A Note from the OFYE

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, Student Affairs welcomed a new Vice Provost, Dr. Ric Hall, and Dean of Students, Katherine Lavinder, along with several promotions, additions, and structural changes – our department sure looks different!

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 or Camp Hawk Counselor come back to you as you read this newsletter!

Lehigh STRONG!
Stefanie Burke & Kara (Gensamer) Uhrich
MEET THE OFYE STAFF:

**STEFANIE BURKE**
Assistant Dean of Students & Director of the Office of the First-Year Experience
Stefanie Burke excitedly accepted the role as Assistant Dean & Director of First-Year Experience in August 2015 to work directly with new students and their transition. She was initially introduced to the world of student affairs at her alma mater, James Madison University, through her various jobs on campus and through student leadership positions in student government and homecoming. Post-graduation, Stefanie earned a Master’s Degree in Student Affairs & Higher Education at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Leadership development has also always been a passion of hers, first working in the Office of Student Leadership Development at Lehigh since December 2012 and at the University of South Carolina prior to her move to Pennsylvania. Outside work, Stefanie enjoys time with family – especially spending quality time and playing with her 1 year old, John. John is happy and energetic, and an absolute joy in mommy’s life!

**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. Kara and Tim are looking forward to the arrival of their baby girl in 2018!

**ANJELA YATES**
Graduate Assistant
Anjela Yates is the Graduate Assistant for First-Year Experience. She earned her B.S. in Industrial & Systems Engineering with a Certificate of Global Citizenship at Lehigh University and is currently working towards her M.Eng. in Technical Entrepreneurship at the P.C. Rossin College of Engineering & Applied Science. 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 PreLLision programs and coordinators and Camp Hawk counselors and participants. Anjie is involved in STRIVE youth organization, The National Society of Black Engineers, and the Step Team. Fun Fact: Anjie is 1 of 10 children in her family.

**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.
YEAR IN REVIEW: **OFYE’S BEST 9**

It is incredible to think about all that can happen in a year! If you follow us on Instagram (@LehighOFYE), you will know just how exciting this year has been!
Going into the spring semester, the Orientation Coordinators have only just begun creating the best experience possible for both first-year students and Orientation Leaders. Although the program is entirely different from either perspective, it offers new insights, memories, and friendships with every year that passes. Our goal is to bring out the best in people and encourage everyone involved in the program to break out of their shells. Already having experienced both sides of Orientation, the Orientation Coordinators are prepared to make positive impacts on our community and to inspire others to get involved and make the most of their Lehigh experience. We truly believe that the values of the OFYE are those that can be integrated outside of Orientation and into our everyday lives. Through the years we’ve seen the power of positivity, friendship, and inclusiveness on the hundreds of people that the program impacts. Nicknamed the Double-OCs, the Orientation Coordinators cannot wait to take on their upcoming mission: Operation Orientation 2018.

- 2018 OCs “Double-OCs”
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 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 2022. The returning Orientation Leaders for 2018 are listed below:

### 2018 RETURNING ORIENTATION LEADERS

*indicates Transfer Orientation Leader

- Reilly Callahan
- John Carroll
- Nicole Castillo
- Evan Chansky
- Haley Donovan
- Amanda Ferrante
- Jess Foy
- Sam Fynn*
- Taylor Ingerman
- Joey Kawash
- Haley Morris
- Gen Nickerson
- Dean Paparian
- Esther Park
- Peter Rizko
- Eric Rizzi*
- Silvia Rosado
- Mustaffa Said
- Will Sarnie
- Gray Schick
- Reagan Sullivan

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

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**Flannel!**

**Lehigh Pride!**

**Ugly Sweater!**
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!

- 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
OL SPOTLIGHT: PAST & PRESENT

Elif Anda

I’ll never forget my first day at Lehigh. It was a cold, snowy Sunday afternoon in January 2013. We were in Maginnes 101 for our Spring Admit Orientation. The day itself was a complete blur – presentations, name games, awkward smiles, repeat. I have a crystal clear memory of one thing, though: at the very end of the day, Lissy Glover (an OC at the time), said “By the way, I know you all just got to campus, but if you’re looking for a group of 70 new friends, apply to be an Orientation Leader by February. It’s a super fun time!”

Five years later, I’m so thankful that Lissy made that last-minute pitch for being an OL. I not only made 70 new friends that year – I found a family. A family that made Lehigh feel like a home (filled with lots of colorful bandanas and random dance parties and spelling your name with your butt). After my first year as an OL, I truly thought that the magic could never be replicated. Wanna know a secret? Being a returner was even better, because we got to watch other people experience the magic for the first time (it’s sort of like watching those videos on Facebook of people getting puppies as a surprise, and you cry because you’re so excited that they’re excited?! Yeah.) And being an OC was the best of all, because we got to plan and GIVE the gift of the puppies (I’m running with this metaphor!) and watch those around us grow and flourish and lead and laugh and come together to experience something amazing.

Hello there! My name is Joey Kawash (like carwash, but without the “r”) and I’m going on my 3rd year in the OFYE. I initially applied to become part of this family because I wanted to make a positive difference for first-year students and figured it would be an enjoyable ride along the way. Boy, I had no idea what I signed up for! I recall walking into my first group retreat, peering at 90+ unknown faces, feeling a bit intimidated as one of the more reserved members of this large staff. Despite the initial trepidation, it didn’t take long for me to feel right at home. The people I talked to, many of whom would become good friends, were so friendly, open, and passionate about everything they did. The energy flowing out of that room and all subsequent trainings was unreal!

From my roles as a Camp Hawk Counselor, Orientation Leader, and now Returning Orientation Leader, I’ve seen new perspectives, become more comfortable in my own skin, and had more fun than I ever could have imagined. Each person I got to know, each serious and not so serious discussion we’ve had, and each energizer I dominated in (which is obviously all of them) culminated into experiences that are best described as magical. I know I’m going to look back at these memories and the memories I’ve yet to create and realize how fortunate I am while a big cheeky smile dawns across my face. I joined the OFYE because I wanted to make a positive impact on others; little could I imagine, it would make such a positive impact on me.

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

Elif currently works in New York at Crisis Text Line (a not-for-profit that provides 24/7 free crisis support through text). She’s always happy to have visitors and reminisce about the Orientation days!

Always carry that Orientation magic with you. It’s the best, funkiest, most energetic, colorful family we’ll ever have the privilege of being a part of!
Camp Hawk is a mid-September weekend retreat that seeks to continue allowing first-year students an opportunity to connect with each other in a fun, positive environment. The semester was kicked off with a CHC retreat that was held on campus and around the South Bethlehem Community where the counselors finalized planning and prepared for the new students. On the first day of classes, camper registration marked a huge success once again. The fifty open spots filled within minutes, while the wait-list climbed to over 50 people within ten!

This past year, we had 13 Camp Hawk Counselors, 1 Coordinator for Camp Hawk, and 50 student participants. To increase the intimacy of the color groups, we added one more color family to the CH experience. The colors and themes were: volcano (red), forest (green), sandstorm (orange), lightning (yellow), sea and sky (blue), and galaxy (purple). Camp Hawk was scheduled in a way that did not conflict with exams and exam preparation which ensured increased attendance of first-year students.

Moving forward with feedback from both campers and counselors, we plan to make Camp Hawk 2018 the best yet by providing more opportunities for students to engage with others outside of their color family as well as utilizing the camp facilities and resources during Iron Hawk.

Gearing up for Camp Hawk 2018!

SHAE HEFT  
Coordinator of Camp Hawk  
CLASS OF 2020

The Coordinator of Camp Hawk assists in the recruitment, selection, and training of the Camp Hawk Staff, helps to plan Camp Hawk, and offers a valuable helping hand during Orientation.

LAUREN HAMP  
Returning Camp Hawk Counselor  
CLASS OF 2020

Returning Camp Hawk Counselors assist in the recruitment and interview process for new Camp Hawk Counselors, helps to plan Camp Hawk, and serves as a resource for new Camp Hawk Counselors.
PRELUSSION

Our preLUSion programming has remained strong this year, once again. The 2017 preLUSion season included: alLUsions, Discover Lehigh, Fabricate:LU, Food for Thought, GlobaLehigh, Launch into Business, Lehigh Women Engineers (LWE), Outdoor Adventure Program (OAP), and SustainabLEHIGH. Unfortunately, UrbanOps: NYC did not run this year but the preLUSion program did not suffer since it gained two brand new programs. Fabricate:LU allowed first year students to explore Lehigh’s fabrication facilities and learn how to leverage the tools on campus to support their educational and personal growth. They also got to build some really cool keepsakes to mark the start of their Lehigh Journey. Launch into Business provided 15 students the opportunity to get acquainted with the College of Business and Economics (CBE) and the Rauch Business Center Community. Students traveled to various business in Philadelphia and New York, improved their networking skills, and strengthened their professional development. 239 first year students participated in preLUSion this year. 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 2022. We will be selecting books on a theme regarding health and wellness. See some of our guiding questions to understand the type of discussion we are hoping the book selection will help the Class of 2022 explore!

- What are upcoming issues and challenges in the field of health and medicine? What role do we as citizens and a university have in solving these challenges?
- How is health and self-care a communal responsibility? How will you support and encourage your peers to make health and personal well-being a priority on campus?
- How do cultural differences impact our view of medicine, health, and care? How do parts of our identity like race, gender, socioeconomic status, religion, etc. impact this view?
- How might personal experiences with family medical history impact your view?
- How might our individual decisions around health impact those we interact with or members of our community?
- What are effective ways of coping and managing challenges in our lives? How do you remain resilient in the face of physical or mental challenges?
- How do you define wellness? What does it mean to be mentally healthy? How does it compare to physical health?
- How do we recognize and manage addictive behaviors in ourselves or others? When and how do we step in effectively?
- Why are personal and physical health issues often stigmatized?

Do you have recommendations? Don’t hesitate to reach out to us! We can’t wait to announce what we find in April 2018!

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 or CHC 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 Elif Anda, Joey Kawash, and Anjie Yates for their contributions!