

SST Update – 8/27/09

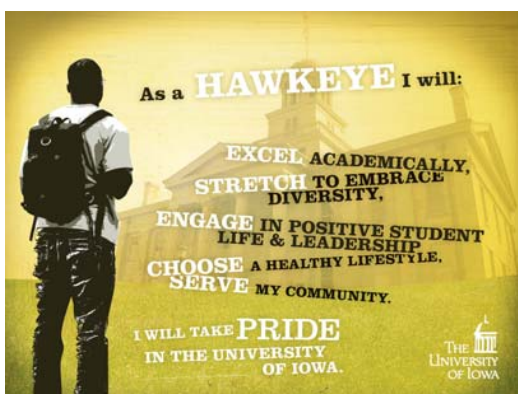
Convocation: Rejuvenated the Convocation tradition with an opening ceremony on Sunday, August 23rd. Approximately 4,000 people attended (including non-first year students such as resident assistants and sorority active members) and 30 SST volunteers handed out IOWA Challenge goody bags containing a Class of 2013 tassel to nearly 3,900. Over 30 faculty and staff participated in the process, in full academic regalia. Speakers included an incoming first year student (Simone Renault – selected from YouTube auditions), two returning students, Associate Provost Susan Johnson, Vice President Tom Rocklin, and President Sally Mason. We will assess the outcomes of the event with both students and faculty/staff. Goals were to:

- Communicate institutional expectations of students
- Establish a sense of identity as the Class of 2013
- Establish a connection to The University of Iowa and to the academic community



For additional photos, see:

http://www.uiowa.edu/~fyi/issues/issues2009_v46/08242009/photos/photofeature082409/index.htm



The IOWA Challenge:

The new Challenge website is up at <http://thechallenge.uiowa.edu>. This site is an interim to a more fully developed site that will include case studies, testimonials, interviews, and many examples of how the Challenge is being used both within and outside the classroom. Students heard about the Challenge during Orientation, both during the welcome, and in discussions with their Orientation Advisors. Many departments are using the Challenge in programs and courses. Faculty

and staff members received a message from Tom Rocklin that mentioned the Challenge. Nearly 1,000 magnets with the Challenge pledge have been distributed to faculty and staff. Students recited the pledge at Convocation and received a magnet in their goody bags. We included information about the Challenge in new faculty orientation as well as training for First Year Seminar instructors. Students at Orientation signed a Herky as a symbol of their pledge to uphold the Challenge. The Herky was in place on the Cleary Walkway after Convocation and many students stopped to see where they had signed.



Pick One:

The Pick One Steering Committee, chaired by Sarah Hansen, SST Coordinator, met every two weeks over the summer. Pick One was included in Vice President Rocklin's welcome remarks at Summer Orientation and in the orientation video shown to introduce students and parents to several key themes. We have made significant progress in modifying the [Pick One Exploration tool](#) to incorporate intuitive type-ahead technology – when a student starts to type “Dance”, all Pick opportunities that include that word are brought up for the student to peruse. In addition, we've worked hard on the administrative tool, which will provide real-time data and the ability to push lists of interested students out to their Picks. This will enable the organization/office to make a proactive connection with the student. Nearly 7,000 buttons have been distributed to students (mainly first year), faculty, and staff. In September, we'll have a push for students to register their Pick on the Exploration Tool. The deadline is October 1st. The Committee has formulated a set of learning and program outcomes, including a goal of 65% of incoming students officially registering their Pick One choice.

SST Meetings:

We will have three large group meetings (including the Retreat) this semester. Additional educational opportunities for SST members, such as the Webinar on Faculty Buy-in for the First Year Experience (September 29th, 12-1, W401 PBB), may be added. The first large group meeting will be September 22nd, 2-3:30 pm, W401 PBB. In addition to a short debriefing on Convocation and an update on the Retreat planning, we will have a presentation as a follow-up to the lively SST listserv discussion on “touch points for talking points with students”.

Title: “Motivational Interviewing: It's Not Just For Health Anymore”

Co-Presenters: Tanya Villhauer, Health Iowa Director and Ken Brown, Associate Professor of Management and Organizations, Tippie College of Business

Description: Helping students make changes in order to succeed is what we all strive for, but we can't make the changes for them. Motivational Interviewing (MI) empowers us as facilitators to move students toward change, but also acknowledges we can't solve all their problems. While MI grew out of the health behavior change field, it has many applications for those of us working in student success, in teaching, advising, or many other realms. Join us in a discussion of fundamentals and strategies of MI and time to share ideas with others.

SST Retreat: The Retreat Planning Committee, convened by Dr. Sherry Watt, will meet on 9/3/09. This will be the first Retreat with the newly merged Moving Forward Together/Student Success Team structure and the focus will be on multiculturalism/diversity. Dr. Larry Roper, Senior Student Affairs Officer at Oregon State University, will facilitate.

Action Committees:

We have three action committees currently open. **Early Intervention** has submitted a report and we will be requesting that they continue to work on specific action items within their recommendations.

We expect reports soon from the **Student Academic Engagement** and **Centralizing Research and Assessment** functions committees.