PRE-ROLL!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l2Vp9fFjfQ&list=PLGilQ6w7b3-iy0MaPHEFm5WGGooqp0l79
Partnering with Student Affairs: A Roadmap for Orientation, First-Year Success, and Beyond...

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WHAT DO WE MEAN BY STUDENT AFFAIRS?

All institutions are different, but at many campuses, Student Affairs may include:

- Housing and Residential Life
- Campus Activities and Programs
- Greek Life
- New Student Orientation/Leadership
- Judicial Affairs
- Multicultural Student Services/International Student Services
- Counseling, Health, Wellness, and Safety
- Religious Services
- LGBTQ+, Women’s Resource Centers
WHAT STUDENT AFFAIRS PROFESSIONALS KNOW THAT WE DON’T...

● Young adult learning and development theories
  ○ Cognitive and psychosocial development
● Students developmental, academic, and social needs (a holistic picture of students)
  ○ Timing of those needs during collegiate experience
  ○ Diverse experiences of college age (and non-traditional age) students
● They are plugged into most areas of campus life, including many we are not
ABOUT BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY

• 3,600 undergraduate students, very small graduate program
• 350 faculty (all courses taught by faculty)
• Private, rural, residential (~95% of students live on campus)
  – 60% of students involved in Greek Life
• Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Engineering, and Management
• Undergraduate curriculum guided by liberal arts core
LIBRARY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (L&IT) AT BUCKNELL

- Merged organization, since 1997
- 85 staff (25 library, 60 technology)
- Within Bertrand Library:
  - Integrated service points
    - Research Help Area
    - Library Services (Circ/Reserves)/Equipment Loan Desk
    - Technology Help Desk
    - Special Collections/University Archives
    - Digital Scholarship Center
- Library seen as academic (and sometimes social) hub of campus
NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION (NSO) AT BUCKNELL

- Wednesday-Sunday before classes start in August
- Introduction to Bucknell Community and Lewisburg downtown area
- Orientation to academic and social life at Bucknell – It’s a whirlwind.
- There is a general overall orientation program for new students, as well as targeted pre-orientation programming.
WHERE WE STARTED: FLASHBACK TO 2008

• Orientation to the library was relegated to an optional event that took place at the same time as several others
• Attendance was dismal
• Goals of event were ill-defined
WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF OUR LIBRARY ORIENTATION?

• Break down fear and anxiety barriers of being in the physical space of the library
  • We want students to be comfortable in the space
    – More comfortable using services
    – Library space is student space

• Have students interact with library and IT staff in a fun social setting
  • Introduce students to main library and IT service points
LIBRARY AND IT ORIENTATION NOW

- Thursday night of Orientation, 8-10pm. Event is required for all first year students and transfers.
- New students oriented to library building and service points (Reference, Tech Desk, Special Collections, Digital Pedagogy and Scholarship, Equipment for Loan).
- Over twenty staff L&IT volunteers at the event from all workgroups (many of those who aren’t public-facing get to participate).
- Each service point has an interactive display and prize drawing.
- Entertainment: (DJ, Bingo, balloon art, line dancing on the quad outside).
- Prepare Orientation assistants for event during their training.
- Late night snacks (massive Sam’s Club run)!
SO MUCH SUGAR.

Yeah, that’s 100 dozen donuts.
HOW WE GOT THERE: THE WATERSHED MOMENT

- A meeting was called
  - CIO (now VP)
  - Library Director
  - Orientation Director (now Dean of Students)
  - Librarians

- We took the *bison* by the horns
- Discussed the role of library in orientation
- Showed we were truly interested in collaborating with New Student Orientation
THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS

• Library and IT administration set increased presence in orientation as a major priority

• Key questions: How to reach the most students? How to make the event fun?

• Compromise: Because NSO schedule was so tight, and often double booked: move NSO events into library, and require orientation assistants to bring students to our event
THE RESULT..... “THE LIBRARY UNBOUND”
A BIG OPPORTUNITY

- Student Affairs restructured
  - Promotions and new hires
  - Potential new partners and new areas for collaboration

- Jason was asked to be on the search committee for Director of New Student Orientation!
  - Asked pointed questions to candidates about the value of the library and academics during orientation!
2011-PRESENT: ITERATIONS

- Fewer non-library activities, more Library and IT focused components
- Collaborate with library and IT workgroups to maximize the effectiveness of their activity for Library Unbound
- Small changes make large differences when approximately 900 students are in a space (music, flow, Passport locations, signage, etc.)
- Six years and counting
IN THEIR OWN WORDS:
WHAT’S THE VALUE OF THE LIBRARY AND IT COMPONENT OF NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION?
THE PAYOFF

• After our first successful partnership with Library Unbound, Dean of Students began to expand our interactions...

• Larger role in orientation
• Targeted orientations for:
  – International Students and Language TAs
  – Transfers
  – Community College Scholars
  – Graduate Students
THE PAYOFF, CONTINUED.

• Each year, we meet with Director of NSO and Orientation Coordinators to plan Library Unbound
  – Resource/cost sharing
  – Annual review of our programming, activities, incentives for students
  – Student leaders’ role has grown each year

• Participation in Orientation Assistant training
• Library and IT viewed as a student-centered organization with in-demand expertise
• Meaning: we get asked to help with...
EVEN MORE OPPORTUNITIES

- NSO started FYIS (First Year Integration Series) programming
  - Required of all first year students
  - Taught by faculty and staff
  - Library and IT staff offered a big percentage (30%) of total sessions

- First Year Common Reading
  - Librarians, library staff, and IT staff leading discussion groups with first year halls: this year’s book: *Antigonick*, an innovative translation of Sophocles’ *Antigone*
ENCOURAGED BY OUR SUCCESS WITH NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION....

We began to collaborate with other student-focused campus divisions:

- Graduate Studies
- Athletics
- International Student Services
- Multicultural Student Services
- Career Development Center
- Residential Colleges
- Religious Life
SOME RESULTING ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMMING

- Targeted orientations for special student populations (Int’l, Transfer, Graduate)
- Librarians serving on programming committees for special events (MLK Week, etc)
- Librarians embedded in First Year Residential Colleges
- Targeted outreach to athletics coaches
- Learning Community leadership
- Collaborative collection development with Career Development
- Thesis workshops for seniors and graduate students
KEY LESSONS WE’VE LEARNED:

- Get on the official orientation schedule. Become a mandatory event.
- Student affairs staff and student leaders know what students are facing developmentally, and what they need to succeed. This can help inform your programming and planning.
- When new student-focused staff are hired, meet them when they arrive on campus. Introduce them to the library and relevant resources. Talk about how the library can partner with them.
- Programs change, and our participation varies, but because we’re now a known quantity, we’re routinely asked to be an integral part of Student Affairs programming.
TIPS FOR BUILDING COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

• Become aware of your campus Student Affairs professionals, and their organizational structure
• Identify the offices/people who might have similar goals
• Introduce yourself and the library to colleagues in Student Affairs (especially new ones)

• Be willing to compromise and help partners achieve their goals
• Involve students in planning and decision making
• Get out on campus and participate
  – Become a known entity
IN THEIR OWN WORDS: ADVICE FOR LIBRARIANS
THE LITERATURE AGREES.

Keys to successful collaborations:
- Focus on mutual goals
- Negotiate process and structure
- Mutual understanding and respect of expertise/work styles
- Flexibility and compromise
- Consistent communication throughout planning process
- Persistence!

“On a small campus such as ours, informally approaching faculty and staff to work on projects is the norm and is encouraged. At larger and/or more formal schools, the librarian might need to bring a more structured plan to student-centered offices.”

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: CHANGING PERCEPTIONS OF LIBRARIANS
QUESTIONS?
ACTIVITY

Think-Pair-Share

● What are the goals of library orientation on your campus?
  ○ Are those goals being met?
● If not, what is preventing your library from meeting those goals?
● What are some offices on your campus that you could partner with to help make the changes needed to meet your library’s goals?
  ○ Do you already know anyone in these offices who could become a collaborator?

Homework

● Who are some other people on your campus that you would need to talk to (names!) -- If you don’t know this, your first task upon returning home is to find out, or Google it now.
PLEASE CONTACT US!

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www.bucknell.edu/library