Greetings. I hope your semester is going well and that you have settled comfortably into the spring schedule. Your program is healthy and growing. This semester we have a total enrollment of 1558, up from 1464 last Spring. At the end of last semester, 210 students graduated, up from 180 last Fall.

In our last newsletter I mentioned that we obtained funding to replace the computers in CL1-219. The new computers are now in place and I hope that you are enjoying the new machines. We have had some issues with reliability of the power supplies but for the most part have been running well.

We also obtained funding to reduce class size in the Cornerstone, IDS 3933, course. Sections have been as large as 120 and that is far too many to allow access to instructors and to have reasonable interactions with your peers. The new funding has allowed us to cap Cornerstone classes at enrollments of approximately 50 students. That is still large but much more manageable and will hopefully provide you with a more enjoyable and enriching experience.

Again this summer we are offering a study abroad course, IDS 3955, section 0001 taught by Laura Hard af Segerstad, and in and about Sweden. The syllabus is extremely well designed and the course will provide you an exceptional opportunity to learn of the Swedish culture, government, geography, history, educational system, energy and environmental projects and initiatives, and much more. Whether or not you have traveled, this is a marvelous opportunity to expand and deepen your understanding of our world and appreciation of another culture.

Enjoy your spring semester and do great things.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael D. Hampton
UCF student, Elizabeth Sullivan, was watching a special on 60 Minutes about homelessness, and it sparked her interest to do something about it. On December 6, 2011, Sullivan kicked off her project called Caroling for Coats. With her husband and sister as her partners, Sullivan collected coats, blankets and food for needy residents. “I have blossomed even more than I could have hoped. The IS program has been the perfect choice for me because of my natural curiosity for many things, but I had no idea how these things could be the foundation of who I am as a whole, or how I would integrate with them so smoothly,” Sullivan says. “[By] utilizing my education in Health Administration I am able to help others, along with areas in Writing and Mass Communication; I have given this project legs. Within one hour, I looked in my closet, took out some of the overflow of coats, sent my morning journal to the local newspaper, and then, quickly put up a blog and website to handle the flow of need and donations. . . I have volunteered in many arenas prior to this, but would have never, single handedly embarked on a charity mission all by myself before becoming interdisciplinary.” As of December 15, Sullivan had collected about 350 items. Caroling for Coats is grateful for the generosity and support of the community.

Elizabeth Sullivan
Caroling for Coats, Founder

IDEAS FOR ARTS PRESENTS:
UCF’S 3RD ANNUAL GREENWAVES MUSIC FESTIVAL APRIL 11!

UCF senior Samantha Tranfa told us about the 2012 Greenwaves Music Festival to be held here on campus ON April 11, 2012! The UCF chapter of IDEAS is one of the most successful and most active environmental clubs on campus. They have been nationally recognized and have received awards from the US Environmental Protection Agency. The IDEAS organization at UCF has within it several different initiatives. Some examples of these are IDEAS for Education, Healthy IDEAS, and IDEAS for Arts. Ideas for ARTS has been helping our third annual Greenwaves music festival on campus, and like past years, there will be great music and a major headliner featured. In addition to music, there will be environmentally themed artwork displayed on campus during this indoor and outdoor festival. Tranfa’s vision is to have different mediums of artwork, especially large 3-D upcycled artwork. The purpose of this event is to spread environmental awareness throughout our UCF community and to reach students with this initiative in a creative way.

CHECK OUT MORE ABOUT IDEAS!
## Alumni Share Their Stories

### Neil Kelly
Class of 2009  
Owner, Healthcare Business & IT

Upon graduation from UCF in 2009, Kelly furthered his education with an MBA in Healthcare Management from Saint Leo University, while starting up a healthcare business & IT organization from the ground up. Since then, he has corresponded with over 100 medical professionals throughout the community, educating and coordinating various physician support activities. Kelly says, “My business takes an interdisciplinary approach to problem solving and is a healthcare business industry innovator. I remember being a student in the program and wondering what I was actually going to do with this degree, and does it make sense? Turns out the IS program was the best possible opportunity for me and my business”. Kelly, owner of Healthcare Business & IT, and UCF Medical student Dennrik Abraham gets involved with Hands Up For Haiti. While Kelly works on rebuilding the website for the cause, Abraham is in Haiti doing medical mission work for the organization. This organization offers a variety of medical services such as vaccination clinics, prenatal outreach, dentistry, education and teaching efforts. Their goal is to bring hope and to create sustainable medical care throughout the country.

### Rachael Woods
Class of 2009  
Interdisciplinary Studies graduate Rachael Woods is working with a non-profit organization called North East Sea Turtles (NEST). While studying at the University of Central Florida, Woods pursued her interests in Environmental Studies. “Being an IS student, I was able to take several upper level biology courses in addition to my environmental studies courses. Through this combination of courses, I developed an interest for wildlife conservation” Woods says. As a junior, she was an intern at the Central Florida Zoo, where she developed an appreciation for and interest in education the public and animal husbandry. During her senior year, Woods spent the summer with the UCF Marine Turtle Research Program. Woods currently lives in Charlotteville, Tobago, working for NEST, working on a volunteer and research project to educate the public on the importance of protecting turtles and the negative impacts of poaching.

### Cindy Heen
Class of 2011  
Emotions Dance Co.

As a young girl, recent Interdisciplinary Studies graduate, Cindy Heen, was involved with several sports and activities, but her passion for dance always stood out above the rest. While pursuing a degree, Heen almost ended up homeless. With determination; however, she earned a full scholarship to the University of Central Florida, and pursued an I.S. degree. Her areas of study were Public Affairs, and Behavioral and Social Science, with a minor in Dance. Heen says that the I.S. Program helped her further understand and communicate with people, and has been a great balance in her dance career. “Being an IDS major means to me thinking in a diverse way, and using all my disciplines. I see my disciplines as three pieces to a puzzle that connect perfectly to my career goal,” Heen shares. During her final semester at UCF, she was the assistant choreographer for the University production of The Pajama Game, and will be guest choreographing the 2012 dance concert Shove, Push in April. Heen is now living her dream as a performer in the Emotions Dance Company. [Check out some of Heen’s choreography!](#)

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If you are an alumnus and would like to submit your story, please email jessica.simmons@ucf.edu  
Other alumni stories are available at www.is.ucf.edu
Leadership Quiz
Take a Few Minutes to Answer the Following True/False Questions

1. I have a thorough understanding of leadership and the various types of leadership
2. I consider myself a leader
3. There is room for improvement on my leadership skills
4. I could benefit from an increased understanding of leadership
5. Others see me as a leader

No matter your response, you can benefit from pursuing either the Leadership Studies Minor or Certificate as part of your undergraduate career.

As an Academic Advisor/Coordinator for Leadership Studies in the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies, I am personally very passionate about Leadership development and about college student development as a whole, so I consider it a privilege to have a professional position where I can work with students on both levels. Pursuing a Leadership Studies program will allow you to enhance your development and prepare you for increased opportunities for success after graduation.

The Leadership Studies Minor (19 credit hrs) and Leadership Studies Certificate (13 credit hrs) have grown tremendously in the last 2 years since they were introduced at UCF, boasting over 250 students who are studying specific aspects of leadership in the Foundations of Leadership courses (LDR 2001, LDR 2002) and restricted elective courses focusing on the following: communication, collaboration, social relations and culture, politics and ethics. Although the amazing students on my Leadership Studies Marketing Committee have spread the word by giving brief presentations in various classes across campus, many students have shared with me that they added the Leadership Studies to their undergraduate curriculum just because of friends sharing their positive experiences in the Leadership Foundations courses. The rapid growth in these programs can be attributed to the positive experiences students have had in the courses, combined with the general understanding that an academic background in leadership is very attractive to future employers because it demonstrates a strong interest, desire, and understanding of leadership right there at the top of your resume.

To learn more about how you can list one of these academic programs at the top of YOUR resume, check out http://www.catalog.sdes.ucf.edu/academic_programs/pdf/Leadership_Studies_Minor.pdf, or better yet, set up an appointment to see me, Jessica Cheatwood-Alvarez, and I would be happy to give you a better understanding of the programs and help you work out a plan of fitting them in to your academic program. If, however, you know that there is no way that you have time to finish an extra minor or certificate in Leadership within your graduation timeline, I encourage you to make the most of the various opportunities on campus to enhance your skills and experiences.

UCF BOOK FESTIVAL
SATURDAY, March 31, 2012
We are currently looking for Interdisciplinary Studies student groups that would be interested in meeting with authors who are going to be doing readings along with Q&A sessions exclusively for the UCF students. The confirmed authors are Jeff Ashton, the prosecutor for the Casey Anthony case, and Nelson George, our featured Hip-Hop author.

To volunteer, please visit: http://education.ucf.edu/bookfest/volunteers.cfm
For more information, send an email to: bryan.zugelder@ucf.edu
Interdisciplinary Studies Lab Pilot Program
Submitted By: Dr. Michael Hampton, Director

One of the unique features of our program is the fact that Capstone students mentor Cornerstone students. While this is a highly valuable exercise it is logistically very challenging. In order to preserve the mentoring while reducing the logistical issues, we are piloting an IS Lab. The pilot is being designed and run by our instructors working with the GTA’s. Ideally, once it is worked out, the lab will be staffed by Capstone students and Cornerstone students will have access to them for help with assignments, etc. Both the mentoring and consulting will be voluntary but students will earn course credit.

Unifying Theme Map App
Submitted by: Dr. Michael Hampton, Director

The Unifying Theme for UCF (the global environment) is overseen by the Interdisciplinary Studies Director. We have quite a few activities this semester ranging from films to writing, art, and film competitions to a grand finale. The map app is now available on the Unifying Theme website, www.ut.ucf.edu. Please check it out and send us feedback so we can continue to tweak it. On March 27 we will be teaming with Global Perspectives to host Alexandra Cousteau. Please save the date and join us. It should be a terrific talk.

UNIFYING THEME SCHOLARSHIP
1ST PLACE: $500, 2ND PLACE: $300, 3RD PLACE: $150

The deadline for writing is March 12, for film March 19, and for art March 28.

For more information, please visit www.UCFut.tumblr.com or E-mail ut@ucf.edu

Winter Park Garden Club Endowed Scholarship

Deadline: March 30
Award amount: $1,000

Criteria: Minimum 3.0 GPA, Florida resident, demonstrate financial need as determined by the FAFSA, full-time student majoring in Biology, Chemistry, Microbiology or Environmental Studies track with a demonstrated interest in botanical or horticultural study, junior or senior undergraduate or graduate level student, demonstrate involvement in campus leadership and/or community service.

Application: Student must submit a one page essay stating their specific goals related to education, career and community service. The student must also send in three letters of recommendation.

To apply, please fill out the scholarship application at http://scholarships.cos.ucf.edu
Students Earn Order of Pegasus Awards

Recent Interdisciplinary Studies graduate, Melissa Blette, received the Order of Pegasus Award and the Distinguished Student Award. The Distinguished Student Award is the most prestigious award given to any UCF student by the UCF Alumni Association. As an Interdisciplinary Studies and Marketing double major, Blette competed in several business competitions and was able to develop her leadership skills. “I got to interact with students who wanted to be leaders, who were already serving as leaders in other organizations... The reason I think I liked it so much was that they were also students who strove for excellence, which is a part of our UCF creed,” Blette shares.

Michelle Messina

I.S. student Michele Messina was awarded the Order of the Pegasus. Messina is an Interdisciplinary Studies major and is minoring in English and Leadership Studies. She is a former LEAD Scholar, and a member of the Burnett Honors College, Golden Key International Honor Society, National Honor Society of Collegiate Scholars, and Order of Omega. She is a current member of the presidential Leadership Council, Undergraduate Studies Advisory Board, Student Government Association Judicial Council, Student Conduct Review Board, Alpha Delta Pi Sorority, and 4Ever Knights. Messina also enriches her experience at UCF by participating in community service. She has worked with organizations such as the Ronald McDonald House Charities, Junior Achievement, Relay for Life, and March of Dimes. “My Interdisciplinary degree allowed me to think critically in ways a traditional discipline does not... Because this discipline extends beyond the academic realm, it helped me... make the best decisions possible for my life,” Messina says.

Gabrielle Swaby

A native of Jamaica, Gabrielle is a senior at UCF earning double degrees in French and Interdisciplinary Studies (Environmental Studies Track) with a minor in International and Global Studies. She is currently the President of the French Honor Society at UCF, a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and is the Inaugural Fellow for the Small Countries Program at the UCF Global Perspectives Office. She plans to pursue graduate studies in international environmental policy and eventually hopes to work as an environmental policy analyst with an international institution, such as the United Nations. “The Interdisciplinary Studies program has been the foundation upon which I have built my future career goals... I was able to gain a well-rounded and all-inclusive education related to environmental studies... [and] to design my own course of study that catered to [my] personal skills and interests,” Swaby says. “The Interdisciplinary Studies major has thus facilitated my ultimate goal of helping to make a worthwhile contribution to our planet.”
Congratulations Fall 2011 Graduates!

Cum Laude

Amanda Nicole Bennett
Jason William Craycoft
Emily Jean Curtis
Aprilbelle Dalida
Stephanie Crystal Encin
Rebecca Louise Fraley
Karla Kahn
Amy Lorin Marshall
Caroline Ruth McFadden
Lori Elyse McGill

Mary Clare Middlekauff
Jorge de Paz
Nicole L. Parent
Laurel Jean Price
Asha Goitree Raghnauth
Aline V. Reis
Valery Santos
Robert Michael Tipton
Jason K. Van Arsdall

Magna Cum Laude

Deborah Theresa Correia
Sabrina Knox Figueroa
Kimberly A. McGowan

Suma Cum Laude

Ryan Maddox Chabot

Scholarship Opportunity

Provided by the UCF Alumni Association

Each year the UCF Alumni Association awards more than $40,000 in scholarships to UCF students demonstrating strong academic ability and significant extracurricular and community involvement. The UCF Alumni Association is pleased to again offer more than a dozen scholarship opportunities. UCF students are encouraged to apply for as many scholarships for which they are eligible. Visit www.ucfalumni.com/scholarships to download the application. The deadline to apply is Friday, March 30, 2012 at 5 p.m. Questions? Call 407.UCF.ALUM (823.2586) or e-mail knights@ucfalumni.com.