

Registration Can Be an Enlightening Experience

By Shannon Williams
Staff Writer

Patience is a virtue... Unfortunately, my pet Chihuahua, Louie, is particularly impetuous and cares not for the wisdom of proverbs. Anyone who has ever owned a Chihuahua can tell you why God chose to give the dog a five pound body: If it were any larger, the dog's temperament would cause its exile from populated areas. Louie sleeps in a cage at night, and I promptly take him outside each morning.

However, on the morning of transfer student orientation and registration, I was in a rush because I'd gotten lost after taking my husband to work. I didn't want to be late and I figured I'd be finished within a few

hours. I'd just take Louie out when I got home. I was ignorant to the reality that the process would take eight hours. So, it's easy to imagine the fury I came home to after my miniature hyena had been locked up for seventeen hours.

Looking back on the day, it started out well. Transfer students received a warm welcome from FSU's administration and were even provided entertainment with the musical styling of some of the faculty leading the Bronco Pride song. We received instructions on where to go and how to complete the registration procedures. That's when the mayhem began.

Although I had spent an hour in the infirmary to sign an insurance waiver, and I

was one of the lucky ones when I went to meet with my advisor. While other students waited an hour or more, I got right in. Maybe that's one of the benefits of choosing English for a major.

Then off to the Helen T. Chick building so the staff could slap my information in the computer. I could pay my bill and get home in time to walk the vicious Chihuahua, right? Wrong!

Then came the shocker. Although I had arrived fifteen minutes prior to registration time, the line had already accumulated into what would take four hours. I couldn't help but pity the people who had brought children, the pregnant women, and a few divas who wore three-inch

heels. I hadn't eaten breakfast or lunch and eventually became delusional with hallucinations of concessions people like the ones at amusement parks yelling out "Cooold Pepsi! Popcorn! Get your popcorn!" The girl in line next to me made the observation that someone could make a killing with a bake sale.

There was another line for tuition calculation there was a line for registration, but the computers froze, then another line for bill pay and another for parking permits.

I'm sure there's some method to the madness, but when seeking out the reason for the current registration procedures, I was unable to

reach anyone who could comment.

I have come from a little community college called Southern State in Ohio. Although there are fewer students, I found their registration process was somewhat faster. There, the students set up appointments with their advisors, who simply registered them on the computers in their offices. The students then paid their bills at the front desk and went home. Maybe this process can be applied here.

I'm really enjoying myself now that classes have started and I'm getting settled in. Also, Louie the Tyrant is beginning to forgive me after two weeks of embellishing his dog food with gravy.

Commuting Students Have Group to Call Their Own

Staff Report

The college experience is undeniably one of change and growth for the vast majority of students.

However, is it possible that the experience is enriched by living on campus or becoming part of an exclusive group of students that is privy to college life in its entirety?

Are off-campus commuters students short-changed by not belonging to this academic community?

There is an organization that believes so, and seeks to change this imbalance.

AUTOS is an official campus organization founded and staffed by commuter students. It is geared towards enhancing the college experience for commuters.

Founded in 1996, AUTOS, which stands for Achieving Understanding Towards Off-Campus Students, has had an active role in involving commuters in campus and community affairs.

Their current list of achievements is already extensive.

Last year, AUTOS co-sponsored the "Love for the Lost" campaign, aiding the Pan-Hellenic council and the SGA in fund-raising for

Founded in 1996, AUTOS, which stands for Achieving Understanding Towards Off-Campus Students, has had an active role in involving commuters in campus and community affairs.

victims of the September 11th tragedy. They also adopted a needy family and donated over a thousand dollars worth of gifts and gift certificates from area vendors.

They were also responsible for the purchasing of microwaves and coffee machines for commuters in student lounges, represented commuters in freshman orientation, hosted a tailgate party, and organized last year's FSU Community Day.

Even with this impressive list of achievements, AUTOS continues to stay active. Open Mike Live held on September 17th gave students a chance to showcase any talents they might possess.

"Good Morning Commuters" is planned for every 2nd Wednesday to offer commuters coffee, tea, and doughnuts. The location

will alternate between the SBE lounge and the Taylor Science Building Lobby.

"We hope to accomplish record enrollment, participation, and recognition campus-wide," says current AUTOS president, Gaundi Allen. "We wish to make the off-campus students comfortable with the AUTOS organization, and link AUTOS not only to FSU, but the city of Fayetteville as well. We want to accomplish a new look and feel for AUTOS."

To become a member of AUTOS, one must be a commuter student in good standing with the university.

Anyone interested in joining AUTOS, Achieving Understanding Towards Off-Campus Students, can call Pamela C. Smith at 910.672.1387.

She is located in room 114 in the Center for Personal Development of the Collins Building.

By Andria L. Harris

Staff Writer

Name: Adrina Russell

Hometown: Fayetteville, NC

Education: Bachelors of Arts in Sociology and Social Work from Fayetteville State University

Years at FSU: 4 years as a student and 8 years as an employee

Department: Residence Life

Title: Freshman Area Coordinator

Family: One daughter, Adriana Rachelle Russell

Currently Reading: "Phenomenal Woman" by Maya Angelou

Hobbies: Reading, helping others, volunteering, and swimming

Personal Motto: Hard work and perseverance are the keys to success.

What is your most memorable moment at FSU?

My most memorable moment was seeing the class of 2000 graduate. As an employee this was the first time I was able to see a class start as freshmen to graduate as seniors.

What is your favorite FSU tradition or event and why? Freshman orientation is my favorite tradition. It is an exciting time because I have a chance to meet the parents and the students.

Where do you see FSU in five years? In five years I see FSU economically expanding greatly, enrollment expanding by twenty percent, technology expanding and joining in with the mainstream universities.

What is your inspiration? My faith in God is my inspiration. He is the source of all motivation. With natural life alone I would be defeated.

Describe your teaching style and how do you feel others respond to it? My teaching style is interactive. It makes people feel involved and it empowers them.

What are some of your short term and long-term goals? My short-term goal is to finish my Master's degree in Pastoral Council from Liberty University, in Lynchburg, VA. My long-term goal is to open a women's center that would focus on empowering and educating women, as well as achievements and emotional independence.

