

FYS NewsNotes

Monthly News from the First Year of Studies

September 2009

The First Year Challenge - 2009

In order to promote thoughtful reflection on 21st century global problems through engagement of the Arts, Humanities, Sciences, and theological disciplines, Dean Hugh Page announces *The First Year Challenge*. First year students are invited to submit individual or collaborative essays (not to exceed 10 pages in length) that examine and propose creative ways to address local, national, or international problems.

This year, entries are invited that explore the contemporary implications of, and propose concrete ways to advance in the greater Michiana region, one of the core values articulated in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, adopted by the United Nations in 1948.

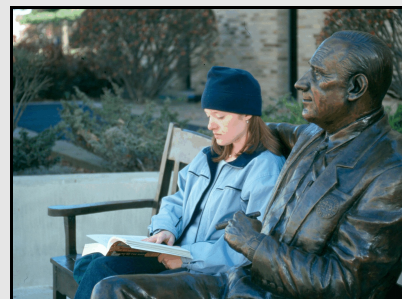
Entries will be judged by a faculty panel and are due by **December 10, 2009**. The winning essay will be published in the *First Year of Studies Annual* and the author(s) will receive a \$500 prize. They will also receive a \$500 grant to explore the feasibility of implementing their plan in our region. Submissions should be sent directly to the Dean (in Word or PDF format) by the due date.

FYS Cénacle Groups Forming

As you know, the *Academic Guide* sent before your arrival at Notre Dame, included several resources for summer reading and reflection. We invite those of you interested in engaging those works in a more relaxed setting to join *Cénacle Poétique*, small First Year of Studies reading and conversation circles that will meet monthly in the homes of faculty.

Fall readings will include: Junot Diaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (September); Doug McAdam, *Freedom Summer* (October); and Thomas Friedman, *The World is Flat* (November). Books will be available for purchase at the Hammes Notre Dame Book Store. Transportation will be arranged, and dinner will be provided.

Please contact Dr. Maureen Dawson in the First Year of Studies (mdawson3@nd.edu) by **Thursday, September 10th** if you are interested or have questions. Space is limited, so please don't delay. This is a wonderful way to enrich your Notre Dame experience and develop a healthy appreciation of reading and conversation as a creative and life-changing art.



Memo from the Dean

Dear First Year Students:

As you know, the First Year of Studies (FYS) is the college to which all entering first-year students at the University of Notre Dame are admitted. One of its goals is to lay the foundations necessary for the pursuit of advanced work in any of the University's undergraduate majors / minors. To this end, the first year curriculum stresses broad exposure to the arts, humanities, sciences, and social sciences as well as sound preparation for areas of possible specialization.



Our advisors are ready and willing to assist you. They will familiarize you with our general FYS learning objectives and guide you in developing a set of goals that is uniquely your own. Our hope is that the 2009 - 2010 Academic Year will be the start of an exciting journey in which you explore many fields of knowledge, engage life's larger questions, and discover your "passion."

I look forward to meeting and working with you in the weeks ahead, as well as communicating with you in my "Dean's Blog."

<http://fys.nd.edu/news/category/dean-s-blog/>

FYS Organization

- **Dean:** (The Rev.) Hugh R. Page, Jr.
- **Associate Deans:** Angie Chamblee & Kevin Rooney
- **Assistant Deans:** Ken DeBoer & Holly Martin
- **Academic Advisors:** arrange programs and courses for students according to University policies, objectives of the various college programs and interests of the students and provide academic and personal advising for students.
- **Course Management Specialists:** implement the programs arranged by the Academic Advisors, handle scheduling and registration, process changes and keep records.
- **Learning Resource Center:** houses the Learning Strategies, Tutoring and Collaborative Learning Programs.

Advising Program

Advising is done through a team approach. Each student is assigned to an advising team which includes an academic advisor, several undergraduate peer advisors, and faculty consultants from academic departments. The advisor meets with students individually and in groups, does the official administrative processing for students assigned to the team, and directs the overall program of the team.

The academic advisors are:

- Alex Ambrose
- Steven Brady
- Elly Brenner
- Nicole Brinkmann
- Angie Chamblee
- Maureen Dawson
- Kenneth DeBoer
- Jennifer Fox
- Christy Greene
- Holly Martin
- Hugh Page
- Erin Ponisciak
- Elizabeth Ramquist
- Kevin Rooney
- Raymond Sepeta
- Mel Tardy
- Michelle Ware (maternity leave)
- Sean Wernert
- Ryan White

Call 574-631-7421 to schedule an appointment with your advisor.

The **Peer Advisors** are seniors who can exchange knowledge with you on matters pertaining to academics, campus life, dormitory activities, study habits, etc. If you have questions about life at ND, jot them down and ask your Peer Advisor. One will call you this semester and arrange a time and place to meet. If you want to talk with a Peer Advisor before one contacts you, let your academic advisor know!

Formal Academic Transactions

If you wish to make a formal academic transaction (modifying a course schedule, changing an intended college program or dropping a course) ***you must discuss the matter with your advisor.***

Change of Intended College Program

First-year students can change their intended college programs at any time. A student wishing to change programs should discuss the matter with his or her advisor.

Dropping a Course

First-year students who drop courses should bear in mind that students who have fewer than 24 credit hours or who have not satisfied all of the course requirements of the First Year of Studies (*one semester of the Writing Program, two semesters of mathematics, two semesters of either science or a foreign language, at least one semester of another university requirement chosen from history, social science, theology, philosophy or fine arts/literature, and one course in the University Seminar format*) will be retained administratively in the FYS until all conditions are met. The deficiencies must be removed at the Notre Dame Summer Session or in the third semester at Notre Dame.

A student who wishes to drop a course must discuss the matter with his or her advisor.

Permission to drop a course is officially granted ONLY when the Dean gives approval.

Therefore students should continue to attend all courses until they have received official notification that their request to drop a course has been approved.

*The drop request deadline is **Friday, October 30.***

Learning Resource Center (LRC)

The Learning Resource Center is located on the second floor of the Coleman-Morse Center. The LRC includes the Tutoring Program, Help Sessions, Learning Strategies Assistance, the Collaborative Learning Program, self-instruction materials for several courses and First Year Experience Librarian. Ms. Nahid Erfan is the Director of the LRC, Dr. Philip Sakimoto is Director of Learning Strategies Assistance and Ms. Leslie Morgan is the First Year Experience Librarian. For more information go to the following link:

<http://fys.nd.edu/academic-support>

- **First Year Tutoring Program**

The FYS Tutoring Program is available to first-year students whose success in a course requires assistance beyond that which can be given by the teacher or staff of the course. A student who wishes to participate in the tutoring program can visit the Learning Resource Center located in 228 Coleman-Morse. *Sessions begin on Sunday, August 30.*

The tutoring offered through this program is *not* meant to replace classroom instruction, tutorials, or other aids offered by a teacher or through a course. Some of the tutoring is done individually, but most is done in small groups. There is *no charge* for tutoring. See the following link for more information:

<http://fys.nd.edu/academic-support/learning-resource-center/tutoring>

- **Math & Chemistry Help Sessions**

Help sessions will be offered every week for Math 10250, Math 10350, Math 10550 and Math 10560, also, Chem 10171. Additional Help Sessions are offered for students who did not take calculus in high school and require extra assistance. The times of the sessions will be posted in the LRC during the first week of classes and on the First Year Tab in insideND. *No sign-ups required for help sessions. Sessions begin Sunday, August 30,* in the LRC and are open to all first-year students.

- **Learning Strategies Assistance**

Individual assistance is available on an appointment basis. Interactive workshops are also planned. The first of many workshops will be scheduled for the week of September 20. See above information.

Take Charge of Your Learning: A Workshop on Learning Strategies, Task Management, and Conquering Classes

Are you a high-performing student—or do you want to become one? What does learning really mean? How can you overcome unseen barriers in your brain? What insights can you gain from the ways that expert academics process knowledge? How can you use NASA's task management principles to improve your study habits? Explore these questions in a fast-paced interactive workshop open to all Notre Dame students.

Devised and led by

Dr. Philip Sakimoto
Director of Learning Strategies,
First Year of Studies
(formerly, Acting Director of NASA's Space
Science Education Program)

Wednesday, September 23, 4:05-5:35 PM

or

Thursday, September 24, 6:45-8:15 PM

in

The Learning Resource Center
Coleman-Morse, 2nd Floor

Reserve Your Space

by

Emailing flrc@nd.edu

Calling 631-5294, or

Signing up in the Learning Resource Center

- **Collaborative Learning Program**

In collaborative learning, small groups of students come together to work on homework or other related problems. By talking with each other and sharing ideas about the work, students learn more mathematics, chemistry, biology and physics and understand it better. Collaborative groups are available to students who benefit from group interaction in addition to or instead of tutoring. First-year students who wish to participate can visit the LRC located in 228 Coleman-Morse. ***Collaborative groups will begin on Sunday, August 30.*** Schedule can be viewed on the First Year Tab in insideND.

- **First Year Experience Librarian**

Leslie L. Morgan is the First Year Experience Librarian and will provide library research assistance in room 229 of the Coleman-Morse building this academic year. Two Peer Information Consultants also known as PIC's (Junior/Senior ND Students) will staff this Library when she is unavailable. The Library has a computer work station students can log into to access the electronic Library Catalog, online scholarly journals, papers, images, etc. Some print reference sources are forthcoming and shelved in this room, in addition to Library handouts students may find useful. Students can bring their laptop and work in a comfortable setting.

See the following link about an upcoming event:

http://www.nd.edu/~fys/WHATS_NEW_LIBRARY_INFO_FLYER.pdf

Other Important Information

- **Class Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all classes. Penalty for excessive absences is determined by the professor and is announced in class. A student who expects to miss several classes because of illness or other serious reason, should notify the FYS as soon as possible so that the professors can be notified. Ordinarily, a student who misses more than two weeks of classes will be advised to terminate the course.

- **Dean's Honor List**

A student qualifies for the Dean's Honor List by achieving a g.p.a. of 3.616 for the fall semester.

- **Academic Good Standing and Dismissal**

To be in academic good standing first-year students must have a minimum g.p.a. of 1.70 first semester and a minimum g.p.a. of 1.85 second semester. In future semesters a minimum of 2.00 is required. Failure to achieve these averages results in probation. A first-year student may be dismissed from the University for the following: 1) a semester average below 1.0; 2) two consecutive semesters on probation.

- **Final Exams**

Most first-year students are scheduled to take a final exam on Friday, December 18. *Permission will not be given for early examinations to accommodate travel arrangements*

Important Dates

September 2 Last day for class changes

September 10 Library Orientation Sessions, 4 - 6 p.m.

September 10 Last day to sign up for FYS Cénacle Groups

October 17 - 25 Mid-Semester Break

October 30 Last day to drop a class

Multicultural Student Programs and Services, The Office of Admissions, and The Division of Student Affairs presents:

The Welcome Back Picnic

**Thursday, September 10
4:00 - 6:00 PM**

Fieldhouse Mall (Stonehenge)

Join our host, D.C. Smith, at the most spectacular Welcome Back event on campus for free hamburgers and hot dogs, fantastic Notre Dame prizes and giveaways, and performances by:

**The First Class Steppers
Voices of Faith Gospel Choir
The Irish Dance Team of Notre Dame/St. Mary's
Filipino-American Student Organization
Coro Primavera de Nuestra Senora
and others...**

This is one picnic you don't want to miss!!