Student Engagement
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FRESHMAN ENGAGEMENT

BY THE NUMBERS

IN THE CLASSROOM

- 1700 freshmen attended lectures at Explore UAlbany during opening weekend 2018.
- 19 stand-alone freshman seminars enrolled 475+ first semester freshmen.
- 5 Targeted Learning Clusters supported approximately 100 freshmen.

GIVING BACK

- More than 500 L-LC students engaged with community partners during our award-winning Living-Learning Community Connections.
- More than half of the L-LCs actively participated in a recycling competition throughout the year.
- L-LC freshmen supported cancer research, prepared taxes for low income residents, helped at after school programs, and created activity kits for hospitalized children.

OUT AND ABOUT

- More than 220 L-LC students took day trips to Dippikill, Lake George, and Thatcher Park/Indian Ladder Farms throughout the year.
- Over 70 L-LC students connected with healthcare professionals at Albany Medical Center through our Connect! partnership.
- The World of Digital Forensics won the first ever “Community Cup” and enjoyed a trip to an indoor water park as their grand prize.

92% Of freshman L-LC respondents found it valuable to live with others who shared their interests.

98% Of freshman L-LC respondents made friends at UAlbany as a result of participating in an L-LC.

88% Of freshman L-LC respondents reported connecting with faculty other than their faculty mentor.

Human Library Project:

Student Engagement partnered with Student Affairs, the NYS Writers Institute, UAS, and many academic departments to bring this international phenomenon to campus as a pilot program in the spring of 2018. Over 250 students “checked out” one of our ten amazing “human books” and engaged in dialogue about their fascinating stories. We plan to host this program annually after hearing that two-thirds of student survey respondents had a deeper appreciation for UAlbany community members as a result of attending the program. WMHT (the local public broadcast network) covered the event and created an excellent video promoting the high engagement happening at UAlbany.
Our students are highly engaged!

Each semester, Transfer Engagement hosts a luncheon for new transfers from community colleges to get to know each other and learn about the academic support services on campus.

World of History and Current Events students explored the NYS Museum.

With support from SA, 100+ new students took a day trip to explore Drippikill in the fall.

Academic peer educators supporting our freshman seminars met with peer writing tutors and academic peer tutors to connect and share their experiences supporting undergraduate education.

TTLs hosted a holiday stress relief program with therapy dogs on Alumni Quad.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 113 New transfers in Living-Learning Communities
- 1,500+ Transfers participating in Student Engagement programs
- 6 Transfer Transition Leaders (TTLs)
- 6 Welcome receptions and lunches for new transfers
- 400+ Current members in Tau Sigma (transfer honor society)
- 7 Faculty/staff mentors for L-LC students

TRANSFER ENGAGEMENT

SUPPORTING TRANSFER ACADEMIC SUCCESS

- Over 150 prospective transfer students participated in our annual Transfer Day in May.
- Over 600 new transfer students attended a Welcome event within the first three weeks of the Fall 2017 semester.
- 60 transfer students attended Community College luncheons, designed to familiarize new students with key campus resources and introduce them to "The Driving Force," UAlbany's commuter student club.

Vice Provost Altarriba, Provost Stellar, and President Rodríguez congratulated newly inducted Tau Sigma members.

Transfer Engagement hosts coffee hours for incoming transfers to meet new students and get questions answered.

Newly inducted members and the executive board of Tau Sigma pose for pictures during the induction ceremony.

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Of transfer students are returning for a third semester in Fall 2018.

- The UAlbany Transfer Advisory Group was implemented in the Fall of 2016 and includes faculty, staff, and transfer students. This group assessed transfer needs, developed ways to better support transfers, and worked to implement these practices across campus. There are 26 active members in the Transfer Advisory Group.
- The role of the Transfer Liaison was developed to serve as a point of contact for transfer students. Liaisons serve as a network of colleagues with knowledge about unique transfer concerns and needs, to whom departments can refer students. There are a total of 50 liaisons.
- Transfer Transition Leaders (TTLs) serve as a resource for new transfers. TTLs are peer educators who are trained extensively on how to help new transfers. TTLs are individually assigned groups of transfers and communicate with them via email and social media.
- The Driving Force (commuter student club) was implemented to help commuter students get more involved on campus.
- A nontraditional student club was implemented to support students 24 years or older who are continuing their education.

TRANSFER SUPPORT STRUCTURES

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THE IMPACT OF ENGAGEMENT:
FRESHMAN L-LC & SEMINAR RETENTION

- Average freshman to sophomore retention bonus: 6-8%
- Average sophomore to junior retention bonus: 9.2%
- Graduation in four year bonus: 12.5%
- Fall 2016 Freshman GPA bonus (on a 4.0 scale): .17

World of Community Service alumni reconnected with their faculty mentor and received L-LC stoles at our L-LC Comeback event prior to graduation.

- Average freshman to sophomore retention bonus: 2.5%
- Average sophomore to junior retention bonus: 3.3%
- Average graduate in four year bonus: 5.3%

Students spend part of their weekend helping the local community during our Living-Learning Community Connections Weekend.

The Living-Learning Community (L-LC) Program was honored with the President’s Award for Exemplary Public Engagement. The L-LCs provide over 550 new students with a welcoming transitional program that nurtures their connections to UAlbany and our community partners through a structure built around various levels of public engagement. Students participate in public engagement work through structured “All World” activities, through their individual L-LCs, and through individual contributions.

During our Living-Learning Community Connections Weekend in September, over 500 students participated in service projects on- and off-campus. Throughout the academic year, our L-LC faculty, students, and student leaders continued to partner with over 30 different community organizations. Through community engagement, our students find more value and meaning in their UAlbany education.

Student Engagement
Making Connections

Faculty Recognition
Student Engagement recognized nominated faculty at this year’s Torch Awards. Dr. Victor Asal is this year’s awardee and will speak at Convocation.

Club Advisor Appreciation
Student Engagement recognized faculty and staff club advisors and E-Board members at an event in the spring with over 150 people in attendance.

Faculty/Staff Advisors gather during the Club Advisor Appreciation event.
**UNDERGRADUATE ENGAGEMENT**

**Munch with the Majors**

750+ students connected with faculty representing all majors 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 in the dining hall to establish personal and meaningful connections outside of the classroom.

**Food for Finals: Fall 2017**

75+ faculty and staff connected with over 4,000 undergraduates in four dining halls, serving late-night breakfast on Reading Day.

**Food for Finals: Spring 2018**

40+ faculty and staff connected with over 5,000 undergraduates, serving BBQ favorites outside on the academic podium.

**THE IMPACT OF ENGAGEMENT: TRANSFER PROGRAM SUCCESS**

- **5%** Average fall to spring transfer L-LC retention bonus
- **8.9%** Average transfer L-LC retention bonus for a third semester
- **.19** Fall 2017 L-LC Transfer GPA bonus (on a 4.0 scale)
- **30+** Peer mentor/mentee matches
- **125** Transfer students took special transfer only sections of “Challenges for the 21st Century” classes
- **.13** Fall 2017 Challenges GPA bonus (on a 4.0 scale)
- **206** Students were inducted into Tau Sigma, the National Honor Society for Transfer Students
- **150+** Students participated in programs offered by the commuter club, The Driving Force

Who are our transfer students?

- Our Largest Feeder Institutions:
  - Dutchess County Community College: 50
  - Nassau County Community College: 54
  - Adirondack Community College: 64
  - Schenectady County Community College: 91
  - Hudson Valley Community College: 337

- Top counties our transfers came from:
  - Albany: 336
  - 5 boroughs of NYC: 304
  - Saratoga: 144
  - Schenectady: 103
  - Rensselaer: 101

1,926 transfer students enrolled in 2017 - 2018:
- 1,779 are in-state
- 119 are international
- 28 are out-of-state students

Students meet with College of Arts and Sciences Dean Elga Wulfert during Munch with the Majors.

President Rodriguez and World of Business faculty mentor Joe Sheehan serve students during Food for Finals in Fall 2017.

World of Well-being and Fitness members enjoy an end-of-the-year recognition dinner with their faculty mentors, Bruce McEwen and Sam Axley.
Supporting Undergraduate Admissions

L-LC freshmen performed 20+ visits to high schools over winter break to promote Student Engagement programming.

75+ L-LC and TTL students supported Open Houses, Accepted Student Events, and Scholar Days.

25 current L-LC students engaged with 200+ prospective students via GroupMe, co-managed by the Office of Student Engagement and Admissions.

A free-standing brochure display now resides outside of LC 31, containing information for Admissions’ tours.

L-LC F.U.N.D.
The L-LC F.U.N.D. consists of upperclassman L-LC alumni who coordinate and plan social events for all of the L-LCs.

Last year’s highlights include fundraisers at restaurants and “Meet the Members,” an exclusive academic club fair which connected more than 180 L-LC members to student groups prior to the Block Party.

L-LC F.U.N.D. members are committed to Fundraising, Unifying the Worlds through programming, providing Networking opportunities for L-LC students, and Donating back to the worlds.

CHEER Grants

Student Engagement continued its mission of facilitating high faculty/student engagement by awarding a record number of CHEER grants in 2017 - 2018. A total of 18 grants were awarded to departments from Theatre to Physics and to programs from Writing and Critical Inquiry to Portuguese Language study. Grants supported engagement in the following colleges and schools: CEHC, CAS, SPH, and CEAS. We supported a freshman writing contest, Portuguese language movies, a physics competition, dance classes with internationally renowned experts, and a new urban planning class that uses drones.

Students use drones as part of their urban planning research.

Academically Engaging with UAlbany Guest Speakers

Student Engagement partners with many departments to engage prominent guest speakers into our academic enterprise. In the fall, when the NYS Writers Institute welcomed Bob Schieffer to campus to host a panel about “Telling the Truth in a Post-Truth World,” over 150 students studied his work in classes and attended this panel discussion. More than 400 copies of Overload were distributed in advance of his appearance and discussions on this topic were embedded in over a dozen classes.

In the spring, UAlbany welcomed NPR’s Michele Norris to campus as our key note speaker for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration. To capitalize on this opportunity, faculty were given copies of her book, The Grace of Silence, and a special discussion was held for faculty and students to speak with Ms. Norris about her life and the Race Card Project, a diversity initiative she founded.

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