

The CALLS Program *in the beginning*

- In 2004, the Assumption College First Year Task Force submits their recommendations
- A Task Force proposal for the CALLS Program (*Career/Academic/Lifetime Learning Skills*) is approved by the College Board of Trustees
- The CALLS Program will be in the Student Affairs Division integrated with Career Services
- The hiring process begins for the Coordinator of the CALLS Program

CALLS Defined

Cohort: Assumption College is a Catholic, co-educational liberal arts institution in Massachusetts with 2,150 undergraduates. *CALLS will target first year students.*



Mission: Establishing student participation and campus collaboration for a first year portfolio development program.

Administration: Suellen Lazarek Dean is the new Coordinator of the CALLS Program.

Objectives Identified by the Task Force

- Create partnerships with other departments
- Provide career counseling, self assessment and help with major exploration
- Establish a portfolio system for students that demonstrates a compilation of skills acquired through a liberal arts education
- Help students formulate a customized plan for career exploration, lifetime learning and co-curricular involvement

CALLS, The First Year *building partnerships*

In Fall 2005, the CALLS Coordinator began conducting faculty and student outreach

Challenges

- ❖ Acquiring faculty buy-in for the CALLS program and portfolio development
- ❖ Building a collaborative effort between student affairs and academic affairs
- ❖ Promoting a career services program for first year students at a liberal arts school

Academic Year Goals

1. Develop programs for students to help with career exploration and transition to college
2. Meet with first year students so they can:
 - **receive a portfolio starter kit**
 - **begin the “collection” phase of portfolio development**
 - **review S.M.A.R.T goals**
 - **set a personal portfolio plan**
 - **research majors/career paths**
 - **discuss co-curricular involvement and experiential learning**

Developing New Ideas



- Introduced the concept of a **Majors Fair**
 - **An event for students to learn about the academic options available to them**
- Initiated a **First Year Mentor** group
 - **Worked with faculty for student referrals**
 - **Developed training and outlined a plan for upper class students to be mentors**
- Implemented a **Summer Jobs Program** for first year students

Year

engaging students

- In the Fall 2006 semester, all first year students are assigned a student mentor
 - mentors reach out to students and serve as an additional resource
 - mentors are leadership advocates and encourage campus involvement
- The CALLS Program begins targeting sophomore students for continued portfolio development and student engagement

Outreach to Incoming Students & Parents

▪ **Marketing**

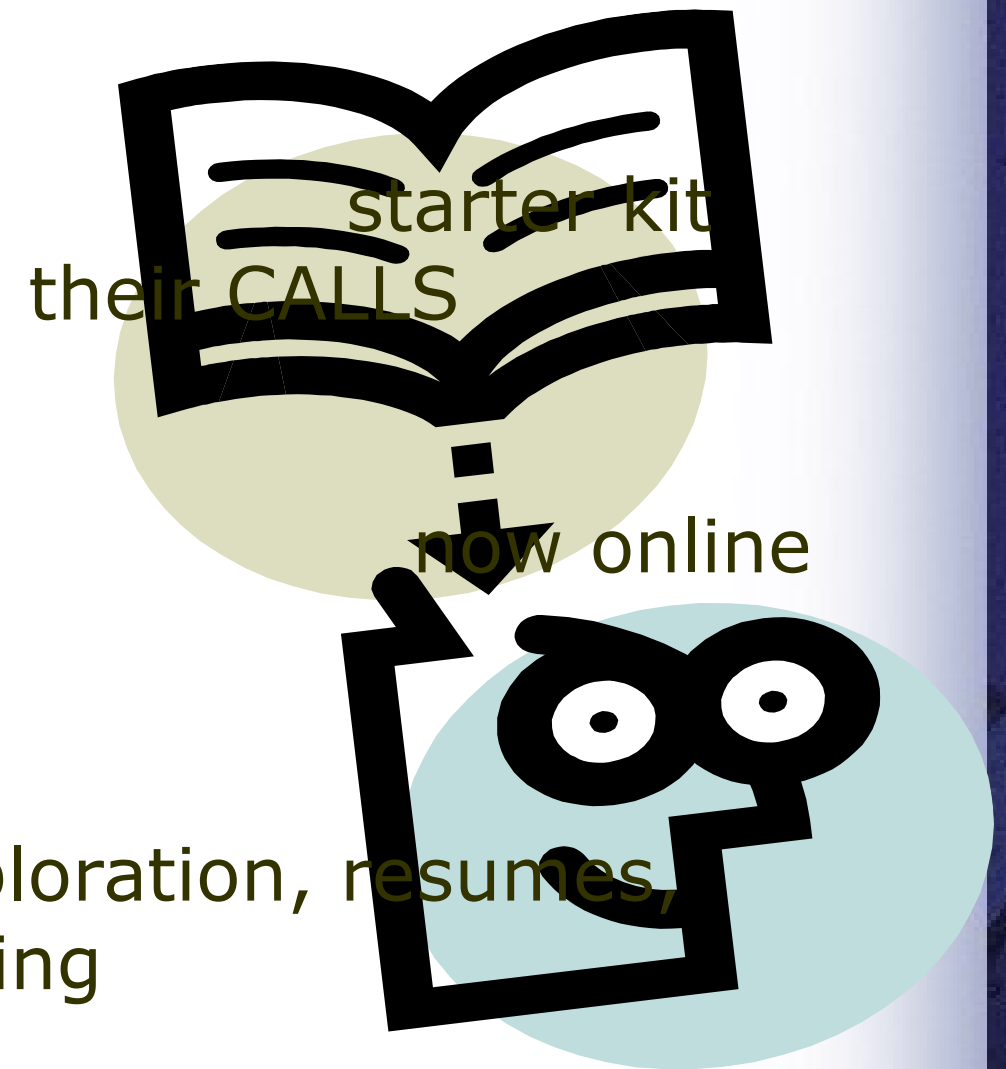
- New CALLS brochure and website are developed professionally
- CALLS program is highlighted in Admissions guide and Alumni magazine
- Increased student/parent orientation time

▪ **Partnership with Admissions**

- Participate in Open House panel, meet with applicants & accepted students as needed
- Communicate with applicants & parents about CALLS with targeted mailings

Engaging Students in Career Exploration

- ❖ Students receive their portfolio and set goals during appointment
- ❖ The SIGI ³ assessment system is
- ❖ The 2nd annual Majors Fair is held
- ❖ Workshops are held on major exploration, resumes, portfolios, summer jobs, networking
- ❖ CALLS submits a proposal to use College Central Network for electronic portfolios



Year advancing technology

- ❖ In July 2007, College Central Network (CCN) is contracted to host electronic portfolios and for use as a career services management tool
- ❖ Employers can register for CCN on the Assumption website and post internships/jobs
- ❖ Students can apply for positions and submit resumes to employers via CCN
- ❖ Students have a secure setting to develop and post their portfolio

More Programs and Partnerships

- ❖ The First Year Mentors attend Student Leadership Camp with 175 student leaders
- ❖ The planning for camp is a collaborative effort between CALLS and seven other departments
- ❖ The CALLS Program partners with Alumni Affairs and the Assumption Parents Committee to plan a Sophomore Shadow Program
- ❖ The First Year Mentors co-sponsor a First Finals Forum with the Dean of Studies Office

CALLS, The Current Year

moving ahead



- Students in the Sophomore Shadow Program are matched with an alumni or parent for career exploration
- 449 students/687 employers register for CCN, job postings increase to 1525
- Student Portfolios are posted to CCN and are required by some academic majors and student leadership groups

Experiential Learning and student portfolios: volunteering, student leadership, student clubs & organizations, athletics, intramurals, on or off campus employment, study abroad, community service learning, internships, job shadowing

First Year in Review

- **Appointments/Portfolios:**
Over 300 students completed their CALLS appointment and received a portfolio starter kit
- **Programs:**
 - 22 students completed mentor training
 - 80 participated in Summer Jobs Program
 - 275 students attended the Majors Fair
- **Collaboration:**
 - Sponsored event with Dean of Studies with 100% of academic departments participating
 - Conducted training & presentations for student affairs and academic departments

Second Year in Review

- **Appointments/Portfolios:** Over 500 students had appointments and received portfolio starter kits (an increase of 35%)
- **Student Programs:**
 - Increase in mentors & Summer Jobs participants
 - 365 students (up 30%) attended the Majors Fair
 - Mentors promoted two new events for students
- **Sophomores w/undeclared majors:**
 - Statistics show a decrease: 2006=52%, 2005=61%, 2004=62%,
- **Collaboration**
 - Sponsored two events with Academic Affairs (Majors Fair and Tips for your First Finals)

Third Year in Review

Retention Data

- ❖ First Year Fall 2007 to Spring 2008 retention was **95.1%**, 1.7% higher than the four-year average
- ❖ First year to Sophomore retention rate for the Fall '06 cohort is **83%**, an increase of 4.1% over last year. This is 4% higher than the average reported by schools with similar academic profiles.
- ❖ The retention rate for the Fall 2007 first year cohort is **84.8%** (1.8% higher than last year)
- ❖ Total Undergraduate Fall 2007 to Spring 2008 retention was 97%, a record high