

# Office of Transfer Services

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## Talking Transfers

Volume 3, Number 1 – Spring 2015

### Welcome

Welcome to the Spring 2015 edition of Talking Transfers, the newsletter of the Office of Transfer Services. In this edition, you can learn about two Appalachian transfer students, one a Transfer Student Mentor, the other a successful poet. There is also information about the proposals funded by the 2014 Transfer Symposium, and about some initiatives designed to get transfer students more engaged on campus. In addition, there is a snapshot of the profile of transfer students new to Appalachian in Fall 2014.

### Transfers Talking

*Riley Shea is a transfer student mentor with Jump Start.*



My name is Riley. I transferred to Appalachian from Lenoir-Rhyne University via Caldwell Community College. I am studying Appropriate Technology and Environmental Design. I wish when I first applied to

college I had known what Appalachian was really like – it would have been my first choice of school. Instead, I spent some time on the transfer route. The hardest part about transferring to Appalachian was figuring out how to get involved. There are so many opportunities here, it's sometimes difficult to choose! But I love it. Campus life, and life in Boone itself, are incredible. It's a very giving community - everyone is willing to help. Driving home in the dark one night, I saw a car broken down in the road, and five cars parked at the side of the road – everybody had stopped to help push the broken down car out of danger. That would not have happened where I grew up. In Boone, I always feel comfortable and safe and I just can't picture myself studying anywhere else.

### Published Poet



Jamika Watts has just had her poem *Harlot* accepted for publication in the national undergraduate creative writing journal *Catfish Creek*. Last year, Jamika received an honorable mention at the Coe/West Creative Writing Competition for her suite of three

poems *The Natural Me*, *Sestina for the Jukebox Fiend* and *I was only 16*. Jamika is a junior, majoring in English with a concentration in Creative Writing. She transferred to Appalachian from Ashford University.

### Transfer Symposium

The second annual Transfer Symposium was held on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2014. The aim of the Symposium was to raise awareness about transfer students and the issues they face, so that faculty and staff could better understand the students with whom they work. This year's Symposium focused on special transfer populations such as military students, adult/non-traditional students, and early college students. A proceedings paper is published under the *Tool-Kit* tab on the Transfer Symposium website: <http://transfersymposium.appstate.edu/tool-kit>

As in 2013, people who attended the Transfer Symposium were eligible to respond to the following requests for proposals:

- Request for projects to enhance learning services or programming for transfers.
- Request for funding to conduct research on aspects of the transfer student experience.
- Request for matching funds to attend a national conference that focuses upon transfer students.

The following requests were funded:

- Transfer Connect - *Stephanie Langston, Denise Loven, Melissa Baab, Ally Matt, Elisabeth Cavallaro, Counseling and Psychological Services*
- Hosting the 2015 Writing Across the Curriculum Conference – *CC Hendricks, Writing Across the Curriculum*
- Developing faculty communication strategies – *Lynne Gregory, Department of Communication*
- The Role of Writing Centers in the Transfer Student Experience – *Julie Karaus, University Writing Center*
- National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students – *Kelly McCallister, Kelly McBride, Belk Library and Information Commons*
- Student Veterans Association National Conference – *Bob Gibbard, Academic Advising and Orientation*

There is more information about each of these proposals under the *Funding Opportunities* tab on the Transfer Symposium website:

<http://transfersymposium.appstate.edu/funding-opportunities>

## Involvement

One of the main barriers transfer students face when they first come to Appalachian is the difficulty of getting engaged on campus. One way for students to get engaged is to join a student club or organization. There are three key transfer student organizations at Appalachian:

- *The Transfer Student Organization*
- *Tau Sigma National Transfer Student Honor Society*
- *College of Business Transfer Student Association*

There are several ways in which interested faculty and staff can get involved to support transfer students at Appalachian.

## Faculty Mentors

The Faculty Mentors are a group of faculty who have committed to help transfer students in the mentors' departments. Faculty mentors can help both prospective and current students. For example, prospective students are sometimes unsure about which major they want to declare once they transfer, and appreciate the opportunity to sit down with faculty to discuss programs and where a particular degree might lead in terms of employment options. Current students are sometimes unsure about how to get connected with faculty, and who to talk to about exploring undergraduate research options. If you are interested in being a faculty mentor, please contact [Phil Lewis](#).

## Other Initiatives

- The English Department has created a Transfer Student Creative Writers event which meets two or three times a semester. The event is informal, with readings, snacks and presentations. It is open to prospective and current transfer students, with the aim of providing ways for transfer students to get connected at Appalachian.
- Transfer Connect is an initiative of the Counseling Center. Transfer Connect consists of a series of workshops over the course of the semester. The workshops involve both informational and social programming.
- Each semester, the Department of Communication holds a special welcome event for transfer students new to the department. This is an opportunity for transfer students to meet other students in the Department of Communication, as well as to get connected with faculty in the department.
- In Fall 2014, the College of Business held a special welcome event for new transfer students.

## Transfer Profile

Appalachian enrolled 1148 new transfer students in Fall 2014, an increase of 3% from Fall 2013, and an increase of 22% from Fall 2012. A further 367 new transfer students enrolled at Appalachian in Spring 2015. Here are some statistics from the Fall 2014 cohort of transfer students:

- 67% of new transfer students transferred from a community college.
- 52% of new transfer students came in as sophomores.
- Diverse transfer student enrollment was 15.3%, up from 14.1% in Fall 2013.
- The top five institutions in terms of numbers of students transferring to Appalachian are Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute (96 students), Central Piedmont Community College (73), Wake Technical Community College (65), Wilkes Community College (54) and Forsyth Technical College (47).
- The average age of our new transfer students was 21.3.
- 265 transfer students new to Appalachian in Fall 2014 achieved a GPA of 3.5 or higher in their first semester here, which makes them eligible for induction into the Tau Sigma Honor Society for transfer students.
- The top major departments selected by transfer students at their time of admission were: Curriculum and Instruction (7.1%), Management (6.7%), Government and Justice Studies (5.7%), Technology and Environmental Design (5.4%), Health and Exercise Science (5.2%) and Psychology (5.1%).
- 30% of the 2013~14 graduating class first enrolled at Appalachian as transfer students.

You can find more information on our transfer students by following the Transfer Student Talking Points link on the Tool Kit page of the Transfer Symposium:

<http://transfersymposium.appstate.edu/tool-kit>

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