heartwalk Association, Creative School for Children, and Volunteer UCF. His roles and responsibilities were of paramount importance, while in academics he maintained a presence on the dean's list and President's Honor Roll.



Aaron Pollock
Saint Cloud, Florida

Aaron's UCF Experience:

My experiences at the university encouraged me to pursue my passions and take on challenges that make a difference. As a Knight, I quickly learned that UCF is a community of selfless faculty who are wholeheartedly dedicated to their students. The mentorship of the faculty motivated me to embrace all facets of life, and to do my best to engage in excellence. Working in the scholarship, leadership, and service communities on the UCF campus has taught me lessons of my true character, sparked my leadership potential, and provided me with the drive to create social change. Choosing to become a Knight has been my single greatest success. The journey I have made, the friends I have met, and the experiences I have had, were made possible by the UCF campus community. UCF stands for passion-driven opportunities, and the impact it has made on my heart is one that I shall never forget.

Future Plans:

I plan to seek enrollment in a top-tier medical institution, where I will utilize my education in medical sciences to bring social change to the healthcare field. My ultimate goal is to establish healthcare in impoverished and underdeveloped communities.

GERALD RICHARDSON



Gerald Richardson
Orlando, Florida

Future Plans:

Next year, I will be attending medical school. I plan to pursue a career in academia and become a medical professor and researcher.

Gerald is a third-generation UCF Knight. He is earning his Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences in pursuit of his dream to become a physician and researcher. With the supervision of his faculty mentor, Stephen Kuebler, he engaged in independent research focused on a chemical approach to solar energy, in which he was awarded a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship. His contribution to the UCF community extends beyond the classroom through his involvement with the President's Leadership Council, Student Undergraduate Research Council, and 4EVER KNIGHTS Student Alumni Association, where he serves as secretary and historian. He devoted seven semesters to being a Supplemental Instruction leader for a myriad of chemistry and biology courses. With the assistance of The Burnett Honors College and a colleague, he co-founded a club that is geared towards helping children develop teamwork and leadership skills at a local elementary school. He is involved with his local church, where he continues to volunteer as a Sunday school teacher.

Gerald's UCF Experience:

I have been afforded the unique opportunity to serve as a university ambassador, contribute to the wellbeing of the Central Florida community, and explore my passion for research, all while acquiring the scientific foundation necessary to pursue a career in medicine. Before coming to UCF, I was completely unaware of the professional maturity and leadership skills I would develop. Whether it was substituting for a chemistry class of 450 students during my freshman year or walking out onto the CFE Stadium while on Homecoming Court during my senior year, I have been showered with opportunities that I will never find anywhere else. As a result, I have honed invaluable leadership and teamwork skills that will transcend into my success as a medical doctor. UCF is the definition of opportunity and I am so proud to be a Knight.

JEREMY TRAN

Jeremy is pursuing his degree in biomedical sciences, and is a member of The Burnett Honors College and an alumnus of the LEAD Scholars Academy. He has been extensively involved in the Pre-Med American Medical Student Association, holding various leadership roles. Dedicated to his research, he currently explores for new drugs to reverse the silencing of genes caused by cancer. He has presented his research on multiple occasions, and won first place in the Life Sciences Category at the Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence. Giving back to the research community, he is a member of the Student Undergraduate Research Council and serves as the chair of the Outreach Committee. He volunteered with various organizations including Orlando Regional Medical Center, Ronald McDonald House, and the Achieve a College Education Day. With his passion for teaching others, he has served as a peer tutor for the PRIME STEM Project, a peer mentor for the Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, and a laboratory teaching assistant through the PILOT program.



Jeremy Tran
Green Cove Springs, Florida

Jeremy's UCF Experience:

My interest in medicine motivated me to take advantage of every opportunity that would expose me to the core principles of the discipline. Through the Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, I obtained an internship shadowing an oncologist to explore the dedication and compassion needed by a physician. As the extensive research institution it is, I was able to work in a cancer laboratory where I pushed the boundaries of drug discovery. With the guidance and resources offered at UCF, I presented my research at several conferences and published my findings in a peer-reviewed journal. But my proudest achievement is the impact I made on my community through service and leadership. UCF granted me the chance to make a positive difference in many people's lives. I have been guided by some of the brightest minds and befriended some of the kindest hearts. The mentors and lifelong friends I made here have shaped me into the capable man I am today, while the invaluable opportunities UCF gave me have prepared me to face tomorrow.

Future Plans:

I plan to attend medical school to become a physician. While I am still open to a variety of medical fields, I hope to one day work in a teaching hospital, inspiring and molding young minds.

Prior Recipients

CLASS OF 2014

Tracy Becker
 Avianne Bunnell
 Courtney Buzan
 Linh Anh Cat
 Amy Crawford
 Shekinah Fashaw
 Cynthia Florentino
 Jessica Gottsleben
 Kaye-Alese Green
 Catherine Gutierrez
 Stacey Hardin
 LaShaunda Hayes
 Amelia Klug
 Charlene Kormondy
 Amelia Mackarey
 Julien Meyer
 Rana Riad
 Nicholas Simons
 Vu Tran
 Alexis Wansac

CLASS OF 2013

Andrew Albaugh
 Rachel Brill
 Kaitlyn Chana
 Raven Cokley
 William Furioli
 Eddiedelso Garcia
 Robert Gottfried
 Valerie Greco
 Ashley Jaramillo
 Kayli Keough
 Chelsey Lauzon
 Heardley Murdock
 Mary-Kate Murphy
 Joseph Myszkowski
 Mitchell Popovetsky
 Jacqueline Rodriguez
 Sean Smith
 Calvin Stewart
 Cortez Whatley

CLASS OF 2012

Sarina Amin
 Kelvin Ang
 Jennifer Black
 Adam Brock
 Kelly Cox
 Anna Eskamani
 Ida Eskamani
 Brandy Espinosa
 Andrea-Li Medina Flores
 Christopher Frye
 Jamie Gregor
 Anya Kroytor
 Amanda Lager
 Matthew McCann
 Zainab Nasser
 Lee Noto
 Alana Persaud
 Yisell Rodriguez
 Amber Scheurer
 Leslie Shillington
 Marla Spector
 Kevin Stevenson
 Adam Straka
 Colton Tapoler
 Tatiana Viecco

CLASS OF 2011

Aaron Alva
 Keristen Black
 Melissa Blette
 Jacqueline Boehme
 Ashley Curry
 Brennan Dobbins
 Ashley Ewh
 Adam Giery
 Kumail Merchant
 Michelle Messina
 Anika Mirick
 Jasmine Rosa
 Stephen "Kyle" Schumacher
 Kyle Simpson
 Rachael Spangenberg
 Gabrielle Swaby
 Sylvia Torres-Thomas
 Zachary Walker

CLASS OF 2010

Anthony Battaglia
 Jennifer Bazemore
 Natalia Marques da Silva
 Amber Dukes
 Brenna Egan
 Shelly Frick
 Timothy Harnden
 Lisa Kipersztok
 Stephanie Koffler
 Andrea Long
 Carla McKnight
 Stephanie Neubert
 Lauren Rehm
 Patrick Stauffer
 Sergio Tafur
 Miguel Ubiles

CLASS OF 2009

Gregory Austin, Jr.
 Gaston Blanchet
 Tamara Chaplin
 Katherine Ferstard
 Demetrius Frazier
 Satyender Goel
 Samantha Gil
 Mustafa Gül
 Ashley Jordan
 Hye Jung Kim
 Stephanie Morales
 Michelle Murphy
 Margaret Ann Shillingford
 Ruth Strakosha
 Thomas Blake VanBrunst, Jr.
 Carissa Van Dalen

Prior Recipients continued

CLASS OF 2008

Ayoolabode "Ayo" Ajaja
 Bryan Arnette
 Lalita Booth
 Kimberly Bryant-Davis
 Tabatha Calabrese
 Ashley Conyers
 Tai Do
 Samiullah Durrani
 Scott Kirkman
 Cassandra Korsvik
 Maribeth Kuenzi
 Brittany Moscato
 Maria Pecoraro
 Megan Policastro
 Stephanie Kyla Tan

CLASS OF 2007

Rénee Bleczynski
 Naomi Brownstein
 Courtney Douglass
 Christopher "Kit" Fuhrman
 David Givens
 Brandie Hollinger
 Nicola Johnson
 Cassandra Long
 Meghan NeSmith
 Ana Suarez
 Evelyn Tonn
 Rachel Wasserman
 Zephyr Wilkins
 Julie Zimmerman

CLASS OF 2006

Maria Noel Blanchet
 Katherine Brown
 Arianne Buchanan
 Jennifer Curry
 Morgan Cyphers
 Sohang Gandhi
 Jennifer Hartzler
 Melissa Lanzzone
 Trenton Scott
 Amy Schwartz
 Kelly Simonz
 Ravi Todi
 Alison Valentine

CLASS OF 2005

Oluwaseun Aduloju
 Vanessa Bowman
 Venkata Sri Harsha Cherukumilli
 Ericka Dunlap
 Lindsey Eppleman
 Vanja Grbic
 Nicolette Hopson
 Marianne Howe
 Stacy McCord
 Sandra Miles
 Brian Monacelli
 Lissa Stovall
 Shreya Trivedi

CLASS OF 2004

Marshal Blessing
 Andrei Boyarshinov
 Anne Cecil
 Laura Creegan
 Haydee Cuevas
 Helen Gelber
 Barry Kudrowitz
 Alexis Miseyko
 Amanda Ramos
 Charles Reuter
 Lisa Wall
 Gabriela Wolf

CLASS OF 2003

Jaean Bollinger
 Kimily Burgess
 Bethany Ensor
 Tyler Fisher
 Yahaira Franceschini
 Faraz Kureshi
 Sunita Modani
 Sarika Patel
 Erika Phifer
 Shakeba Thomas
 Duc Tran
 S. Anne-Marie Wolff

CLASS OF 2002

Gregory Auerbach
 Scott Broadway
 Alexcia Cox
 Ti'eshia Daniels
 Delia Goolsby
 Carol Mancero
 Peggy Moch
 Wayne Nguyen
 Sergey Polyakov
 Sandra Schaal

CLASS OF 2001

Anna Berger
 Jennifer Carroll
 Carolyn Hopp
 Seth Jonas
 Sarah Kureshi
 Christine Kurlle
 Sara Levinson
 Eddie Ruiz
 Jennifer White



THE UCF CREED

Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.

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.



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

2015
Order of Pegasus Selection Committee

Dr. Stacey Malaret, *Student Development and Enrollment Services,
LEAD Scholars Academy, and Chair of the Selection Committee*

Dr. Nancy Marshall, *Office of the President*

Dr. Carolyn Walker-Hopp, *College of Education and Human Performance
and Order of Pegasus, Class of 2001*

Ms. DeLaine Priest, *Student Development and Enrollment Services*

Dr. Paul Desmarais, *College of Nursing*

Dr. Vivian Ortiz, *Student Development and Enrollment Services*

Ms. Kelly Astro, *The Burnett Honors College*

Mr. Arup Guha, *College of Engineering and Computer Science*

Special Thanks



Student Development and Enrollment Services would like to thank members of the administration and faculty for nominating students, and the committee members listed above for undertaking the difficult task of selecting the outstanding UCF students receiving this distinguished honor.



*Thank you Student Government Association for sponsoring the
generous scholarships for the Order of Pegasus.*

Order of Pegasus 2015

designed by

Judy Pardo, Student Development and Enrollment Services
University of Central Florida
Orlando, Florida