Dear Colleagues,

The Fall Semester of 2008 was a very busy time for the FGCU staff members in Student Support Services and the Office of Outreach Programs. As Director, I am always impressed and proud of the dedication to these programs by my staff and the University family. The FGCU staff, On-Site CROP Coordinators, and Scholars Advisors have provided excellent opportunities for our program participants in this economic climate. The Outreach Programs are serving over 50 individual programs in Lee, Collier, Hendry, Charlotte and Desoto Counties plus the SSS Program at FGCU. This is only possible through the financial and personnel support of FGCU Student Affairs and Foundation, the Duffus Family, the Florida Department of Education and our other partners including United Way, Regions Bank, the Cedar Rapids Foundation, Immokalee Foundation, Project Hope, Hope Advanced, Lee, Hendry, Charlotte, DeSoto and Collier County School Districts.

Cathy Doyle

Michigan International Academy
Michigan International Academy students have been volunteering at the local Salvation Army in Fort Myers on Saturdays as their community service efforts. Several MIA students have been chosen to represent the school on the Boys and Girls Basketball teams.

Three Oaks Middle School
For the second year in a row, Three Oaks Middle School donated lunches to needy families and local service personnel for the Thanksgiving holiday. Students also attended a “Pride and Patriotism” event put on by the County and Local Veterans Association as well as hosted a school dance for the TOMS student body.

Immokalee High School
On November 27th, Immokalee High Students helped set up and clean up after the Annual Thanksgiving-in-the-Park event that is sponsored by the Guadalupe Center of Immokalee, an educational outreach service.

College Reach Out Program Student Speaks to Florida Legislature
On December 10, 2008, CROP Senior Amalio Montez, spoke to the Florida Legislature and Community leaders in Immokalee about the state of Immokalee schools and the important impact that schools have on students in the area. Those in attendance included Florida Gulf Coast University President Bradshaw.
SAT Workshops

In the fall semester, the FGCU Office of Outreach Programs sponsored SAT workshops for students in the College Reach Out and Scholars Programs. These workshops took place from 9am–1pm on the Florida Gulf Coast University campus and gave students the opportunity to learn about the different subject areas on the examination with a different topic being covered each Saturday. The first workshop covered Part 1 of the Math section, while the second covered Part 2. The third and fourth workshops focused on reading comprehension and writing respectively. This spring the Office will be hosting the same workshops. Part 1 of the Math section will be held on January 31st in AB3 111, from 9am-1pm. The remaining workshop dates are:

- Math Part II: February 7, 2009
- Reading Comprehension: March 28, 2009
- Writing: April 18, 2009

Special thanks to Julie Hall from South Fort Myers High School, and Derrick Middlebrooks from Island Coast High School for teaching the math sections of the SAT on a volunteer basis!

Eagle Expo

On Saturday, November 1st, the Office of Outreach Programs staff invited over 100 College Reach Out Program and Scholars Program students and parents to the campus to participate in the FGCU Eagle Expo. Students had the opportunity to meet with current students, faculty members, advisors, and staff who are a part of the campus community. Participants toured campus facilities, classrooms, and the new freshmen residence halls of South Village. Several presentations were sponsored by FGCU faculty and staff. Dr. Michael Rollo, Vice President of Student Affairs and Michele Yovanovich, Dean of Student Affairs, provided relevant remarks and presentations.

College Reach Out and Scholars students were provided specially designed t-shirts by the Outreach staff for participation in the two programs. The Outreach staff received many compliments by the campus community about students were very visible and well-behaved during their visit. High schools that participated in the event included Dunbar, Fort Myers, South Fort Myers, East Lee County, Immokalee, Palmetto Ridge, Lehigh Senior, Island Coast, LaBelle, and Clewiston High. A special thanks to the University Staff, the Office of Outreach Programs Staff, On-Site Coordinators, Advisors and parents for supporting this event.
The Public Schools Enrichment Partnership (PSEP) sponsored by Florida Gulf Coast University, held Scholars Program Induction Ceremonies during the 2008 fall semester at many local schools. These ceremonies gave a fascinating glimpse into the quality of the students who were candidates for membership in PSEP, also known as the Scholars Club Program.

Unlike other honor societies whose membership is based solely upon academic performance, membership in the Scholars Club is based on the fundamental ideals of academic excellence, leadership, citizenship and service. Scholars Club officers and members participated in the Induction Ceremonies along with a representative from the school or a Florida Gulf Coast University Office of Outreach Program staff member as the Induction Marshal or some other distinguished role.

After taking the Scholars Club Program pledge, new members received a Scholars pin, a Certificate of Membership, and a congratulatory letter from FGCU President Bradshaw. The Scholars Club members now have the opportunity to participate in school site Scholars meetings and visits to the FGCU campus for Brain Bowl, Leadership Retreats, Eagle Expo, College for a Day and Award Ceremonies.

While most Scholars Program Induction Ceremonies are similar in format with students being initiated as members, some participating schools add their own twist to the program to make it unique and special to its students. For example, at Lehigh Acres Middle School, students often put on a miniature dance recital because many of the students are a part of various school and community dance troupes. Other schools turn the entire ceremony over to the students in the program to coordinate, set-up, and run with little to no instruction from their Advisor. To familiarize Scholars Program participants with the Florida Gulf Coast University family, Malissa Sanon, a FGCU student and member of the public speaking group, R.U.L.E.S., on campus, served as the Keynote Speaker for Veterans Park Academy in Lehigh Acres. During the fall semester, the Office of Outreach Programs participated in over 20 Induction Ceremonies in 4 different counties.

Congratulation to all our new 2008-2009 Scholars Club Inductees.
On Saturday, November 22nd, for the second time in two years, a new school participant in the Annual Middle School Brain Bowl Competition walked away as Brain Bowl Champion! This year, Diplomat Middle School from Cape Coral, a Scholars Program school, took home first place in its first competition. The teams from Lee County were Diplomat, North Fort Myers Academy, Lehigh Acres Middle, Fort Myers Middle, Three Oaks Middle, and Michigan International Academy. Collier County Schools were represented by Pinecrest Elementary and Immokalee Middle School. Hendry County Schools were represented by Clewiston Middle School. Seven schools from the College Reach Out Program plus two PSEP/ Scholars Club schools participated in the Brain Bowl.

Students participated in three rounds of intense questions which they had to research, study, and memorize prior to the event. Questions used came from academic areas such as history, science, geography, art, literature, and current events. Round One was a general question round, Round Two a lightning round, and Round Three was a risk wager round where students could risk accumulated points to overtake another team. Congratulations to all teams that participated this year. A special thanks to all who participated, volunteered, or came out to support this year’s competition.

1st Place: Diplomat Middle
2nd Place: Fort Myers Middle Academy
3rd Place: North Fort Myers Academy for the Arts

Test-taking Strategies

Make sure you use a No. 2 pencil. It is very important that you fill in the entire circle on the answer sheet darkly and completely. If you change your response, erase it as completely as possible.

- Carefully read the instructions on the cover of the test booklet.
- Read the directions for each test carefully.
- Read each question carefully, and answer easy questions first. The easier questions are usually at the start of the section, and the harder ones are at the end. The exception is the critical reading section where questions are ordered according to the logic and organization of each passage.
- Pace yourself—don’t spend too much time on a single passage or question. Limit your time on any one question. All questions are worth the same number of points on most test. If you need a lot of time to answer a question, go on to the next one. Later, you may have time to return to the question you skipped.
- Keep track of time. Pay attention to the announcement of minutes remaining on each test.
- Make educated guesses. If you can rule out one or more answer choices for multiple-choice questions, you have a better chance of getting the right answer.
- If you complete a test before time is called, recheck your work on that test.
- Check your answer sheet to make sure you are answering the right question. Mark neatly.
- Do not mark or alter any ovals on a test or continue writing the essay after time has been called or you will be dismissed and your answer document will not be scored.
Upcoming Events

- January 5th - 31st: On-Site Middle School Leadership Workshops
- January 24th: High School Leadership Retreat (Riverside Retreat in LaBelle)
- January 31st: SAT Math Workshop Pt. 1 (AB3 Rm. 111)
- February 27th: Summer Residential & Summer Institute applications become available
- February 21st: Eagle Expo (FGCU Campus)
- February 28th: SAT Math Workshop Pt. 2
- March 28th: SAT Reading Workshop
- March 27th: Summer Residential & Institute Applications Due to Outreach Programs
- April 4th: FCAT Celebration
- April 18th: SAT Writing Workshop
- April 24th: Scholars Program Awards Ceremony
- April 27th: CROP Middle School Awards Ceremony
- April 30th: CROP High School Awards Ceremony

ATTENTION!!!

Important Financial Aid Information

FGCU Foundation Scholarship

The 2009-2010 Foundation Scholarship application is now available online at

http://www.fgcu.edu/AS/FinancialAid/

The deadline for the scholarship application is April 1st but it is in your best interest to complete the application as soon as possible. You are applying for all the foundation scholarships by completing this one application. You must write a personal essay for the application. Please make sure your essay is well written with no spelling or grammatical mistakes. Committee members look for special interest items about your life and achievements in your essays.

Seniors

As a bonus to College Reach Out and Scholars Programs seniors, the Office of Outreach Programs will pay the application fee for any student wishing to apply to FGCU. Students interested in taking advantage of this opportunity must complete a paper copy of the application and submit it to their On-Site Coordinator or Advisor, or mail to the Office of Outreach Programs at 10501 FGCU Blvd. S., Fort Myers, FL 33965.