

FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

Dear Bowdoin College Community,

We successfully welcomed 500 new first years to campus in the fall of 2015. The good work of colleagues throughout student and academic affairs made for a successful year. Of particular note:

- We hired a new Assistant Dean of First-Year Students, Khoa Khuong '04.
- The first year team was challenged with the task of reducing Orientation for the class of 2020 by one day while maintaining all systems and including a new program on race and bias. We collaborated with relevant departments throughout campus to design a robust program for new students.
- We introduced a new International Student Orientation. The program will take place two days prior to Orientation (instead of a week after, as in previous years.) We anticipate that this format will better serve the needs of our new international students by allowing them additional time to adjust to the campus before beginning Orientation with their 2020 classmates.
- We also continue to administer and evaluate the effectiveness of the Bowdoin Advising Program to Support Academic Excellence (BASE). Results from student surveys indicate that our BASE students are much more likely to meet with their advisors, willing to seek and utilize resources on campus compared to students who are not in the program (throughout the country), and that the program is valuable and successful in helping students adjust to Bowdoin.
- With the help of David and Margo Knight and the Steering Committee, we continue to expand our Community Host Program. We currently have more than 300 students being hosted by close to 230 area hosts.
- We continue to meet with students one-on-one to provide support and guidance to first-years and international students.

We look forward to partnering with our colleagues on campus to support and advise first-years as they make the transition to Bowdoin College.

Best,

Khoa Khuong
Assistant Dean of First-Year Students