Greetings from The University of Kansas and the HAWK Link program! As a new HAWK Link student, I am sure you are wondering just what you have signed up for. HAWK Link is an academic based program for first year students to help navigate the many resources and programs that The University of Kansas has to offer. What does that mean for you? This means the HAWK Link staff is here to assist you with your transition from high school to college. Our goal is for you to have a successful first year and to set the foundation as you matriculate to graduation. What does HAWK Link do to make sure that you have a successful first year? The components of the HAWK Link Program can be divided into three categories: Information, Support, and Resources.

**Information** – you have just received one of the many ways that we provide information – the HAWK Link Newsletter. The newsletter is sent out via e-mail on a monthly basis to inform you on what is going on with HAWK Link, various student organizations, and the university in general. In addition to the newsletter, we also send out email announcements of upcoming events, career information on internships and summer jobs, and sometimes we will even call you to remind you about upcoming events!

**Support** – the support that students receive from the HAWK Link staff is often one of the most valuable experiences their first year. The HAWK Link staff has an open door policy, which means you can stop in and discuss issues that you may encounter or just to let us know how you are doing. Each student is invited to come in for a scheduled one-on-one meeting at the beginning and middle of each semester. At this meeting you will be able to talk about classes, living in the residence halls, or being away from home. This is a great time for us to get to know you individually so that we can find the right resources for you.

**Resources** – from the PRE 101 class to the Writing Center, HAWK Link has the information you will need to be successful. The HAWK Link program also has a free tutoring and mentoring program, SOAR (Students Obtaining Academic Resources). We also have contacts in various offices on campus so that we can provide you with timely information. We are excited that you have joined the HAWK Link program and look forward to working with you this year. In this newsletter you will find information that will be important to you as you begin your college experience as a Jayhawk. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at any time! Have a great summer, and we’ll see you in August!

The HAWK Link Staff
Hawk Link Components

The following are some of the components of HAWK Link that you should take advantage of once you arrive on campus. Please take a moment to peruse each one of the services and/or programs that we provide for HAWK Link students. If you have any questions don’t hesitate to contact your HAWK Link guide at hawklink@ku.edu.

Hawk Week Events: Hawk Week is full of activities for new students, and HAWK Link sponsors two events specifically for HAWK Link students to welcome you to campus. The HAWK Link Block Party is held on Tuesday, August 15 from 10 PM – 12:30 AM on Wescoe Beach and is a time to come out and socialize with your new friends, meet other HAWK Link students, meet returning students, and also win some great prizes. Take Over the Beach is an information fair held on Wednesday, August 16 from 4:30 PM-7 PM on Wescoe Beach. This event is a chance for you to meet representatives from different student organizations, find a place to get involved, and meet other students. For more information on Hawk Week, visit http://www.hawkweek.ku.edu.

PRE 101 is an Orientation Seminar Course offered to all first year students at The University of Kansas. HAWK Link offers four sections of PRE 101 specifically geared toward HAWK Link students. The course is designed as an orientation to the university and the services and programs offered. The HAWK Link sections also have a special emphasis on issues of multiculturalism and diversity. One-on-One Meetings are a chance for student to come in and meet with their HAWK Link advisor during the first few weeks of the semester. The purpose of the meeting is to get to know you and to share with you valuable information so you can be successful at The University of Kansas. One-on-one’s are also a great time to get answers to any of your questions.
Hawk Link Components (cont.)

SOAR, or Students Obtaining Academic Resources is a free peer tutoring and mentoring program offered to HAWK Link students. SOAR counselors are upper-division students who have a special interest in helping HAWK Link students, and who have done well in their lower division classes. SOAR students meet with their counselor for one hour each week for tutoring. Each SOAR student chooses one course that they will be tutored in for the semester. Most of the SOAR session is spent receiving tutoring in that course, but peer-mentoring is also a component. The mentoring component, like the tutoring component is tailored to meet the needs of each individual student and may include information such as: time-management, note-taking strategies, study skills, transitioning to college life, or simply checking in and seeing how things are going. In addition to one-on-one tutoring/mentoring sessions, SOAR also holds group test-prep study sessions for several freshman-level courses throughout the year. Anyone may attend these group study sessions regardless of if they receive one-on-one tutoring from SOAR.

Academic Success Seminars are held once a month. This past year’s topics include Advising, Getting Involved, Career Services, and Financial Aid. The workshops last an hour and provide you with timely information to help you get the most out of KU. Mid-Semester Grade Checks are conducted around the 6th week of class. All HAWK Link students receive a Mid-Semester Grade Check form. Each student is asked to take the form to their instructors in order to track their academic progress for the semester. Once grade checks are completed, HAWK Link students then have an opportunity to meet with their HAWK Link advisor to discuss their progress and strategies for successful second half of the semester.

"Being able to have access to the Success Seminars was the most helpful part because it helped me make the transition to the college. HAWK Link also helped me prepare for the enrollment process."

TaMisha Banks, Newton, KS
PRE 101: More then a class!

Have you signed up for a PRE 101 class? HAWK Link offers four special sections of PRE 101 during the fall semester. The classes are not a requirement to be in HAWK Link, but we strongly encourage each student to take PRE 101. PRE 101 is an orientation seminar course that serves as an introduction to The University of Kansas and the many different resources and opportunities available to you. The HAWK Link sections have a special focus on diversity and multiculturalism. They are also a great way to get to know other HAWK Link students! If you have already attended an orientation and have not signed up for a PRE 101 class, you can still enroll after the first of August (if classes are still available). Call the HAWK Link office and let us know if you are interested and we will give you more information. If you have not yet attended orientation, be sure and let your HAWK Link Guide or your Academic Advisor know that you are interested in taking the class!

Hawk Week starts Sunday, August 13th and continues through Saturday, August 19th. Hawk Week is the official welcome week for students at The University of Kansas! It is full of fun, information, and programs that highlight the opportunities available to students at KU. Hawk Week events are a great way to meet new friends, learn about University offices, and get involved.

HAWK Link hosts two events during Hawk Week: The Block Party on Tuesday night August 15th and Take Over the Beach on Wednesday August 16th. Also, be sure and take a personal class tour during Hawk Week. Returning KU students will be available Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in front of the Strong Hall Jayhawk to take you on a personal class tour.

Be sure and check out the Hawk Week website for details on the two HAWK Link events as well as a list of all Hawk Week events [http://www.hawkweek.ku.edu](http://www.hawkweek.ku.edu)
**HAWK Link Staff**

**Juan Izaguirre** serves as the Assistant Director in the Office of Multicultural Affairs. Within his general duties, Juan supervises the nationally recognized HAWK Link program. He works closely with the students of the program in collaboration with KU staff, faculty, and departments to provide successful resources for the participants. Juan graduated with his Bachelor’s of Science in Secondary Education from the University of Nebraska in 2001 and earned his Master’s of Science in Higher Education. As a Program Assistant for the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

**Aida Garcia** is working to develop Transitions, the sophomore component of the HAWK Link Program. Aida is currently working on her Master’s in Curriculum & Instruction with an emphasis on English as a Second Language and Multicultural Education. She received her B.A. in Political Science from the University of Kansas.

**Rachel Balzer** serves as a Program Assistant for the Office of Multicultural Affairs. Within her general duties, she oversees the SOAR program, which is the tutoring/mentoring component of Hawk Link. Rachel earned her B.A. in Sociology with a concentration in Social Policy from the University of Kansas in 2005. Her areas of interest include inequity in education and multicultural issues.

**2006 HAWK Link Guides**

HAWK Link Guides are upper division students who have completed the HAWK Link program. They work for the HAWK Link program during the summer to help recruit students into HAWK Link, meet students during orientation, make sure HAWK Link students are getting all their questions answered, and plan the Hawk Week activities. This year’s HAWK Link Guides are: Jheri Bermudez, Veronica Dowthard, Jessica Fleming, DeAndrea Herron, Christopher Reine, Ryan Rowan & Anniesha Scott.

“HAWK Link is a helpful and beneficial program that helps students become adjusted to the collegiate atmosphere. The HAWK Link guides were always willing to help or support the students in any way that they could.”

BJ McIntosh, Wichita, KS
Office of Multicultural Affairs

Hawk Link is housed in the Office of Multicultural Affairs. The primary objective of the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) is to enhance the educational experience and opportunities of all students, but more specifically African American, Asian American, Hispanic American and Native American students. Special emphasis is placed on promoting student retention by sponsoring programs that address the needs of students on a personal, academic, social and cultural level. The OMA is located at 145 Strong. Contact the OMA at 845-4351 or online at www.oma.ku.edu

Multicultural Resource Center

The Multicultural Resource Center (MRC) was established to promote an educational environment that recognizes and celebrates the diverse composition of campus population. The focus of the MRC is to serve as a primary resource for developing cultural sensitivity through the curriculum and other academic programs and to assure that the social and classroom environment of the campus is inclusive with respect to the cultural, racial, ethnic, religious and other differences represented in the diverse University community. Contact the MRC at 845-4350 or online at: http://www2.ku.edu/~mrc/

Cultural Student Organizations

The OMA & MRC offer organizational advising & co-sponsor various cultural events with student organizations. Fund raising ideas are offered to interested organizations. Asian American Student Union (AASU) Black Student Union (BSU) First Nations Student Association (FNSA) Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO) & National Pan-Hellenic Council which is the governing body of our Student of Color Greek Organizations, which include Alpha Kappa Alpha, Alpha Phi Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Phi Beta Sigma, Sigma Lambda Beta, Sigma Lambda Gamma & Zeta Phi Beta. For more information on any of these organizations, please visit: www.oma.ku.edu