

# The Student Support Services Chronicle

Volume 22, Issue 2

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Special points of interest:

- Graduation
- Envisioning Success
- Journeys in SSS

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## First Generation College Students Mark a Milestone

As students studied for their finals, Edison State College prepared for commencement. The smell of success filled the office of Student Support Services (SSS) as the seniors prepared to mark this very important milestone, not only in their lives, but in their family history as well. The excitement of SSS seniors is especially heartwarming for they are first generation college students creating a new legacy in their family tree. One can feel the seniors' excitement because, as Senior Nina Laurent explains, *"it is the first step that I have accomplished since I have been in college and I am*



Jessica Joseph

*ready for more things to happen."* Graduations are also a time of reflection and seniors like Tiffany Oliver explain that *"it feels great, but also sad at the*

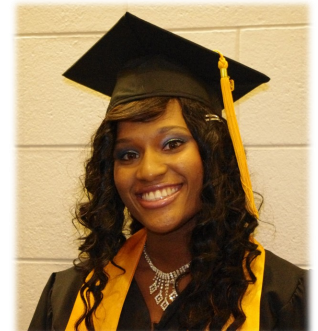
*same time because you are starting a new experience in work and school."*



Tiffany N. Oliver

Many of the students give credit to the SSS program for the help and guidance that has been provided during their years at Edison State College. Senior Jessica Joseph credits programs like Upward Bound and Student Support Services because she says they *"helped to train me on becoming a college student."* When listening to some of the seniors talk about the assistance they have received in the SSS program, there is an underlying theme which emerges, the sense of belonging. Tiffany talks about how participating in the SSS program *"feels warm, a home away from home, like a family you can talk to."* Nina expresses how much she ap-

preciated the people in the SSS program because *"when you are down and you speak with Ms. Dailey or Ms. Laura, you feel better, you can walk in and talk to them about anything that's going on and you will get good advice."* Many people feel that graduation ceremonies are overrated, however, when you speak with students that are proud of what they have accomplished, what better way to mark the milestone than participating in commencement. Jessica said it best and has learned to *"never give up because at the end of the day, what you go through is what you make it."* The graduates are marking their accomplishments and have become models of success for the SSS program at Edison State College. Congratulations!



Nina Laurent



## SSS STAR Sightings



Ketner tutoring UB student Patrick

SSS STAR Corps participants Dorothie Julien-Durosier, Ketner Merise and Luvinia Remy can be seen each week tutoring Edison State College's Upward Bound (UB) students. Dorothie, Ketner and Luvinia each made a commitment at the beginning of the school year to volunteer their time with the UB tutoring program. They help with a variety of subject matters such as, English, French, history, math and science. Meaningful bonds are formed between the STAR participants and their

respective students as they meet on a regular basis throughout the school year. Invariably the UB students



Dorothie tutoring UB student

look forward to meeting with their tutors and the SSS tutors enjoy the time they spend together as well. In the end it turns out to be a

rewarding experience for everyone involved. Finally, it's important to note that in addition to these three participants, there are 18 other SSS STAR Corps members this semester. Each member made the commitment to volunteer with a United Way agency. Some STARS have been spotted working with the Messina Childcare Center while others have been volunteering at the Harry Chapin Food Bank and the Ft Myers Soup Kitchen just to name a few. Keep up the good work SSS STAR Corps!

*It has been statistically proven that students who help other students advance faster in their academic performance, personal knowledge and personal attributes.*  
~Ender & Winston, 1984

*"I always find ways to talk to customers about class topics."*  
~Chauntel Brown



## Juggling Time as a College Student

Many of our students are unable to focus solely on college due to financial hardships. Some even have to work full time while attending classes full time as well. This brings time management to the forefront of most of our counseling sessions with students. We frequently think way outside the box to find ways and time for them to study. I asked our students to share their most clever ways they found to study while they are working or at other non-school commitments.

*"I work at a clothing store in the mall and I always find ways to talk to customers about class topics. One lady came in wearing a Buddha necklace and she was happy to tell me all about it. This helped me remember what I needed to learn in Ethics!"* ~Chauntel Brown

*"Many people where I work also take classes at Edison so we always talk about what we are studying to help each other prepare for exams."* ~Jaqueline Aguilar

*"I work at a fast food place and my manager doesn't mind that I keep my biology book open just under the counter."* ~MacLeen Paul

*"I read my research papers to my young son so I can make edits and he can fall fast asleep."* ~Lusana Diaz

*"I record my history lectures and then replay them while driving and again when I am getting ready for bed."* ~Erica Estrada

*"I don't work so I can put all of my time into my classes!"* ~ Whienet Dorsainvil

## Walking in Their Shoes “Prom Night in Mississippi”

The SSS students were delighted to attend a special screening of the documentary “Prom Night In Mississippi,” starring Mississippi native and Academy Award-winning Actor Morgan Freeman. The documentary captured the story of the first integrated prom in Delta, Mississippi which was held in 2008. Until 2008, Mississippi's Charleston High School had two separate proms: one for black students, and one for white students. Throughout the documentary one could hear times when students would agree or disagree with com-



ments made through their gasping of air. Thanks to Ms. Jane Charles and the Rush Library, the SSS students also met and took pictures with the Toronto-based film-

maker Paul Saltzman (director/producer) who presented the educational outreach initiative "Moving Beyond Prejudice." The film screening provided students with an excellent opportunity to learn more about an important issue that continues to have an impact in our country. Those present also took part in an open forum in which participants felt safe to question or comment on experiences in their lives. Towards the end, all those in attendance understood that we as citizens of the world are not too different from one another.



Creating a historic movement in a small town.

## FIU Here We Come

On October 1<sup>st</sup> Student Support Services (SSS) headed south to visit Florida International University (FIU) in Miami. We started with an information session lead by one of FIU's Admissions representatives. The session provided valuable information on the various programs of study offered at FIU. Architecture, Business, Communications, Hospitality, Law, Nursing, Music and Theater are some of their more popular programs; several of which have received national recognition. After the information session our students took a walking tour of the campus and then enjoyed lunch in the Panther Dining Hall. Before heading back to Ft Myers, the SSS students were exposed to a bit of culture by taking a guided tour of the Frost Art Museum. The museum is located right on cam-

pus and includes a sculpture park, *Avenue of the Arts*, which meanders along campus grounds. While at the museum we had the opportunity to view



the *La Habana Moderna* Exhibition before it was even open to the public! Florida International University is part of the State University System of Florida and while FIU is considered to be a young institution, they have achieved one of the highest standards by becoming a research university. In addition to academics, FIU encourages its students to become involved in

campus life. Clubs and organizations help students develop skills that they may not learn in the classroom, such as, interpersonal, organization and management skills. The student clubs and organizations at FIU are too numerous to list, but they range from Phi Theta Kappa and SGA to Rugby and Salsa clubs. They even offer a social transfer club to assist transfer students as they acclimate to university life. FIU is an excellent university that maintains high academic standards, emphasizes diversity and is rich in arts and culture. The trip proved to be valuable to our students. They gained pertinent information about a possible transfer institution, were motivated and inspired to continue pursuing higher degrees, met new people and formed meaningful bonds along the way.



Having difficulty in a class? You are not alone, join an SSS study group and with the help of other you will succeed.



SSS Student Nelson meets with an FIU tour guide.



## In Search of the American Dream



“The Future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

~Eleanor Roosevelt

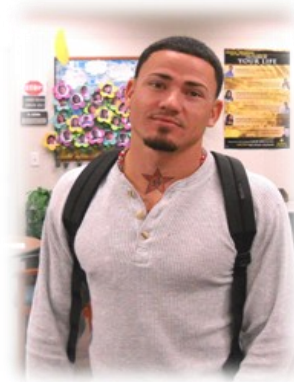
*“I think for most of us, going to school is challenging and it’s great to have people that are caring, giving us the extra help so that we can get through school successfully.”*

~ Luis Arias

My name is Luis Arias and I am a freshman at Edison State College. I am from Cuba and came to this country in the summer of 1995. Like every other immigrant, I was searching for the American dream. I grew up in Miami and got tired of getting into trouble, so I decided that if I wanted to have a future, my life had to change. I joined the military and after almost 9 years away from school, coming back seemed impossible. Being a single father and the first person from my family to attend college has been a challenge.

I am currently a participant of the Student Support Services Program at Edison State College and ever since I was accepted to the program, I have taken advantage of the resources they have to offer. The SSS program has helped me with great information and they have also

assisted me financially. We all know that books can get very expensive in college. The SSS program provides me with edu-



Luis Arias

cational resources and other materials at no cost. They also have a computer lab that I can use and benefit from. The program has other great resources, such as counseling and tutoring. I also have a mentor who gives me guidance and helps me with any question I may have, includ-

ing assisting me with school assignments. The SSS program also has much information on other major universities, so when I am ready to transfer they help me with that as well. I think for most of us, going to school is challenging and it’s great to have people that are caring, giving us the extra help so that we can get through school successfully.

The SSS staff is always committed to helping me with anything I need. I feel much better now that I have people that care about how I do and can successfully guide me through college. I never thought I would return to school, but I am hoping to succeed and continue my education to achieve at least a bachelor’s degree. Thanks to the resources the SSS Program offers, along with the help of their staff and student volunteers, I feel much more confident now.

## One Day That Will Be Me

My name is Rose Badeau and I am a freshman at Edison state college. As I watched the seniors, pace through the Student Support Services office, trying on gowns, and making arrangement for graduation. I smiled, because I know that one day that will be me.

I have always believed that life is full of trials and tribulations, but with strong determination anything is possible. So I would like to congratulate all the seniors on all their accomplishments and for not backing down when life was getting too difficult. Being in

SSS I have met many of the upcoming graduates and I have witnessed the countless times when life was giving them an unexpected curveball that seemed impossible to fix. SSS has helped to make the impossible, possible. I am also the first generation in my family to attend college and because of the support I can count on, I know I will make it to graduation and pave the way for others in my family.

I give thanks to the HOPE program for giving me the opportunity to fulfill my dream in International Business and Communications

and the SSS program for providing the instruments I need to succeed, such as, tutoring, mentoring, computer labs and numerous workshops which help my progress in college and in life.

It is because of programs like these we are able to successfully complete college. I am grateful and thankful to our Trio programs for helping us become successful college graduates. Congratulations to our graduates and thank you for being positive role models for those of us that follow you lead.



Rose Badeau



## Alumni Corner: Advice to New SSS Students

My name is Salima Silverman and I have been SSS student for the past two years. I feel as though there are not enough words that could express my gratitude to the SSS program. I honestly feel that SSS truly did support me as a member of their family and helped to guide me with my academic decisions. The SSS staff members are the kind of people that take the time to listen to each student, no matter how

busy they are. Regardless of whom we are and where we came from, they believe that each of us will make a difference in this world. They believe we deserve a chance to be successful. They believe in us. I will be attending FGCU this spring and if it were not for the SSS program, I feel that I wouldn't be doing so. My advice to the new students of Student Support Services is to make sure that you participate with

your workshops and stay involved by utilizing SSS resources. Make sure that you always try your best to go above and beyond the SSS requirements. It is not about meeting minimal requirements, but it is about achieving your maximum potential as an individual. Thank you SSS for everything.



Salima Silverman



## Alumni Corner: From SSS to Project STEM by Lee Sully

As I was working on my Associates Degree for Computer Engineering, I was a participant with Student Support Services (SSS) at Edison State College. The knowledge, relations, experiences, financial, academic and social support that SSS provided is an experience that will be part of me for the rest of my life. From the people that I have met and formed solid relationships which I still hold dear, to the knowledge and experiences I have gained through their tutoring services, SSS is a program that helped me succeed.

The SSS program always provided me with much needed resources, like books, school supplies, tutors, financial assistance and the proper guidance through advisors and counselors. With their help, I was able to achieve what was nearly the impossible to me and meet the demands of my academic career. Now having transferred to University of Central Florida (UCF), I have found it difficult to adjust in this new environment

and keep up with the demands of my academic career.

Ever since I started at UCF, I've been struggling financially and academically. It has proven challenging to meet the demands of my classes. I have also found myself struggling to keep up with and understand course materials, all the while finding ways to improve my time management to study more effectively. Also, keeping up with the cost of now living on my own and having to take care of myself, tuition, rent, food, transportation and school supplies has been difficult for me. I was searching so long for a program that would offer the same help that SSS did, but it didn't turn out successful. That is until recently, with amount of funding going around schools, UCF has been provided with a unique grant to help students in need.

When I found out about this I was very surprised and I didn't think such a program existed. It is called the *PRIME STEM Project* which

targets students in specific STEM majors, such as: *Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics* (which have very low retention rates). The PRIME STEM Project is part of the TRIO government funded programs and works much like the SSS program. STEM provides assistance for students who plan on graduating from one of the STEM majors. The PRIME STEM Project, like SSS, provides resources such as books, tutoring, supplemental instruction for classes, assistance with effective studying habits, time management, which leads to being better prepared and acquiring the ability to keep up with the ever growing demands of these particular majors.

For more information about the PRIME STEM Project at UCF please visit the website. Take it from someone who has walked in your shoes... this is great a opportunity.

[www.prime.sdes.ucf.edu](http://www.prime.sdes.ucf.edu)



Over an adult's working life, high school graduates can expect, on average, to earn \$1.2 million; those with a bachelor's degree, \$2.1 million; and people with a master's degree, \$2.5 million.

[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)



## End-of-Semester Potluck Gathering

Remember to attend all three of your CHECK-INS this semester



In December, everyone in Student Support Services celebrated the hard work and accomplishments of the students. The event was a big success with many friends and family in attendance. The program included a review of the semester, games, prizes, the induction of new SSS participants, as well as the recognition of key individuals that help to make SSS a triumphant program.



## Meet the New Addition to Edison's SSS Family



*"To be human is to have the power to help one another. Education teaches us how to use that power."*  
Jeniffer Herrera-Andújar

Jeniffer Herrera-Andújar is the daughter of Dominican immigrants and the eldest of five children. She grew up in New York City, in the borough of the Bronx. And recently relocated to SWFL. Jeniffer earned her GED in 2003 and then transitioned to Herbert H. Lehman College of the City University of New York (CUNY). In 2008, she earned her BA in Sociology with a minor in Psychology. She is someone who really connects with the SSS students because Jeniffer was also the first member of her family to attend and successfully graduate from college.

For the past three years, she has worked with the NYC Mayor's Office of Adult

Education (MOAE) as the city's Adult Learner Leadership Coordinator. In this position, she assisted the MOAE and the CUNY Office of Academic Affairs in planning and establishing an adult learner leadership network. She went on to create the Transition to College Internship, the first formal role for adult learners in NYC. Jeniffer received the "NYC 2010 Award for Outstanding Leadership" in recognition for the work accomplished in Adult Education.

She then went on to join the FUTURE NOW GED College Readiness program at Bronx Community College (BCC). There, she was the Leadership Coordinator for IMPACT

(Improving My Progress At College Today), a student-led organization which provides leadership and support for GED graduates and college students.

Now that she is part of Student Support Services at Edison State College, Jeniffer is eager to continue her mission by helping students pursue higher education because she is living proof that a first generation college student can achieve it. She is eager and ready to assist the students of Edison State College realize their educational goals. Her motto and message for all those in search of higher education is to "reach for the stars because they are not as far as you imagined them to be."



## Congratulations to SSS Fall 2010 Graduates

*Sierra Begg  
Luzmilla Bernal  
Chauntel Brown  
Christa Bullock  
Monette Chery  
Ashley Cosby  
Doudy Darius  
Lizangie Delgado  
Widlin Dieujuste  
Nicole Dillon*

*Mussolini Eustache  
Marlinda Handley  
Delois Harris  
Michael Huhndorf  
Laura Jean Rivera  
Maria Jijon  
Judith Joseph  
Jessica Joseph  
Pamela Leiva  
Nina Laurant*

*Ketner Merise  
Nancy Michaud  
Tiffany Oliver  
Rosaura Palermo  
Jeanellys M. Ramos  
Latoria Richardson  
Obed Santiago  
Elsie Senat  
Carine Simon  
Carmen Whyte*



## Save the Date

Back to School Event  
**Our Student Support  
Services Legacy: Welcome  
to Your Future**

Tuesday  
January 11th 2011  
Time: 10:00 to 2:00pm

## Can you solve this?

The 10" pizza sells for \$ 5.99 at the pizza store. The store claims they have a great deal on the large 14" pizza, which is specially priced at \$9.98. What is the per cent discount the store is offering?

*Hint:  
the price is based on the area of the pizza*

## Joke of the Day

Neutron walks into a diner and orders a meal.

He then asks the waiter for the check and the waiter replies...

for you neutron... no charge.

Remember to complete all of your requirements for the Spring Semester.

Have questions?  
We are here to help!



## Announcements & Reminders

### **2011**

Attend New Term Check-in

Register for workshops

Fill out your FAFSA by 03/01/11

Sign up for trips to universities

Participate in Co-curricular Activities (CCA)

Do you have a story you would like to share?  
Contact Ms. Jeniffer Herrera-Andújar  
[jeniffer.herrera@edison.edu](mailto:jeniffer.herrera@edison.edu)



[sssp@edison.edu](mailto:sssp@edison.edu)



Congrats to the TRIO Programs  
Student Support Services & Upward Bound  
Winners of the Edison State College  
Halloween Costume Contest.

**TRiO**  
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES



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