DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

ARMSTRONG ATLANTIC STATE UNIVERSITY

2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED

July 15, 2010
Mission Statement

The Division of Student Affairs dedicates its staff and resources to sustaining a collaborative and intentional learning-centered environment. Student Affairs supports the quest for continuous personal improvement through co-curricular activities, events, programs and services. The emphasis is placed on the importance of discovery, leadership and success at Armstrong Atlantic State University and beyond.

Core Values and Practices

**Integrity**
We are committed to responsible and ethical behavior, in and out of the classroom, while upholding the standards of the university community in regards to honesty and accountability.

**Personal Development**
We promote academic achievement and professional growth by encouraging autonomy, wellness, balance and critical thinking.

**Social Development**
We foster cultural literacy and personal relationships founded on the principles of compassion, civility and diversity.

**Communication**
We create a learning laboratory for personal expression and intellectual exchange through creative oral, written and technological methods.

**Community**
We build a safe and fun environment where connections are made, achievements are recognized and service is encouraged.
Students’ out-of-class experiences aid them in developing knowledge and skills that are consistent with the educational purposes of a university. The overarching goal of the Division of Student Affairs is to enhance the learning environment for students at Armstrong Atlantic State University. The office of the Vice President of Student Affairs and the units listed below are responsible for planning and implementing educational programs and services that are essential to the retention of students; integral to the promotion of a diverse educational community; indispensable to the achievement of educational goals; and vital to the intellectual, spiritual, social, occupational, physical, cultural, and emotional development of students.

The units of the Division of Student Affairs include:

Student Affairs
  Judicial Affairs
  Navigate Orientation
  Freshmen Parent Newsletter

Student Life
  Hispanic Outreach & Leadership (HOLA)
    Cultural Programming
  Housing & Residence Life
    Compass Point
    University Crossings
    Windward Commons
  Multicultural Affairs
    Cultural Programming
    Diversity Training
  Recruitment

Recreation & Wellness
  Student Recreation Center
  Intramurals
  Fitness
  Outdoor Education
  University Terrace I/II
  Compass Point Clubhouse
  African-American, Native American
  Asian American

Student Activities
  AASU Student Union
  Student Government
  Greek Life
  Student Organizations
  Memorial College Center
  Campus Union Board
  Student Media

Student Services
  Career Services
  Disability Services
  Elderhostel
  Student Health Center
  Testing Services
  University Counseling Center
  Alcohol Education
  Sexual Aggression Education

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
2009-2010
STUDENT RETENTION AND GRADUATION

The Division of Student Affairs believes that supporting the academic mission of the University is paramount. Everything we do is aimed at enhancing the learning environment and developing students to their fullest potential. Through our programs and services, the student experience is enhanced, learning and development occurs, and satisfaction increases. Students involved in Student Affairs activities and students who are users of Student Affairs services perform better academically, thereby increasing overall retention and graduation rates. Particularly noteworthy points are presented below:

PROGRAMS

- **Navigate Orientation** program is a University-wide delivery of intentional small group interaction led by faculty, staff and student leaders. Sessions are specifically designed for traditional age freshmen, non-traditional freshmen and transfers. This is the second year that an overnight activity experience is offered to traditional freshmen prior to the orientation. A separate parent component, critical to the Navigate design, has demonstrated that students and parents find the orientation program useful, informative and a way to connect and begin relationships prior to the student attending the first day of classes. Of the first time fulltime freshmen attending Summer Navigate, (719) 92.9% returned for the spring 2010 semester.

- Through the **Nick Mamalakis Emerging Leader** program, new students attend lunchtime sessions focusing on leadership, teambuilding and personal assessment experiences. All activities are experiential and conclude with a graduation luncheon. Many of these students go on to leadership positions in Student Government, Campus Union Board, Navigate Orientation and fraternity and sorority leadership.

- **Multicultural Affairs** sponsored 20 diversity programs with over 1,750 students participating in events throughout the academic year. This was a 6.5% increase over last year’s participants.

- This past year 95 students was employed in the department of **Recreation & Wellness**. This was an increase of 7 student employees for this year. The majority of these students do not have federal work study and the positions such as personal trainer, fitness instructors, intramural supervisors, intramural sports official and building supervisors provides for many their first job, teaches how to be an employee and provides much needed income to assist them with college related expenses.

- **Student Government Association** continued to promote school spirit and involvement from students with a traditional homecoming week. The week included the AASU Bands showcase concert. The week culminated with a home basketball game, recognition of the homecoming queen and king (first time king) at half time.

- **Student Activities** hosted a Tailgate Event in the Sports Center Parking Lot prior to Homecoming.

- **Hispanic Outreach & Leadership** hosted the second HOLA Gala in April 2010. This is a scholarship fundraiser event co-hosted with Phi Iota Alpha Latino Fraternity. Students filled the Armstrong Center ballroom to capacity, increasing the amount raised to $4,000 toward scholarships. The evening allowed Latino media/business leaders and city officials to meet Armstrong students.
• **Recreation and Wellness** increased the number of intramural activities, teams participating and teams for 2009-2010 =127 Teams +27%, 1484 participants +35%, 5748 participations+15%

• **AASU Men’s Rugby Club Team** played their first full collegiate season of club play with financial support from Recreation and Wellness.

• **Greek letter organizations** contributed to the campus and greater Savannah/Chatham community by offering and participating in 12 events. Sigma Alpha Iota colonize in April 2010, increasing the AASU Greek community to ten chapters. This is the third consecutive year that Greek Life has increased in chapter membership.

• **Hispanic Outreach & Leadership** sponsored several cultural events this year, which included Sones de Mexico Concert in September, and the Orquesta Taboga Concert in April. These events are partially supported by grants from the city of Savannah.

• **Resident Student Association** in Housing & Residence Life increased numbers in participation at events with over 2,100 students attending programs this year.

• **Campus Union Board’s** annual fall festival, Celebrate AASU is a university-wide event celebrating Armstrong. Sixty-seven (67) student organizations and departments sponsored booths. AASU Masquers, Cheerleaders, Gospel Choir and music majors from the department of art, music and theatre provided entertainment.

• **A total of 9,768** participated in Group Exercise classes in the Student Recreation Center This is a 65.84% increase over last year.

• **Student Affairs Programming Committee completed planning this year to restructured Welcome Week from a Campus Union Board sponsored program to a collaborative Welcome Week hosted by Housing & Residence Life, Recreation & Wellness, Student Activities, HOLA, Multicultural Affairs and International Education. The have changed the manner of programming by jointly front-loading programs to the first six weeks of the semester. The new programming format will begin August 2010.

• **Hispanic Outreach & Leadership** sponsored 125 activities of recruitment, educational and cultural programs with over 6700 participants.

• **Housing & Residence Life and Recreation & Wellness** held Welcome Back Dance and the Homecoming Dance in the Student Recreation Center. Over 200 students attended each dance.

• **A total of 33 wellness and outdoor events were offered** by Recreation & Wellness which was a 22% increase over last years. Events included Fit Bowl, Tybee Bike Day, Biggest Loser, Extreme Challenge, Wii Fit Day, Yoga Fit Certification, Canoe Trip, Oatland Island Excursion, Skidaway Island Hiking, Indoor Triathlon and AFAA Kickboxing Certification.

**SERVICES**

• **University Counseling Center** contracted for the second year with a part-time psychiatrist for psychological and medication evaluations and medication management. The consulting psychiatrist evaluated 152 students which is an increase from 2008-2009 of 101 students. The program has been a critical need for the department in addressing psychological issues that required a medical practitioner to evaluate and diagnose.

• **Testing Services** administered 2,626 Regents Tests (1,603 Regents Tests in 2008-09), and 1,879 placement tests (1,924 placement tests during 2008-09. Without many of
these exams, students would not be given entrance into specific colleges, graduate and professional schools, and some would not receive necessary licensures.

- **Elderhostel**, servicing an increasingly diverse, older adult student population, provided 38 weeks of educational programs to 1,060 hostellers at a total revenue of $712,846 with $99,681, profit to Armstrong and an economic impact of $613,165 to Savannah.

- **Judicial Affairs functions** from an educational philosophy in sanctioning student misconduct. Individual meetings were scheduled with students who had alcohol incidents and substance abuse education sessions were conducted by University Counseling Center for these students. As part of Navigate Armstrong, Honor and Behavioral Code of Conduct sessions are given to incoming and transfer students on the standards and expectation of behavior for members of the Armstrong community.

- **Judicial Affairs, Housing & Residence Life, University Counseling Center, Student Activities, University Police** staff members and the Assistant Vice President and Vice President of Student Affairs meet monthly to review incidents, action taken, educational sanctioning and case management of students of concern.

- **Disability Services** acts as liaison for 141 students to provide reasonable accommodations during Fall 2009, Spring 2010 and Summer 2010. Additionally, 18 students graduated from Armstrong in the December/May commencements. A total of 129 students were seen for intake appointments which is a 20% increase over last year. The Coordinator designed and completed a Faculty Education Guide for use this year.

- **Navigate Armstrong** revised their monthly on-line Parent’s Newsletter with Armstrong specific information to parent’s on homesickness, wellness, advising, safety, recreation, housing, and academic expectations.

- **Housing & Residence Life** in collaboration with Georgia Tech housed 10 students for a specialized program during the summer and with Georgia Tech-Savannah houses incoming freshmen admitted to both institutions. They collaborated with the College of Science & Technology to house 20 incoming freshmen to participate in the second year of a five-year National Science Foundation grant.

- **Student Health Center** nurse practitioner served as medical resource to the AASU Emergency Response Team in meeting to develop and write protocol to be used in the event of a case of H1N1.

- **Career Services** delivered 6 workshops to academic classes on resume/cover letter/interviewing, Myers Briggs Type Indicator, Strong Interest Inventory, Career Web demonstrations, and Mock Interview.

- **University Counseling Center** has for the third year experienced an increase of 877 in the number of sessions in individual counseling sessions for this past year as compared with 743 sessions in 2008-2009 and 519 sessions 2007-08.

### IMPROVING AND ENHANCING FACILITIES FOR STUDENT LIFE

**TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS FOR ACCESS & SERVICES**

The demand for student life space for programming and events, student services and student organization space has greatly increased due to the creation of on-campus housing. Also evidenced have been growth of enrollment and the trend of the age of the Armstrong student slowly dropping. These resources are designed to improve the campus infrastructure to support the academic learning environment.
• The AASU Student Union had the ribbon cutting opened in April 2010. Approval was received from the USG Board of Regents for student fee, ground lease and construction of the new Union. This facility is being built with private funding; no state funding is used. The Vice President of Student Affairs and Director of Student Activities served on the Project Team and directed the design. A groundbreaking ceremony was held September 23, 2008. Due to the financial climate, the bond financing was not completed until February 2009. Construction began in February 2009 with a completion date of March 2009. This facility is 65,000 square feet and will provide much needed student life meeting and programming space, dining and bookstore for AASU students.

• Windward Commons, Armstrong’s first residence hall was completed in June 2010. A Project Team was established with the Vice President of Student Affairs as chair. USG BOR approved the ground lease and construction of a 567-bed residence hall (177,000 sq. feet) in April 2009. A groundbreaking ceremony was held June 23, 2009 with construction beginning earlier in the month. Due to the financial climate and construction costs reductions, the facility is a state-of-the-art residence hall with higher end finishes, generous community meeting and study space. The facility will be paid for with rents, no state funding is used for this residence hall. The facility has been completely filled by July 2010.

• Housing & Residence Life was moved from the Armstrong Center to space in Compass Point. This provides the department for accessibility to students and gives students central office support for housing functions.

• Career Services was relocated to the former SGA office space in the Memorial College Center in June 2010. This will provide increased visibility to the department. A reorganization of the department’s focus and programming was completed for August 2010.

• Hispanic Outreach & Leadership was relocated from the Armstrong Center to the Memorial College Center in June 2010. This will strengthen the department’s support to Latino students support and programming.

• Student Government Association and Student Affairs was moved from the Memorial College Center to the AASU Student Union in June 2010.

ASSESSING EFFECTIVENESS

The Division of Student Affairs increased it emphasis on assessment and quality improvement during the 2009-2010 academic year as a way of demonstrating accountability, improving services and increasing credibility with University faculty, staff, students and stakeholders. Each department currently assesses student involvement and student satisfaction. In 2008, each department added student-learning outcomes to their assessment protocol.

• The evaluation for the AASU Elderhostel program is administered through the National office in Boston, MA. Results of the assessment are specific to the AASU program. The AASU Elderhostel is a top ten program nationally. The department conducts their own assessment of each participant attending; assessing course content, subject matter interest, accommodations, logistics and customer service. Data is used to make changes in meal offerings and type of restaurants at identified sites. New educational programs have been implemented as a result of the assessment information.
• **Housing & Residence Life** performs four (4) assessments each year which address student work request/maintenance, move-in, general satisfaction with the department and student exit interviews. The national EBI Resident Assistant tool was used this year for the first time to provide information into resident perceptions and the assessment demonstrates to residents that their perceptions are important. It is based on ACUHO-I/CAS professional standards.

• **Usage of the Student Recreation Center** increased 21% over last year with 79,650 users; group exercise class participations increased 66% over last year with 9,769 users. Types of classes offered as result of participant assessment include; Cycle Fit, Pilates, Aqua Kick, Cardio Blast, Latin Cardio and Core, Just Abs, Yoga, Strength and Tone, Fitness Yoga, Athletic Conditioning, Step Aerobics, Bosu Fusion, Kickboxing, Amazing Abs and Zumba.

• The **number of intramural teams increased from 51 teams in 07-08 to 127 teams in 09-10.** Participants in intramurals grew from 549 in 2007-2008 to 1,101 in 2008-2009 to 1,484 in 09-10. That is an increase of 35% from 07-08 to 09-10. Based on assessment information events offered a flag football, volleyball, indoor soccer, ultimate Frisbee, 3 on 3 basketball, tennis, softball, dodgeball, outdoor soccer, flag football, sand volleyball, march madness, hot shot contest, home run derby and bowling.

• **Recreation and Wellness** assesses learning outcomes for their department through their Intramural Officiating, Biggest Loser, Group Exercise and Staff Training evaluations. Changes made as a result of assessments include using guest experts for Fire Safety and Theft, an increased emphasis on official training on rules and the addition of nutritional information and tips will be provided to each person to develop a healthy eating plan.

• **Multicultural Affairs** use a program evaluation assessment at the conclusion of each student program.

• **Student Activities** coordinated an assessment with the Office of Institutional Research to determine student leaders success on student learning outcomes-Balanced Lifestyle, Community Engagement and Positive Attitude. Results show 90% believed that participating in student activities helped clarify their personal values; 87% indicated that their appreciation of other cultures had increased and 90% believe that their leadership experience has been very positive. Ninety-five (95%) percent of the respondents recommended involvement in SGA and/or Campus Union Board.

• **Hispanic Outreach & Leadership** serves 65% of all Hispanic students at Armstrong. Assessments show that students involved in the program learn the importance of leadership, community service and the value of education.

• **Disability Services** completes fall and spring semester assessment of those students using accommodations. They also assess those students graduating from the institution that has used accommodations.

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**PUBLIC SERVICE AND OUTREACH**
The Division of Student Affairs is active both on-campus and within the Savannah community. We believe it is part of our commitment to Armstrong to reach out to others and do our part to enrich the environment in which we live. Additionally, public service and outreach provides an avenue to develop students’ sense of civic responsibility. To this end, students and Division staff participate in a variety of service and outreach program. Most notable are the following:

- **Alpha Kappa Alpha** participated in the Greenbriar Book Bag Donations effort, continued their work related to computer education, participated in the Light the Night walk to increase awareness for blood cancers research and a Breast Cancer Tea Forum.
- Alpha Sigma Tau fundraised to support St. Jude Children’s Research.
- **Zeta Phi Beta** supported the U.S. Marine Corp Reserve Toys for Tots programs by collecting and distributing toys to Chatham County children.
- **Kappa Sigma** cooked for Celebrate Armstrong and supported the Forsyth Dog Carnival.
- **Campus Union Board** organized student organizations to collect canned food goods to support Second Harvest Food Bank. They collected over 100 cans.
- **HOLA Club** members served as interpreters during PTA meetings in Latino serving schools. They was also with YMCA of Coastal Georgia through outreach, translations and volunteer service to the Latino Community.
- **Alpha Sigma Theta** supported the Ronald McDonald House with a fundraiser.
- **Phi Iota Alpha** sponsored a Che Guevara Information & Debate and co-hosted with HOLA the first Armstrong Gala.
- **Pi Kappa Alpha** raised over $2,000 for the Bethesda Home for Boys to purchase gifts.
- **Delta Sigma Theta** supported the Decorating of Broughton Street during the holidays.
- **Resident Student Association and Housing & Residence Life** participated in Savannah March of Dimes Walk and raised $200.
- **Baptist Collegiate Ministries** tutored inner-city school children at the Savannah Baptist Center.
- **Housing & Residence Life** raised $1,885 for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society by sponsoring the Haunted House for the Armstrong community.
- **The Biology Club** conducted a can drive to support Ronald McDonald House and Chatham County Fire Department in their support of burn victims. They also sponsored the first annual Dogs 4 Dogs where 200 people came to campus to raise support for dog adoption awareness for the Humane Society.
- **Housing & Residence Life** organized a Cultural Awareness Week for Earth Day to raise awareness on environmental issues on campus and the Savannah area.
- **Elderhostel** made a direct economic impact to Savannah businesses in the amount of $766,612.
- **Navigate Orientation** sponsored the third AASU Volunteer Fair in September for all Armstrong students. Twenty-five (25) Non-profit organizations from the city and state participated in the event. Over 320 students attended the event and volunteered for a group. Studies show that students are more engaged in academic work and have higher graduation rates when they are involved in community service and service learning projects.
• **Student Government Association** partnered with the American Red Cross to hold six university-wide blood drives. They collected 170 pints, which will help 519 people.

• **Hispanic Outreach & Leadership**, through funding from the Goizueta Foundation, provided 72 scholarships to students to attend Armstrong.

• Recruitment activities by **Hispanic Outreach & Leadership** resulted in:

  1168 contacts with traditional/non traditional students.