

STAY@FAU

OFFICE FOR STUDENT RETENTION NEWSLETTER • UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

EXPLORE FAU LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY OFF TO A GREAT START!



This semester we welcomed our first group of Living Learning Community (LLC) students at Florida Atlantic University. The "Explore FAU" LLC is targeted to first-year students who are exploring their major and career options. The eighteen students in this pilot program live on the first floor of Heritage Park Tower and are enrolled in several courses together as a cohort. In addition,

a mandatory "common hour" allows students an opportunity to attend workshops and discussion groups geared toward their needs and interests. The LLC students have bonded, formed study groups, are exploring values and interests as they consider major and career paths and are getting the most out of their first-year experience.

DEVELOP YOUR OWN LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY (LLC)

LLCs help connect the curricular and co-curricular experiences of students to create a seamless learning experience. Our goal is to have a minimum of three LLCs available to students next year. We encourage interested faculty and staff to participate! Download a proposal form to develop your own Living-Learning Community for the 2006-07 academic year at www.fau.edu/retention or contact Dr. Jennifer Bebergal at (561) 297-2432 or Bebergal@fau.edu. Proposals are due by Dec.16 for consideration of implementation for fall 2006.

NEARLY 20 PERCENT OF FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN LEARNING COMMUNITIES

This fall, over 420 students enrolled in the FAU Freshman Learning Community (FLC) and LLC programs. The 18 FLCs this fall included new communities in Architecture, Communication, History/Politics and International Relations, and Psychology alongside our previous successes in Arts and Letters, Business, Education, Engineering, Nursing, Science, Pre-Med/Pre-Professional Studies, and learning communities for campus leaders and exploratory/undeclared majors. For information on creating a new learning community for fall 2006, contact Dr. Jennifer Bebergal at (561) 297-2432 or Bebergal@fau.edu.

HERITAGE PARK SUPPORT CENTER OPENS

Many departments have come together to provide additional services to students in the residence halls. Housing and Residential Life has dedicated an office on the first floor of Heritage Park as a support center. Additional resources within the residence halls include:

- On-site academic advising from the Freshman Advising office contact x7-3064)
- Drop-in career advising from the Career Development Center (Thursdays 2-4pm)
- Writing consultations from the University Center for Excellence in Writing (visit www.fau.edu/UCEW for the HP schedule)

If your department is interested in providing satellite services to students in the HPSC or for more information about the HPSC, contact Dr. Jennifer Bebergal at (561) 297-2432 or Bebergal@fau.edu.

FLC STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN "A FESTIVAL OF LIFE"

On Oct.12, the students in the Psychology, Science, Nursing, Pre-Med, and Pre-Professional FLCs participated in this year's "Festival of Life" service project. This project promotes awareness for the Organ Donation Foundation at Universities throughout Florida. Together with the Campus Volunteer Center and SAVI, our students distributed 300 brochures, freebies, t-shirts, and helped sign up over 100 organ donors. All volunteers were given "Get Carded" t-shirts for their help and many of our FLC students



are featured in the large green ribbon photo that was taken on the Breezeway. The green ribbon represents the support of organ donation. The Office for Student Retention is truly looking forward to making this an annual service project for these learning communities. Thank you again to our future doctors, nurses, psychologists, and scientists.

FAU PEER MENTORING PROGRAM OFF TO A GREAT START!

The eight students who were selected as FAU's initial peer mentors have been working diligently to help promote student success. From one-on-one mentoring for new students to coordinating workshops, these students are committed to helping in any way they can.

While the program hopes to support students who are academically at-risk (those on Freshman Warning or Academic Probation), many students who have applied to get a peer mentor are new students who want peer support in achieving first-semester success. Others have joined to get help with time management or for support in specific courses.

Workshops (open to all students) organized by the peer mentors include topics such as:

- Keeping track of semester assignments and grades
- Time Management
- Budgeting and money management
- Tips to "stay@fau"
- Tips for being an Undeclared major

For more information regarding the FAU Peer Mentoring program or specific workshop information, visit www.fau.edu/retention or contact Malika Pitts at stay@fau.edu, or (561) 297-2243.



President of the Peer Mentors, Diana DeJesus, leads a workshop

PHI THETA KAPPA INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY HONORS FAU



At its fall induction ceremony on Sept. 25, Alpha of Florida, the Alumni Association for the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at Florida Atlantic University celebrated a great milestone. Thirty years earlier in 1975, Florida Atlantic University, awarded the first national transfer scholarship for a Phi Theta Kappa member. Dr. Jack Guistwhite, who spoke at the induction, provided the leadership that led to the establishment of the first transfer

scholarship. He also served as Alpha of Florida charter advisor and Florida's first Alumni Regional Coordinator. Currently, over 600 universities offer Phi Theta Kappa scholarships for students.

President Frank Brogan accepted a plaque on behalf of the university marking the 30th anniversary of the awarding of the first scholarship and was made an honorary member of Alpha of Florida, as was Alpha of Florida Advisor Dr. Jennifer Bebergal.

Attending ceremonies commemorating the 30th anniversary of the first designated transfer scholarship for Phi Theta Kappa members were, from left, Dr. Jack Guistwhite, former Director of Inter-Institutional Relations and Alpha of Florida advisor; Dr. Jennifer Bebergal, Alpha of Florida advisor; Gavin Witz, Alpha of Florida president; President Frank Brogan; Dr. Marilyn Federico, former Assistant Provost and Alpha of Florida advisor; and Rod A. Risley, Phi Theta Kappa Executive Director. President Brogan holds his certificate of Honorary Membership in Alpha of Florida.

Phi Theta Kappa Executive Director Rod Risley presented a formal proposal to President Brogan that FAU once again provide leadership by establishing the first comprehensive national scholarship program Phi Theta Kappa members for completion of graduate studies. For more information about Phi Theta Kappa at Florida Atlantic University contact Dr. Jennifer Bebergal at (561) 297-2432 or Bebergal@fau.edu.



IMPROVING STUDENT SUCCESS IN MATH AT FAU

better support structure to promote student success in math.

Programs that have worked to encourage success in specific courses at other institutions are being investigated as possible areas to pilot at FAU. Success of these programs in mathematics would lead to wider implementation across many disciplines.

If you are interested in more information about the Title III-A grant (we are specifically looking for faculty, department chairs, and/or deans to join our Steering Committee), contact Dr. Jennifer Bebergal at (561) 297-2432 or Bebergal@fau.edu or Dr. Tom Pusateri at Pusateri@fau.edu or visit <http://iea.fau.edu/pusateri/assess/TitleIII-AGrant.htm>. You can

also view Dr. John Gardner's power point presentation from his keynote address as well as notes from his visit to campus in January 2005, where he discussed options for improvement of the lower-division at the University. In addition to Dr. Tony Lombardo's (Interim Dean of Undergraduate Studies) report on student retention.

Thank you to everyone working to promote student success and retention!
"Everyone has a role. It is not someone else's job. Everything that goes on in the first year impacts student success."

(Patrick Terenzini, 2004)

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the University's Retention newsletter, is published bi-annually. Please watch 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.