

First Year Experience

Supporting student transition, success, and community
www.kwantlen.ca/fye

January 2006 Newsletter



ORIENTATION 2005 (CONNECT@Kwantlen)

Over 500 new Kwantlen students participated in this year's August Orientation events (up 10%). Overall event evaluations were very complimentary. The absolute best feedback came in the form of new students spontaneously approaching some of the orientation volunteers in September, thanking them for the orientation and asking, "What's next?"

FYE also provided lunch for STARTUP attendees during the summer pre-registration events hosted by Educational Advisors. Counsellors & the Registrar's office played a large role in these sessions as well. About 825 attended STARTUP sessions; Over 900 new students attended at least one Orientation event.

ORIENTATION TUITION AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the five winners of the August Orientation tuition vouchers. The winners were Tracey Bast \$400, Tim Spruyt \$400, Gurpreet Shauna Sohi \$400, Marwinder Pannu



\$200, and Reginald Maharaj \$200. To encourage further studies, award vouchers were applied to their second semester.

NEW! The FYE STUDENT LIFE PROMOTION TEAM



We are very fortunate to have a team of students, formed this year, to promote student life and provide input into FYE programming. This team of volunteers has

come largely from Orientation 05 student leaders, but has now

attracted new members interested in promoting positive student life at Kwantlen. Recently the team has been working with Athletics/Recreation to promote attendance at Kwantlen Eagles games as well as assisting with our January Orientation. Special thanks go to team captain, Karenjit Gill, for her energetic leadership contribution as she helps coordinate this new effort.

RE-CONNECT

"Re-Connect" was launched in OCT 05, due to the popularity of CONNECT 05. This event was a follow-up to the summer orientation and gave new students another chance to mix with each other and student leaders. Re-Connect was initiated through feedback from the FYE Student Life Promotion team.

FYE MATH STUDY IN CALIFORNIA

Kurt presented "First year math students: Using study skills & motivation to predict academic success" at the 12th Annual Conference on Student Transition in Costa Mesa, California, and will be working toward a journal publication with Deb MacNamara.

UNIV 1100 (3CR) Intro to University/College Studies

Instructors piloted the first semester of UNIV 1100 classes in September 05. Seven sections were offered and seven more are running in Spring 06. Course content covers many of the challenges that students face in making the transition to post-secondary including time & project management, test strategies, academic reading, research & writing, educational planning and a lot more! Student demographics have been fairly representative of Kwantlen's entering cohort, and feedback has been positive.

NEW in SPARK

SPARK is a program designed to give early access and support to select high school students in Surrey. A third cohort (50 students) was admitted to the program for the January

2006 semester. These students start by taking UNIV 1100 this spring. SPARK has doubled in size and now includes a group from Princess Margaret Secondary School as well as Tamanawis. Also new, Herbie Atwal joined the department to assist SPARK's Princess Margaret group.

Of our first SPARK students, who began in January 04, 96% graduated from high school, with 84% proceeding to post-secondary studies!

FYE-Sponsored CLUBS



Clubs were busy this fall with a wide variety of events. The Kwantlen Marketing Association (KMA) co-hosted Brand Wars, an inter-collegiate marketing

competition. Teams were challenged to create a branding strategy for the Certified Management Accountants (CMA). The KMA also hosted an evening seminar featuring success coach, Sue Clement who discussed winning network strategies.

The Kwantlen Psychology Society organized a food drive with proceeds going to the Surrey Food Bank. The Performing Arts Club saw the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's production of Cinderella. The Turf Management club visited Safeco field in Seattle. The Writer's Guild is hosting a Short Fiction & Poetry Contest. For more information on the contest and other club events, visit the Student Life Zone at www.kwantlen.ca/student-life.

FYE OFFICE

We are now located in D107 on Surrey Campus.

FIRST YEAR PASSPORT WINS AWARD



The First Year Passport is a pilot project designed to encourage new students to participate in activities and utilize services likely to make their educational experience more enjoyable and successful. For example, students receive points for attending

orientation events, for attending success seminars, for being involved in clubs, for participating actively in classes, and for volunteering. A recognition event will be held in May 2006.

The FYE Passport received a Bronze Medallion in the "Out of the Box" category from the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR), a North America-wide association of post-secondary institutions.

The FYE & STUDENT LIFE ZONE WEBSITES

The FYE website usage ranking improved from 30th to 15th—not bad! According to Peter Dietsche, Coordinator of the Pan Canadian Survey of First Year Students, "You've developed the best first-year web site I've ever seen". Kudos to Levente Orban, FYE's web developer.

The Student Life Zone website continues to develop as well. All are welcome to promote Kwantlen student events, via www.kwantlen.ca/student-life

WELCOME TO...

Theresa Voorsluys, FYE's new p/t program assistant, bringing boundless energy, strong organizational skills and more.



The FYE team!

KWANTLEN EAGLES SUPPORT NIGHT

The FYE Student Life Promotion Team wants you...to Bring it On!

Support the Kwantlen Eagles Basketball teams!

Friday February 3rd
Surrey campus gym
6pm women's game
8pm men's game (prizes at half-time)

The department or student group with the most attendees at the men's game will win a lunch catered by Chartwell's, courtesy of the First Year Experience (FYE) Department (up to \$100 in value)

Individuals exhibiting Eagles team spirit (Kwantlen shirts, tattoos, face paint, pom poms, noisemakers, eagle costumes, etc) will also have a chance to win a few token, cheesy prizes.
If you can't wear Kwantlen, wear red!

COMING SOON:

FIRST YEAR CELEBRATION: May 2006
An event celebrating first year excellence
See www.kwantlen.ca/fye for further details

Kurt Penner
Kurt.Penner@kwantlen.ca
First Year Experience Coordinator
www.kwantlen.ca/firstyearexperience