



LEAD Scholars Academy

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Year in Review

To Learn, To LEAD, To Serve.

2016



Who We Are

To Learn, To LEAD, To Serve.

LEAD Scholars Academy is

more than a leadership program—it is a diverse and inclusive community within the Division of Student Development and Enrollment Services. UCF and LEAD Scholars Academy stand for opportunity. Students grasp this opportunity and turn it into reality by getting involved, learning about leadership and becoming change agents in our community.

The LEAD Scholars Academy is celebrating 21 years at UCF and has assisted thousands of students to excel in leadership development. We are excited to announce that in addition to the two year academic program offered for FTIC students, third- and fourth-year programs in various leadership topics are now available for incoming transfer students and other upperclassmen. It is my hope that ALL UCF students will have the ability to gain leadership development through our multiple engagement opportunities.

As the only academic and co-curricular leadership program in Florida, LEAD Scholars Academy offers many exciting opportunities in academics, leadership opportunities, student organizations, research, and campus life to our students. LEAD Scholars Academy is a springboard to leadership at UCF. Students are given the chance to take advantage of the workshops, events and opportunities that are provided to make a difference on campus and beyond.

We would like to thank you for your continued support of LEAD Scholars Academy and our outstanding students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stacey Malaret".

Stacey Malaret, Ed.D.
Director, LEAD Scholars Academy

Student Profile

The Numbers

Academic Achievements

96.7% 2015 retention rate

3.395 average GPA (2015-16 CUM)

85.8% graduation rate

Fall 2016 LEAD Scholars Class

242 Total number of incoming freshmen

1266 average SAT (math and verbal)

28.3 average ACT

4.17 average HS GPA

52.5% ethnic minority enrollment (125/242)

Gender Ratio

35.1% male

64.9% female

Accomplishments

17 2016 PLC members are LEAD Scholars 17/35 (49%)

9/15 2016 Order of Pegasus undergraduate students (60%)

21,271.26 2015-16 academic year service hours

Order of Pegasus 2016



Amy Bonilla Torres



Alex Carciente Moreno



Kamilla Crawford



Julie Deslauriers



Getasha Doobay

The Order of Pegasus

is the most prestigious and significant award a student can attain at the University of Central Florida. Order of Pegasus recognizes exemplary performance by UCF students in the areas of academic achievement, outstanding university involvement, leadership and community service.



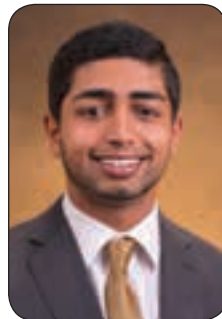
Casey Margarite Field



Elaine Gerlt



Amy Maitner



Arjun Watane

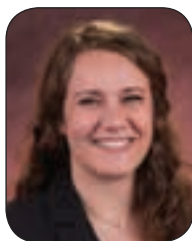


President's Leadership Council

2016



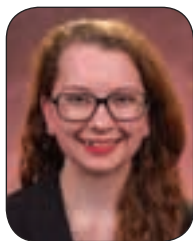
Kimberly Batres



Eliana Benevento



David Dill



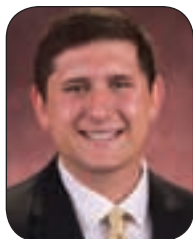
Rachel Friant



Lauren Gandy



Gabrielle Higgins



Kyle Jaimes



Sabrina Jerome



Alexis McGavock

The President's Leadership Council

have been selected for their excellence in leadership, scholarship, and service to the university and the Orlando community. Chosen by a committee of faculty, staff and students, the members of the council serve as ambassadors for the university and for the president's office.



Alice Neira



Tai-Lyn Parboosingh



Melissa Rosario



Elizabeth Santiago



Jacoby Washington



Kimberly Winarski



Ryan Wolf



Beth Young



Social Change

Clinton Global Initiative University

Network, Build Skills, Commit to Action

April 1-3, 2016

Seventeen UCF students set off to change the world at the Clinton Global Initiative University national conference at the University of California, Berkeley.



Milka Derisma and Bill Clinton

One student group included three Biomedicine majors (second years Andrew Aboujaoude and Jennifer Carvel, and third year Alexis Gherisi).

All three are members of The Burnett Honors College and also students in the LEAD Scholars Academy. Their group "Hearts for the Homeless" seeks to improve the availability of healthcare for the homeless community in Orlando by providing free health screenings that will detect hypertension, one of the deadliest diseases of the homeless demographic.

These students were chosen as Resolution Project scholars, a competitive grant competition that

chose only 20 teams this year. The group will receive mentoring and \$2,500 in seed funding for their project.

This is the second time that UCF students have received the honor of being Resolution Project scholars through CGIU.

Stacey Malaret, facilitator for CGIU said, "I am very excited that UCF is providing a platform for student social change initiatives to come to fruition through the CGIU program. Our students have such great ideas and a passion for their community that will benefit from this funding and mentoring."

To learn more about CGIU and to view the 2016 CGIU project summaries for all 17 students, visit: <http://lsa.sdes.ucf.edu/clinton>.

CGIU

UCF's Innovative Leaders

Andrew Aboujaoude

// The LEAD Scholars Academy along with the school-sponsored CGIU conference were excellent ways to turn a dream into a reality. Besides this sincere gratitude, I would like to say that Hearts for the Homeless were extremely honored to represent the homeless community, UCF, and the city of Orlando on the international stage to compete for resources that could help make our college and our community a better place. The feeling of winning is a great feeling, but the feeling of winning for a community is inexpressible! We truly enjoyed the conference and were able to obtain the financial resources and the networking contacts that will one day make Hearts for the Homeless an international social change concept. //

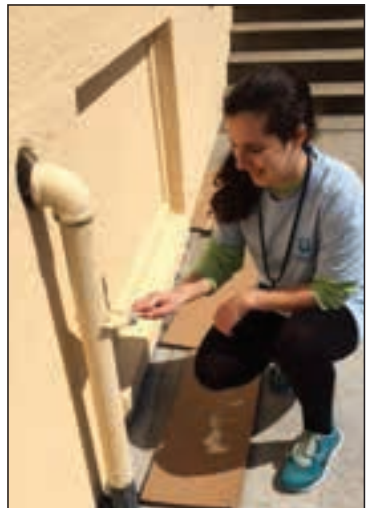


Hannah Hollinger



Andrew Aboujaoude and Allie Vaknin

Volunteer for a Day of Service



Alexis Ghersi

Scarf Society

Casey Margarite Field

Two years ago, Casey Margarite Field applied for the Clinton Global Initiative University with an idea, “to empower the women of the world through a scarf company.” Field, a LEAD Scholar, peer mentor, and President’s Leadership Council member, was encouraged by Stacey Malaret to apply for this grant during her junior year.



After traveling to Guatemala, serving on a human trafficking mission trip, and learning more about the economic empowerment of women throughout the world, she realized some key things:

- Everyone has a story to share,
- Nobody is in this world alone,
- A mentor can truly change a life,
- It takes one minute to make a true impact on someone’s story.

This insight led to the formation of the SCARF Society- an organization that encourages women to use their passions and story to help their community progress. Through a scarf swap, Field encourages women to share their stories with one another and discuss topics that are not typically at the forefront of discussion. Since the formation of her movement, Field has attended two Clinton Global Initiative University meetings where she has been able to interact with shapers and leaders from all over the globe.

Field has also hosted events for the LEAD Scholars Academy, UCF faculty, Orlando locals, UCF Hillel, and Hooked on Hope. Field’s goal is to have society chapters around the globe, bringing women to a common place to share news and experiences and engage in activism and social change together. She aspires to impact communities at home and abroad and show women that they belong to something bigger than themselves.

Field remains forever grateful to the LEAD Scholars Academy for allowing her to realize her leadership potential and drive for serving the community. It is this coupled with amazing mentors and a passion for enabling the women of the world that has truly allowed the SCARF Society to impact the lives it has today.



Knight-Thon

For the Kids: \$1,001,678.20

Knight-Thon is the University of Central Florida's Miracle Network Dance Marathon, and the largest student-run philanthropy on campus. The main purpose of this organization is to raise money and awareness for the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. All of the funds that Knight-Thon raises go directly towards local CMN Hospitals in the Greater Orlando Area. Participants in this community-wide movement raise money all year long in preparation for the annual event in the spring, where they stand for 20 hours in the CFE Arena in honor of the Miracle Children treated in CMN Hospitals. In 2016, Knight-Thon greatly surpassed its goal of raising \$820,000 by raising \$1,001,678.20 "For the Kids," and officially becoming a Million Dollar Miracle Network Dance Marathon in their 20th year!

LEAD Scholars have always been active participants in Knight-Thon, raising thousands of dollars each year. The LEAD team is made up of dedicated, compassionate individuals, most in their first year of college. They strive throughout the year to do everything they can to support all the Miracle Children and their families in the community that they may have never even met. In 2016, LEAD Scholars raised \$10,482 For the Kids, surpassing past fund-raising accomplishments. LEAD also received 2nd place overall for their fund raising and participation in Knight-Thon throughout the year.

Every team who participates in Knight-Thon is paired with a Miracle Child to personally connect with throughout the year and during the event. For the 2015-16 fund-raising year, the LEAD Scholars Academy team was paired with Brandon Malaret, son of our very own LEAD Scholars Academy Director Stacey Malaret. The LEAD Scholars Academy team bonded with Brandon and supported him and his twin sister by celebrating holidays throughout the year through cards, videos, and gifts. The team members truly saw the impact of their time, energy, and fund-raising through these connections, as well as celebrated their year-long efforts at Knight-Thon 2016 with Brandon and his family!



REEL Retreat

Leading from the Inside Out



The REEL Retreat is a comprehensive two-day overnight programming opportunity for the newest members of the LEAD Scholars Academy academic program. Second-year student leaders involved with the Leadership Excellence Board, LEAD Students' Association, and classroom Peer Mentors are also required to attend the retreat as part of their leadership position

training. This creates a multi-level environment of staff members, student leaders, and first-year scholars for developmental growth, social interaction, and a peek into what students can expect from being a LEAD Scholar.

The purpose of this retreat has been to allow LEAD Scholars to build community, to network with their peers prior to classes starting, and to begin enhancing their team-building and leadership skills. "This may be one of the first experiences students will have being away from home for the first time," Director Stacey Malaret commented. "When they get on the bus, they are still high school students. But when they step off the bus after the retreat, the transformation to college student is complete." The REEL Retreat is hands-on and interactive, including small groups with a second-year facilitator, a low ropes course, leadership development activities, social experiences, and community building. The second-year facilitators are often involved with other initiatives on campus that they can share with their group members, and are trained on icebreakers and group activities to help motivate and inspire their first-year students for the upcoming year.

Students enjoy each year's theme, especially as part of their groups and the "Game of Life" – an activity held the second day of each retreat where students are immersed in the problems, stigmas, and prejudices found in the real world. Students are encouraged to make it as far as they can with what they're given in the game, highlighting major systematic inequalities and privileges they might not have been previously aware of. Utilizing the Game of Life and other guided, immersive activities takes the REEL Retreat to another level beyond an overnight retreat. It helps start the facilitation of socially mindful citizens who go on to create positive social change on UCF's campus as LEAD Scholars. The REEL Retreat produces future student leaders, fantastic memories, and lifelong friendships that have centered the experiences as a cornerstone of the academic program for years, and years to come.

All Access

First-year LEAD Scholars Network



All Access is the one time a year when all first-year LEAD Scholars students are required to be in the same room at the same time. The objective of this event is to give students the opportunity to connect with other scholars and learn more about the program. This year, the event began with an overview of the LEAD Scholars Academy. Students received information about their requirements and expectations during their time in the program. Also, to reinforce the requirements, the peer mentors of LEAD presented an informative video for the students which outlined some do's and don'ts of the program.

First-year students are given the opportunity to join committees and get involved with the student leaders in order to get engaged on campus and to prepare for potential leadership opportunities for the following year. Students from the Leadership Excellence Board as well as the LEAD Students' Association introduce themselves and give presentations about their areas of specialty to assist new scholars in choosing areas that may be of interest.

To round out the already informative and awesome evening, the students participated in an array of ice breakers facilitated by Graduate Assistant Whitney Watkins. The icebreakers encouraged students to both get to know one another and connect to other students in the program, while discovering their commonalities. First-year Savon Crumity had this to say about his experience, "I met some of the friends I have now at All Access. It really helped me build bonds with others. It helped me network with other people and emphasized the importance of getting to know other LEAD Scholars. The objective was to help us make friends and connect to people, and the event did just that."

Overall, All Access was a great event, which served as a platform for first-year LEAD Scholars to feel a sense of home on such a large campus.

Leadership Week

February 22-26, 2016



Lead to Change

Leadership Week is a week-long event that has been hosted by the LEAD Students' Association for 16 consecutive years. The events are planned and coordinated by a dedicated committee of first and second-year LEAD Scholars who deal with marketing, budgeting, and scheduling all of the events. The director of Leadership Week, known as the Leadership Development director, selects the speakers for the upcoming year, develops a budget and plans out the week before the school year even begins. The purpose of UCF Leadership Week is to bring involvement, motivational speakers, and to inspire a culture of leadership at the University of Central Florida.

Every year, UCF Leadership Week has a theme, and 2016 was no different. This past year, the director chose Step Up: Lead to Change. The 2016 event featured over 65 events, partnerships with the Recreation and Wellness Center, Residence Hall Association, and Multicultural Student Center, and had seven keynote speakers attend. The goal set by the committee for 2016 was to increase overall attendance by 1,000 people, and that goal was accomplished and more by logging more than 2,500 students and faculty in attendance overall.

The speakers included Champion of Choices- Marc Mero, Alex Sheen in partnership with UCF Knight-Thon, national philanthropist Carrie Morgridge, Billy Boughie Timeless Leadership Principles, UCF alumnus Jesse Wolfe-founder of O'Dang Hummus, and Judge Andrew Cameron. The week of events was featured on Knight News as well as other sources of social media. Follow us here: www.facebook.com/UCFLeadershipWeek.

Look out for more great things to come in 2017 with the new Leadership Development Director, Isabelle Klein, and Lead the Change you want to see at UCF!

Civic Engagement

Scholars Program

The Civic Engagement Scholars Program provides students with the opportunity to increase their community involvement and learn more about what it means to be an active citizen. Students develop their leadership skills through curricular and co-curricular experiences, including Leadership Studies courses and zero credit hour independent study research classes, building connections with nonprofit agencies, and exploring post-collegiate civic opportunities. This program encourages true engagement in the community, and empowers students to pursue their passions through civic engagement.

These highly motivated students dedicate their time to making a difference in the Central Florida community, volunteering with a wide range of community partners and nonprofit organizations. One student has been assisting the American Red Cross effort to educate the Orlando community about fire safety and providing free smoke detectors to those with outdated and unsafe equipment. Several students have served as leaders with Volunteer UCF through the Office of Student Involvement, organizing community service events and educating their peers about the importance of giving back. Students contribute to a variety of social change areas and often gain valuable career experience in the process. A group of students with an interest in medicine and health have committed their time to the creation of Hearts for the Homeless Orlando, a non-profit organization focused on providing free blood pressure screenings, education, and outreach opportunities for homeless individuals in the Orlando community.

In addition to serving the community, students enrolled in independent study courses attend several workshops and discussions pertaining to topics such as the benefits and pitfalls of social media activism, the power of collective impact, and long-term commitment service organizations, including AmeriCorps, Teach for America, and the Peace Corps. These meetings provide students with the opportunity to learn and grow, increasing their knowledge and understanding of civic engagement.

The impact of the service hours completed by these students is widespread and beneficial to the Central Florida community. These students are leaders on campus and in the community, proudly representing both UCF and the LEAD Scholars Academy.

LOL

Lead Out Loud

Multicultural Leadership Development

Lead Out Loud is an experiential learning program that focuses on the leadership development of multicultural students at the University of Central Florida. Developed by the LEAD Scholars Academy, this program promises to enhance leadership skills, strengthen life skills and encourage positional leadership in this population of students at UCF. These are essential learning outcomes for students who will not only be retained by the university, but will be able to serve as effective leaders on campus and in the community.

The purpose and spirit of the Lead Out Loud Program will empower students to succeed, embrace diversity, strengthen life skills, and develop purpose with the expectation that these tenets will promote students towards graduation.

One of our highest goals is to create a legacy within this program that will empower students to continue the learning cycle of training their peers in leadership.

Lead Out Loud Goals:

- **Motivate** students to become involved in leadership opportunities at UCF, within the local community, and beyond.
- **Empower** student leaders to reach their full potential; achieve their goals; and make a positive difference in shaping the UCF experience for themselves and others.
- **Provide** student leaders with opportunities to reflect on how their leadership experiences have contributed to the development of their character and awareness of self.
- **Provide** student leaders with opportunities to examine how their leadership skills can be translated into career possibilities.
- **Students** will learn basic leadership skills and establish a strong leadership foundation that can be passed on to other students.



Inspire

Women's Leadership Program

The Mission

The Inspire Women's Leadership Program at UCF provides leadership enhancement and empowerment opportunities for women students. Through networking, mentoring, personal development and experiential training, UCF women students will be prepared to hold various leadership positions on campus and in the work arena.

// My involvement with Inspire helped me shape my professional and personal goals, and it strengthened my connection with my mentor, who has been an incredible support system as I pursue a career in Higher Education. I have also greatly benefited from being surrounded by positive, like-minded individuals, and I have become a more confident leader in the UCF community. //



Women students will be able to focus and embrace various components of leadership development to increase their networking opportunities, develop mentoring relationships and facilitate their professional and personal growth. This program has been structured and fully developed by an assessment of the reported needs of women students who show an interest in the role leadership plays in their university and career life, through programs created by the LEAD Scholars Academy.

The Inspire Women's Leadership Program will strive to meet the following objectives for all participants:

- **Identify** individual strengths and weaknesses, and develop an action plan for leadership growth.
- **Develop** the confidence to assume visible leadership roles with greater responsibility.
- **Learn** effective communication techniques suitable for various situations.
- **Gain** insight into the effective leadership skills necessary to successfully lead an organization or manage a team.

Living Learning Community



The LEAD Scholars Living Learning Community, located in the Neptune Community, is for first-year students who are a part of the LEAD Scholars Academy academic program. Second-year

students in the academic program may live in the Hercules area apartments for an advanced living learning community experience.



Students living in this LLC program will receive:

- Resources to assist in taking full advantage of their LEAD Scholars Academy and UCF experiences
- A supportive group of students sharing similar interests and a passion for developing leadership skills
- Programs providing opportunities to interact with fellow LEAD Scholars, fulfill necessary LEAD Scholars Academy requirements, and learn about their personal leadership development

Alumni

Testimonials

// LEAD Scholars Academy equipped me with the tools to successfully transcend past the barriers of society to serve my community, while achieving professional success. My experience as a LEAD Scholar provided me with outstanding networking and research opportunities that equipped me with the intangible experience to make an impact at a post graduate level. From what I learned inside the classroom to what I gained outside of it, the LEAD Scholars Academy made me a well-rounded student ready to change the world. //



Dwayne Houston
UCF Class of 2015

// The impact of applying to LEAD Scholars Academy was not apparent immediately, but I'm still seeing and experiencing the effect years later. Throughout college and in the adult workforce, I have applied what I have learned from my experiences as a LEAD Scholar to be a more effective leader. LEAD gave me an opportunity to work with the UCF Psychology department in my second year which directly lead to a 3-year internship. When it came to job searching, every employer that interviewed me for a position pulled LEAD right off of my resume and used it as a pivotal focus point. In fact, because of LEAD I was able to partake in a 2-year leadership program at Citibank where I am currently still employed. If you were to ask me as a senior in high school if that application would have directly correlated to my success, I would have said, "maybe;" but I now understand how that one simple decision has helped to shape the course of my career and benefited me as a person. //



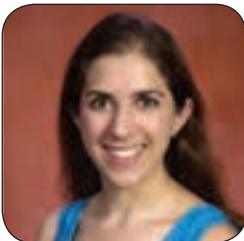
John Gibison, Jr.
UCF Class of 2013

// The LEAD Scholars Academy academic program simultaneously provided me with a foundation in my development, and a spring board to my future. The program and community is designed to assist individuals in cultivating their leadership abilities and talents, while also serving as a catalyst for students to pursue further opportunities on- and off-campus. LEAD Scholars Academy equipped me with leadership training, confidence and support. LEAD became an organization that continually allowed me to explore passions and opened new doors of opportunity, including encouraging me to attain a master's degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs. LEAD Scholars Academy assisted me beyond a two-year program--- to this day I still find support from the mentors of the program and through connections among LEAD Alumni. //



Jennifer Black
UCF Class of 2012

// The lessons I learned in LEAD Scholars Academy have helped me with my career in academia. I learned how to work in large collaborative groups, and understand and work with people with a variety of personality types. As an academic who regularly teaches introductory biostatistics courses, mentors students individually and in groups, and completes research projects with people from diverse fields and backgrounds, these leadership and interpersonal skills have been and will remain essential to my success. //



Naomi Brownstein, Ph.D.
UCF Class of 2008

Alumni

Testimonials



Dawn Aiello
UCF Class of 2006

// One thing I really value about my experience with LEAD Scholars Academy is the time we spent learning about ourselves and how we interact with the people around us. My time in LEAD taught me about working with diverse groups of people, making connections with new people quickly, and learning when and how to best lead in any given situation. While my professional experiences in education, nonprofit management, and now photography have helped me refine these skills over the years, my time with LEAD Scholars Academy gave me an invaluable foundation from which to grow. Without these skills, I would not be where I am today! //



Laura Matthews
UCF Class of 2004

// LEAD Scholars Academy connected me to like-minded people in college that I have not only become very close friends, but have also turned into colleagues and professional connections – so from a networking perspective, I never would have predicted how beneficial that would turn out to be. Additionally, the mentoring program especially taught me so many interpersonal relationship skills that I use time and time again. I still utilize those skills I learned as a LEAD mentor when supervising staff in my office and managing or advising a team. I have also continued to volunteer at work as a mentor to both students and staff, and just last week I was sharing a story from my LEAD mentoring days to one of my new mentees. I realized early on, thanks to LEAD, how important that responsibility is, and I am grateful to have had that opportunity so long ago to learn how to be an effective mentor. //



Sarah Kureshi, MD
UCF class of 2001

// Some of my favorite and most meaningful memories of my time at UCF come through my experience in the LEAD Scholars Academy! It goes without saying that LEAD helped me with networking opportunities, teamwork skills, leadership lessons and service learning. Through all of those things LEAD Scholars Academy helped me realize my strengths and weaknesses and really pushed me to “think outside of the box” in terms of how to make change and how to challenge myself. I carried those valuable lessons with me throughout medical school, residency and fellowship and now use them while I’m in clinic to provide the best care to my patients and while I’m teaching to provide the best learning environments for my medical students. //

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



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