



### New Year, Same Commitment to Alumni and Students

Did you know that about 43 percent of people expect to give up on their New Year's resolution by February? I'm proud that we part of the nine percent that will achieve them. How are you doing?

Our goals are to strengthen our relationship with you and prepare our students for career success. We're off to a great start!

We're developing plans to provide you with opportunities to engage with fellow alumni and interact with our students. I'll provide more information in upcoming newsletters.

We've held several academic engagement events, including a walk-in advising week, a welcome-back reception, and a resource fair. In February, I'll host a Meet the Dean event to share what's happening in the college, announce engagement opportunities, and answer their questions.

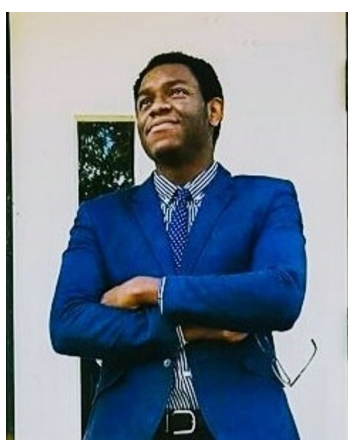
I hope you enjoy the first newsletter of 2023 and reading about alumnus Kennon Adkinson and Interdisciplinary Studies major Stefan Lunis. Their stories underscore the power of creating your degree program and how the ability to study across multiple fields creates academic, personal, and professional success.



### College of Undergraduate Studies Distinguished Alumni Award Winner 'Qs the Kindness

Kennon Adkinson has always wanted to help people in need, but didn't always have the means. Over the past decade, however, he has made up for lost time, dedicating both his time and financial support to a broad range of charities. Adkinson's passion for community service made such an impression on his colleagues at Sonny's BBQ that, in July 2020, they nominated him to be the company's "Chief Kindness Officer."

[Continuing reading](#) to learn how his degree in Interdisciplinary Studies has positioned him for civic and professional success.



### Student Spotlight: Stefan Lunis Advances His Research at MIT

Stefan Lunis moved eleven times between the ages of 15 and 21, living in places as disparate as Tennessee and Jamaica. But arguably, one of his most momentous relocations was last summer when he headed to Cambridge, Massachusetts, and participated in the prestigious Summer Research Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

As an Interdisciplinary Studies major at UCF with minors in Cognitive Science and Philosophy, he's created a degree program to meet his interests and professional goals. [Read his profile](#) to learn about his plans for the future.



### UCF Ranks Again in Top 10 "Best Online Bachelor's Programs"

U.S. News & World Report again recognized the quality of UCF's online degrees, ranking the university No. 8 in the nation for overall Best Online Bachelor's Programs. The College of Undergraduate Studies' [Integrative General Studies \(BGS\)](#), [Interdisciplinary Studies \(BA/BS\)](#), and [Interdisciplinary Studies - Diversity Studies Track \(BA\)](#) degree programs are part of this ranking. [Read more.](#)

### What's Your Story?

Tell us about your work and adventures since earning your degree, as well as topics that interest you. [Email the College of Undergraduate Studies](#) your story and news.

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