



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY



DIVISION OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES



Annual Report

2014-15



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
Global Scholars Program

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Global Scholars Program

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Dear Friends:

It is incredibly rewarding to be part of an organization full of people striving to make the first two years of college as meaningful, accessible and engaging as possible. This has been a year of change at the Division of Undergraduate Studies and my staff has worked tirelessly to enact those changes and make the undergraduate experience rich and fulfilling.

Among the changes this year has been the implementation of the new Liberal Studies for the 21st Century curriculum. The new curriculum takes a hands-on approach to problem solving and adaptive learning to teach students how to tackle persistent issues as well as new ones we cannot foresee. We are one of just a few universities nationwide to give our students these important tools for their future careers, and the initial reviews have been overwhelmingly positive.

Another big change we are very excited about has been the opening of our new Honors, Scholars and Fellows House. This beautiful facility brings together three of our programs for high achieving students under one roof. It is a place for highly motivated and engaged students to collaborate with one another, share new ideas and build lasting relationships. The Honors Program, the Office of National Fellowships and the Center for Undergraduate Research and Academic Engagement have all found a new home there which is conducive to the important missions they fulfill. Sharing the space with programs sponsored by the Graduate School is also leading to rich dialogue and inspiring interactions.

The new facility couldn't have come at a better time, because it was ready to welcome our inaugural class of Presidential Scholars. Made possible by a generous gift from Linda and Philip Lewis, the Presidential Scholars award is the premier undergraduate merit scholarship at Florida State University. The program provides four years of support for tuition and academic engagement activities and is open to high school seniors who are admitted into the University Honors Program. The Presidential Scholars are forming an energetic community of critical and innovative thinkers who we are confident will use their talents to make meaningful contributions to society.

With all these changes, rest assured that we have not wavered from our core mission to foster student retention and progress toward graduation through high quality academic support programs. Among these efforts, the Advising First office has developed and piloted a unique "College Life Coaching" program wherein pre-selected students receive one-on-one attention for the academic year from a coach who is committed to student development and success. Students who actively engage in this program average higher GPAs than their peers, stay at the university longer and express higher levels of satisfaction with their overall college experience.

Another key program for our retention, graduation and university access goals is our Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE). CARE provides a system of support for traditionally underrepresented students disadvantaged by virtue of educational and socioeconomic circumstance. The average GPA after CARE students' first term of college is 3.19 and their 6-year retention rate is 72 percent with a six-year graduation rate of 68 percent. We are proud that numerous CARE students have distinguished themselves among the university's elite student scholars. Among them are 2012 Truman Scholar finalist Jesid Acosta, 2012 Fulbright Scholar Sandy Noel and 2006 Rhodes Scholar Garrett Johnson.

We hope that you find this annual report as enlightening and hopeful as we do. It is just a brief snapshot of the important work we do but it demonstrates our keen commitment to the university's goal of moving into the top 25 public universities in the country.

Sincerely,

Dr. Karen Laughlin

Dean of Undergraduate Studies

MAJOR STRATEGIC GOALS:

1. To foster academic excellence among FSU undergraduates, help attract and retain highly qualified students and provide the best possible educational opportunities for the University's most talented and motivated undergraduate students.

Three major accomplishments/changes related to Goal 1:

- Opening of the Honors, Scholars and Fellows House
- Successful recruitment of first class of 25 Presidential Scholars (and 46% yield of high-achieving Honors students who were finalists/applicants in that selection process)
- Implementation of new Liberal Studies for the 21st Century curriculum

In addition:

- Undergraduate Research Symposium included a record 300 participants, including all of the 200 Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) students (up from 150 students in UROP last year).
- 5 Boren Scholarship awards to students assisted by ONF placed FSU as a top 5 producer of Boren winners, who will spend a year abroad in regions critical to U.S. interests.
- Honors successfully launched the Friends of Honors and Scholars alumni organization.
- ONF has successfully hired a new Assistant Director who will help further expand outreach and mentoring efforts.

2. To support the University's efforts to improve retention and graduation rates through high quality academic support programs.

3. To support the University's access and diversity efforts through outreach and support for students who may be disadvantaged due to economic, educational or cultural circumstances.

Related to Goals 2 and 3, two Division units competed for and won national recognition for our success in retaining and graduating students and supporting access and diversity:

- Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) Trailblazer Exemplary Program Award (Application submitted by Advising First)
- Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) Champions of Access and Success Award (Application submitted by CARE in cooperation with the Veterans Center)

Other key accomplishments/changes related to goals 2 and 3:

- New "College Life Coaching" model developed and piloted by Advising First
- Ongoing preparation for launch of Student Success Collaborative effort
- CARE's Unconquered Scholars program continues to post 95.5% retention at FSU for this highly vulnerable cohort of 28 foster/dependent care students.
- Fall-fall retention in programs sponsored by the Division remains strong and Mapping is helping to raise graduation rates (particularly the 4-year rate).

Mission

It is the mission of the Division of Undergraduate Studies to assure that each undergraduate student at the Florida State University receives a strong educational foundation on which to build a successful academic program of studies. With this as our mission, the division:

- Supervises and monitors a number of state-wide and university-wide degree requirements.
- Serves as the Academic Dean for most freshmen and sophomores (exception--BFA and Music students admitted directly into their degree-granting programs).
- Coordinates advising for lower-division students in all non-BFA/Music programs. Sponsors and directs programs designed to promote retention and academic excellence.

OUR DEPARTMENTS, INITIATIVES AND NUMBERS

Academic Center for Excellence ACE

ACE is a university learning center focused on helping students develop the study skills and success habits that are necessary in a large research university and valued by future employers. Our mission is to promote the highest level of academic achievement among undergraduate students at Florida State University.

New Initiatives:

- A pilot of the Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) program was initiated in Spring 2015 for one section of MAC1105 with 18% of those students participating. Of those who participated in 3 or more PASS sessions, 100% passed the course with a grade of C- or higher and earned average test scores that were 10% higher than those of non-participants. Plans are being made to continue PASS offerings with MAC1105 and expand to all ACG2021 sections taught in the traditional classroom setting.

Strengthening Existing Initiatives:

- Changed the educational focus of the Bryan Hall Living-Learning Community, including developing enhancements to the colloquium course focused on “Academic Exploration and Discovery” applicable to students in exploratory or any other declared major.

BY THE NUMBERS

Summer 2014-Spring 2015

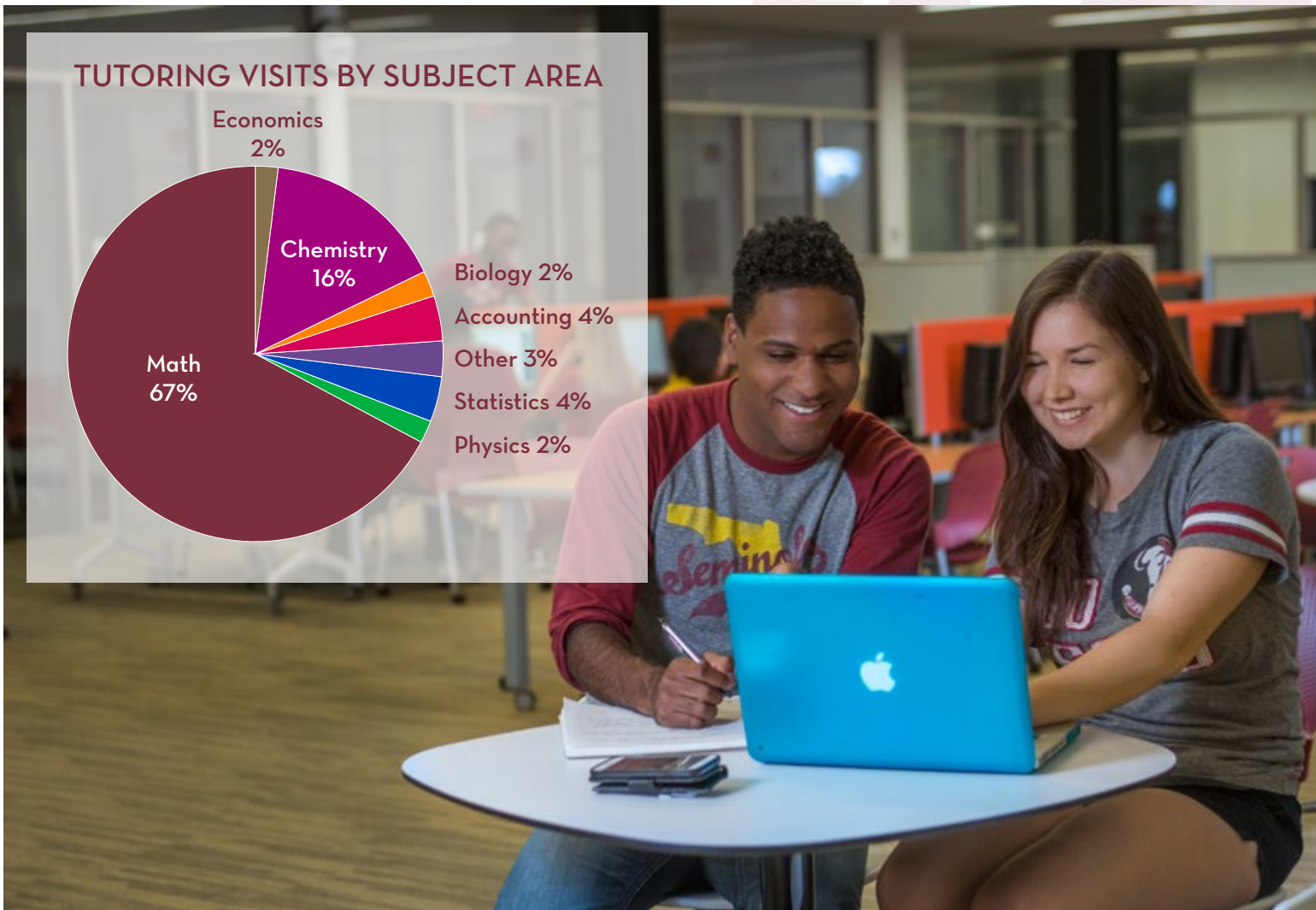
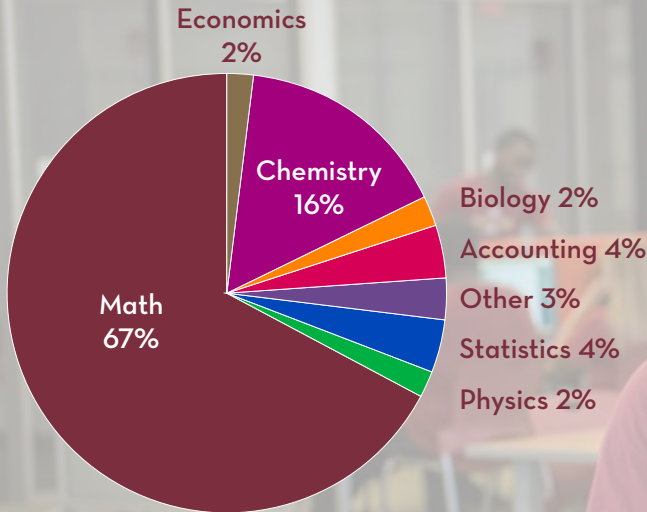
Tutoring Visits:	16,262
(Summer 842, Fall 7,723, Spring 7,697)	
Students using the space for desktop computers or study:	9,003
Number of study rooms checked out:	7,938
Number of students using study rooms:	25,548
Laptop/iPad checked out:	2,232
Workshop Series attendance:	281
SLS1122 course enrollment:	477
SLS3717 course enrollment:	19
Personal Academic Consultations:	63

91% of students tutored at the Learning Studio rated their impression of ACE as Excellent or Good

94% of SLS1122 students gave their instructor a rating of Excellent or Very Good (80% response rate)

94% retention rate for first time in college (FTIC) freshmen using the ACE Learning Studio

TUTORING VISITS BY SUBJECT AREA



STUDENT PROFILE: *Daniel Hubbard*

Major: Psychology

Graduation: Spring 2016

Daniel Hubbard is a psychology major studying the causes of suicide, particularly in the military community, and is a 2015 Truman Scholar, a prestigious national award given to college juniors who seek to improve their communities through public service.

Hubbard spent five years as an Army medic before enrolling at Florida State. He is among this year's class of 58 Truman Scholars and the only one from Florida. He was selected from a pool of 688 candidates nominated by 297 colleges and universities.

FSU President John Thrasher commended Hubbard for his military service and the importance of his research. "It's a prestigious award and to have someone at Florida State University receive it is an incredible honor," Thrasher said. "This is a recognition that this young man has stood out among his peers from all over the country. It is a great recognition for Daniel and the work he has done."

In addition to his academic work at Florida State, Hubbard is an ACE Tutor and a volunteer with Legal Services of North Florida, responsible for assisting clients and recruiting other student volunteers.

After attending the 2016 Truman Scholarship Summer Institute, Hubbard intends to continue his community involvement by joining Rotoract and volunteering with the Advocates for Veterans Housing and 2-1-1 Big Bend.

Edited version of profile written by Jeffery Seay



OUR DEPARTMENTS, INITIATIVES AND NUMBERS

Advising First

The primary focus of our program is to assist and guide students so they are retained at the University from time of enrollment through graduation. With expertise on university policies, resources and opportunities, and extensive training in effective guidance, our Advising First professionals promote students' progress and growth throughout their academic careers. Through the relationships with advisors and/or coaches, our students are empowered to take personal responsibility and ownership of their educational endeavors.

New Initiatives:

- Launched Education Advisory Board's Student Success Collaborative: An advising platform to improve advisor workflow/workload.
- Implemented the new "College Life Coaching" model, a comprehensive student retention program developed by Advising First.
- Developed a new partnership with the Bryan Hall Learning Community, *Academic Exploration and Discovery*, and incorporated programmatic themes developed in the Advising First Center for Exploratory Students.
- Developed quality enhancement scoring rubrics to measure consistency and quality of advising sessions and recruitment presentations.

Strengthening Existing Initiatives:

- Redesigned the Advising First Salary Promotion Plan to include: 1) a higher starting salary; 2) an identical salary promotion structure for both advisors and college life coaches; 3) a bonus for graduate degree completion; 4) expansion of promotion criteria; and 5) an additional promotion level.
- Expanded campus programming events (Six Career Panel Discussions, Living Unconquered Student Success Conference, and the Major Expo) resulting in: 1) enhanced marketing efforts that produced increased attendance; 2) strengthened campus partnerships, and; 3) increased funding from Aramark and the Student Government Association.
- Improved assessment strategies to increase data accuracy and timeliness to be utilized for ongoing quality enhancement.

BY THE NUMBERS

Presented at the National Academic Advising Association international, national, regional and state conferences. Topics included Advising and the Completion Agenda; Integrating Academic and Career Advising; Exploring Shame and Vulnerability in Academia, Retention in Action; Serving our Veterans, Re-Defining Global Citizenship and Team Building

Student-Advisor Contacts and Outreach:

49,511 in person meetings and **811,406** additional contacts

Student-Coach Contacts and Outreach:

14,197 in person meetings and **11,981** additional contacts



STUDENT PROFILE: *Rachel Crooks*

Majors: History and Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Graduation: Spring 2015

As a national finalist for the Truman Scholarship and member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, Rachel Crooks' life after Florida State will hold many opportunities. In 2014, Crooks became one of 59 college juniors across the country to be nominated for this honor.

Outside of her major studies, Crooks has embraced several FSU leadership opportunities. As a sophomore, Crooks started her first semester of the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), where she has participated as an instructor for two years. She is also a former president of Empowering Women Globally and member of the Undergraduate Research Ambassadors. She is in the process of becoming a part of the Garnet and Gold Scholar Society by writing a synthesis essay on research, service and leadership experiences.

"Rachel Crooks' determination and dedication to elevating the opportunities of all students is inspiring," said Craig Filar, director of Florida State's Office of National Fellowships.

Crooks has funded independent study abroad through working with the Social Science Scholars Program. She has traveled abroad to Costa Rica, where she served as an after-school program intern at Asociación CREAR, and Ecuador, where she completed ethnographic fieldwork firsthand and learned basic Quechua.

Crooks is ending her final semester at FSU with an internship with the Office of National Fellowships, working toward increasing the diversity of applicants to nationally competitive awards by promoting the office to different multicultural student organizations.

After graduation, Crooks hopes to continue her education and pursue a career in international law, to help promote success and opportunity for all people regardless of socioeconomic status.



Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement CARE

The Florida State University Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE) provides preparation, orientation and academic support programming for students who are among the first in their family to attend college and may face unique challenges in college because of educational or economic circumstances.

New Initiatives:

- Campus Tours and Informational Sessions - CARE developed a new partnership with the Office of Admissions and the Visitor Center to provide informational sessions and support campus tours for students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds, helping to increase student diversity and new applications to FSU.
- Work-Study Assistance Program - Through a partnership with the Office of Financial Aid, CARE provided almost 200 students with a work-study opportunity to earn funding for basic living expenses, as well as work in various areas of the University to develop professional and personal competencies. Students were able to connect with various departments and programs on campus to assist them with short-term projects.

Strengthening Existing Initiatives:

- CARE's Unconquered Scholars program has an impressive 95.5% retention for this highly vulnerable cohort of 28 foster/dependent care students.
- In order for CARE students to earn credit for their Small Group Engagement Experience requirement, CARE added a short response prompt as a part of the requirement to receive credit for attendance. Students had to complete a response that detailed how the experience helps them meet their professional, personal or academic development. This helps students develop their critical thinking skills to better succeed in the classroom.
- Junior/Senior Student Engagement - CARE seeks to provide additional support for upper-division students to help continue on their path towards timely graduation through increased activities designed to develop their academic and professional experiences. Through campus partnerships and community agencies, CARE has developed intentional workshops to help students prepare for life after college. Some of these workshops include graduate school preparation, financial literacy and money management, health care and wellness options and responsible credit management.



BY THE NUMBERS

93.3% First-year retention rate for students returning in fall 2014

Tutoring and academic engagement increased **34.2%** from the previous year, with **57,371** student visits to the CARE Tutoring and Computer Lab alone.

Enrolled **400** students in the 2015 Summer Bridge Program, the largest class of students ever in CARE

CARE observed a **95%** second-to-third year retention rate for the CARE 2012 cohort of students receiving coaching, compared with **84%** for students not using this resource in the past.

95.6% of CARE students achieved Satisfactory Academic Progress by the end of the year.

100% of CARE pre-collegiate students enrolled in the College Reach-Out Program and Upward Bound Program were promoted to the next grade level.

100% of CARE pre-collegiate high school seniors enrolled in the College Reach-Out Program and Upward Bound Program graduated from high school and were accepted into a post-secondary institution.

STUDENT PROFILE: *Michelle Sauer*

Major: History and English Literature

Graduation: Spring 2015

Michelle Sauer is highly involved not only in the on-campus community at Florida State University, but also abroad through her research and academic scholarship.

In the summer of 2013, Sauer was one of 10 students selected nationwide to travel to Durham University in the United Kingdom as part of the Fulbright Summer Institute Program. In the summer of 2014, she was awarded \$4,000 through the Michael J. Shaara Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Award to return to Durham University to research the transitional phase in medieval England by studying cultural memory.

Back on campus, Sauer is vice president for both Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Eta Sigma honor societies, and has been the Phi Eta Sigma representative for the Council of Honor Societies at Florida State, where she assists on the Research Remix Planning Committee. The purpose of this committee is to showcase undergraduate engagement in research at Florida State.

With Phi Eta Sigma, Sauer helped first-year exploratory students build a semester schedule in the summer of 2013 as a peer academic leader. In the fall of 2013, she served as a Freshman Interest Group leader, where she mentored 12 freshmen on how to prepare for their undergraduate careers.

In addition, Sauer continues her service with the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) as a leader this year.

After graduation, Sauer intends to pursue a Master of Arts in history through Durham University's Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies. Sauer plans to attend Columbia University to earn her Ph.D. in history, concentrating in medieval studies with a focus placed primarily on religious history and cultural memory.

Edited version of profile written by University Communications



OUR DEPARTMENTS, INITIATIVES AND NUMBERS

Community College Relations

The overall mission of Community College Relations is to provide the University with the leadership to fulfill its commitment to the statewide Articulation Between Universities and Community Colleges, Florida Administrative Code 6A-10.024, which governs the transfer of students among and between the public universities and the 28 Florida College System Institutions.

The primary responsibility of the office is to work closely with the academic colleges and schools on the articulation of academic programs and services between institutions in order to create a cooperative interinstitutional climate, which will assist the University in its efforts to attract and retain quality transfer students.

New Initiatives:

TCC2FSU

- Assisted with the development of a new Transfer to FSU website, which will become the initial informational site for prospective transfer students.
- Both AF advisors and mapping coordinators will continue to work with TCC to provide curriculum planning/ advising support and staffing in the TCC office as this program is formally launched.
- We will continue to partner with Student Affairs to develop programming that will enhance program benefits.

Strengthening Existing Initiatives:

Expanded the involvement of Transfer Leadership Institute participants in transfer student recruiting and support of the TCC2FSU program

BY THE NUMBERS

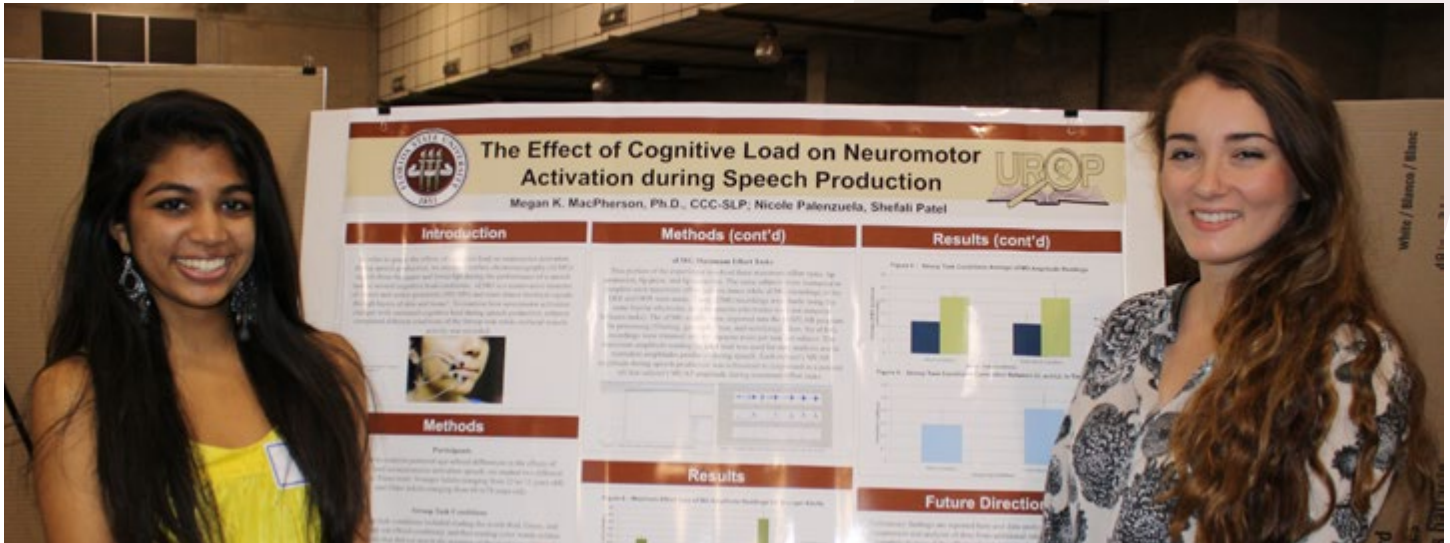
11 campus visits to feeder institutions

2 FSU Advising Days at TCC with **50** FSU departments represented

80 hours/month of FSU advisor availability on the TCC campus



OUR DEPARTMENTS, INITIATIVES AND NUMBERS



Center for Undergraduate Research & Academic Engagement

The best research universities fully engage all students in the research and innovation of the institution and FSU is a national leader in this effort. The Center for Undergraduate Research & Academic Engagement (CRE) is leading a growing movement to involve undergraduate students in the highest levels of academic engagement, helping students take advantage of the very best a major research university like FSU has to offer.

The CRE works across the University to enhance the educational engagement of our students and FSU's international reputation. We accomplish this by supporting faculty and instructors as they include research and creative projects in their courses and facilitating service-learning, social entrepreneurship and research projects with community-based organizations around the world. We also offer programming to involve undergraduates and historically underrepresented students in research and scholarship and to showcase the work of student researchers through symposia and publications.

New Initiatives:

Social Entrepreneur in Residence (SEIR)

- Has been hired to develop career-ready graduates who have hands-on experience working to solve complex problems facing our society.

IT/Tech Alliance Coordinator

- Has been hired for this BOG-funded outreach program. The Florida IT Career Alliance was established to help recruit, retain and employ Florida's next generation technology workforce.

Inaugural Student Research and Innovation Week

- Bringing together DIGITECH (digital and technology research), Sharktank and Startup Weekend (research-guided enterprise) and the WIMSE Showcase (female student research in STEM fields), along with the Undergraduate Research Symposium and other events, the Week celebrated undergraduate research, creativity and innovation occurring throughout campus.

Strengthening Existing Initiatives:

- Office rechristened "Center for Undergraduate Research and Academic Engagement" (CRE) to reflect ongoing expansion of efforts to engage students within and beyond the classroom.
- Further expansion of Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program from 200 to 250 students.

Center for Undergraduate Research & Academic Engagement

BY THE NUMBERS

50 Global Scholars

200 UROP Students

300 Presenters at the Undergraduate Research Symposium

4,000 students in CRE supported undergraduate research courses (Academic Engagement and Innovation Grants)

STUDENT PROFILE: *Alexandra Olsen*

Majors: Sociology and French

Graduation: Spring 2015

A member of the Golden Key International Honour Society and vice president of Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honors Society, Alexandra Olsen is a researcher, leader and advocate who is dedicated to understanding the world and its people.

Winner of a Moellership Award from the Center for Leadership and Social Change and an Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Award, Olsen's research on the Moroccan women's movement is her proudest work at Florida State.

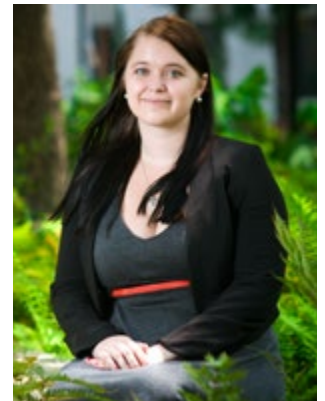
For her honors thesis Olsen concentrated on resource mobilization for nonprofits serving undocumented immigrants. She was a recipient of the Bess H. Ward Honors Thesis Award in fall 2012 and a Mentored Research and Creative Endeavors Award for Honors Thesis Research in summer 2013. Olsen was also selected as a 2013 Social Science Scholar.

Outside of academics, Olsen is the vice president of Advocates for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and a state policy representative for the Florida Immigrant Youth Network.

Olsen has been an Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) Leader for two years, during which she has instructed first- and second-year students on the research process within social sciences.

After graduation she plans to pursue a Ph.D. in sociology with concentrations in social change, deviance and social control and culture. She hopes to combine her passions of conducting ethnographic research, teaching and being an active member in the community.

Edited version of profile written by Kate Mueller, University Communications Intern



OUR DEPARTMENTS, INITIATIVES AND NUMBERS

Honors Program

The University Honors Program provides an enriched curriculum and special opportunities for exceptional, high-achieving students. Housed in the beautiful new Honors, Scholars and Fellows House, the program caters to these students through two well-established and highly successful programs: the University Honors Program and the Honors in the Major Program.

New Initiatives:

Presidential Scholars

- First Leadership Summit for the inaugural cohort was held August 18-19, 2014.
- A required salon-style class was developed for the fall term.
- The program increased both the visibility of Honors and overall recruitment of high-end students.
- Honors successfully launched the Friends of Honors and Scholars alumni organization.
- Honors students were the first to experience the new Liberal Studies E-series courses (engage, explore, envision).

Strengthening Existing Initiatives:

We are working with outside consultants on an extensive program review to further improve our program. This will include changes to the Honors admission process as well as expanded honors course offerings.



Honors Program

BY THE NUMBERS

ADMISSIONS:

Fall 2014 Direct Admits	582
Spring 2015 Lateral Admits	106
Total	688



BESS WARD TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP:

Fall 2014	1 Student @	\$1,500 = \$1,500
Spring 2015	7 Students @	\$500 = \$3,500
Spring Break 2015	10 Students@	\$250 = \$2,500
Summer 2015	7 Students @	\$500 = \$3,500

BESS WARD HONORS THESIS AWARDS:

13 awards in the fall totaling \$6,900
6 awards in spring totaling \$3,440
19 awards total for \$10,340

BESS WARD HONORS THESIS MENTOR AWARDS:

2 awards in the fall for \$4,000
2 awards in the spring for \$4,000
4 awards total for \$8,000

HONORS E-SERIES COURSES:

Spring 2014	19 Regular	6 Augmented	Total = 25
Fall 2014	18 Regular	7 Augmented	Total = 25
Spring 2015	20 Regular	7 Augmented	Total = 27

NUMBER OF STUDENTS COMPLETING HONORS IN THE MAJOR:

Fall 2014: 24 Spring 2015: 152 Summer 2015: 19

Top majors of completed Theses: Biology, Film, English and Psychology

Office of National Fellowships

The Office of National Fellowships (ONF) seeks to benefit the development of student excellence, both academically and intrapersonally, and to ensure success, not only for qualified applicants, but also for the personal growth of individuals whose efforts and contributions benefit the entire university community.

ONF helps students to pursue opportunities for enrichment by providing information and support throughout the fellowship application process. Through one-on-one mentoring and direct assistance for over 60 nationally competitive fellowships, we help students to identify and achieve their academic, public service, creative and leadership goals.

Since its inception in the spring of 2005, ONF has mentored and assisted some of our most talented students. Over the past decade, our students have won more than **225** nationally competitive awards, including **three** prestigious Rhodes scholarships, **four** Truman scholarships, **eight** Goldwater scholarships, **eighteen** Hollings scholarships, **four** Pickering fellowships, and over **seventy** Fulbright student scholarships. Our students have travelled to over 40 countries, expanding FSU's influence around the globe.

New Initiatives:

ONF welcomed a new Associate Director, Joshua Stanek, and a new Assistant Director, Emily Saras, into the office. Both new team members made an immediate impact in their passionate and comprehensive approach to furthering the mission of the office.

ONF's new location in the Honors, Scholars and Fellows House on Landis Green has increased our visibility and students' access to our services. We have a stronger student presence in the office in this location that allows us to provide a more impactful and meaningful experience. The new location has increased not only our ability to work with more students, but has also created a scholarly community among the students who work with ONF.

Strengthening Existing Initiatives:

- Daniel Hubbard was selected as a 2015 Truman Scholar.
- 11 FSU students received Fulbright Student Scholarships.
- Over 40 students received an award through a nationally competitive fellowship process.
- ONF continued to develop programming and outreach that encourages students from across campus to consider the opportunities supported in the office, paying special attention to underrepresented populations.



OUR DEPARTMENTS, INITIATIVES AND NUMBERS

- ONF staff held 2,697 individual student mentoring appointments during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Office of National Fellowships

BY THE NUMBERS

ONF supported 179 different students in completing 229 applications.

Among the applications for the 2014-2015 year:

- **58 Fulbright Grant applicants (33 English Teaching Assistantships, 25 Full Grants)—11 recipients**
- **13 Gilman Scholarship applicants - 7 recipients**
- **8 Truman Scholarship applicants - 1 recipient**
- **10 Boren Scholarship applicants - 3 recipients**
- **6 Goldwater Scholarship applicants - 1 recipient/2 honorable mentions**
- **17 NSF Graduate Fellowship applicants - 3 recipients/7 honorable mentions**
- **4 Rotary Peace Fellowship applicants**
- **7 Marshall Scholarship applicants**
- **3 Rhodes Scholarship applicants**

STUDENT PROFILE: *Molly Gordon*

Major: Biological Science

Graduation: Spring 2016

Although Molly Gordon spent her time as a theater set builder and art enthusiast in high school, she has branched into science, now spending her weekdays and many weekends in the laboratory of David Gilbert, Florida State's J. Herbert Taylor Distinguished Professor of Molecular Biology. There she works with stem cells – a rare opportunity for a junior.

A recipient of the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Award (URCAA), which comes with a \$4,000 stipend, Gordon spent the summer of 2014 continuing her research into the biological mechanism of replication timing in relation to cancer.

In addition to being an URCAA recipient, Gordon has received a John Mark Caffrey Scholarship and is a member of Phi Eta Sigma, the largest and oldest national honor society for undergraduates.

She will continue to help educate her peers as a teaching assistant for BSC 2010 and as a Freshman Interest Group leader for incoming biology majors this fall.

Outside of class, Gordon continues to shine as a scholar and philanthropist in the community. Specifically, she has regularly volunteered for Hands of Hope, a student organization that focuses on helping individuals with disabilities.

Edited version of profile written by University Communications



OUR DEPARTMENTS, INITIATIVES AND NUMBERS

Office of Undergraduate Studies

The Office of Undergraduate Studies (OUS) serves as the Academic Dean's office for most freshmen and sophomores (with the exception of BFA and Music students admitted directly into their degree-granting programs). The office provides information and services on all academic matters including earning credit through test exemption, liberal studies courses, academic standing (warning/probation/dismissal), readmission, remediation/preparatory classes, registration holds, enrollment in courses at other colleges and universities, requests for S/U grading and requests for an overload/underload schedule. It also provides advising and dean's approval signatures for students who are dropping classes late or attempting to withdraw from the university.

Staff members in OUS are front line problem solvers for students and carry out their mission with courtesy, professionalism and respect.

New Initiatives:

- Worked with the Registrar's office to implement a new policy to allow credits earned while on academic dismissal to count for degree hours upon the student's return to FSU.
- Implemented a new math placement exam (ALEKS) for courses in the calculus sequence in partnership with our Department of Mathematics.

Strengthening Existing Initiatives:

- Cleaned up English and math compliance language within the University's many publications to provide better consistency and clarity.
- Edited remediation testing and placement language in all university publications to provide clearer guidelines.
- Assisted with implementation of new Liberal Studies for the 21st Century:
 - Recruited a new Associate Dean for Liberal Studies.
 - Developing an effective assessment plan that will meet SACS standards.



BY THE NUMBERS

The Division of Undergraduate Studies serves **11,000-12,000** students at any given time. From August 2014 to July 2015, OUS staff met with **6,789** students in the office.

Office of Retention

The Office of Retention monitors undergraduate student populations at Florida State University to ensure that all students have ample opportunity to complete a degree. The Office provides academic advising for individual students and coordination with the colleges and university programs to help ensure student success.

The Director of Retention serves as a resource for new and continuing students, parents, faculty and staff. The Office of Retention is located in the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. The Office provides advice and programming options to help students succeed based on individual needs. Such needs may include areas of adjustment, tutoring or preparation. The director seeks to address all areas that affect a student's ability to succeed by coordinating university resources to assist the student. As part of this process, the director assists students in developing individual academic plans for graduation and monitors their progress toward completion.

The office identifies and tracks specific groups of students who may benefit from special intervention. Students with retention codes of warning, academic probation and academic dismissal are encouraged to come to the office for advising and academic support. Students who have stopped attending FSU are contacted and provided assistance to complete the bachelor's degree.

New Initiatives:

- Develop a tradition of heralding the promotion of students moving from lower to upper division
- Develop programming centered on retaining students between sophomore to junior year
- Move "high hours" students toward degree completion

Strengthening Existing Initiatives:

- Continue to recognize and encourage academic engagement among our students
- Enhance the academic culture on campus through programming
- Assist Panama City Campus with retention efforts
- Strengthen efforts to increase graduation rates
- Enrollment Management meetings:
 - Review of health insurance mandate
 - Financial Hold threshold levels
 - Graduation Check notification (letter to email, Blackboard alert, phone, Tweet)
- Advocate for an online Mapping hold resolution process

BY THE NUMBERS

Freshman Interest Groups: 56 FIG leaders served over 1,000 FTICs.



Student-Athlete Academic Services

The primary focus of Student-Athlete Academic Services (SAAS) is to provide an environment which facilitates the academic success of each student-athlete. Student success is encouraged through competent academic counseling, study skills development, individualized assessment and support and a wide array of tutorial services.

New Initiatives:

LYFE (Leaders Yearning for Excellence) Beyond the Spear: A new program developed by the academic staff to assist with increasing graduation rates and developing student-athletes socially, intellectually and academically. This program is a collaboration between academics, compliance and student services in order to reach students across all sports.

Mental Health: The FSU Department of Athletics utilizes many different people/positions in the process of identifying, diagnosing and supporting student-athletes with issues of mental and emotional well-being. Mental health problems are significantly more complex than Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or learning disabilities (LD), diagnoses often found in the student athlete population, although it is a subset commonly referenced when discussing mental well-being in connection with student-athletes. Increasingly, the sports community is coming to recognize that student-athletes are as subject to the wide spectra of mental and emotional health issues as any other student population. As academic support professionals, we rely on the Sports Medicine Department to provide us with appropriate notification if a student-athlete is referred by means other than academics (i.e., coach, parent, self-identification) and that Sports Medicine will be the direct contact for attending health care professionals both within and outside of the Athletics Department.

Strengthening Existing Initiatives:

The Tutoring Committee is comprised of an advisor from a revenue sport, an advisor from an Olympic sport, a learning specialist, an intern and the tutor coordinator. This committee was formed to strengthen the tutoring policies and procedures in order to maintain and increase tutor accountability. The creation of this committee derived from the need to engage staff in the process of tutoring and to insure that all student-athletes' needs are being met. This committee helped both to raise wages of the tutors and to increase tutor retention in order to assist our students by maintaining a more stable tutorial staff. Lastly, tutor training has become more dynamic and more integrated with the campus community so that all may benefit from best practices garnered from the varied tutorial sites.

FTIC and transfer student-athletes' needs for educational services will be evaluated based on academic record, diagnosed educational disability or ADHD, remediation, EAB information and personal history. Student-athletes who are already assigned a learning specialist will be assessed based on current academic situation, eligibility, educational disability, ADHD, EAB information, health history and personal history. Learning specialist discretion weighs heavily when determining when or if a student-athlete no longer needs the specialist's services. All advisor recommendations for student-athletes to work with learning specialists must go through the Director of Educational Services.

Student-Athlete Academic Services

BY THE NUMBERS

Fall 2014

Tutoring (content specific)

- Approximately **8,000** tutoring appointments were conducted.
- Approximately **65** tutors facilitated over **560** tutoring appointments per week.

Mentoring (Time Management/Study Skills)

- Approximately **1,200** mentoring appointments were conducted.

Learning Specialists (skill development)

- Approximately **1,450** meetings were conducted.

Department Cumulative GPA: 2.913 (494 student-athletes)

Spring 2015

Tutoring

- Approximately **6,700** tutoring appointments were conducted.
- Approximately **65** tutors facilitated over **450** tutoring appointments per week.

Mentoring

- Approximately **700** mentoring appointments were conducted.

Learning Specialists

- Approximately **1,350** meetings were conducted.

Department Cumulative GPA: 2.968 (457 student-athletes)

Welcoming the First Class of Presidential Scholars

Florida State University welcomed the first class of 25 Presidential Scholars in fall 2014, all freshmen, who benefited from unprecedented support and educational experiences through the University's new premier undergraduate merit scholarship program.

The Presidential Scholars Program provides four years of support to critical and innovative thinkers who use their talents to make meaningful contributions to society. The scholars receive additional funding for educational enrichment opportunities including international experiences, research and creative projects, service learning projects or public service, internships and entrepreneurial development.

In addition, the scholars benefit from faculty mentoring, leadership training and regular group meetings. The students were also among the first to use the new Honors, Scholars and Fellows House, a place of learning and engagement for the best and brightest students.

"We are thrilled with the first class of Presidential Scholars," said Dean of Undergraduate Studies Karen Laughlin. "The program clearly demonstrates Florida State's commitment to recruiting and supporting some of the most talented students in the country."

Along with their hometowns and academic majors, the Presidential Scholars are:

Athens, GA

Shannon Hodgson, human resource management
Abbey Pylant, biology

Cedar Park, TX

Lindsey Stawowy, biology

Clemson, SC

Julia Jensen, political science and international affairs

Fort Myers, FL

Siera Condon, music therapy and psychology

Fort Wayne, IN

Leah Rumancik, actuarial science

Huntsville, AL

Taylor Foor, meteorology

Indian Harbour Beach, FL

Aleyna Brown, music

Jacksonville, FL

Inam Sakinah, biology

Lakeland, FL

Amanda Schell, actuarial science and international affairs

Miami, FL

Jorge Gonzalez, physics

Naples, FL

Will Boose, history, Spanish minor

Navarre, FL

Taylor Davis, mechanical engineering

Ocala, FL

Sabrina Abboud, international affairs and political science,
Spanish minor

Pensacola, FL

Taylor Merritt, biology

Sarasota, FL

Olivia Bockler, neuroscience and English, Spanish minor
Sarah Wagler, engineering

Sebring, FL

Brian Westergom, business

Tallahassee, FL

Natalie Jones, biochemistry and art history

Tampa, FL

Jordan Singletary, exploratory
Sophie Rottenberg, biology and criminology

Toledo, OH

Benjamin Pifer, biology

Venice, FL

Samantha Chianese, creative writing, psychology minor

West Jefferson, NC

Laura Blank, psychology and human resource management

Winter Park, FL

Gregory Seel, physics

The scholarships are made possible by a generous gift from Linda (B.S. '65, English) and Philip Lewis. For more information about the Presidential Scholars Program, visit presidentialscholars.fsu.edu.

