

Newsletter

SPRING 2005: Volume 3, Issue 1



FSUnited Creating Community

By Timothy Quinnan

One campus, one community—it's an ideal worth pursuing.

This is the goal of an emerging initiative in the Division of Students Affairs designed to heighten the sense of community among students, staff, and faculty at Florida State University. Promoting themes of inclusion, engagement, and activism, *FSUnited* strives to create a campus culture of *caring for and about* each other.

This initiative was inspired by renowned educator Ernest Boyer. His research showed that despite being joined in a shared quest for knowledge, a surprising disconnect existed between people at universities. Rather than engaging others with different views and values, students naturally gravitated toward those with like interests or backgrounds. Boyer lamented that the reality of colleges as vibrant, integrated "communities" united in the pursuit of scholarship was mainly a myth. He challenged educators to address this disconnect with thought and courage. A handful of universities responded by launching community-building programs. One of them is Florida State University which created its own unique model in *FSUnited*.

FSUnited will be the change agent that breaks down the cultural, racial, and economic barriers that separate students into small, homogenous groups. It believes that only through direct interpersonal encounter and candid dialogue can we really know each other. It is in this knowing that the seeds of belonging are sown. As in all growth



Message from Vice President for Student Affairs

It is hard to believe that we are in the midst of spring semester with summer on its way so soon! I hope that everyone is having a productive term – one full of learning and laughter!

This newsletter highlights some of the creative ways that Student Affairs' staff continue to work with students to meet their needs. I appreciate the hard work of all who make FSU a place that teaches, challenges, and supports our students. I know that we too appreciate FSU students who teach, challenge, and support us as well!

As we approach the important work that we do, I am reminded of a saying... People rise to meet our expectations of them, so have high ones!

Have a great spring with many high expectations!

Mary B. Coburn

Vice President for Student Affairs

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Florida State University

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processes, disagreement should be expected, even welcomed, as differences are negotiated. Through their mediation, a set of core values which define the priorities of this learning community will slowly emerge. Once clarified, these values offer us a foundation on which we construct our community.

Yet *FSUnited* is much more than theory. It relies on individual initiative. Behaviors are stressed as strongly as ideals. Members commit to acting on these ideals each day, outside and inside the classroom. Odds are that the student or staff you happen to see offering advice to that perplexed someone holding a campus map, stopping to pick up crumpled newspapers or soda cans that

diminish the beauty of campus, or clapping to the beat as their peers at the Union flea market dance through their step shows, are members of *FSUnited*.

Though still in its first year, the initiative has already sponsored or collaborated on 9/11 Remembrance Day, 'Vocal About Values' discussion series, *Unity in the Community Day*, and Tsunami Relief Benefit with Student Government Association. Its signature program, *FSUnity Day*, is scheduled for March 30 and will offer participants both intellectual and social components. This day-long event includes provocative speakers, a cultural festival, student entertainment, food, and will end with a human "chain of community."

FSUnited also has academic hopes. Discussions are underway to have its guiding principles serve as colloquia topics in several FSU living-learning communities. Freshman Year Experience courses may offer another venue for dialogue on values, traditions, and expectations. Future plans include an essay contest with the winning entries being published in the *Journal of College and Character*, an *FSUnited* reader for all incoming freshman which can be discussed at Orientation and Freshman English classes, and perhaps even a Freshman Interest Group based on diversity.

Though its primary aim is to foster unity on campus, *FSUnited* will explore ways to

strengthen the relationship between the University and city of Tallahassee. Getting students to appreciate that they are residents of Tallahassee and as such have an obligation to be good and active citizens, touches on another aspect of the initiative—imparting a sense of civic responsibility.

Visit the *FSUnited* web site at <http://fsunited.fsu.edu> for news and information.

We encourage all students, staff, faculty and alumni to join us in making Florida State University the truest learning "community" in the nation.

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Newsletter

Division of Student Affairs

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The DSA Newsletter is published twice a year in the fall and spring. It is intended to share news with colleagues and friends of the Division. To submit items for consideration or comments on the Newsletter, please contact Timothy Quinnan at tquinnan@admin.fsu.edu. This publication is available in alternative formats and at www.studentaffairs.fsu.edu.



First Annual International Student Forum

By Cindy Green, International Center

Imagine having U.S. foreign language students paired with international students to converse in a target language to improve their fluency. Picture a volunteer service trip over spring break for international students to help build a house. These were two of the ideas for increased community involvement generated by FSU international students at the First Annual International Student Forum held on November 30.

Over twenty new and returning undergraduate and graduate international students participated in the first summit. The event was planned by International Center Director Cindy Green, with assistance from Hyeyoun Park, an International Affairs graduate student intern. Its purpose was to provide opportunities for students to share their successes as well as challenges in adapting to university life and to discuss ways in which this transition could be made easier. Florida A&M Diplomat-in-Residence, U.S. Ambassador Sylvia Stanfield, served as keynote speaker following a welcome by Dr. Tim Quinnan, associate vice president for Student Affairs. Forum facilitators were International Center staff members Mafe Brooks, Roy Braine, Eydie

Thurston, Marjorie Fontalvo, and Dr. Michael Trammell of the College of Business.

A variety of topics were discussed including cultural adjustment, academics, immigration, university services, and community involvement. Some of the initial challenges to students were feelings of isolation, lack of confidence with English, uncertainty in knowing how to navigate the university system, and difficulties in understanding professors during class. Some of the suggestions students made for addressing the challenges they faced included:

- provide a first-year peer mentoring program for international students
- convene a class/workshop on cultural differences in teaching
- increase social gatherings for international students and faculty at the departmental level
- expand activities and programs during the school breaks and holiday periods

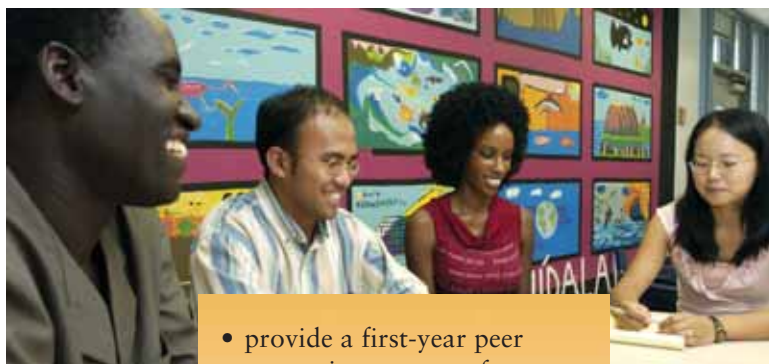
Input from this forum, as well as from several other student focus

groups held throughout fall semester, is being used to implement new programs and revise existing ones to better meet the needs of international students. For example, new activities have been planned during holiday breaks. Spring semester international student orientation was redesigned to provide students with basic information they need to be successful as a student at FSU, such as using public transportation, registering and paying fees, procuring an ID Card and opening an e-mail account. The second floor lounge of the International Center was turned into a "Welcome

Center" the first week of class and staffed with volunteers to assist students with questions about campus or the community. A series of cultural adjustment

workshops will be held monthly at the Center and focus groups will continue to meet. A student committee will be formed to implement some of the program ideas to increase opportunities for interaction between international students and other campus and community members.

In summary, the International Student Forum produced feedback that is already having an impact on services and programs!



Students “Call the Shots” in the University Judicial Office

By Cheryl Brown, Dean of Students Office

What do students have to say about their values and ethical choices? Quite a bit, as the staff in the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities has learned! In an effort to engage students in intentional conversations about the values that guide their behavior, the University Judicial Office developed a course “Calling the Shots” and has been delighted by its reception. Admittedly, students in the course begin as reluctant participants since it is a violation of the Student Conduct Code that compels their involvement.

How can judicial officers get a positive response from students

required to participate in a course? Our answer was to get *students* to build the course. Katie McGee, graduate assistant in the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, dove into research on existing ethics programs. Armed with materials from a nationally recognized ethics program, the pilot course was first presented to student leaders during summer semester 2004. Their impressions were “use technology” and “be FSU specific” and that’s what we did.

The class is discussion-oriented, and skilled facilitators like Patrick Heaton, assistant director of

Orientation, are not satisfied with passive observers. According to Heaton, “The students have been impressive, engaging in sometimes difficult conversations about personal and community rights. I’ve enjoyed challenging the students with the ideas of ethical decision-making and responsible freedom.” Class exercises like the Values Clarification Workshop and Values Planner require students to think. “It’s been impressive watching participants make connections between the University community and the larger community they belong to outside of school,” says Heaton.

The course has also given practical application to the *Seminole Creed*. In class, this document becomes more than definitions of lofty ideas such as “respect” and “justice.” It provides an opportunity for students to consider these concepts in the context of real situations and ethical dilemmas. With technology common to the college experience, the course meets students “where they are” by utilizing ethical dilemmas drawn from popular television programs like MTV’s *Real World* and others.

When the vision for the course is realized, students in all areas of campus life will have an opportunity to explore their own codes of ethics by “Calling the Shots!”



The LEAD Center Makes an Impact

By Jennifer Latino, LEAD Center

Since opening in August 2004, the LEAD Center has made its presence felt on campus. Two veteran programs, the Genesis Freshmen Leadership Living/Learning Program and the LeaderShape Program, have been integral in motivating students to discuss the issues surrounding leadership learning and making a commitment to increasing their own leadership potential.

Twenty-six students are enrolled in the Genesis Program this year. This cohort had the privilege of piloting the Freshmen Reading Program developed by the Office of Orientation. All participants read *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz during the summer prior to their arrival at Florida State. Concepts presented in the book shaped many of the course topics that were discussed and students revisited book material throughout the semester in their discussions about leadership. The goals of the program were that students would refer to a shared experience and apply the material to topics surrounding leadership learning. At mid-semester, the Office of Orientation and the LEAD Center hosted an evening colloquium with a Toltec teacher who studied with the book author. This interaction

resulted in an enriched community of students and allowed a rare opportunity for intellectual dialogue between faculty and peers.

Genesis students also met with President T.K. Wetherell to discuss the role of students in the leadership of FSU. President Wetherell shared his memories of living in an FSU residence hall. He encouraged the students to take advantage of the many opportunities available at Florida State and challenged them to leave a legacy at FSU as well.

The class also participated in a community service project. Students spent a Saturday at Alfred B. Maclay Gardens. This project was selected in response to Governor Jeb Bush's call for action to help restore the gardens damaged by the hurricanes of 2004. The activity was the capstone learning experience of the Genesis course. In the spring, students will participate in monthly colloquiums on topics surrounding leadership development.

The LeaderShape classes of 2003 and 2004 have also been making a tremendous impact in the FSU community. In November, faculty and Student Affairs' staff gathered to celebrate and support LeaderShape students' visions for change in the

FSU and broader communities. The LeaderShape Vision Showcase allowed LeaderShape alumni to interact and form partnerships with faculty and staff as well as be challenged and supported by the experience and expertise of campus support resources.

In an effort to create an even greater impact on the FSU community, the LEAD Center plans to host an on-site session of the LeaderShape Institute, May 2-7, 2005. Partnering with other departments, the LEAD Center anticipates sponsoring 60-70 FSU students (more than triple the number who attended in 2003 and 2004 combined). This event will be organized, planned and implemented by a team of FSU students. If your department is interested in supporting this effort, please contact the LEAD Center for more information.

What's next? This spring the Center will launch *Breakfast and Books: The Noles' Leadership Book Club*. The series will offer participants the chance to meet, discuss and apply lessons from a current leadership text in a collaborative environment. The program will be open to all students.

If you are interested in the programs that the LEAD Center is currently sponsoring or would like to offer ideas for a learning opportunity, please stop by or contact us at

lead@admin.fsu.edu or 645-2364.

The staff looks forward to working with you as they move toward their vision that all FSU students are empowered to make a difference in their scholarly and wider communities.



McGraw Concert Benefits New DSA Building

By Jeff Garis, Career Center

A star came out to benefit future Seminoles on a balmy autumn night.

Country music legend Tim McGraw performed in a concert held at the Leon County Civic Center on November 18, 2004 to benefit the Florida State University and the Division of Student Affairs. Over \$1.1 million was raised to support a new facility named the Student Success

Building, specifically the Career Center, as well as McGraw Scholarships. An additional half million dollars will be generated by State matching funds. These two revenue sources will combine with over \$8 million already committed to the project through the student fee-based Capital Improvement Trust Fund (CITF).

The new Student Success Building will be sited along

Woodward plaza and will serve as

home to three philosophically-linked departments committed to students' life-long career, social, and leadership development. They include the Career Center, Center for Civic Education and Service, and the LEAD Center.

The total cost of this state-of-the-art complex is estimated to be \$12 million. The balance of funds needed to complete construction will be raised through private and corporate contributions. A company or private donor may name the entire building with a gift of \$3 million dollars. The Division of Student Affairs deeply appreciates the efforts of Tripp and Susie Busch-Transou with Tri-Eagle Sales, and Tim McGraw in launching the fund-raising campaign for the future Student Success Building. Corporate representatives or individuals interested in supporting this facility may contact Kim Field at (850) 644-9501 or kfield@admin.fsu.edu.



Staff Notes

Maureen Bradley was hired as coordinator of Education/Training Programs for the Center for Civic Education and Service.

Robert Broome, maintenance superintendent in Campus Recreation, was called to National Guard duty in Iraq.

Deborah Burr was hired as coordinator of Research Program/Services for the Center for Civic Education and Service.

Anika Fields, Ph.D., psychologist and director of the University Counseling Center, was installed into the Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Society at FSU.

Elizabeth Gilliland was hired as coordinator of Student Affairs in the Early Research Center for Childhood Development (ERCCD).

University Housing Shows Its Heart

By Frank Cuevas, University Housing

The holiday season usually conjures up images of crowded malls, last minute shopping, holiday traditions and family gatherings. However, for one University Housing employee, her holiday season was spent moving into her new Habitat for Humanity home. As Cynthia Burney stood on the front steps and surveyed her new house, she said, "Right now, I've got butterflies. I can hardly talk. I'm just so happy." After years of longing for it, her dreams of home ownership had finally come true.

Surrounded by family, friends, co-workers and volunteers who helped build her home, Cynthia accepted the keys to her new house on December 18, 2004. The all-female Habitat crew helped raise \$45,000 for the building materials.

Construction began in mid-September, and for the next twelve



Cynthia Burney and family on the porch of her new home.

weeks this mixed and dedicated crew worked diligently on completing her home. Cynthia and her family also contributed 400 hours of service (100 on her home and 300 on another Habitat house).

Three short months after starting construction, the three-bedroom

home with fully equipped kitchen was ready for her family. As she prepared to move in, Cynthia expressed thanks to all who offered their support and encouragement. This year "Home for the Holidays" had a special meaning in the University Housing office.

Joshua Gross, Ph.D., psychologist and group therapy coordinator in the University Counseling Center, was certified as a county court mediator by the Florida Supreme Court.

Laura Osteen, LEAD Center director, was recognized as an *Annuit Coeptis* Emerging Professional by the American College Personnel Association and will be formally awarded this honor at the ACPA Annual Conference on April 5, 2005.

Nikki Pritchett, Ph.D., psychologist and research coordinator in the University Counseling Center, was appointed to the Advisory Board of the Big Bend Hospice Caring Tree Program.

Tanesia Thomas was hired as program assistant in the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

DSA to Hold Supervisors' Workshop

Student Affairs will convene a workshop for professional staff members who supervise students on May 4 in the Student Services Building. A variety of topics related to the supervision of undergraduate and graduate students will be covered in the half-day event. Along with a keynote speaker and concurrent sessions, a student discussion panel will anchor the workshop. We hope to see many of you there!

State Street Foundation Supports College Preparation Courses

By Kim Field, Office of Development

During 2004 the State Street Foundation committed \$25,000 to the Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE). The contribution will support CARE, a pre-collegiate program that provides students from underprivileged backgrounds the opportunity to attend an intensive two-week SAT/ACT preparation course on the Florida State University campus.

High school juniors and seniors from Florida and south Georgia will live on campus while attending the courses in test preparation. At the

conclusion of the program the SAT will be administered free of charge to the participants. The goal of the program is to improve test-taking skills and to expose disadvantaged students to the academic environment.

State Street's contribution will also fund four need/merit-based one-term scholarships for participants of the pre-collegiate program who have been accepted for admission to FSU through the CARE Summer Bridge Program. The scholarships will be awarded for fall term and will benefit deserving disadvantaged students who are academically talented

yet do not qualify for scholarships offered by the University. The scholarships will further serve as incentives to promote high scholastic achievement among the recipients.

This contribution would not have been possible without the support of Alumna Martha (Gomez) Delgado, Class of '98. If you are interested in working with your employer to secure support for Florida State, please contact the Director of Development for Student Affairs Kim Field at (850) 644-9501 or kfield@admin.fsu.edu.

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