



# Student Support Services Chronicle

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## As we start a new year, we look back at the previous years successes!

The Spring Graduation Gala was held at Germain Arena directly after the graduation ceremony on Friday, May 3rd. Participants and their family enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate their accomplish-



Leah, Jhems and Leila



Norma, Jhems, Phlancia, Renaldo, Sinetia, Aimee, Wanson and Nelson



Stephania, Joseph, Leah, Wesna, Jhems, Emma, Sinetia, Leila, Stephanie, Phlancia and Diamond



Wesna, Stephanie, Melissa, Norma, Lesly and Claudia



Vanessa, Rochadson, Cindy and Haisha



Nelson, Paul, Dakendo and Wanson

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# Message from the Director



As the Director of the SSS Program, serving 200 low-income, first generation college students, I am always pleased with their willingness to help others when asked. The Edison State College Foundation has been very helpful to our program as we have needed help, so when they asked for volunteers for their biggest fundraiser the Edison 2012 Sunset with the Pops, held on Oct.27, 2012, I was very gratified when all the SSS Staff and

more than 20 students volunteered their time to help the Foundation make this fundraiser a big success. SSS students and staff volunteered over 175 man hours during the event.

A good time was had by all and a couple of students actually were offered a job with one of the vendors on site. I am very proud of the SSS spirit. Thank You SSS

students and Staff for helping when needed! I know I can always count on you to deliver.



*“The time is always right to do what is right.”*  
**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

*“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”*  
**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

## Out and About With SSS!



On January 25th SSS participants were given the opportunity to attend the University of Central Florida’s Community College Day. Students were given lots of useful information about how to transfer to the school and were given a campus tour. The picture to the left was taken in front of the library on campus.

During the spring semester SSS was provided with a wonderful opportunity to attend the Community Concert Series at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall. The tickets were provided at no cost to our program , allowing SSS to attend three of the events. The picture to the right is of three participants attending the La Traviata opera performed by the Gulf Coast Symphony.



# STAR Corps Update

Each semester SSS selects the brightest and best students to participate in the STAR (Students Together Achieving Results) Corps. In order for students to be eligible they must maintain a high GPA, be enrolled full time, be active participants in the SSS program and demonstrate student leadership qualities. This semester there were 25 participants in the STAR Corps and they worked especially hard as they peer mentored more

than 100 incoming freshmen and completed over 300 service hours!

SSS would like to give honorable mention to Dakendo Michel and Norma Zambrano for going above and beyond in their effort to support the SSS STAR Corps.



STAR Corps participants, Andre Rochadson and Lukens Alisca

## STAR Sightings

### STEPHANIE DESGAZON

I spent my volunteer hours at Quality Life Center in Fort Myers. It is a great program that offers educational and mentoring services for low-income children. It was an awesome experience, the kids were great and the staff genuinely cared about the kids.

The experience was very rewarding due to the fact that I felt the students looked up to me and they kept me laughing the whole time. The thing that really surprised me was that a scholarship that I received in High school from the Southwest Florida Community Foundation has partnered with this great program.

It's great to see that the community is giving back and how SSS Star Corps gets involved. I really wanted to volunteer here because I want to be an occupational therapist specializing with children. So, I will have the best of both worlds being around children and becoming an occupational therapist.



### SINETIA JEAN

Since October of 2012, I have been dedicating my time volunteering at Lee Memorial Health System. When I first started, I started at Gulf coast medical center where I help patients when they are discharged from the hospital. Not too long after, I transferred to Lee Memorial Hos-

pital. There, I work in the emergency room (ER) where I supply the rooms for the nurses.

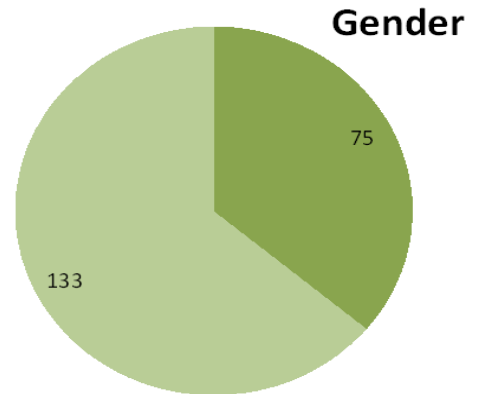
I love volunteering at the hospital. I love wearing my uniform and making a difference in my community. Even though it may not seem big, it is a beginning. All volunteers save the hospital about 13 million dollars each year. You have to be willing to do these things that may

not pay you very much, but pay the community in other ways.

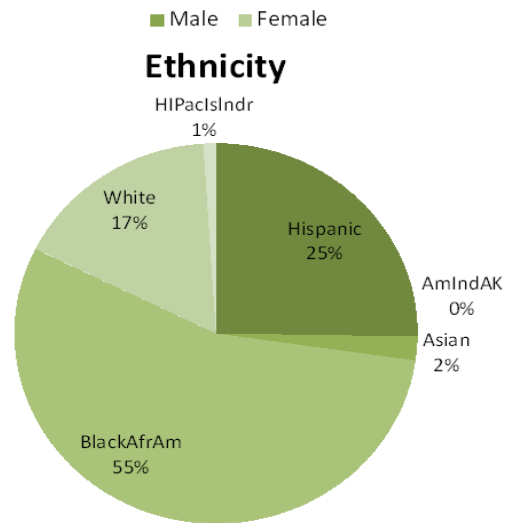
Additionally, my career goals include becoming a doctor and working in the medical field in any capacity can only help me gain the skills necessary to be successful. But more than that, I love being a part of something good in this community. I highly recommend others to do the same because as they say, it is a priceless gift to your own community.

# SSS Quick Facts

Student Support Services must report graduation and transfer rates of their participants by cohorts. Cohorts are groups of students who began in the program during the same academic year. The chart below displays the average rates of graduation and transfer for three cohorts of participants. (Cohort 9 began in academic year 2008-2009, cohort 10 began in 2009-2010, and cohort 11 began in 2010-2011)



| Cohorts 9, 10, and 11                          | #   | %     |
|--|-----|-------|
| Total Participants                             | 246 |       |
| Graduates                                      | 147 | 59.7% |
| Graduates who Transferred to Bachelor Programs | 123 | 83.6% |
| Persisted                                      | 175 | 71.1% |



## SSS Participants Win Scholarships!

Three SSS participants recently won \$2500 in scholarships from state and regional TRIO organizations. Claudia Tellez won the 2013 FAEOPP Scholarship worth \$500. This scholarship was awarded to students in the state who wrote an essay about how TRIO programs have prepared them for success. Sinetia Jean is the recipient of the SAEOPP Academic Scholarship worth \$1000. She is one of three recipients in a seven state region who displayed outstanding academics and community

service within their education career. Alexis Lasalle is the recipient of the SAEOPP Survivor Scholarship worth \$1000. He is one of two recipients in a seven state region who have overcome major challenges and obstacles to persevere academically.

Please join us in congratulating them on their outstanding accomplishment!



Left to Right: Sinetia Jean, Claudia Tellez and Alexis Lasalle

# 2012/2013 Graduates—And All the Places They Will Go!



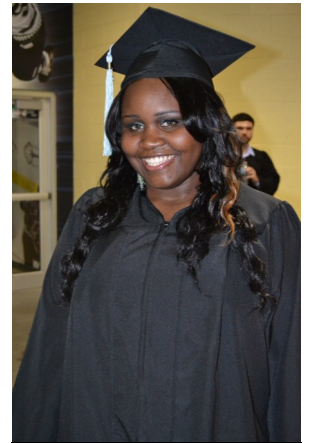
Rochadson Andre—  
FGCU, Engineering



Rosemarie Cacicio—  
FGCU, Political Science



Mimi Carmine—ESC,  
Nursing



Leah Carson—USF,  
Engineering



Laura Casey—ESC,  
Nursing



Evins Clemente—USF,  
Biology



Ana Delvalle—FGCU,  
Political Science



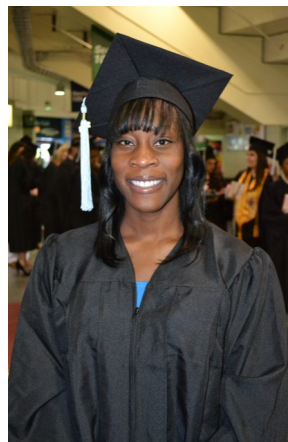
Stephanie Desgazon—



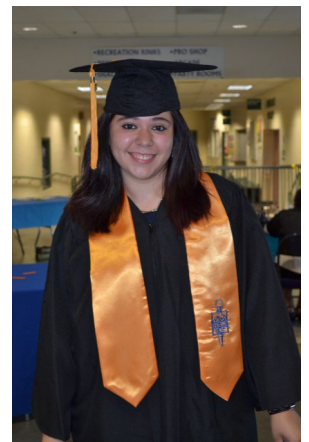
Leila Dodard—USF, Pre-  
Med



Wilder Eraus—UCF,  
Public Administration



Djoulie Fannelus—  
FGCU, Criminal Justice



Anamim Gomez—

# 2012/2013 Graduates—And All the Places They Will Go!



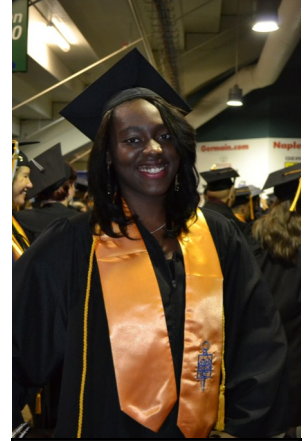
Kim Janvier—USF,  
Psychology



Jorica Jean—UCF,  
Nursing



Modeleine Jean—FGCU,  
Nursing



Sinetia Jean—USF, Pre-  
Med



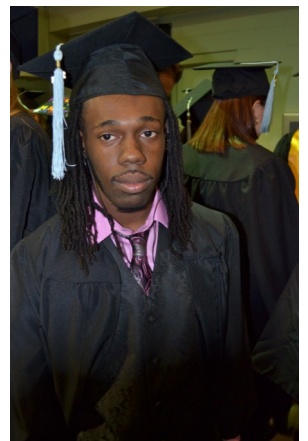
Jhems Jean-Louis— USF,  
Pre-Med



Emma Jeannalas—  
FGCU, Pre-Med



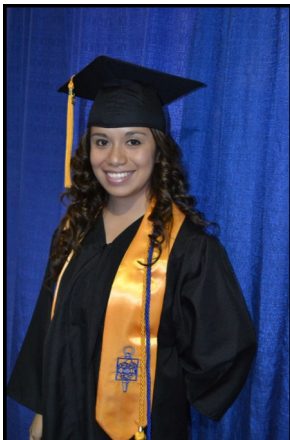
Wesna Lalanne—UCF,  
Engineering



Paul Louis—USF,  
Engineering



Danelis Martin—  
Savannah School of Art



Lesly Mejicanos—FGCU,  
Nursing



Loydie Melidor—ESC,  
Nursing



Krystal Melrose—ESC,  
Cardiovascular

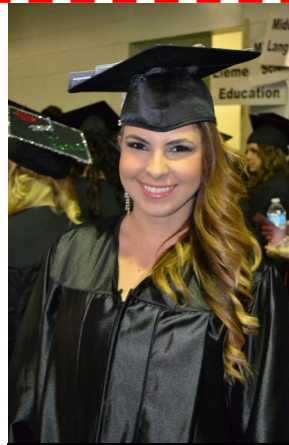
# 2012/2013 Graduates—And All the Places They Will Go!



Dakendo Michel—FGCU,  
Social Work



Nelson Occen—UCF,  
Computer Science



Ana Oliveira—FGCU,  
Public Relations



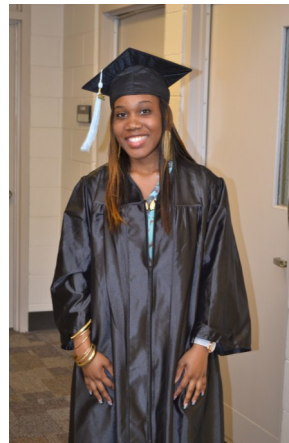
Devid Pierre—USF,  
Health Sciences



Melissa Richards—USF,  
Social Work



Joseph Sinitlme—USF,  
Engineering



De'Shawnte Smith—  
FGCU, Social Work



Cindy Souverain—USF,  
Social Work



Claudia Tellez—FGCU,  
Psychology



Phylancia Torres—UCF,  
Engineering



Norma Zambrano—  
FGCU, Criminal Justice

## Not Pictured:

Mechelangelo Clemente  
Mariel Espinal  
Miguel Garcia  
Joel Georges  
Gakirra Johnson  
Jonathan Luth  
Devonte Robinson  
Loudine Romelus

## SSS Alumni—and All the Places They Went!

### Hayley Pletcher—University of Central Florida

My name is Hayley Pletcher and I am an alumnus of the Student Support Services Program at Edison. I have transferred to the University of Central Florida, and am pursuing my Bachelor's degree in Psychology. I should have it completed by spring of 2014.

Student Support Services was like one big family. For me, it was a place to go to while I was on campus. Whereas here, at UCF, it feels like I go to campus for class, and go right back home. Having been in SSS, I know there is more to campus life. I would spend so many

hours in the lab while studying, and I would get to know the other students. A lot of the time, I would even meet students with majors like mine, and we would take classes together. It was nice having like-minded students who were serious about their studies and worked for a common goal.

One of the things I miss the most is the Specialists! Being a first-generation student, I tend to have many questions, but really no one to ask. The SSS Specialists always knew how to solve the problem, and if they didn't, they would per-

sonally walk you to wherever you needed to go to fix the problem. The Specialists are really their students' number one fan, and are so excited to see the students pursue their goals, and degrees! My experience at Student Support Services has been life changing, because I know I wouldn't be where I am now without them. The many friendships and great memories I have made there will continue to last a life time!



### Zuly Arencibia—University of Puerto Rico

I came to America as a child aboard an old wooden boat, fleeing Castro's dictatorship. My parents risked their lives in hopes that their children would profit from their sacrifice. A decade later, I continue to pursue the promise of a better life.

My journey in higher education began at Edison State College where The Student Support Services Program embraced a disoriented refugee girl in

her freshman year. Burdened with language barriers and financial problems, SSS gave me the gift of personal and financial counseling, as well as academic tutoring. Embracing every moment as a chance for growth, I spent countless hours in the computer lab and was tutored for every subject I took during my first year. I participated in leadership workshops, cultural events, and made ever-lasting friendships. The lessons learned in the SSS program paved the way for the rest of my life. As a college sophomore, I served as the first Hispanic president of the Student Government Association, as well as the president of Phi Theta Kappa. Motivating me to excel in all aspects of my life, SSS propelled me towards completing my college career. Up-

on graduating with my Associates Degree, I was accepted to the University of Puerto Rico, School of Dental Medicine where I continue to live life with stalwart determination.

Though my family and I have faced mountain like obstacles, I have chosen to live a life of eternal drive by embracing life's opportunities and challenges with perseverance and a positive attitude. My dear friend, who was a part of the SSS faculty at the time, once shared this with me: "Adversity builds character." I have earned a great deal of character over the years and I am thankful for the Student Support Service's Program at Edison College for fostering that character within me.





## SSS Alumni—and All the Places They Went!

### Nina Laurent—University of Central Florida

My name is Nina Laurent. I am currently attending the University of Central Florida. I will be graduating May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013 with a Bachelor in Social Work and a minor in Aging Studies. I graduated from Edison State College in December 2011. Student Support Services is an incredible program because the staff goes the extra miles to help all the students that are part of the program. With the help and support of SSS I am able to be where I am today. The staff supported my career goals; they also made the transition from a high school student to a college student smoother. The monthly sessions provided by the program helped me prepare for my exams without having test anxiety, submitting my FAFSA application on time, and searching for

scholarships. In addition, I have always been able to get help from the staff whenever I was struggling with my classes. It was a great feeling knowing that I have people to turn to whenever assistance was needed.

I recently applied to the Master in Social Work program at UCF. SSS has continued to be a great source of assistance even after transferring. The staff has written recommendation letters for my application to grad school and an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action scholarship at UCF. I strongly encourage SSS participants to participate in internships. I am currently interning at Share the Care. My daily tasks consist of working with the clients and the caregivers, filing documents, and completing assess-

ments on the clients. Through this internship I am able to get the experience that I need for my major. Aside from interning, I am a full-time employee at Florida

hospital; I work for the psych department as a psych sitter. I plan to continue my career at the Florida Hospital as a social worker. In the future I plan to transfer to a nursing home to assist the elderly.



### Jaqueline Aguilar—University of South Florida

My name is Jacqueline Aguilar and I was in the SSS program from Fall 2010-Spring 2012. This program has opened many doors for me! Since I was very involved in the program I was able to be part of STAR Corps and get a job on campus as an Orientation Leader. Not only did SSS help me financially, but also academically. Every time I struggled in any subject they would help and encourage me. This program has been so motivational to me because they pushed me to

accomplish my goals. I encourage everyone to be very involved in this program and attend as many workshops as you can because you can get so much out of them!

After I got my Associates at Edison I transferred to USF. SSS made my transition very smooth. I am majoring in Elementary Education and have been privileged to be in the Residency program which is a 2-year internship program (only 25 students get chosen). Universities really look at your involvement in

the college you previously attended. I am really enjoying being in a large University and I am thankful that SSS prepared me for it.





**EDISON STATE  
COLLEGE**

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**Student Support Services helps promote the academic success of low-income first-generation, and/or disabled students by providing support in academic skills, counseling, and tutoring. We seek to maximize student performance while creating strong and independent learners. Student Support Services implements its belief that all students can be successful given the proper assistance, and to define, recognize and respect each student's individual abilities.**

We're on the web!

<http://www.edison.edu/studentsupport/trio/>



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