



BROWN POLO UPDATE

Lehigh University
Orientation Leader &
Camp Hawk Counselor
Alumni Newsletter



SPRING
2022-2023

A NOTE FROM THE OFYE

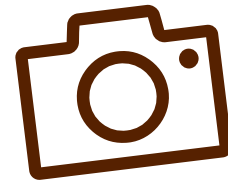
This year, we implemented a theme into the first-year experience in collaboration with our campus partners, Crafting Our Communities with Care. In our conversations across campus, we found that wellness, self-care and building community were even more critical than usual, and we decided together that if we all shared similar messages that we might have a greater impact. We shared personal stories of what it meant to us and encouraged students to intentionally think about what it meant to them and how they would continue to craft their communities with care at Lehigh.

We are so grateful to have you all as alumni as a part of our community. You all are what has made the community special to us, and we hope to continue to engage with you more often.

In this edition of the Brown Polo Update, you will learn about the impact of our annual programs and see and hear from people who have been with us through the journey. Thank you for taking the time to continue to be a part of this community with us.

Stay Lehigh STRONG!

*Stefanie DiDomenico Burke &
Nicole Burke*



We Need Your Pictures!

Do you have pictures from your time as an OL or CHC that you would like to share with us? We would love to fill our Instagram with #throwbackthursday pictures! Send your pictures to fye@lehigh.edu along with the approximate date and any information you want included in the caption.

**Join the OFYE Staff Alumni
Linked In! Search for
Lehigh OFYE Staff.**

In this Update:

- Meet the Staff
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- Orientation Coordinators
- Returning Orientation Leaders
- OL Training Through Time!
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- Camp Hawk: Snowed In
- preLUision
- Year2@LU
- Connect With Us



2022 Summer Staff: Katerina (Lehigh '23), Sydney (NODA Intern & Graduate Student at The Ohio State University), Nicole, Stefanie & Erin

MEET THE OFYE STAFF:



Stefanie DiDomenico Burke

Assistant Dean, Director of First-Year Experience

Stefanie is excited to share she's officially been at Lehigh for over a decade and is always proud to call Bethlehem her chosen home. With her son, John (6), now starting kindergarten in the Bethlehem School District, she feels her roots have been cemented for the two of them. They love taking advantage of the family-friendly festivals, visiting the parks and trails, and exploring the Lehigh Valley. You'll be happy to know that John, an honorary OFYE staff member at this point, is already talking about attending Lehigh for college and loves to cheer on Lehigh at athletics games, campus events, and OFYE staff training. The OFYE is an amazing place because of all the people who have been a part of it over the years, and Stefanie is humbled and honored to continue to be on the team.



Nicole Burke

Associate Director, First-Year Experience

Nicole Burke started working as the Associate Director in the Office of First-Year Experience in June 2018. She earned her B.A. in English and Political Science at Hofstra University, and her Ed.M. in College Student Affairs at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Prior to coming to Lehigh, she worked in various roles in residence life at The University of Texas at Austin. Nicole loves working with the OFYE staff in helping them prepare to support new students and their families in their transition to Lehigh. In her free time, Nicole enjoys spending time with family, friends and her dog, Fitz.



Natania Lipp

Graduate Assistant, First-Year Experience

Natania Lipp is the Graduate Assistant for the Office of First-Year Experience. Natania really enjoys the opportunity to make meaningful connections with first-year students and to witness the lasting friendships they make with each other. Some of her favorite projects include planning and leading Discover Lehigh, Camp Hawk, and Camp Hawk Snowed In. Outside of the OFYE, Natania is a fourth-year student in Lehigh's Counseling Psychology PhD program studying the prevention of gender-based violence and is training to be a therapist. To balance out her work Natania enjoys outdoor activities, good food, time with friends, books, and anything that makes her laugh. This is Natania's last year on staff, and she is savoring every minute!



Erin Ketz

Coordinator, First-Year Experience

Erin recently celebrated her workiversary and is in her 9th year at Lehigh! She loves working in the OFYE helping new students and their families. Erin was a NavigateLU Collaborator for the second year and really enjoyed getting to know her first-year students! She also loves getting to work with OFYE staff, work study students and Graduate Interns on marketing, publications and other projects. In her free time Erin enjoys spending time with her finance, Dan and friends, going to concerts again (yay!), finding new vegan spots and attempting to cook new things!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE THE LAST YEAR



♡ 👁 🚩 Congratulations 2021 OCs!



♡ 👁 🚩 June was a busy month!



♡ 👁 🚩 Blue Fam looking good at Field Day



♡ 👁 🚩 Discover Lehigh exploring campus



♡ 👁 🚩 Welcome to Lehigh, Class of 2026!



♡ 👁 🚩 Camp Hawk returned to the Poconos



♡ 👁 🚩 We got a banner for recruitment!



♡ 👁 🚩 First week of Camp Hawk: Snowed In



♡ 👁 🚩 Team building at the Staff Retreat

2023 ORIENTATION COORDINATORS

The Orientation Coordinators work throughout the entire year to ensure that first-year students have the best possible experience coming to Lehigh. We spend months training our incredible volunteer staff of 109 leaders so that they feel prepared leading their group of first-years, for either Camp Hawk or the Orientation program. By creating a culture where inclusivity, positivity, friendships and empowerment are at the forefront of every activity implemented in the program, we hope that these values can be passed on to the incoming Lehigh students. The Orientation Coordinators are ready to leave their mark by leaving a positive impact on the community and inspiring others to make the most out of their experience during their time at Lehigh.



Back Row: Sarah Nebbia, Hasan Jashari, Cate Droogan, Emma Flinchbaugh, Matt Silverman

Front Row: Martha Bosworth, Anna Donovan

Check out the new OC Office! Over winter break Nicole, Stefanie and Erin gave this space a much needed makeover and surprised the OCs when they came back in January!



Chalkboard Wall



OC gallery wall



2023 RETURNING ORIENTATION LEADERS

Eli Alter
Catherine Bigenho
Rebecca Cohen
Isaac Curley
Callie Davis
Gibby DiCenso
Maya Goodman
Tom Griffith
Charlotte Imperatore
Emerson Lederman
Lily Makkas
Bridget Martin
Erika Ramirez

Paige Rhinehart
Ethan Riester
Lauren Schiffman
Averie Schnupp
William Shin
Julia Spinelli
Delfina Szigethy
Sonia Trinkle
Sydney Volheim
Nicole Weissman
Maggie Zhou
Maya Zucker



**Returner
Training
Fall 2022**



TRAINING THROUGH TIME!

Orientation Training is not complete without that wonderful theme! Take a journey with us to look at some of the past OL themes!!! Each theme that is chosen has a message that makes the Orientation program stronger! **The theme for 2022 was Mount Olympus!**



PAST THEMES

2005: LUau (Hawaiian)
2006: First-Year Round Up (Western)
2007: Hollywood
2008: Army: Boot Camp
2009: Survivor
2010: Clue
2011: Harry Potter
2012: Lion King
2013: The Hunger Games
2014: Up
2015: Pirates of the Caribbean
2016: Legos
2017: Hollywood
2018: Spy
2019: Olympics
2020: Safari Expedition
2021: Star Wars



LEHIGH
UNIVERSITY



What will the theme be for 2023...?

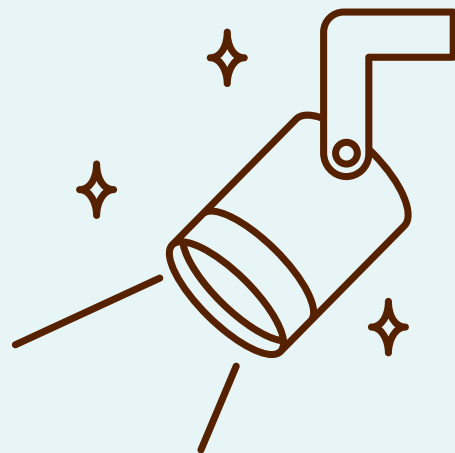
OL SPOTLIGHT

Past & Present

Ceci Alfaro '18

I hadn't even finished my first month at Lehigh when I first heard about the Orientation Leader selection process through a Returner (I barely knew), and it honestly scared me. I started at Lehigh in 2015 as a January Admit, which meant I didn't go through the "typical" orientation process students went through in August and it made me question why I would be a good OL. How would I be able to welcome First Years through an experience I didn't even go through? How would I be able to go through training and speak in public with strangers? I kept doubting myself until I told the Returner that I would do it the next year hoping she would forget about it. A year later, that same Returner (who was now an OC) insisted I should apply, and I decided I would put my insecurities to the side and just try something new. Little did I know that this was going to be by far one of the most rewarding experiences I ever had at Lehigh where I was not only able to grow as an individual and meet new people, but also give back to the school and staff that gave me so much.

It has been almost 4 years since I graduated, and I'm grateful that the OFYE played an unforgettable and unique role in my Lehigh experience. Every hour I spent as an Orientation Leader, Returning Orientation Leader and Orientation Coordinator was worth overcoming my fear of applying. If I could go back in time, I would do it all over again in a heartbeat. I was able to learn many skills that I've applied in my professional career and personal life including, learning how to communicate effectively in public, how to work with individuals with different personalities and backgrounds, how to train individuals in a fun and interactive manner, how to facilitate conversations...this list goes on and on. The most important thing about this journey is that throughout all three years, I always felt like I was being the best and most genuine version of myself. I was able to step outside of my comfort zone and do things I never thought I would do in public (i.e. spelling my name with my butt, dancing and lip singing, riding the pony, playing trainwreck, teaching First Years about classes, bLUeprint and college in general, training a group of OLs to welcome the class of 2022 and even being one of the Emcees at the Lehigh Rally – my biggest crowd yet). All of this happened while meeting and connecting with the most amazing people on campus that became family. I could write about my experience with the OFYE for pages, but I would like to finish with a quick message for the current OCs, Returners and OLs – cherish this opportunity you have been given, squeeze everything you can out of it and never forget that you were chosen to be a part of this because you are more than capable of making Lehigh's class of 2027 orientation experience the best one yet. And lastly, I wanted to give a quick shoutout to Tini Fuertes (the OC that made it all happen for me), Kara, Stephanie, Nicole, the O'Squad/Double OC's and the OFYE staff.



OL SPOTLIGHT

Past & Present

Ethan Riester '25

Before joining the OFYE, I had what we like to call "cool baggage." I initially thought that there was no way I could be as energetic and outgoing as the orientation leaders. However, I was pleasantly surprised when I joined the staff and found that the OFYE was a very welcoming environment where everyone felt comfortable being themselves.

Being an orientation leader has been an extremely worthwhile experience that has taught me so much. For one, I've made many lifelong friends and connections that I never would have met otherwise. I've also become well-versed in the campus, which extends beyond just helping first-year students. I'm now able to help all those around me and have gained confidence in my public speaking and facilitation skills.

The most rewarding aspect of being an orientation leader is the community that I've become a part of. I'm surrounded by like-minded individuals who are all passionate about making a positive impact at Lehigh. We bring each other up and support each other in our endeavors. This spring, as a Returning Orientation Leader, my love for the OFYE has grown even more as our family expands with our new staff: featuring new Orientation Leaders and Camp Hawk Counselors. During orientation, I was not only able to meet new first-years and welcome them to their new home, but I also made many new friends that I stay in touch with to this day. Whether it be walking to FML or at Taylor gym, I'm always excited to see my first-years.

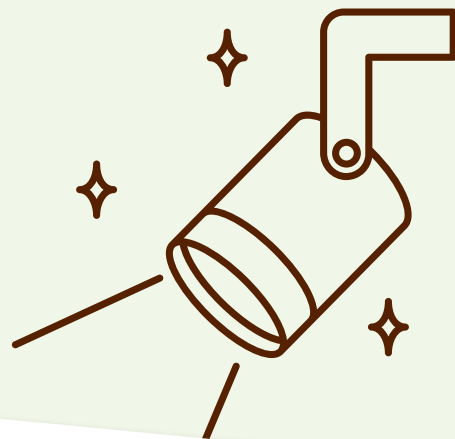
Being an orientation leader has helped me shed my "cool baggage" and embrace my authentic self. I feel that I'm adding value and helping bolster the community at Lehigh, and I'm grateful to call the OFYE my home.



If you would like to be featured in the next OL spotlight, please email Nicole Burke at nmb518@lehigh.edu!

CHC SPOTLIGHT

Past & Present



Francesca Logozzo '24

Being a Camp Hawk Counselor was one of the most rewarding experiences of my Lehigh career. Just like everyone else in the class of 2024, I had a unique experience as an incoming first year. I decided to apply to be a Camp Hawk counselor so I could help the first years have a great experience in a new chapter of their lives and help them make new friendships in a smaller group setting. Being part of the OFYE was also extremely rewarding and a great learning experience for me. I got to meet so many new wonderful people who shared my same interests. Even though we met through Zoom, I felt like I was able to make a strong connection with my fellow Camp Hawk counselors and other members of the OFYE staff.

Through Camp Hawk, I got to meet wonderful first years and we got to spend a fun weekend together. We had to be really flexible and adapt to the ever-changing plans as we moved the entire event to be on campus, but everyone was so excited to be part of Camp Hawk that it was even better than we could have imagined.

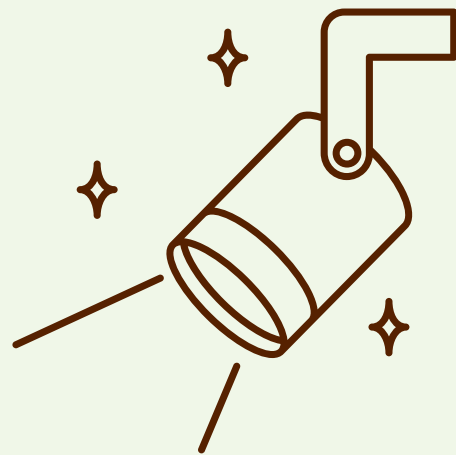
The experience of Camp Hawk helped me grow so much as a leader and helped me get out of my shell to try new things. After Camp Hawk, I joined a sorority on campus and currently hold a position as the Academic Development Officer. I am also on the executive board of LUAMSA where I have the opportunity to talk to many first and second years and help guide them in the right direction if they're interested in following the pre-med track. Two years later, I still find myself using the skills I learned with the OFYE when I am giving advice or just interacting with fellow members. I am truly grateful for the experience I had as a Camp Hawk Counselor and it is one of the most special experiences I had at Lehigh that I will always think fondly of.



If you would like to be featured in the next CHC spotlight, please email Nicole Burke at nmb518@lehigh.edu!

CHC SPOTLIGHT

Past & Present



Jordan Lickstein '25

Having the chance to be a Camp Hawk counselor has been among the most memorable and self fulfilling experiences I have had at Lehigh. Once I first arrived on Lehigh's campus in the fall of 2021, I was quickly greeted by a group of students dancing, singing, and being this ray of positivity and excitement. I knew from that moment I wanted to join the OFYE. When I went to look at different staff positions, I was introduced to Camp Hawk. I have always loved my sleep-away camp back home, and working as camp counselor was something I had to give up due to the pandemic. Once I saw Lehigh had an opportunity to return to this environment, I immediately was enticed. I ended up applying because I loved that Camp Hawk serves as an opportunity for First Year students to grow closer as a group than what is offered in orientation. The act of leaving campus and living, eating, and exploring as a group, created this sense of connectivity that is very difficult to form while on campus.



Once I finally was a part of the OFYE and got to experience our training, it quickly became apparent that everyone involved with the office cared immensely about the wellbeing of First year students, the wellbeing of all sections of staff, and most importantly cared that everyone had a great time throughout the process. During my two years as a Camp Hawk Counselor, my co-counselors and I have created this sub community within the OFYE of people that have such different backgrounds, majors, and campus involvement, but all work together seamlessly to create something special for campers. At the actual retreat I got the chance to personally grow closer with first year students, eager to continue meeting new faces after completing their first two weeks of college. Even more impactful was getting to leave the retreat seeing these first year students more connected, and eventually seeing them through the following semester eating meals, hanging out on the front lawn, and just overall remaining together as a group. I am so thankful for the OFYE giving me a chance to make new connections with students on campus and more importantly for allowing me to help make Lehigh a more connected comfortable place for First Year Students.

CAMP HAWK

The 2022 year of Camp Hawk was a blast! After the 2020 Camp Hawk on zoom, and the 2021 version on Lehigh's campus, Camp Hawkers were excited to return to the Poconos with Great Pocono Escape. It was the first Camp Hawk at a campsite in 3 years, and camp hawkers got to enjoy good weather, exciting outdoor activities, and the company of the whole Great Pocono Escape crew! Camp Hawk 2022 was led by 5 inclusive, welcoming, and enthusiastic Camp Hawk Counselors. Fifty-two participants, divided into 5 color families, joined for a weekend of competition, excitement, fun, and meaningful bonding.

BECAUSE OF CAMP HAWK...

- 89%** Are more willing to step outside their comfort zone to get involved
- 72%** Made at least one strong connection with another camper
- 67%** Have a better idea of how to get involved on campus
- 61%** Are excited for their future at Lehigh



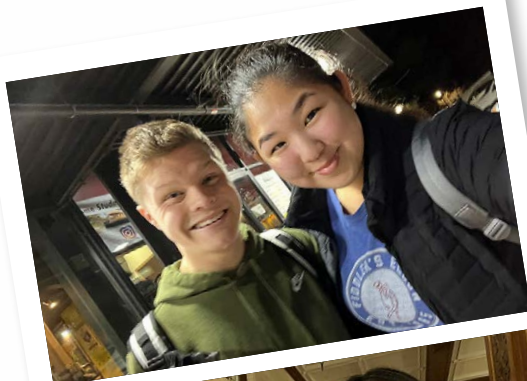
WHAT WAS ONE THING THAT YOU LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF AS A RESULT OF THIS EXPERIENCE?

"There are so many freshmen experiencing the same anxieties that I am about the first year of college, so knowing that others are experiencing what I'm going through is relieving."

"stepping up to greet someone who you don't know is intimidating, but worth it."

CAMP HAWK: SNOWED IN

We were excited to host Camp Hawk: Snowed In for its fourth year to build meaningful connections among students in the spring semester. The program was adapted into a 5-week series where students participate in fun challenges for students to get to know each other, engage in thoughtful discussions, and explore resources on campus to make the most of their Lehigh experience. We invited offices to visit, lead activities, and share insights to help students consider their involvement on campus, including the Pride Center, the Center for Academic Success, and Health Advancement & Prevention Strategies. Students participated in fun challenges outside of the weekly meet-up to earn points which earned them cool SWAG and prizes. Challenges included meeting up with other participants, attending a featured event on campus, or scheduling an appointment with one of the featured offices.



The first-year students learned a lot from the program and gained both friendships and confidence stepping out of their comfort zone! Here's what they had to share about the impact of Camp Hawk Snowed In:

“

"[Camp Hawk Snowed In] helped me branch out in a way I wouldn't have been able to without it!"

"It has given me an opportunity to learn more about some of the different offices at Lehigh."

PRELUSION

7 PROGRAMS

- Discover Lehigh
- Fabricate:LU
- GlobaLehigh
- LehighMED
- Leadership Adventures
- Lehigh Women Engineers
- Volunteer Experience

164 STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

100% plan to stay involved with their program's office



98%

made a connection with their peers



97%

would recommend the program to their peers



76%

said evening socials were helpful in meeting students

\$309

AVERAGE COST TO ATTEND

21%

RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP

YEAR2@LU

What do we offer?

Year2@LU Kickoff

The Kickoff is a collaborative effort with the Center for Career & Professional Development to introduce students to Year2@LU programming, encourage students to make new social connections with people who have similar interests and goals, and to educate sophomores on networking, resume and interview skills.

Sophomore Series

Sophomores can attend a variety of events that are relevant to their second year at Lehigh and engage in opportunities on campus. One exclusive event includes a workshop with Housing Services and LUPD about Navigating the Off-Campus Housing Environment.

Sophomore Escape

The Sophomore Escape is a weekend retreat occurring concurrently with the Great Pocono Escape exclusively for sophomores. Student mentors and professional staff facilitated activities to encourage exploration of inclusive leadership and identity development in a deep and meaningful way.

We provide a ton of structured support to our first-year students, but then what!? The intent behind Year2@LU is to provide some more structure to deepen their learning in the 5 Foundations, continue to encourage the use of timely and relevant resources, and to encourage an active process of connecting and applying experiences to encourage individual growth and leadership development.



SOPHOMORE PLUNGE

Sophomore pLunge Fellows

(NEW this spring!)

We're working with 6 students on passion projects to help them make an impact here on campus. We've brainstormed,

set SMART goals and action steps. We can't wait to see what they are able to accomplish and to see what they've learned at the end of the semester!

Open Houses

The open houses were a fun way to encourage students to take care of themselves as we provided a bunch of ways to destress, have fun, and make new friends. From fun crafts, snacks and reflective activities – it was fun to get to hang out with sophomores in this space!



Many thanks goes to Ceci Alfaro, Ethan Riester, Francesca Logozzo, & Jordan Lickstein for their contributions!



CONNECT WITH US!

Keep the Orientation and Camp Hawk magic with you year-round by following us on Instagram and Twitter, liking us on Facebook and joining our LinkedIn Group!



@LehighOFYE



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Lehigh OFYE Staff

