

Hello new DePauw student!

My name is Dan Osterhage and I will be your first year mentor next year! I'm going to be a senior History major and have been off campus in Siena, Italy this spring. I've missed DePauw and my friends more than I ever could have imagined going abroad and I am so excited to get back for another year. It's a scary thought that it's my last year already, the last three years have flow by! I get to come back to a full schedule of Senior seminar, one last year of Rugby, Greek life, and the many other fun activities I'm involved in on campus. You will find that DePauw is as busy or as laid back as you make (discounting the whole school part), though you will soon see that most DePauw students are guilty of over commitment.

I am sure you are all both excited and nervous for the start of next year. Don't worry, almost everybody is a little scared before they come, I certainly was. I remember my first day..... Moving in, saying goodbye to the family, organizing my room, then thinking 'Oh crap, what have I gotten myself into? I don't know anybody and I'm 6 hours away from home. What now?'

If you are worried this will be you, remember this is the feelings of just about every freshmen on move in day. My friends and I have reminisced about the first day many times and everybody had similar feelings; excitement and happiness mixed with trepidation and loneliness. All my friends soon got this out of their systems, as will you, and are now in love with DePauw just as much as I am!

To make the initial process a little easier and possibly more fun I will be there. As your first-year mentor, it is my job to guide you throughout the orientation process. Your first few days on campus will be filled with fun activities that will help you get to know me and your mentor group as well as familiarize you with various opportunities on and near DePauw's beautiful campus. Our mentor group activities will allow you to get your feet wet before jumping into classes. After orientation, our mentor group will continue to meet throughout the year at various activities around campus, to go out for dinner, or to just hang out somewhere.

I hope you are as pumped to come to DePauw as I am to meet you! Your four years will be an amazing experience in and outside the class room. The small classes will allow you to get close to your classmates and the amazing opportunities outside of class will help you get to know most people on campus. There are always fun things to do, such as Rugby games, the Monon football game, Marvins (the best fast food cheeseburgers ever), studying in the library or Julian with half the campus, staying up late watching movies and talking with friends when you should be studying, the Little 5 bike race, volunteering, and countless clubs and activities around campus

I hope you're excited! You have some amazing times ahead of you. Remember, you have the whole summer to relax with family and friends, so enjoy your time at home and strengthen those relationships before you make the trek to good old Greencastle, Indiana. If you have any questions or concerns at all, please email me, IM me, facebook me, or call me. Really, nothing is a bad question and no concern is unimportant. One of my favorite pastimes is talking about DePauw and the experiences I've had there, so just ask.

I am very excited for you to begin your college life at DePauw and am looking forward to meeting you soon!

-Dan Osterhage

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