



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Annual Report
2017-18



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LETTER FROM THE DEAN OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Hello from Florida State University! As the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, I handle academic issues for most freshmen and sophomores and work with a broad range of programs designed to support and strengthen students' undergraduate experience.

We hope that the information included here gives you a clear idea of what FSU has to offer and why this should be your university. Florida State University is proud to be recognized as a Preeminent University by the State of Florida and as one of the most respected research institutions in the country. We have the highest four-year graduation rate of any public university in Florida and we are ranked number 26 among national public universities in the U.S. News & World Report rankings, up 7 from last year. All of these successes move us toward our goal of helping undergraduates make the most of the opportunities available at a major research university while retaining the hands-on feel of a small liberal arts college.

Toward that end, we are promoting high-level engagement activities beyond the classroom from the first term of enrollment through graduation. Research shows that students who are more engaged in their college community perform better. We designed the Engage 100 program to get students involved in an approved experience during their first semester. These are small, mentor-guided group experiences centered on a particular topic or curriculum that assist students in acclimating to university life. Our students really enjoy the experiences as well.

Some high level engagement activities include:

Freshman Interest Groups (FIGs)

A FIG is a pre-packaged cluster of high-demand freshman courses that are linked by a theme or academic program. FIGs help new students in many ways, including showing them all that the university can provide and connecting them with other students who have similar interests.

Living-Learning Communities (LLC)

A Living-Learning Community is a small group of students who live together, share an interest, and take one or two of their classes together in a small classroom inside their residence hall. An LLC is a great place for freshmen to immediately find themselves among friends, supporting and caring for one another.

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)

Florida State University is a leader in undergraduate research, which provides highly motivated students with the opportunity to conduct research with our award-winning faculty. Students choose from hundreds of projects representing all areas of study, gaining hands-on knowledge and research principles, which are an attractive skillset for future employers and graduate schools.

These programs were designed to help our students succeed and achieve great things. We use many forms of peer advising to connect new students with peers who understand what it is like to study at a major university. These peer mentors, along with our staff, can help students reach and expand their goals. As they mature at the university, they can take on the mentor role themselves and give back to their fellow students. It's another of the many high impact educational practices that form the foundation of education at FSU.

At Florida State University, we are dedicated to our students' success in college and beyond. We hope that the information contained here will show that we do everything we do with their future, and that of their communities, in mind.

Sincerely,

Dr. Karen Laughlin

Dean of Undergraduate Studies





ACADEMIC CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE (ACE)

ACE is a university learning center that helps students develop study skills and success habits that are necessary to achieve their educational and career goals.

We provide:

Tutoring

Peer tutoring supports student learning by strengthening a wide variety of educational skills in potentially challenging subjects. ACE provided **18,344** tutoring sessions last year.

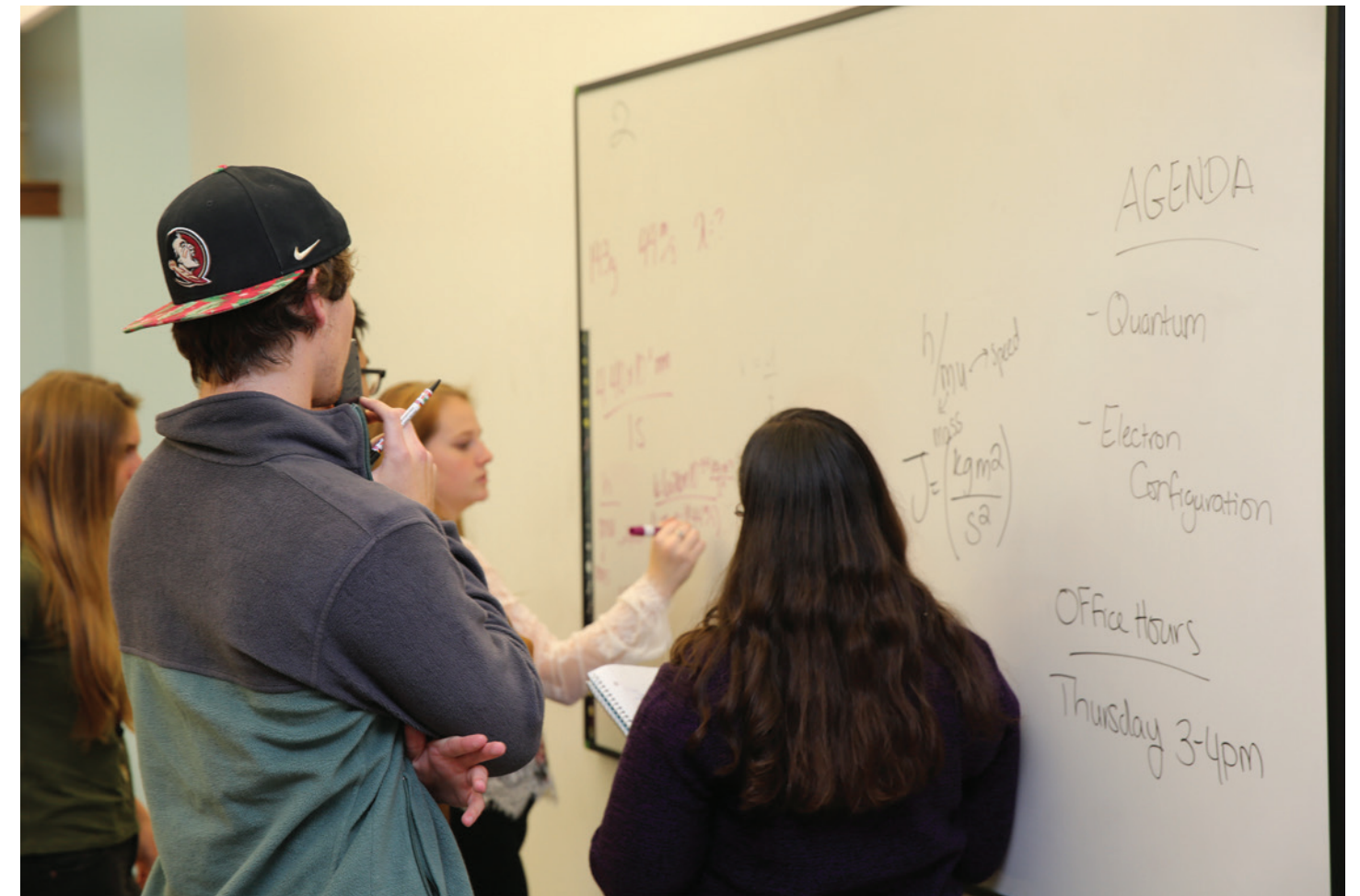
Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS)

PASS is a high impact program offered in selected undergraduate courses that have been targeted as historically difficult at FSU. PASS Leaders focus on the most challenging content of the course and give students an opportunity to work collaboratively with their peers outside of class time in an effort to understand new concepts.

In 2017-2018, PASS sessions were available in accounting, biology, chemistry and physics classes. Last academic year, **2,939** students (duplicated headcount) attended PASS sessions in one or more courses. Students who attended five or more PASS sessions throughout the semester earned higher final grades in these classes than students who did not attend PASS.

Technology and Facilities

We have a modern, technologically advanced facility dedicated to students' academic success. The learning center provides free academic resources including desktop computers, study spaces, and media equipment. Last year, **1,964** students used our technology resources and **9,477** used our study rooms or open study areas.

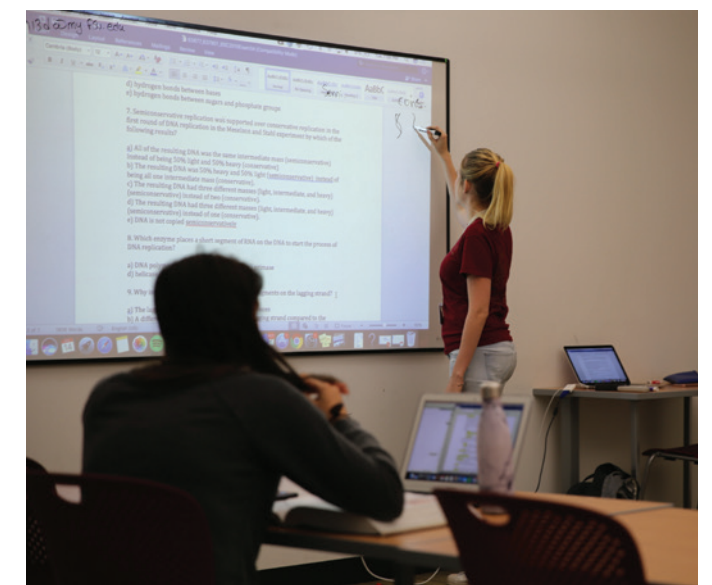


Workshops

ACE offers free academic workshops on topics such as time management, test preparation strategies, and graduate school entrance exams (GRE, LSAT, GMAT). A total of **229** students participated in our workshops.

Personal Academic Consultations (PACs)

ACE offers students an opportunity to meet with an ACE faculty member to review and make improvements to their study and personal success habits. A total of **95 students** completed personal academic consultations last year.





ADVISING FIRST

Advising First has a well-trained staff of professional academic advisors and college life coaches stationed throughout campus whose job it is to help our students make the right educational decisions and graduate without taking wrong turns along the way.

With extensive training in effective guidance and expertise on university policies, resources, and opportunities, our Advising First professionals promote students' progress and growth.

We provide:

Academic Advising

Our advisors educate students on academic requirements and degree progress and guide students in setting educational and career goals. We also connect students with relevant university resources and recommend hands-on learning opportunities.

We had over **50,648** face-to-face meetings with students last year and interacted with more than **249,079** electronically.

College Life Coaching

Pre-selected students receive one-on-one attention twice per month during the academic year from a college life coach who is committed to student development and success. Our coaches actively assist incoming students with their transition to the university and help define academic, personal, and career paths.

Our coaches held over **12,717** student meetings in person and sent out **28,655** advising messages electronically.

Additional Services

- Student workshops and conferences
- Web-based outreach efforts
- Campus-wide events
- Class and residence hall presentations

STUDENT PROFILE IVONNE MENDIETA

Honors Program
FSU IDEA Grant
Fall Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence
Bess H. Ward Honors Thesis Award

Florida State University senior Ivonne Mendieta has combined two unlikely subjects – biological science and religion – to foster a college experience that reflects her goal of becoming a physician.



Ivonne Mendieta. Photo courtesy of University Communications

Mendieta's relationship with religion began at a young age. She grew up around her family practicing different versions of Christianity and Catholicism while alternating living between the Republic of Panama and Tallahassee.

Mendieta's family background was also what prompted her interest in research and health care. Her aunt is a dentist, and her uncle is an FSU alumnus and researcher who studies long-term care. That interest grew when both of her grandparents began needing the support of a long-term care system during her senior year of high school in 2014.

Mendieta said she learned that long-term care systems can be unreliable and that there are a lot of difficulties with assisted living. She wanted to help others like her grandparents and began on the career path of becoming a physician specializing in geriatric-centered care. "I was drawn by the fact FSU sponsors undergraduate research as an avenue for a more wholesome educational career through its many programs and scholarships," Mendieta said. In the summer of 2017, she was awarded an IDEA Grant for \$1,000 for her research with her mentor and thesis director Kim Hughes, a biology professor. Mendieta presented the research at the 2017 Fall Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence. Mendieta continued researching as a part of the Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program, and in the fall of 2017 was awarded the Bess H. Ward Honors Thesis Award.

Aside from being an all-star researcher, Mendieta was also zealous about giving back to the community. She was a member of the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (MAPS) and worked every year for service events like The Big Event. Mendieta also co-founded the Pre-Latino Medical Student Association Network alongside fellow FSU student Laura Serrano. As co-founder, Mendieta coordinated and volunteered in service events to help the Migrant Education Program in Quincy, Florida.

After graduation, Mendieta plans to apply to medical school and continue her pursuits in research.

"FSU allowed me the freedom to explore interesting questions outside the educational confines of the classroom," Mendieta said. "I am extremely grateful to be a Seminole."

By Erica Frederick, University Communications Intern (edited for length)





HONORS AND SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Honors Program at FSU is pleased to introduce The Honors Experience for Fall 2018. Students who choose to participate in this new program will explore the theme of Freedom and (In)Equality through courses and related on- and off-campus activities. These new courses have an interdisciplinary focus and meet Liberal Studies requirements. Taken in close community with other Honors students, the Experience is designed to foster flexible, higher-order thinking as a foundation for future leadership roles and academic success. An added benefit is each of the Experience courses is taught by Honors faculty.

FSU Honors is a caring community of dedicated faculty, staff, and talented students providing support and encouragement to aspiring scholars. We are located in the Honors, Scholars and Fellows House, a building designed to foster cooperation, achievement, and intellectual curiosity. FSU Honors students are encouraged to participate via two avenues. Students can achieve their full academic potential by completing the coursework and experiences of the University Honors Program. They can also satisfy their intellectual curiosity

by engaging in research projects/creative endeavors outside the classroom via the Honors in the Major Program.

Also housed within the FSU Honors Program is the Presidential Scholars Program. Our Presidential Scholars are critical and innovative thinkers who are awarded four years of support to use their talents to make meaningful contributions to society. 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. The Presidential Scholars program is the premier scholarship program on campus and is made possible by civic-minded private donors.

The Presidential Scholars program is in its fourth year, with a total of **100** current Scholars.

169 students earned the Honors Medallion this year.

125 earned Honors in the Major this year.



(From left) Christina Owens, Ross Moret, Director Annette Schwabe and Azat Gundogan are working to enhance the FSU Honors Program. Photo courtesy of University Communications



STUDENT PROFILE

NAT JONES

FSU Honors Program
Presidential Scholars
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program

Senior Nat Jones' strong go-getter attitude and breadth of vibrant and unique collegiate experiences leaves a great legacy at Florida State University.

"FSU has been a great place for me to develop skills in research, leadership, service, and figuring out my place in this world," Jones said.

As a Tallahassee native, Jones grew up around Florida State and knew from the beginning that it was the right fit, especially after being accepted into the Presidential Scholars Program, FSU's premier undergraduate merit scholarship award.

"I was drawn to FSU because of all the research opportunities available to underclassmen," Jones said. "I also wanted the opportunity to major in both a science and an art, and FSU provided a great opportunity to do research in both."

It was being a part of FSU's prestigious Presidential Scholars program that helped Jones to realize this career path early on. "From my first day at FSU, faculty in the Presidential Scholars Program were prompting me to start reflecting on my life experiences to see how I could utilize them for my future goals," Jones said. Through all that reflection, Jones was able to pinpoint what they wanted to do with their life – pursue a career in transgender medicine.

The honors student began the path to medical school as a biology major, but along the way found two other subjects that they loved too much to let go – Japanese and art history.

"I have always had a great love for the arts and valued them just as much as STEM," Jones said. Jones immediately took advantage of FSU's many research opportunities, doing two Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program research projects as a freshman – one at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory on sodium Magnetic resonance imaging techniques and the other at the Institute on WWII and the Human Experience on U.S.-Japan post-WWII relations.

Jones is also a trailblazer on campus in leadership and service – seeing a need and jumping into action. One of Jones' most impressive accomplishments came at the end of their freshman year when their partner was diagnosed with a bone marrow failure disease.

Rather than waiting on the sidelines for a potential match, Jones established a local chapter of Be the Match on FSU campus which saved the lives of several people across the world.

"Through my work volunteering with Pride Student Union and being a member of the transgender community at FSU, I have become aware of the many issues facing trans people in medicine," Jones said. "As a doctor, I can use my experiences to work towards remedying the issues facing trans people in America."

By Susan Hansen, University Communications (*edited for content and length*)



Nat Jones. Photo courtesy of University Communications



FSU President John Thrasher visits with part of the 2022 class of Presidential Scholars.

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

The Presidential Scholars award is the premier undergraduate merit scholarship at Florida State University. The program provides four years of support and is open to high school seniors who are admitted into the Florida State University Honors Program.

The highly competitive program attracts the best and brightest students to the university, but it doesn't concentrate solely on academics.

The program also offers support to help students shape their entire college experience. In addition to covering most tuition expenses, the scholarship provides \$12,000 for educational enrichment opportunities such as international experiences and service learning projects.



Photo courtesy of University Communications

CENTER FOR ACADEMIC RETENTION AND ENHANCEMENT (CARE)

CARE provides preparation, orientation, and academic support programming for students who are among the first in their families to attend college. Our students may face unique challenges in college because of economic and educational circumstances. We can help.

We provide:

Pre-Collegiate Programs

Beginning in middle and high school, CARE's College Reach-Out and Upward Bound Programs connect students to resources that motivate and promote their acceptance, enrollment, and completion of a college education.

100% of CARE 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.

Summer Bridge Program (SBP)

SBP helps students get to know the Florida State campus and assists students with developing the academic habits vital for their success at FSU.

404 students enrolled in the 2018 Summer Bridge Program.



Unconquered Scholars Program (USP)

The Unconquered Scholars Program provides additional support for students who were in foster care, homeless, or classified as wards of the State.

Of the **141** total students enrolled in the Unconquered Scholars Program since 2012, **98%** were retained at FSU following their first year.

USP boasts an astounding **85%** graduation rate (compared to a 2-3% national graduation rate for students with the same background).

CARE Tutoring and Computer Lab

Our lab provides academic assistance, computer access, and dedicated study space for CARE students.

In 2017-18 The CARE Tutoring and Computer Lab had over **144,574** student visits.

Advising/Coaching

Academic advising and college life coaching help CARE students plan their academic path and develop into more well-rounded students by promoting engagement and connection to the FSU campus.

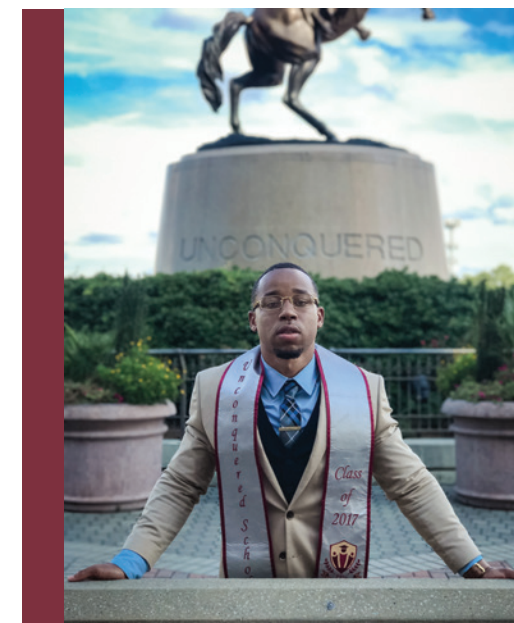
Student Support Services administers academic and engagement activities for qualifying students throughout their enrollment at FSU.

In 2017-18, CARE advisors held over **4,800** student visits.

95.1% First-Year Retention Rate for Students Returning Fall 2017

95.8% of CARE students achieved Satisfactory Academic Progress by the end of the year.

77% six year Graduation Rate average since 2007, compared to **79%** for FSU over the same time



UNCONQUERED SCHOLARS

FSU's Unconquered Scholars Program provides support services to students who have experienced foster care, homelessness, relative care, or ward of the state status.

Established in 2012, the Unconquered Scholars Program is housed in the Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE). The program collaborates with partners across campus to offer services that include college life coaching, tutoring, financial aid assistance, mental health counseling, and academic and skills workshops. The program has been named a "Model of Excellence" by University Business magazine.

STUDENT PROFILE

SALESHIA ELLIS

Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE)
Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP)
First Generation Matching Grant

Saleshia Ellis, a first-generation college student, has overcome many obstacles, including the traumatic loss of her eldest brother while she was still in high school. She knew she needed a university that would make her feel secure and at home, while allowing her to grow and pursue her dreams.



Saleshia Ellis. Photo courtesy of University Communications

After receiving a highly coveted spot in Florida State's Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE) Program, Ellis knew FSU was the best fit for her. The CARE program provides necessary resources and support to help first-generation and underrepresented students flourish in a collegiate environment.

"FSU's history has themes that echo through my life and inspire me as a member of a marginalized group," Ellis said. "The rich history and traditions shook my perspective and humbled me tremendously."

The death of her brother due to the violence of their crime-ridden neighborhood in Fort Pierce, Florida, influenced Ellis' passion for social justice and led her to double major in interdisciplinary social science and urban and regional planning.

During her sophomore year, she delved into research as part of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP), where she conducted focus groups identifying the challenges black women face at institutions with predominantly white populations.

Ellis' research inspired her to collaborate with peers to develop a Black Female Initiative, designed to create sustainable change on FSU's campus and beyond.

"The initiative will cultivate a culture of diversity and challenge black women to take on leadership roles with integrity, while striving toward a vision grounded in their innermost values," Ellis said. "It also encourages faculty and staff to explore how they can better support our women and girls of color."

Outside of her volunteer work and campus involvement, Ellis has held multiple internship positions. She worked at Impact America as a tax preparer to provide free tax services to underprivileged communities and Akbar Law Firm, where she learned about law and the systemic social injustices within the Tallahassee community. She also interned with the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection to improve the living conditions of local communities throughout the state.

Ellis' academics have never taken a back seat to her countless hours of research, leadership in service, and internship positions. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and W.E.B. DuBois Honor Societies, which are scholarship programs dedicated to recognizing students' academic achievement and community engagement. She has made the Dean's or President's list every semester.

After graduation, Ellis plans to earn a law degree and a master's degree in urban planning, preferably at FSU. She ultimately hopes to pursue a career in public policy and work for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

By Brooks Lockett, University Communications Intern (*edited for length*)

STUDENT PROFILE

SCOTT BOEBINGER

FSU Honors Program
Nancy Casper and Mark Hillis Undergraduate
Research IDEA Grant
President's Showcase of Undergraduate Research
Excellence

Senior Scott Boebinger has always been passionate about all things science, music, and Florida State University. For the past three years, he has allowed all three to fully manifest during his exceptional collegiate experience.



Scott Boebinger. Photo courtesy of University Communications

From a young age, Boebinger had deep connections to Florida State. His brother and sister are both alumni and his father, Gregory Boebinger, is an FSU professor and director at the FSU-headquartered National High Magnetic Field Laboratory (MagLab).

Once he officially became a Seminole, the honors student began working in the lab of Samuel Grant, a biomedical engineering professor. His research in Grant's lab focused on Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia that affects roughly 5.5 million people in the United States.

Boebinger worked with his lab partner, Tara Palin, to develop a technique to screen for Alzheimer's before the development of symptoms. The project focused on testing an MRI technique called Diffusion Tensor Imaging (DTI) to determine its ability to diagnose Alzheimer's disease.

Boebinger's research won the Nancy Casper and Mark Hillis Undergraduate Research IDEA Grant, a \$1,000 award to continue researching the early stages of Alzheimer's disease.

After graduation, Boebinger plans to enroll in a neuroengineering graduate program, focusing on brain-machine interfaces for prosthetic limbs. Eventually, he intends to earn a Ph.D. in the field and become a university professor. His long-term goals are to teach, conduct research, and design neural interfaces for prostheses.

By Brooks Lockett, University Communications Intern (*edited for length*)

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (UROP)

UROP launches students into the fascinating world of a research university by allowing them to actively participate in the research process. Florida State University provides students an engaging community with the flexibility and funding opportunities to explore their full range of interests.

Students can choose from hundreds of projects representing all areas of study, including fine arts, humanities, sciences, medicine, engineering, business, and social sciences, including the freedom to engage research outside of your proposed, or declared, field of study.



Photo courtesy of University Communications



CENTER FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT (CRE)

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.

We support faculty and instructors as they include research and creative projects in their courses and service learning (facilitating meaningful community service), entrepreneurship and innovation, 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 conferences and publications.

We provide:

Student Council for Undergraduate Research and Creativity (SCURC)

SCURC is a student organization, funded by the Student Government Association, and is comprised of two groups. The first is the editorial board for *The Owl*, Florida State's Undergraduate Research Journal. The second is the Undergraduate Research Ambassadors, who volunteer to promote undergraduate research and creativity among their peers. Talking to an Ambassador is a great first step in getting involved in research at Florida State.

Tech Fellows

This year saw the third year of the Tech Fellows program, which supports the diversification of the tech and start-up industry by embedding CARE students in start-up incubators around Florida. This year we fully funded **5** Tech Fellows to complete ten-week internships with Canvs (Orlando), Tampa Bay WaVE, 500 Startups (Miami), Groundswell (Melbourne), and Domi Station (Tallahassee).

Global Scholars

This year **47** Global Scholars interned in **18** different countries on **4** continents. We also provided **19** of these students, including **15** CARE students, with travel grants totaling **\$61,700**.

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)

As undergraduates, students can join Research Mentors in their work in laboratories, libraries, studios, and beyond to work on what interests them. Every participating faculty member is engaged in groundbreaking original scholarship.

Last year we had **325** UROP students with **61** peer leaders.

Last year **381** students presented posters at the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Gap Year Fellows

FSU is proud to be one of the few universities in the country (and the second public university) to offer financial assistance to incoming students taking a Gap Year between high school and college. The Gap Year Fellows program provides up to \$5,000 for students to undertake service projects in an intercultural context for a minimum of six months.

We are currently funding **5** students who will volunteer around the world.

TECH FELLOWS

The Center for Undergraduate Research and Academic Engagement (CRE) has partnered with Tallahassee incubator Domi Station and Launch Florida, a coalition of the state's top entrepreneurship and innovation organizations, to promote diversity in the technology sector by providing summer internships for first-generation college students affiliated with Center for Academic Retention & Enhancement (CARE). In this program students gain hands-on experience and connections in tech entrepreneurship through working with incubator staff, startup companies, and mentors. Tech Fellows spend a dynamic summer embedded with ecosystem building organizations and work alongside startup companies.



Sophomore Fabuola Pierre interning at Tampa Bay WaVE.



GLOBAL SCHOLARS

The FSU Global Scholars program helps students secure summer internships at nonprofit organizations in developing countries around the world. Developed by the Center for Undergraduate Research and Academic Engagement and currently in its fifth year, Global Scholars' placements are low-cost and high-impact, providing a challenging academic and personal student development experience.

Our Global Scholars are making an impact all over the world. If this sounds appealing to you, Florida State University is the place for you.



Trevor Waters worked in Bosnia over the summer of 2018 as part of the Global Scholars Program.



COMMUNITY COLLEGE RELATIONS

The Office of Community College Relations works closely with the academic colleges and schools to support the articulation of academic programs and services between the 12 public Florida universities and the 28 Florida College System institutions (formerly community colleges).

The Office of Community College Relations made **22** campus visits to Florida College System institutions.

The office creates a cooperative climate between the universities and colleges, which assists FSU in its efforts to attract and retain quality transfer students and helps transfer students make a smooth transition to the university.

The Office of Community College Relations processed **9,032** applications for permission to do transient student work at other state institutions.



OFFICE OF NATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS (ONF)

The Office of National Fellowships (ONF) supports and connects talented students to over **60** nationally competitive fellowships. Fellowships are short-term academic and career opportunities that develop leaders in specific fields. We offer comprehensive services to help students gain a competitive edge in the application process and grow personally through the experience.

Through one-on-one mentoring and direct assistance, we help students to identify and achieve their academic, public service, creative, and leadership goals.

Since its inception in the spring of 2005, the Florida State University Office of National Fellowships has mentored and assisted some of our most talented students. Over the past decade, our students have won over **300** nationally competitive awards, including **3** prestigious Rhodes scholarships, **4** Truman scholarships, **8** Goldwater scholarships, **20** Hollings scholarships, **5** Pickering fellowships, **2** Payne fellowships, and **94** Fulbright student scholarships. Our students have travelled to over **50** countries, expanding FSU's influence around the globe.

We are the number one producer of Rhodes Scholars in Florida for the last 13 years.

ENGAGE 100

The Engage 100 program was designed to get students involved in an engagement experience during their first semester. These are small, mentor-guided group experiences centered on a particular topic or curriculum that assist students in acclimating to university life. Engage 100 is designed to connect, engage, and challenge students during their first semester at FSU, as well as pave the way to future success in college. Examples of approved experiences include Freshmen Interest Groups (FIGs), the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), and Living Learning Communities.



OFFICE OF RETENTION

The Office of Retention monitors undergraduates at Florida State University to ensure that they 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 office identifies and tracks specific groups of students who may benefit from special help and coordinates university resources to assist them. The Director of Retention assists students in developing individual academic plans for graduation and monitors their progress toward completion. Students who have received warnings, academic probation, or academic dismissal are encouraged to come to the office for advising and academic support.

The office also oversees the Freshmen Interest Groups (FIGs) and the Engage 100 initiative. A FIG is a pre-packaged cluster of high-demand freshman courses that are linked by a theme or academic program. Last year **56** FIG leaders served over **1000** incoming students. The Engage 100 program aims to connect 100% of our incoming students with a program that is structured to assist students in acclimating to university life.

Florida State University has a **94%** retention rate and the highest four-year graduation rate in the state of Florida, placing FSU among the Top 15 public universities in the country in both categories.



OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Staff members in Office of Undergraduate Studies (OUS) are frontline problem-solvers for students and carry out their mission with courtesy, professionalism, and respect. They serve as the Academic Dean's office for most freshmen and sophomores (with the exception of Fine Arts 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, general education and liberal studies courses, academic standing (warning/probation/dismissal), readmission, remediation/preparatory classes, registration holds, enrollment in courses at other colleges and universities, requests for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grading, and requests for taking an overload/underload schedule. They are good people to know.

They counsel and advise approximately **6,300** students each year.



FRESHMEN INTEREST GROUPS (FIGS)

A FIG is a pre-packaged cluster of high-demand freshman courses that have been linked by a theme or academic program. They are only available in the fall. Freshmen find them to be a great way to simplify registration and explore what interests them while forming a community of students with similar intent.

FIGs come in clusters of interest. Examples include business, engineering, pre-law, pre-med, and assorted STEM fields.



Photo courtesy of University Communications

STUDENT-ATHLETE ACADEMIC SERVICES

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

We had a record number of **268** student-athletes on the 2017-2018 ACC Honor Roll.

Approximately **12,000** tutoring sessions were conducted last year.

SAAS provides a comprehensive support program that assists all student-athletes with the transition into college and provides continued support in all phases of academic and professional development, culminating in graduation, job placement, or graduate school.

Approximately **1,100** mentoring appointments were conducted last year.

Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 GPAs were above **3.0**, while the cumulative departmental GPA is also above **3.0**.



Photo courtesy of University Communications

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Division of Undergraduate Studies
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