

2 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Another big year unfolding for university

2 HUMAN RESOURCES
New feature to share news on personnel matters

3 TRAVEL INSURANCE
New coverage for employees, students while abroad

4 PEOPLE
Working with lasers keeps researcher in focus

UCF AT WORK

FOR STAFF AND FACULTY MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

MARCH 2015

UCF HIRES NEW DEAN OF STUDENTS

Student Development and Enrollment Services (SDES) hired a new senior associate vice president to serve as dean of students.

Anthony Jenkins, who began his job in January, will provide leadership and oversight for the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities – which includes Student Conduct, Student Care Services, and Integrity and Ethical Development – neighborhood relations, and the university's student health, counseling and wellness services.

In addition, he will lead SDES training in emergency preparedness

and crisis management, working with campus partners to ensure that UCF provides exceptional student-support services.

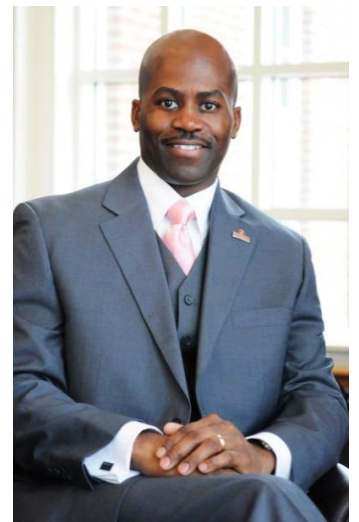
Maribeth Ehasz, vice president of SDES, said Jenkins served in the Army before he began his two decades in higher-education instruction and administration. He came to UCF from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, where he was vice president for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

Jenkins also worked in admissions and financial aid at Jackson State University and in residence life at Virginia Tech. He

served as the assistant dean of students of Northeastern Illinois University; associate dean of students for the University of North Carolina Wilmington; and dean of students for the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Jenkins holds a bachelor's degree from Fayetteville State University, a master's degree from North Carolina Central University and a doctorate in student affairs from Virginia Tech.

At each university he has worked, he is known for enhancing the quality of campus life and college experience.



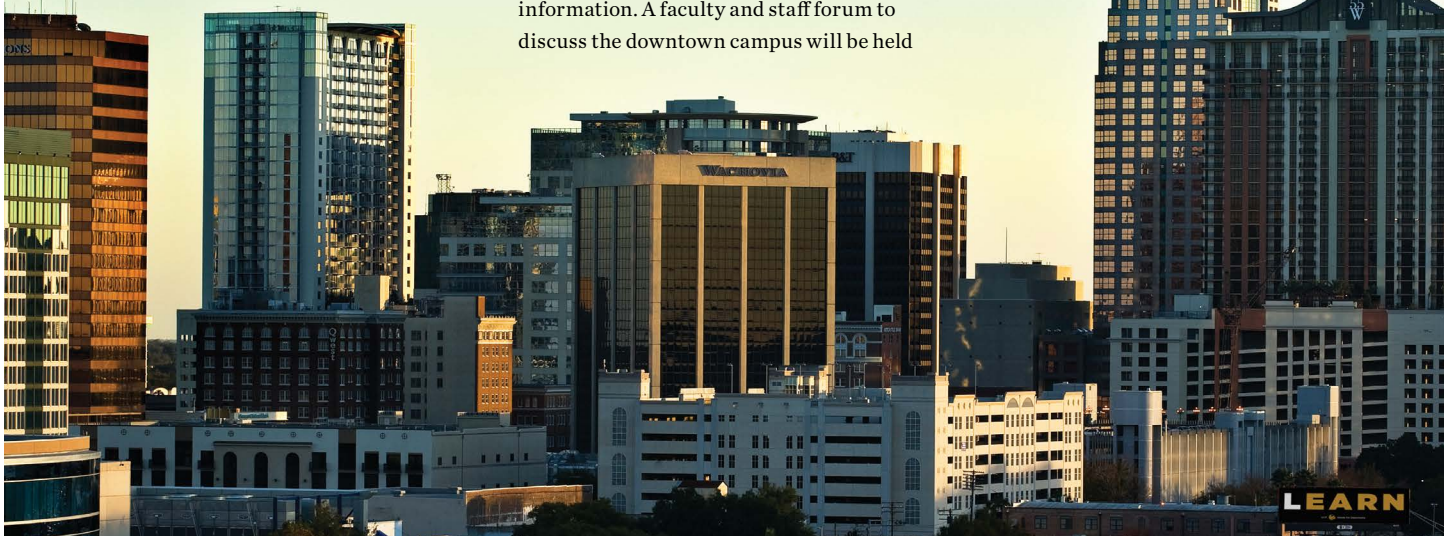
WEBSITE PROVIDES UPDATES ON UCF DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

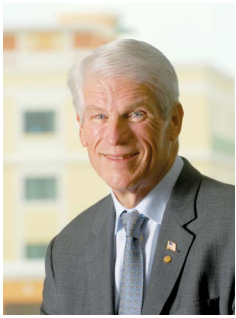
As plans for UCF's proposed downtown Orlando campus develop, the university community can be kept up to date on the progress at ucf.edu/downtown.

The website includes project updates, frequently asked questions, a calendar of meetings, a forum to ask questions and other information. A faculty and staff forum to discuss the downtown campus will be held

2 p.m. March 19 in the Garden Key Room 221 of the Student Union.

The proposed joint campus with Valencia College west of Interstate 4 would serve an expected 13,000 students.





DR. HITT'S FIVE GOALS FOR UCF

Offer the best undergraduate education available in Florida.

Achieve international prominence in key programs of graduate study and research.

Provide international focus to our curricula and research programs.

Become more inclusive and diverse.

Be America's leading partnership university.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another big year is unfolding at Florida's most popular university.

At the forefront is our pursuit of a dynamic 21st-century downtown Orlando campus in partnership with Valencia College and the City of Orlando.

Committees are identifying programs that will enhance student success by being located downtown. This new campus will expand educational opportunities for our students and energize the economic prosperity of Central Florida.

Of course, our plans rely heavily on state funding. We will have a clearer picture of the course ahead after the annual legislative session ends in early May.

This legislative session will also help define the financial future for the Florida Advanced Research and Manufacturing Center that we are building with lead partner Osceola County.

In this effort, UCF seeks to establish the nation's first research center to enhance production of smart sensors. The market for these tiny electronic components is booming, and this facility is hugely promising for creating thousands of well-paying jobs in the years ahead.

Meanwhile, efforts are underway to bolster our talented faculty with the hiring of 100 new colleagues this year.

And, in August, UCF will celebrate its 250,000th graduate.

These coming noteworthy achievements follow an impactful 2014 that included such important milestones as:

- becoming Florida's first university to enroll more than 60,000 students,
- awarding the most college degrees in Florida,
- enrolling more freshman National Merit Scholars than any other Florida university,
- graduating a higher percentage of our student-athletes than any other public Division I school in America,
- and setting a new UCF record for research funding.

What a great time to be a Knight!

The credit — and my thanks — go to the students, faculty and staff members, administrators, and other supporters who strive daily to make UCF a special place where great things happen.

Together, let's make 2015 our best year yet.

John C. Hitt
President

NEWS FROM HUMAN RESOURCES

UCF At Work will start sharing news and policy changes from Human Resources. In addition to the print version distributed to all employees, you can find UCF At Work online at hr.ucf.edu/ucf-work.

Human Resources to Streamline Services

Human Resources is undertaking three important projects in the coming months to update and streamline services that will affect everyone on campus.

Watch for improvements in these areas:

Replace paper timesheets used for payroll and leave reporting with an electronic system.

This is expected to be implemented this year and will decrease cumbersome processing time.

Improve the university's recruitment, search and selection processes.

By next year, HR plans to have implemented improved technology to decrease the amount of time it takes to hire and put a new employee in place.

Revamp the university's classification and compensation structure.

This system is expected sometime this year so the campus can improve recruitment and retention.

Details of the projects will be announced as HR ramps up the projects.

Insurance Coverage for Same-Sex Spouses

Medical insurance coverage is now available to same-sex married couples in Florida. All UCF employees who are legally recognized as married can enroll their spouse in a family health plan.

Marriage is considered a "Qualifying Status Change" event, which permits employees to make changes to their benefits outside of the open-enrollment period and includes enrolling eligible dependents in a health insurance plan.

Anyone who has an event that results in a gain or loss of eligibility for coverage has 60 days from the date of the event to make changes to benefits or they must wait for the open-enrollment period.

To apply for changes in health benefits based on qualifying events, contact UCF's insurance administrator, People First, at 1-866-663-4735, or the HR benefits office for more information.

PARKING OPTION FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

A new service to help expectant mothers park closer to their campus destinations is being tested by UCF Parking and Transportation Services and the UCF Center for Success of Women Faculty.

The trial program allows women in their third trimesters to reserve one of five "expectant mother" parking spaces available on campus. To reserve a spot, the expectant mother — whether an

employee or student — also needs a valid UCF parking decal. The designated spaces are being monitored for permitted users just like other parking spaces.

"A goal for the 2014-2015 school year is to reduce the distance that women who are in their third trimester of pregnancy need to walk on a daily basis," said Sharon Ekern, associate vice president of SDES.

NEW TRAVEL INSURANCE COVERS EMPLOYEES, STUDENTS ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS ABROAD

You're working abroad on university business and you need to make emergency travel arrangements to return home. Or there's a regional political issue that threatens your well-being. Or you're a student who needs an unexpected cash advance for medical expenses.

These and other situations are covered by a new international travel insurance policy purchased by UCF to cover university business and educational activities for faculty, staff and students traveling outside the United States.

The ACE American Insurance Co. policy includes, but is not limited to, the following: emergency medical coverage for accidents or illnesses that during the trip; evacuation for emergency medical needs, military or political unrest, or natural disasters; accidental death and dismemberment; assistance with translators; referral to lawyers, and other services.



For additional information about the coverage, contact Tom Briggs, director of Environmental Health and Safety at 407-823-1183. Call ACE at 1-855-327-1414 to sign up for coverage before

travel. Agents can register you and provide coverage availability, the policy number and emergency contact information.

35 MPH SPEED LIMITS REDUCED TO 30 MPH

The few places around the university that had a 35 mph speed limit were lowered to 30 mph to allow university-owned golf carts to be driven on campus roadways. Previously, carts that weren't street legal could not be driven in areas with speed limits over 30 mph.

The areas that have been brought into compliance with the lower speeds are Gemini Boulevard near Greek Park and the CFE Arena, and North Orion Boulevard near Bright House Networks Stadium. The UCF Police Department is enforcing the new limit. Any questions can be directed to the department's community relations staff at policedept@ucf.edu or 407-823-3224.

O'Neal Among 'Entrepreneurs of the Year'

Tom O'Neal, associate vice president of the Office of Research and Commercialization, was one of eight Central Florida leaders recognized recently for their vision and transformative impact on the area, nation and world. The inaugural "Entrepreneurs of the Year Awards" were presented by *i4 Business* magazine.

"I can remember when Orlando was considered just a 'vacation destination.' Today, we are considered serious players in economic development, business growth and research," O'Neal said. "I consider it a privilege to be part of the core group of Central Florida entrepreneurs making such an important impact."

MJ Soileau, vice president of the Office of Research and Commercialization, was among those on hand to present the awards.



GET TO KNOW...



MATT MILLS

MATT MILLS is an optics doctoral candidate and master's degree alumnus at UCF's College of Optics and Photonics. Before coming to UCF, he received two bachelor's degrees in 2010 in optics and physics, with minors in mathematics and semiconductors, at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Indiana. Working with high-powered lasers, his research has been in nonlinear wave propagation since the summer of 2010. Matt has published his research in several professional journals.

? When did you realize you were interested in the optics field?

I always wanted to do something scientific for as long as I can remember. I didn't choose optics specifically until my undergraduate time at Rose-Hulman, when it seemed like the area that interested me the most. I enjoy finding out how things function in a fundamental way.

? What research are you working on now?

I am working on filamentation with some effort in rogue waves. These names might sound exotic, but in reality they are simply phenomena that occur when you fire a very powerful laser into different things such as clouds! Currently, I am preparing my proposal as part of the final steps to receive a Ph.D. at CREOL [Center for Research and Education in Optics and Lasers], so I am very excited for this.

? What accomplishment have you been most proud of at UCF?

Getting the idea of "dressed filaments," a clever method of extending a laser, to work on paper and then in real life was really something! Right now, the next step concerning this idea is to explore the finer details of how it works — now that we know that it does work!

? What do you like to do when you are not working?

There are several things, but if I had to name one, it would be that I play a computer game called "Dota 2." It is a very competitive multiplayer activity and this is something I thrive on.

? If you were not in this job what would you be doing?

I would have sought out degrees in either medicine or computer science. I've always said to myself that in a parallel universe that is what I'm doing!

The good news is that my knowledge of optics can still be applied to these subjects, especially the medical field.

? What is something most people don't know about you?

I am partially colorblind. This creates small details in my life that I find normal but others find amusing. For example, if you asked me to pick out a brown crayon for you, I would search for it by reading the side of the crayon for its name, whereas others would simply grab it via sight.

SUMMONING A STORM

To read about Matt's research into lasers and how they could be used to induce rain and lightning, go to today.ucf.edu/dressed-laser-aimed-clouds-may-key-inducing-rain-lightning.



UCF Today is updated daily at today.ucf.edu.



Connect with us at facebook.com/UCF.



UCF is on Twitter, @UCF.



See UCF videos at youtube.com/UCF.



Visit WUCF TV at wucftv.org.

Why a Newsletter? Because many employees do not have Internet access or email, this newsletter, printed on "green" paper, will be published periodically throughout the year.

UCF At Work is published by News & Information. To submit newsletter comments, questions or story ideas, email gene.kruckemyer@ucf.edu or call 407-823-1637.