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 continual evolution (get it?) of the OFYE’s programs! The OFYE is not the only place that has experienced significant staffing changes. This year, Lehigh welcomed President John Simon as the institution’s 14th president.

Amidst the changes, what has remained constant is the OFYE’s dedication to the academic and social success of Lehigh’s newest 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 and Kara Gensamer
KARA GENSAMER – Assistant Director for the First-Year Experience and Orientation
Kara Gensamer 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 work, Kara enjoys yoga, baking, and reading as well as spending time with her family and husband, Tim.

EMILY SHREVE – Graduate Assistant
Emily Shreve is a Graduate Assistant in the Office of First-Year Experience and a Doctoral Candidate in the English Department. She received her B.A. in English from Bowling Green State University and her M.A. in English from Lehigh. In the OFYE, Emily’s main responsibilities include the Summer Reading program and the weekly email to all first-year students. When not in the office, Emily is working on her dissertation. She is a Green Bay Packers fan and loves the TV show Bob’s Burgers.

JOHN SCHULTZ – Graduate Assistant
John completed his undergraduate degree in chemical engineering last May but decided to remain at Lehigh to complete a Master’s degree through the Technical Entrepreneurship program. John’s tenure with the office has been a long and rewarding one including 3 years on the student staff and a 4th as the graduate assistant. As the GA, John is responsible for organizing Camp Hawk and training the Camp Hawk Counselors, coordinating Prelusion programs, running Discover Lehigh, and organizing the 5x10 Symposium that takes place during Orientation. When not in the office or in class (which is rare!) John enjoys playing the guitar, drinking coffee, making whatever comes to mind, and being in the company of good friends.

ERIN KETZ – Coordinator
Erin Ketz is the Coordinator for First-Year Experience. 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. Erin is very passionate about being vegan. She loves spending time with her two black cats, Marley and Zoey, and her fiancé, Dan.
2016 ORIENTATION COORDINATORS

A NOTE FROM THE O-SQUAD

As we finish up the Spring semester, it’s crazy to think about how much has been accomplished through Lehigh’s Orientation program. In just the past few months, an incredible amount of work has gone into the planning for Orientation 2016. Through the years, Orientation has impacted the lives of countless first-years, Orientation Leaders, and the Lehigh community at large. Each year, the Orientation program gets stronger and stronger, and we’re so excited to be a part of the continued growth of the program and of the new and returning Orientation Leaders who will welcome Lehigh’s Class of 2020 in the fall. As alumni of the program, we want to encourage you to continue expressing the values of positivity, inclusiveness, and self-reflection in all aspects of life. Remember - once an OL, always an OL!

-The 2016 OCs

SEAN BYRNE
CLASS: 2016
I once guessed the exact numbers of jellybeans in a jar for a contest.

SYDNEY GLENN
CLASS: 2017
I competed in the Jewish Olympics.

JEREMY SORDAN
CLASS: 2016
When I was six years old, I named my pet goldfish after Spongebob Squarepants.

TINI FUERTES
CLASS: 2017
I hit a clown on the head with a baseball bat and I am related to Charlie Sheen.

ANJIE YATES
CLASS: 2017
I was homeschooled for a year.

CORINA FIZGERALD
CLASS: 2017
I have never eaten a grape.

NAT JENKINS
CLASS: 2017
I have driven across the country.

HENRY PEREZ
CLASS: 2017
I once won a lottery, but I lost my ticket.
This year, the OFYE has the pleasure of presenting an incredibly diverse staff. Every position is filled with someone from a different background, college and class year. Two new positions were added to the OFYE staff this year as well. Take a look at some of our stats below.

**STAFF POSITIONS**

- **55** New Orientation Leaders
- **29** Orientation Coordinators
- **17** Returning Orientation Coordinators
- **15** Camp Hawk Counselors
- **1** Camp Guide
- **51** Women
- **47** Men

**COLLEGES**

- **34** Arts & Sciences
- **13** Business
- **5** CSB
- **9** IBE
- **8** IDEAS
- **29** Engineering

**CLASS STANDINGS**

- **31** First-Year Students
- **35** Sophomores
- **26** Juniors
- **6** Seniors

**GEOGRAPHY**

The OFYE Staff comes from 15 States and 9 Countries and Territories.
NEW ROLES IN THE OFYE

CAMP HAWK GUIDE: Cathy Fletcher

The Camp Hawk Guide will be the equivalent of the Orientation Coordinator position. The CHG works with the OFYE Graduate Assistant to create and implement trainings as well as take a larger role in the planning and execution of Camp Hawk. Cathy has previously served as a Camp Hawk Counselor for two years.

OCL FOR TRANSFERS, COMMUTERS, AND JANUARY ADMITS: Jeremy Sordan

This Orientation Coordinator of Logistics focuses specifically on Transfer and January Admits’ orientation and the commuter students experience during August orientation. They take the lead on creating a schedule and assist with running the programs. During summer training, they will work with Transfer Orientation Leaders to prepare them for orientation.

TRANSFER OLS:
Rachel Davidson, Julie Metkus

This year, we selected two Orientation Leaders from the Returner pool of applicants to work alongside Jeremy, the Orientation Coordinator for Logistics to support the January Admits and transfer students. They will guide the January Admits and transfer students through their Orientation program and serve as a resource once Orientation has ended.

2016 RETURNING ORIENTATION LEADERS

Juan Camilo Arbelaez
Roman Brown
Vincent Caruso
Kris Datta
Liyala Dickens
David Ebhomielen
Nadine Elsayed
Oscar Gomez
Sara Grogan
Scott Henry
Matthew Korzen
Kianna Lauck
Mackenzie Mooney
Gabrielle Pomerantz
Jonathan Ross
Harrison Sommer
Jack Woods
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!!!

#memories

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

2010
Clue

2011
Harry Potter

2012
Lion King

2013
The Hunger Games

2014
UP

2015
Pirates of the Caribbean

Faux Friday

To many first-year students arriving on campus for Orientation, the South Side of Bethlehem can feel like a mystery. For this reason, the OFYE created Faux Friday, an opportunity for students to eat in South Bethlehem during Orientation with their classmates. The first-year students were amazed as they ventured past the bookstore for the first time and saw 4th Street bouncing with Orientation Leaders, Gryphons, fellow students, and Bethlehem residents. Students chose from one of thirteen restaurants including favorites such as Sal’s, Nawab, La Lupita, and more! And honestly, who wouldn’t fall in love with the South Side after their first Goose sandwich. The program has been such a win-win for the Lehigh and South Bethlehem community that we hope to increase the 70% first-year participation rate to 100% in the future! Helping others become comfortable with the uncomfortable has always been the Orientation mission, and Faux Friday has proven to be another effective trick up our sleeves.
SUMMER READING

This year the Summer Reading Committee decided on the theme–Food: What Nourishes Us?. The books selected are *The Dorito Effect* by Mark Schatzker and *Stealing Buddha’s Dinner* by Bich Minh Nguyen. The books are more intimately tied together, as each describes the authors discovering new tastes that shift their understandings of themselves and of American culture. Mark Schatzker discovers that food used to taste differently before chemical innovations allowed for added flavors and before animals and vegetables were bred for size and quantity rather than taste. Bich Minh Nguyen’s memoir describes her discovery of American culture through American food traditions, as well as her gradual acceptance of her unique family and culture—a blend of Vietnamese and Mexican influences—seen, again, through food. We have identified topics that relate to each of the five foundations and hope to have thought provoking discussions about them with the incoming class of 2020.

CAMP HAWK

Camp Hawk is a weekend adventure that takes place at Camp Canadensis in the Pocono Mountains. Every year, about 50 students take part in Camp Hawk, which is part of a larger Lehigh retreat known as the Great Pocono Escape. At Camp Hawk, students get to interact with a variety of members of the Lehigh community in a locale hidden deep in the forests of Northeast Pennsylvania. This gives participants of the program the opportunity to make new friends, get away from campus for a weekend, and have exciting new experiences the entire time.

Over the years, Camp Hawk has grown to host more students and hire more staff members. This past year, we had 15 Camp Hawk Counselors and 50 student participants. In keeping with the camp spirit, families were renamed for the 5 natural elements (of Taoism) which include: earth, fire, water, wood, and metal. Flags were created by each group this year to show pride for the element that represented them. Looking ahead to this year, there’s much to be excited for especially with the advent of the new staff position, the Camp Hawk Guide. The Guide will be the sole leader of the Camp Hawk Counselor staff. We’re excited to see what changes they make to the program!

PRELUSION

Our Prelusion programming has remained strong this year, despite some changes to the lineup of programs offered. The 2016 Prelusion season will have 10 programs many of which have been consistently running for years. These programs include: The Outdoor Adventure Program (OAP), Volunteer Experience (VE), UrbanOps, GlobalLehigh, Discover Lehigh, Food for Thought, SustainableLehigh, allUsions, and Lehigh Women Engineers (LWE). A new program running this year is the American Foundations program, which hopes to offer international students a historic look at the origins of our nation. Although the total capacity of our programs has decreased by 7 for this year, the overall capacity per program has increased which is a promising sign for the addition of new programs in the coming years. Additionally, our outreach to unique student populations on campus has improved which will increase the reach of our programs to more segments of the student population.
OL SPOTLIGHT: PAST & PRESENT

Hannah Rettoun

I miss Orientation and Lehigh so much, I can’t even tell you.

I had applied for Orientation my first year and didn’t make it in, and reapplied my sophomore year, and I’m so glad I did. Orientation was such an incredible experience in so many ways. I was an OL for two years, then became part of the O-Team (woot woot!) as the first OA (Orientation Assistant, now called an OCL). As an OL, my favorite memory was seeing my first group of first-years become friends and running into one a few weeks afterward who said, “I miss Orientation!” I might’ve cried a little. All of our traditions are up there in my favorite memories, especially the theme/family reveals. I also loved that Orientation never really ended for our staff. We were still thrilled to see each other months later. That bond forms so quickly and so deeply, and the whole experience stays with you. All of it was absolute magic. And it sort of leaks into every other part of your life in the best way.

Orientation was just the greatest experience with the most wonderful people. Can you believe how much we learn about ourselves and each other in the 4 days of summer training? It’s insane. We ran on pure adrenaline and joy. And hoped it made an impact on our first-years. I am so grateful and proud to have been a part of Orientation. It was such a blast, and it is still so important to me for so many reasons.

-Hannah Rettoun (‘14, ‘15G)

Hannah is now living in New York and working as an editor for CBS

Minni Kim

My name is Minni Kim. I’ve been an Orientation Leader for three years and am entering my first year as a Camp Hawk Counselor, so you can say I am familiar with the OFYE. I’ve realized through these roles, how important community is to the way an individual feels in their environment. As OFYE staff members, we help new students find their community by facilitating interactions and making individuals feel comfortable to form relationships with their new campus community. We are also afforded the opportunity to be a part of the OFYE community; something that most OLs and CHCs will attest was a highlight of their Lehigh careers.

Because of these experiences, I’ve made it my goal at Lehigh to help create that community for the people around me. Without community, you lose a sense of belonging, and that is what feeds many of the struggles that students face at Lehigh and beyond.

So as I enter into the last year of my Lehigh career, I often wonder what my community will look like in the future. And while I am both excited and nervous about the prospect of the new experiences that will come with the journey, I am glad that I can always look back and reflect on one of the strongest, vibrant, and honest communities I will ever be a part of thanks to the OFYE.

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

Thank you to contributors:
Hannah Rettoun, Minni Kim, Henry Perez, and John Schultz

Shout out to the Brown Polo Update Committee:
Sean Byrne, Tom Ball, Andrew Schillaci, Cristina Fuertes, Kayla Jang