



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DIVISION OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

*Annual Report*  
2016-17



*Cover and student portrait photos courtesy of University Communications*



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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 also 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 is about. 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.

Toward that end, we are promoting high-level engagement activities outside of the classroom from the first term of enrollment through graduation. These are educational practices which require students to make their own discoveries and connections which lead to gains in critical thinking skills. Some high-level engagement activities include:



## **Freshman 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. FIGs help new students in many ways, including showing them all that the university can provide and connecting students with 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)**

We are a leader in undergraduate research which provides high-achieving 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 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 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 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





## 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. We tutored 17,267 students last year.

We tutored **17,267** students  
last year

#### **Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS)**

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) is a high impact program offered in selected undergraduate courses that have been targeted as historically difficult at FSU. PASS sessions 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 2016-2017, PASS sessions were available in ACG2021, BSC2010, CHM1045, CHM1046, and MAC1105. Last academic year, 2,592 students (duplicated headcount) attended PASS sessions in one or more courses. Students who attended PASS sessions more than three times throughout the semester have performed better on tests and earned higher final grades in these classes.

### **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, **1,421 students** used our technology resources and **23,705** 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 334 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 **91 students** completed personal academic consultations last year.



## STUDENT PROFILE

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# ANDREW M<sup>C</sup>MILLAN



- Academic Center for Excellence
- The Owl-peer-reviewed publication of research articles written by Florida State University undergraduates

Florida State University senior Andrew McMillan has always had a passion for math.

“Math instills a beautiful ordering on natural processes,” said McMillan, a double major in mathematics and economics. “It’s much like a system of ethics, which instills a social ordering within community processes.”

For McMillan, this examination of social order in community processes is just as essential. In 2016, he worked as a research contributor for a graduate seminar in economics, focusing on the dynamics of incarceration and prison reform from a mathematical perspective.

McMillan’s continued commitment to service and his zeal for mathematics also led him to found the math circle program at Holy Comforter, where he helps tutor elementary and middle school students in the community. McMillan’s talents don’t end with mathematics. He is also the editor for “The Owl,” a research journal for Florida State students.

McMillan’s knack for tutoring flourished during his 2016 service trip to Huaraz, Peru. In Huaraz, he worked as a community math tutor for Seeds of Hope, an organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty in Huaraz through education.

McMillan is also a tutor for FSU’s Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) where he employs the tutoring techniques he’s learned both at home and abroad.

“My experience in Huaraz changed the way I tutor,” McMillan said. “I used to see activities as opportunities to motivate the subject, not just the individual. Usually the subject itself is enough to inspire and demand attention. The kids at Seeds of Hope really taught me to start treating the subject as such.”

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



## ADVISING FIRST

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 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 **79,726** face-to-face meetings with students last year and sent out more than **854,266** advising messages 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 assist incoming students with their transition to the university and help define academic, personal, and career paths.

Our coaches held over **13,941** student meetings in person and interacted with **18,196** more by electronic means.

#### **Additional Services**

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





## 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 administers the College Reach-Out Program and Upward Bound Program 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.

**417** students enrolled in the 2017 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 **101** total students enrolled in the Unconquered Scholars Program since 2012, **99%** were retained at FSU following their first year.



In 2016, USP graduated **17** of the **20** students in the first class, an **85%** graduation rate (compared to a **2%** national graduation rate for students with the same background).

In 2016-17, CARE advisors held over **5,500** student visits, which is over **37%** of advising appointments recorded in Campus Connect (EAB).

#### **CARE Tutoring and Computer Lab**

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

In 2017 we had over **139,964** student visits to the CARE Tutoring and Computer Lab.

**95.4%** First-Year Retention Rate for Students Returning Fall 2016

#### **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.

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



## STUDENT PROFILE

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# BRIANA WHITEHEAD

- Center for Academic Retention & Enhancement
- Global Scholars
- FSU Honors Program
- W.E.B. Dubois Honor Society
- National Collegiate Scholars Society
- Phi Eta Sigma Honors Society
- Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program
- Florida Georgia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation
- FSU Undergraduate Research Symposium



Recent graduate Briana Whitehead knew even from afar that Florida State University was the right choice for her.

“I felt like I had been here before I even came to campus,” Whitehead said. “I didn’t choose to go to FSU. FSU chose me.”

The biology major, who wants to pursue a career researching mechanisms on a molecular and biochemical level, was also drawn to FSU’s status as a top research university.

“The top aspects of FSU were the different possibilities of research I could be involved in,” Whitehead said. “I am very good in biology, so why not pick a major that I can see myself doing as a career while also enjoying every minute of it, whether it was in classes or honor societies or speaking to the faculty in the department.”

Another dynamic that attracted the Miami native to FSU was the CARE Program. Whitehead is the first in her family to attend a university and attributes much of her success in college to CARE.

“Being a first-generation student I had no idea what to expect coming to college,” Whitehead said. “The CARE program gave me guidance and support. I didn’t have to go through college alone and was able to be with others from similar backgrounds as myself. Because of that, I felt comfortable during my journey as a college student.”

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

# 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).

**21** 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.

Processed **9,020** applications to do transient student work at other state institutions.





## 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.

### **Programs in the CRE:**

#### **Student Council for Undergraduate Research and Creativity (SCURC)**

SCURC is a student organization, funded by SGA, 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 continuation 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 are fully funding 3 Tech Fellows to complete ten-week internships with Canvs (Orlando), Tampa Bay WaVE, and Venture Hive Miami.

## Global Scholars

This year 48 Global Scholars interned in 18 different countries on 4 continents. We also provided 18 of these students, including 12 CARE students, with travel grants totaling \$48,000.

## Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)

Every participating 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.

Last year we had **325** UROP students with **52** peer leaders.

Last year we had **360** poster presenters 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 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 **2** students for work in **4** 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 to you, Florida State University is the place for you.

Bliss Rose on an outreach program in a town outside of Pokuase, Ghana, testing the public for malaria, hepatitis B, and blood type with volunteer colleagues. (Also pictured: Bibencia Bertrand, Vinny Franco)



## STUDENT PROFILE

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# SAVANNAH SAVADEL

- FSU UROP
- IDEA Grant
- Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society
- President's Showcase
- FSU Honors Program



Savannah Savadel has crafted a unique experience for herself at Florida State University over the past three years, combining her ambition in academia with her positive spirit for community service outside of the classroom.

As a freshman, Savadel completed the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), where she performed hands-on research in the lab of FSU Professor of Biological Science Hank Bass. She went on to receive an IDEA Grant, which provided her a stipend to continue her research dealing with protein behavior due to stress response.

Savadel presented this work at the President's Showcase of Research Excellence in the fall 2016. She also presented her research at the 59th Annual Maize Genetics conference in St. Louis, Mo., attended by more than 600 researchers and scientists.

As an undergraduate researcher, Savadel has published work in *Plant Signaling and Behavior*, a respected and peer-reviewed scientific journal, and she is currently working on her Honors thesis.

She has made the President's List every semester at FSU. She is a member of the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and an active member of Alpha Epsilon Delta, a pre-health honor society.

*By Zoe Patrick, 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 high-achieving students an engaging community with the flexibility and funding opportunities to explore their full range of interests.

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 in research outside of your proposed, or declared, field of study.



UROP participants Tara Palin and Scott Boebinger doing Alzheimer's research at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory.

## 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.



The Presidential Scholars class of 2021





## HONORS PROGRAM

The Honors program at FSU is a caring community of dedicated staff and talented students providing support and encouragement to aspiring scholars. We are located in the Honors, Scholars and Fellows House, a facility 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.

Honors students achieve excellence in a variety of disciplines, as they are involved in many different endeavors in all corners of the world. Some students utilize their skills abroad working with a non-profit organization in Morocco helping to empower women or helping to implement mental health programs in

Peru. Closer to home, FSU Honors students pursue excellence in fields of study that range from science to the arts, doing everything from researching gene mutations in microcephaly to writing music and designing costumes for original theatre productions.

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.



## 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 as a "Model of Excellence" by University Business magazine.

We had a total of **689** students join the Honors Program last year.

We are in the fourth year of the Presidential Scholars program, with a total of **100** current scholars.





## 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 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, 18 Hollings scholarships, 5 Pickering fellowships, 2 Payne fellowships, and over 80 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 **12** years.

Fulbright recipient  
Jacqueline Rojas in Portugal.





## 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, assorted STEMs (science, technology, engineering and math), and more.

# 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). A FIG is a pre-packaged cluster of high-demand freshman courses that are linked by a theme or academic program. We had 56 FIG leaders last year who served over 800 incoming students.

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

## STUDENT PROFILE

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### KRISTINA URDANETA

- FIG leader
- FSU Honors Program
- Light the Night FSU
- Autism Speaks FSU
- Risk Management



“When I first toured FSU, everyone was so welcoming,” Urdaneta, a Miami native, said. “I could sense that everyone wanted you to get the most out of the university experience. They wanted to show you everything that FSU had to offer so you could try it all and find your fit.”

During her time in Tallahassee, the FSU senior has done just that. Along with pursuing a dual degree in finance and risk management insurance, Urdaneta has been inducted into countless prestigious honors societies and has conducted sophisticated research within FSU’s distinguished Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

Additionally, Urdaneta has taught and helped ease the adjustment periods of fellow undergraduates as a Freshman Interest Group (FIG) leader and she spearheaded service campaigns that have made enduring differences in her community.

In the classroom, Urdaneta has always remained ambitious. When she graduates, she will boast a medallion from the rigorous Florida State Honors Program, two degrees and a minor in economics.

*By Zach Boehm, University Communications Intern (edited for length)*





## 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.

Approximately **17,000** tutoring sessions were conducted last year.

We provide a comprehensive support program that assists 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 **1,750** mentoring appointments were conducted last year.

*Photos courtesy of University Athletics*

SEMINOLE



SOFTBALL



ACC





*W.S.D. DuBois*  
**Honor Society**  
Congratulations  
**Shatavia Bowman**  
For Outstanding academic performance during the semester of 2016  
Presented on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2017

*W.S.D. DuBois*  
**Honor Society**  
Congratulations  
**F**  
For Outstanding academic performance during the semester of 2016  
Presented on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2017



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