



STUDENT AFFAIRS
Connections

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS | JUNE 2011 EDITION

VOL 4 | NO 3

Multicultural Student Services

Ethnic Diversity of Student Population is Increasing

Research indicates that enriching educational experiences and a supportive campus environment which include opportunities to interact with others different from ourselves, enhances growth and contributes to student retention (Richman, A. 2010). The Office of Multicultural Student Services exists to promote the academic and personal growth of traditionally underserved students and to offer educational programs about diversity.

In support of the guiding principles of FGCU, and specifically, "Diversity is a Source of Renewal and Vitality," the Office of Multicultural Student Services strives to provide education and support for the entire campus. Training and development of student organizations, leadership development, support services, and educational and cultural celebration opportunities for the campus are examples of how our mission translates into reality. We strive to assist the campus community in fostering a climate of openness and engagement with others different from ourselves.

According to information from the FGCU Board of Trustees quarterly briefing report from December 2010, there have been significant increases in the ethnic diversity of our student population (see chart below). During the past eleven years, enrollment of ethnically diverse students rose from 597 students in Fall 2000 to 2864 students in Fall 2010. Currently, almost 24% of our current student enrollment is considered to be ethnic minority.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Asian	76	91	94	109	141	162	179	181	237	263
African American	178	258	289	322	386	385	423	444	568	719
Hispanic	322	403	487	527	664	856	1,027	1,208	1,469	1,789
Native American	21	25	31	20	21	28	33	34	94	93
Non-resident alien	50	71	46	51	67	83	112	103	177	186
White	3,515	4,293	4,765	5,054	5,829	6,566	7,197	7,839	8,493	8,873
Not Reported	73	117	113	115	146	236	417	429	67	124
Total	4,235	5,258	5,825	6,198	7,254	8,316	9,388	10,238	11,105	12,047

Richman, A. (2010). The end of affirmative action in higher education: twenty-five years in the making? DePaul Journal for Social Justice, 4(1), 61-96.

A Message From:

X.Q. Wang

Assistant Dean of Students for
Multicultural Student Services

Multicultural Student Services (MSS) is a multi-faceted, student-oriented office that focuses on providing an optimal educational experience in and out of the classroom for students from diverse backgrounds. In fulfilling our department's mission, we encourage each person and cultural group to affirm the unique richness of their heritage, ethnicity, identity and ability. We are committed to provide enriching programs and services so as to contribute to developing an inclusive campus community.

For comments or suggestions regarding this issue, please contact:

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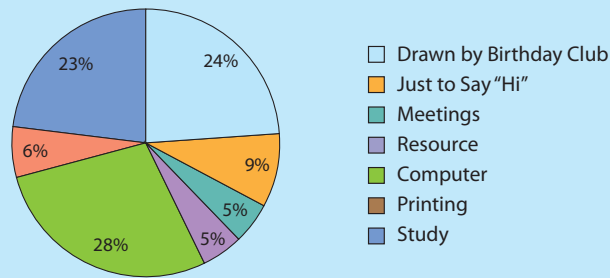
Connections is available at
[studentservices.fgcu.edu/
publications.html](http://studentservices.fgcu.edu/publications.html)

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.

Birthday Club Draws New Visitors

The birthday program, a new MSS initiative, proved to be successful in marketing the office to our students. Started in October 2010, students received birthday wish emails from the Office of Multicultural Student Services. In addition to getting coupons that offer free treats from local restaurants, students were introduced to MSS services and upcoming events. Ninety-two students visited our office in the spring 2011 as the direct result of the birthday program—that's an increase of 20% in office traffic compared to last spring.

How Do Students Utilize Our Office



Umdabu South African Dance Theater performing at the Black History Month celebration, February 2011.



Rashad Davis, former Student Government Director for Multicultural Relations at the Black History Month celebration.

Multicultural Ambassadors Jump on the "MAP"

In November 2010, nine FGCU students were selected to participate in the Multicultural Ambassadors Program (MAP). Multicultural Ambassadors serve as representatives who are dedicated to the mission and vision of our office. Since its formation last fall, Multicultural Ambassadors assisted in official university functions and special events such as the Eagle Expo and the Foundation Breakfast. Our ambassadors were also invited by faculty members to serve as panelists for in-classroom discussions on a variety of diversity issues. This March, MAP Ambassadors were the only Florida delegation to attend the annual Diversity Student Summit hosted by renowned diversity expert Dr. Maura Cullen.

Each Multicultural Ambassador is trained and equipped to facilitate workshops and presentations. In fact, MAP Ambassadors are hosting the inaugural freshmen diversity retreat this July, titled "Frosh Mosh." After the application process, thirty incoming freshmen will be chosen to participate in this three-day on-campus program. The goal of this retreat is to foster diversity, unity, leadership, and networking.

Multicultural Ambassadors are excited to offer their services to the university community for departmental events and classroom presentations.



Multicultural Ambassadors doing a team building activity at the spring retreat, April 2011.

The Division of Student Affairs - Completing the University Experience

ADAPTIVE SERVICES
CAMPUS RECREATION
CAREER DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES
DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE
EAGLE PARENT OFFICE

EAGLE VIEW ORIENTATION
FIRST YEAR ADVISING
FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE
HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE
MULTICULTURAL STUDENT SERVICES
OFFICE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

OFFICE OF STUDENT INVOLVEMENT
PREVENTION & WELLNESS
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
STUDENT SUPPORT & OUTREACH
STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES
TESTING SERVICES