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Caught in the Web of Plastic

ORLANDO, Fla. (March 27, 2017)— UCF’s Student Government Association has partnered with Volunteer UCF to host UCF’s largest sustainability event to date.

In spirit of UCF's recent accomplishments in sustainability, including the Collective Impact Strategic Plan's inclusion of sustainability and health and UCF’s recent feature in the 2016 Edition of the Princeton Review's Guide to Green Schools, SGA would like to celebrate. Our goal is to host a large-scale sustainability display to show our dedication to a more environmentally friendly campus.

Caught in the Web of Plastic is a large-scale, sustainability awareness display to discourage the routine of single use plastic bags and encourage reusable totes instead. Thousands of plastic bags will be weaved together into a web hanging across the second floor of the Student Union Atrium to create an “awe” inspiring spectacle. The event will engage students at every floor of the atrium, will be one-of-a-kind and will serve as a legacy of UCF’s dedication to sustainability.

“Single use plastic bags are one of my biggest environmental pet peeves. It is sadly a social norm to accept everything in a plastic bag every time you shop, even items with handles already on them,” said Health and Sustainability Coordinator, Hannah Hollinger. “There are numerous affordable alternatives that we can use instead of plastic that are less detrimental to our environment.”

Hollinger’s goal with this event is to communicate to the UCF community how we can be better stewards of the Earth by being mindful of our options when we shop. Changing our current consumption habits can be difficult to do all at once, but making incremental changes like using a reusable bag or not accepting a bag at all are easy.

“I try to bring awareness at the grocery store by asking, “Do you know what these plastic bags are made from?” Not many people realize most plastics are produced using petroleum products. I would love for us to impact UCF by raising awareness and starting a conversation that inspires people to make little tweaks to their daily routines,” said Director of Campus Life, Emily Dovydaitis. “After all, no matter who you are or where you are the environment affects your life and well-being. Everything we do, even the seemingly innocuous task of using plastic bags at the grocery store, impacts other people.

Saying no to plastic bags is a compassionate decision which can significantly reduce petroleum consumption and waste production, thus benefitting the future for generations to come.”

SGA would like to thank all the volunteers that helped us weave the massive plastic web. Thank you to the Student Union—Rick Falco, Jaime Morales, Elissa Shaw for their overwhelming support.

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The UCF Student Government Association is a representative body modeled after the United States government. Through the three branches – executive, legislative and judicial – the UCF Student Government Association represents student issues and concerns at all levels of university decision-making. In addition, the UCF Student Government Association is constantly creating new services and initiatives aiming to make campus life better for all UCF Knights.

For more information regarding the service, please contact the Student Government Association at (407) 823-1122. All media requests can be directed towards Whitney Barnes, the Public Relations Specialist at sga_pr@ucf.edu.