

- Eagle View Orientation hosted over 1900 freshmen and 1097 transfers during the 2007 summer orientation sessions
- First Year Advising services are highly rated by freshmen
- Family Weekend 2007 draws over 700 family members to campus

STUDENT AFFAIRS Connections

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
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The First Year Advising Center Follows Developmental Model

The importance of designing, implementing and assessing transition services for first-year and transfer students and their families has never been greater. Today, the tasks associated with preparing for and transitioning to college are challenging at best and overwhelming for most, especially for those individuals who have not had adequate prior experience to assist in developing realistic expectations of what college will be like. The design of first-year and transfer programs is enhanced when considering models and best practices that are based upon sound theory and research. In that respect, the programs and services of First Year Advising, Eagle View Orientation and the Parent Office follow a developmental model that underscores a holistic approach to students' transition to, and development within, college.

Eagle View Orientation

Eagle View Orientation provides the gateway to Florida Gulf Coast University for our new students and parents. The program seeks to promote student learning by incorporating themes that emphasize student responsibility, learning, and personal growth. In addition, the program provides leadership training to currently enrolled students who wish to assist professional staff by mentoring new students and families during orientation. Over 1900 freshmen and 1097 transfer students attended Eagle View Orientations during the summer of 2007.

Freshman Eagle View Orientation program events include:

- Videos on programs and services at FGCU
- Faculty panel discussions
- Pool parties and movies
- Math placement testing
- Poster tables on clubs, organizations and other programs
- Theatrical skits on college life
- Introduction to the freshman summer book reading
- Academic advising
- Tutorials on Angel
- Tours of campus
- Class scheduling and registration



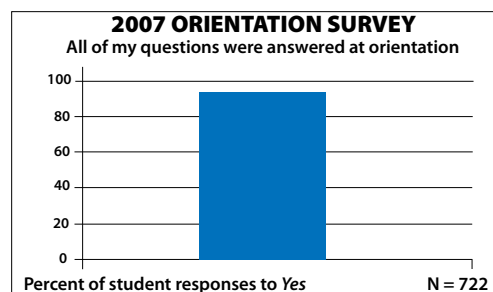
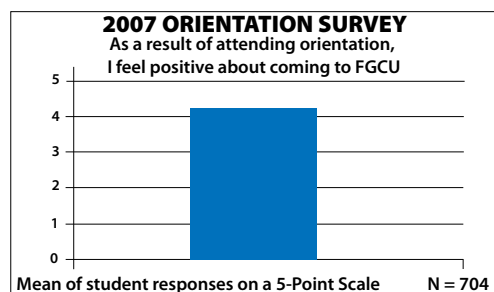
Trammel Zackery receives appreciation from Dr. Michael Rollo, *Vice President for Student Affairs* and interim President Pegnetter for service as a 2007 Eagle View Orientation Leader. Orientation Leaders were required to complete a 9-week training prior to the beginning of Orientation. Mr. Zachery and Ms. Jessica House also earned Certified Student Leader credentials during the National Conference on Student Leadership in Orlando in November 2007.

For comments or suggestions regarding this issue, please contact:

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Connections is available online at
studentservices.fgcu.edu/publications

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.



Outcomes of student surveys regarding their experience at orientation continue to demonstrate the program is effective in meeting its objectives.

An Update from the First Year Advising Center...



The Parent Office

The Parent Office at Florida Gulf Coast University provides information and services for the parents and families of FGCU students. The office serves as a resource for families to assist in the transition to college by providing communication and events that help connect families to the university. Over 1800 family members attended orientation during the 2007 sessions. Services provided include:

- Family orientation programming
- Monthly E-bulletin
- Parent handbook and calendar
- Information and referrals during the year
- Family Weekend
- Maintenance of a parent database

One of our most successful events includes Family Weekend. The event was hosted on October 26th of this past year. Over 700 family members were in attendance. Weekend activities coincided with the University's 10th Anniversary Celebration, Eagle Expo and family activities included: a Faculty, Staff and Student Talent Night, Family Movie, and Sunday brunch at beautiful Eagles Landing.

"As the parent of a first time college student, I can't begin to tell you the thousands of questions, concerns and frustrations I was beginning to have. Many of you showed empathy for us and I appreciated it immensely. My daughter and I participated in the orientation. It was obvious the amount of time, thought, energy, and organization that was spent on preparing each presentation, skit, event, etc. Everyone was so helpful, friendly and patient with the many questions thrown at them. Thank you all for putting on such a successful orientation. I look forward to being an "Eagle Parent" and watching my daughter take advantage of all that you offer."

New Parent Comment – August 2007

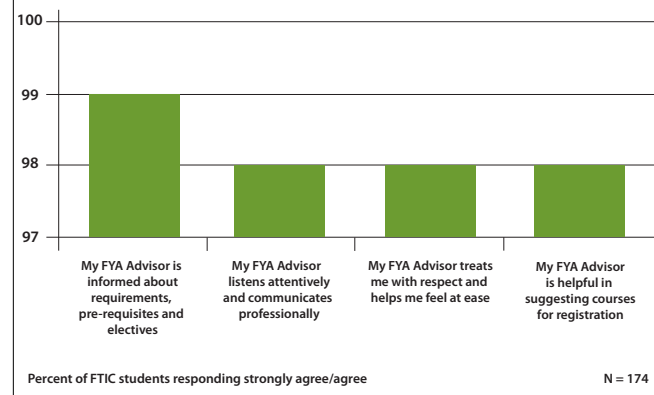
First Year Advising (FYA)

Mindful of the framework, academic counselors design and implement practices and services that are in line with developmental theories. Among students who are advised by First Year Academic counselors are high school dual enrollment and early admission students, individuals who need guidance to build academic skills and first-time-in-college students (FTIC).

First Year initiatives include:

- **Academic Counseling and Mentoring at Orientation**, and throughout the first year of college.
- **The First Year Academic Advising Syllabus**, a contract clearly outlining the expectations for students in the advising process and the role of the advisor-mentor.
- **The First Year Academic Advising Manual**, a comprehensive online guide for first year students.
- **Major Track Sheets**, a complete web based 2- year outline of recommended coursework for each of FGCU's majors (FTIC/sophomore).
- **FASTRACK**, a web based early warning system which allows faculty the opportunity to quickly send a report regarding a student who may be at academic risk.
- **The Majors Fair**, the convening of professional advisors and faculty to provide information about all of the FGCU programs to students seeking to compare programs or seek program information.

RESPONSES TO THE 2007 FIRST YEAR ADVISING STUDENT SURVEY



The Division of Student Affairs - Completing the University Experience

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