FRESHMAN ENGAGEMENT

BY THE NUMBERS

21 freshman Living-Learning Communities

425 freshmen in Living-Learning Communities

29 faculty mentors for L-LC students

400+ faculty and L-LC student meals in dining halls

56 World Representatives (freshman leaders)

52 World Ambassadors (sophomore leaders)

23 Community Assistants (senior/graduate student leaders)

IN THE CLASSROOM

• 1700 freshmen attended lectures at the Explore UAlbany event.
• 19 stand-alone freshman seminars enrolled 470+ first semester freshmen.
• 5 Targeted Learning Clusters enrolled approximately 100 freshmen.
• 10 Fall Friday sessions shared information with 486 new students.

97% OF FRESHMAN RESPONDENTS FOUND IT VALUABLE TO LIVE WITH OTHERS WHO SHARED THEIR INTERESTS.

GIVING BACK

• 447 freshmen engaged with community partners and participated in one of the largest community service events in the university’s history.
• L-LC freshmen sponsored a breast cancer awareness walk (World of Business), participated in a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (World of Accounting), volunteered at Club Zoe and the South End Children’s Cafe (Worlds of Community Service and Psychology), and donated fresh-picked apples to local food pantries (World of Health Psychology).

90% OF FRESHMAN RESPONDENTS HAVE MADE FRIENDS AT UALBANY AS A RESULT OF PARTICIPATING IN AN L-LC.

OUT AND ABOUT

• 100+ new students took a trip to Dippikill to explore the Adirondack mountains in October.
• 150+ L-LC students attended the first home football game, and 250+ attended the first home basketball game.
• 175 L-LC students participated in a welcome-back event (“Worlds Gone Wild”) in January.

85% OF FRESHMAN RESPONDENTS FOUND IT EASIER TO TRANSITION TO COLLEGE LIFE AS A RESULT OF BEING AN L-LC MEMBER.
TRANSFER ENGAGEMENT

BY THE NUMBERS

5 transfer Living-Learning Communities
111 new transfers in Living-Learning Communities
8 faculty mentors for transfer L-LC students
200+ transfers participating in Student Engagement programming
15 Transfer Transition Leader organized programs
6 welcome receptions and lunches for new transfers
12 Transfer Transition Leaders (student leaders)
350+ current members in Tau Sigma (transfer student honor society)

WELCOMING OUR TRANSFERS

- Over 150 incoming transfer students were welcomed at an annual Transfer Day in August.
- Over 500 new transfer students attended a Welcome Barbecue on Alumni Quad before classes began.
- 40 transfers attended a Community College Luncheon, designed to familiarize new students with key resources on campus, and to introduce the commuter student club, "The Driving Force".

82% of transfer students were retained by the university, and are returning for a third semester in Fall 2017.

LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT

- The UAlbany Transfer Advisory Group was implemented in the Fall of 2016, and included members of the faculty, staff, and transfer students. This group assessed transfer needs, developed ways to better support transfers, and worked to implement these practices across campus.
- The role of Transfer Liaison was developed to serve as a point of contact for transfer students, and taken together, serve as a network of colleagues with knowledge about unique transfer concerns and needs, to whom departments can refer students.
- Transfer Transition Leaders (TTLs) also serve as a resource for new transfers. TTLs are peer educators who are trained extensively about campus resources, how to create and implement programs for students, and how to help students in need. TTLs are individually assigned to new students and communicate with them via email and social media throughout their first year at UAlbany.
- The role of Peer Mentor was developed to give transfer students a one-on-one interaction with a current transfer student who could help show them around campus, and connect with them on a more personal level. The pair meet within the first week of classes, and as desired throughout their first semester.
- The Driving Force (commuter student club) was implemented to help address concerns about commuter students being less involved on-campus than resident students. This club provides both academic and social support for commuting transfers.
THE IMPACT OF ENGAGEMENT: FRESHMAN AND TRANSFER RETENTION

**FRESHMAN**
- 6.04% average freshman to sophomore retention bonus
- 9.68% average sophomore to junior retention bonus
- 15% graduate in four years bonus
- 0.124 average L-LC freshman GPA bonus

**TRANSFER**
- 82.2% current retention rate for transfer students returning for a third semester
- 90.5% retention rate from Fall 2016 to Spring 2017
- 0.36 average GPA bonus for transfer L-LC students (3.05 vs. 2.69)
- 98.1% average fall-to-spring retention for students in transfer classes
CHEER Grants

Creating Highly Engaging Educational Resources

CHEER grants are designed to help support faculty- and staff-initiated engagement activities by reimbursing incurred expenses.

This academic year, we were able to award 18 grants consisting of $3,550 to promote engagement both inside and outside of the classroom!

Departments supported this year include...

- Writing and Critical Inquiry
- Geography and Planning
- Music and Theatre
- History
- Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
- Physics

Examples of events that were supported by CHEER grants include...

- Zombie Film Festival
- Portuguese Language and Culture Festival
- Caribbean Film Festival
- Speaker lunch series within the Public Health department
- Master classes in the Music department
- Physics competition between students

Original art designed for the Zombie Film Festival at the Madison Theater

Students learn about the Physics Competition and more at Munch with the Majors. Students chat with Professor William Lanford, Undergraduate Program Director in Physics.
**UNDERGRADUATE ENGAGEMENT**

**Munch with the Majors**

600+ students connected with faculty representing all majors on campus (and many minors) to learn more about degree options and how to make the most of their academics.

**Food for Thought**

30+ students invited faculty to lunch or dinner with them in the dining hall to establish personal and meaningful connections.

**Food for Finals: Fall 2016**

75+ faculty and staff connected with over 4,000 undergraduates in 5 dining halls, serving them late-night treats before finals began.

**Food for Finals: Spring 2017**

60+ faculty and staff connected with over 5,000 undergraduates, serving them dinner outside on the academic podium.

**Faculty Appreciation**

Student Engagement recognized faculty with tickets to the Albany-Siena basketball game, emails to chairs, deans, and supervisors, held an appreciation event at the campus bookstore, and nominated individuals for Torch Awards.

**Faculty and Staff Club Advisor Appreciation**

Student Engagement recognized staff, club advisors, and E-board members with an event with over 300 people in attendance.

**Social Media Outreach**

22 L-LC freshmen and sophomores supported admissions’ social media accounts, and developed their own GroupMe chat groups to more effectively engage with potential L-LC students.
Meeting with Supreme Court Justice, Sonia Sotomayor

24 classes adopted her book, "My Beloved World", and 75 students and faculty attended an intimate conversation with the Justice.
Supporting Undergraduate Admissions

- 50+ L-LC and TTL students supported open houses, Scholar Days, and Accepted Student Days.
- L-LC members performed 30+ visits to their high schools over winter break to promote Student Engagement programming.
- There was L-LC representation at 100% of Accepted Student Receptions.
- A brand-new L-LC brochure was developed to better describe and advertise the programs.
- A free-standing brochure display now resides outside of LC 31, containing information for admissions tours.

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