

[SYNC]

A newsletter by the Division of Undergraduate Academic Programs

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SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:

- Did you know that each student in the Transition Program must complete 96-110 hours of study experience each semester in the program?

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: ORIENTATION COUNSELORS

By Marcia Toms

When the New Student Orientation (NSO) staff talks about their job, the focus is not on the record number of students (they served 6,000 incoming freshmen and transfer students this summer) or the challenge of negotiating a campus with multiple construction projects. Instead, the focus is on the student staff. "We can't run a program without our student staff. They are our public face," said Gabe Wical, the newly appointed director of NSO.

The student staff, comprised of 29 Orientation Counselors (OCs) and five Student Assistants, both welcome incoming students and represent the university. While the OCs are by their nature welcoming, they work hard to understand the university they represent. They spend over 100 hours training and preparing before they welcome the first student.

The training pays off as OCs work with faculty, parents, and students. Brian Koehler, coordinator of the First Year Engineering and International programs, said, "The OC's are always well prepared, ask very good questions, and pass that information along to the students."

"I learned so much about NC State," OC Hilary Saunders said of the preparation; "It makes me excited to be here."

Another OC, Andrew Mulvihill, adds that he learned to appreciate the massive system in place for students: "I really notice a lot more on campus from transportation to advising: there's a lot that takes place to run an event as large as orientation."

While they are often natural leaders, all the OCs said that their time spent with NSO made them better leaders.

OC Kelsey Romoser described how she was able handle a difficult situation with class, "which I wouldn't have expected six months ago."



OCs Allison McAlister and Lindsey Luu preparing to welcome new students.

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FIRST IMPRESSIONS: ORIENTATION COUNSELORS

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OC Lindsey Luu has seen tremendous growth in herself as well: "I've learned a lot more self-control; I don't let things bother me as much anymore."

One of the most important leadership lessons they've learned, though, is how to let other people lead. According to Hilary, "We're a large group of natural leaders; we've had to learn how to let others lead."

Kelsey added, "We've also had to learn how to constructively work with people other than our peers, like parents, faculty, and administrators."

Balancing the needs of new students, parents, staff, and faculty, can be exhausting, especially when the OCs work some 18-hour days.



2007 Orientation Counselors.

These OCs are very glad for their job, though. "It's exciting to see the transformations students go through in just two days," Kelsey said. "They are often quiet the first morning, but by the second day they clearly feel a part of NC State."

Faculty notice their work as well: "OC's are the best thing that happens to our students during New Student Orientation," said Koehler.

And while the "Thank Yous" from students and parents are nice, the OCs are always focused on easing the transition of new students. As OC Wende' Nichols said, "We have a big job: we are often the first people they meet as NC State students. We can shape and mold what they think of NC State, the Raleigh area, and even North Carolina as a whole. We do our best to get them off to the best start possible."

"OC's are the best thing that happens to our students during New Student Orientation," said Koehler

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

The *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* includes the following two definitions of “orientation” –

- a. An adjustment or adaptation to a new environment, situation, custom, or set of ideas.
- b. Introductory instruction concerning a new situation: *orientation for incoming students*.

For new students (first year and transfer), their parents, family and supporters, establishing the idea that for all new students NC State will represent a qualitatively different environment is no small task. Effectively articulating the University's expectations – on topics that range from academic responsibility and integrity to public safety, parking and tuition payments – early in the career of new students requires a lot of effort to identify the critical messages, and a lot of dedication from orientation staff to facilitate delivery of those messages.

An effective new student orientation program is the second step a responsible university takes to enhance the likelihood of its students' success (the first step is admitting students with the desire and preparation to benefit from the institution's academic programs). Knowledge, understanding, and commitment to meeting the expectations of the environment as early as possible are key factors in student success because they allow students to make good decisions on their own behalf.

Each year, the university's academic and student affairs communities, lead by the orientation staff and facilitated by orientation counselors (OCs) come together to produce a New Student Orientation experience that sets the tone for student success at NC State. This year we will be taking a systematic look at whether and how we can make new student orientation programs significantly better. The review will be driven by the guiding facts that we have an effective model for new student orientation and that changes must have promise for further enhancing student success rates.

Thomas Conway
Dean, DUAP



Thomas Conway, Dean
Division of
Undergraduate
Academic Programs

DUAP STAFF OUT AND ABOUT

NEW STAFF MEMBERS!



Mindy Sopher

On August 1, 2007 **Ms. Mindy Sopher** joined the OASIS team on a full-time basis. Ms. Sopher advises students who are undecided, changing majors or transferring into the university. Mindy is a sought after national speaker, facilitator, and student advisor. She was named CHASS Advisor of the Year and received the Barbara Solomon Award for Exceptional Advising in 2007. Mindy also serves as an Academic Coach and facilitator for the Adviser Development Institute.

Ms. Candice Fisher joined the OASIS team on August 15, 2007. Previously, Candice worked part-time as the Co-Director for the First Year Experience at Meredith College coordinating new student orientation, teaching first year seminar courses and providing personal and academic counseling. Candice will serve as an Academic Advising Intern as she pursues her Doctorate of Education in Higher Education Administration at NC State University.

DUAP STAFF OUT AND ABOUT

OF NOTE

Entomology 203, Bees and Beekeeping, taught by DUAP's very own **Associate Dean John Ambrose** (pictured right) was cited as the "**Best Class**" at NC State! The May 15th article, which appeared in *Sports Illustrated on Campus*, even cited why this course was so great: "Classes get to enter a swarm of bees, taste every honey known to man and even make honey wine during the semester." If you would like to read the whole article, go the URL below:

<http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/2007/sioncampus/05/14/roadtrip.ncstate/index.html>

Keep up the good work, John!



AWARDS, PUBLICATIONS, AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Susan Matney presented on the NC State Co-op / Engineering Mentor Partnership at the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) annual conference in Honolulu, Hawaii (6/24/07 - 6/27/07). The presentation was nominated for best in program.

NEWS AND NOTES

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

NC State Co-op Office hosted the Accreditation Council for Cooperative Education Board Meeting Summit July 23- 25, 2007.

FIRST YEAR COLLEGE (FYC)

- FYC hosted EXTREME CARNIVAL 2007 for incoming freshmen on August 21, 2007.
- FYC hosts Tucker and Owen mural painting contest and student luncheon with Da Chen. Contact Michelle Crossley (michelle_crossley@ncsu.edu) or details.
- FYC sponsors **FYC Service Challenge 2007** when academic advisers and 200 students will participate in Service NC State, and will bag 300,000 meals for the hungry on August 23, 2007 from 12-3 pm. Interested students can register to participate by logging onto the FYC website: <http://www.ncsu.edu/fyc>.

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION (NSO)

The office of New Student Orientation just welcomed to NC State the largest incoming class of students ever. Over 6,000 first-year and transfer students participated in one of the twelve Orientation sessions offered throughout the summer.

OFFICE OF ADVISING SUPPORT, INFORMATION AND SERVICES (OASIS)

OASIS sponsored an Academic and Career Advising...An Ongoing Discussion workshop on Wednesday, August 15, 2007. This workshop highlighted specific tips, tools and assessment instruments for advising students regarding their career choice.

NEWS AND NOTES

OFFICE OF RETENTION SERVICES (ORS)

The Office of Retention Services is actively seeking two graduate students in higher education or student affairs to volunteer as administrative graduate interns. This is a tremendous opportunity to gain administrative experience in the area of student retention. Interested graduate students should send an electronic letter of interest and resume to Samara Burnette (samara_burnette@ncsu.edu), coordinator for retention studies.

UNDERGRADUATE TUTORIAL CENTER (UTC)

The Undergraduate Tutorial Center will offer a variety of tutoring services this fall. Please visit our website to find out more: http://www.ncsu.edu/tutorial_center/

GET INVOLVED

ATTEND THE "CALL TO ACTION" CONFERENCE!

On **November 7-9, 2007**, DUAP is hosting **A Call to ACTION: Connecting K-12 and College for Student Success**. This conference will bring together leaders from K-12 schools, community colleges, and universities to learn how to expand educational access and promote greater success for students.

A Call to ACTION will focus on accessibility, affordability, and accountability in higher education. Conference sessions will include student "pipelines" that can improve access and performance, best practices for partnerships between community colleges and universities, making college affordable, and effective transition programs.

A Call to ACTION will be held at the Dorothy and Roy Park Alumni Center, on the Centennial Campus. Registration of \$75.00 per participant includes access to all conference workshops and events, meals, and snacks. For more information about registration, or the conference agenda and speakers, please visit the web site below.

<http://www.ncsu.edu/uap/conference>

We look forward to seeing you at this exciting event, and please share this information with your colleagues!

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

DUAP DIVISION OF UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

"A Call to Action"
Connecting K-12 and College for Student Success

Welcome

In response to U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings' call for improvements in higher education, North Carolina State University's Division of Undergraduate Academic Programs (DUAP) presents "A Call to ACTION!" This three-day conference will bring together college access leaders from K-12, community colleges, and universities to network with colleagues, participate in professional development workshops, and learn more about what they can do to expand educational access and support greater student success.

November 7 - 9, 2007

At the Dorothy & Roy Park Alumni Center
North Carolina State University
Centennial Campus
Raleigh, North Carolina

The STARS of the show!
Conference Stands will be:

Accessibility **Affordability** **Accountability**

Financial support for this conference was provided by SAS.
Thank you SAS!

Who Should Attend:
School & College Administrators
School & College Board Members
Consolidators & Advisors
Superintendents & Presidents
Principals & Deans
District Administrators & Staff
Classroom Teachers & Faculty
Anyone interested in student success!

Superintendents:
Join us for a special forum on November 8 at 4:45 p.m.

EVENTS

The next DUAP Division Meeting is scheduled for August 22, 2007.

For other events, see the NC State Calendar at

<http://calendar.actedatx.com/ncstate>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to everyone born in AUGUST!!!

John Ambrose, Tracy Appling-Biel, Frankye Artis,
Glenda Johnson, Sarah Swanson



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For more information about DUAP and its units, please visit our web site:

<http://www.ncsu.edu/uap/>

Do you have or
desire experience
in writing news
articles? Join the
SYNC Staff!