First To Go Community
2013-2014 End of the Year Report
Academic Resource Center
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/programswesupport/firsttoggoprogram/firsttoggomissionstatement/**
The First To Go program includes our general community, open to all first-generation college students at LMU; our Scholars Program, an intensive academic experience for a limited number of first-generation freshmen; and First-Gen Club, a student-initiated club that coordinates campus-wide activities and events.

The First To Go program ended the 2013-2014 academic year with 172 students and 99 faculty and staff mentors. From the previous year, student membership increased by 21%, while mentor membership increased by 14%.

This year our office welcomed the arrival of our new program coordinator, Dr. Stella Setka; our graduate student assistant, Mr. Anthony Flores; and our graduate intern, Ms. Ana Romero.
First To Go Community Demographics

Gender:
- Female: 112
- Male: 60

Class Standing:
- Freshman: 19%
- Sophomore: 24%
- Junior: 27%
- Senior: 24%
- Graduate: 6%

College:
- UNDCL
- SOE
- FTVS
- SCE
- CBA
- CFA
- BCLA
First To Go Scholars Program
The 2013-2014 First To Go Scholars Community included 17 first-generation freshmen who took two classes together over the course of the academic year:

### Fall ‘13
- **First Year Seminar: Education and the Public Good**, Prof. Bernadette Musetti and Ms. Yvette Mylett, Writing Instructor
  - LIBA 170: Orientation to Learning I, LMU junior, Ms. Mary Ludwig and LMU senior, Mr. Erick Sanzon, co-facilitators

### Winter Book Club
- *A Hope in the Unseen* by Ron Suskind (funded by WACAC grant)

### Spring ‘14
- **Rhetorical Arts**, Dr. Stella Setka
  - LIBA 171: Orientation to Learning II, LMU junior, Ms. Mary Ludwig and LMU senior, Mr. Erick Sanzon, co-facilitators
17 Students in 2013-2014 Learning Community

**College**
- CBA: 11%
- CFA: 17%
- CSE: 11%
- BCLA: 61%

**Cumulative GPA**
- 4.0-3.5: 29%
- 3.4-3.0: 24%
- 2.9-2.5: 6%
- 2.4-Below: 41%

**Gender**
- Female: 39%
- Male: 61%
New Developments in the First To Go Community

New programming this year included:

- Expanded August Orientation for First To Go Scholars
- Graduate School Academy
- New faculty Meet-and-Greets
- Job Shadow Experience
- Symposium on first-generation college students and academic citizenship
- Two new immersion opportunities for students interested in Alternative Breaks and Study Abroad
A small cohort of incoming freshmen participated in a new four-day pre-Orientation.

The theme was "Library Immersion," which emphasized information literacy as an important form of capital for first-generation college students.

Off-campus field-trips included the Downtown Los Angeles Central Library and the Huntington Library.
As our program has grown, we have seen an increase in our students’ interest in attending graduate school. In Fall 2014, we expanded our grad school info session into a week-long academy!
Faculty Meet-and-Greets

First Gen Club took the lead in hosting

Faculty Meet-and-Greets with:

Dr. Brad Elliott Stone
Associate Professor of Philosophy
Chair of African American Studies

Dr. Carla Bittel
Associate Professor of History
The Job Shadow Experience offers First To Go students an opportunity to work with an LMU faculty or staff mentor for 1-3 days during the spring semester. Students are paired with mentors based on their academic interests and professional goals.

This year’s participants shadowed:
- Dean Kristine Brancolini, Hannon Library
- Dr. La’Tonya Rease Miles, Academic Resource Center
- Professor Anna Muraco, Sociology Department
- Mr. Trammell Jones, Resident Director
- Ms. Maria Cano, Academic Affairs
To kickoff our annual First-Generation Awareness Week, we used our $1000 seminar grant from the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AACU) to host a one-day Symposium on “First-Generation College Students and Academic Citizenship.”

The symposium included panel presentations on campus, community, and global citizenship, as well as a welcome address from Dr. Martina Ramirez, Biology, and a keynote from Ms. Marisa Cervantes, LMU Class of 2014. We were also joined by students and staff from our First To Go sister program, LEAD Scholars, at Santa Clara University.
First Gen Voices: Creative and Critical Narratives on the First-Generation College Experience

This year, First To Go Associate Director, Ms. Danelle Dyckhoff Stelzriede; staff mentor, Ms. Jennifer Ellspermann; and LMU students, Alexia Pineda Soto, Guadalupe Astorga Contreras, Diana Delgado, and Genesis Montalvo worked together to launch First-Gen Voices, a new peer-reviewed journal of creative and critical scholarship by first-generation college students.

LEAVE YOUR MARK!

Now accepting submissions for LMU’s inaugural edition of First-Gen Voices: Creative and Critical Narratives on the First-Generation College Experience. All disciplines and majors are welcome. Submissions may include: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, creative art (paintings, drawings, etc.), audio works, original research, and literary criticism. No more than three submissions per contributor. Works must reflect on the first generation college experience, but you do NOT have to identify as first-gen to submit.

Deadline for submissions is Saturday, February 15, 2014. Send pieces to firsttogo@lmu.edu with the subject-line “FGV Submission” and the following information in the body of the e-mail:

- Name of contributor (anonymous submissions accepted—please specify)
- Title of piece(s)
- Genre(s)
- 3-4 line description of how piece reflects the first-gen college experience

Contributors will be notified regarding their submissions by Saturday, March 15, 2014, and accepted work will be published in our Spring issue.

Everyone has a story to tell. Isn’t it time to tell yours?
In May, First To Go and the Center for Service and Action (CSA) co-sponsored a week-long social justice immersion trip that focused on farm workers rights and immigration from a multi-ethnic perspective.

On their trip, nine First To Go students and one staff member worked with community partners that dedicate their services to community organizing and education, i.e., Border Angels and the Cesar Chavez Foundation.
This summer, First To Go mentors Dr. Stella Setka and Mr. Adrian Doyle accompanied six students to the Dominican Republic in a pilot study abroad program for first-generation college students at LMU.
We continued to expand our annual programming this year, including:

**First-Gen Awareness Week**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schedule of Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, April 5th</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symposium on First-Generation Students and Academic Citizenship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malone 112AB, 8am-10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, April 6th</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panther Crawl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunken Garden, Afternoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, April 7th</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Banquet and Senior Reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VDA Suite, 3-5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, April 8th</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaging Alternative Breaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VDA, 3rd, 4-6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, April 9th</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosaic: First-Generation Oral Histories &amp; Library Exhibit Launch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VDA Library VDA Suite, 5-7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, April 10th</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch with Reyna Grande, author of <em>Across A Hundred Mountains</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malone 112AB, 12-1:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, April 11th</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer Success Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malone 112AB, 10:15-11:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Gen Café (featuring student artists) &amp; First-Gen Voices Journal Launch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Hill (Malone, 4th Floor), 5:30-7:30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Spring Writers’ Workshop**

A $3,000 Inclusive Excellence Grant funded new developments to the workshop this year, including a luncheon with author Reyna Grande and an off-campus writing retreat.
In February 2014, two of our professional staff and one of our First To Go students presented research at the National First Year Experience Conference in San Diego.

Presentations included:

- Dr. La’Tonya Rease Miles and LMU junior, Jessica Lopez, “The Move-In Experiences of First-Generation College Students”
- Ms. Danelle Dyckhoff Stelzriede, “This Is The ‘Real World’: Connecting First-Generation College Students to the Academy”
In March 2014, Dr. La’Tonya Rease Miles and Alexia Pineda Soto, sophomore and Vice President of First-Gen Club, visited Dr. Miri Skolnik, founder of the First Generation Project at M.I.T. The trio discussed possible collaborations, including a national network of institutions that support first-generation college students. Additionally, Alexia had an opportunity to meet with currently enrolled Harvard graduate students, who also identify as “first-generation college.”
This summer, Dr. La’Tonya Rease Miles will serve as a faculty organizer and presenter at the Institute on First-Generation College Students to develop strategies for expanding support to first-gen students across the nation.

The Institute on First-Generation College Students is sponsored by the National Resource Center for The First Year Experience and Students in Transition.
Goals for 2014-2015

1. First To Go Writers’ Workshop for faculty and staff mentors
2. New initiatives for First-Gen Club
3. First To Go Research Club

"We go zero to one hundred" — Drake
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

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

Dr. Stella Setka, First Year Seminar and Rhetorical Arts Instructor and First To Go Program Coordinator

Mr. Anthony Flores, First To Go Graduate Assistant

Ms. Ana Romero, First To Go Graduate Intern

Ms. Alexia Pineda Soto, First To Go Research Assistant

The First To Go Program is sponsored, in part, by a generous endowment from our anonymous donor.

For more information about our program and the services we provide, please visit our website at: www.lmu.edu/arc