Greetings from Lehigh! We hope you are doing well, enjoying happiness and success wherever life has led you since your days at Lehigh. In this edition of the Brown Polo Update, you will learn about the changes to the OFYE staff as well as the evolution of our programs. The OFYE is not the only place that has experienced changes. This year, President Simon has announced Lehigh’s Path to Prominence, a plan that will see “Lehigh grow its undergraduate and graduate student enrollment, hire 100 new faculty, launch a new college of health, and build new facilities as well as renovate existing ones.” It is an exciting time at Lehigh!

Amidst the changes, what has remained constant is the OFYE’s dedication to the academic and social success of our first-year and transfer students. With each training and meeting, we are working towards creating a strong staff and orientation program to help foster a memorable and fun experience for our incoming students.

We hope the memories of Lehigh and being an Orientation Leader come back to you as you read this newsletter!

Lehigh STRONG!
Stefanie Burke & Kara (Gensamer) Uhrich
**KARA (GENSAMER) UHRICH**

Assistant Director of the First-Year Experience and Orientation

Kara Uhrich is the Assistant Director for First-Year Experience and Orientation and has served in this role since August 2014. She earned her B.A. in English Literature and K-12 Education from Rowan University and her Master's Degree in College Student Affairs from Rutgers University. Prior to coming to Lehigh, Kara was a Residence Life Educator at Rutgers University in a first-year residence hall. In her current role, Kara plans Orientation for first-year and transfer students, families, and January Admits in addition to overseeing the amazing Orientation staff! Outside of work, Kara enjoys yoga, baking, and reading as well as spending time with her family and husband, Tim.

**AMANDA WALTER**

Graduate Assistant

Amanda Walter is the Graduate Assistant for First-Year Experience. She earned her B.S. in Behavioral Neuroscience at Lehigh University and is currently working towards her M.Ed. in Biology Secondary Education at Lehigh’s Graduate College of Education. She worked as an Orientation Leader and Orientation Coordinator as an undergraduate student and is excited to be continuing her involvement with the office as a graduate student. This year, she will be working primarily with PreLUsion programs and coordinators and Camp Hawk counselors and participants. Amanda is an active member of Lehigh Cru and Lehigh University Dance Marathon and enjoys spending her free time around campus with friends.

**ERIN KETZ**

Coordinator

Erin Ketz is the Coordinator for First-Year Experience and has been in her role since March 2014. She earned her B.F.A. in Graphic Design from Marywood University and A.A.S. in Marketing from Northampton Community College. Her responsibilities include overseeing the day to day operations in the office as well as the graphic design for, flyers, posters, T-shirts and office publications and social media. Outside of work Erin enjoys going to see her favorite band, Third Eye Blind, play whenever she has a chance, and spending time with her two cats, Marley and Zoey and her fiancé, Dan.
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The Office of First-Year Experience has seen incredible growth since its inception. From programs, to office location, and staff, the one thing that remains constant in the OFYE is change! We have been so fortunate to have some of the greatest staff in the field come through the doors of the OFYE and share their talents and passion with thousands of new students. Let's take a look at where some of our former professional staff members are now!

ALLISON RAGON

After completing her 12th Lehigh Orientation, Allison packed up her ice breaker manual and orientation shirts to prepare for her next role in life. Within weeks of moving to NC to support her husband’s new position at Wake Forest University, Liam Bruce arrived on October 8, forever changing how Allison viewed families sending their kids off to college! Allison has been able to tap into her lifelong dream of raising a child and her love of food by staying at home with Liam full time and delivering produce part time for a local farm co-op. Her orientation knowledge has been put to great use as Allison has also been serving as a consultant for other institutions reviewing their Orientation programs and providing suggestions to improve the experience of new students and their families.

JILL FORREST

Jill Forrest was the coordinator for the OFYE from March 2012 until January of 2014. Jill then served as the coordinator of Academic Outreach. In that role she planned and implemented the Lehigh Valley Science Fair, STAR Camp and High School Scholars program. Jill is currently a coordinator in the Office of the Provost. She supports Faculty Governance, LVSF and other projects. She continues to work on design projects for the university as well. Jill enjoys taking her boys, Aidan (14) and Lucas (12), hiking, to concerts and on other adventures on her free time. Last year Jill and her family rescued a puppy, Dani California, who has converted Jill into a dog person!

Jill still keeps in touch with some Orientation Leaders and OC’s from the past. She loves to see updates on social media of who is getting married, traveling the world, working at amazing companies and putting their Lehigh degree to make great changes in the world!

STEVE DUTTON

LEHIGH!....STRONG! Now that I've got your attention, let me introduce myself! My name is Steve Dutton and I served as the Assistant Director for Orientation and Student Engagement in the OFYE from 2011-2014-ish. So many amazing things happened during my time; Camp Hawk started, OCs went from OC6 to OC7 to OC13 to the O-Team, Family Orientation went from 1 day to 2 days, Faux Friday and the Lehigh After Dark Kick-off were created during Orientation, and we even had a year of Orientation cut from 4 days to 2.5 days due to bad weather. I also met some amazing people during my time there; I miss everyone and everything!

In 2014, I left my role at Lehigh to become an Advancement Officer with Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity. After a year and half traveling throughout the Northeast for my fraternity, the birth an awesome baby girl ultimately led me back into Orientation at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. I live here now with my wife, Samantha (former Lehigh staff member as well!), our 18-month old daughter, Lila, and our overly excited puppy, Winnie.

I’ll always look back fondly at the amazing people and experiences that Lehigh was able to provide for me. I hope that you all are able to look back on your Orientation experiences and feel the same way.

OL Love & Lehigh Strong,
Steve
The Orientation Coordinators assist in the recruitment, selection, and training of the OL staff and help to plan Orientation. They are also responsible for creating the magic that makes Orientation so special!

ROMAN BROWN
CLASS: 2018
I was a ball boy at the US Open.

MATT KORZEN
CLASS: 2018
I once caught a stingray with my hands.

KIANNA LAUCK
CLASS: 2018
I went skydiving as a senior year gift.

NADINE ELSAYED
CLASS: 2018
I got to attend Fashion Week in Milan.

GABBY POMERANTZ
CLASS: 2018
I have never been stung by a bee or broken a bone.

SCOTT HENRY
CLASS: 2018
I have caught a homerun ball at Fenway Park.

NADINE ELSAYED
CLASS: 2018
I got to attend Fashion Week in Milan.
RETURNING ORIENTATION LEADERS

In 2013, the Orientation program began choosing Returning Orientation Leaders separately from new Orientation Leaders. The role of a Returner is slightly different from that of a new Orientation Leader. Returning Orientation Leaders have the opportunity to use their past experiences from Orientation to help shape the new staff through the interview and training process of new OLs. Furthermore, they act as mentors for the new OLs and are there to assist the Orientation Coordinators to create a memorable Orientation experience for the staff and first-year students! The Returning Orientation Leaders are all excellent examples of what Lehigh has to offer and the OFYE is excited to work with them to welcome the Class of 2021. The returning Orientation Leaders for 2017 are listed below:

2017 RETURNING ORIENTATION LEADERS

*indicates Transfer Orientation Leader

- Ceci Alfaro
- Tom Ball
- Sasha
- Sara Fuertes
- Cole Geryak
- Ravi Kurtz
- Serina Lai
- Cassie Lajeunesse
- Brian Logsdon
- Rachel McCoog
- Bailey McDonald
- Benjamin Miller*
- Juliet Panichella
- Dani Rafanelli
- Adam Rahim
- Jason Sadler*
- Ellen Schaaf
- Faye Sheppard
- Katie Teitelbaum
- Lindsay Wilson

This year the Returner Orientation Leader trainings were themed. Check out the staff’s take on each week’s theme!

Flannel!
Lehigh Pride!
Animals!
Vacation!
Orientation Training is not complete without that wonderful theme! Take a journey with us to look at some of the past OL themes!!!

#memories

Each theme that is chosen has a message that makes the Orientation program stronger!

- **2005**: Luau (Hawaiian)
- **2006**: First-Year Round Up (Western)
- **2007**: Hollywood
- **2008**: Army: Boot Camp
- **2009**: Survivor
- **2010**: Clue

**2014**: UP

**2015**: Pirates of the Caribbean

**2016**: Legos

**2017**: The Hunger Games

**2018**: Harry Potter

**2019**: Lion King

**2020**: Pirates of the Caribbean

**2021**: Luau (Hawaiian)

**2022**: First-Year Round Up (Western)

**2023**: Hollywood

**2024**: Army: Boot Camp

**2025**: Survivor

**2026**: Clue

**2027**: UP
OL SPOTLIGHT: PAST & PRESENT

KATE OLIVER

“I’m Karate Kate.” “That’s not an adjective.” “...Ok. I’m Kicking Kate.” “That’s not an adjective either.” I then retorted: actually, I have no recollection of how this scene during my first-year ended, leading me to believe my response was neither witty nor grammatically correct. I fear I will always be haunted by this name-game blunder, but fortunately, when reliving this harrowing episode makes me want to crawl into a cave, I can turn to my stash of happier memories from my three years with the OFYE – two as an OL and 1 as the GA.

Everything about being an OL was wonderful; it was silly, fun, chaotic, transformative and inspiring, and I got to experience it with amazing people who I genuinely admire. The memories with the staff are a blur of joy, and the memories of my first-year students coming to me for advice or just needing to talk are what really make me proud to have been an OL.

Working as the GA was also wonderful. I finished that year with several new mentors, friends, and appreciation for the OFYE. Having to re-plan Camp Hawk the day before because of an active shooter near Camp Canadensis was a great lesson in flexibility and creativity, aka the OFYE’s bread and butter. Shout-out to my two CHC staffs: I am so impressed by how much you all grew as counselors. You are like my children – my pride and joy.

Kooky (Kind, Kitschy – I’m ready now!) Kate currently works at Columbia University doing research on sensory neurons.

JASON SADLER

My name is Jason Sadler. I attended Camp Hawk, was a Camp Hawk Counselor, an Orientation Leader, and now am a Transfer Orientation Leader. Of all the offices and clubs I have worked with on and off campus, the OFYE is the only one that I can truly commend in the ubiquity of its mission; Every single member of the OFYE, staff or student, glows with the warmth of inclusion, openness, thoughtfulness, and fun. I am honored to be able to say I am a part of this wonderful family. This family has not only molded my Lehigh experience, but me as a person.

Of all the skills instilled throughout my time on staff, I believe the most impactful ones were those not “on the brochure.” I say this because, one, I’m not sure if there even is a brochure, but two, I am positive that no single new OFYE staff member knows to expect this. Going into the position, I knew I would learn how to diplomatically facilitate discussion, command attention of a small group or even a large audience, and subtly include every student regardless of the situation so as to have no one feeling left out. What I did not know I would learn, however, was: how to sincerely appreciate every single person around me, and find who I am. After all, most of the problems faced by students of all years stem from a feeling of not belonging–it is hard to know where you belong if you do not know who you are.

The OFYE community is not only a window looking out to all Lehigh has to offer, but also a mirror in which you can realize all that you have to offer. I have made it my personal goal to make self-worth a priori in every person I interact with, and would not have realized the desperate need for this if the OFYE had not opened my eyes. Thank you, OFYE, for showing me not only my significance, but the value in every friend, family member, and stranger.

If you would like to be featured in the next OL spotlight, please email Kara Uhrich at kag914@lehigh.edu!
CAMP HAWK

As always, the fall semester kicked off with a bang for the Camp Hawk staff. The energy gained from a successful CHC retreat resulted in our staff joyfully bouncing around campus to advertise the experience before school began. All this paid off when, on the first day of classes, camper registration marked a huge success. The fifty open spots filled in roughly a minute, while the wait-list climbed to over 50 people within ten! This only enlarged the staff’s excitement, and the next four weeks were dedicated to finalizing the Camp Hawk schedule. Such hard work paid off in the form of one of the most successful Camp Hawks to date. A few tweaks led to a smooth group-based reveal ceremony, and campers and counselors alike lit up Camp Canadensis with the thrills of Iron Hawk and the Lip Sync battle.

This past year, we had 14 Camp Hawk Counselors, 1 Camp Hawk Guide, and 50 student participants. In keeping with the camp spirit, families were renamed for 5 forces of nature: volcano (red), earthquake (green), sandstorm (orange), solar flare (yellow), and tsunami (blue). Flags were created by each group this year to show pride for the force of nature that represented them.

The gains of this year lead to a great many changes for the future experience. The success of the Camp Hawk Guide (thanks to Cathy Fletcher) led to the creation of the Coordinator of Camp Hawk position, which serves in the same vein as the CHG and OC positions, but additionally helps to aid in the selection process and busy week of Orientation. We have also added a new Returning Camp Hawk Counselor (RCHC) position this year and are so excited to capitalize on the knowledge, experiences, and insight that these returners will bring to the staff. We are extremely excited to see what changes our staff will make to the program this year! Finally, currently under consideration are various manners in which to spread the reach of Camp Hawk to a larger audience.

VERONICA MCKINNY
Coordinator of Camp Hawk
CLASS OF 2018

DIVYA PATEL
Returning Camp Hawk Counselor
CLASS OF 2018

DANNY WEAVER
Returning Camp Hawk Counselor
CLASS OF 2019
PRELUSION

Our Prelusion programming has remained strong this year, with all 10 programs reaching their minimum capacities this year, and 8 out of 10 programs reaching their maximum capacities. The 2016 Prelusion season included: The Outdoor Adventure Program (OAP), Volunteer Experience (VE), UrbanOps, GlobaLehigh, Discover Lehigh, Food for Thought, SustainaLehigh, allLUsions, Lehigh Women Engineers (LWE), and American Foundations. American Foundations was a new program run by the International Students and Scholars Office (OISS), providing first-year students with a historic look at the origins of our nation. All other programs returned from years past. 269 first-year students participated in Prelusion this year, a 9.3% increase from 2015 and a 17.5% increase from 2014. Additionally, our outreach to unique student populations on campus continues to improve, allowing us to increase the reach of our programs to more segments of the student population.

SUMMER READING

The Summer Reading Committee is currently hard at work reading books that will hope to interest and engage the Class of 2021. We will be selecting books on a theme regarding history and societal change. See some of our guiding questions to understand the type of discussion we are hoping the book selection will help the Class of 2021 explore!

• What might we learn about a culture or community by examining their history?
• How do we affect change--in ourselves, our communities, our world?
• How have societal issues changed your perspectives and actions over time?
• How might this be similar or different from someone of a different generation?
• How do our individual actions impact the communities we are a part of?
• What role will you take as a member of the Lehigh community?
• How do we decide what traditions to keep and honor and which to let fade?

Do you have recommendations? Don’t hesitate to reach out to us! We can’t wait to announce what we find in April 2017!

CONNECT WITH US!

Keep the Orientation magic with you year-round by following us on Instagram and twitter, and liking us on Facebook!

We Need Your Pictures!

Do you have pictures from your time as an OL that you would like to share with us? We would love to fill our Instagram with #throwbackthursday and #flashbackfriday pictures! Send your pictures to Erin (erk314@lehigh.edu) along the approximate date and any information you want included in the caption.

Many thanks goes to Allison Ragon, Steve Dutton, Jill Forrest, Kate Oliver, Jason Sadler, Amanda Walter, and Veronica McKinny for their contributions!