Dear Friends:
Welcome to the 13th e-issue of T&G News prepared for the members of the UCF Town & Gown Council, the university’s premier friend-raising organization.

As amazing as it seems to me, spring means that our busy Council year is drawing to a close and we’re already beginning to plan for fall!!

I hope you will agree with me that our 2012 Friendship Luncheon was exceptional. What a wonderful opportunity once again to celebrate the bonds that unite us and to learn about yet another project through which UCF is working for the betterment of our region and state!

But events are not all that your Board has been doing this year. These wonderful newsletters that our Secretary, Susan Vernon-Devlin publishes and the “Did You Know?” e-blasts with information shared by University Advisor Ksenia Merck further our knowledge. Thanks to our tremendous Treasurer, Merrell Bailey, we solidified our compliance/tax status. Communications/Web Chair Diana LaRue and her associates at Appleton Creative have been lending their creative talents to revamping our web presence. Scholarship Chair Maggie LeClair has been our interface with Student Financial Aid in promoting and monitoring our Town & Gown Scholarship program.

Vice President Sara Segal not only was the lead on the Friendship Luncheon, but has been focused on shepherding our membership. Ksenia Merck, Historian Debbie Komanski, and former Treasurer Lynn Moharam have been revising the Board’s position descriptions, while Past President Pam Salvetti has led a group of other past presidents in recruiting Board members. Each of these women has given freely of her time and professional talents to further the interests of UCF and Town & Gown.

I am sure that you will want to join with me in thanking these women for all that they have done. I am honored to serve along with them.

I hope to see you at the Spring Luncheon!!
Phyllis
pklock@mindspring.com.
Anne Cochran Grey has attained an advanced degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Education with a specialization in Art Education, from UCF. Anne is a professor of Art Education at UCF and will be sharing her dissertation with her students. We also wish to congratulate Anne as she is the recipient of the 2012 Eliot Eisner Doctoral Research Award in Art Education Runner-Up of the Year Award, presented by the National Art Educations Association (NAEA). The award is a recognition of Anne’s outstanding work by her peers.

Congratulations to Susan Vernon-Devlin, Town & Gown’s Secretary for the 2011-12 year. Susan was recently appointed to the Board of the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Central Florida. Susan is also featured in the March/April issue of Orange Appeal magazine, one of nine Central Florida women who use networking to conduct business. In addition to serving Town & Gown's executive board, Susan also serves on the UCF Community Council and is incoming chair for the Council. Susan is the Director of Public Relations Services at Massey Communications, a subsidiary of Massey Services. For more information on Massey Communications visit www.masseycommunications.com.

There’s an award-winning author among us. Town & Gown Council member Sandra Lacey’s novella, God Still Dreams of Eden, was awarded Best Work by a First Time Conferee. The novella is the book version of her musical play by the same name. To find out more about Sandi’s novella visit www.Facebook.com/GodStillDreamsOfEden.com.

A new venture for UCF Town & Gown member Becky Niemann. Fashionistas get ready to shop. Camy Couture, a monthly five-day shopping experience opens in Altamonte Springs, Tuesday, April 3, 2012, from 10:00 am-7:00 pm. The boutique is located in Wekiva Square at 945 W. State Road 436, #1010. The store creates a monthly shopping craze for women seeking high-fashion couture apparel and accessories at non-couture prices. Camy Couture is open for shopping the first Wednesday-Sunday of every month.

Town & Gown member Margie Pabst will be honored this April at the 2012 Harriett’s Favorite Things Brunch. Margie is a speaker, facilitator and co-author of several books on life transitions. Her most recent book, Enrich Your Caregiving Journey, won the Caregiver Friendly Award. Margie is also a patron of the arts. The Welcome Center at the Atlantic Center for the Arts, an artists’ retreat in Ormond Beach that partners with UCF, is named for Margie and her late husband, Mark. For more information about Margie and her work visit www.pivotalcrossings.com.

Please send member news items to T & G newsletter editor Susan Vernon-Devlin at svdevlin@comcast.net.
As the Town & Gown Year comes to a close, look back at your calendar. Did you fulfill your membership requirement to attend two member events from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012? There is only one Town & Gown event left, the Spring Luncheon, scheduled for April 18, 2012. If you’ve only attended one event, this is your last opportunity for this year to attend a second. If you’ve had a guest attend one event and you intend to present that person as a candidate for membership, they must attend a second event; once a gain the Spring Luncheon is that event. Attending events for the prospect of members is not the only reason to come. Don’t miss the chance to invite friends and colleagues to enjoy an up-close look at the exciting things going on at UCF with student athletes and the UCF Athletic Association - and help share the news in our communities. The Spring Luncheon will also give Town & Gown members a chance to meet UCF’s new Athletic Director. We’re gathering on the UCF campus, so mark your calendars and be there on April 18. We’d love to see you and say hello.

**Important reminder:** Before offering to sponsor a candidate for membership, contact Membership Chair, Sara Segal (srmsegal@gmail.com), to discuss a candidate’s potential interest in joining UCF Town & Gown Council.

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**In Memoriam**

Louise Anne Marek Kiefer

A long and full life peacefully ended on Tuesday, March 13, 2012. It is with deep regret that we inform you of the death of Louise Anne Marek Kiefer, a long-time member of UCF Town & Gown Council. Louise died at the age of 96. She lived a life full of travel, loving family and wonderful friends.

Louise was born in Chicopee, Massachusetts, in 1915. She was a loving wife to Kenneth, whom she married in 1946, and a mother to Todd, who passed away prior to his mother’s death, and Shelley Pynn, who is also a member of Town & Gown Council.

Louise and Kenneth moved to Central Florida in 1956 when Kenneth joined the company that became known as Martin-Marietta. Louise had her own career. For many years she worked in the travel industry with her daughter Shelley and had the opportunity to visit countries in Europe. She also traveled to the Caribbean and Alaska.

In addition to her membership in UCF’s Town & Gown Council, Louise was also active in her church, Holy Cross Lutheran, where she participated in the Elderberries and the Red Hat Society.

In memory of Louise, please consider making donations to the Kenneth Kiefer Scholarship Fund through the UCF Foundation.

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**UCF – Grant Recipient**

University of Central Florida transportation experts — led by civil engineering professor Essam Radwan — are part of a team that has been awarded $3.5 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation to establish a Southeast-based university research center to study the nation’s transportation needs and provide hard data to improve transportation systems across the country.

The Southeast regional center is one of 22 such hubs funded for a total of $77 million by the DOT’s Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA). The centers are poised to address critical transportation challenges and educate the next generation of transportation professionals.

Led by Georgia Tech, the Southeast hub will also include Florida International University and the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Dr. Radwan’s UCF team, which includes researchers at the Center for Advanced Transportation Systems Simulation (CATSS), is expected to compete for up to $800,000, to be matched by non-federal sources, for contributing research and education expertise in selected areas. These areas include distracted drivers, the effects of drowsiness and fatigue on drivers, safe construction work zones, pedestrian safety, and efficient movement of freight.

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**Have You Fulfilled Your Membership Requirements?**

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Watch the special 20th Anniversary video here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nM8YDSJDlf0&list=UUbNaDD08DoM7VxfEhEX9uhA&index=1&feature=plcp

Twenty years have come and gone since UCF President John Hitt and First Lady Martha Hitt took up residence in Central Florida and President Hitt took on the role of leading what is now one of the nation’s largest universities.

In those two decades, UCF has tripled the number of buildings on its main campus, and soon the library will be renamed in President Hitt’s honor. With the growth of the university, the number of employees has almost quadrupled, and the number of merit scholars has done the same.

Under President Hitt’s tenure we have seen the construction and opening of the UCF Medical College at Lake Nona, the construction and kickoff of football games at Bright House Networks Stadium, the construction and dunks of basketballs and the sound of music and applause in a new arena and so much more.

President Hitt currently says he plans to stay with UCF for another five years. The last 20 have passed far too quickly; let’s savor the time he remains with us as only good things can come during those 1,825 days.
**Annual Spring Luncheon - WITH UCF ATHLETICS**

With more than 500 student athletes playing 17 sports, athletics at the University of Central Florida is a winning program focused on both academic and athletic excellence. The recent appointment of Todd Stansbury as Director of Athletics and UCF’s impending move to The Big East Conference in 2013 have focused attention on UCF athletics like never before. What is it like to be a student athlete at one of the largest universities in the nation? You’ll hear from Jessica Reo, Sr. Associate Athletics Director, and from some of the students themselves.

**Meet the Vice President & Director of Athletics, M. Todd Stansbury**

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 18, 2012 11:30 a.m.—Social
12:00 p.m. Luncheon, Program and Installation of Officers

**WHERE:** J. Rolfe Davis recruiting Room at Bright House Networks Stadium
Complimentary Parking, no parking pass necessary

**RSVP:** Please RSVP no later than April 10, 2012 by emailing townandgownrsvp@gmail.com
Be sure to include your name, guests name and dietary restrictions

**COST:** $30 per member and guests; visit ucf-townandgown.com to use your credit card via PayPal
or mail a check payable to UCF Town & Gown to: Merrell Bailey at Bailey, Zobel & Pilcher
610 Maitland Avenue, Maitland, FL 32751
Nancy Helm-Estabrooks, the neurological-disorders expert who has been treating former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, visited the University of Central Florida recently to promote the benefits of art as part of stroke therapy.

Giffords was shot in 2011 and lost her ability to speak. She resigned earlier this year and continues to recover.

Helm-Estabrooks, a national expert on aphasia, the loss of speech that results from a stroke or other neurologic injury, is consulting with UCF’s Dr. Janet Whiteside on the innovative techniques being used at The Aphasia House, a treatment facility at UCF.

The Aphasia House, one of only five intensive aphasia programs in the country, teams speech-language pathology graduate students with clients to work one-on-one for four hours a day every day for six-week to help improve their ability to speak after brain injuries.

The clinic, which resembles a house with a kitchen, garage and living room, provides a familiar setting. The rooms are decorated with photographs taken by some of the clients.

For the past two years, stroke survivors have worked with Whiteside and with Dawn Roe, a professor of art at Rollins College, to explore photography and help patients express themselves and their feelings.

“There is evidence that art helps in the rehabilitative process,” said Whiteside, chair of the Board of Clinical Educators at the UCF Communication Disorders Clinic.

Helm-Estabrooks is an advocate of using the arts as part of the rehabilitation process, which is why she met with Whiteside.

After visiting The Aphasia House, the two therapists visited the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens in Winter Park. Polasek was a stroke survivor and completed 29 sculptures after his stroke, many of which are showcased at the museum. Debbie Komanski, the Executive Director of the museum, is UCF Town & Gown Council’s historian.

Whiteside is working with the museum to establish a pilot program that would connect stroke survivors to the world of art.
Modern Technology Helps Preserve Disappearing Art, Culture in China

By Courtney Gilmartin
Article courtesy UCF News and Information

Traditional Chinese art and culture are finding new life on the Internet thanks to a joint effort to preserve the country’s history for a new generation. The project, called ChinaVine, is a collaboration among the University of Central Florida, the University of Oregon, and other partners in the United States and China. Through ChinaVine, the group is sharing Chinese customs and folk culture using modern technology. ChinaVine’s redesigned interactive website, which launched recently, will help English-speaking children and adults learn about China’s cultural heritage.

“Many Chinese traditions are centered in rural areas, but people are migrating to urban areas as China becomes an economic powerhouse,” explained Kristin Congdon, a UCF philosophy professor emerita who leads ChinaVine with Doug Blandy from the University of Oregon.

“Folk traditions are changing or being lost as individuals move to the cities for work. The Chinese view their traditional culture as an important part of China’s history and national identity,” said Congdon. “The ways in which the rural and urban traditions have been practiced for generations should be preserved and celebrated.”

For nearly six years, teams of students, professors and other scholars have explored Chinese villages and captured descriptions and pictures of vanishing art forms for the project. They’ve visited off-the-beaten-path towns that seldom see visitors, and recorded documents of locals as they create their art and share stories of their culture.

Art forms such as dance, architecture, music and literature are among those featured on ChinaVine’s website, an internationally accessible library for the collected content. The site includes videos and interactive features, as well as narratives from students and scholars who have been involved with the project.

“We want the website to be a resource for living in the global world,” said Congdon. “We see it as a teaching tool that will help people discover their own identities as they learn about others.”

UCF senior Joel Batchler can attest firsthand to ChinaVine’s encouragement of global experiences. He is among the more than 60 students from UCF who have been involved with the project. The students come from a variety of diverse disciplines, such as humanities, philosophy, film and others. Batchler, who is studying Piano and Language, joined the ChinaVine team after meeting Congdon in a class offered through UCF’s Burnett Honors College. He said he made a life-changing first trip to Beijing in January 2011 to research traditional Chinese music for ChinaVine. During the trip, Batchler had the opportunity to share one of his performances with faculty and administrators from the China Conservatory of Music, where he will return to study music after he graduates from UCF in May.

“ChinaVine captured me,” Batchler said. “The project is all about people from outside the culture, like me, who come inside to define it.”

The ChinaVine website was designed so that anyone who has an interest in China can contribute to the project using social media. All of the website’s content is open source and licensed by Creative Commons, which means that its texts, photographs, videos and other media can be freely used and modified by teachers and learners. ChinaVine’s educational reach will be further developed thanks to a $25,000 National Endowment for the Arts grant. A new section of the website, EduVine, will engage English-speaking students as they explore their own cultural identities by learning about the diverse lives of the Chinese. Members of the ChinaVine team plan to make a trip to China in May to continue to build partnerships and conduct fieldwork.

“We want to continue to add resources to the website and expand our partnerships in China so that the English-speaking world can learn more about the Chinese,” said Congdon.
UCF Town & Gown Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Event Information</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 18, 2012</td>
<td><strong>Spring Luncheon</strong></td>
<td>Bright House Networks Stadium</td>
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<td>11:00-1:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>May/June 2012</td>
<td>Brainstorming for 2012-13 Events</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>August 2012</td>
<td>New Member Orientation</td>
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*Events, dates, times, or locations subject to change. Please check [www.ucftownandgown.com](http://www.ucftownandgown.com) for current information.

Friendship Luncheon—Saving the Mosquito Lagoon

A sea of red and smiling faces were eager to learn about the saving the Mosquito Lagoon from Dr. Linda Walters and her student team during this year’s annual Town & Gown Friendship Luncheon, just before Valentine’s day. Dr. Walters and her team shared a technique for restoring the oyster beds in the lagoon damaged by the wakes of boats and contact with humans.

The team is rebuilding reefs in the mosquito lagoon with oyster shells, zip ties and plastic mats to anchor the shells. Research has found that young oysters and breeding oysters will attach themselves to oyster shells. Placing these artificial reefs in the lagoon speeds up the process as they are a sturdy place for the oysters to start their new beds. Luncheon attendees got a chance to add to a reef in progress and were invited to visit the lagoon and build a reef of their own to help in the restoration.

Dr. Walters program was engaging and enlightening. She is a true asset to UCF and a wonderful advocate for environmental issues here in Florida.