Welcome!

As part of Undergraduate Education’s First Year Programs, we have developed a series of newsletters to assist our first year students with making a smooth transition to the University. We believe strongly that your transition is a process that will continue throughout your first couple of semesters, so we want to be here to offer guidance, support and tips for success!

In these newsletters, you will find valuable information about academic policies, tools to assist you with finding a major that is appropriate for you, and campus resources that are available to provide a helping hand. For those of you who are Exploratory majors (meaning you have yet to decide on a major), the Academic Advising Center (in PC 249 at MMC and ACI-180 at BBC) is the place you should go whenever you have questions or need assistance with planning or discovering your academic goals. Not only do you have an assigned academic advisor to assist you, the Center also provides a number of resources to help you find an appropriate academic path.

Overall, we are committed to ensuring that you have a great first year here at FIU and we hope these newsletters provide you with valuable information and ongoing encouragement throughout your journey. Take advantage of the vast array of resources that the University has to offer and meet with your academic advisor to confirm that you are staying on track. College will be both an exciting and challenging time and you owe it to yourself to take full advantage by putting forth your maximum effort!

Here’s to a great first year at FIU!

Charlie Andrews
Director
Academic Advising Center & First Year Programs
Undergraduate Education

Common Reading Program

The Common Reading Program affords students the opportunity of participating in a common curricular experience that creates community and a common ground for discussion. The common reading program will encourage students to partake in intellectual engagement and will create a sense of community among newly admitted Panthers.

The author, Bryan Anderson, relates the story of how he was injured by an Improvised Explosive Device in Iraq, his subsequent rehabilitation at Walter Reed Medical Center, and his determination to enjoy life and take advantage of the opportunities before him. He talks about his background, his life before his injury, and the steps he has taken to adapt to life after his injuries. Bryan emphasizes taking advantage of opportunities as they present themselves and challenges his audience to do the same in spite of the challenges they face.

Author Visits

Tue. September 30, 2014
BBC - WUC 221
2PM - 3PM

Wed. October 1, 2014
MMC - GC Ballroom
12PM - 1PM
Navigating Your Student Dashboard

The link to your student dashboard is located on your my.fiu.edu home page on the right hand side. The icon is a graduation cap that says My.eAdvisor under it like this. Once you click on the link, the following screen will appear:

**Student Dashboard**

1234567 Roary Panther

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assigned Advisor</th>
<th>Advisor Name</th>
<th>Meet Your Advisor</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MyMajor</td>
<td>Alerts</td>
<td>Messages (1)</td>
<td>Advisor Notes</td>
<td>Appointment Request</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MYMAJOR:** Information about your program/major map.

**ALERTS:** If you get an alert, your advisor will also receive an alert and they will reach out to you. We want to be proactive to ensure academic progress and success. When you get an alert, expect that your advisor will be contacting you.

**MESSAGES:** You can communicate with your Advisor using the Messages tab. This is one of the quickest ways to get in touch with your advisor! Check your account for messages daily.

**ADVISOR NOTES:** With the notes tab you do not have to worry about losing an advising form or remembering all of the information discussed in your advising session. You will always be able to log in and review what courses your advisor suggested or any referrals he/she made.

**APPOINTMENT REQUEST:** Allows you to select an appointment time to meet with your advisor right from your dashboard. You should see your advisor at least twice per semester!

**RESOURCES:** Access to other valuable tools to help you choose courses and stay on track.

5 Things Every Freshmen Should Do During Their First Semester

1. **Join something!** Whether it be a fraternity/sorority, honor society, or a club, get involved! You’ll definitely appreciate college more by being active in an organization. You will meet wonderful people, gain knowledgeable skills, and make memories that you’ll treasure for a lifetime.

2. **Get A’s, NO EXCUSES!** When you begin college, you might think “This is a lot easier than I thought, I could slack off a bit”. **WRONG!** Don’t fool around. Get those A’s because as you enter your major, classes will become increasingly difficult. We all want to graduate with a great GPAs (grade point average).

3. **Attend FIU events!** FIU offers so many things to do for students! Support your football team this Fall by attending a football game. Watch a theatre performance that has talented aspiring actors! Have a movie night with your friends in the Graham Center. Attend homecoming events. Those are the best!

4. **Try the cookies in the breezeway.** Self-explanatory. Those cookies are the best things in town. They will change your life!

5. **Visit the Rec center!** Though I did say to “try the cookies”, you should maintain a healthy lifestyle! The Rec Center is included in your tuition so use the gym! Being healthy & fit will allow you to focus more & succeed in your academics because at the end of the day, we’re here to learn and become professionals!

Homecoming 2014: Unleash The Spirit

It’s time to get excited for your very first college homecoming! Homecoming at FIU is specifically designed to promote loyalty and pride among students, alumni, faculty, staff, and the university. Some of the headlining events include the Panthermonium Concert featuring DJ Tiesto and Ty Dolla $ign, Panther Reggae Fest, Panther Prowl, Panthers Got Talent, and the Homecoming Parade & Tailgate just to name a few. A complete list of events and more information on FIU Homecoming is located at [hc.fiu.edu](http://hc.fiu.edu).

**HOMECOMING WEEK**

**OCTOBER 12-18, 2014**