

# Office of Advising, Retention & Orientation

**October  
2008**

**Volume 1  
Issue 1**

## Important Dates:

- **Now—October 24:** Mid-term grading.
- **October 21-22:** 1st 7-week classes end and 2nd 7-week classes begin.
- **October 28:** This is the last day a student can drop a full semester course with an N grade.
- **November 3-6:** Spring semester 2009 course registration period for current students.
- **November 7:** Open registration begins for spring 2009.
- **November 14:** Last day for students to drop a 2nd 7-week course.
- **November 26-30:** Thanksgiving recess!

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## Academic Advising

As mid-term grading continues, students may seek additional appointments to discuss their current academic progress and the ways these decisions can impact their future.

The last day to drop a 7 week course or withdraw from the university with an "N" grade is Tuesday, October 28. Please keep in mind that it may be in the student's best interest to meet with a staff member in the

Financial Aid Office prior to making official and permanent changes to their current course schedule.



Spring semester registration is November 3-6, beginning with seniors. The spring semester course schedule is now viewable online.

The Registrar's Office has posted registration information online at <http://www.lssu.edu/scheduling>.

To view the most up to date information on spring 2009 course offerings, please refer to Anchor Access.

## Student First is a Success!

Student First is a proactive intervention program that teaches students at the beginning of their freshman year how to prepare for success in the classroom. The Student First program has been developed by the Learning Center, which works collaboratively with Admissions and Orientation to recruit freshman students who may be academically "at-risk".

Starting with Laker Week, students registered in the Student First begin preparing for time management, study skills, note taking and much more. They are assigned a student mentor in their discipline and meet regularly throughout the fall semester. An

individual plan of study is developed for each student, including tutoring and supplemental instruction.

Student First was piloted during the 2007-08 academic year with an enrollment of 39 students. The median ACT for these students was 20. The median cumulative GPA for these students during the fall 2008 was 2.79. This median is slightly higher than the overall freshman class, which was 2.7.

More than 80 percent of the 2007-08 Student First students enrolled for the fall 2008, with 67 percent advancing to sophomore status.

This year, Student First has 70 students enrolled in the program. While it is too early to report any results for this group, we anticipate the group will once again be successful! Way to go Learning Center!



# Retention Initiatives Underway

Retention initiatives are currently underway across campus, including mid-term grading, the Early Warning System, Student First/IPASS, department social events and much more.

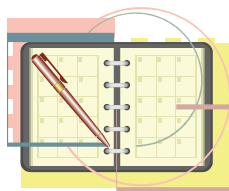
A survey has been sent to departments across the campus community requesting information about retention initiatives currently in place. This data is being collected and reviewed by the Retention Committee. Watch your mailbox—compiled information will be available in Issue 2 of the Advising, Retention and Orientation newsletter.

Mid-term grading is now in the final week of a three week process. Please continue to submit mid-term grades for students in your classes. These grades help guide students in making important decisions that can impact their academic goals for the current semester and beyond, especially as spring semester registration approaches. These grades also assist faculty and staff trying to reach out to students or advisees.

The Retention Office has received 77 referrals from faculty and staff through the Early Warning System. We have also

received a tremendous amount of feedback from all of you in response to our requests for additional information. This feedback enables us to better serve the student. We would like to thank all of you for your ongoing support in this effort.

Your continued support in campus wide retention initiatives is also extremely important and is a major contributor to the 7% increase seen this year in the freshman retention rate—keep up the good work!



## Mark your calendars!

### Professional Development Webinar

Please join us on Thursday, November 6 at noon for a webinar presented by NACADA. The webinar will last approximately 60-90 minutes. The conference details listed below and additional information about the presenter, Jose´ Rodriguez, can be found on the NACADA website <http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Webinars/W19.htm>. **Lunch will be available for a minimal cost.**

#### NACADA presents: Significant Conversations: The Art and Science of Communication in Transformational Advising

Advisors' conversational skills are crucial to their ability to help students. Advisors must be great conversationalists, but what is the art and science of conversation? How does one have significant conversations with students?

In this broadcast, we will explore the art and science of communication, including specific behaviors and theories designed to elicit significant conversations. We'll review communication theory, verbal and non-verbal communication, and counseling theory and practice, with the intent of providing advisors with specific practices and theories they can use in their day-to-day lives. We will explore how significant conversations with students can also be a transformational experience that goes beyond prescriptive and developmental advising.

Join **NACADA Emerging Leader José Rodriguez** (Florida International University) as he discusses:

- Specific behaviors to help build rapport, encourage disclosure, and create more meaningful conversations with students
- Listening skills, including reflection, paraphrasing, check out statements
- Transformational advising: getting beyond prescriptive and developmental to helping students transform how they see themselves and their education

**Participants will:**

- Understand the nature of communication theory and human communication
- Identify key behaviors that help build rapport with students and contribute to significant conversations
- Understand how advisors help students transform their perceptions of themselves and their education

### 2009 Orientation Dates

**Spring Orientation**  
 Friday, December 5, 2008  
 Friday, January 9, 2009

**Summer Orientations**  
*(tentative)*  
 Friday, May 15 (transfers only)  
 Saturday, May 16 (FTIC)  
 Friday, June 12 (FTIC)  
 Friday, July 10 (FTIC)  
 Thursday, July 23 (transfers only)  
 Friday, July 24 (FTIC)