Florida Trend Magazine recognized Dr. Tom O’Neal, associate vice president of Research in the Office of Research and Commercialization at UCF, as “One of the Top Florida Newsmakers in 2011”. Dr. O’Neal was hailed as a “Job Farmer” and profiled as an exceptionally notable political and governmental figure for the year, due to his outstanding leadership with the GrowFL program.

GrowFL, managed under UCF’s Florida Economic Gardening Institute, was created by the state of Florida in 2009, to provide assistance to “second-stage” businesses that have demonstrated potential for growth in targeted industry lists. The program provides technical and educational assistance.
The UCF Business Incubation Program has established a strong Advisory Board to coordinate the efforts of both the University and the community in providing tools and resources to enhance the prospects for the commercial success of developing companies. The Board serves as a liaison between the Incubator, the University, and the Central Florida community. Visit www.incubator.ucf.edu for the full board list.

Heather Bond Vargas
Heather Bond Vargas joins the UCF Business Incubation Program as a new member of the Advisory Board. Vargas is a shareholder at Cobb & Cole PA, where she has practiced since 1999. Her intellectual property practice focuses on trademarks, copyrights, and licensing and administrative dispute proceedings. She has written several articles about intellectual property issues for local publications, and has regularly presented on intellectual property in symposiums to the local community about intellectual property protection.

Vargas is a native of Daytona Beach. After receiving her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Richmond, she practiced law in California before returning to Florida in 1999. She is Board Certified by the Florida Bar as an IP attorney, where she is only one of about 150 in the State of Florida and the only one in the Volusia-Flagler community.

In addition to her intellectual property practice, Vargas was actively involved in the development and fundraising effort to build the STAR Family Shelter in Daytona Beach for homeless families with children.

Rich Karl
As a fourth generation native of Daytona Beach, Rick Karl – Director of Aviation and Economic Resources for Volusia County – knows the importance of supporting the local economy to help a city grow. As a part of the Medical Manager Corporation from 1988 through 2000, Karl became part of the business development and economic growth movement. The experience he gained through his time with the company, moving from being a start up through to IPO, was quite valuable to him.

Karl, now intimately involved with Volusia County as a part of its senior management and the UCF Business Incubator program and the FAA’s NextGen test bed that is located in the same complex with the National Entrepreneur Center, along with many other organizations, said Karl, “The placement of the incubator at the airport also allowed the county to promote the synergies between the UCF incubator program and the FAA’s NextGen test bed that is located in the same complex with the airport, is promoting the synergy with the airport and the County’s growth. Karl is currently trying to develop the airport in hopes to enhance the region. "This effort goes hand-in-hand with the economic development efforts in our region, with our focus being at Embry-Riddle and the aerospace sector," said Karl. The recent decision in Volusia County to support the University of Central Florida’s Business Incubator at the Daytona Beach International Airport, as part of our efforts to develop and retain talent as well as intellectual capital from the five universities in the county, has brought Karl to the Advisory Board of the Business Incubator. Believing in the innovation of the Business Incubator at the airport, Karl commented, "The placement of the incubator at the airport also allowed the county to promote the synergies between the UCF incubator program and the FAA’s NextGen test bed that is located in the same complex with the airport." The NextGen program, transforming the national airspace system, is a multi-billion dollar initiative to move from ground based radar technology to satellite-based technology. This technology is bringing industry leaders from all over the country to the test bed at Embry-Riddle and Aeronautical University. Understanding that we are in a dynamic and challenging economic time, Karl fully believes that every sector of the economy has something to offer to the community in an effort to solve the issues of the economy of this region. Supporting the Business Incubation Program Karl comments, “I believe the way to help our small businesses grow is to continue to support innovative programs that have a proven track record such as the UCF Incubator and the GrowFL programs.”

Eric Ushkowitz
University of Central Florida graduate, Eric Ushkowitz has been working in the Central Florida area and in business development for over twenty years. After working for Vizcom Wireless in the Central Florida area as the Director of Business Sales, Ushkowitz joined the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission focusing on technology-based economic development, serving as its Director of Life Sciences.

Currently, Ushkowitz is the Economic Development Administrator for Orange County Government, developing the overall economic development strategy for Orange County. In this role, he focuses on providing companies with an environment that propels growth for existing and startup companies. Orange County Government supports many programs that invest resources into these companies such as, the UCF Business Incubation Programs, GrowFL, Venture Lab, the Small Business Development Center and the National Entrepreneur Center, along with many other economic development organizations.

Ushkowitz is proud to join the UCFBIP Advisory Board, commenting “I have always enjoyed working with others and helping them achieve their goals in any way that I can. The results we’ve seen have been tremendous and we are always keying our eyes open for new and innovative opportunities to continue to grow and strengthen our local companies”. Ushkowitz is a new member to the Advisory Board this year, but has been involved in many Central Florida organizations. He serves on the following organizations: Workforce Central Florida, the National Center for Simulation (NCS), the Manufacturers Association of Central Florida (MACF) and the Florida Photonics Cluster.
The National Business Incubation Association (NBIA) recently held its 26th annual International Conference on Business Incubation in Atlanta, Georgia. The event, which took place at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel from May 6-9th, drew in nearly 600 attendees from across 28 countries and offered attendees the opportunity to learn, network and collaborate on new ideas to help entrepreneurs succeed.

The NBIA Business Incubation Conference offered attendees an exclusive look at the best practices of business incubation from industry veterans, executives and leaders in business incubation. The conference showcased a unique panel discussion of managers of incubators and their clients who made the 2011 Inc.


HomeTown TV was honored as the “Outstanding Incubator Client, NonTechnology Category”. The company was founded in 2009 by Marc Roberts-Schwartz to help make the wait time for patients to see a doctor a more educational experience. According to a study done in 2003, the average wait time for a patient to see a doctor is 20 minutes. Schwartz partnered with several physicians from Central Florida to launch “HomeTown TV: Health Good Things for Those Who Wait”, a monthly hour-long program that provides health information to a network of medical organizations, local cable network, Internet and county health departments. The exclusive, educational TV program is used by area physicians and healthcare professionals to create loyalty and trust with new and existing patients by sharing information about health issues.

UCFBI’s 27th International Conference on Business Incubation will be held April 7-10th, 2013 at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts. Visit www.nbia.org for more details.

The UCF Business Incubator - Daytona Beach International Airport now features a small taste of the reason why the city is so famous: NASCAR racing. The Incubator recently recognized a generous office furniture donation from the International Speedway Corporation donated 18 pieces of office furniture, including: chairs, cabinets and desks, which came from their old building that was demolished to build the International Motorsports Center in 2009.

“Don’t ‘Connie’ Bernal, the incubator’s site manager, is thrilled with the generosity of the International Speedway. ‘We are very grateful and pleased to know that our incubator has a little piece of International Speedway Corporation donated 18 pieces of office furniture, including: chairs, cabinets and desks, which came from their old building that was demolished to build the International Motorsports Center in 2009.”

From left to right: Esther Vargas-Davis, Site Manager, UCFBI-Winter Springs, Jay Brown and Kevin Gaffee, Founders of BDG Construction Services, and Gordon Hogan, Director, UCFBIP, are pictured accepting an award at the NBIA Conference.

Did you know?

The future of Florida’s economy will be shaped by an elite group of privately owned companies recognized in the second annual Florida Companies to Watch program scheduled for October 19, 2012 in Orlando at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort. This statewide event lauds the success of business leaders who have taken their operations to the “second-stage” of growth and hold the potential to continue to create new jobs in their communities and industries, thereby making a difference in regional economics.

Florida Companies to Watch is presented by GrowFL in association with the Edward Lowe Foundation and title sponsor SunTrust. Additional sponsors for the event include the Florida High Tech Corridor Council, Right House Networks Business Solutions, Fowler White Boggs, Gulf Power and ACG Florida.

Since its inception in 2005, Companies to Watch has evolved from an event in a single state to a recognition program with national scope. Created by the Edward Lowe Foundation, CTW celebrates high performing, second-stage companies that demonstrate high performance in the marketplace, exhibit innovative products or processes, or otherwise make those companies “worth watching.”

“Many second-stage businesses fly under the radar screen of typical awards programs,” notes Dr. Tom O’Neal, executive director of the Florida Economic Gardening Institute and associate vice president for the University of Central Florida’s Office of Research and Commercialization.

The economic impact these companies generate is significant. The combined impact of the 50 companies chosen as the inaugural winners of 2011 Florida Companies to Watch is $419 million in total annual revenue, 1,372 full-time equivalent employees and $10 new net jobs created compared to 2009. From 2006 through 2010, these companies generated $1.4 billion in revenue and added 1,153 employees (both in Florida and out of state), reflecting a 162 percent increase in revenue and 141 percent increase in jobs for the five-year period. That translates into a 52 percent annual revenue growth and 28 percent annual growth in employees. A look at one of the second-stage winners of Florida Companies to Watch shows the incredible potential for Florida’s economic rebound. (Data compiled in December 2011.

“Companies to Watch differs from other award programs and showcases a diverse group of businesses that reflect the economic makeup of our state. What’s more, second-stage companies are introducing new products, services and technologies that give the United States a competitive edge in the global arena,” says Dr. O’Neal.

A selection panel of judges representing areas of economic development, banking, entrepreneurship and small business look for evidence of fast and/or high growth in employment rates and revenue. In addition, Florida Companies to Watch award recipients also demonstrate special strengths and traits that stand out from the competition including entrepreneurial leadership, product innovation, social/community responsibility and competitive business practices. Winners will be announced July 19.

In addition to the recognition of being named a Florida Companies to Watch award winner, companies have the opportunity to participate in a leaders retreat attended by former Companies to Watch award recipients from other states at the Edward Lowe Foundation’s Big Rock Valley retreat facility in southwestern Michigan.

For additional information or sponsorship details, visit www.CompaniestoWatch.org or contact Patrice McKay at (407) 623-6934.
UCFBIP Staff Update

Sanford Program Assistant Promoted as New Administrative Assistant to Gordon Hogan

Congratulations to Peggy Allen on being selected for the position of administrative assistant to Gordon Hogan. Prior to this position, Peggy worked as a Program Assistant for the UCF Business Incubator in Sanford.

“I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with all the sites and help our clients grow from behind the scenes. Anything I can do for Gordon and the site managers can only help them do their jobs better, which in turn helps the clients. We have such an incredible staff with wonderful talents and great ideas, that over time, this program will only get better. Dr. O’Neal’s vision has inspired us all to see the benefits of the business incubation process and the support of all the sponsors will only enhance that cooperation. I am indeed very honored to be part of the whole process”

Rick Parks, Site Manager UFC Business Incubation Program – Apopka

Rick Parks is the Site Manager of the tenth UCF Business Incubator located in Apopka. Prior to his new position, Parks worked as an Entrepreneur in Residence with the UCFBIP and as an Entrepreneur Coach with the Venture Lab.

Parks brings to the table experience as a technology entrepreneur with a proven history of building and selling software companies. His early career included senior technical positions with companies like Chrysler Corporation and Abbott Laboratories. Rick’s first start-up, Inter Systems Corporation, was a break-through concept for sales automation, capturing marquee customers including American Home Products, Kimberly Clark, Bristol-Myers and Digital Equipment Corporation. Inter was acquired by Symantec in 1994 to integrate features into its best-selling ACT! software. In 1995 Rick founded Endeavor Software, Inc., to develop a sales process management system incorporating Solution Selling and endorsed by Solution Selling® author, Tom Bowers. In just two years, Endeavor was acquired by a publicly traded consulting firm as the platform for its sales process reengineering practice.

Soon after, Rick started his third company, SalesWater Corporation, which was acquired in 2000 from Front Range Solutions (Goldmine). In following years, he created and exited two additional companies; Elemental Solutions, LLC and Neo9 Inc. Most recently, Rick was interim CEO of NurseTogether, LLC, an on-line community for nurses.

When asked about his goal to grow the new UCFBIP – Apopka, he stated, “My focus will be growing jobs in Apopka. The UCFBIP – Apopka is partnership focused – it’s all about economic development and diversification for the city.”

Apopka Marks Tenth Location for UCFBIP

FROM PAGE 1

from the Sanford Incubator, which we selected for the position of administrative assistant to Gordon Hogan. Prior to this position, Peggy worked as a Program Assistant for the UCF Business Incubator in Sanford. We are very excited about adding the tenth incubator, located in Sanford, excited about adding the tenth incubator, located in Sanford.

Dr. Tom O’Neal, founder and executive director of the UCF Business Incubation Program, said the UCF Business Incubation Program has helped more than 200 companies. In a recent study updated in 2011 by an independent firm, the UCFBIP accounted for more than 1,600 jobs in the Central Florida area that year.

The UCF Business Incubation Program operates business incubation facilities in Orlando on the UCF Campus, at Central Florida Research Park near UCF and on East Colonial Drive, and in Kissimmee, St. Cloud, Daytona Beach, Sanford, Winter Springs and Leesburg, in addition to Apopka. Visit www.ucfincubator.ucf.edu for more information.

Expanded UCF Business Incubation Program Increases Economic Impact

Updated HFTCC Study Shows Increases

A recently updated study of the University of Central Florida’s Business Incubation Program (UCFBIP) demonstrates the program’s impact on the regional economy, showing a total economic output from client and graduate companies that exceeds $560 million annually. Since 2009, when the Florida High Tech Corridor Council originally commissioned a similar study, the UCF Business Incubation Program has grown to include five new facilities around the region which have produced 845 jobs and increased the level of employee earnings.

“In the past two years – 2009 through mid-2011 – in the midst of the most severe national and statewide economic downturn in decades, the UCF Business Incubation Program has proven instrumental in the creation of almost 1,500 new jobs with earnings in excess of $62 million annually in the Metropolitan Orlando region,” reported William H. Owen, CRE, president and CEO of the research firm that conducted the study, WHDRN Consulting.

The updated analysis of UCF’s Business Incubation Program also shows that the program’s success rates have increased significantly since the 2009 study. Specifically, the incubator has increased the number of active client companies from 70 in 2009 to 118 in 2011, and the aggregate number of employees of these companies increased from 303 in 2009 to 721 in 2011 – an increase of 138 percent.

“By helping emerging companies in their early years, we are making a significant impact on the Central Florida economy and creating high-wage jobs that benefit our region,” said Tom O’Neal, UCF’s associate vice president for Research & Commercialization and executive director of the UCFBIP. We look forward to helping more companies become successful, and we are very excited about adding the tenth incubator, located in downtown Apopka to the program.”

Following the 2009 study, local and county government partners funded the opening of five additional UCF incubators in Kissimmee, St. Cloud, Leesburg, Daytona Beach and Sanford, expanding the total to nine sites, and expanding the reach and accessibility of services to entrepreneurs throughout the Central Florida region.

Total annual funding for all nine current

The University of Central Florida, founded in 1963, is the second-largest university in the nation. Located in Orlando, Florida, UCF and its 12 colleges provide opportunities to 51,877 students, offering 177 bachelor’s and master’s degrees and 30 doctoral programs. Students come from all 50 states and 145 countries.
UniKey Technologies President Phil Dumas Gets “Bite” on ABC’s “Shark Tank”

The concept of organizing accredited investors, known as “angels” into a fund modeled after successful angel funds throughout the country, is the focus of Mike O’Donnell, serial entrepreneur and currently on the faculty at UCF’s College of Business.

Phil Dumas, President of UniKey Technologies Inc. (UniKey), recently beat out more than 24,000 applicants for a spot on the May 18th episode of the ABC hit-series, “Shark Tank”. Dumas skillfully pitched his business concept to five investors on the season finale of the nationally televised show, landing deals from all five investors.

“Shark Tank” features entrepreneurs from across the country in need of capital who pitch their business ideas to a panel of elite investors. The investors (also referred to as “sharks”) then ask a series of rapid-fire questions to the entrepreneurs, sometimes causing them to sweat bullets, about the risks and benefits of their business ideas.

A graduate of the UCFBIP, UniKey Technologies developed a high-tech lock that allows residents to simply touch their door to enter their home as long as they have their Smartphone with the UniKey application with them. The UniKey application is a patented “hands-free” Passive Keyless Entry system that can be easily integrated into any access control system to replace keys, coders and passwords.

“It was unbelievable to get an offer from all the sharks and get them fighting,” Dumas said in the show’s closing seconds, “but I feel like I got the best – I’ve got the two billionaires backing me.”

For more information about UniKey Technologies, visit www.unikeytech.com.
CleanTech to SpaceTech Set to Unveil Exciting New Technologies and Entrepreneurial Endeavors

Florida CleanTech Acceleration Network (FLCAN), Igniting Innovation (52) Capital Acceleration Network, and MegaWatt Ventures proudly present CleanTech to SpaceTech: Accelerating Florida Entrepreneurship, a two-day special event designed to encourage partnerships between entrepreneurs, investors, manufacturing partners, industry veterans, and students. Participants will be introduced to the latest cleantech initiatives, programs and entrepreneurial endeavors, and $200,000 in grant money will be awarded to promising startup entrepreneurs.

“The first is a multi-showcase event of its kind in the state of Florida,” explains Thomas O’Neal, founder and executive director of the University for Technology. “It is a ‘must-attend’ event for anyone who has an interest in the future of cleantech and technology entrepreneurship in Florida.”

The FL-Can Showcase / exhibit hall will be open for the 2 days of the event. Exhibits will include exciting displays from CleanTech startups companies, intellectual property, as well as the finalists and the winners of the 12 Capital Acceleration Showcase and the MegaWatt Ventures competitions. The 12 Capital Acceleration Showcase will feature business presentations from 10 growth-oriented and venture-ready technology companies competing for $100,000 prize sponsored by Space Florida. Other 12 participants will display their business ventures in the Exhibit Hall. Applications must be submitted online at www.FLcanshowcase.com by June 1, 2012.

In addition, MegaWatt Ventures will be awarding an additional $100K grant to eight of ten finalists already selected to present a prototype and business plan to judges comprised of venture capitalists, industry veterans, and technical experts. These finalist companies will receive seed funding and membership in the six-month incubation leading up to the CleanTech to SpaceTech showcase.

Several levels of sponsorships are available for companies and organizations interested in supporting the Showcase. For more information on sponsorships, email Fran Korsec at Fran.Korsec@ucf.edu. The Florida High Tech Council is leading the way as a Platinum sponsor.

For more information about the CleanTech to SpaceTech conference, or to register, please visit www.CleanTechtoSpaceTech.com.

Golden Brothers Studios Gears Up For Movie Launch 365 Decision Time

Golden Brothers Studios (Kissimmee UCFBFI Client), a professional movie studio headquartered at the University of Central Florida Business Incubator in Kissimmee, completed filming its first motion picture 365 Decision Time, shot in historic downtown Kissimmee, and hosted a red carpet event in Puerto Rico.

This powerful drama centers around a typical, middle-class family separated by their mistakes and confronting compelling real-world issues. The twins of this captivating film emerge as five members of a family reach a crossroad in their own individual lives. The movie was released May 31st in Puerto Rico and is currently being marketed to launch its distribution in the U.S. and Canada, as well as the debut of the official movie soundtrack and supplemental teaching guides.

Golden Brothers Studios is the vision of three professionals with more than 50 years combined experience in audiovisual and multimedia. Their focus is to convey a positive, uplifting message to a cultural society, who frequently witnesses the disintegration of the family unit and the lack of positive role models and a spiritual foundation.

The company has created Golden Brothers Entertainment to showcase a broad array of feature films, television programming, and entertainment using the latest technological advancements available, to present reliable life issues with solutions that will positively change lives.

According to Rafael Caamano, site manager at the UCFBFI - Kissimmee, said the filmmakers were able to use local homes, businesses and talents, showcasing Central Florida as a premiere entertainment alternative to Hollywood. “It’s not so much a case of Hollywood has come to Kissimmee as Kissimmee has gone Hollywood, but Florida style,” Caamano said. “This is a full-fledged, production and it’s exciting to watch its impact on our local economic development,” he said.

Golden Brothers Studios was also recently awarded as finalist in the 2012 Current Client, Non Technology segment of the National Business Incubation Associations (NBIA) annual conference on business incubation in Atlanta. The NBIA is the world’s leading organization advancing business incubation and entrepreneurial programs.

Awards honor the business incubation programs, graduates and client companies that exemplify the best of the industry.

Visit www.365decisiontime.com to see feedback and clips from the most successful movie premiere in the history of Puerto Rico and how the country has embraced this entertainment company for its positive values.

Cenek, Inc. in Kissimmee Earns Official Endorsement of Kissimmee Convention & Visitors Bureau

Cenek, Inc., a major tour and travel marketing network throughout South and Central America that is locating offices in Kissimmee, has earned the official endorsement of the Kissimmee Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Rafael Caamano, site manager for the UCF Business Incubation Program in Kissimmee, said Cenek, Inc., is the first of the incubator’s “soft landing” companies — firms that are invited to open small regional offices at the Incubator to explore whether major relocation efforts are viable.

“We are very encouraged that Cenek is proceeding with its expansion here so smoothly,” Caamano explained.

Cenek offers online training and orientation at visit cenek.com for South American tour and travel operators who want to book group travel to the Kissimmee area, Caamano said.

Cenek officials set up a small office in the Kissimmee area three months ago and have been establishing links and gathering information about Kissimmee area visitor opportunities for the web-based training facility, Caamano said.

The formal launch of the web-based training facility is set for July.

“If we are successful in the endeavor, the Kissimmee area will benefit millions of dollars worth of additional visitor traffic over the next few years,” Caamano said.

“That translates to hundreds of new jobs and opportunities for additional growth and economic investment by the area hotels, restaurants, and tourism attractions,” he said.

Juan Herrera, president of Cenek, said he is pleased to receive the official endorsements of the Kissimmee Convention and Visitors Bureau and excited about the company’s web site launch in July.

“We have worked hard to become a full-fledged member of the Kissimmee-St. Cloud tourism community and we are very honored to have been endorsed by the Convention and Visitors Bureau,” Herrera said.

Executive Director of UCFBIP Sheds Insight on Business Incubation Dr. Tom O’Neal Travels to Jordan to Speak at the Princess Sumaya University for Technology

Dr. Tom O’Neal recently traveled to Jordan to speak at the Princess Sumaya University for Technology. He was invited to Jordan by Princess Sumaya Bint El Hassan to share his insight and experience with the development of an entrepreneurship program at the University. O’Neal, founder and executive director of the Florida Business Incubation Association (FBAI), and president of the Florida Business Incubation Association (FBI), has a long history as an entrepreneur and visionary at UCF. Recently re-elected to the board of directors for the National Business Incubation Association, O’Neal has been very successful with the UCFBIF, which focuses on entrepreneurship and supporting startup companies in order to create jobs and help the local economy.

Rafael Caamano, President of the University for Technology PSUT, where research conducted will help the country’s water, energy and environmental challenges.

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In 2009, Scott, Mark and Joe founded Advanced EMS Designs for the sole purpose of developing a product which significantly decreases the risk of hazardous contaminants on EMS spine boards. Through funding from the Department of Homeland Security directorate of Science and Technology, the company created, tested, patented and launched the company’s “Board Armor” product line early this year. “Board Armor” provides a reliable, sanitary barrier to reduce the risk of potential cross-contamination of patients being placed on EMS spine boards.

“No one would imagine being placed on a stretcher or gurney without a protective cover. So why are patients being placed on highly contaminated backboards everyday, sometimes with open wounds for long periods of time,” asks Scott Neusch, President of Advanced EMS Designs. “This is the perfect opportunity for patients to acquire an infectious disease from residual contaminants and Board Armor” is designed to provide a defense and keep patients safe.”

Neusch cites a University of Miami Miller School of Medicine study which tested 55 “cleaned”, in-service EMS spine backboards. 100% were found to be contaminated with several types of contaminants that can be fatal.

The UCF Business Incubation Program has played an integral role in propelving Advanced EMS Designs business success. The “support structure that the UCF Business Incubation Program has given us has been invaluable,” explains Neusch. “The Excellence in Entrepreneurship’ courses helped to point us in the right direction in terms of organization, marketing, sales and building a business plan that gives us goals and direction. The office space and access to meeting rooms have been incredibly convenient to meet with clients and business partners.”

The company plans to showcase Board Armor® at the upcoming EMS World Expo trade show in New Orleans. However, the Board Armor® line is only the beginning. Advanced EMS Designs plans to develop additional innovative, high quality EMS medical products to address critical infection control concerns in the EMS community. For more information, visit www.board-armor.com.
Incubator Client Profiles

FIDELITY SECURITY AGENCY, LLC

Providing Exceptional Security and Private Investigation Services

Fidelity Security Agency LLC is a full-service security and private investigation agency founded by CEO & President, Michael Williams. Regulated by the Florida Division of Licensing, and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Fidelity Security Agency provides clients with exceptional security services, private investigation and various training programs. Williams founded Fidelity Security Agency in 2007, after working for different security companies while attending the University of Central Florida. He managed his mother’s security company when she was in the military, then eventually decided to start a company of his own.

Fidelity Security Agency is dedicated to providing clients with high-quality security and investigative services. The company works with clients every step of the way to ensure all needs are met. They specialize in security providing clients with an array of services including armed and unarmed security offers, executive protection and employee and customer screening. Fidelity Security Agency also offers private investigation, including, criminal and civil cases, workers compensation, background checks, and drug testing. Their private investigators all have prior law enforcement experience, and are licensed as a Private Investigator by the State of Florida.

In addition to security and private investigation services, Fidelity Security Agency also conducts weekly training courses for individuals seeking to “break in” to the industry. Individuals desiring a security officer position must complete a license certification and complete 40 hours of superior training. Fidelity Security Agency offers a CPR course and classes every weekend in Class D Security Training. The agency also offers AED/First Aid/CPR training, which is taught by a Registered Nurse.

Fidelity Security Agency has been recognized as a Minority Business Enterprise by the City of Orlando, Orange County Government, and the Florida Minority Supplier Development Council to provide security and training services. For the last two years they have worked as an MBE providing security for events at the Citrus Bowl, Amway Arena, and most recently, the NBA All-Star Game 2012.

LUVSE TEA

Banning Bags and Getting Luhse

As part of a military family, Mandy Ferris and Brittney Wholihan became involved in the tea culture quite some time ago. Their extensive travels afforded them an opportunity to experience how tea is produced in different countries. Providing the consumer with the ability to experience the flavor of high quality tea, Ferris and Wholihan have created a product that is geared toward a younger demographic. Ferris and Wholihan believe in the tea gangster’s opinion. They understand that everyone has a different taste and are trying to change that. They created their e-commerce site to sell loose tea, and in just six months, won the ‘Tell Moo About You’ business competition’s $1000 grand prize in April. Focused on their product, they are, through their smart device, enabling instructor and student interaction with the classroom with integrated participation, communication and formative assessment capabilities.

Luhse Tea is created in the tradition of the tea gangster’s (customers) opinion. IF you like or don’t like a tea or have a recipe idea for our spice blend, please share," the ladies said. With characters representing their brand, like Tommy Gunns, Lulu, and Queen Song, anyone can see that Luhse Tea is ready to “Get Luhse” and enjoy their tea.

New to the UCFBIP - Via Response

Via Response’s ultimate goal is to revolutionize the way education is delivered and consumed by informing assessment and engaging learners anywhere, anytime and on any device.

As a client of the UCFBIP - Central Florida Research Park, Holliday credits the program with connecting Via Response with valuable resources and support.

“UCFBIP allows access to people and resources. They helped us acquire our amazing student-staff and recent graduates, conducted market research, opened doors to businesses professionals on and off campus, the list goes on,” Tareen said.

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For more information visit: www.viaresponse.com.
ApECOR, founded in 2001 by a UCF faculty member and Ph.D. students, develops revolutionary power electronics technology and products for government, corporate and private sectors. ApECOR has a successful track record working with NASA, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, and the U.S. Marines. Most recently, ApECOR has created state-of-the-art commercial offerings including portable solar powered battery chargers, high-powered DC/DC converters for hybrid electric vehicles and medium power battery chargers for industrial vehicle applications. In fact, ApECOR’s high-power bidirectional DC-DC converter and portable solar battery charger have become so commercially popular they are being utilized and integrated throughout the world.

Initially, ApECOR relied heavily on Department of Defense (DOD) and Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) funding. Today, 80% of the company’s funding is through commercial sales. ApECOR’s goal is to fund next generation research and development through the success and earnings of its current products.

ApECOR credits the UCF Business Incubation program for helping turn their ambitious vision into reality.

“I would say that we had the engineering knowledge for developing products, but needed guidance to determine the best path for commercialization and building a strong company,” explains Antione I. Khoury, PE, President of ApECOR. “I believe that being a member of the incubator has helped us develop the business sense to more effectively develop and commercialize products from our technology.”

ApECOR actively seeks and anticipates the needs of their market, then develops advanced technology products to fulfill those needs. Customers can expect to see new products featuring innovations and advancements not currently present in existing technology. Simply put...ApECOR engineers are experts at what they do and they do it well.

“If you find your passion and what you can be the best at in life, financial security will follow,” says Khoury. “We are very grateful for all of the assistance we have received from the UCF Business Incubation Program, as well as numerous other individuals and organizations over the years. It has been an invaluable and critical component of our success.”

For more information, visit ApECOR’s website at: www.apecor.com.