Orientation 101
Dr. Amy Hinz Horn

While the word summer means rest, relaxation, and vacation for many of the NIU faculty, staff, and students, it means only one thing to many others on campus: orientation! As you may know, orientation is mandatory for all undergraduate freshmen and transfer students. What you may not know is what these 4,500 students [and their families] get to do, see, and hear during this required one-day program. Here is a quick overview of orientation at NIU:

- Certain orientation dates are scheduled for freshmen students to attend, while other orientation dates are scheduled for transfer/re-entering students.
- Students are able to get oriented with NIU, take placement tests, learn about important support services and programs, obtain their NIU OneCard, receive advising from the advisors in their colleges, and register for their fall courses.
- Family members meet representatives of academic departments and student services, learn about what life at NIU will be like for their students, explore the educational goals (continued on page 3)

Events Affecting You and Your Students:
SUMMER 2012

Classes Begin
- Monday, June 18th
Last Day to Apply for Fall 2012 Graduation (via MyNIU)
- Sunday, July 1st
Last Day for First-Half Session Course Withdrawal
Last Day for First-Half Session University Withdrawal
- Tuesday, July 3rd
Independence Day (University Closed)
- Wednesday, July 4th
Last Day for Full-Session Course Withdrawal
Last Day for Full-Session University Withdrawal
- Thursday, July 12th
Last Day for Last-Half Session Course Withdrawal
Last Day for Last-Half Session University Withdrawal
- Tuesday, July 31st
Summer Session Ends
- Sunday, August 12th
2012 Champion Award Recipients

Amy Hinz Horn and Randi Napientek

The Office of Student Academic Success (OSAS) at Northern Illinois University is a multi-dimensional support services office that is committed to student success. As part of the NIU community, OSAS values the skills, talents, and expertise held by the exceptional NIU faculty and staff and appreciates their infallible willingness to collaborate on a multitude of student success efforts. While the comprehensive college-wide support network at NIU is outstanding as a whole, there are particular individuals who consistently rise above the rest when it comes to partnering with OSAS and supporting student success. Colette Maher, Dr. Greg Barker, Steve Estes, Randi Napientek and the Student Financial Aid Office always put the needs of students first. They are champions. Thus, we are honored to acknowledge their efforts, show our appreciation, and present them with the first annual Office of Student Academic Success 2012 Champion Awards.

Colette Maher
Colette Maher personifies true student support at Northern Illinois University. As an Academic Advisor/Counselor in the Academic Advising Center, Colette goes above and beyond when it comes to helping students succeed. She takes a holistic approach to her developmental advising, making it a priority to address the vast needs of NIU students and helping them achieve success. Colette consistently maintains a collegial and collaborative spirit with the Office of Student Academic Success as well as with countless other offices and personnel across campus, continually working to create a college-wide support network that empowers NIU students to reach their goals.

Greg Barker
As the Director of Testing Services, Dr. Greg Barker provides invaluable support and service to the Northern Illinois University community, allowing data-driven and research-based decisions to be made in the best interests of NIU students. By analyzing the data, reflecting on the results, and offering his highly respected insight, Dr. Barker assists the Office of Student Academic Success in its mission to promote best practices in student success and persistence. Always with a smile on his face, Dr. Barker shares the numbers and knowledge needed to continually develop, implement, and maintain the practices and programs that will help NIU students succeed.

Steve Estes
Steve Estes works tirelessly to ensure that NIU students achieve success and have the best possible experience along the way. Serving as an Academic Advisor in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Steve is committed to helping NIU students be successful by supporting their journeys through a variety of means. Steve enthusiastically collaborates with the Office of Student Academic Success, promoting different programs, attending various events, and championing important initiatives. Many NIU students are on the path to success because of the dedication, commitment, and support that Steve demonstrates for the entire NIU community. (continued on page 4)
Academic Resources: Summer 2012

Chelsea Smith

As you prepare to welcome students back to your classroom or office for the Summer 2012 semester, the OSAS wanted to help you by creating a go-to guide for information about summer office hours and resource availability so you can pass the much needed information along to students, as needed. As you know, many offices and their services and hours have changed for the summer months. Think of this as your one-stop shop for accurate resource information your students may find helpful!

ACCESS/PAL (815) 753-1141
Hours: Monday—Thursday: 7:30 am—5:30 pm, Friday: Closed
Special Instructions for Students: ACCESS Tutoring Centers are closed for the summer. For individual tutoring assistance, contact the PAL Office in Williston 100.

Career Services (815) 753-1641
Hours: Monday—Thursday: 7:30 am—5:30 pm, Friday: Closed
Special Instructions for Students: For career counseling and resume review, call for appointment. Visit Huskies Get Hired for job posting information.

Counseling and Student Development Center (CSDC) & Coaching for Academic Success (815) 753-1206
Hours: Monday—Thursday: 7:30 am—5:30 pm, Friday: Closed
Special Instructions for Students: Walk-In: Monday—Thursday: 11 am—3:30 pm

Computer Labs—Hours and Location Information

Health Services (815) 753-1311
Hours: Monday—Thursday: 7:30 am—5:15 pm, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: Closed
Special Instructions for Students: Call or visit the Secure Patient Website to make an appointment.

Founders Memorial Library (815) 753-9844
Hours: Monday—Thursday: 7:30 am—10 pm, Fri. 8 am—5 pm, Sat. Closed, Sun. 1 pm—5 pm

University Writing Center (815) 753-6636
Hours: Monday—Thursday: 10 am—5 pm
Special Instructions to Students: Summer sessions are by scheduled appointment only. All summer sessions are located in Stevenson South, Tower B, in the lower level.

Orientation 101 (continued from page 1)

of NIU, and understand the importance of their continued support for their students.

- Staff and faculty from the 6 colleges and nearly 60 departments/offices across campus are involved in orientation, contributing to the concurrent programs for students and family members in a variety of ways.
- Students and their families can browse through Northern Neighborhood-located in Neptune Central—and get a chance to interact with representatives from many Student Affairs and Academic Support service units.
- Student and Family handbooks are provided at orientation and are designed to serve as a resource to be referenced throughout a student’s time at NIU.

Orientation at NIU continues to be an important and successful campus-wide endeavor meant to welcome new, transfer, and re-entering students and their families to NIU while helping them start off their educational journey at the university on the right foot. Although summer might be a time for many people to kick off their shoes and put their feet up for a bit, it’s really a time to hit the ground running during orientation at NIU.
**2012 Champion Awards Recipients** (continued from page 2)

**Randi Napientek**

Randi Napientek puts the *success* in the Office of Student Academic Success. Randi has been an integral part of OSAS since its inception in 2009. By helping to create, implement, and oversee a variety of the beneficial programs offered by OSAS, Randi continually impacts the ability of NIU students to persist to graduation and succeed in reaching their goals. Randi not only has a vast knowledge of the operations, practices, and programs of OSAS, but she also has a firm understanding of all sides of the university, working tirelessly with colleagues across campus to maintain and solidify a campus-wide support network for NIU students. As the “go-to” girl in the OSAS office, Randi is instrumental in helping her colleagues, our students, and the NIU community as a whole, succeed by doing whatever she can, whenever she can.

**Student Financial Aid Office**

The Student Financial Aid Office at Northern Illinois University helps make the dream of attending college an exciting reality for countless NIU students. The competent and caring staff in the Student Financial Aid Office goes the extra mile, time and time again, as they assist students and their families navigate what can be the intimidating, confusing, and overwhelming world known as financial aid. The Student Financial Aid Office partners with the Office of Student Academic Success on a regular basis to ensure that NIU students are aware of—and when possible, receive—the many types of financial aid available that can help them meet their financial needs, which in turn allows students to continue with their education, focus on their studies, and pursue their dreams.

**Meet our newest team members:**

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