NEWSLETTER #4 — ALMOST TIME!

Who knew – 10 days and counting.

We’re getting ready for your arrival and the start of school.

And hopefully you’re getting excited.

This week’s newsletter is full of useful information: about Honors 101, about your schedules, and about upcoming deadlines! Read on for all the information.
Honors 101

We introduced it at New Student Orientation. We’ve hinted at it all summer. And we encouraged you to save the date. Now we can let you in on the details!

The agenda is also available on the Honors Orientation site.
WHAT TO EXPECT — AUGUST 17

It all starts on Wednesday.

For those of you living on campus, you’ll move in according to the schedule University Housing has set. (Housing has asked us to remind you that you can’t move in until your time has come, but you can move in any time after your arrival time).

For those of you who are commuting or living off-campus, you have the morning and early afternoon free!

We start with a welcome reception for you, your parents, your families, and anyone who came with you to move-in, or who will be part of your support network.

Because we know your parents and families have questions, we have a few minutes for them to talk with Honors program staff, faculty, and students. (You’ll meet all those people on Thursday).

We think it’s important for you to meet lots and lots of people, in multiple different ways. (For those of you who are extroverts, you’ll love it. For those of you who are introverts, we’re offering small group interactions, too!).

So we’ll start with activities by our Honors Student Association. And after dinner, it’s our second photo scavenger hunt – bring your phones, make some new connections, and learn some of the special places on campus you may not have seen before! Then finish the night with Campus Recreation and all the other students, honors and not honors, who have already moved onto campus.

And remember, this is NOT just for students living in any of our residence halls. For those of you living off-campus, this is a great chance to make connections with people early on!
Our big day! If Wednesday was about meeting people, Thursday is about understanding what’s about to start!

We know that honors at SIUE is a different experience than what you might have experienced in high school. Even if you’ve taken college-level credits, your honors seminar is going to be a new kind of learning for you. That’s not bad – it can be exciting. So listen to Dr. Hutchins, our interim director, explain our 10 am session: Experiment with Honors.

The video is also uploaded here and available on the Honors Orientation page.

One of the best parts about the experimental seminar: it will be led by our real honors faculty: people who will be teaching in your first-year classes, as well as some of our colleagues from upper-division courses. You’ll find brand-new faculty teaching, faculty members involved in significant research and leadership on campus, and maybe even a couple of surprises!
Wait – did she say a reading?

Yup, she did. One thing about honors – we’re never going to ask you to do fake work. You can get the reading here (it’s an excerpt from a book). But it’s a real topic – about making mistakes. Your honors experience is rarely going to be about right answers. That’s one of the other big differences from high school. But it will be about how to make good, meaningful, and wonderful mistakes as part of your learning process. This is one part you won’t want to miss.

After lunch, we’ll be throwing a lot of good information towards you: about how to get involved with service and meet the honors service requirement; how to get involved with the Honors Student Association and its mentorship program; and how to be ready for your first two weeks of school.

We’re especially excited about our closing Just-in-Time sessions. These will be standing (literally) 15-20 minute meetings, focused on things you’ll need to know immediately:

- Be ready for your first science (biology, chemistry) classes
- Be ready for your first calculus class
- What to expect in Honors Rhetoric
- Meeting other commuting students (first-year and upper-division)
- Thrive in the first two weeks
- More on mentorship

And once we’re done, you’ll go right into the SIUE Experience with all your new first-year colleagues. You’ll be busy. You’ll be engaged.

But you’ll be ready!
Some easy next steps:

1. Download the Making Mistakes reading and take a couple of the notes that Dr. Hutchins suggests. And be sure to bring it with you to our Thursday session!
2. Let us know if you plan to attend Honors 101. This is not required, and so if you can’t make it, we understand. We’re trying this for the first year – and our first big event since Covid hit in March 2020. Come and make it a special start for you. And RSVPing to this link will help us plan for the reception on Wednesday and lunch on Thursday.

We also know you may have some other questions, so let us try to answer them here.

- We’ve worked around other schedules on campus as best we can. So for example, our international students have orientation on Wednesday. You should be able to finish that orientation and still be able to attend the reception and evening events on Wednesday, as well as the sessions on Thursday.
- Some of you may have conflicts with other potential activities on campus, including athletics or the BSE. Because honors if part of your academic requirements, we really encourage you to engage with us, especially on Thursday. If there are conflicts, you can reach out to Ian to talk about ways to participate in some events with honors as some other events on campus.
OTHER THINGS TO REMEMBER!

Is your schedule set?

Just a reminder. Check CougarNet and make sure your schedule continues to look right!

Is your bill paid?

One of the most important deadlines is CLOSE. The payment deadline is Friday, August 12. That’s this coming Friday!

Make sure you are FINANCIALLY CLEARED. If you’re not, be sure to pay your bill before the end of business of Friday. Because if you don’t, you will be dropped from all your classes. (Please – don’t do that!).

If you have questions, concerns, or you are not sure about your bill or your financial aid, you should reach out to the right office. Contact the Financial Aid Office if you have questions about scholarships, loans, or other aid you might be receiving. If your question is about your actual bill, contact the Bursar’s Office. You can get their contact information from the respective webpages.

SIUE E-MAIL

Now’s the time to be looking. We sent this newsletter to both your secondary e-mail and your SIUE addresses. Pretty soon, we’ll transition to your SIUE address only. If your password is expired or not working, you can contact ITS. But it’s time – make the change!

INTERST SURVEY

Don’t forget. We want to know things you’re interested in doing. If you haven’t already, complete our interest survey here!
HSA Links to Remember!