Student-Readiness:  
Or What to Expect When You’re Expecting Undergraduates

Focusing on the First Year Conference  
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Arthur Levine  
President, The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation  
Twitter: @ArthurELevine

Diane R. Dean  
Associate Professor, Higher Education Administration & Policy, Illinois State University  
Twitter: @DianeRDean
Two Types of Undergraduates

- Traditional, Ages 18-25
- Non-traditional, Ages 26 & up
Two Types of Students

- Traditional undergraduates, 18-25
- Non-traditional undergraduates, 26 & up
Two Types of Students

- Traditional undergraduates, 18-25
- Non-traditional undergraduates, 26 & up
Traditional-Age College Students
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Traditional-Age College Students
Commonalities Across Generations

- Optimistic about personal future
  - Committed to American dream
  - Pessimistic about future of country
  - Disenchanted with politics and government

- Little involved in campus life
  - Engaged in community service

- Weak in academic skills
  - Consumerist view of college
  - Utilitarian in goals for college

- Partial to sex, alcohol and music
What to Expect . . .

1. The First Generation of Digital Natives
Digital Natives

Key life events:

- WWW
- Recession
- 9/11
- President Obama
- Cell phones
- Web browsers
## Traditional Universities and Digital Natives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional Universities</th>
<th>Digital Natives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed time</td>
<td>Variable time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed space</td>
<td>Anyplace, Cyberspace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provider-driven</td>
<td>Consumer-driven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive learning</td>
<td>Active learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Concrete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analog media</td>
<td>Digital media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching (process)</td>
<td>Learning (outcome)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depth focus (hunting)</td>
<td>Breadth focus (gathering)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Digital Natives

Students believe undergraduate education would be improved if...

- Classes made greater use of technology  (78%)
- Professors knew more about how to use it (78%)
- More courses blended online and in-person classes (52%)
- More courses were completely online (33%)
Technology & Academic Integrity

Deans of students report…

- Increased cheating or plagiarism
  - 4-year campuses (59%)
Technology & Academic Integrity

Deans of students report...
- Increased cheating or plagiarism
- Declining understanding of plagiarism
  - 4-year campuses (56%)
Technology & Academic Integrity

Deans of students report…

- Increased cheating or plagiarism
- Declining understanding of plagiarism
- Decreased faculty comfort with students and their behavior
  - 4-year campuses (49%)
Technology & Globalism

High global interests:
- environment
- energy
- economy
- employment
Technology & Globalism

High global interests:
- environment
- energy
- economy
- employment

Low global knowledge:
- Hu Jintao (80%)
- Robert Mugabe (70%)
- Nicolas Sarkozy (70%)
- Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (60%)
- Kim Jong Il (50%)
Technology & Globalism

High global interests:
• environment
• energy
• economy
• employment

Tailored media:
• internet
• cable/satellite TV
• print media
• each other

Low global knowledge:
• Hu Jintao (80%)
• Robert Mugabe (70%)
• Nicolas Sarkozy (70%)
• Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (60%)
• Kim Jong Il (50%)
Shrinking Campus Life

Students who never attend / use:

- Academic or professional clubs
  - 4-year campuses (50%)
- Student sponsored social clubs
  - 4-year campuses (42%)
Students who never attend / use:

- Gym / fitness center
  - 4-year campuses (50%)

- College athletic events
  - 4-year campuses (35%)

- College academic events
  - 4-year campuses (31%)
Shrinking Campus Life

Students who never attend / use:

- College social / community events
  - 4-year campuses (20%)

Illinois State University

University of Michigan

Colorado Community Colleges
Shrinking Campus Life
Social Life: The New Tribalism
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Social Life: The New Tribalism
Eroding Interpersonal Skills

- Expectation of immediacy
  - Instant information, immediate contact, fast responses
Eroding Interpersonal Skills

- Expectation of immediacy
- Hook up culture
  - 45% of undergraduates “hooked up” in college
Eroding Interpersonal Skills

- Expectation of immediacy
- Hook up culture
- Increased e-conflict
  - Online incivility
    - 4-year campuses (44%)
  - Online harassment / stalking
    - 4-year campuses (55%)
  - Cell phone harassment / stalking
    - 4-year campuses (41%)
Eroding Interpersonal Skills

- Expectation of immediacy
- Hook up culture
- Increased e-conflict
- Lack of discretion and privacy

Sources:
- http://www.csmonitor.com
- http://www.collegewallofshame.com
3. Students Who Are More Immature, Dependent & Entitled
Overly Protected and Applauded
Academics

Students self-reported GPA:

- GPA ≥ A-minus (41%)
  - Versus 7% in 1969
Academics

Students self-reported GPA:

- GPA $\geq$ A-minus (41%)
  - Versus 7% in 1969

- GPA $\leq$ C (9%)
  - Versus 15% in 1969
Academics

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(Rojstaczer & Healy, 2012)
Academics

Students self-reported GPA:

- GPA $\geq$ A-minus (41%)
  - Versus 7% in 1969

- GPA $\leq$ C (9%)
  - Versus 15% in 1969

Yet students also say:

- Their grades understatement their work’s true quality (60%)
- They take or have taken remedial courses (45%)
- Their courses are challenging, difficult or very difficult (54%)

(Rojstaczer & Healy, 2012)
Parents
Parents

- Deans at 4-year campuses report:
  - Increased parental involvement since 2001 (90%)
  - Increased student/parent contact since 2001 (83%)
  - Increased parent visits to campus since 2001 (50%)

- Students report that they:
  - Contact parents daily (41%)
  - Contact parents 3x daily or more (19%)
Student / Parent Interactions

- Students ask parents for advice on:
  - College courses or assignments (67%)
  - Majors or careers (66%)
  - Roommates & friends (59%)
  - Other aspects of college life (71%)

- And always consult parents before making:
  - Academic decisions (37%)
  - Social decisions (20%)
Students have asked parents to intervene in problems with:

- Professors (31%)
- Room mates (29%)
- Employers (27%)
- College administrators (22%)
Concerns with Student Health

- Within the past 12 months, students experienced/felt:
  - Stress (92%) . . . Above average, or tremendous stress (51%)
  - Overwhelmed by all they had to do (75%)
  - Exhausted (not from physical action) (67%)
  - And found it difficult to handle academics (51%)

- Students also felt:
  - Very lonely (55%)
  - Overwhelming anxiety (49%)
  - Hopelessness (42%)
  - So depressed that it was difficult to function (31%)

Source: American College Health Association – National College Health Assessment II, Spring 2014
4. Students Who Are Products of the Worst Economy Since the Great Depression
Deans at all campuses report increased:

- Students working longer hours (67%)
- Stop-outs (48%)
- Students living at home (48%)
- Students choosing / changing majors (36%)
- Drop-outs (33%)
- Students taking fewer credits (31%)

... all for financial reasons.

Source: icantaffordthis.wordpress.com
Students report:
- Recession affected college choice (62%)
- Student aid affected college choice (46%)
- Working at paid jobs (69%)
  - Working 21+ hours a week (46%)
  - Want $$ for tuition or basic living expenses (16%)
  - Need $$ for tuition or basic living expenses (64%)
- If they have college loans:
  - Have concerns about loan repayment (72%)

Source: Collegelifestyles.org
Students’ Goals for College

□ Students say:

□ It’s very important to be well-off financially (83%)
  - Versus 63% - in 1976

□ Chief benefit of college = increase one’s earning power (67%)
  - Versus 44% in 1976

□ Expect to be at least as well-off financially as parents (73%)

Source: feminspire.com
Source: demandamerican.org
Students’ Goals for College

- Students say it’s important while in college to:
  - Formulate life values and goals (50%)
    - Versus 71% in 1969
  - Learn to get along with other people (38%)
    - Versus 76% in 1969
  - Get job skills & training (73%)
    - Versus 59% in 1969

Source: media.tumblr.com/tumblr_m35d1nfttp1qzvoyz.jpg
What to Expect
When You’re Expecting Undergraduates

1. Digital natives & more global in orientation
2. More connected, and yet more isolated
3. More immature, dependent, and entitled
4. Products of the worst economy since the depression
Student-Readiness

Providing an Education for the 21st Century…

Life in a time of profound change
Student-Readiness

Providing an Education for the 21st Century…

Civic engagement

Life in a diverse, global society

Life in a time of profound change
Student-Readiness

Providing an Education for the 21st Century...

- Life in a digital society
- Civic engagement
- Life in a diverse, global society
- Life in a time of profound change
- Life in an evolving information economy

References for other works cited are available from presenters:
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