

## Greetings from the SSS Program

Student Support Services welcomes you to the 2010-2011 academic year at Florida Gulf Coast University. Each year brings great rewards to the staff of Student Support Services as we assist participants, through program services, to progress toward completion of their bachelor's degree and review options for attending graduate school. Along the way we encounter moments of joy and exuberance and sometimes experience disappointment. However, the goal of completing a college education is paramount. The SSS staff members work to support our SSS students as they progress in their studies and life at FGCU. SSS participants are encouraged, and required, as part of their responsibilities, to utilize all the SSS resources and attend designated educational activities during each semester. This creates a true partnership between SSS and participants. **Best wishes from our SSS and Outreach Programs staff for a year that offers challenges and rewards!** (Left to Right) Michele Gawor, Darlyn Scott, Cathy Doyle, Julie Rose, Susan Genson, and Sally Berg



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## Florida Gulf Coast University Awarded 2.3 Million Dollars In New Student Support Services Funding Over The Next Five Years

As Director of SSS and Outreach Programs at FGCU I would like to welcome all our SSS students, both new and returning, to the 2010-2011 university year. We start this year with the best of good news! Our office has been awarded another five years of federal funding for the Student Support Services Program plus the awarding of a second Student Support Services grant to provide services to SSS STEM majors (science, technology, engineering or math). These two Student Support Services grants combined will bring 2.3 million dollars to FGCU over the next five years and the grants will be directed to services for our SSS eligible first generation, low-income students in need of support services.

Funding in these grants provides direct services intended to help eligible low-income, first generation or students with disabilities in need of support services. SSS helps foster an institutional climate supportive of under-represented students to increase retention and graduation rates. The Student Support Services Programs will assist with a variety of services to eligible SSS members such as educational workshops, textbook lending program, and limited grant aid. Furthermore, the SSS staff will assist participants in improving their financial and economic literacy and in applying for admission to graduate and professional programs.

“Cathy Doyle and Dr. Sally Berg saw the need for additional support for under-represented students enrolling in FGCU. With the cooperation of staff members and numerous departments across the FGCU campus, both grants were entered into national competition through the Federal Education Department,” said Dean of Students, Michele Yovanovich. “The quality of the proposals and the need for support services for under-represented students undoubtedly aided the evaluators in recommending funding for both grants” said Vice President, J. Michael Rollo.

*Catherine L. Doyle, Director*

## SSS End-of-Year Celebration Held April 27, 2010

The End-of-Year Celebration for SSS participants was held on April 27<sup>th</sup> in the FGCU Ballroom with 126 in attendance. Graduating seniors were honored as were participants who served as Advocates in the Peer Advocate Program during the 2009-2010 school year. Both the graduates and Advocates were recognized and given medallions to celebrate their accomplishments. **FGCU President, Wilson Bradshaw**, was the keynote speaker. **Dean of Students, Michele Yovanovich**, and **Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Michael Rollo**, were guests. Lunch was provided by Moe's Southwest Grill. Congratulations and Best Wishes to all of our graduates! We are so proud of you! **Special thanks to Julie Rose, Michele Gawor and Darlyn Scott for putting together such a great event!**

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### Fall 2009 Graduates

Shaneen Brown; Tiffani Blanks; Lourdes Campusano; Shalonda Herndon; Stephen Knueppel; Kelly Kuhns; Samantha Mercado; Francesca Morey; Lisa Myhand; Ingrid Ruiz; Ronaldo Samedi; Donielle Swart

### Spring 2010 Graduates

Ashlea Babb; Edgar Barreto; Raymond Budd; Evelyn Calvino; Adonarchel Danazard; Louis Honore; Jason Hope; Jessica Laws; Khanh Le; Cherline Louissaint; Annette Luna; Mike McQuinn; Erika Perezmeza; Cindy Pohner; Betty Rodriguez; Eliana Samboni; Katisha Sturgis; Natasha Taylor; Paula Valverde; Kaysy Williams



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## Where Are They Now?

We always like to hear from our graduates! Many of you may remember Windy Rutter who volunteered her time to tutor SSS participants in various math courses. Windy, a spring 2009 graduate with a BS in Mathematics, will be teaching geometry for 10<sup>th</sup> graders at Estero High School beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. Estero High School was Windy's number one choice for teaching because she graduated from Estero High School in 2002. Windy plans to continue her education at FGCU, studying for a master's degree in Mathematics. Congratulations, Windy! We are so proud of you!



***Windy Rutter, SSS student and math tutor, accepting certificate of appreciation from Cathy Doyle, Director***

## Get to Know Our SSS & Outreach Student Assistants

Get to know the student assistants working in the Office of SSS and Outreach Programs! They are all returning to work with us for a second year! Tonantzin Dominguez is a junior majoring in Psychology; Leslie Puzo is a senior majoring in Political Science; Oscar Lugo is a sophomore majoring in Civil Engineering; Alvena Paul is a senior majoring in English; and Malissa Sanon is a junior majoring in Psychology. These students are also serving as Advocates in the Peer Advocate Program for new students in SSS. Stop in, say hello, and get acquainted with the fantastic five!

*Leslie Puzo*



*Malissa Sanon*



*Tonantzin Dominguez*



*Alvena Paul*



*Oscar Lugo*

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## SSS Upcoming Events – Place These Dates On Your Calendar!

### **Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**

SSS Orientation (3 sessions: 9:00-12:00; 1:00-4:00; 5:00-8:00)

### **Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

SSS Financial Literacy Workshop (5:30 pm-7:00 pm)

### **Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**

SSS Financial Literacy Workshop (2 Sessions: 10:00-11:30 and 2:00-3:30)

### **October 18<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>**

Mid Semester Progress Reports (One-on-one meetings with students)

### **Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**

SSS Meet & Greet (Potluck)

### **Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**

SSS Workshop for New Students: What's on your pie?

### **Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

SSS Fall Celebration

### **Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

SSS Spring book requests due

### **Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup> –Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**

SSS Spring Check-In: Recipe for Success