Interview with new SCB Advisor, Dr. Gina Murray

Gina has recently joined the Silberman College of Business as the new advising counselor for graduate programs. Gina brings a wealth of experience from a 22 year background in student services and program development in higher education, half of which were spend in advising roles for bachelor completion and graduate programs. Her passion lies in working directly with students. She recently completed a Ph.D. in Adult Education at Auburn University. Gina and her husband relocated to NJ last year when he was hired as a faculty member at MSU. They enjoy spending time with friends and family, and indulging in the food, arts, and culture the area has to offer. Gina is also an accomplished sculptor working in stone, wood, and fused glass. A few days ago, I had a chance to sit down with Gina and talk to her about why she chose FDU and what her plans were as an Advisor.

Welcome to FDU Gina! What inspired you to join SCB?
Thank you. During my job search, I was seeking a position with an institution that offered a positive work environment, a strong commitment to students, professional and friendly colleagues, and a high quality program. I found all that and more at SCB.

What, in your opinion, is the most challenging aspect of being a SCB advisor?
The most challenging aspects of being a SCB advisor relate to resolving complicated or unusual issues that arise for our students that sometimes involve other departments or offices.

In the Spotlight: Dr. Gwen Jones

Dr. Jones has been part of the Fairleigh Dickinson University family for over 15 years and as the Department Chair for Management since 2007. After many successful years at FDU, Dr. Jones plans to go on sabbatical in the spring semester to continue her research on ethical behavior in organizations, managing sustainability, and accommodating disabilities. During her sabbatical, she plans to also concentrate on learning the techniques of online education due to its increasing pace in the recent years in college education. Dr. Jones mentioned that “work experience is helpful for students and they need to get it while in school” She encourages students to look out for internships and take advantage of great opportunities for graduate students at the Career Development Services office. Dr. Jones advises students to “use your time as a student identifying who you want to BE in the world of business, and weaknesses, your preferences, your passions”.

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Sands of Time: Exposure to Greatness

Sands of Time is a unique out-of-classroom experience that is exclusively for the Fairleigh Dickinson University community, where students, professors, and staff experience greatness in the forms of art, music, dance, literature, science, technology, and history around the world.

Sands of Time is a cultural, intellectual, and social enrichment program for the very curious and involved students. It engages them in wonderful, creative, and innovative learning experience by not only planning trips to many interesting places like museums, parks, and historic sites, but also organizing interesting events with great speakers, important movies, simulating learning exercises, and special exhibits. Moreover, it conducts ‘Time to Talk’ sessions where people discover interesting ideas, discuss in reading circles, blogs, lectures and other venues.

‘Time to Talk’ – a uniquely “Sands of Time” experience held four times a year – has become one of the favorite and beloved activities for students. It takes place on Sunday mornings over breakfast and what they do is...well...talk. They have held discussions, hosted speakers, sponsored lectures, and even sat and listened to music together. Nothing is better than a casual Sunday morning with new (or old) friends, fresh coffee, and breakfast and stimulating conversation. Sometimes, ‘Time to Talk’ sessions are replaced by ‘Time to Listen’ sessions where, in one, they discussed about 1200 years of classical music, and in another, listened great melodies throughout music history. These, too, have gotten highly enthusiastic responses. Sands of Time organizes many events like trips to museums, libraries, and historic societies and provide opportunities for students to listen to great speakers such as alums, UN diplomats, and war veterans. Also, students get a chance to attend operas, concerts, plays, and other cultural events. In addition, there are many weekend trips to historical and burgeoning areas like Boston, Washington D.C., and Philadelphia. Sands of Time members get insider access to special exhibitions and introductions to inspiring people.

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The best part of the program is that all of the experiences and events provided by the Sands of Time are free and participants will be exposed to famous thoughts, new ideas, and windows of opportunity to grow. The co-founders of Sands of Time say they will use those thoughts and experiences to help develop our understanding of our place in the continuum of humanity – from the great footsteps in the sands of time in which we walk to the ones we can leave.

Annie Kazarjan, an alumna’12 of FDU, says, “Sands of Time is a lifetime experience which made my college years truly complete at FDU. The exciting cultural Sands of Time events connect you with a lot of interesting people, letting us learn from each other.” Annie is back home in Hungary but still receives all Sands of Time emails.

There is only one Sands of Time program anywhere, and it’s right here at FDU. Wondering what it is like to be a part of Sands of Time??? All that is expected of you is to participate with enthusiasm, with energy and commitment. If you are interested, please contact one of the co-founders, either Craig Mourton, assistant provost, Metropolitan Campus, at mourton@fdu.edu/201-692-2247 or Eli Amdur, adjunct professor, Anthony J. Petrocelli College of Continuing Studies, at eliamdur@aol.com

~ Anusha Suraneni (Graduate Assistant, Undergraduate Programs and Student Services)

When asked how management courses will be helpful to your career, she explained “we teach leadership and management skills which companies do not always provide. Most of us are not a natural leader or manager. But when you know who YOU are, and find your passion and what you get excited about in a business context, and find that fit in a job, others will naturally follow.”

~ Prasanna Ganta (Graduate Assistant, Department Chair’s Office)

If you are looking for a quiet place to study, to work on a group project or for help with a research project, the Business Research Library, conveniently located on the first floor in Dickinson Hall (Room 1194), is the perfect location. The reference librarians are more than willing to help you with your research endeavors; so, if you are having trouble finding articles about a research topic or are unsure how to use one of FDU Online Library’s databases, they can lend a hand. In fact, if you would like assistance with a research assignment, you can call 201-692-2608 to request one-on-one or small group instruction that addresses research requirements, including database searches, for a particular class assignment. If, however, you do not have the time to set up an appointment, the research librarians, Maria L. Kocylowsky (marialk@fdu.edu) and Michele Nestory (michelel@fdu.edu) encourage you to email them with any questions you may have. Their only request is that you email only one of them at a time or address your email to both of them, so they do not repeat each other’s work.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about what the Business Research Library has to offer, visit http://library.fdu.edu or contact one of the research librarians mentioned above.

**Hours:**
- Monday – Thursday 8:30AM-8:30PM
- Friday 8:30AM-4:30PM
- Saturday 11:00AM-5:00PM

~ Marybeth Naimo (Graduate Assistant, Graduate Advising Office)