

New Student Orientation Annual Report

June 2011 – May 2012

Major activities

- 2011-2012 Orientation attendance numbers

| Year | First-year Students | | | FY Total | Transfer Students | | | TR Total | Overall Total |
|------|---------------------|------|------|-------------|-------------------|------|------|-------------|------------------|
| | Summer | Dec. | Jan. | | Summer | Dec. | Jan. | | |
| 2010 | 4632 | 21 | 13 | 4666 | 1019 | 118 | 146 | 1283 | 5949 |
| 2011 | 4629 | 7 | 9 | 4645 | 956 | 134 | 157 | 1247 | 5876 |
| | -3 | -14 | -4 | -21 | -63 | +16 | +11 | -36 | -73 |

- **Attendance percentages:**
 - First-year: 4629/4658 (99%)
 - Transfer: 956/1066 (90%)
- **Wolfpack Welcome Week:** NSO coordinated activities for Wolfpack Welcome Week including:
 - Wolfpack Challenge SCVNGR Hunt – a cell-phone based scavenger hunt across campus focused on helping new students acclimate to campus services and traditions (96 students participated)
 - NC State ♥s Transfers – a social event for new transfer students to give them an opportunity to socialize with each other and some recent transfers. Highlights included a t-shirt exchange and free lunch (141 students)
 - Academic Success Workshops - two repeating workshops including a time management session and a faculty panel about what to expect in the college classroom (32 students)
- **Handbook for Incoming Students:** NSO once again produced the Handbook for Incoming Students, a resource given to every first-year and transfer student during Orientation. This handbook includes forty pages of information about campus resources and a planner that can be used throughout the academic year.
- **New Students Website:** The New Student Website (<http://newstudents.ncsu.edu>) went live this past year, providing a venue for transition-related information for incoming first-year and transfer students. The website includes the New Student Checklist, important dates, primary resources, and additional opportunities for new students.
- **New Student Checklist:** This was the second year that NSO coordinated with Undergraduate Admissions, the Joyner Visitor Center, Parents and Families Services, and other campus-wide partners to create a checklist (<http://newstudents.ncsu.edu/checklist/fallchecklist.php>) for new first-year and transfer students. This checklist has become the primary “to do” list for students and parents.
- **Student Staff Recruitment:** A combination of increased recruitment efforts and a continued increase in the popularity of the Orientation Counselor position resulted in the largest number of applicants ever with 191 applicants (up from 160 in 2010). The increased applicant pool allowed us to again hire top-notch student leaders from diverse backgrounds.

New initiatives for 2011-2012

- **Pack Transfers:** Pack Transfers is a student organization created by NSO in 2011 to assist NC State's transfer student population connect and succeed during their time at NC State. The purpose of Pack Transfers is to integrate transfer students into the NC State community by connecting them with other transfer students, campus organizations and programs, and faculty and staff who support transfer students.
- **NC State ♥s Transfers:** NSO started this social event for new transfer students to give them an opportunity to socialize with each other and some recent transfers. Highlights included a t-shirt exchange and free lunch. 141 students participated.

- **SCVNGR:** NSO coordinated this cell-phone based scavenger hunt across campus focused on helping new students acclimate to campus services and traditions. 96 students participated.
- **Facebook/Twitter:** NSO has increased its use of social media to communicate important messages about transition issues, Orientation-specific events and activities, and other university-wide updates.
- **Guidebook:** NSO is coordinating the use of Guidebook for Wolfpack Welcome Week and the University Open House. Guidebook is a free mobile iPhone and Android application that hosts customized mobile event guides (www.guidebook.com). Event attendees that have the app can download a guide that includes features such as event schedules, maps, to do lists, and more.

Staff Involvement, Honors, Awards, and Recognition

Michael Coombes, Assistant Director

- 2011 National Orientation Directors Annual Conference (NODAC) Planning Committee
- Member of the National Orientation Directors Association (NODA)
- Serves on the Alliance for Sexual Assault Prevention (ASAP)
- Participated in DUAP's Grant Writing class
- Presented at the national (NODAC) and regional (Southern Regional Orientation Workshop – SROW) conferences

Cameron Hill, Assistant Director

- NODA State Coordinator for NC
- Serves on Wolfpack Welcome Week Committee
- Served on the NODA regional conference (SROW) planning committee
- Presented at NODAC and SROW
- Received DUAP Recognition Award – Fall 2011

Gabe Wical, Director

- Serves on NC State Common Reading Committee
- Member of Wolfpack Welcome Week Steering Team
- Presented at SROW

Lori Wilson, Administrative Support Specialist

- Helped coordinate/oversee PFS budget during realignment process

Partnerships

- **Student Alumni Association:** Formerly known as STAT (Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow), the student arm of the Alumni Association has partnered with NSO over the past 5 years by sharing the cost on lanyards for all incoming first-year students in exchanges for exposure during the Orientation programs.
- **Student Wolfpack Club:** NSO has partnered with the Student Wolfpack Club for the past 4 years, providing students the opportunity to join the club during Orientation in exchange for financial assistance in running the Orientation programs.
- **University Open House:** NSO staff members assisted with the University Open House again in 2011, serving on the planning team and providing Orientation Counselors to help with a welcome tent during the event.
- **Inigral:** NSO partnered with University Housing and EMAS to fund this Facebook app that assists in connecting students to each other prior to coming to NC State and throughout their time as a student.
- **University Communication:** NSO is working with University Communication on ways to celebrate NC State's 125th Anniversary.

Future plans and initiatives

- **Explore a “university” model for Orientation:** With so many changes around campus, it is time to have a campus-wide discussion about adopting a “university” model for Orientation (vs. a college-based model). There are a number of reasons both for and against such a model that need to be discussed, but with changes like those related to the College of Sciences and the increase in professional advisors within colleges, NSO feels that Fall 2012 is the right time to begin the review process.
- **Services for transfer students:** NSO continues to both increase their services and programs for transfer students and advocate across campus for transfer students. With the increased focus on this population as described in the Enrollment Plan, NSO feels it has the experience, desire, and positioning to play a significant role in NC State’s future plans for transfer students.
- **Wolfpack Welcome Week:** NSO staff members currently serve on the WWW Steering Team and Planning Team as well as coordinate activities during the week. Beginning in Fall 2013, NSO will play a significant role in the planning and coordination of the entire event.
- **International Orientation:** Beginning Fall 2012, NSO will work with the Office of International Services to discuss the future of the orientation process for international undergraduate students. Currently these students attend only the orientation program coordinated by OIS; as the undergraduate international population continues to grow, it makes sense to integrate these students into a more standard orientation experience.

Challenges

- **Realignment:** For the past year, NSO has been somewhat unsettled due to the University Realignment process. While plans are coming closer to being finalized, there will continue to be challenges as we determine staff roles and manage space needs while prioritizing new initiatives that have been added to our program.
- **Talley Student Center Renovations:** NSO will not have access to Talley Student Center for its Orientation programs during Summer 2013. To accommodate this challenge, NSO has already restructured the college pairings to adjust attendance numbers to fit into smaller spaces, but will continue to be challenged with securing appropriate space around campus. The temporary loss of venue will require NSO to re-think and revise many, if not most, of their current practices.