

## Find Me on Facebook . . . as Long as You Are Not a Faculty Member or Administrator

Michael Abel

Graduate Assistant, National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience & Students in Transition, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

The Facebook craze on college campuses has been established, and there are probably few, if any, students who do not know what this online service entails. Some use it; some do not, but those who do feel the service is specifically for students, not faculty, administrators, or student affairs professionals at their schools.

Launched in February 2004, Facebook (see [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)) allows college and high school students to connect with friends and acquaintances at many institutions, including their own. Students create personal profiles that display their likes and dislikes, pictures, class schedules, and membership in online groups made up of Facebook users with similar interests. Students also post personal information about themselves and their lives. There seems to be no limit to the type of information students share on Facebook. A September article in *The Boston Globe* (Schweitzer, 2005) reported students referencing recreational use of marijuana and a desire to sleep with a university professor on their Facebook profiles and postings.

Some Facebook users suggest that profiles and postings may not be a good description of students. Grace

Blakely, a student at the University of South Carolina (USC) notes, "Not everyone cares to accurately represent themselves, so one should be wary of assuming things about someone based on their Facebook profile."

Faculty and administrators, however, are concerned that, true or not, the posted information may have a detrimental effect on a student's image. For instance, a university official reviewing a student's job application for on-campus employment could login to Facebook to learn more about the applicant and discover some personal information such as compromising or illegal activities that would negatively impact his or her impression of that student.

Students' primary response to faculty and staff is that non-students should not have access to their online postings. They believe that faculty and administration should respect students' right to privacy and not use Facebook as a means of checking on them. Lindsay Ketchem, a junior at USC, said, "I know that they [faculty] can register with Facebook because they have university e-mail addresses. However, when I post things in my profile or message other people, I don't usually think about administrators, staff, and faculty looking

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Facebook • 1
Emerging Role of Sustainability • 2
The Novel Experience • 5
Sophomores • 7
University Studies • 9
<b>Spotlight: Betty Siegel • 10</b>
What's Happening • 11

at the information. I guess they do have the right to look at the postings, though I don't think I'd really want them to see what I am posting."

A first-year student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, David Koon, goes even further, "I don't think the administration here should use my information because I regard it as personal information that is private to me and to those I grant permission to see it." This student is obviously aware of the privacy option that only allows certain friends to review his profile and postings, yet seems to think that non-students should not have access to the web site in the first place.

Some students recognize that faculty might form an unjustified opinion of their peers if they read Facebook. Lauren Kohn, a junior at USC, said, "I think students express their personalities differently on the Facebook than they do in the classroom. I think faculty might make judgments about a student

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

depending on what is in his or her profile.” These opinions suggest that students are aware of the possibility of others viewing information, yet may not necessarily adjust their profiles in case a professor comes upon their listing.

Recent news articles indicate that faculty and professionals on campus might use Facebook to provide necessary interventions for students in need. In October, *Inside Higher Ed* (Epstein, 2005) detailed a Facebook group specifically devoted to Adderall, a drug used to treat Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, which students are illegally using to assist them in studying for exams. Such high-risk behaviors and tendencies may not be apparent to administrators except through the monitoring of Facebook, which may then result in providing important programs to assist these students. Colleges and universities who undertake this effort will be forced to make an ethically problematic decision: Invade students’ privacy or not? Then, once they have obtained the information, they have to choose what to do with it.

For the time being, however, it seems that most students view Facebook as a social tool and are somewhat careful about what they post and whom they allow to view their information. Elizabeth Hunter, a first-year student at Clemson University, echoed the feelings of many current students when she said, “Facebook has nothing to do with any particular school or university. It has to do with kids who are students there. Facebook is used for social com-

municating and networking. Having the faculty involved would ruin that aspect. Besides, I don’t see why they would want to see this sort of information anyway. It’s just college kids acting like college kids, over the web.”

### References

- Epstein, D. (2005, October 3). Cleaning up their online acts. *Inside Higher Ed*. Retrieved November 17, 2005, from <http://insidehighered.com/news/2005/10/03/online>
- Schweitzer, S. (2005, September 26). When students open up – a little too much. *The Boston Globe*. Retrieved November 17, 2005, from [http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2005/09/26/when\\_students\\_open\\_up\\_\\_\\_a\\_little\\_too\\_much/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2005/09/26/when_students_open_up___a_little_too_much/)

### Contact:

Michael Abel  
Graduate Assistant  
National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience & Students in Transition  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC  
Phone: (803) 777-3984  
E-mail: [abelm@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:abelm@gwm.sc.edu)

## Emerging Role of Sustainability in Higher Education

Patricia Jerman

Program Manager, Sustainable Universities Initiative, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

If you ask college students what percentage of the world’s resources Americans use, most would not know.

If you ask whether it is fair that with roughly 4% of the world’s population, the US uses about 25% of the world’s energy, most would say “no.”

Nevertheless, students may wonder why these facts should interest them. “This sounds nice, but what does it have to do with me?” students may ask. Colleges and universities throughout the world are beginning to focus student attention on this and related questions by creating courses focused on sustainability.

An often-quoted definition of sustainability appears in *Our Common Future* by the World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundland, 1987). The Commission defines sustainable development as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” In other words, development may be necessary to meet our needs and improve the quality of life, but if humanity is to survive, it must occur in such a way that the capacity of the natural world to regenerate itself is not harmed

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2)

(see Selected Facts From Worldwatch Institute).

College and university programs focused on sustainability range from modules inserted into existing courses to PhD programs. Prescott College in Arizona has recently instituted a doctorate in education with a focus on sustainability education (see [http://www.prescott.edu/news/phd\\_approved.html](http://www.prescott.edu/news/phd_approved.html)). Unity College in Maine has structured its entire curriculum around sustainability (see <http://www.unity.edu/sustainability>). Ithaca College has been studying and applying sustainability principles on its campus for several years (see <http://www.aacu-edu.org/peerreview/pr-sp05/pr-sp05feature3.cfm>). Several schools have instituted master's level programs addressing sustainability, notably the University of North Carolina's Kenan-Flagler Business School that offers a master of business administration degree with a concentration in sustainable enterprise.

At the University of South Carolina (USC), graduate students present an Introduction to Sustainable Living to first-year students in University 101 classes (for the script and ecofootprint used in these presentations, see <http://www.sc.edu/sustainableu/Sustainable-LivingPres.htm>). The exercises are designed to spark thought and discussion about population and consumption, availability of resources, and lifestyle choices (see also Resource in sidebar).

In addition, sustainability presents an array of exciting opportunities and new careers for students. For example,

### **Selected Facts From Worldwatch Institute's *Vital Signs 2005***

Every hour, the world spends more than \$100 million on soldiers, weapons, and ammunition. (p. 76)

Programs to provide clean water and sewage systems would cost roughly \$37 billion annually; to eradicate illiteracy, \$5 billion; and to provide immunization for every child in the developing world, \$3 billion. (p. 76)

An estimated half of the world's wetlands have been lost since 1900, and destruction continues apace. (p. 90)

China increased its oil consumption by 11 percent in 2004, cementing its position as the world's number two user (after the U.S.) at 6.6 million barrels per day. (p. 30)

Production is falling in 33 of the 48 largest oil-producing countries, including 6 of 11 OPEC members. (p. 30)

Nearly one in four mammal species is in serious decline, mainly due to human activities. (p. 86)

Global ice melt has led to hunger and weight loss among polar bears, and has altered the habitats as well as feeding and breeding patterns of penguins and seals. (p. 89)

A 2000 World Bank study projected that on average 1.8 million people would die prematurely each year between 2001 and 2020 because of air pollution. (p. 94)

For more Vital Facts, see <http://www.worldwatch.org/press/news/2005/05/12/>

### **Resource**

The National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition collaborated with the South Carolina Sustainable Universities Initiative to produce a short video entitled *The Power of One*. The video and accompanying study guide are designed to elicit discussion as well as help students see how nearly every career choice has some bearing on worldwide sustainability (see <http://www.sc.edu/fye/publications/video/video.html#powerofone>).

the emphasis on "green building" has already created needs in a variety of professions. Architects and engineers who understand how to design to take advantage of site and climate and to create high-efficiency buildings are in demand. Engineers and materials scientists are called upon to develop new and better building materials. Electrical and mechanical engineers are being asked to develop more efficient power generation, as well as appliances that use it

more effectively. Landscape artists who work with native plant species, who understand the use of plants in shading and microclimate control, and who can develop designs which minimize disturbance on a site are needed now and will be in greater demand in the future.

Farther in the future, new areas of study will include such topics as biomimicry (Benyus, 1997)—copying natural processes or structures to produce needed goods or services—will allow

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

scientists and engineers to develop fibers as strong as spider silk (much stronger than any man-made material to date) or generate electricity the way “pond scum” captures the sun’s energy. New materials will allow energy to be captured by the clothes or accessories we wear, allowing (for example) an iPod to be powered by our movement as we walk instead of by batteries, which contain toxic materials.

The challenge for educators, during the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (see sidebar) and beyond, is to help students understand the complex web of connections that inextricably link our economy, the environment, and social well-being. We need to help students see that sustainability is not a matter of self-denial, but rather an opportunity to make changes now that will expand our options in the future and that failure to understand sustainability is what will ultimately limit our success as a species.

### References

- Benyus, J. M. (1997). *Biomimicry: Innovation inspired by nature*. New York: William Morrow.
- Bruntland, G. (Ed.). (1987). *Our common future: The World Commission on Environment and Development*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

### Contact:

Patricia Jerman, Program Manager  
Sustainable Universities Initiative  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC  
Phone: (803) 777-7760  
E-mail: [pjerman@environ.sc.edu](mailto:pjerman@environ.sc.edu)  
Web site: [www.sc.edu/sustainableu](http://www.sc.edu/sustainableu)

### UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development

The United Nations (UN), through UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization), declared the period from 2005 to 2014 the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development ([http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=27234&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=27234&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)). In making the designation, UNESCO states that:

There can be few more pressing and critical goals for the future of humankind than to ensure steady improvement in the quality of life for this and future generations, in a way that respects our common heritage – the planet we live on. As people we seek positive change for ourselves, our children, and grandchildren; we must do it in ways that respect the right of all to do so. To do this we must learn constantly – about ourselves, our potential, our limitations, our relationships, our society, our environment, our world. Education for sustainable development is a life-wide and lifelong endeavor which challenges individuals, institutions, and societies to view tomorrow as a day that belongs to all of us, or it will not belong to anyone.

In implementing the Decade, UNESCO plans to focus on *promoting and improving quality education*, especially that which favors lifelong learning. At the same time, they hope to *reorient educational programs* to focus on the knowledge and skills that are important to guiding sustainable societies. They also hope to *build public understanding and awareness* by focusing on community education and nurturing a responsible media. Finally, they hope to offer *practical training*, ensuring that “all sectors of the workforce will have the knowledge and skills necessary to make decisions and perform their work in a sustainable manner.”

### Sources of Additional Information

- [www.nwf.org/campusecology](http://www.nwf.org/campusecology) (National Wildlife Federation’s Campus Ecology program)
- [www.ulsf.org](http://www.ulsf.org) (University Leaders for a Sustainable Future)
- [www.secondnature.org](http://www.secondnature.org) (Education for Sustainability should be “second nature”)
- [www.aashe.org](http://www.aashe.org) (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education)



## The Novel Experience: An Uncommon Summer Reading Program

Laura Corbin

Associate Director of Communications, Wofford College, Spartanburg, SC

Dining in a purportedly haunted former bank vault in what is now a downtown Spartanburg (South Carolina) restaurant is a novel experience and became a part of the town-and-gown component of the inaugural session of Wofford College's The Novel Experience, an innovative reading program for first-year students.

Begun in 2002, The Novel Experience encompasses shared experiences among first-year students—reading the same novel over the summer, enjoying dinner and discussion of the book with their humanities section classmates and professor in local restaurants, writing essays on a question arising from the novel, and hearing from the author in person.

"The Novel Experience introduces Wofford freshmen to the world of contemporary fiction," says John Lane, associate professor of English and creative writing. "They read a provocative novel, write about it, then soon after, hear the writer read from their work and respond to their questions."

"It's the perfect space for making the importance of fiction clear," Lane continues. "A dozen or so of our students work to craft novels in one of our creative writing classes, so what better way could there be to honor the art of fiction than this shared reading experience?"

Many colleges have first-year student reading programs, but few combine it with the town-and-gown element or ask students to write an essay. Students also have an opportunity to meet and hear the novel's author. He or she is invited to campus for a special convocation for the entire student body and gives a public reading later in the evening. "Readings are the traditional way an author presents his work, and the author of The Novel Experience book reads from the assigned book as well as other works, giving us a chance to hear a range of his or her work," Lane says.

The best student-written essays on the novel question from each humanities section are published in a high-end, glossy booklet and distributed at the convocation. The author is given a copy of the booklet earlier and often makes use of the essays in the convocation lecture. The writers of the winning essays meet the author and have lunch with him or her after the convocation.

The late Dr. John C. Cobb (Wofford College Class of 1976), who initiated the program when he was director of the humanities program, once said, "It's an opportunity to give the students a common intellectual experience, introduce them to the community at large by taking them out to restaurants, bring an internationally known and tremendously respected

writer to campus, and give the first-year class an experience that is both intellectually sophisticated and memorable." Cobb embedded The Novel Experience in an improved program of first-year humanities seminars that Wofford pioneered in the 1970s. "The idea is to teach writing and discuss skills around topics that help students confront moral values and issues," he said.

Students at first question whether they have time to read a novel over the summer before they start their college careers. "I was like, 'Are you serious?'" says now sophomore Tanya George, 20, an English major, when she found that in the midst of getting her housing assignment and registering for classes, she would be required to read Geraldine Brooks' *Year of Wonders*.

Soon, though, George discovered the value of the experience. Because she was unable to attend the college's orientation programs, the novel became a good conversation-starter with her classmates. "People would come up and ask, 'Did you like the book?' or if I had read the book," she says.

Dr. Deno Trakas, English professor and coordinator of The Novel Experience, says that is one of the purposes of the program—getting students talking to each other and their professors. "One of our main reasons for The Novel Experience is to help create a campus community during the students' first year. Once they get to campus, they talk about it in their dorm rooms with roommates or in the cafeteria. We just want to encourage conversation."

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 5)

To that end and to help students become familiar with the surrounding community, the town-and-gown aspect of The Novel Experience takes each humanities section to a different local restaurant for dinner and a discussion of the novel. The restaurants range from upscale, sit-down dining venues to local hole-in-the-wall burger joints—each providing a different flavor, literally and figuratively.

Which restaurant a group visits is determined by the luck of the draw. One evening shortly after the fall semester begins, all first-year students come together with their humanities professors. A representative of each section is selected to either draw a lot with the name of the restaurant on it or spin a wheel to determine the restaurant. The gathering itself is a bonding experience. There is a lot of fun, frivolity, and nervous anticipation as students rejoice or grimace, depending on the selection and their personal taste. About two dozen restaurants are used for the program to accommodate all students and their sections. George notes, “No matter how different everyone is here, the one thing we all share is the first-year student reading experience. It felt good to be part of something.”

Authors who have participated in Wofford College’s The Novel Experience are: Ha Jin (*Waiting*), 2005; Orson Scott Card (*Ender’s Game*), 2004; Geraldine Brooks (*Year of Wonders*), 2003; and Charles Johnson (*Middle Passage*), 2002.



Wofford students spin for a restaurant as part of their Novel Experience.



Ha Jin and the essay winners of 2005.

Lane says the 2006 Novel Experience book and author have not been selected, but that it will be a novel about war because the program is linked to a cluster of courses about war.

**Contact:**

Laura Corbin  
 Associate Director of Communications  
 Wofford College  
 Spartanburg, SC  
 Phone: (864) 597-4180  
 E-mail: [laura.corbin@wofford.edu](mailto:laura.corbin@wofford.edu)  
 Web site: [www.wofford.edu](http://www.wofford.edu)



## Supporting Sophomores in Making the Transition to an Internally Directed Life

**Molly A. Schaller**

Assistant Professor, Department of Counselor Education & Human Services, University of Dayton, Dayton, OH

Leaders within higher education and researchers have focused their attention heavily on the first-year students and their needs and challenges. The same cannot be said for sophomore students. In the past few years, institutions have become increasingly aware of the issues facing sophomores. While this group of students is as diverse as any within higher education, there are some shared experiences in the sophomore year. Students, regardless of institution, must select a major by the end of their sophomore year. Those who wait to make this choice near the end of the year may find themselves behind in major requirements. While some programs are now structured to bring students to college directly into a major, most institutions allow for this change. Secondly, sophomores experience less support from administrators and campus policies and programs. The practice of frontloading the first year leaves sophomore students feeling as if they are suddenly expected to negotiate college on their own.

As students transition into college, they experience a new environment, new requirements, and new challenges. Near the end of the first year and throughout the second year, students are faced with a different transition. In this second transition of college, stu-

dents must decide on their future. They often select a set of friends that will remain with them for the remainder of their college years. In many cases, they come to a new understanding of who they are.

Nina, a sophomore in one of my research studies, said,

As a sophomore...you still need to get your grounding and be more comfortable with who you are, and also...finding yourself, and discovering who you are as a person. And, it was hard for me this year...when I sat back, I'm like, 'Wait, who am I?' That's why I think me being so moody, and not really comfortable with how I have been this year, has a lot to do with it because I really, you really need to know!

Nina's experience is not atypical. Over the years, we may have called her experience "the sophomore slump." However, there is more to the slump than just a struggle. There is also an end to the slump. At the other end, students either know themselves better, thus have a chance to make decisions about their life direction, or they give into the pressure and rely on external

*(Continues on page 7)*

*E-Source for College Transitions* (ISSN 1545-5742) is published bi-monthly by the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208. Telephone (803) 777-6029. A one-year subscription is \$40.

The Center, a nonprofit organization, will use proceeds from the newsletter to defray publication costs, support research, and disseminate information. The First-Year Experience is a trademark of the University of South Carolina. A license may be granted upon written request to use the term The First-Year Experience. This license is not transferable without the written approval of the University of South Carolina.

### Publication Staff

**Inge Kutt Lewis**  
Editor

**Michael Abel**  
Editorial Assistant

**Mey Wu**  
Web Master

**Tracy Skipper**  
Editorial Projects Coordinator

**Barbara Tobolowsky**  
Associate Director

**Stuart Hunter**  
Director



(Continued from page 6)

forces such as parents, peers, and professors to guide their decision making.

This phenomenon, this search for self, future, and healthy relationships, does not end abruptly at the end of the sophomore year. Instead, what happens in the sophomore year sets the stage for the remainder of the college experience. Administrators, faculty, and student affairs professionals can structure the sophomore year to assist students in the search. I recommend that campuses consider some of these approaches:

*1. Define the sophomore year as different.*

Students are well prepared for the first year because of orientation and other programs. Students entering the sophomore year can also be informed about the challenges of the year. Let students know that the sophomore year is “the year you make it your own.” A number of institutions hold “welcome back” programs specifically directed at sophomores. Colorado College’s Sophomore Jump program is specifically directed at helping students learn more about themselves to assist them in career decision making.

*2. Encourage self-reflection.*

Knowing oneself is an important and challenging task. Learning to engage in self reflection, identifying one’s strengths and challenges, interests and aptitudes, can assist students in selecting a direction for life. Self-reflection can become a part of many courses during the sophomore year. It can also be the focus of co-curricular programs in explorations of majors, service work,

and religious beliefs. Career development programs and classes, leadership development programs, and religious retreats for sophomores are being held on many campuses. At the University of Dayton, for example, campus ministers plan sophomore retreats that focus on these issues.

*3. Challenge students to label external forces.*

Society, parents, families, peers, professors, and others have expectations for students that may not match who the student is. An important part of the self-reflection process is identifying and understanding the impact of external forces on one’s decision-making process. Academic advisors, career specialists, faculty, and student affairs professionals can ask students to identify such forces as they make decisions about courses, majors, leadership positions, etc.

*4. Provide ongoing opportunities for relationships with adults.*

Students in the sophomore year continue to look for new connections and new ways of seeing the world. Relationships with adults who can listen and care about the student allows the student to see that there are many options in today’s world. Colgate University’s Sophomore-Year Experience program has engaged numerous alumni in on-campus visits, dinners, and discussions specifically targeted for sophomores. During these programs, alumni share their experiences searching for a major and finding life purpose with students. In addition, sophomores find connections that

lead to summer internship opportunities through these programs.

*5. Provide for expansion of peer relationships.*

Sophomore students often continue to search for meaningful and healthy peer relationships. Requiring group work, i.e., encouraging students to become involved in new student groups or to work on service-learning projects together helps students expand their peer world and their view of themselves. Leadership development programs that focus on sophomores are one way to provide opportunities for sophomores to expand their peer group and to continue to explore their interests and life direction.

Supporting sophomores in their development is not an easy task. It will continue to require patience, innovation, and commitment. Professionals who work with sophomores may be tempted to believe that their responsibility is to simply provide for the students’ academic experience. However, this denies the wholeness of student lives. It is this wholeness for which we are responsible when we design the students’ environments.

**Contact:**

Molly A. Schaller  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Counselor Education & Human Services  
University of Dayton  
300 College Park  
Dayton, OH 45469-0530  
Phone: (937) 229-3677  
E-mail: Molly.Schaller@notes.udayton.edu



## University Studies: Helping Students Become Citizens

Judith Patton

Director, University Studies, Portland State University, OR

University Studies ([www.pdx.edu/unst](http://www.pdx.edu/unst)) is the general education requirement for the majority of students at Portland State University (PSU). The program, beginning in 1994, departed from the distribution model of general education (i.e., requirements are spread or distributed across the traditional areas of study such as science, social science, and humanities plus writing) and moved to a learning community model through an inquiry- and goal-based curriculum. Because the university was in the process of discovering what an urban institution could be and do, a new institutional motto, *Let Knowledge Serve the City* was adopted. There was an intentional shift to collaborating more visibly and closely with the city, region, and, more recently, the world, not only through research but also through the undergraduate curriculum in general education.

The design of University Studies draws directly on research on student learning and general education. The program is designed to support faculty-student interaction, student-to-student interaction and learning from each other, active and applied learning, and a valuing of difference. The actual coursework brings entering students into the academic and social world of

the university through Freshman Inquiry, a year-long, integrated learning community of 36 students, a faculty member, and a peer mentor. Faculty from different disciplines create the classes around a theme. Current examples are *The Constructed Self: We, Them, and Us*, *Forbidden Knowledge*, *System Earth*, and *On Democracy*.

The four goals of University Studies reflect PSU's urban mission and outcomes necessary for students to be successful upon graduation. They are (a) inquiry and critical thinking, (b) communication (i.e., written, oral, visual, quantitative, group and technological), (c) social responsibility, and (d) ethical issues and the diversity of human experience. The university made a thoughtful and logical commitment to its students to help them graduate with an understanding of themselves and their place in the world as citizens of a democratic nation.

The focus on dissolving the barriers between university and the community was assisted by the location of the institution at the south end of the city. Park blocks (i.e., urban green spaces) run through the center of the campus and through the Portland downtown area. This easy access to not-for-profit agencies, businesses, and government offices has supported the development

of an amazingly diverse and sizable community-based learning effort linked directly to the classroom. For example, the kind of community-based learning projects students participate in as part of Freshman Inquiry include tutoring middle schoolers in reading, participating in tree planting throughout the city in partnership with *Friends of Trees*, participating in sports training with inner city youth in partnership with the Blazer's Boys and Girls Club, and preparing residency rooms for women and children from abusive home situations. Each project connects directly to the issues and materials in the course theme (<http://partner.pdx.edu> and [http://www.pdx.edu/unst/capstone\\_courses.html](http://www.pdx.edu/unst/capstone_courses.html); see also *E-Source*, Vol. 3, No. 2, p. 2 for capstone courses).

In University Studies, survey data report that students are learning in each of the four University Studies goals. The self-reported data is also validated by an annual student portfolio assessment. Data from the review of a random selection of Freshman Inquiry yearlong portfolios shows scores that are acceptable or more for each goal over the past seven years. Assessment reports are available online at <http://www.pdx.edu/unst/assessreports.html>.

### Contact:

Judith Patton  
Director, University Studies  
Portland State University  
Portland, OR  
Phone: (503) 725-8367  
E-mail: [pattonj@pdx.edu](mailto:pattonj@pdx.edu)



## ∞ Spotlight ∞

*This is the first article in a series from luminaries in the field who share insights regarding their campuses and higher education in general.*

### Betty L. Siegel

Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA

Dr. Betty L. Siegel, president of Kennesaw State University (<http://www.kennesaw.edu/president/biography.html>) is the first woman to head a public university in Georgia and is also the longest-serving woman president of a public university in the nation. She has been president of Kennesaw State University since 1981. Recently, she talked to the National Resource Center about the past 25 years of The First-Year Experience movement and speculated about the future. She said:

*We want students who are more accomplished than just in a subject matter. We want students of the future to have leadership skills; who have communication skills; who have cross-functional team-building skills; who have a sense of appreciation for diversity; who have a global perspective; and who exercise ethical leadership.*

Dr. Siegel went on to discuss how to start programs to foster these traits and abilities in students. She likened the process to a starfish. She explained.

*A starfish can open an oyster shell very quickly through pressure on five different points. At Kennesaw, our five points are (a) people,*

*(b) place, (c) programs, (d) policies, and (e) processes. The people are the best faculty on campus who make student success their priority. The place is inviting and sustains community. The curricular and co-curricular programs foster those skills mentioned earlier. And our policies and processes reward and reinforce the people and the programs. Just like the arms of the starfish, these five points work as a unit to instill those desirable qualities in our students.*

During her tenure at Kennesaw, Dr. Siegel has started several new traditions on her campus. One is what she called a "sleepover." During a sleepover, she first has dinner with residential assistants and then spends the rest of the evening talking to students in residence halls (<http://acsdev1.kennesaw.edu/access/newsreleases2.asp?dt=594>). A new tradition involves students who are about to graduate.

*We have a new Remembrance Rock on our campus. Our Remembrance Rock goes back to Carl Sandburg's novel of the same name. Sandburg's protagonist asked himself three questions every year as he sat on that rock: "Who am I? Where am I going? Where have I come from?" I have added a fourth question, "What is the meaning?" We just recently added a fifth question, which is, "How do I matter?"*

*These questions are going to be engraved on the Remembrance Rock on our campus. When our students graduate, they are going to put their hand on that rock; and they*

*are going to be fully aware that, at Kennesaw, we want our graduates to ask these five questions of themselves.*

*To the question, "Who am I?" they would want to say, I think, that they are avid, life-long learners.*

*"Where have I come from?" They come from families, a community, and a university that encourages them.*

*"Where am I going?" They are going into a future that is uncertain. They are going into a future that will require extraordinary talents; talents like those mentioned earlier.*

*"What is the meaning?" They have found some meaning, some higher purpose, some calling, some passion to do something with their lives outside of just work.*

*And finally, when they ask, "How do I matter?" As graduates of Kennesaw, they will know that they matter.*

Dr. Siegel will retire in 2006 and head a course in ethical leadership at Oxford University, England, in the spring.

#### Contact:

Betty Siegel  
 President  
 Kennesaw State University  
 Kennesaw, GA  
 Phone: (770) 423-6543  
 E-mail: [pkantenw@kennesaw.edu](mailto:pkantenw@kennesaw.edu) (Paula Kantenwein, Secretary to the President)



## What's Happening

### Conferences

25th Annual Conference on The First-Year Experience  
February 24-28, 2006, Atlanta Georgia

### Teleconferences:

#### Transforming Campuses

*The Forgotten Student: Understanding and Supporting Sophomores*  
March 9, 2006  
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm EST

*Cultivating Campus Cultures That Value Student Success*  
March 30, 2006  
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm EST

*Shattering Barriers: Transforming the College Experience for Students of Color*  
April 20, 2006  
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm EDST

For teleconference details, please visit <http://www/sc.edu/fye/events/teleconference/index.html>

### Research and Resources

#### Call for Submissions for New Monograph

The National Resource Center invites you to share your campus-specific research on sophomore (second-year) students and initiatives. *Exploring the Evidence: Reporting Research on the Second Year of College* is part of the series of monographs reporting assess-

ment and research findings about topics of emerging importance in higher education. Submissions to *Exploring the Evidence: Reporting Research on the Second Year of College* are welcomed along two tracks: (a) general research on your institution's sophomore students (e.g., satisfaction, engagement, study habits) and (b) assessment of programs and activities intentionally geared toward sophomore students.

#### Submissions are due February 1, 2006.

Complete submission guidelines are available at <http://www.sc.edu/fye/research/soph/index.html>

#### New Sophomore Research and Resources

The Center's research team has recently completed data collection for the 2005 National Survey of Sophomore-Year Initiatives. With several hundred schools responding, the data analysis is expected to continue well into the new year.

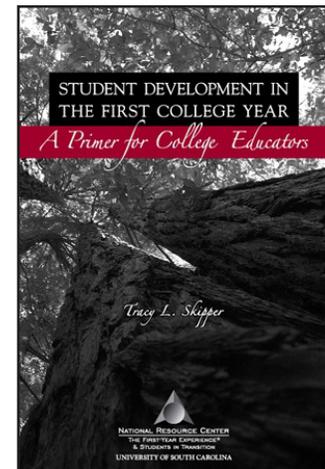
#### Assessment Essays Database

The Center recently launched a new web-based database that contains more than 75 essays addressing college assessment. The essays, written by an impressive collection of assessment experts, have been presented over the last five years as part of the First-Year Assessment Listserv's (FYA-List's) invited essays series. Visitors to our web site are now able to search for essays by

keyword, author, title, or date. New essays will be added nearly every month.

To search the essay database, please visit <http://nrc.fye.sc.edu/resources/FYalist>

To join the FYA-List and receive new essays in your inbox as they are published each month, please visit <http://www.sc.edu/fye/listservs/subscribe.html>



#### New Publication

*Student Development in the First College Year: A Primer for College Educators* by Tracy Skipper provides a detailed overview of some of the most commonly referenced theories of learning and development in the college years. What sets this primer apart from other treatments of student development theory is its careful attention to the first college year and the wide range of educational environments in which learning and development take place.



Neither prescriptive nor predictive, the primer is a useful starting point for understanding and relating to first-year college students and offers a framework for making informed decisions about program and curricular design.

Overview of *Student Development in the First College Year*

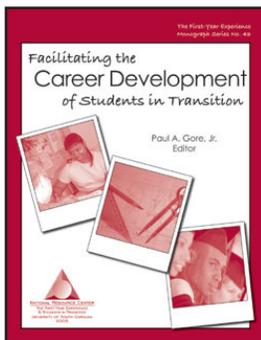
- Theories of psychosocial and identity development, including those describing women, students of color, and lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender students
- Theories of cognitive development and moral reasoning
- Models of student retention
- Theory-to-practice model with examples from the first-year classroom, residence life, and learning communities
- Strategies for assessing developmental outcomes

*Student Development in the First College Year* is an ideal resource for:

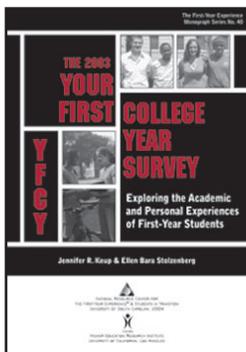
- First-year experience planning committees
- Academic and student affairs administrators
- Faculty and students in higher education and student affairs graduate programs
- Faculty and graduate teaching assistants teaching first-year courses
- Administrators providing programs and services for first-year students

For more information, see <http://www.sc.edu/fye/publications/index.html>

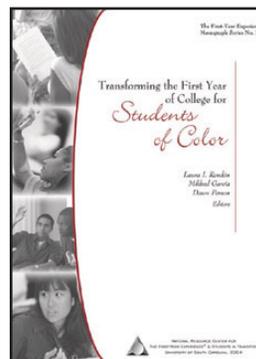
**Other titles of interest:**



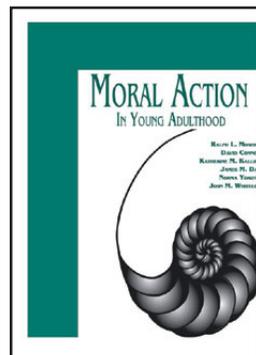
Monograph #43  
*Facilitating the Career Development of Students in Transition*—Paul A. Gore, Jr., Editor  
ISBN 1-889271-49-7  
2005. 230 pages. \$35.00



Monograph #40  
*The 2003 Your First College Year (YFCY) Survey: Exploring the Academic and Personal Experiences of First-Year Students*—Jennifer R. Keup and Ellen Bara Stolzenberg  
ISBN 1-889271-48-9  
2004. 90 pages. \$30.00



Monograph #38  
*Transforming the First Year of College for Students of Color*—Laura I. Rendón, Mildred García, and Dawn Person, Editors  
ISBN 1-889271-45-4  
2004. 208 pages. \$35.00



*Moral Action in Young Adulthood*—Ralph L. Mosher, David Connor, Katherine M. Kalliel, James M. Day, Norma Yokota, Mark R. Porter, and John M. Whitely  
ISBN 1-889271-2608  
1999. 280 pages. \$30.00

