CONSTITUTION DAY, 2011
ESSAY COMPETITION

TOPIC: “MY VOTE WON’T MAKE A DIFFERENCE”
FIRST PRIZE, $1,000 Tuition Scholarship!

In November, 2012 the nation will go to the polls to elect the 45th President of the United States of America. Over the next 15 months candidates will attempt to coerce eligible voters, including the Millennial Generation (MG), to cast their ballots for one or the other. In the 1992 election the MG constituted 21% of the overall votes, and in 2008 18%. These are significant numbers which, arguably, have the potential to swing an election. Will the percentage of MG voters increase or decrease in 2012? That will depend on the degree to which the MG becomes engaged with the issues and in the electoral process. Many of them, particularly non-college graduates and minority groups, feeling disenfranchised and alienated from the process will not go to the polls. They view it as an exercise in futility: their single vote will not make a difference. In a thoughtful, researched, and well-written essay discuss whether or not you accept or “buy into” this statement, “my vote won’t make a difference”.

Submission guidelines: The competition is open to all Xavier undergraduate students. Essays should be no more than 1,500 words and submitted electronically, in PDF format, to academicaffairs@xula.edu. All papers must have a cover page with the student’s name, title of the essay, email address, and/or telephone number. If any of this information is missing the essay will not be reviewed. Essays must be original, unpublished, and written by one person. They will be checked for plagiarism.

Submission deadline: September 8, 2011 at 5:00pm. LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Three prizes will be awarded. First place – $1,000 tuition scholarship; second place - IPAD; third place - $150 Rush Bucs. Winners will be announced on Thursday, September 15 at the panel discussion “Race, Citizenship, and Voting Rights” which begins at 7pm in the UC Ballroom. You must be present to win. Prizes will not be awarded in absentia.