First To Go Community
2014-2015 End of the Year Report
Academic Resource Center
Our Mission

The **First To Go Program** at Loyola Marymount University offers students valuable resources and opportunities for academic, professional, and personal growth. It is our mission to emphasize the unique social capital first-generation college students bring into the university in an attempt to create a community that will help our students thrive during their tenure at LMU.

Our mission promotes:

1. Transition
2. Network and Community Building
3. Academic Discourse
4. Social Capital

Please see our mission statement at: [http://academics.lmu.edu/arc](http://academics.lmu.edu/arc)
The First To Go program includes our general community, open to all first-generation college students at LMU, and our Scholars Program, an intensive academic experience for a limited number of first-generation freshmen.

The First To Go program ended the 2014-2015 academic year with 196 FTG students in the community (up from 172 last year) and 117 faculty and staff mentors (up from 99 last year). Student membership increased 14%, while mentor membership increased 18%.

This year our office welcomed the arrival of our new Mentoring Programs Coordinator, Teah Goldberg, M.A., and student assistant Patricia Gutierrez, freshman Business Management major.
First To Go Community Demographics

**Gender**
- Female: 124
- Male: 72

**Class Standing**
- Freshman: 24%
- Sophomore: 21%
- Junior: 26%
- Senior: 24%
- Graduate: 5%

**College**
- GRAD
- FTVS
- SCE
- CBA
- CFA
- BCLA
The First To Go Scholars Program offers an intensive academic experience for a limited number of incoming freshmen. Scholars take at least two classes together over the course of an academic year, including a one-unit seminar on the first-generation experience.

The main goal of the LIBA class is to provide students with resources and opportunities that will help them succeed at LMU. Students have the opportunity to apply their own personal experiences to class readings. The class also features guest speakers and presentations designed to help students layout their visions for their continuing years at LMU. Information on campus events and college culture is also provided. Lastly, the co-facilitators help students begin the transition into their sophomore year of college.
First To Go Scholars’ Demographics

21 Students in 2014-2015 Learning Community

Gender
Male: 5
Female: 16

College
BCLA: 13
CBA: 5
CSE: 1
CFA: 2

Cumulative GPA
67% of Scholars had a 3.0 GPA or higher.
In August, the Scholars cohort of 21 incoming freshmen participated in a four day pre-orientation facilitated by FTG Graduate Assistant Anthony Flores, LIBA co-facilitators Maya Combs and Guadalupe Mejia, and FTG peer mentors Paige Coleman, Chris Ingram, and Travis Liggett.

**Theme:** “Art, Architecture, and Access”

**Objectives:**
- Introduction to academic culture of the university
- Increased awareness of campus resources
- Engagement with diverse sites of culture and community

Off campus field trips included a street art walking tour of Downtown Los Angeles, and a trip to the Getty Villa in Malibu.
First To Go Scholars took four classes together over the course of the 2014-2015 academic year:

**Fall ‘14**  
First Year Seminar: The Art of Understanding, Dr. Juan Mahy Busch

LIBA 170: Orientation to Learning I, Ms. Maya Combs and Ms. Guadalupe Mejia, co-facilitators

**Spring ‘15**  
Rhetorical Arts, Dr. Danelle Dyckhoff Stelzriede

LIBA 171: Orientation to Learning II, Ms. Maya Combs and Ms. Guadalupe Mejia, co-facilitators

**Winter Book Club Reading:** The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates by Wes Moore
Throughout the 2014-2015 academic year, First To Go hosted several events, workshops, panel discussions, and academic immersion programs to engage students. Any student may join our Community at anytime!
In the Fall of 2014, ARC Director, Dr. La’Tonya Rease Miles, and Assistant Professor in the School of Education, Dr. Paul Jimenez, launched the First To Go Research Club to support undergraduate and graduate research on the first-generation college experience.
In the Spring of 2015, students had the opportunity to apply to be a part of the second annual FTG Job Shadow Experience. Six students were selected to participate in the program, which offers students an opportunity to work with a professional staff or faculty mentor at LMU for a day (or a few days) to get a sense of what that individual does in a typical work day.

This year’s participants shadowed:

1. Maria Cano, Academic Affairs
2. Dr. Ernesto Colin, School of Education
3. Skylar McNiel, Study Abroad
4. Rachel Wen-Paloutzian, Hannon Library
5. Jin Lee, Resident Director
6. Dr. Danelle Dyckhoff-Stelzriede, University Advising
In March, Cynthia Garcia, rising sophomore, and Alexia Pineda, rising senior, attended Class Action’s First Gen Summit at Wellesley College. While visiting, the students were exposed to the challenges and milestones facing first-gen students nationally, as they work to increase awareness about the first-gen college identity and to develop targeted support for students.
First-Gen Voices: Creative and Critical Narratives on the First-Generation College Experience is a peer-reviewed journal of creative writing, visual and recorded art, and scholarly work from the first-generation college community. Students and/or faculty and staff who identify as “first-generation college,” as well as those who support the first-generation community, are encouraged to submit original creative and critical work for consideration. New issues are published every fall and spring semester. Personal narratives by participants in the First To Go Writers' Workshop are also featured in special issues throughout the year.

http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/fgv/
In Spring 2015, FTG and the Center for Service and Action (CSA) co-sponsored an Alternative Break trip to Louisiana and Mississippi to learn about the influx of migrant workers into the Deep South in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, and the struggles with wage theft and workers’ rights in the poultry industry.
The Writing Community Workshop provides students with an opportunity to write, present, and publish their own personal narratives. This year’s workshop included a writers retreat to UCLA and culminated with the Writers Showcase during First Gen Awareness week.

Participants: Ariana Chavez, Guadalupe Astorga Contreras, Maya Combs, Guadalupe Mejia, Angie Diaz, Rene Silva, Cynthia Garcia, Citlaly Orozco

Professional Staff Co-facilitators: Dr. Danelle Dyckhoff Stelzriede and Dr. Cathy Foote
This summer, First to Go mentors, Dr. Danelle Dyckhoff-Stelzriede and Ms. Ajaya Jonas accompanied fifteen students to the Dominican Republic in an academic-intensive study abroad program for first-generation college students at LMU. The program focused on the exploration of race and identity while examining the history of Dominican-Haitian political conflict.
Collaboration with Loyola High School

This year, First To Go established a unique partnership with Loyola High School to create best practices for supporting future first-generation college students. The school recently established a new club and learning community for incoming 9th graders who identify as first-generation.
Dr. La’Tonya Rease Miles and Dr. Danelle Dyckhoff Stelzriede led a pre-conference workshop on “First-Generation Students and Academic Citizenship” and gave a presentation on developing powerful pre-orientation programs for first-gen students at the National First-Year Experience Conference in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. La’Tonya Rease Miles and Ms. Jessica Lopez (c/o 2015) co-authored an article titled “The Move-In Experiences of First-Generation Students,” which appeared in *Talking Stick* magazine.
1. Food insecurity, or the lack of access to healthy food, is becoming more visible within the First To Go Community. In response, we are collaborating with the Student Affairs Division to find appropriate resources. Additionally, a group of students have formed a new club, **Operation Stock Up**, to educate the campus about this issue.

2. First To Go alumni continue to seek mentorship and support beyond graduation. Specifically, we continue to offer advice about job searches, graduate school preparation, and other life changes.
Thank You!

A special thanks to our 2013-2014 First To Go staff:

Dr. La’Tonya Rease Miles, Director, Academic Resource Center and First To Go Program Director

Dr. Danelle Dyckhoff Stelzriede, University Advisor, Academic Resource Center and First To Go Program Associate Director

Ms. Teah Goldberg, University Advisor, Academic Resource Center and First To Go Mentoring Programs Coordinator

Mr. Anthony Flores, First To Go Graduate Assistant

Ms. Patricia Gutierrez, First To Go Research Assistant

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For more information about our program and the services we provide, please visit our website at:

http://academics.lmu.edu/arc