

## **The Graduation Club**

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Course instructors from the Office of Residence Life and the College Student Personnel Program helped students learn how to remain motivated and get the most out of their study time. Each class met one hour per week for five weeks, beginning the second week of fall classes. Topics included; surviving your first weeks of classes, developing positive relationships with professors and advisors, time management, getting the most from class participation and extra credit, memory techniques/reading strategies and test taking strategies. This year we took advantage of technology and created an on-line registration form.

## **First Year Experience**

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The First Year Experience program provides residents with a variety of activities and academic resources to assist residents in their transition and adjustment to college academics and campus life. Academic resources include: An in-building writing center staffed by the English Department; In-building Supplemental Instruction courses in Chem 101, Chem. 102, Bio 103, Bio 104; In-building computer lab for residents of program; and Four CU-101, courses taught within the building for FYE residents. Support programs include: Group study sessions; and activities that address student social and transitional concerns.

## **Academic Spotlights**

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Throughout the year the Resident Assistants on FIU's Biscayne Bay Campus hosted various academic spotlights. For example, in October the School of Hospitality Management was our spotlight. Two faculty members and an alumnus of the program were invited to the hall to discuss the various programs offered through the college, requirements for entering the college as well as internship opportunities and what various alumnae went on to accomplish after graduating from the program. In February the School of Journalism was spotlighted and soon, we will spotlight the African World Studies undergraduate and graduate programs.

## **Mind, Body, Soul**

Sparkle Calendar  
11150 SW 14th St, Miami, FL 33174  
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This is part of a lounge series presented to the residents throughout the semester. The mind programs focus on academic development with programs such as Quiz Bowls and Memory Techniques (facilitated by the Learning Center on campus). The body programs entail a series of workout sessions such as kickboxing, boot camp, and "walk to the gym " programs. The soul programs try to refine meditation skills and yoga practices that tap into the personal development of the student. In the hope of sculpting the students' all-round growth, the Mind, Body, Soul Lounge Series has proven to be an outstanding feature within our residence hall.

## **Academic Excellence Reception**

Margaret Lipsi & Angie Harris  
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1215 Blossom Street, Columbia, SC 29205  
(803) 777-2481

The first Academic Excellence Reception was held in 2001, as an initiative of Nick Shrader, a past GA for Academic Enrichment, & David Pittman, Assistant Director of Residence Education. As the title suggests, the reception is to honor academic excellence of campus residents. All students living on campus with a GPA of 3.6 or better are invited to attend the reception. In 2002, we invited over 1300 students. The reception was held at Top of Carolina, a banquet area on the 18th floor of a residence hall that looks over the city of Columbia. This year over 250 students were in attendance. The National Residence Hall Honorary, the Office of Residence Education, and Sodexo Marriott sponsored light refreshments for the occasion, and Dennis Pruitt, VP of Student and Alumni Services, spoke to the students. This program celebrates the academic excellence of all students living on campus.

## **Buddy Board (2000-2001)**

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The "Buddy Board" was developed for the students, by fellow students who saw the need to create a resource to identify similar interests and needs. Binghamton University is well-known for its academic excellence and the students take their education seriously. The board was created as a proactive step towards academic excellence, but it also served as a wonderful tool to promote rapport and support among the students.

## **First-Year Learning Team (FLighT) Program (2000-2001)**

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Southeast Missouri State University implemented the newly developed First-year Learning Team (FlighT) program in Fall 1997. A FLighT is comprised of a group of 25 students who are enrolled in courses that are centered around a particular them or area of interest. FLighT students are part of learning communities which assist in the academic and social transition to college life. Each FLighT has a Peer Mentor, a veteran student who works closely with the group. Concepts such as making choices, accepting personal responsibility, and critical thinking as emphasized in each FLighT. FLighT faculties are very involved with their students in this learning environment that extends far beyond the classroom.

## **Academic Cluster Award (2000-2001)**

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The purpose of this program is to reward academic success and to involve faculty and administrators in the residence hall. It was initiated by the Residential Life Coordinator (RLC) of Dykstra Hall. Dykstra Hall is an all female , primarily freshman hall. The floor plan of the hall structures the living units into clusters. A cluster is made up of a central living space surrounded by double and triple occupancy rooms that all share a common bath. The program calculated the average overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of all of the women that lived in a given cluster after the completion of the first semester. Once the cluster with the highest overall GPA was calculated, a dessert reception was planned to honor the women. The reception took place in their living unit. They were awarded certificates of achievement by the RLC who was assisted by the Resident Assistant (RA) from the cluster. Invited to the reception by the RLC were the President, Provost, Registrar, Dean of Students and Director of Residential Life. Other invited guests included faculty and staff that were designated by the women in the cluster. These women were asked to identify one or more individuals at Hope that had significantly impacted them since their arrival on campus. At the close of the reception a tour was given to the invited guests by the honored students.

## **Residence Life Staff Spring In (2000-2001)**

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For the past three years we have coordinated our Staff Spring In with Faculty/Staff Appreciation Week in February at Ashland University. The purpose of the program was to invite Professional Staff and Administrators to spend time in the residence halls with students, Residence Life Staff and Hall Council Leaders. Each of the Residence Hall Staff in conjunction with Hall Council were asked to bring in Professional Staff Members or Campus Administrators to their residence hall during the week of February. We co-sponsor this event with the Student Activities Faculty and Staff Appreciation Week. The number of guests for each hall ranges from two to five participants. Each staff is required to submit in writing a tentative schedule of events, so that each guest is aware of what the night would include in advance. Each guest is asked if they would like to spend an evening in the residence halls. We order sheets and blankets for each guest and house them in empty rooms on the floor or in Residents Assistant room for the evening. The list of activities varies from building to building. This past Spring, activities included dinner cooked by the in-hall staff, dinner in the dining center, tour of the buildings, going on rounds with the Residence Life Staff, involved in fire drill evacuation process, games in the lounge, attending a Hall Council meeting, attending a Staff meeting, running a Staff meeting, doing a program for the residents, discussing majors and classes, and sharing late night pizza.

## **The New Millennium: Faculty Lecture Series (2000-2001)**

Libby Tucker  
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In the fall of 1998, the senior staff of Dickinson Community decided to launch a series to bring faculty members and students together. The subject of our faculty lecture series was the approaching millennium, about which a number of students had expressed concern. Three faculty Fellows from different residential areas, all of whom had been active in collegiate activities, agreed to give lectures from their own academic vantage points. The titles of their lectures indicate the range of subject matter that was covered: "Warning Signs for the Next Millennium," and "Exploration into the Paranormal World." Dickinson staff members planned this series with the intention of bridging the gap between academic work and residential living. Lively discussion in a comfortable setting encouraged the students to get to know their faculty visitors and to think about the millennium in a cross disciplinary context. One student wrote a term paper based on the lecture series, and one faculty member decided to write an article for publication because of the audience's favorable response. This creative interchange demonstrated how effective faculty and students can work together in a residential setting on subjects of common interest.

## **Academic Recognition Reception (2000-2001)**

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In an effort to recognize our residence hall scholars, University Housing Services presents the Academic Recognition Reception in the spring semester to honor residents who have achieved a GPA of 3.75 or better during the previous fall semester. Residents receive invitations to the reception and are asked to RSVP. At the reception, individual certificate awards and specially designed lapel pins are awarded to residents by the Director of Housing. In addition to individual awards, the residents on the floor in each hall that achieved the highest GPA are awarded a plaque with their specific floor engraved on it to display in the hall trophy case. Past speakers at the reception have included the Vice Chancellor of Student Life, the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, and the Dean of Students. Light hors d'oeuvres are offered at the reception.