First Place Winner: Amanda Black

Title: “Make Knowledge Shine”

Statement:

“The UCF creed is the set of words and definitions that sets the bar for UCF students, and creates expectations for us to achieve greatness and reach new heights. When designing this piece, I wanted to create a work that used the creed as a way to express the theme “make it shine.” Not only does a lightbulb shine, but it also can often be a symbol of knowledge or ideas. Therefore, I thought that it would be fitting to use it as the vessel of knowledge and light that helps UCF to shine. The lightbulb is depicted broken and cracked open, and emerging is a knight on a Pegasus. This represents the population of UCF, and their breaking of boundaries, and outside-of-the-box ideas that help our school to continuously learn and grow. Birds flying out of the bulb and into the atmosphere are representative of students who break out their shells, and soar to new heights with creative freedom that UCF provides. The wires on the bottom half of the image create a system of support for the bulb, and within each wire, is a part of the UCF creed. The creed is a huge support system for the knowledge of UCF, and plays a crucial factor in “making UCF shine.” Dividing these wires from the essence of light on the top half of the image is a heartbeat, a representation of the caring and loving environment that UCF students pride themselves on. Within the piece that I have created, I hope to engulf the essence of the creed and express the importance of new ideas that make UCF shine.”
Second Place Winner: Juan-Camilo Rivera

Title: “Birds of Paradise in a post-glacial cityscape”

Statement:

“The UCF Creed embodies the best of a student and creativity, and excellence are all I strive to be. Creativity stems from a sense of using your brush, hands, or musical instrument to beautify and embellish the canvas of human life. We feel a sense to instill awe, or bring forth a dire topic that needs to be splashed on a canvas to be talked about. As a UCF student I strive to use my talents to the benefit of my fellows in humanity, and as the Pegasus statue in the alumni center says I will graduate prepared to make a positive change in the world. Creativity in the creed to me also means using my talents to arouse a thought, or present an idea worth sharing. In my painting, an enormous tsunami caused by global warming overtakes the beautiful cityscape. The artist sees cities such as Miami and Venice as possible modern day Atlantis if we do not address the melting ice caps and rising temperatures.”
Artist: Amanda Trudeau

Title: “What is UCF?”

Artist Statement:

“Integrity: In the bottom left hand corner there is a day/night scene with the word truth in it. This shows that no matter what UCF knights will always do the right thing.

Scholarship: in the top left corner there is a graded scantron that has been graded. This shows how knights take school seriously and are always working towards your goal: graduation.

Community: “We are UCF” is displayed in the background, behind Knightro. This reminds everyone that Ucf is here to help us succeed. There’s also an infinity sign with UCF in it to show that UCF is always here for us.

Creativity: The drawing shows the creativity of our community excellence. The Pegasus is our academic mascot and UCF’s academics are the best and make sure students have an excellent experience and education.”
Artist: Cory Goicoechea

Title: “Create Light in a Corner of Darkness”

Statement: “The UCF Creed has several values, community is the word I would use to help represent this painting. There has been many mass shootings in the past. If we all unite as “one” community, we can help bring light to a corner of darkness. And it can take just one person, to make change.”
Artist: Daria Kudryasheva

Title: “Ready to Fly”

Statement:

“My artwork depicts the symbol of our university - golden Pegasus, our mascot - Knightro, and our five core values - Integrity, Scholarship, Community, Creativity, and Excellence. The shining Pegasus is getting ready for its first flight. It is running fast and opening its wings to start flying. That represents every new student that is starting their journey at UCF. The Pegasus stands upon the UCF Creed. Each of the values is represented by one of the swallows, which are colored accordingly. The swallows, symbols of hope and guidance, encircle the Pegasus. They are guiding it through its flight and helping to stay on the course. Just like that, the UCF Creed guides the students through their education and helps them reach their goals. Knightro can be seen on the background behind the Pegasus as he follows it on the journey. Our mascot is always with us, cheering us up and spreading pride for our university. The drawing shows the main symbols of UCF and what we all as students stand for.”
Artist: Destiny Carroll
Title: “New Knowledge”
Statement: “The UCF CREED value represented in this picture is scholarship. The light the woman is holding represents a new insight or understanding gained. This picture shows the joy and wonderment that comes with finally mastering a concept through vivid colors and patterns.”
Artist: Emily Diez

Title: “Creatives U(CF)Knighted”

Description: “The UCF Creed value I choose to represent is creativity. I have always loved art and my painting, and I feel like this value represents me as both a UCF Student and as a person. In my painting, the creativity is “unleashed” from being a Knight.”
Artist: Emily O’Neill

Title: “Growth”

Statement: “This piece is inspired by my experience as a 2017 UCF orientation leader. Part of my role at the university as an o-team leader is to welcome incoming first time in college and transfer students. For the summers’ first time in college orientations, I had the privilege of welcoming students into my small group “Emily’s Emmy Awards”. I had the opportunity to interact with students and be the first step in their path to success at UCF. My goal is to facilitate their transition into UCF and be a helpful resource. In this piece, I used feedback from students in my small groups as leaves on the tree. I used words that were repeated often throughout the feedback notes. This piece is special to me because it shows me I’ve touched lives and made an impact to these UCF Knights but also the UCF Community. I chose to paint a tree because it represents growth. I remember coming to UCF for the first time and not knowing where my journey would take me. The tree represents the growth I’ve made, the way I have been able to branch out to other students and impact their growth here at UCF. The creed I exhibit in my painting and everyday as I knight is excellence. Excellence is what I strive for when helping incoming students, guests, and all here at the University of Central Florida. The painting shows excellence because I can see I’ve created a foundation for my students to do great things and charge on. Being an orientation leader, and helping students is how I make it shine at UCF. The positive feedback from my students included in this painting is how I know I’ve done something meaningful and made it shine.”
“When given the task of symbolizing the UCF CREED, I chose not to pick a specific aspect, but rather the entirety of it and what can embody these beliefs... Immediately I thought of Knightro and the Student union. The student union is one of the biggest symbols of the creed to me because it portrays a great sense of community in that a vast amount of the student body is constantly flowing in and out of this building. Scholarship with the various resources available, integrity with the school symbol dead center as a sign of honor for the school, creativity in the various options of enriching our human experiences with dining options and extra events, and excellence in that it’s simply the heart of our school. Knightro also carries these values because he truly is the face of the school and enriches our experience on campus, as well as draws everyone together in a tight knight community. I am truly proud to be a knight and to say that I am a part of this school’s community because these values are carried out so fluidly and successfully.”
Artist: Jamesha John-Lewis

Title: “Through the eyes of Knightro”

Statement: “Out of UCF’s five creed values, I would say this piece mostly represents creativity and community. In the center UCF’s mascot Knightro can be found painting. He is painting his vision of UCF, which is to see all of us knights coming together to light up the world, essentially making it a better place for everyone. Knightro is intentionally not colored as he not only represents UCF but everyone in UCF’s community as a whole. It’s not about him, the greater idea is that it’s about everyone, but especially those at UCF, coming together to make our city, our state, country and world shine. Light waves are radiating outwards from the painting and continuing forever to represent the lasting impact we could/should have on the world. Any positive words can be placed on the light waves but I chose a few that I believe UCF tries to promote.”
Artist: Jillian Cruickshank

Title: “Constellation”

Statement:

“In my piece; Constellation, I believe that the UCF CREED is exemplified through the five brightest or most distinct stars that make up the Pegasus constellation which also reflects the most distinct features of our student body. The overlap of the interstellar constellation with our infamous Pegasus emblem left the impression on me that by living by the CREED, it gives us the power to spread positivity wherever we go. Just like how the stars all connect to create the body of ancient Pegasus, the points of the CREED when all connected create the incredible student body of our beautiful school.”
Artist: Jonathan Madison

Title: “Explosion of creativity”

Statement: “This piece represents the value of Creativity it symbolizes the emergence of ideas from the mind and how they can expand to create amazing things. The piece itself is also meant to show how creativity takes your thinking from a two-dimensional plane (most of the painting) and can expand it to a whole new reality (3-D portion).”
Artist: Mireya Ramirez

Title: “This is You”

Statement:

“In my piece, I wanted to show how similar the Statue of Liberty and Knightro are in terms of what they represent. As an example, you can see how Knightro takes on the pose of the Statue of Liberty. Just as the Statue of Liberty represents American Values, here, Knightro represents the students and the values of the UCF Creed. He carries the Creed in his left arm, remembering that the values of the Creed are with him at all times as it is for UCF students.

The Statue of Liberty’s torch stands for enlightenment, and in my piece, I chose to have the Pegasus stand for the “Scholarship” part of the Creed as well as the “Make it Shine” theme of the art contest. The Pegasus is a known logo for UCF, and I believe by making the Pegasus the flame of the torch, it signifies the passionate worth of education that students at UCF have as well as how education and knowledge can be enlightening.

Knightro stands on a rock between mountains that symbolize the hardships that students go through as they find themselves through their university life. However, if a student perseveres and continues to work their hardest, they will find the “Excellence” that is a part of the UCF Creed.

Knightro ultimately embodies the UCF Community as he characterizes the energetic and open friendliness that the students, staff, and faculty show everyone they meet.”