A Message from the Director

In his acclaimed book, *White Noise*, Don DeLillo provides both a humorous and a somewhat macabre fictional account of the life of the chair of an academic department at a Midwestern university. What I find most compelling about DeLillo’s book is the fact that there are parts of it that seem as though he is writing about the place where I work. When I write that, I am not referring to the sections of the book that describe the massive toxic cloud that envelops his fictional campus, nor do I mean his penchant for referring to residence halls as “dormitories.” (My residence life colleagues can rest assured knowing that I already penned DeLillo a note chastising him for his word choice. Just say the word and it is in the mail.)

These story elements aside, there are many anecdotes in the book that lead me to believe that DeLillo must have come to Purdue to do background research for *White Noise*. And chief among these is his description of “the day of the station wagons” – the day when new students and their families arrive at the university to move the students into their new residence hall homes.

Yes, the day of the station wagons will soon be upon us. More accurately, the days of the SUV and the minivan are at hand. On August 11 and 12, over 5,100 new students participating in Boiler Gold Rush (BGR) will arrive with their families on campus. Their respective station wagons, SUVs, and minivans will be steered to their residence hall loading docks, where the vehicles will be expeditiously unloaded by more than 500 eager BGR team leaders and resident assistants who are committed to helping these new students succeed at Purdue.

On the pages that follow, you will find useful information that will help us all with our common mission of helping these (and other) students gain access to, transition into, and succeed in Purdue’s academically rigorous environment. My colleagues and I hope that you will use this information as you work with Purdue’s newest students.

We wish you the best of luck and great success with the “days of the station wagons” that lie ahead – and we thank you for your service and support. If you have any questions about the initiatives conducted by the Student Access, Transition and Success programs department described in this newsletter, please feel free to contact me and/or my colleagues using the information on the last page of this newsletter. Hail Purdue!

Sincerely,

Andrew K. Koch, Director
Student Access, Transition and Success Programs
Access & Success is published by the Student Access, Transition and Success Programs (SATS) department at Purdue University.

Questions or comments relating to content in the newsletter and/or the SATS department should be directed to 765/494-9328 or e-mailed to accessandsuccess@purdue.edu.

More information can be found online at: www.purdue.edu/sats

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Monday, Aug. 13
9:45 am Boilermaker Basics: An Up-Close Look at Purdue Athletics (Slayter Center)
10:30 am General & Class-Specific Campus Tour
1:40 pm “Making Good Choices...” Student Wellness Office and Women’s Resource Center
1:55 pm “Happy Hour” with Bernie McGrenahan Alcohol Presentation (Elliott)
3:15 pm Wellness Student Life Time

Monday, Aug. 13 & Tuesday, Aug. 14
(both evenings — alternating students)
4:30 pm Interest Sessions

8:00 pm – Midnight: UnionFest (PMU)
Live music / Wiley D.J.s / Dance Lessons / Boilermaker Trivia-Hypnotist-Comedian / Karaoke / Free food / Extreme Bowling / Crafts
8:00 pm – 11:00 pm Late Night at the RSC
Free food / Sand volley ball competition / 3:3 Soccer Competition / Use of most RSC facilities and equipment, including the pool / Club Sports “Fair” / Relay Race / Big Bounce Activities / Free rides on Boilermaker Special

Tuesday, Aug. 14
9:25 am Campus Safety by Purdue Police, Fire and Emergency Preparedness
10:05 am Campus Computing: From Free Speech to Facebook Presented by C.L. Lindsay
11:00 am Academic & Campus Student Life Time
Noon – 1 pm Activities & Business Fair (Armory)
1:00 pm FreeZONE Student Life Time

Tuesday, Aug. 14 (continued)
2:05 pm Spotlight Speaker: Black Cultural Center (Elliott)
2:20 pm FreeZONE Presentation (Elliott)
3:15 pm FreeZone Student Life Time

Wednesday, Aug. 15
9:40 am Spotlight Speaker: Purdue Libraries
9:50 am Purdue 101: How to be a successful student at Purdue
10:20 am The Ultimate Road Trip (Elliott)
11:00 am Academic & Campus Student Life Time

Noon – 1:30 pm
“Meet the Schools” Picnic (Memorial Lawn) Students eat lunch and mingle with faculty and staff from their respective schools

University Resource Fair (PMU North Ballroom)
1:30 pm Student Services / Getting Involved Student Life Time
9:30 pm Comedian Buzz Sutherland (Elliott)

Thursday, Aug. 16
9:00 am – 5:00 pm International Students & Scholars (ISS) Orientation Program
11:00 am – 5:00 pm “Do the Mall Thing!” Tippecanoe Mall Run

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm BGR/RHA New Student Event (Intramural Fields)
Live Music / Free Food / Blow-up games / Movie
11:00 pm – 1:00 am Target Run

Friday, Aug. 17
4:00 pm – 9:00 pm Discover Downtown
Explore what Lafayette & West Lafayette offer Purdue students. Plan to take a bus downtown for discounts at local restaurants and businesses.

Buses depart from designated locations at 4pm.
Transfer Student Orientation

Do you know of any transfer students that will begin at Purdue this fall? If you do, please take note of the following resources that are available to them:

**Fall Welcome Transfer Student Orientation**

Transfer students have unique needs when it comes to transitioning to a new university. To address this, SATS offers an orientation program just for them. During the program, students will learn about valuable campus resources; meet current Purdue students as well as other new transfer students; and become familiar with the campus. This year’s event will take place on Friday, August 17th from 1-3 PM in the East/West Faculty Lounges in PMU.

Students were mailed registration information in mid-July. Information on Fall Welcome, including the brochure and an online application, are available at [http://www.purdue.edu/sats/welcome_programs/fall_welcome/](http://www.purdue.edu/sats/welcome_programs/fall_welcome/). If you would like more information about Fall Welcome, please contact Matt Pistilli at 765-496-3754 or mdpistilli@purdue.edu.

**Transfer Resources on the web**

Resources for Purdue University transfer students can be found on this website: [http://www.purdue.edu/Admissions/Undergrad/parents_students/transfer_students.shtml](http://www.purdue.edu/Admissions/Undergrad/parents_students/transfer_students.shtml)

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Purdue to Participate in CIRP Study

For the seventh straight year, Purdue University will participate in the Cooperative Institutional Research Project, or CIRP. The CIRP is a national study coordinated by the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA, and helps institutions better understand the mindset of their incoming students.

Purdue students completing the CIRP survey are among nearly 400,000 first-year college students nationwide, and answer questions about a wide range of topics, including “parental income and education, ethnicity, and other demographic items; financial aid; secondary school achievement and activities; educational and career plans; and values, attitudes, beliefs, and self-concept” (HERI, 2007). Data is used by the Office of the President and by staff in Enrollment Management to get a better picture of Purdue’s first-year class, which, in turn, allows us to better tailor messages and opportunities to current and future students.

This year, the CIRP administration will be taking place on Sunday, August 19 – the day before classes begin. Many students will complete the CIRP in the Elliott Hall of Music. Other students will take the CIRP as part of their college, school, or program’s orientation session.

Between 30 and 40 staff members from across Enrollment Management assist with the administration of CIRP, but any staff member is welcome to assist if he or she desires to do so. If you are interested in assisting with the CIRP administration, or have questions about the CIRP, please contact Matt Pistilli at 765-496-3754 or mdpistilli@purdue.edu. More information on the CIRP in general may be found on the CIRP website, located at [http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/cirpoverview.php](http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/cirpoverview.php).
Parent and Family Programs

Orientation is important for parents and families too! Each year Student Access, Transition and Success Programs hosts sessions for parents and families to attend on BGR move-in days. This year, the program will be offered on Saturday, August 11 and repeated on Sunday, August 12.

Both sessions will run from 3:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. in the Elliott Hall of Music. Staff from offices around campus will be present to discuss the resources available in their offices and to interact with attendees. Additionally, members from Purdue Police, Purdue Fire Department, and the Office of Emergency Planning and Preparedness will talk about ways incoming students can ensure their safety. Student staff will also be present to enhance the program with theatrical representations of transitional issues. Finally, members of the Purdue Varsity Glee Club and Purduettes will be on hand to sing several pieces for the parents and family members of our new students.

For more information about these sessions, please contact Matt Pistilli at 765-496-3754 or mdpistilli@purdue.edu.

Boilermaker Beat — Survivor, BGR, and Purdue 101!

An interview with Dr. Joseph (Mick) La Lopa, Associate Professor of Hospitality and Tourism, and Dr. Marcy Towns, Associate Professor of Chemistry.

How do you capture the attention of thousands of screaming first-year students during their first days on campus? Turn down the lights, step into the spotlight and take a deep breath as you look out onto the masses of glazed eyes and blank faces. No problem, right? Sure, just one more thing…keep your Survivor torch lit!

This year Boiler Gold Rush offers a new academic session, Purdue 101: How to be a Successful Purdue Student, presented by Dr. Mick La Lopa, Associate Professor of Hospitality and Tourism, and Dr. Marcy Towns, Associate Professor of Chemistry. New Boilermakers will learn the basics of surviving their first year by making sound academic choices. “It’s not rocket science,” says Dr. La Lopa. Reminding new first-years that their “job here is to be a student” is one of the key points. He and Dr. Towns will also review basic study tips, time management techniques and how to ask for help. “We are going to discuss the simple yet critical things to do — read the syllabus, go to class, study (perhaps a LOT more than in high school), go to office hours, and get some sleep,” says Dr. Towns. In addition, Dr. La Lopa will recommend for students not to “silently suffer” while frankly discouraging them from becoming “extra credit lobbyist.” Emphasizing that it’s not enough to “just be in classes and study,” together they’ll offer our new students strategies on what to do beyond the classroom to succeed academically. For example, Dr. La Lopa points out that “week 14 is not the time to ask how to improve grades” but notes that seeking out resources early enhances a student’s ability to learn the new concepts. Dr. Towns describes this opportunity as a chance “to emphasize the choices students will make during their first year, especially the ones that will lead to academic success.”

Why is this topic so important? Dr. Towns believes that “many of these students have goals and dreams – professions that they already know they'd like to enter. The first step to achieving these goals is to be academically successful.” Likewise,
Beat, continued from page 4

Dr. La Lopa suggests that during the transition from high school to college is the best time to “build good habits” and establish a new academic routine which will ultimately lead these students to graduation. Dr. Towns agrees that “it's very important to begin the semester with the habits that will lead to success. It's very difficult to save one's grade at the end of the semester!”

When Dr. Towns was invited to present at Boiler Gold Rush, she was “excited to be a part of this program.” Dr. La Lopa echoes these sentiments stating that he was “totally honored to be the voice of the faculty with Marcy and have this chance to chat with more than 5,000 new students.” Dr. Towns also sees Boiler Gold Rush as “a chance to interact with students and to mentor them.” She adds that “we have an opportunity in this presentation to point out the choices students will make that can help them be successful and survive their freshman year at Purdue.”

Dr. La Lopa and Dr. Towns will enter the Boiler Gold Rush stage in Elliott Hall of Music on August 15, Wednesday morning to the Survivor theme. Dr. Towns inspires us with her closing thoughts, “It would be great if none of the students made choices that lead to their torches being put out! We want their torches to remain lit for four years, all the way to graduation.”

Dr. Mick La Lopa’s advice for new Purdue faculty...

1. Enroll in the College Teaching Workshop Series (Series 1) offered by the Center for Instructional Excellence.
   More info at: www.cie.purdue.edu

2. Faculty Mentoring Network - All junior faculty recently received an invitation to take advantage of this opportunity. You will be paired with an experienced faculty member (who [a] was inducted into the Teaching Academy or [b] received the Charles B. Murphy University Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher Award.) For more information or to register, please contact Dr. La Lopa.
   Contact e-mail: lalopam@purdue.edu

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