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Dear Friends:

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

We hope that the information included here will make the choice easier when deciding on which university to attend. 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. Our goal is to help 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.

Our students compete successfully with the best and brightest from around the country. Over the past decade, Florida State students have won more than 250 nationally competitive awards, including three prestigious Rhodes scholarships, four Truman scholarships, eight Goldwater scholarships, and over eighty Fulbright student scholarships.

We are dedicated to providing a student-focused, engaging academic environment with the network of support our students need to succeed. Examples of the academic assistance and engagement services available through Undergraduate Studies include:

**The 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.

**Advising First**
We have a well-trained staff of advisors all over campus whose job is to help students make the right educational decisions.

**Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE)**
CARE is a center that provides preparation, orientation and academic support for students who are among the first in their family to attend college and may face unique challenges in college because of economic and educational circumstances.

**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.

**Honors Program**
The Honors Program at FSU is a caring community of dedicated staff and talented students providing support and encouragement to up-and-coming scholars.

**Office of National Fellowships (ONF)**
The Office of National Fellowships supports and connects talented students to over 60 nationally competitive fellowships.

These programs were designed to help students succeed and achieve great things. We use many forms of peer-to-peer advising to connect students who understand what it is like to study at a major university. These students, 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 peers. It’s one 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 school 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
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.

We tutored **17,443** students last year

**Technology and Facilities**
We have a modern, technologically advanced center dedicated to students’ academic success. In our learning center, we provide free academic resources including desktop computers, study spaces and media equipment.

2,116 students used our technology resources and **36,620** 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).

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.

114 students completed personal academic consultations last year
Advising First has a well-trained staff of advisors and coaches all over campus whose job it is to help our students make the right educational decisions and graduate without taking wrong turns along the way.

With expertise on university policies, resources and opportunities and extensive training in effective guidance, 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 planning educational and career goals. We also connect students with relevant university resources and recommend hands-on learning opportunities.
We had over 51,456 face-to-face meetings with students last year and sent out more than 923,000 advising messages by electronic means.

Our coaches held over 10,349 student meetings in person and interacted with 13,476 more by electronic means.

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

**Additional Services**
- Student workshops and conferences
- Web-based outreach efforts
- Campus-wide events
- Class and residence hall presentations
CARE is a center that 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 administers the College Reach-Out and Upward Bound programs to connect students to resources that motivate and promote their acceptance, enrollment and completion of a college education.

**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**

**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.
411 students enrolled in the 2016 Summer Bridge Program, the largest class of students ever in CARE 

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 61 total students enrolled in the program, 94% have been retained at FSU

In 2016, USP will graduate 18 of the 20 students in the first class, a 90% graduation rate (compared to a 2% national graduation rate for students with the same background)

CARE Tutoring and Computer lab
Our lab provides academic assistance, computer access and private and general study space for CARE students.

We had over 94,196 student visits to the CARE Tutoring and Computer Lab

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 qualified students throughout their enrollment at FSU.

90.2% First-Year Retention Rate for Students Returning Fall 2015

96.9% of CARE students achieved Satisfactory Academic Progress by the end of the year
STUDENT PROFILE

JUAN NOGUES

• Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE)
• Mentored Research and Creative Endeavors Award
• Center for Undergraduate Research and Academic Engagement

Juan Nogues is dedicated to using the skills that he has gained as a first-generation college student to further cancer treatment.

As a child, Nogues lost his grandmother to cancer, which was followed by his grandfather’s diagnosis of lung cancer. Since then, Nogues — a Florida State University senior majoring in biochemistry — has been dedicated to learning the tools necessary to enter the field of drug development and help find a cure for cancer.

Nogues began his time at Florida State through the Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement’s Summer Bridge program.

“They were extremely involved my first year and mentored me through the process of transitioning from high school to college,” Nogues said. “From financial to academic support, they gave me all the tools I needed to succeed.”

In spring 2015, Nogues received the Mentored Research and Creative Endeavors Award (MRCE) from the Center for Undergraduate Research and Academic Engagement. Nogues used the award to write a paper, “Optimizing Protonation States for Selective Double Strand DNA Photocleavage in Hypoxic Tumors: pH-Gated Transitions of Lysine Dipeptides,” which was published in the Journal of Medicinal Chemistry. The paper focuses on the design and effectiveness of small molecules that cleave DNA.

After graduation, Nogues plans to earn his Doctor of Medicine degree and continue his pursuit of a cure for cancer.

By Erica Frederick, University Communications Intern
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).

15 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.

Approved 5,324 applications to do transient student work at other state institutions

STUDENT PROFILE

DREXSTON REDWAY

- President’s Showcase for Undergraduate Research Excellence
- FSU Public Service Research Fellowship

Florida State University student Drexston Redway highlighted the connection between race, poverty and gender equality by displaying research data in an artistic manner.

In his research project, he embraced the idea that statistics and data can be represented through art and spark critical thinking about the community and gender issues.

Redway layered cork on plywood to display areas of Tallahassee that are experiencing large amounts of poverty. The height of the cork corresponded to the degree of poverty in an area. He also studied the city’s racial diversity to find the link between poverty and race.

The postcard map was presented at the annual President’s Showcase for Undergraduate Research Excellence in September – an event held to honor undergraduate researchers like Redway.

His research was funded by FSU’s Public Service Research Fellowship, which supports research on a community problem that directly benefits community-based organizations, programs and/or specific community groups in a domestic or international setting.

By Mackenzie Raetz, University Communications Intern
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), social entrepreneurship (private sector approaches to social, cultural or environmental problems) 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.

**Example Programs in the CRE:**

**Student Council for Undergraduate Research and Creativity (SCURC)**
SCURC is a student organization, funded by SGA. It 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.

**Social Entrepreneurship**
Social entrepreneurs are individuals with innovative solutions to society’s most pressing social problems. Our program inspires, prepares and supports emerging social entrepreneurs and innovators.
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)
Every faculty member is engaged in groundbreaking original scholarship. As undergraduates, students can join the faculty in their work in laboratories, libraries, studios and beyond to work on what interests them.

We had 250 UROP students last year with 36 peer leaders

We had 350 UROP presenters at the Undergraduate Research Symposium last year

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 high school students taking a Gap Year. A Gap Year is a structured period of time when students take a break from formal education to increase self-awareness, learn from different cultures and experiment with possible careers.

We are currently funding 7 students for work in 12 different countries

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, Florida State University is the place to make it happen.
The FSU Honors Program is a caring community of dedicated faculty, staff and talented students providing support 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.

COLLEGE FOR UNCONQUERED STUDENTS PARTNERSHIP (CUSP)

College for Unconquered Students Partnership is a college readiness initiative driven by FSU Presidential Scholars in collaboration with Carter-Parramore Academy, an alternative high school in Gadsden County, FL. CUSP is designed to support a tenacious group of students in carving a path towards a quality education and a promising future. FSU Mentors connect with CUSP students 3 days a week after school and focus on peer advising, college readiness and ACT test preparation.
Honors students achieve excellence in a variety of majors and disciplines. Whether you are interested in synthesizing nanoparticles to be used in fuel cells at MIT, studying war shrines in Japan, gaining a better understanding of international affairs in Washington, DC, or trying to understand how viral proteins cause cancer here at FSU, the FSU Honors Program will support your ambitions.

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 on campus and is made possible by civic-minded private donors.

We had a total of 721 students join the Honors Program last year.

We are in the third year of the Presidential Scholars program, for a total of 75 current scholars.
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (UROP)

UROP launches students in the fascinating world of a research university by promoting their active participation in the research process. Florida State University provides high-achieving students an engaging community with the flexibility and funding opportunities to explore their full range of interests.

UROP students may 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 the student’s proposed, or declared, field of study.

LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITIES

A Living-Learning Community (LLC) is a small group of students who live together, share an interest and take one or two of their classes together — usually in a small classroom inside their residence hall. Designed primarily for first-year students, an LLC is a great place to plug into a supportive network of students and distinguished faculty right off the bat.

Our Division manages the Bryan Hall Learning Community. Bryan Hall focuses on Academic Exploration and Discovery, an ideal environment for exploratory majors or those with open-minded college or career plans.
STUDENT PROFILE
MEGAN SMITH

• Garnet and Gold Honors Society
• Honors in the Major

A parent’s worst nightmare is to have a child in a pediatric intensive care unit. One thing that can help immensely is a caring and astute nurse at the child’s side.

Florida State University senior Megan Smith is that nurse. In 2012, Smith was a freshman biology major who was interested in healthcare but wasn’t sure if she could get into the highly competitive FSU nursing program. The following summer, she volunteered at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. The enormous impact that a good nurse can have on a young patient and their parents crystalized it for her. She applied to the program and was accepted. Her volunteer experience helped.

Once in the program, Smith excelled in the hospital room and in the classroom. Among other honors, she is the recipient of the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation Scholarship, Florida Bright Futures Scholarship and the FSU College of Nursing Humanitarian of the Year Award. She is also a member of the Garnet and Gold Honors Society, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society — highest nursing honor society — and president of the College of Nursing’s Class of 2016.

As for the near future, it lies in a PICU. Smith is applying to some very prestigious hospitals and is weighing her options. While studying here, she participated in a nurse externship at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., and worked with a Pediatric Bone Marrow/Stem Cell Transplant Unit and would love to return there.

“After I gain clinical experience as a registered nurse, I plan to further my nursing education at the doctorate level,” Smith said. “Nursing is a profession that provides many different and diverse career paths and I am excited for what is to come.”

By Andrew Myers
OFFICE OF NATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS

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 from 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 more than 250 nationally competitive awards, including three prestigious Rhodes scholarships, four Truman scholarships, eight Goldwater scholarships, eighteen Hollings scholarships, four Pickering fellowships and over eighty 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 10 years

ONF student Debbie Alfred at the Public Policy and International Affairs Junior Summer Institute in Washington D.C.
STUDENT PROFILE

STEPHANIE PORVEN

• Freshman Interest Groups
• Living Learning Communities

Stephanie Porven is a writer with a passion for social justice and a story to tell.

A dedicated poet, Porven has worked as a reader for the Kudzu Review – FSU’s undergraduate literary magazine. She also has read her own written work at Peace Jam’s annual Broken Beautiful Music and Arts Showcase, a fundraiser that helps generate scholarships to send young adults to the national Peace Jam conference. At the conference, participants hear a Nobel laureate’s life story and learn about global issues and how to take steps to create sustainable social change in the community.

In April of 2015, Porven achieved what she calls her proudest moment at FSU when she received her first publication credit for her poem, “Little Red,” which she has read at Broken Beautiful for the past two years. The poem was published in the third issue of The Birds We Piled Loosely, an online literary magazine.

Porven also is heavily involved at Florida State and in the Tallahassee community. In her sophomore year, she served as a second-year mentor for the Social Justice Living and Learning Community (SJLLC) on campus, where her job was to engage first-year students in the program to help them identify social issues and their root causes.

Currently, Porven is serving as a Freshman Interest Group (FIG) leader for the second time.

“One of the most challenging yet rewarding experiences I’ve partaken in during my time at FSU has been serving as a FIG Leader,” Porven said. “It has given me the opportunity to teach freshmen about writing techniques and resources FSU provides that can help undergraduates succeed academically, as well as increase their extracurricular involvement and help them grasp the importance of pursuing their ambitions.

By Eliani Lorenzo, University Communications Intern
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.

We counseled and advised 6,312 students last year.
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). A FIG is a pre-packaged cluster of high-demand freshman courses that are linked by a theme or academic program.

Florida State University has a 93% retention rate, putting us among the Top 30 public universities in the country.

We had 56 FIG leaders last year who served over a 1000 incoming students.

**FRESHMEN INTEREST GROUPS (FIGs)**

A FIG is a pre-packaged cluster of high-demand freshman courses that are 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 interests.

FIGs come in clusters of interest. Examples include business, engineering, pre-law, pre-med, assorted STEMs (science, technology, engineering and math) and more.
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.

Approximately 8,000 tutoring sessions were conducted last year.

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

Approximately 750 mentoring appointments were conducted last year.
Thagard
Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement
including Computer Lab