Making Lemonade from Lemons: Unexpected Benefits of a Personal Librarian Program

SUCHI MOHANTY, R.B. HOUSE UNDERGRADUATE LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL
PERSONAL LIBRARIAN & FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE LIBRARY CONFERENCE
THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2018
Why focus on transfers?

An underserved student population that University administration wanted to focus on

Students themselves were asking to connect to University resources in a personalized way
Librarians:

Aaron Smithers, Southern Folklife Collection Assistant
Angela Bardeen, Behavioral and Social Sciences Librarian
Cait Kennedy, Carolina Library Associate, Undergraduate Library
Caroline Keizer, Special Collections and Humanities Cataloger
Christina Cortland, Carolina Library Associate, Kenan Science Library
David Romito, Science Librarian
Dayna Durbin, Undergraduate Teaching and Learning Librarian
Emily Jack, Community Engagement Librarian
Emily Kader, Rare Book Research Librarian
Fran (Francesca) Allegri, Asst Dir. for Clinical, Academic, and Research Engagement
Gary Pattillo, Communication Studies, Education, and Exercise/Sport Science Librarian
Gregg (James) Moore, Assistant to the Stone Center Librarian
Jason Tomberlin, Head of Research and Instructional Services
Communications

With students:
• Program teaser in transfer orientation mailer
• Welcome letter from the Undergraduate Librarian
• Two emails each semester
• Meeting with student groups

With staff:
• Met personally with Admissions, Retention, and New Students & Family Programs so they could advocate on our behalf
Feedback

“[...] thank you so much for the help you gave me with my research paper on the Doryphoros. I was able to find books that better related to what I needed and cut my research time in half. I am amazed at how wonderful the librarians are at UNC and I’m really touched that everyone is so helpful.”

“I just wanted to say that you are in charge of some of the finest librarians on campus and this side of the Mississippi river. Each one of them helped me to know a lot more than what I knew before I came in.”

“[...] one of the students I’d met for an in-person consultation near the end of last semester to talk about search strategies for an Asian Studies research paper recognized me at the desk just now, stopped by to tell me that he got an A on the paper and in the class and thanked me for all of his help.”
Campus partners, revisited
New opportunities

C-STEP
Carolina Covenant
Transition Courses
Annual Student Success Conference planning committee
Questions?

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