



UCF Graduation Ceremonies Now Broadcast in High Definition

The fall 2015 commencement ceremonies Dec. 18-19 at UCF marked the first time the live webcast was produced with high-definition cameras by the Instructional Resources events team.

The new camera system provides six times more digital detail than ever before — a substantial improvement in technology over the previous 15-year-old system that could no longer be supported. The cameras' digital, high-definition video signal is far less susceptible to interference or signal interruption, and offer vastly improved control over video angles, which allow webcast viewers to have a much more engaging experience. In addition, in-person attendees enjoy improved, up-close views on the massive digital video scoreboards in the center of the arena.

Families and friends across the globe are now able to see their graduates on commencement day in more ways, and clearer than ever before, giving everyone a chance to feel part of this important celebration.



A control room overlooks the CFE Arena, where a new, high-definition camera system is used to broadcast UCF commencement ceremonies.

PeopleSoft HR Systems Gets Upgrade

In summer 2015, the University of Central Florida began upgrading its PeopleSoft Human Resources system to the latest version (9.2) as a collaboration between Human Resources and teams from CS&T. The upgrade went live on Nov. 23. The primary goal of the upgrade was to maintain continued access to tax and regulatory updates for payroll processing.

A PeopleSoft upgrade of this magnitude would normally take approximately a year; however, this project was completed successfully in just four months due to the hard work and effective collaboration of the HR and CS&T teams. As part of the upgrade, the PeopleSoft HR system's name changed from HRMS to Human Capital Management (HCM). This upgrade brings UCF's systems up to date and lays the foundation for future enhancements.

New Course Preview Available in Faculty Webcourse Manager

The Course Preview is an optional feature available in the Faculty Webcourse manager that enables faculty members to provide a tentative syllabus to students who are registering for courses to enable them to gain additional information about course content and requirements. Once an instructor enables Course Preview, UCF students who are logged in to myUCF will see a "View Tentative Class Syllabus" link in the Class Search. For specific instructions and screen shots on how to enable this feature, please visit: <http://wp.me/P6RZtL-20N>

The Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning has provided a sample abridged syllabus that can be modified to fit any course, available at: <http://fctl.ucf.edu/TeachingAndLearningResources/CourseDesign/Syllabus/content/Course-Preview-Template.docx>

OIR/CS&T Support Strategic Planning Videoconference

On Dec. 10, OIR, in cooperation with CS&T, provided videoconferencing support for a UCF strategic planning meeting held in the UCF FAIRWINDS Alumni Center. This live event brought Michael Crow, president of Arizona State University, and Jim Duderstadt, president emeritus of the University of Michigan, to a gathered UCF audience. The event was recorded and can be viewed at: <https://vimeo.com/cdlvideo/review/148678080/2627671c63>

General Update

Progress on the IT2020 information technology shared services initiative and the establishment of UCF IT, the new university-wide information technology service and support organization continues. The IT Strategic Governance Committee and the IT Professionals Committee have been meeting monthly to address the recommendations contained in the McGladrey consultants' report and those generated through internal collaborative efforts.

The new enterprise organization, UCF IT, has been formed with the transition of the top IT managers from: College of Arts and Humanities, Burnett Honors College, College of Business Administration, College of Education and Human Performance, College of Health and Public Affairs, College of Sciences, and Student Development and Enrollment Services. This group, along with CS&T personnel will serve as an initial transition team to map out future organizational changes and further develop IT2020 initiatives, such as the UCF IT Service Desk, consolidation of departmental servers and data storage into the Shared Services Center, and cloud service offerings. Additionally, the managers will continue to manage IT service delivery for their respective colleges and divisions, develop individualized transition plans for Shared Services adoption, and collaborate as a team to share ideas, resources and assistance in the adoption and implementation of IT2020 goals.

For additional information on the IT2020 information technology shared services initiative, visit: <http://itr.ucf.edu/IT2020/index.asp>

Communications Update

Six colleges and one division will be among the first cohort for a new information technology structure that will help advance UCF's academic mission through innovative technology services and new resources to better serve faculty, staff and students.

The new structure is called "UCFIT," part of the university's IT2020 shared service model that will incorporate divisions' and colleges' IT services. The goal of this initiative is to enhance services through a more effective organization of resources and functions to increase security and reduce duplication of IT efforts across campus. This first cohort includes the College of Arts and Humanities, College of Business Administration, College of Education and Human Performance, College of Health and Public Affairs, College of Sciences, Student Development and Enrollment Services, and The Burnett Honors College.

Although units' IT services may assume a new structure, the level of superior service will be the same or better – and will afford many IT employees new opportunities for professional development and a chance to work on university-wide information technology initiatives. This is a process that will take some time, as each division or college joining UCFIT will create its own customized "roadmap" for migrating IT support services. Currently, IT directors from each of the participating colleges and division are part of the new UCFIT Transition Team and will work collaboratively this semester to help design and develop units' transitions into this new organization.

IT personnel will work with their respective UCFIT Transition Team member over the next several months as plans evolve for the new IT structure. One early project for UCFIT is a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week university-wide IT help desk.

Learn more about these IT initiatives, meet the UCFIT Transition Team, and view past presentations given to IT groups across the university at: <http://itr.ucf.edu/it2020/>

IT Professionals Committee Update

The IT Professionals Committee was formed to advance the initiatives of IT2020. The committee had its inaugural meeting on July 14, 2015, and consists of 15 IT professionals that represent the UCF IT community. The IT Professionals Committee works collaboratively to address the findings of the McGladrey report and identifies and pursues opportunities for the development and adoption of campus-wide IT shared services. The committee also assists the IT Strategic Governance Committee to gain oversight of campus IT projects and IT spending as well as the development of campus-wide IT standards and policies. The mission of the IT Professionals Committee is to review the strategic and operational needs of service delivery to UCF utilizing technology. The committee will work to establish a comprehensive UCF IT community by identifying areas of opportunity to enhance capability, efficiency, effectiveness and consistency through a transparent process. This mission will be accomplished through strategic alignment of IT investments and projects with university goals and objectives, risk management, value delivery, and resource management.

The committee has begun to discuss a variety of strategies on how UCF IT can evolve in the future. The committee is focused on maintaining transparency in the process, as well as receiving input and suggestions from the UCF community. The IT Professionals Committee will meet once a month in the first half of 2016 and the agenda and minutes will be posted on the itr.ucf.edu website. If you have any suggestions, please contact Larry Jaffe, chair of the IT Professionals Committee, at jaffe@ucf.edu.

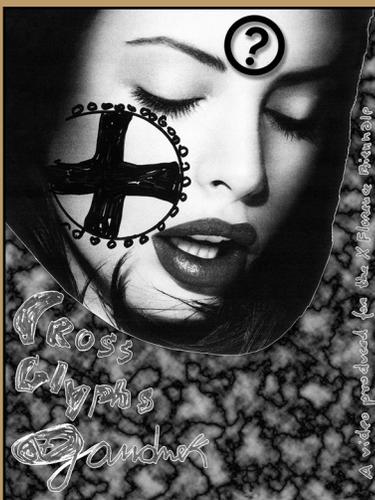
UCF Professor Receives Third Prize in Florence Art Exhibition

Professor Walter Gaudnek in the UCF School of Visual Arts and Design, with the help of Jon Findell, multimedia specialist in the UCF Faculty Multimedia Center, submitted a video work celebrating his art to the Florence Biennale 2015 Art Exhibition.

As art director and executive producer, Gaudnek and Findell, respectively, collaborated on the look and the timeframe of the video. They decided which images and parts of images to include, then Findell produced a visual rough draft, which the pair tweaked until they were both satisfied with the finished piece.

The final production, titled "Cross Glyphs," used images of Gaudnek's paintings, collages, fashion graffiti and photography, and was enhanced by his own drumming.

This past October, Gaudnek's submission was part of a 1,300-piece exhibition in Florence, Italy, where he was one of 423 invited artists from 62 countries, selected by an international jury, and was honored to receive third prize in the Video Art category.



U.S. News Ranks UCF Online Programs No. 20 in Nation

Online programs at the University of Central Florida were ranked recently by *U.S. News & World Report* as among the best in the nation.

In the U.S. News 2016 listing, UCF's online bachelor's programs were ranked No. 20, a jump from No. 50 last year. The university's online graduate criminal justice program, which was unranked last year, came in at No. 21, and the online nursing program was listed at No. 42. More than 1,200 programs nationwide were evaluated for the rankings in eight categories.

"Among the reasons that we are successful are UCF's emphasis on faculty preparation and support, and comprehensive research and evaluation," said Tom Cavanagh, associate vice president of Distributed Learning. "The University of Central Florida has experienced significant growth over the past several years. A key component of that growth has been the strategic implementation of high-quality online learning options for students."

Now in its 20th year of offering online learning, UCF is a recognized leader having won almost every major award from every national organization in the field. The university offers 77 fully online degrees and certificates at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and has delivered 29,629 unique online and blended-course sections.

Anthropology major Lisa Bengé said she appreciates the convenience of UCF's online classes.

"They are well organized...and really help you stay on top of work and readings," she said. "Being a stay-at-home mom it's certainly a viable option for someone pursuing a degree. I've taken both on-campus and online classes and really have enjoyed the online option."

Jennifer Hamilton, director of clinical support at Nemours Children's Hospital in Orlando, said that having classes online was critical to achieving her master's degree in executive health services administration in 2014.

"As a hospital administrator, I work long hours, am sometimes on call, and needed the flexibility to manage my time allotted to school," she said. "UCF was one of only a few programs nationwide that offered the course work and modality that met my needs. It is definitely a different way of learning, but I find the online modality truly a rewarding and unique experience for learning and collaboration."

During the 2014-15 academic year, nearly 38 percent of all UCF student credit hours were generated by online courses. Of the university's more than 63,000 students, 55,530 of them (about 78 percent) took one or more online courses. This past summer, nearly 12,000 students took only online courses.

"Through online learning technology, UCF has been able to provide access to far more students than the physical infrastructure alone can support," Cavanagh said. "We have also been a national leader in piloting adaptive learning, which helps to personalize the learning experience based upon individual student performance."

The Center for Distributed Learning also is the home of the Research Initiative for Teaching Effectiveness, which has been studying the efficacy and impact of online learning since the mid-1990s.

All of the national rankings are available at: www.usnews.com/education/online-education

—Gene Kruckemyer
UCF News and Information

2015-16 Technology Fee Awards

Number of proposals submitted: 96 (13 Infrastructure, 79 Student-Facing, 4 Faculty-Facing)
Total Amount Requested: \$13,061,820
Number of proposals funded: 79 (10 Infrastructure, 68 Student-Facing, 1 Faculty-Facing)
Total amount funded: \$8,506,537

We are pleased to announce this year's award recipients:

College/Division	Awarded
The Burnett Honors College	\$196,941
College of Arts and Humanities	\$1,086,318
College of Business Administration	\$9,847
College of Engineering and Computer Science	\$734,036
College of Education and Human Performance	\$738,706
College of Graduate Studies	\$15,847
College of Health and Public Affairs	\$588,416
College of Medicine	\$217,208
College of Nursing	\$490,900
College of Optics and Photonics	\$239,371
College of Sciences	\$2,197,814
Rosen College of Hospitality Management	\$200,146
Information Technologies & Resources	\$1,463,230
Regional Campuses	\$320,307
Student Development and Enrollment Services	\$7,450

We would like to thank our AY2015-2016 Technology Fee Committee members for their hard work. Information on the FY2016-2017 Tech Fee RFP round will be posted in April on the Technology Fee website at: <http://itr.ucf.edu/TechFee/index.asp>

John C. Hitt Library Launches Public Security Presence

The week of Jan. 11, University Libraries and the UCF Police department began providing the services of community service officers (CSO) Sunday through Thursday evenings, from 8 p.m. to 1:15 a.m. These uniformed, unarmed, and fully trained officers are stationed at the front door of the library, and circulate regularly throughout the building during the evening hours. Duties include patrols, hailing patrons to the front desk when security gates are tripped, conducting well-being checks, checking perimeter doors, and assisting during medical emergencies. While not having arrest authority, officers have full radio communications to UCF Police if needed. The goal of the new CSO service is to provide a positive presence that creates a heightened sense of security and well-being in the library. While only one officer will be on duty at a time, two to three will rotate during the week to ensure backup and continuous coverage. UCF Libraries is grateful for the UCF Police Department's support of this initiative.

First UCF Online Students Begin Online MSW

With the spring 2015 term, the first class of 30 exclusively online students began their studies in UCF's market rate Master of Social Work program (Online MSW). This new program option offers part-time enrollment to individuals who do not have a Bachelor of Social Work, or who earned their BSW more than five years ago.

In addition to serving non-resident students, other features of this program option include seven-and-a-half-week term lengths, cohort progression, and support from success coaches. The Online MSW is the first program to open under the new UCF Online outreach initiative. Other UCF programs are anticipated to participate in this initiative in fall 2016.

UCF Online provides distant students with access to UCF's 77 fully online degrees and certificates at a reduced cost through the removal of certain campus-based fees associated with services not accessible to distant students. At the undergraduate level, UCF Online also includes reduced non-resident online tuition for undergraduate students outside of Florida and planned 2+2+2 online pathways with state college partners. The UCF Online initiative is a partnership between the Center for Distributed Learning, Regional Campuses, and UCF Communications and Marketing.

For more information, visit: www.ucf.edu/online

information technologies & resources websites

Center for Distributed Learning (CDL) <http://cdl.ucf.edu>
Computer Services & Telecommunications (CS&T) <http://cst.ucf.edu>
Information Technologies & Resources (IT&R) <http://itr.ucf.edu>
Office of Instructional Resources (OIR) <http://oir.ucf.edu>
Space Planning, Analysis, and Administration (SPAA) <http://itr.ucf.edu/spaa>
University Libraries <http://library.ucf.edu>