



**Student Center/Union**  
New Construction

**SchenkelShultz**

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**DESIGN TEAM**

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Project Designer

**OWNER/CLIENT**

Florida Gulf Coast University  
Ft. Myers, FL

Jack Fenwick,  
Director of Facility Planning  
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Type of School and  
Grades Served:  
University/College,  
Post-secondary

Area of Building:  
52,000 square feet

Square Foot Cost: \$144

Construction Cost: \$7.5 million

Contract Date: November 2000

Completion Date: May 2003

Percent of Completion: 100%

# Florida Gulf Coast University, Student Union

## *Ft. Myers, Florida*

**SchenkelShultz**



REAR VIEW OF STUDENT UNION

Florida Gulf Coast University opened in 1997 with several classroom buildings, but no place the students could call their home away from home.

The goal in designing the student union was to capture the spirit of the university and to create a landmark building located as a midpoint, between student housing and the academic quadrant. The approach includes a clock tower at the entrance of the facility that can be seen from nearly anywhere on campus. In addition, the student union was designed with large windows allowing extraordinary views of the campus landscape.

The student union includes student meeting rooms, government and student life offices, a student lounge, the university bookstore, and a food court—making this facility the heart of student activity. Designed as a comfortable environment for students, the food court has both indoor and outdoor seating overlooking the university lake and the campus beyond.

The overall design intent was



FRONTAL VIEW OF STUDENT UNION



VIEW OF DINING/LOBBY AREA FROM THE SECOND STORY

to challenge students and staff to look for distinction within their everyday experience. This is reflected in the quotation

displayed on the entry portico “Good work and good companions are the buildings of great enterprise.” ■

Photos: William Garrow