

Dear Bowdoin College Community,

We successfully welcomed 503 new first year students to campus in the fall of 2016. The good and thoughtful work of colleagues throughout student and academic affairs made for a positive year for the first-year deans and the class of 2020. Of particular note:

Interim Dean of First-Year Students, Melissa Quinby '91 took the helm on July 1, 2016.

The first year team was challenged with the task of reducing Orientation for the class of 2020 by one day, without losing any content. Dean Khoa Khuong '04 and the two orientation interns worked with departments across campus to develop a thoughtful schedule that included a successful, new program on the topic of race and bias called *More Than Meets the Eye*. This two-part orientation program included a mandatory evening with the Rev. Dr. Jamie Washington in mid-September. In survey feedback, *More Than Meets the Eye* was very well-received by the class of 2020; we are including it again as part of the class of 2021 Orientation.

We introduced a new International Student Orientation (ISO), which occurred two days prior to Orientation (22 of our 24 incoming international students participated). These individuals had additional time to adjust to the campus and local community before beginning Orientation with their 2020 classmates, which eased their transition to Bowdoin. We have built ISO into our orientation schedule moving forward.

The Bowdoin Advising Program to Support Academic Excellence (BASE) served 45 students during the 2016-2017 academic year, an increase of 15 students and five additional faculty advisors over last year. The expansion of the program was quite successful on all fronts. Among other positive feedback, BASE advisors reported in May 2017, that the program *turns us into better advisors* and that BASE *engenders a much deeper relationship between student and advisor*.

We are pleased to share that more than 300 students were hosted by approximately 230 area hosts in the Community Host Program.

Small but significant programs, generated by the first-year deans, included: Gratitude Thursdays; BASE dinners; a BASE coffee and donuts social during family weekend; informal meetings with floors in the Bricks; conversations with first-year students at Russworm House; and the annual end-of-year ice cream social.

The first-year deans actively supported the academic and social transition of first-year students to the College and assisted international students with their specific needs. Dean Quinby and Dean Khuong held over 1080 individual meetings with first-year and international students during the 2016-2017 academic year.

We continue to make improvements to the Orientation schedule as we head toward the new academic year and we look forward to welcoming the Class of 2021 in August.

Best,

Melissa Quinby  
Interim Dean of First-Year Students