

First Year Experience Periodic Report Spring 2007

The following progress has been made in the First Year Experience Program during the academic year 2006-2007:

The FYE counselor/coordinators have met regularly throughout the year to coordinate campus-level activities and work on college-wide FYE initiatives. They are: **Laurie White, Marcus Peanort, Tyra Goodgain, and Jay Marciano.**

There was an identified need for a staff position to support many of the FYE initiatives that are college-wide. When a Rockville position was promised but later withdrawn, each student development dean contributed funding for 10-hours a week. **Joan Lefever** has used this time to work on the FYE website, FYE listserve, an FYE logo contest, and provide general support as a member of the FYE team.

The logo contest has been a huge success. An art class at Rockville developed logos as a class project. These logos have been reviewed by various groups—students, staff, and faculty—in order to determine the final selection. This logo will be used on FYE-related materials, the Insider's Guide, and will increase the visibility of the FYE program.

The Insider's Guide was not complete for the fall semester, so both Germantown and Takoma Park/Silver Spring developed their own (each had one previously, so they updated them). Work continued on the collegewide version and by spring semester it was available at all campuses and online. We consider this spring edition as a "pilot" since it is a change in format and content from previous handbooks. So far it is being given rave reviews. It will be updated this summer for a full printing in the fall. Those that were on the advisory committee for the Insider's Guide include **Jennie Wells, Monica Brown, Laurie White, Jay Marciano, Dana Baker, Laura Gardner, Debi Higbie-Holmes, Jim Walters, Tyra Goodgain, and Marcus Peanort.**

Tyra Goodgain and **Marcus Peanort** presented on Montgomery College's First Year Experience Program during the FYE national conference. Several FYE team members are hoping to go to the international FYE conference this summer.

Enrollments in DS 107 and DS 104, the primary FYE courses, rose dramatically this year. The marketing efforts through post cards, MAP/IMAP sessions and brochures contributed to this collegewide increase.

The FYE website just keeps getting better and better. It has information on FYE activities, resources for new students, and now a link to the Insider's Guide.

FYE Website: montgomerycollege.edu/fye

Campus-Specific FYE Activities

Germantown Campus

The FYE Student Ambassador Program is the signature FYE program at Germantown. In partnership with Student Life, FYE Student Ambassadors are selected through an extensive application and interview process. FYE Student Ambassadors are required to attend a mandatory orientation, and summer training and retreat. FYE Student Ambassadors participate throughout the year in various ways through the FYE Program. Each FYE Student Ambassador is assigned to a DS 107 or DS 104 faculty member and they assist with the course as a peer mentor. During basketball season, the FYE Student Ambassadors sponsored a spirit night at two basketball games. The FYE Student Ambassadors promote the FYE program and are involved in new student orientations and other opportunities to inform students about FYE programs. The FYE Student Ambassador Program got its start from a "Make it Happen" grant." For more information on this MC Germantown FYE Initiative, please visit: <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/fye/gcampus.html>

Another effort for the campus is to review the DS 107 (FYE Course) and develop targeted sections that would better meet the needs of students. In fall 07, sections will be offered that focus on: women's issues, men's issues, student-athletes, leadership, AELP students. In addition, there will be an individualized section (i.e., independent study targeted at returning adults), online section, and a learning community (this section will be paired with EN 001).

Takoma Park/Silver Spring

The "FYE Common Reading Pilot" is the big initiative for Takoma Park/Silver Spring. The common reading selection for academic year 2007-2008 is "Nickel and Dimed." The FYE team is represented by faculty and staff from all over campus and we are confident that 'Nickel and Dimed' will be a wonderful resource, not only for first year students, but for other students, faculty and staff who want to take advantage of the activities, experiences, and assignments both in and out of the classroom. Departments that are involved include Math, Nursing, Reading, Counseling and Advising, English, Library-Research, Speech, and Photography.

First year common readings bring people together around a common experience. 'Nickel and Dimed' is a first person account of the author who chose to live on the economic margins in the United States. Here is a listing of some of the issues addressed in 'Nickel and Dimed': community activism, transportation, health care, child care, poverty, minimum wage, living wage, education and training, working poor and social justice.

The campus plans to have speakers, films, assignment tie-ins to specific classes, a service learning component, Jefferson Café style discussions, a writing and research component (e.g., using appropriate data bases).

Rockville

The Student-Athlete Success Initiative (SASI) is designed to help student-athletes; particularly those in their First-Year , with their transition to college by helping them learn to balance the demands of college and athletics. SASI intends to provide a "safety net" for MC student-athletes by encouraging them to excel not only in their sport, but also in their academic, career, and personal endeavors. Therefore, the student-athletes participating in this initiative will have their academic engagement and success, time management and study skills development, and counseling/advising interactions monitored each semester. For additional information

<http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/athletrv/sasi.html>

FYE Designated Course is a unique way of offering FYE program and DS 107: First Year Seminar concepts in content based courses. In the fall, this option was piloted with BA 101: Introduction to Business. Students had the opportunity to learn all about the field of Business, along with time management, campus resources, and educational planning. Students were able to see how such skills and resources can be transferred to their major, career, and ultimately their lives!