



MORGAN
STATE UNIVERSITY

The Academic Advisor Newsletter

FERPA—Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

As higher education professionals we often use the term FERPA when communicating with parents and students. We may inform parents and their student that “due to FERPA guidelines we can not share certain information unless we receive written consent from the student to do so.”

But what exactly is FERPA and what does it entail? According to Morgan State University’s 2016-2018 Catalog:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) . . . gives students the right to: (1) inspect and review their educational records; (2) consent to release educational records to a third party; (3) challenge information included in the educational records; and (4) be notified of their rights under FERPA.

Under the Student’s Right to Know section in the 2016-2018 Morgan State University catalog, a more detailed description of FERPA is outlined. http://www.morgan.edu/Documents/ACADEMICS/academic_catalog/undergrad/2016-2018/ucat_2016-2018.pdf

Another great source for FERPA information is the US Department of Education’s website. The FERPA Frequently Asked Question link (<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>) provides parents, students, and school officials with answers to pertinent questions about FERPA.

Remember, students and their parents may not understand what is FERPA or even what information is covered under these guidelines. Therefore, take some time to refresh your understanding of it and how best to communicate this information to our students and their relatives or other third parties.

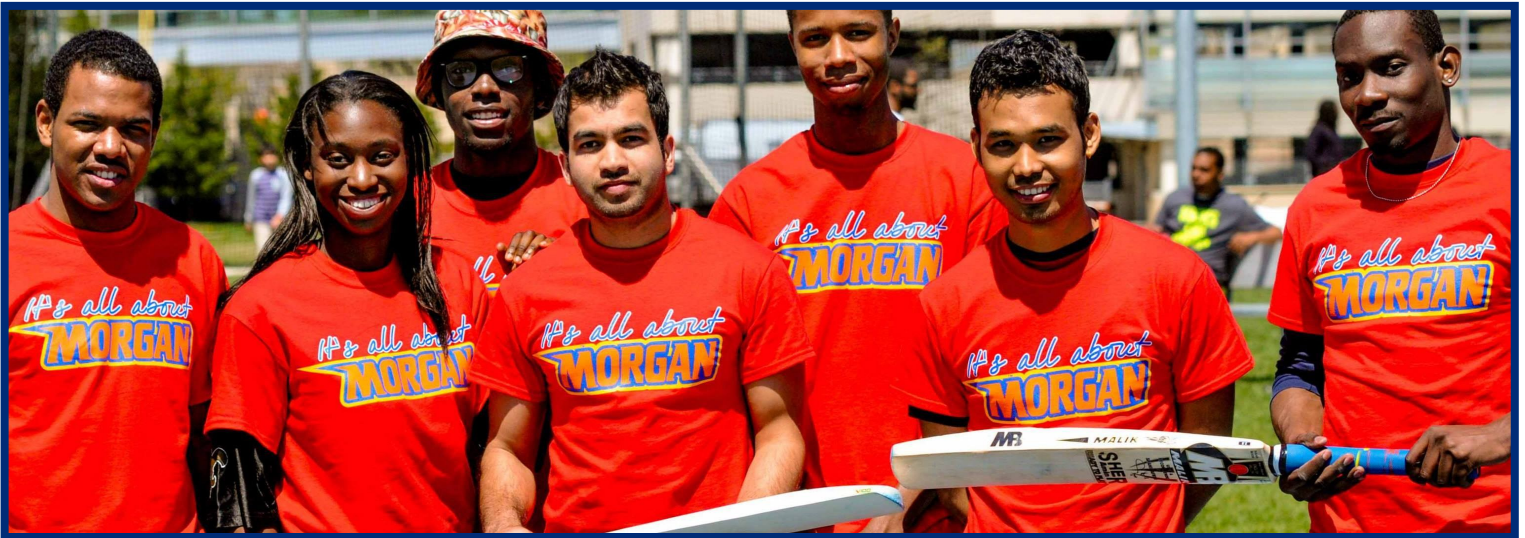
March 2017

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Student Services Spotlight: Division of International Affairs

The Division of International Affairs is committed to the Morgan State University's mission of promoting and supporting a campus of global citizens; diverse and competitive graduates, students, faculty, and staff equipped for success in an interdependent society. To help achieve this mission, the Division of International Affairs continues to work collaboratively with various constituencies, units and academic departments to enhance and ensure student and faculty capacity building through professional development activities, international experiential learning. The three main components of the Division of International Affairs are outlined below.

Study Abroad Office

It is the intent of the Study Abroad Office to help students fulfill their goals, by working with them to find a study/ intern/volunteer abroad program that meets their needs and interests, as well as to provide them with information about the University's study abroad policies and procedures.

Location: *Montebello Complex, D-210*

Email: studyabroad@morgan.edu

Phone: 443-885-4029

The Office of International Student and Faculty Services (OISFS)

The Office of International Student & Faculty Services meets the administrative, advising, and programming needs for the non-immigrant students, staff, and faculty at Morgan State University. Services provided by OISFS include:

- International student advising services
- New student orientation
- Immigration and employment workshops
- Preparation and/or filing of initial petitions (I-20s)
- Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVIS) Reporting
- Intercultural Programs and Activities

Location: *Montebello Complex, D-206*

Phone: 443-885-3038

The Fulbright Program

Morgan State University has long been the Fulbright leader among historically Black colleges and universities. Morgan students have received a total of 136 Fulbright-related grants for study, research, and/or teaching in 44 different countries.

Contact: *Dr. Carleen Leggett*

Location: *Montebello Complex, C-102*

Phone: 443-885-3097

(Source: Marisa A. Gray, Program Manager, Latin American & the Caribbean—Division of International Affairs)

Important Dates

March 2017

March 9th

**Women's
History Month
Convocation**

**March 13th -
18th**

**Mid-Semester
Examination**

**March 20th -
24th**

Spring Break

March 31st

**Last Day to
Drop a Class
with a "W"**

Featured Academic Advising Excerpt:

Advising International Students

*The internationalization of higher education has significantly contributed to the diversity of college campuses in the United States. Data from the Institute of International Education (2016) indicates that there were over 900,000 international students enrolled in US higher education institutions during the 2014-2015 academic year. With the growing number of international students attending colleges and universities "academic advisors must be aware of the unique issues facing international students in order to support and ensure success across the range of students they serve" (Guo, 2016). Ronnie Priest and Sidney McPhee's (2000) book chapter entitled *Advising Multicultural Students: The Reality of Diversity* provides advisors with a glimpse of the challenges and a few recommendations to employ when advising international students. An excerpt from the chapter is provided:*

International students may present challenges to academic advisors that are distinct from those of ethnic minority students born in the United States. In addition to concerns related to academic programs of study, international students may present an array of unique issues, such as the following:

- Adjustment to sex-role expectations in the United States that are different from those in their native country (Hayes and Lin, 1994)
- Clashes between international students' native cultures and the culture of the United States (Sodowsky and Plake, 1992)
- Feelings of homesickness and alienation (Brinson and Kottler, 1995)
- Language communication difficulties (Barratt and Huba, 1994; Redmond and Bunyi, 1993)
- Legal and financial concerns of negotiating contractual obligations such as housing rental leases or automobile purchase agreements (Khoo, Abu-Rasin, and Honrsby, 1994)

Advisors should avoid any tendency to see international students as deficient on the basis of their cultural distinctiveness. An additional confounding consideration is that it is not unusual for international students to seek out their academic advisor "just to talk" because that is the person to whom they feel the closest. Kaul (1999) has astutely discerned that if international students are to make a successful transition from the academic environment in their native culture to the pervasive cultural environment found in the United States, advisors "need to make an effort to reach out to international students at frequent intervals and to be cognizant of the issues facing this vulnerable student population" (p. 14).

Source: Priest, R. and Mc Phee, S. A. (2000). Advising multicultural students. The reality of diversity. In V. Gordon, W. R. Habley and Associates (Eds.), *Academic Advising: a comprehensive handbook* (p. 105-117).

Get to Know the Team

Currently 18 staff members (CASA Advisors and Retention Advisors/Coordinators) provide academic advising services to the first year student population at MSU. March's staff highlights are:



Michael Cortez James

Retention Coordinator, School of Education and Urban Studies

Michael Cortez James was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1959 and raised in Rochester, New York. He started his matriculation at Morgan State University in 1978. However, because of bad decisions that produced academic failure, he was forced to drop-out in 1982 spring semester.

In 1992 Mr. James saw the need to obtain his degree. He completed his academic goal by matriculating as a part-time student and earned his Bachelor's degree in 2002. In 2010, he earned his MBA.

Currently, Mr. James is a doctoral candidate in the Community College Leadership Program at Morgan State University.

Mr. James' primary objective as the Retention Coordinator in the School of Education and Urban Studies (SEUS) is to identify programs and resources that will significantly assist the SEUS student's academic success at Morgan State University.



Freddie Davis

Retention Advisor, Earl Graves School of Business

Freddie Davis began his tenure as a Retention Advisor with the Earl Graves School of Business in July 2016. Mr. Davis earned his Bachelor's degree in Information Science and Systems from Morgan State University in Spring 2015. He is currently enrolled in his first semester of the MBA program here at Morgan State University.

Mr. Davis is a proud member of numerous honor societies including, Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society, Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society, Golden Key National Honor Society, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

In his limited spare time, he enjoys "hanging out" with his wife and son, going out to dinner, reading, and heavy weightlifting.

GOT IDEAS!

Are there topics you would like to see in the newsletter? Send your ideas to FY_Advising@morgan.edu