



# STUDENT AFFAIRS Connections

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS | OCTOBER 2010 EDITION

VOL 3 | NO 6

## The Office of Student Involvement

The Office of Student Involvement (OSI) creates an experiential learning environment to enrich students' academic endeavors. OSI encourages and supports involvement through participation in student organizations, fraternities/sororities, the student programming board, and leadership development opportunities. According to Alexander Astin's Theory of Involvement (1984), students learn more when they are involved in both the academic and social aspects of the collegiate experience. In addition, studies show that students who are involved during college are more likely to feel a stronger connection to their institution, have a more fulfilled collegiate experience, are more likely to persist to graduation, and are more likely to be involved alumni (McCannon, M., & Bennett, P. 1996; Pascarella, E.T., & Terenzini, P.T. 2005).

Below are the results of a survey conducted of student leaders at FGCU to determine how involvement has affected their college experience.

Astin, A.W. (1984). Student Involvement: A development theory for higher education. *Journal of College Student Personnel* 25: 297-308.

McCannon, M., & Bennett, P. (1996, September). Choosing to participate or not: A study of college students' involvement in student organizations. *College Student Journal*, 30(3), 312-315.

Pascarella, E.T., & Terenzini, P.T. (2005). *How college affects students: Vol. 2 A decade of research*. San Francisco: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

### OSI Summer 2010 Involvement Survey

Being involved on campus...	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
...strengthened my connection to the University	95.23%	0.00%	4.76%
...helped me to meet people I would not have otherwise met	97.62%	0.00%	2.38%
...helped me to connect with staff/administrators	85.71%	4.76%	9.52%
...made me feel part of the campus community	83.33%	6.67%	0.00%
...helped me gain skills relevant to my academic major	71.43%	14.29%	14.28%
...helped me to increase my self-confidence	83.33%	14.29%	2.38%
...improved my leadership skills	92.86%	2.38%	4.76%
...has changed my values and attitudes	61.90%	21.43%	14.28%
...made me become more productive	78.57%	9.52%	11.90%
...made me more likely to complete my degree	54.77%	14.29%	30.95%
...improved my satisfaction with my college experience	88.10%	7.14%	4.76%
...made me more likely to participate in alumni events after graduation	59.53%	19.05%	21.42%
...made me more likely to donate to FGCU after I graduate	59.52%	21.43%	19.05%

### A Message From:

Julie Gleason

Director of Student Involvement

The Office of Student Involvement staff is dedicated to providing opportunities for students that enhance their college experience. Many of us can remember the impact being a student leader had on our college experience, and in many cases, our careers. Results from our latest student leader survey show that current student leaders feel the same way. Belonging to a student organization helps to provide a "home away from home" for many students. Opportunities exist for students to interact with faculty and staff, take on leadership positions within their organization, participate in various workshops, conferences, and retreats, and plan small and large scale events and activities. It is our hope that the services our office offers will provide students with the tools they need to be successful in their college careers as well as their professional endeavors.

**For comments or suggestions regarding this issue, please contact:**

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**Connections is available at [studentservices.fgcu.edu/publications.html](http://studentservices.fgcu.edu/publications.html)**

Connections may be obtained in an alternative format by contacting the Office of Institutional Equity & Compliance at 239-590-7405 or 800-590-3428, or the Office of Adaptive Services at 239-590-7956.

## Office of Student Involvement Awards Ceremony

The Office of Student Involvement Awards Ceremony is the OSI's opportunity to recognize student organizations that stand out among their peers during the Academic Year. The awards nomination packet is designed to encourage students to reflect on the past year and highlight the positive contributions they have made to the FGCU community. Areas of excellence recognized include Outstanding Diversity Program, Outstanding Educational Program, Outstanding Community Service and Outstanding Philanthropy. Over 200 staff, faculty and students attended this event.



Matt Schorsch (left) presents Stephanie Mold from the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) the Most Improved Student Organization Award.



Ben Hill Griffin, III with the participants from the Student Leadership Summit held in January 2010.

## Fraternity/Sorority Life: Gateway to Student Involvement

### LEADERSHIP

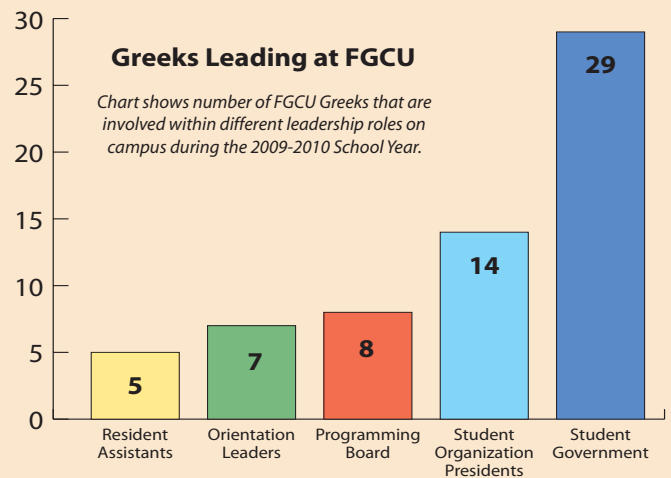
10% of our Greek Community is involved in primary leadership roles outside of their individual organization. Getting involved in a Greek letter organization fosters involvement by encouraging members to participate in other leadership opportunities throughout the FGCU community. Using networking skills and leadership training they have gained within their sorority or fraternity, our Greeks encourage members to expand their college experience by getting involved with other student organizations. Involvement cultivates more involvement which enhances connection to their organization and the university as a whole.



Greek Week, February 22-25, 2010.

### SERVICE

Our 13 Greek organizations actively participate in civic engagement as part of their membership development programming. Community service and philanthropy projects are ways our Greeks support the mission statement and aid in fostering civically engaged members of the community at FGCU. Last year over \$25,000 was raised by our Greek members for their respective philanthropies and over 12,500 hours of community service were accomplished by these men and women.



The Division of Student Affairs - Completing the University Experience

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