Meet the SESP Orientation Team!

During New Student Week (NSW), you’ll be meeting lots of new people, selecting courses, getting settled, and learning lots about SESP and NU. Our team of staff members and Peer Advisors (PA) will be on hand to help answer all of your questions, show you around and welcome you to your new school. Take a moment to read a little bit more about us. We are looking forward to getting to know you!

Susan Johnston Olson
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Human Development and Psychological Services Academic Advisor
This is my second year serving as the chief student affairs officer for SESP. I advise students in HDPS and I serve as the administrative coordinator to the SESP Honors Program. I attended Albion College and received an AB in speech communication. My MA is from the University of Michigan, College Park in College Student Personnel, a program that focused on counseling and college student development. I enjoy talking with students about their interests, plans, concerns etc. and visiting the practicum sites—it’s great to see the students in action. Outside of work, I like spending time with friends and going to concerts/movies/shows. This summer, I am looking forward to working on my new house (it’s a bit of a ‘fixer-upper’). Every NU undergraduate should get involved in a co curricular organization, whether it’s cultural, religious, service, social or entertainment. Getting involved is a great way to connect with others, develop skills and be happy while in college. My advice? Utilize your resources. This school is a wealth of opportunities; there are so many things you can do while you’re here. Find out about what is going on, get involved, and ask questions. Put all you have into making your time here the best it can be.

Meg Kreuser
Secondary Education Academic Advisor and Teacher Certification Manager
I advise secondary education concentration students as well as students from Communication, Music and WCAS who want to become teachers. I taught junior high and high school English for 18 years mostly overseas. I was a school administrator for eight years. The thing I like the best about teaching and advising is the interaction with the students. Outside of work, I like to go to the gym and to watch CSI with a bowl of popcorn and a diet soda. I’ve become a "stamper," too. My advice on academics to NU students? Every NU undergraduate should work as a research apprentice or do an independent study. Otherwise? Take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way.

Mark Hoffman
Social Policy Academic Advisor and Alumni Liaison
I advise Social Policy majors and work with our school's alumni. I look forward to working with all Social Policy students to assist them during their time at SESP! I attended Colorado State University and received my BA in History, and was certified to teach secondary social studies. I attended Iowa State University and received my MS in Education with a higher education focus. There are many ‘favourite' things about my job: working in an intellectually interesting environment, helping students achieve their goals, and working with a great group of colleagues. I live in West Rogers Park (a Chicago neighborhood just south of Evanston) with my partner and our cat 'Homeboy.' I also collect float pens (stop by my office so you can see what a float pen is). I just finished studying two years of college level Spanish, as I have always wanted to learn a second language. Entonces, si quiere practicar tú español, ¡vamos hablar! Most recently, I finished my first year of law school at the Chicago-Kent College of Law. I'm an evening student, so I take classes four nights a week, while I'm working at SESP three days a week. Although I do not have a specific area of law that I intend to pursue, I do think I'm an example of not being able to predict where one will end up (career wise) when they get older. I have not always thought of attending law school, until April of 2004 when I served as the foreman of a jury for a federal trial. It was fascinating and I'd love to tell you about it! My advice to you as an incoming student is the same advice that I received as I entered law school. Get to know one faculty member on a personal basis. How? By taking classes from the same faculty member, going to his or her office hours, working on a research apprenticeship or an independent study with that professor. My advice? Take initiative and ask a lot of questions. Also, strive to understand a culture other than your own through taking courses (like Spanish), volunteering, and joining student organizations that will expose you to other cultures.

Yashiva Edwards
Department Assistant
I am the department assistant to the School of Education & Social Policy’s Undergraduate program. In addition, I also manage the Students Affairs Office, which hopefully many of you will frequently visit and find very resourceful. Our mission here at the Student Affairs Office is to provide the best possible student services for SESP through our friendly atmosphere built on accurate information and timely service. Our office will provide you with academic and personal support, including but not limited to academic advising, course registration, practicum placement, student teaching coordination, honors programs, resource referrals, and occasionally free food. My advice to students is to utilize the Student Affairs Office to the fullest extent, the staff here is extremely knowledgeable and always willing to help.

Fisayo Awoniyi
Program Assistant for Teacher Certification
I am the assistant to Meg Kreuser and the contact person for the Mentor Recognition Program. I graduated from DePaul University with a major in Sociology. I will be attending graduate school next fall. My favorite thing at work is conversing with our bright and insightful student employees. Outside of work, I enjoy biking, drawing and sleeping. Every NU undergraduate should visit the Africana library and browse its excellent literature collection. It is also a perfect place to study. My advice? Study hard your first year and maintain a high GPA. It will be to your advantage upon graduation.

Bruce Nelson
Director, Certificate in Service Learning Program; Practicum Program Director; Practicum Instructor.
As my job titles indicate my area of interest is experiential education. I came to Northwestern in 1996 to begin graduate work and have been here ever since. I have an AB in Social Welfare from the University of California-Berkeley, an MSW in Policy and Planning from the University of Michigan and an MA in Human Development and Social Policy from Northwestern University. I worked professionally for twenty years in the fields of community mental health, youth services and homelessness. You will all have to complete a practicum for
Learning Certificate Program offered through SESP. 

Hi there, I'm Kelly and I'm a rising social policy sophomore. 

- I'm originally from Davis, California, and I'm spending my summer back at home working and enjoying the sunshine. So far at NU, I've gotten involved in service and volunteering activities on campus, including being on the executive board for Northwestern Community Development Corps (NCDC) and taking part in the Service Learning Certificate Program offered through SESP. I also play on the club tennis team and I'm in a sorority (Alpha Chi 

Brian Drelicharz
Human Development and Psychological Services, Class of 2008
b-drelicharz@northwestern.edu  AIM: pinmonkey713

Hey everyone my name is Jackson and I am a great guy. I am Social Policy and International Studies double major -

Daniel Fleishman
Learning and Organizational Change, Class of 2009
dfleishman@northwestern.edu  AIM: so danny said

Hey everyone my name is Caroline Kalinoski. I'm originally from Davis, California, and I'm spending my summers I'll remain in E-town. At NU, I'm involved with A&O, the campus's largest student group that is responsible for nearly all campus entertainment, from concerts to movies to speakers. I'm also a member of the fraternity Zeta Beta Tau, and I am on the central board of the Willard dorm government. (Getting involved at Northwestern has been so rewarding and I encourage all of you to branch out and do the same!) Finding out about SESP and LOC made my freshman year at Northwestern so much more worthwhile, and I can't wait to help make sure all of you have just as great of an experience here. Feel free to get in touch with me about any questions you might have - and I mean anything. See you all in the fall.

Jackson Froliklong
Social Policy, Class of 2009
j-froliklong@northwestern.edu  AIM: Jackfro23

Hi there, I'm Kelly and I'm a rising social policy sophomore. A little about me: I'm originally from Davis, California, and I'm spending my summer back at home working and enjoying the sunshine. So far at NU, I've gotten involved in service and volunteering activities on campus, including being on the executive board for Northwestern Community Development Corps (NCDC) and taking part in the Service Learning Certificate Program offered through SESP. I also play on the club tennis team and I'm in a sorority (Alpha Chi
Omega). The people in SESP are some of the most interesting, inspiring and wonderful people that you will meet at Northwestern, and I can't wait for all of you new students to join the family. If you have any questions or just want to say hi, please please shoot me an e-mail. Meeting interesting people is one of my favorite things to do. Enjoy your summer!

Margaret Lewis  
*Human Development and Psychological Services, Class of 2009*  
*m-lewis2@northwestern.edu*  
*AIM: mimjane787*

Hey guys! My name is Margaret Lewis and I am a sophomore in SESP, majoring in Human Development and Psychological Services with a newly declared minor in Global Health. I am so excited that all of you have decided to come to NU and are now a part of the SESP family! I know everything seems a little confusing and surreal right now, but trust me, Northwestern, and more so SESP has made the transition to college life fun. I am involved with a variety of things on campus including CCD (Sunday school) at Sheil, Oasis site leader/volunteer at Sullivan High School, EmPower, Dance Marathon, Service Learning, FELP (Freshman Emerging Leaders Program), Alpha Lambda Delta (honor society), CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) advisory committee, and Greek life. I am here for you guys! Anything you need, I will try to help. If you have questions about majors, classes, activities, Greek life, or whatever else, please let me know! I cannot wait to meet you all! Enjoy your summer and GO WILDCATS!

Jen Ochsner  
*Secondary Education, Class of 2008*  
*j-ochsner@northwestern.edu*  
*AIM: JenayOx8*

Hi, my name is Jen and I am from Orange County, California. I'm a rising junior majoring in Secondary Education. At NU, I am involved in Dance Marathon (a 30-hour fundraiser) and I'm a member of Kappa Delta sorority. Over the summer I work as a day camp counselor. I am very excited to be a Peer Advisor again this year. New Student Week was such a fun experience, in large part because of my peer advisors. SESP is a friendly and close-knit community that I am so happy to be a part of. I hope you are all having a great summer and are excited to be a Wildcat! I can't wait to meet you all- please feel free to email or IM me if you have any questions or just feel like saying hi!

Beth Schneider  
*Human Development and Psychological Services, Class of 2007*  
*b-schneider3@northwestern.edu*  
*AIM: brsmonkey1*

Hi everyone! I’m a rising senior in HDPS from Des Plaines, IL (a suburb just a half hour away). At Northwestern, I’m involved in Habitat for Humanity and work both as a research assistant for the Family Institute Counseling Center and an office assistant in the SESP Student Affairs Office. Upon graduation, I plan to take a year off to work in psychological research and then go back for a PhD in Clinical Psychology…although that can change at any moment. In my spare time, I love venturing into the city for shopping, sporting events (GO BEARS!), and concerts. I’m also a huge fan of NU football and basketball, (which says something about my optimism) so you can always find me in the stadium on game day. This summer, I am working in the SESP Student Affairs Office so if you call or come in for a visit you will probably talk to me! It gets pretty quiet over here so don’t hesitate to contact me with questions or just to say hi. I hope you’re having a great summer and I look forward to meeting you soon!

Anna Torricelli  
*Social Policy, Class of 2007*  
*a-torricelli@northwestern.edu*  
*AIM: Atgotmilk3*

Hi, I am a rising SESP super senior from Wilmette, Illinois (about 5 minutes from campus if any of you are familiar with the area). I attended Indiana University for my first two years of undergrad and then transferred to Northwestern—so I definitely know what its like to be at a new school! I am currently majoring in Social Policy with a minor in Global Health. After I graduate I plan to work in public health, although I am still unsure of what kind of population I am interested in working with. This summer I am doing my SESP Practicum (oh you will learn allllll about the practicum) in San Francisco, working at an HIV/AIDS outreach foundation. It's been AMAZINGGG. I am also the president and captain of the Northwestern Girls' Club Basketball team (for any of you interested in trying out) and involved in Northwestern Community Development Corps as a site leader for an HIV/AIDS organization in Chicago. Aside from that, I moved into a new house with 7 of my close friends for the 06-07 school year, so we've spent a lot of time BBQing and decorating! If I'm not playing basketball or working in academic services at the stadium, you can find me buying gummy worms at White Hen or running on the lakefill. SESP has been such a great experience for me and I can't wait to welcome you all to Northwestern and the SESP family! Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. See you all in the fall!

Turn this sheet over to check out some advice from your Peer Advisors!
Advice From Your Peer Advisors

○ College can be a lonely place, especially at first. Don’t panic or lose confidence if you find yourself missing home.

○ Take advantage of all the activities New Student Week has to offer! Get to know other students by attending the barbeques, excursions, the football game – everything! Be open to meeting as many people as you can and remember that everyone feels nervous during the first few weeks at a new school. You definitely have to step outside your comfort zone a bit. Invite someone new on your dorm floor to lunch, walk around Evanston with some new SESP friends. The more connections you can make at a new school, the more at home you will feel. It is definitely one of the most memorable and exciting aspects of college so enjoy it!

○ Don’t be too afraid or too proud to ask for help.

○ If you have a passion, go pursue it. College is a place where you can really start to make things happen, so take advantage of what is available. However, at the same time, don’t overdo it. Don’t feel like you have to sign up for everything or live up to other people. Do what works for you. If you want to take three classes or not get involved in any extra-curriculars first quarter, then don’t. You have four years here to do everything.

○ Go explore off campus. Chicago and the surrounding areas are amazing. It’s a great way to bond with new friends and a nice way to escape the stress on campus.

○ Be open to new people and new ideas and realize that not everything will be fantastic. Take the good with the bad and discover that it is all part of the NU experience.

○ Regardless of your interests, it always seems as if there are hundreds of activities to get involved in on campus. Really get out there and explore all of these opportunities. Not only is this a great avenue to meet new people, but getting involved with some of the organizations on campus can really help you to establish your identity and find a passion that can carry you through the rest of your life.

○ Be yourself. It is important to be comfortable with yourself so that you can be confident when meeting new people and experiencing new places. Step out of your comfort zone as much as possible, to meet new people, explore new places, and try new things.

○ Everyone is adjusting to a new school. Be patient and allow yourself time to get used to such a new and different environment.