



STUDENT AFFAIRS

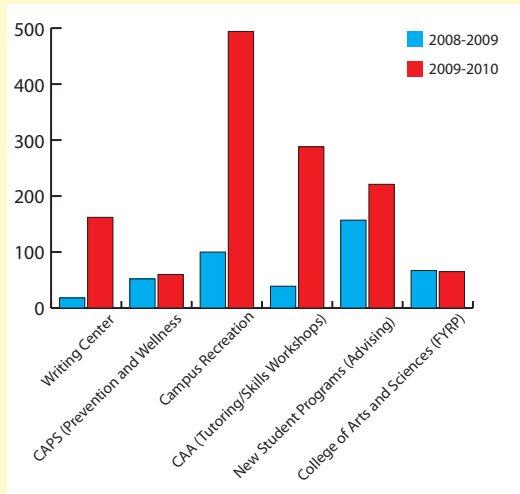
Connections

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

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First Year Residence Experience and University Partnerships

The Office of Housing and Residence Life welcomed 800 residents to the First Year Residence Experience program (FYRE) this past year. The residence life staff along with various university departments worked together to provide invaluable services for our FYRE residents. Some of the key offices that assisted with the success of our program this past year were; Counseling and Psychological Services, College of Arts and Sciences, Office of New Student Programs, Center for Academic Achievement, Writing Center, and Campus Recreation. Both faculty and staff contributed countless hours toward program delivery and played a major role in the success we have seen thus far in our program. It goes without saying that the high rate of resident satisfaction we have seen in South Village is a direct result of these partnerships. The chart shows FYRE resident participation in the programs/services offered by the various University offices over the past two years.



A Message From:
Dr. Brian Fisher
Director of Housing and Residence Life

The First Year Residence Experience (FYRE) program supports students by placing them together in a supportive, enriched, and vibrant community in South Village. By doing so, students will be better equipped and prepared to deal with the academic rigors and social pressures of college life, and enjoy the countless opportunities available at Florida Gulf Coast University.

Student learning extends beyond the walls of the university classroom and into the places where students live. The FYRE program connects first-year students with university resources, faculty, staff, and residential events. The Office of Housing and Residence Life partners with numerous campus resources to assist our first-year students with their overall transition and academic success.

For comments or suggestions regarding this issue, please contact:

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Connections is available at
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.

The First Year Reading Project

The Office of Housing and Residence Life (OHRL) in partnership with Composition I faculty developed a "Live and Learn" series that incorporates the first year reading assignment into the FYRE program. Each year various faculty members facilitate programs in South Village that result in intellectual discussions and idea formulation for the students Composition I papers. The series provides numerous opportunities for students to interact with faculty in an environment other than the classroom and allows for meaningful conversations that typically wouldn't otherwise take place during class time. Below is a list of the programs that incorporated some of the themes and concepts from the First Year Reading Project over the past two years:

Three Cups of Tea

- o OHRL staff along with Composition I faculty hosted a "Dessert and Discussion" program to focus on the first year reading book, *Three Cups of Tea*. Students attended faculty led discussions followed by workshops to assist them in idea formulation for their papers.

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier

- o OHRL staff showed the film



Blood Diamond followed by faculty led discussions that prompted students to think about how the movie related to the first year reading book, *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*.

The Emotional Lives of Animals

- o The book was part of the Composition II curriculum and this program brought in the author, Mark Bekoff. Students had the opportunity to ask Mr. Bekoff specific questions related to the assigned reading.

Impact of the FYRE Program

In order to assess the impact the FYRE program has on resident satisfaction, the Office of Housing and Residence Life produces a Quality of Residence Life Survey.

The results of the 2010 Quality of Residential Life Survey (QRLS) are overall very positive. The success achieved in the first two years of South Village appears to be promising. Despite higher rental rates in this community, residents appear to be very satisfied with their residential experience. Below is a graphic representation of our FYRE residents' satisfaction levels. It's worthy to point out that every area for South Village met or exceeded the benchmark and the return rate for residents of the FYRE program was 10% higher than that of FTIC students in North Lake Village.

Full Resident Experience

Population: Florida Gulf Coast University – U1. Demographics: Area » South Village (Everglades/Biscayne Halls)
(Number Responding – 297)



The Division of Student Affairs - Completing the University Experience

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CAREER DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
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DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE
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EAGLE VIEW ORIENTATION
FIRST YEAR ADVISING
GREEK LIFE
HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE
JUDICIAL AFFAIRS
MULTICULTURAL STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

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PREVENTION & WELLNESS
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
STUDENT SUPPORT & OUTREACH
STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES
TESTING SERVICES