

STAY@FAU

OFFICE OF STUDENT RETENTION NEWSLETTER • UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES



LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITIES COMING TO FAU!

We are excited to announce the development of a Living Learning Community (LLC) for fall 2005. The purpose of the LLC is to:

- Build partnerships among faculty, staff, and students to increase interaction, involvement, and learning inside and outside the classroom
- Connect the curricular and co-curricular experiences of students to create a seamless learning experience
- Facilitate college transitions by fostering smaller communities of students, faculty, and staff as the University grows.

What will the LLC look like at FAU?

That depends on the needs and interests of our faculty and academic support staff. The FAU academic community is encouraged to submit a proposal for consideration of being our first LLC at FAU. The LLC will house between 25-80 students in rooms on two floors of Heritage Park Towers. These students will have some or all of their courses in common, with a possible freshman seminar or other required seminar, and at least one course in the residence hall. In addition, faculty members from the academic unit may:

- Arrange out of class discussions, workshops, guest speakers, field-trips and retreats;

- Eat meals in the residential dining hall with LLC students;
- Hold office hours or study reviews in the residence halls;
- Teach a seminar in an area of interest that they might otherwise not get to teach (pending approval from the dean and department chair)
- Anything else that the faculty members feel is appropriate to meeting the objectives of the LLC program!

The LLC Must:

- Have an academic focus (intentional efforts to integrate what is learned in the classroom in the living environment)
- Involve faculty to build community and promote academics outside of the classroom
- Have the best faculty from the department to teach the topics
- Have an assessment component to validate program

If you are interested in more information or submitting a proposal for a LLC for fall 2005, contact Dr. Jennifer Bebergal at x7-2432 or Bebergal@fau.edu. Deadline for submission of proposals for the fall semester is January 10, 2005.



HURRICANE UPDATE: WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR STUDENTS?



Trees down in front of the Administration building, Boca Raton campus, after Hurricane Frances.

FAU has truly had its fair share of “weathering the storm.” As we started the semester, who would have ever imagined that FAU would be subjected to back-to-back hurricane watches and the cancellation of classes?

In the wake of all that occurred, the Office for Student Retention made an effort to keep parents and students aware of the status of the university through the Parents as Partners Listserv. Over 1000 parents of current freshmen greatly appreciated the link to campus and the information provided to them through email.

For many, the effects of Hurricane Jeanne, Ivan, and Frances brought turmoil and personal loss that has prevented many FAU students from continuing in their courses this semester. As of late October, approximately 200 FAU students have partially or fully withdrawn from their classes. Students who were unable to continue in a class or classes due to hurricane related causes were able to withdraw from classes by Friday, October 29. The Retention Office staff members plan to contact these individuals to see if the University can do anything to help them return to school for the spring term.

**FLC UPDATE:
WHO WOULD
HAVE KNOWN...**

In the fall 2001, the University Retention Committee created its first cohort program. The FAU Freshman Learning Community (FLC) began as a pilot program that included 15 incoming freshmen who were undecided or undeclared about their major.

Today, the FLC Program has expanded to 17 FLCs and in the summer of 2004, the Office for Student Retention registered over 400 incoming students into the program! New additions for this year included the creation of a Leadership, Science, and additional Business, Undecided, and Nursing learning communities, as well as the return of the Arts and Letters, Criminal Justice, Education (Elementary/ ESE and Secondary), Engineering, Pre-Med, and Pre-Professional FLCs. Students participating in the FLC program are paired in a full-time schedule with other students in their major or area of interest.

This year, the Office for Student Retention has made an effort to create a strong connection between all the students in each of the individual FLCs by planning such activities as the 3rd Annual Ice Cream Social, Midterm Bagel Brunch, attending on-campus events as a group (i.e., Rock The Vote) and getting students to participate in community service projects. We believe such activities give students an opportunity to interact with their peers and provide an atmosphere where they can relax and escape their rigorous schedules of work and/or school. For more information about the FLC program or to teach the SLS course, please contact Dr. Jennifer Bebergal or Malika Pitts at stay@fau.edu.



**NEW PEER MENTORING
PROGRAM IN THE WORKS**

In fall 2005, the Office for Student Retention anticipates the beginning of the new FAU Peer Mentoring program. The mission of the FAU Peer Mentoring program is to support students who are academically at-risk and to help these students have a better knowledge and awareness of on-campus resources and faculty and staff members who are willing to assist them. The goal of the program is for students to provide immediate assistance to their peers who are placed on Academic Warning/ Academic Probation, or need other academic support.

Students placed on Academic Probation or Freshman Warning will be notified and given the opportunity to participate in the peer mentoring program. Plans are to target first-year students at first and then broaden the scope to include all undergraduate students as the program grows. All students who choose to participate in this program will be offered:

- Workshops that focus on reading/study skills, writing skills, and personal counseling

- Free tutoring services as available
- An opportunity to be introduced/reintroduced to on-campus resources
- A friend/peer who has a genuine interest in their growth and success at FAU

This fall, the Office for Student Retention introduced this new program to the student body through on-campus advertising and hosting an informational table in the Breezeway. Next spring, three on-campus informational sessions will be held and all interested students will have an opportunity to apply to become a peer mentor. Those selected to serve as new FAU Peer Mentors will be required to maintain weekly visits with their mentees and attend mandatory department meetings and trainings. It is also important to note that all peer mentors will be receiving hours that will go towards their Leadership Certificate. For more information regarding the FAU Peer Mentoring program, please contact Malika Pitts at stay@fau.edu.

**MALIKAH PITTS
JOINS OFFICE
FOR STUDENT
RETENTION**



We are pleased to welcome Malika Pitts as the new coordinator in the Office for Student Retention. Originally from Miami, Malika attended the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations (2002) and a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction (2004). In addition to her many tasks and responsibilities, Malika has been working diligently to plan events for the students in the FLC program. In an effort to do so, Malika developed an FLC Activity Questionnaire to gain a better understanding of what students like to do in their spare time. Based on student responses to the survey, she hosted the first FLC Midterm Bagel Brunch through donations from Einstein Bagels Brothers, Bagel Works, Panera Bread Bakery and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts. Malika has also developed a Birthday Listserv where she sends monthly birthday wishes to all FLC students and she is in the process of developing a peer mentor program. For more information regarding the FLC program and any upcoming activities, please contact Malika Pitts at stay@fau.edu.



STAY@FAU,

the University's Retention newsletter, is published bi-annually. Please look for future issues that will provide in-depth coverage of some of the key services that enhance student persistence and how YOU can help increase the retention rates of our students.