

# Campus-wide strategic planning leads to new offices on campus

The offices of New Initiatives and Philanthropy aim to engage Stephens.

By **DANIELLE JOHNSON**  
Staff Writer

Returning students might have noticed the physical changes on campus that took place over the summer, but there are also changes that have been going on inside LRW. There are two new offices that are soon to bring big changes to campus. The new offices are the Office of New Initiatives and the Office of Philanthropy.

The new Office of New Initiatives was started as a result of a campuswide strategic planning process that occurred in spring 2010.

It was suggested there be an office on campus that would be centrally focused on innovation and new initiatives for the college in all areas. The office is a one-year pilot program, meaning it's planned as a test or trial.

The Office of Philanthropy is the new name for the Office of Development and Alumnae Relations, which helps connect students to alumnae. According to Shannon Walls, interim vice president of the Office of Philanthropy, "Working with the Office of Marketing and Public Relations, we produce alumnae publications and e-newsletters to keep our constituency aware of and engaged with what is happening on campus."

The plans for the semester from each office are focused on planning and bringing in alumnae. According to Suzanne Sharp, dean of Graduate and Continuing Studies and head of the Office of Innovation and New Initiative, "This semester the focus for Innovation will be developing the process and to begin sorting through the many ideas collected during strategic planning last spring." For the Office of Philanthropy, the concentration will be on alumnae and students.

"This semester, the Office of Philanthropy is working with Dean Mimi Hedges to host the LBA Summer Reading Panel on Sept. 13, where alumnae will share life experiences re-

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DEAN OF GRADUATE AND  
CONTINUING STUDIES**

lated to their summer reading assignment. We will also host the first Marshall Lecture Series on Nov. 17, which will showcase alumnae and author Mel French, '58, who served as President Clinton's Chief of Protocol in the White House. The Alumnae Association Board will host the annual resume and interview workshop on Sept. 23. We are working closely with President Lynch on the Health and Wellness Campaign."

It is also highly encouraged that students get involved with both of these offices. "We would love student involvement. If there's interest, we might host a student meeting/information session regarding the new offices, and how students can get involved," Sharp said. The Office of Philanthropy has the focus of setting up students with alumnae, so students are encouraged to take advantage of that. One way students can do that is the "Full Circle: Alumnae Mentoring Seniors" program.

This program will take place this fall and its purpose is to pair seniors with alumnae who can provide helpful information in moving into the real world and dealing with the workplace. For more information about the Full Circle: Alumnae Mentoring Seniors program and an application, go to [stephens.edu/alumnae/stay-connected/full\\_circle](http://stephens.edu/alumnae/stay-connected/full_circle). ■

# Leadership award changes met with tepid response

By **DEJA TURNER**  
Staff Writer

In the past, the Community Living Award (formerly known as the Leadership Award) was a scholarship in which students could sharpen their leadership skills at school, by attending community and academic events on campus and receiving points for the events. This year, the Community Living Award policy has changed for both freshmen and upperclassmen students.

"(The Community Living Award policy) does not affect returning students as far as points, but it will affect student organizations as far as planning for events," Yvonne Chamberlain, the new leadership and programming director said.

Leadership points will now be given in three categories to current freshmen students and any incoming freshmen in the future that are awarded the scholarship.

"Incoming freshmen who received the Community Living scholarship will have to earn points in service, academic, and community," Chamberlain said. "For every one community (point) (the students) earn for their scholarship, they earn two academic and two service (points)."

Freshman students now have another category to consider, which is new this year.

"I don't think it's fair because we are both getting the same scholarship," Brittany Jameson, a freshman MPA major, said. "But we are doing more than (upperclassmen)."

Chamberlain saw the need to revamp the policy because of poor point distribution for organizations. Students could get three academic points for anything that was considered academic, whether it was a movie with two discussion questions or a department event with a learning activity as well as a lecture.

"It's not really fair that those two programs be worth the same amount of points," Chamberlain said.

Although upperclassmen will not see changes in the types of points they have to acquire for the scholarship, upperclassmen will see changes in the amount of points they receive for each event.

"Going forward, there will be a scale," Chamberlain said.

Community events will now be awarded one point instead of two. Academic

## FRESHMEN LEADERSHIP POINT BREAKDOWN

**Service Points (1-2 per event):** An event that fosters the development and or use of leadership skills and involves a high level of interaction.

**Academic Points (1-2 per event):** An event deemed academic in nature and involves a moderate level of interaction.

**Community Points (1 per event):** Events that foster community involvement on campus.

Some events may qualify for a combination of points. Example: 1 academic and 1 community or 1 service and 1 community.

events will be awarded one to two points instead of three. Although it does not apply to upperclassmen, the amount of service points awarded at each event is one to two. This means that upperclassmen will have to choose more events to attend.

"Unless student organizations really plan well, and their events are more quality events that allow students to not have to go to so many, yes they are going to have to attend more," Chamberlain said.

For freshmen, this idea of points might not seem like an enormous deal, but for upperclassmen like Kara Hinshaw, who has the highest scholarship amount and several ties to student organizations on campus, going to more events than last year will be hard to put in her schedule.

"If you're really busy already, it can be difficult to get to everything," Hinshaw said. "But I see her (Chamberlain) point; it's a very valid point."

Organizations on campus are now required to submit a more thorough account of an event for leadership points as well as find ways to incorporate the new category — service — into their events.

"There's a lot more going into (the events), and we are really going to have to think about how to foster leadership," Hinshaw said. "You have to be more innovative."

Chamberlain hopes the new policy will help Stephens women become leaders in their community.

"Really building and learning leadership skills and applying those skills," Chamberlain said. "That's what I am looking for." ■

## NEW OFFICE HOURS

### Office of New Initiatives

Location: LRW 3rd Floor  
Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Office of Philanthropy

Location: LRW 3rd Floor  
Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.