

# Student Affairs Division Westchester

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2014-15 Annual Report





Dear Pace Faculty, Staff, and Students,

Last year, we embarked on a three-year strategic plan to improve the student experience on the Pleasantville campus. New strategies needed to be in place as we increased the student population on campus to enhance the student experience and maximize the new residence halls, student union and additional campus upgrades.

I am proud to present our accomplishments for the 2014-15 academic year. We will use what we have learned through our successes this year to set new targets in an effort to improve the student experience and the community we are offering our students.

The feeling on campus is positive and I truly believe we are transforming the student experience and will continue to do so over the next two years.

Go Setters!

Lisa Bardill Moscaritolo  
Associate Vice President and Dean of Students







## 2014-17 Student Affairs Strategic Plan

- I. Leverage new facilities on the Pleasantville Campus
- II. Student Affairs programs and services will seek to improve first year student persistence
- III. Link co-curricular programming and services to learning experiences
- IV. Create and nurture a vibrant and supportive campus environment
- V. Create a safe environment with services that support the mental health and safety of our students
- VI. Partner with Enrollment Management & University Relations to highlight campus life as a priority in recruitment efforts

### Key Highlights

- ▶ Student traffic has visibly increased in the newly renovated and expanded Kessel Student Center.
- ▶ 89% of the first year residential students felt the FIG helped them to feel more connected to their residential community and 84% felt that the FIG helped them to connect to the University as a whole.
- ▶ In the Fall semester, 70% of our full time students on the Pleasantville campus participated in at least one or more activity offered by Student Affairs.
- ▶ 88% of first year residential students participated in at least one activity during the first six weeks at Pace, not including orientation.
- ▶ 40% of campus programs are held on the weekends?
- ▶ Students who participate in at least one student organization including a fraternity or sorority academically perform better than the average Pleasantville student.
- ▶ 98% of first year students who join Greek Life in the spring semester persist from first year student to second year.
- ▶ Students who participate in one of our Setters Leadership programs report significant gains in understanding oneself.
- ▶ Faculty, staff, students adopted nationally recognized Step Up! Bystander training to ensure a caring environment. 250 trained as of October 1.

Further information on the strategic plan can be found on the Dean for Students site: [pace.edu/dean-for-students/westchester](http://pace.edu/dean-for-students/westchester)



# Student Development & Campus Activities

The Center for Student Development & Campus Activities (SDCA) intentionally empowers lifelong learners through the development of students, programs, and services that enhance campus life. We encourage and facilitate staff, faculty, and student partnerships to strengthen a learning centered experience that values relationship building and partnerships.

## Involvement Data

During the first year of the Student Affairs Strategic plan involvement data was gathered in order to evaluate the impact the division makes on students. The data will inform the division's future goals and will provide the opportunity to make changes to better engage more students. Involvement data will be tracked for the next two years in order to evaluate programs, services, and resources.

Card swipe technology was implemented on event registration to track student involvement during the first six weeks of the fall 2014 semester, tracking 218 events. The data collected from having students check in by swiping their ID card events has informed the division of the number of event participants.

The following information has been gathered:

- ▶ Of the 2,200 full-time undergraduates enrolled on the Pleasantville campus during the Fall 2014 semester, in the first six weeks of programming: 1,220 participated in one or more activities (55%), and 980 did not participate in any activities (45%).
- ▶ First Year Students participated at a rate of 88% (12% did not attend tracked events), 26% of first year students attended 1-5 activities, 26% attended 6-10 activities, 18% attended 11-15 activities, 10% attended 16-20 activities, and 8% attended more than 20 activities.
- ▶ We were able to compare demographics of all students who attended activities: residential/commuter, male/female, race/ethnicity, school/college, home state, etc.

## Restructuring

SDCA undertook a personnel restructure to increase the effectiveness of staff responsibilities. This included the addition of a full time staff member responsible for the Setters Leadership Initiatives, centralizing all Orientation & Transition programming under one staff member, adding leadership programming responsibilities to the Assistant Director for Greek Life, centralizing all student organization conduct cases to one staff member, and restructuring a financial/marketing position to become focused on student organization advising/training and commuter student experiences.

## Kessel Student Center Ribbon Cutting

The building was re-opened in January 2015 with a beautiful 9,500 square foot addition including a new grand entrance, two large student lounges, new Student Government Offices, a new multi-purpose programming space, and an expanded dining hall. Student traffic has visibly increased in Kessel as students settled into lounges and responded to the additional programming spaces.

## Women's Empowerment Week

This week of events was dedicated to the leadership development of women and the awareness of women's empowerment. Six events exploring healthy relationships, feminism, media, passion, "the glass ceiling", and consent were held on campus. The week concluded with the Women's Leadership Conference featuring "PACEtalks" from Pace students and leadership workshops hosted by faculty, staff, and students. The week of events included 214 unique student participants (76 males, 138 females).

## Omicron Delta Kappa – National Leadership Honor Society

Founding members inducted included 24 students, four staff, and one faculty honoris causa member.

## Pi Lambda Phi

The Inter Fraternity Council (IFC) successfully expanded their community to include a new national fraternity. This marks the 3rd Greek governing council to successfully expand to a national organization since 2010.

## Student Government School Representatives

This new position within Student Government will contribute actively in Senate meetings, hosting bi weekly meetings with their school based advisors, host one community forum in each school and report at mid and end of year SGA reports that will be made public to the campus community. Nine representatives were elected into the position with all five schools represented.

## Academic Achievement

Students who were part of at least one student organization including a fraternity or sorority had a slightly higher overall grade point average than those who were not part of Student organization. There were 1312 students registered in an organization (604 unique students). 52 student organizations were registered (including 18 Greek chapters).

Cum GPA for Greeks was 3.3, all student organizations Cum GPA was 3.24, and PLV average cum GPA was 3.13.



# Office of Multicultural Affairs & Diversity Programs (OMADP)

The Office of Multicultural Affairs & Diversity Programs endeavors to enhance the intellectual atmosphere of the University by educating students in ways to identify and challenge phobias, bigotry, and discrimination. Departmental programming promotes a learning community of varied ideas and experiences that reinforce the pluralism of the University community.

**Five (5) City Saturdays** Events were planned throughout AY15 with over 60 students participants who had the opportunity of having cultural experiences in New York City. Additionally, 88% noted that they are more comfortable navigating the city using Metro North and the subway system after being part of “City Saturdays.”

Established Weekly LGBTQ Lunches held Wednesdays in the newly established **Center for Unity & Equity (CUE)**. Traditionally underrepresented racial and ethnic populations frequented the space as well as students who identify in the LGBTQ (Queer) community. Having a space where queer information and materials are on display and available to students proved invaluable and led to discussions outreach from students to Rachel Simon throughout the year.

**Inaugural Queer Camp** Allowed 20 students from both campuses to come together for engagement, education, and socialization around queer identity as students at Pace.

**AALANA Mentorship Program** 45 students participated in the program which continued to have high retention numbers. AALANA is an acronym which stands for African American, Latino, Asian, and Native American. Only one student did not persist from the Fall Semester to the Spring Semester. Additionally, mentors (returning students) as well as mentees (first-year students) were acknowledged throughout the year in both academic achievement and campus leadership roles. Two First-Year students were acknowledged in the Residence Life Academic Achievement Banquet. Three students will serve as orientation leaders. Four (students) will serve as resident assistants 2015-2016.

**JOSHUA IMASUEN**  
*JUNIOR* “UMI allows a space for men to unite across similarities and differences to learn from one another and share information that can help manage the challenges of being a male on campus; especially for minority men on campus.”

**Urban Male Initiative (UMI)** The Urban Male Initiative (UMI) is designed to facilitate the retention, scholarship, graduation and leadership of historically underrepresented Black and Latino males. There were 12 students, one faculty and two staff who participated in bi-monthly discussions and were from New York City, the south Bronx and are from Africa, the Caribbean and the U.S. mainland.

**Guest lectures—Shane Bitney Crone** was a guest lecture this year and presented his documentary the Bridegroom and fielded questions about the film and his life experiences and loss of his partner. The 50 participants unanimously felt the topic was relevant to them.

Author and activist, **Robyn Ochs**, presented about sexual identity and the bisexual experience in America. There were 18 students who participated.

**Slut: the Play** Approximately 200 students attended the play that addressed issues of sexual assault, social media bullying, and slut shaming. They play was produced in collaboration with an all-student cast and crew as well as co-sponsors WPAW, SLU, Pace Drama Alliance, and others. The production won the Pace Pride Award for Best Unity Program.

**16th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Brunch** Approximately 100 attendees from the Pace and outside community attended the brunch. Students from Cardinal Spellman High School in the Bronx attended, with Pace Alum Qadry Harris serving as the chaperon. The keynote speaker was professor and author Jacqueline Battelora who spoke about the history of the creation of race in America as an identifiable term related to human skin color and assumed characteristics and ability and ultimately laws and practices based on race and its current implications.



# Counseling & Personal Development

Counseling is a process that helps people work out personal, academic, or vocational problems. The professional staff at the Counseling Center at Pace University is available to assist students, staff, and faculty in the resolution of these problems. Through this process, people often gain increased awareness, independence, and effectiveness in the pursuit of personal goals. These services are available free of charge to members of the Pace community.

This year a new program called “Let’s Talk” was adopted from Cornell University. The program assists to reduce barriers for student in accessing counseling center staff. Counseling staff held these sessions in the Library and for this year they will hold the sessions in Alumni residence hall.

The counseling center staff developed red card for faculty and staff that contained materials for “Recognizing and Helping Students in Crisis”. In previous years, this information has been provided through presentations, on Pace web pages and email distributions. The “red card” will now provide necessary information to faculty and staff in written format.

Bystander Training for sexual assault and harassment was developed. This legacy project of the Post Doctoral Fellows will be used in presentations to students and student groups as requested in partial response to the White House “Not Alone” required programing. Presentations were developed in Power Point and Prezi to utilize on the Counseling Center web page, on the reception area television screen, and for required programming. The department worked collaboratively with other university departments to support and sponsor Step Up training for faculty, staff and students in the fall 2014 and again in February 2015 when Bob Hall presented on non-violent sexuality. See Community Standards and Compliance section for more information on the Bob Hall presentation.

“Pre-Game”, abbreviated drinking game, was designed in the summer 2014 and WOW leaders were trained to deliver the “Pre-Game” during Week of Welcome for all first year students.

Based on a fall enrollment, including the law school, utilization was up by 5%. The utilization rate this academic year was 17.5%, which was a 5% increase over last year. Utilization rate is based on individual and group counseling. A comparison with the 2014 survey of 497

colleges and universities counseling centers conducted by the Association of University and College Counseling Center Directors (AUCCCD), finds that we are in line with centers our size and student population in regards to students seen (utilization rate). Please note that the AUCCCD survey report states that the student: staff ratio, together with percentage of student body living on campus, best predicts utilization rate.

Provide earlier alcohol education and intervention through “The Drinking Game” that was created by Andrea Winters, Associate Director for Counseling in 2009. Students who were found responsible for violating Pace’s Alcohol and Other Drug Policy were required to attend a group session instead of individual sessions utilizing “The Drinking Game”. As of May 2015 there were 85 participants.

Prescription Drug Use, Misuse and Abuse Workshop (90 minutes) was piloted for Ten resident students on November 17, 2014 in North Hall and co-sponsored with Residential Life.

Successful implementation of two interpersonal psychotherapy groups.

Self-harm awareness month activities, a new initiative, included training of 16 resident assistants from North, Hillside/HoJo, and the Townhouses. The innovative tabling event occurred on March 4th and 11th and featured metallic tattoos, information about self-injury, a positive affirmation board and material on how to help a friend.

The Counseling Center staff worked with Dean for Students and Security on developing a threat assessment model and strategy for early intervention of student behavior. A review of the literature has been completed and circulated to prospective key members of a Behavioral Intervention team. Meetings will be scheduled to further define the team, name of the team, etc. for implementation fall 2015.



## Office of Disability Services

This office supports the University’s commitment to equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities includes providing reasonable accommodations for the needs of students with disabilities.

- ▶ A full-time Coordinator was hired in August of 2014 to better serve our ever-growing number of students and their increasingly complicated needs. This move has helped the department be more proactive.
- ▶ 231 students registered with the ODS, fall 2014 (43.7% with mental health disabilities and 26.8% with learning disabilities). This number has stayed relatively static over the last few years.



# Community Standards & Compliance

This office recognizes students as active participants in the educational process and avidly promotes student accountability for ethical and moral behavior, and effectively processing redress for inappropriate behavior.

University and divisional compliance with federal and state statutes that effect students; and, developing policies that protect and enhance student and institutional entitlement are also major priorities of this office. Scrutiny and implementation of Pace safety and quality standards; review of internal policies and procedures; records maintenance; and readily engaging students as responsible citizens of their University and in service to their chosen communities beyond Pace, rounds out the mission in this area.

The Sexual misconduct website has been launched and can be found at: [pace.edu/sexual-assault](https://pace.edu/sexual-assault)

This website serves as a one-stop shop for information pertaining to policies, procedures on sexual assault, including but not limited to, reporting, emergency services and follow-up care. Around-the-clock services are provided to sexual assault victims, through the local community services, i.e. Victims Assistance Services.

- ▶ Held the first Association for Student Conduct Administration (ASCA) Metro-New York Delegation Drive-in conference on April 20 on the city campus. This was planned in conjunction with the conduct office in New York City and Title IX Coordinator. Thirty-five (35) participants joined us from 10 New York Universities.
- ▶ Pace University participated in a Climate survey this fall with eduOutcomes and our response rate was over 13%. There were five sections the most significant issue noted, were students reporting that they did not know our Title IX Coordinator. Additionally, those who did experience sexual misconduct 34% reported inappropriate comments and gestures. We are going use this feedback for programming next year.
- ▶ Pace has published and widely distributed a Guide to Options, Resources and Support. This hard-copy resource was distributed to students to provide information on sexual assault awareness and other helpful resources. Two apps were also developed, “Just in Case” and “Circle of 6”, putting vital information and support options at our students’ fingertips with QR codes they can scan with their cell phone.
- ▶ We have contracted with 3rd Millennium Classrooms to use their on-line student training module on sexual misconduct for first year students, athletes and student leaders, as required by Governor Cuomo’s Enough is Enough legislation. Students will be asked to take this workshop in the fall. We will track to be sure that we are in compliance with the legislation this coming fall.
- ▶ Trainings with Angela Fernandez, Outreach Coordinator for the Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention program (SAVI) at Mt. Sinai and Lisa Miles, Coordinator for Title XI throughout fall and early spring were conducted with resident assistants, athletes and coaches, and student affairs staff and Security. These were presented by the Mount Sinai Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention program (SAVi) Outreach and Training Coordinator, and included various small group scenario discussions.
- ▶ On May 5, a panel of students, faculty, and staff hosted Congresswoman Lowey and Lt. Governor Hochul in a roundtable discussion on sexual assault on college campus in an effort to discuss the various pieces of legislation in New York State.
- ▶ Worked collaboratively with Athletics, Greek Life, SDCA, Counseling to sponsor Bob Hall guest lecture on sexual misconduct and relationship violence to campus on February 2014. There were 381 students in attendance. After Bob Hall’s presentation students broke into 15 groups and had a 10-15 min debrief with a faculty/staff member about consent, what they can do as students to look out for one another, and briefly discuss elements of healthy relationships taken from Bob’s presentation. We hoped that the small group approach would help students digest the information and apply the knowledge to their own lives. The evaluation of the program noted that students understood the definition of consent better and understand the aspect of healthy relationships and sexual misconduct. They also felt they are part of the solution to create a safe and caring campus.
- ▶ New protocols were created with Housing and Residential Life in addressing sexual misconduct violations on campus.
- ▶ A campus-based Advisory Board, PAR? & C, (Pace Advisors for Respectful Relating and Consent) was established. The Board was made up of students, faculty and staff and was very instrumental (along with their sister committee in NYC) in voicing our new Consent Policy and providing feedback to the Affirmative Action Office on policy review.
- ▶ With the assistance of AVP Vanessa Herman and a contact in Senator Gillibrand’s Washington DC office, Pace was able to apply for and receive the opportunity to be one of the first universities in our area to screen the critically acclaimed CNN film “The Hunting Ground” - an exposé of rape crimes on U.S. college campuses, their institutional cover-ups, and the devastating toll they take on students and their families — during our Sexual Assault Awareness Week. The film was screened on both campuses — shortly after its February 27th release. The screening in Westchester was held in the Butcher Suite on April 19th and attended by more than 45 students, staff, faculty, and community members. Weaving together verité footage and first-person testimonies, the film follows survivors as they pursue their education while fighting for justice — despite harsh retaliation, harassment and pushback at every level.



# Housing & Residential Life

The Office of Residential Life is committed to the education and development of all students into responsible, well-rounded and self-reliant individuals. For optimal development to occur, we will provide a balance of challenges and opportunities. By recognizing each student as an individual, we will expose them to differences, while revealing similarities, in order to facilitate a deeper understanding of themselves and others.



The first faculty in residence for the Pleasantville campus was hired for Alumni hall. Dr. Robert Mundy, a faculty member from the English department was chosen. He is excited to be living with students and assisting with the FIG program and possibly doing some research.

Alumni hall lounges have been designed in partnership with the faculty partners and are connected to the FIG.

First year students were assigned to their first or second choice First year Interest Group (FIG). Thus there were seven interest groups based on academic major or avocational interest. Each FIG has a faculty partner, Residence Director and Resident Assistant to plan programs around that theme. The goal is to increase student's connection to their peers and faculty/staff.

Based on information by the students who participated in a survey the FIGs are helping students feel more connected to the residential community as well as the University as a whole. Based on our FIG survey 89% of the First year students who participated in the survey felt that being a member of a FIG helped them feel more connected to their residential community and 84% felt that being a member of the FIG helped them feel more connected to the University as a whole.

Nineteen sections of UNV101 are scheduled for the two classrooms in Alumni hall this coming academic year. The Housing office has also been working with school advisors, the writing center and tutoring center to see what services could be offered in Alumni hall especially in the evenings.

A committee was formed to manage the opening of school to ensure a successful move in with the many changes to campus this semester. A new building, Alumni Hall was opening on the Pleasantville campus for the first time with primarily first year students. Approximately 100 returning students were moving into the Briarcliff Campus. There were small committees working on the planning

of certain parts of opening who reported back to the larger committee. The team was briefed on the plan throughout the spring and summer months.

The National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) executive board resigned their position and left NRHH thus the advisor worked hard with other students to re-build this organization. NRHH won most improved club at the Pace Pride awards. NRHH is heading into the fall 2015 with a fully intact executive board.

Created an ACUHO-I internship position for the summer to assist with summer housing, FIG research, supervision of summer RA's and assistance on summer committees. This served as a great learning opportunity for this students whom is getting his masters in Higher Education Administration & Student Affairs at Illinois State University. One of the Resident Directors supervised the intern, which gave this person an additional supervisory experience.

For the first time, the office hosted an academic achievement banquet this past spring. Residential students who had a 3.85 grade point average at the end of the fall semester were invited. Sixty-five (65) students were invited and 29 attended the event. Each student was able to invite a faculty or staff member to join them as well as two family members. In total we had over 100 people in attendance at the event. In addition to this event we hosted several academic advising session in the residence halls to help our upper class students with class registration.

Fall 2015 will be our first semester to offer all gender housing in three of our five communities. We are offering all gender housing in the Townhouses, Alumni Hall and in Dow hall. In total we have 32 students participating in our all gender housing for next semester. Each student had to sign a separate agreement with our office and have a one on one meeting with Matt Lavery to make sure that they understood the expectation of all gender housing.

- ▶ 67% of the student's surveyed attended three or more FIG related programs in the spring semester.
- ▶ 69% agreed that being a part of their FIG gave them the opportunity to meet a faculty member outside of the classroom.
- ▶ 70% of students reported that being a part of the FIG helped them create connections with at least four other members of the community. We know that creating connections is key to retaining students thus, we are hopeful this program will lead to better persistence.
- ▶ 89% of the students self reported that they plan on returning to housing next semester.



