The First Class for the Rest of Your Life

Presented by
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From
Department of University Studies
University College
Kennesaw State University – Kennesaw, GA

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Located in the beautiful wooded suburbs North of Atlanta, Kennesaw State University offers high quality education to students throughout Metro-Atlanta and Northwest Georgia. Traditional and non-traditional will find a flexible class schedule which will meet their needs.

Kennesaw State University is the fastest growing institution in the University System of Georgia. Kennesaw State University proudly hosts international students from over 105 countries.

With over 52 undergraduate majors and five different master's degrees we invite you to participate in the most exciting institution in North West Georgia.
Outline of presentation

• Definition and rationale

• History of the Kennesaw State University (KSU) Senior Year Experience (SYE) program

• Vision and mission

• Learning outcomes

• In the classroom: content & workbook

• Resources and partnerships

• Marketing

• Assessment

• SYE, by the numbers

• Tie-in to Quality Enhancement Program

• In the future

• Helpful information

• Our Seniors
**DEFINITION**

- Generally refers to total set of senior year experiences both inside and outside the classroom.

- Flexible concept – class, service project, career planning, internship, recognition ceremony, thesis, portfolios, research, etc.

**THREE COMPONENTS**

1) Reflection and integration

2) Career Planning (work-force, graduate school or other)

3) Closure and transition

**RATIONALE**

**Philosophical thoughts**

- Have students embodied the mission of the university that was frequently paraded before them at first-year orientation? Can we confidently turn our graduates loose in the community?

**Practically speaking**

- John Gardner, of the National Resource Center in Columbia, SC notes that seniors are our “frequent fliers.” We owe it to them to provide an opportunity to reflect, plan, bring closure and ensure a successful transition as productive citizens.

- Seniors become alumni. Last chance to cultivate that relationship and ensure a positive lasting impression.
History of the SYE Program & KSU 4401: Senior Seminar

1990

- Voice of a student and Presidential support get things started.

- “Students in Transition Conference” is held at Kennesaw State University (KSU). John Gardner and President Betty Siegel, KSU, lead the first workshop on the Senior Experience.

1990 - 1994

- President Siegel co-teaches first KSU Senior Seminar housed in the Department of Communication, which also is the academic home for the academic bookend course – First-Year Experience.

1996

- President Siegel sends delegates to the Senior-Year Experience Conference in San Antonio, Texas to plan a SYE Program at KSU.

- Dr. Joan Leichter Dominick receives the Governor’s Teaching Fellows Award and develops academic template for the Senior Year Experience course.

1997

- Template is unveiled. COM 490: Learning Comes to Life is co-taught in the Communication Department, of which Dr. Joan Leichter Dominick is the chair. Fourteen students sign up for this new class.
1998
- Dr. Joan Leichter Dominick becomes the Director of the SYE Program, now housed in the Department of Learning Support, which also becomes the academic home for the First-Year Experience Program (FYE).

- John Gardner writes *The Senior Experience: Facilitating Integration, Reflection, Closure and Transition*. Dedicates text to President Betty Siegel. John Gardner mentors Dr. Joan Leichter Dominick - sets up visit at the National Resource Center January 1998 for researching SYE Program at the University of South Carolina, Columbia.

- Senior-Year Experience Council formed & first SYE Website published.

1999
- KSU 4401: Senior Seminar was approved by UPCC in Fall as an institutional elective capstone course earning 3 credit hours.

- Portfolios are introduced to the SYE and FYE curriculums as a way of empowering students in tracking their college learning experience.

2000
- Multiple sections of KSU 4401 are taught.
2001
- The Complete Graduate: A Workbook for College Seniors is co-authored by Dr. Joan E. Leichter Dominick, Karen Andrews, Director of Career Services, and Dr. Deborah Smith. Published by Houghton-Mifflin.

- Campus support develops with capstone course substitutions and co-teaching opportunities.

2002

2004
- Marketing/promotional campaign devised.

2005
- Deborah Smith becomes SYE Coordinator.

- New SYE program vision, mission and learning outcomes developed.

- SYE internship created.

- Senior Class Club formed and facebook group created.

- Assessment program created.
VISION:
The Senior Year Experience consists of year-long institution-wide programs and activities pertinent to college seniors, a variety of discipline specific capstone courses and an institutional elective capstone course, KSU 4401: The Senior Seminar. Decisions are guided by an advisory board consisting of KSU alumni, faculty, staff and senior students, as well as community representatives.

MISSION STATEMENT:
The mission of the Senior Year Experience is to provide KSU seniors with an opportunity to reflect on and provide closure to their collegiate educational experience, demonstrate proficiency, develop the skills necessary to successfully transition to and navigate post-university life, understand the civic and social responsibilities of being college educated citizens and connect with KSU in an ongoing relationship.
Learning Outcomes for KSU 4401: Senior Seminar

Based on obtaining knowledge, attitude and/or skill outcomes

1) Students will be able to make connections across courses and disciplines as they articulate the personal and professional meaning of their collegiate educational experience.

2) Students will be aware of the variety of post-graduate choices available, what realistically awaits them and will have set meaningful, specific and realistic goals to pursue their selected path.

3) Students will have completed a self-assessment of their personal and professional skills (e.g. ethical leadership, decision-making, communication, interpersonal, problem-solving and technical) and developed an action plan to develop areas of weakness.

4) Students will possess the tools needed to conduct an effective search for a career, graduate school or other post-graduate choice (e.g. resume writing, interviewing skills, etc.).

5) Students will be familiar with the cycles of change and transition and will have acquired the life skills (e.g. financial planning, stress management, etc.) necessary to successfully make the transition from college student to college graduate.
6) Students will understand the importance of civic and social responsibility and having a global citizenship perspective.

7) Students will have learned about the academic history and traditions surrounding commencement.

8) Students will be aware of and appreciate the resources, services and networking opportunities dedicated to ensuring their success, not only while they are KSU seniors, but also after they exit the institution.

9) Students will understand the personal and communal benefits of being active KSU alumni and know about the variety of ways in which they can become involved.

10) Students will embrace the concept that as college graduates, learning does not commence when they receive their degree, but rather it marks the beginning of a commitment and dedication to life-long learning.
In the classroom

What do we do?

Syllabi can be found on conference program website

Each instructor meets learning outcomes, but with different approaches and emphases.
- Dr. Leicther Dominick (e-portfolios/global citizenship)
- Mr. Grover (Stephen Covey)
- Dr. Smith (well-rounded, “complete” graduate)

Career related activities:
- Action timeline
- Resume writing
- Mock interviews
- E-portfolios
- Career Services presentations
- Small Business Development Center
- Graduate school exploration
In the classroom continued

A sampling of other class activities:

- Papers and projects on meaning of college career, alternative post-graduation choices and becoming an engaged, productive citizen.

- Service project

- Issues of change and transition explored.

- Skills such as financial planning and stress management explored.

- Mentoring of first-year students

- Alumni Affairs visit

- Rare book room visit

KSU 4401 also offered in Web Ct Hybrid Format
Resources and partnerships

- Career Services Center
- College of Business
- Office of International Services and Programs
- Small Business Development Center
- Counseling and Placement Services Center
- Information Technology Services
- Presentation Technology Department
- Alumni Association
- Volunteer Kennesaw State University
- Wellness Center
- Student Life Center
- Library (Rare Book Room)
- Community – recent graduates, nearby business associations, etc.

http://www.kennesaw.edu/university_studies/sye/resources.shtml
Resources and Partnerships

Presentation Technology Center
Created Website for KSU 4401:
Senior Seminar Students

PTD Pocket E-Portfolio
Process - Desktop Publishing
Using the RACCE College Portfolio process by
Dr. Joan E. Leichter Dominick

http://edtech.kennesaw.edu/21c/racce.htm

http://ptd.kennesaw.edu/eportfolio/
The Complete Graduate: A Workbook for College Seniors

Part I READY: Building Your College Senior Portfolio
1.1 Reflecting on Your College Experience: Building Your College Senior Portfolio
1.2 Your Reflective Portfolio: Mapping College Learning Experience
1.3 Your Best of Show Portfolio: Mission, Design, and Format

Part II SET: Taking Stock – Essential Attributes of the Complete Graduate
2.1 Putting your Organizational Skills to Work for You
2.2 Benefiting from your clubs and organizations
2.3 People and team working skills
2.4 Leadership in the New Millennium
2.5 Public Speaking Survival Kit
2.6 Decision Making and Problem-Solving Abilities
2.7 Modeling a Strong Work Ethic

Part III GO: Time to Start Career-Hunting
3.1 Most common mistakes made by seniors
3.2 Utilizing your Career Services Center
3.3 Identifying work values and skills
3.4 Researching your career
3.5 Cover letters
3.6 The resume as a sales tool
3.7 The interview as a sales pitch and Thank You Letters
3.8 Dealing with rejection
3.9 Choosing the right offer
The Complete Graduate: A Workbook for College Seniors

Part IV ARE YOU ON THE RIGHT TRACK? Other Post-Graduate Choices

4.1 Is graduate school for me?
4.2 What about bettering the world?
4.3 Choosing a military career
4.4 Becoming an entrepreneur

Part V CROSSING THE FINISH LINE: Preparing to Exit the Institution

5.1 Wellness works
5.2 Coping strategies for dealing with change and transition
5.3 Becoming Financially Fit
5.4 Celebrating your College Commencement

Part VI BEING IN THE WINNER’S CIRCLE: Achieving Success in the First Year

6.1 Becoming an Active Alumnus
6.2 Office politics: How to survive the first year
6.3 Making a difference in your community

Part VII Conclusion: THE MARATHON OF LIFE: Your Post-University Experience
Folio Thinking for College Seniors

Honor, Understand & Connect Your Learning from Self to Global Society:
RACCE College Portfolio Process—Reflect, Assess, Collect, Connect, Express

PTD Pocket E-Portfolio - Desktop Publishing

Online Career Portfolio - Career Services
Internet Password Protected

SYE & KSU join forces to create these innovative E-Portfolio Formats

E-Portfolios designed for Interactivity of Formats
Marketing

- E-mails to juniors and seniors prior to registration
- SYE website
- Pamphlet (see SYE website)
- Fliers across campus
- Classroom announcements
- Advisor recommendation
- Highlight in catalogue
- Student newspaper ad online and hard copy

- Faculty letters to previous first-year students
- Survey conclusion – e-mail, advisor, highlight and word-of-mouth most effective tools
- This semester – Facebook ad

Laura Smith, KSU Communication Major
Took KSU 4401
SYE Intern
Founder of KSU Senior Class Club 2005
Assessment

Previous
• University-wide evaluations
• Informal feedback and testimony from students

New for 2005/06
• Faculty members fill out “Learning Outcomes Assessment Record” prior to beginning of semester
• New student assessment piloted Fall 2005
• Survey Monkey this Spring – “Evaluation of KSU 4401 Learning Outcomes” – likert scale and open-ended questions (see conference program website)
• KSU has 52 majors. Of these, 19 major specific capstone courses are offered or required.

• KSU 4401, the only institution-wide elective capstone course, serves approximately 400 students per year.

• Seven sections offered in Spring, three in Summer and six in the Fall semester. Cap of 25 students per class.

• Three faculty members in Dept. of University Studies dedicated to KSU 4401. Director of Career Services, Business, International Services and adjunct faculty have also taught sections.
Tie-in to Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) for SACS Review 2007

- **QEP - Global Learning for Engaged Citizenship** is an educational process that enhances one’s competencies for participating responsibly in the diverse, multicultural, international, and interdependent world.

SYE Implementation - E-portfolios and Community Service
In the future

2006
- Reestablish advisory board
- Survey Monkey of assessment instrument
- Exploring new edition of textbook

Challenges and opportunities
- New president and dean
- Budgeting

Goals
- Continue to grow the program from class to campus-wide experience.
- Strengthen both university-wide and SYE program assessment:
  1) Work with Institutional Research to develop an institution specific exit survey of seniors.
  2) Work with the FYE program. First-year students take the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) freshman survey and then when they are seniors they take the College Student Survey (CSS). Both instruments are out of the UCLA Higher Education Research Institute.
  3) Work with Alumni Association to track students after they leave – longitudinal survey.
  4) Run focus groups with seniors and alumni for qualitative research purposes.
- Explore alternative means to offer course.
- Develop a Resource Center for seniors.
Helpful information

• [http://www.eport2passport.com/villajulie/](http://www.eport2passport.com/villajulie/) (find this presentation as well as links to our KSU SYE website)


• National Resource Center for First-Year students and Students in Transition [http://sc.edu/fye/](http://sc.edu/fye/)

• SYE-LIST@LISTSERV.SC.EDU

Our KSU Seniors

In the Rare Book Room: Celebrating Commencement with visit to KSU College Mace

Preparing resume for mock interview

Kenyatta Porter, Kennesaw State University
Our KSU Seniors

KSU Senior Class Club

on Facebook & KSU Website Coming Soon!

Our goal is to inform seniors and all students at the university of resources on campus that can aid them in their job/graduate school search, involve seniors in activities designed to improve their senior experience at KSU, and unify the senior class and promote a sense of community among seniors and all KSU students.

Officers

President: Laura Smith
Vice-President: John Schliener
Treasurer: Lindsay Smith
Secretary: Darryn Persaud
Historian: Morgan Satterthwait

Contact Info

Creator: Laura Smith
Email: ksuseniors@yahoo.com
Our KSU Seniors

KSU 4401 Seniors formed Facebook Group to stay in touch & continue e-portfolios
Our Seniors
Tour de KSU service project

Riding for National Camps for Blind Children

Fall 2005

Senior Class Club provided the food
Our Seniors

Rocky Barnes, KSU Alumni

• KSU 4401: Senior Seminar: Took course & Shown here with College Senior Portfolio

• Current Employment: Assistant Director of the KSU Alumni Association