Executive Summary
New Student & Owl Family Programs
2012-2013

Overview
The Office of New Student and Owl Family Programs plays an integral role within
the University by offering a supportive, innovative and inclusive environment
through which students and their support networks are connected to
opportunities for academic and personal development, discovery and lifelong
learning. This is accomplished by serving as a resource to the greater FAU
community and provide premier programs to varied student populations, inclusive
of present students through alumni.

Major Accomplishments

- Successfully hired two new professional staff members, Assistant Director Aileen
  Sousa and Director Heather Bishara, and two new graduate assistants.
- Celebrated the 5th Anniversary of the Owl Parents Association.
- Worked to better serve students in transition with the creation of the First Year
  Experience and Off Campus Students website, and the Transfer Tuesdays
  Program.
- Saw peak total numbers for the Owl Parent Association with 912 total families
  (1728 members) and a total of 526 newly registered families for the 2012-2013
  year.
- Launched the inaugural Owl Parent Association Parents Academy on 1/5/13 with
  23 parents participating in this first in state event.
- Improved the Academic Advising for Transfer students process with the creation
  of an Orientation Advising hold that students have on their account once
  admitted into FAU. This hold ensures that a student will need to go to their
  advisor BEFORE they register for classes.
- Successfully raised the GPA requirement of all Orientation leaders to 2.75 and
  also added the requirement to complete the LDR 2010 course. Orientation
  leaders for 2013 were one of the first groups to complete the new course.
- Enhanced the New Student Orientation process with the addition of the following
  sessions: Owl Family Dinner, Bookstore, Parking & Transportation, Combined
  Financial Aid & Controller’s Office Q&A, Campus Safety, Veteran Owls and “All
  Roads Lead to Convocation.” Additional breakout sessions included Academic
  Success & Owls Take Flight.
- Coordinated with Student Affairs & Academic Affairs the development of the
  inaugural Faculty in Residence Program.
• Worked closely with faculty from the College of Arts & Letters to support: Constitution Day, Larkin Symposium and Jamaican Independence Day

• Created the Student Affairs Academic Initiative Task Force

• Worked closely with the Distinction Through Discovery team on the SACSA Re-Accreditation process and with the Undergraduate & Graduate Student Research Days planning & funding.

**Goals Achieved: 2012-2013**

1. Enhance new student orientation by continuing to involve key campus constituencies in the planning, development, and implementation of the program.
   a. Multiple new programs were enhanced and added to make New Student Orientation more efficient and customer friendly.
2. Develop a training program for parents to assist them in the continue support of their students while at FAU.
   a. The Parents Academy was a huge success that happened on January 5, 2013.

**Major Goals for 2013-2014**

1. Enhance the Transfer Orientation at FAU so that it is more educational and beneficial to students & their guests.
2. Launch an Off-Campus student programs calendar/plan to further assist with the transition of new students to FAU that do not live on-campus.
3. Finalize a five year strategic plan for NSOFP.
4. Work with Admissions, the Registrar’s office and the Enrollment Management Team to create a better tracking and follow-up method to assess whether students are enrolling after orientation and develop a communications plan to further reach out to students.
5. Standardize assessment reporting & tools for NSOFP across the FAU campuses.
6. Successfully launch the Faculty-in-Residence program in conjunction with Academic Affairs & Housing & Residential Life.
7. Continue to enhance the leadership training & development program for Orientation & Welcome Leaders & Graduate assistants in the NSOFP office.
8. Launch an online monthly newsletter for Parents as a part of the [www.fau.edu/parents](http://www.fau.edu/parents) page.

**Major Challenges**

1. Maintaining the ability to meet the growing admission numbers for orientation.
2. Developing and maintaining strong Owl Parent Association with current staffing
3. The ability to maximize the various funding sources within the Division of Student Affairs to meet the University and Divisional Strategic Goals.