



Elaine Turner with Tracy Hoover.

November 13, 2016

The Deans are in Austin for the annual meeting of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU). We found some unique flora on the walking trails along Lady Bird Lake.



Top Public Schools National Universities

**BEST
COLLEGES**

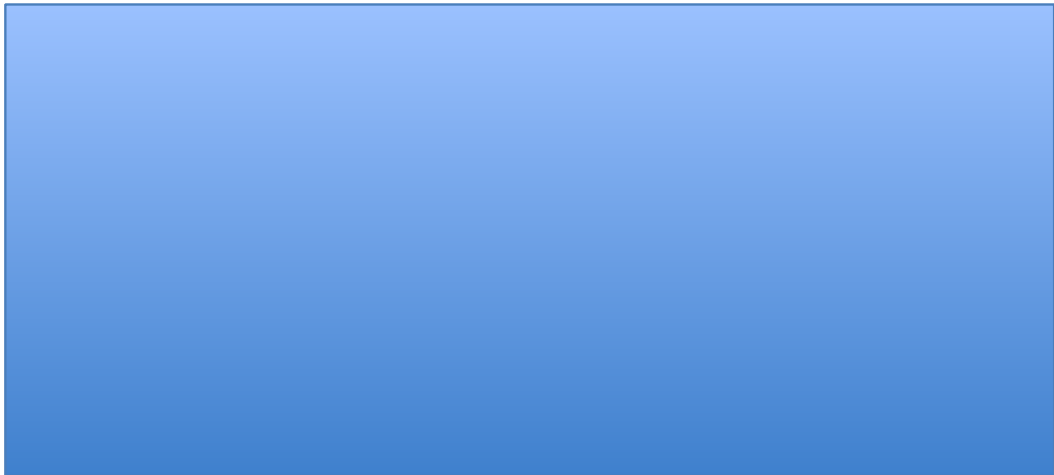
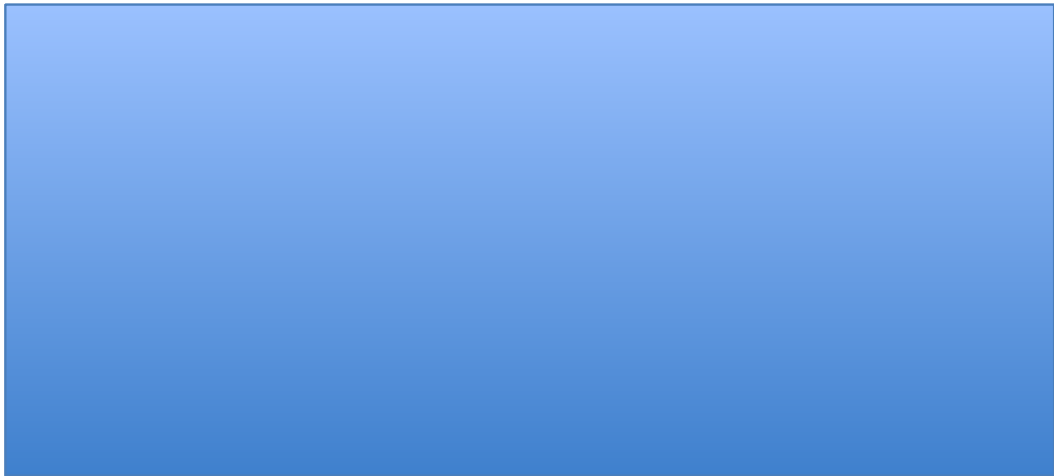
U.S. News


RANKINGS



≠

The Blue and Orange Initiative coupled two courses of similar content and delivery style

A screenshot of a Facebook post from the 'OB Initiative' page, dated January 25. The post features a profile picture of a building and contains the following text: 'Have you wondered what kind of topics are discussed in HORT150 and ORH1030? Here are some of the discussions for both classes this semester! If you got to learn about a subject from the other class, which one would you choose?'. Below the text, the post is divided into two vertical blue rectangular sections, which appear to be placeholders for images or content.

 **OB Initiative**
January 25

Have you wondered what kind of topics are discussed in HORT150 and ORH1030? Here are some of the discussions for both classes this semester! If you got to learn about a subject from the other class, which one would you choose?

Some ways to foster the development of this information exchange included the following:

1. Encourage student interactions between HORT 150 and ORH 1030 through a common Facebook site.
2. Provide students with extra credit opportunities to facilitate interactions between students in each course and to become plant friends.
3. Exchange plant material between the courses
4. Initiate the Blue and Orange Faculty and Student Exchange

1. Encourage student interactions between HORT 150 and ORH 1030 through a common Facebook site.

The image shows a screenshot of a Facebook group page for the "Blue and Orange Initiative". The page is divided into several sections:

- Left Sidebar:** Contains the group name "Blue and Orange Initiative", "Public Group", navigation tabs for "Discussion", "Members", "Events", "Videos", "Photos", and "Manage Group", a search bar, and "Shortcuts" for "Collegiate Plant Initiative", "Blue and Orange Initiative", and another "Blue and Orange Initiative".
- Top Post:** A comment by Nicole Jennings on a photo by Virginia Frazier (September 30, 2016). The photo is a banner for the "BLUE & ORANGE PLANT SCIENCE INITIATIVE" with a leaf pattern.
- Middle Post:** A comment by Nicole Jennings (October 1, 2016) saying "Oh my gosh you already changed it to initiative... youre killing me hahaha".
- Bottom Post:** A post by Virginia Frazier (September 30, 2016) welcoming members and providing sign-in links for Penn State and UF students.
- Right Sidebar:** Shows "MEMBERS" (399 Members), "DESCRIPTION" (group purpose), "GROUP TYPE" (Project), "TAGS" (University of Florida, Pennsylvania State University, Horticulture), and "LOCATION" (Gainesville, Florida).
- Main Image:** A large photo of a woman holding a tray of colorful plants, with a smaller photo of a purple flower and a bowl of red tomatoes below it.

Natural Blue Orange Comparisons/Contrasts



Jelena Novaković

November 7, 2016

Fall is beautiful in State College 🍂



Like Comment Share

You and 3 others



Lexi Cunio

November 7, 2016

It's a beautiful, sunny, palm tree-filled day here in Gainesville!
#orangechallenge



Like Comment Share

You and 3 others

Natural Blue Orange Comparisons/Contrasts



Tarrah Geszvain

January 31 · State College, PA

Scenes from my office at PSU today! One of our students just repotted my Gator Glory coleus for me. How nice! And as much as we "complain" about snow, it is pretty, isn't it?



Like Comment Share

You and 3 others



OB Initiative in Gainesville, Florida.

February 1

Hey Blue ! I just thought I'd send you a sun bolt picture over my greenhouse this morning. This is where we have 76,000 coleus seedlings growing right now - LOTS of photosynthesis going on for sure! Have a great day and stay warm! Dave



Like Comment Share

5

2. Provide students with extra credit opportunities to facilitate interactions between students in each course and to become plant friends.

 **Virginia Frazier**
January 9

Here are a few highlights from our first challenge last semester! Penn State showed us beautiful fall color while Florida took shots of local palms.



 Like  Comment  Share

 5



OB Initiative

January 23

Okay Blue....here's our window of opportunity to share with the Orange some winterscape pictures of our campus. We're having snow/sleet/freezing rain tonight and snow tomorrow. So if you post a picture of campus in snow you will receive 2 pts extra credit on either your midterm or final. Let the posts begin. Also if we get too fast of a thaw (and lose our snow) and you can't get a good picture then a post a picture of a green plant/tree/bush from campus and the extra credit will still apply. Dennis

**BLUE CHALLENGE OF
THE WEEK:**

**Post Pictures of Campus in
Winter**

#BlueChallenge #BlueOrangeInitiative

Extra Credit Opportunities

Season Challenges

Ex. Fall



OB Initiative

November 2, 2016

Blue Challenge of the Week: The foliage season is at peak in Central PA. I am challenging the Penn State students to post pictures of the colorful foliage around campus and State College. 2 extra credit points towards either your midterm or final will be awarded to each person who posts.
Dennis Decoteau

Like Comment Share

You and 3 others



Jake Levenson

November 2, 2016

We might not have palm trees, but it's still gorgeous in PA



Like Comment Share

You and 9 others



Nicolette Zangara We don't have much fall color here. I'm originally from Chicago and those trees look like home to me 😊

Like · Reply · 1 · November 2, 2016 at 9:47am



Becky Moccia

November 2, 2016

Bright colored tree in PA



Like Comment Share

You and 6 others



Meg Arahill in Gainesville, Florida.

November 2, 2016

UF sending tropical vibes~ #orangechallenge



Like Comment Share

You and 1 other

Extra Credit Opportunities

Season Challenges

Ex. Winter



OB Initiative
February 9

Good Morning Orange...It's a beautiful morning in Happy Valley. Six inches of fresh snow and a relatively unheard of 2 hour delay for Penn State. Life doesn't get much better than that for us. Have a great day and best wishes.

Blue members feel free to post your own photos of the new snow.

Dennis



Like Comment Share



Arie Cruz
January 30

It's a cool, sunny day today. Time to study at Library West!



Like Comment Share

Extra Credit Opportunities

Season Challenges

Ex. Spring



OB Initiative
April 6 at 11:48am

The next Blue Challenge of the Week is actually for the next two weeks. First of all I wish all the Blue Orange a successful last couple of weeks of the semester. For the Blue, I have appreciated and enjoyed spending the last 12 weeks or so with you.

The Blue Challenge is to document newly emerging/growing or budding out/greening plants on campus. This could be bushes and trees budding/flowering or bulbs flowering. Just continue to use your imagination. Please label your picture so we can enjoy your post appropriately. I borrowed the attached photo from the Penn State website (please only submit original photos for the extra credit)

2 extra credit points towards either your midterm or final will be awarded to each person who posts.

Thanks again for all that you have done this semester.

Sincerely and with much respect. Dennis



Mikayla Gates Carbaugh
April 8

Snapped this photo outside of the Life Science Building yesterday.. enjoying the new buds and blossoms springing up around campus!
#Bluechallenge



Like
You and 3 others



Sarah Lucas
April 12

Beaver Stadium!



Like
You and 3 others



Michaela Cilea
April 11

Found some flowers starting to bloom in the arboretum!



Like **Comment** **Share**
You and 8 others



Bari Miller
April 11

Went to UCF's campus the other day and saw this beautiful budding tree with yellow flowers



Like **Comment** **Share**
You and 3 others

Extra Credit Opportunities

Holiday Challenges

Ex. Thanksgiving

 **Virginia Frazier**
November 21, 2016

Hey Blue and Orange: Remember to look at your surroundings during this upcoming break, and capture any images you would like to share with the group for the [#BlueChallenge](#) or [#OrangeChallenge](#). You can also take pictures of your holiday meal with your favorite food containing plants for both challenges!

Also keep in mind that this week is a great opportunity to connect with others and become Plant Pals! You can turn this holiday into FriendsGiving, all while you help this group grow.

Most importantly, have fun and stay safe!





 Like  Comment  Share

 You and 1 other

 **Shana Fitz**
November 27, 2016

This year we used plants as decorations to set the table before thanksgiving, as seen on this place setting.



 Like  Comment  Share

Extra Credit Opportunities

Milestone Challenges

Ex. Spring Break



OB Initiative

March 3

The next Blue Challenge of the Week is actually for next week (Spring Break here at Penn State) #BlueChallenge:

First of all I wish all the members of the Blue Orange Initiative a restful Spring Break (if you're traveling to a warm tropical location - like Florida - or on a school or church mission trip, or spending time with family and friends back home, please be safe). We look forward to seeing you back on campus after the break for the final half of the semester.

The Blue Challenge is for during break and it is to document a festive use of plants at your home or hometown or wherever you are spending next week. This could be an ornamental use such as cut flowers to brighten the home atmosphere or your favorite food from plants (mashed potatoes or pumpkin pie as examples). Just continue to use your imagination. Family members or friends in the pictures are encouraged but not required. Please label your picture so we can enjoy your post appropriately.

2 extra credit points towards either your midterm or final will be awarded to each person who posts.

Please have a great break and thanks for all that you have done this semester.

Sincerely and with much respect. Dennis



Like



Comment



Share



Rachel Ram

March 9

On my break I am volunteering at 180 Degree Farm, helping to grow healthy food for cancer patients. This is the cancer fighting herb garden that we just weeded!



Like



Comment



Share

You and 12 others



Rebekah Mooneyhan

March 11

Gorgeous orchid we saw at the top of the Mombacho volcano in Nicaragua



Like



Comment



Share

You and 4 others



OB Initiative Wow!!! This is beautiful Rebekah.. Is this vacation or a mission trip or home? ...Dennis

Like · Reply · 1 · March 11 at 3:18pm

OB Initiative replied · 2 Replies



Emily Wolfskill

March 11 · Robesonia, PA

I live on a big farm, so I see plants wherever I roam 🤔 the pictures are of our switchgrass we grow, and of my entire home/farmland. People wonder why I call State a city 🤔



Like



Comment



Share

You and 4 others

But not everything worked – surprise!!!



Virginia Frazier

November 1, 2016

Wondering how to make a Plant Pal? Just follow the easy steps in this graphic.

Make sure to tag your posts and comments #Blue or #Orange to make finding a friend even easier!



Like Comment Share

3



Like Comment Share

9

So alternatives were developed

Student Postcards



ORH1030 SPRING 2017

Student thoughts



Virginia Frazier

March 27

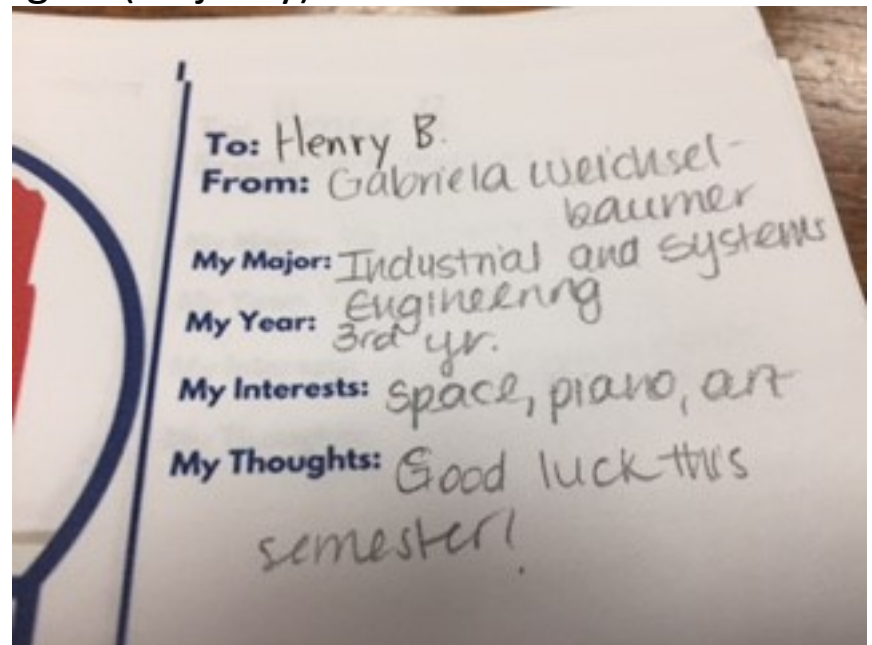
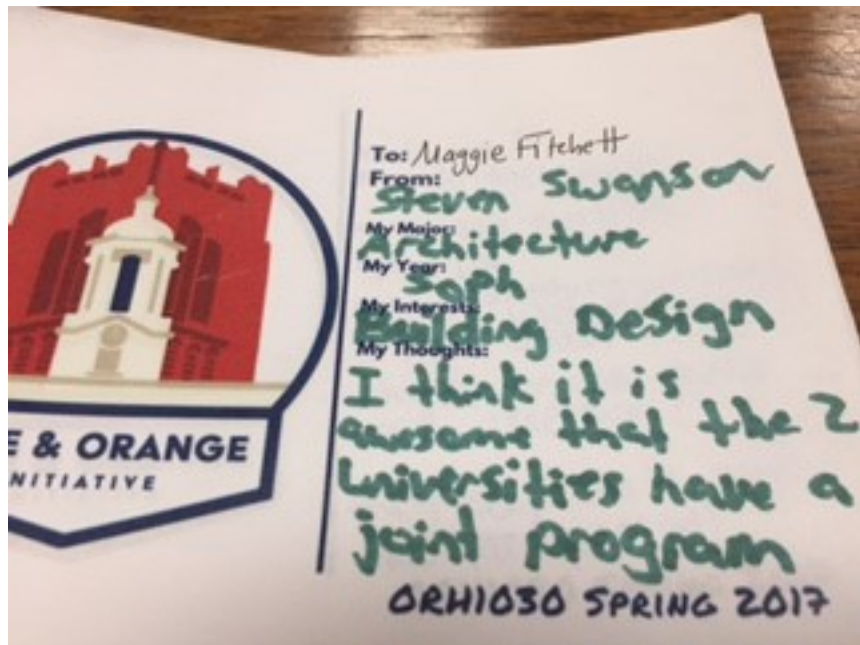
I've been sorting through all of the postcards from Penn State, I have to say there are a lot of great artists in HORT150! They are now all sorted (mostly) alphabetically so ORH1030 can find their new plant pal 😊



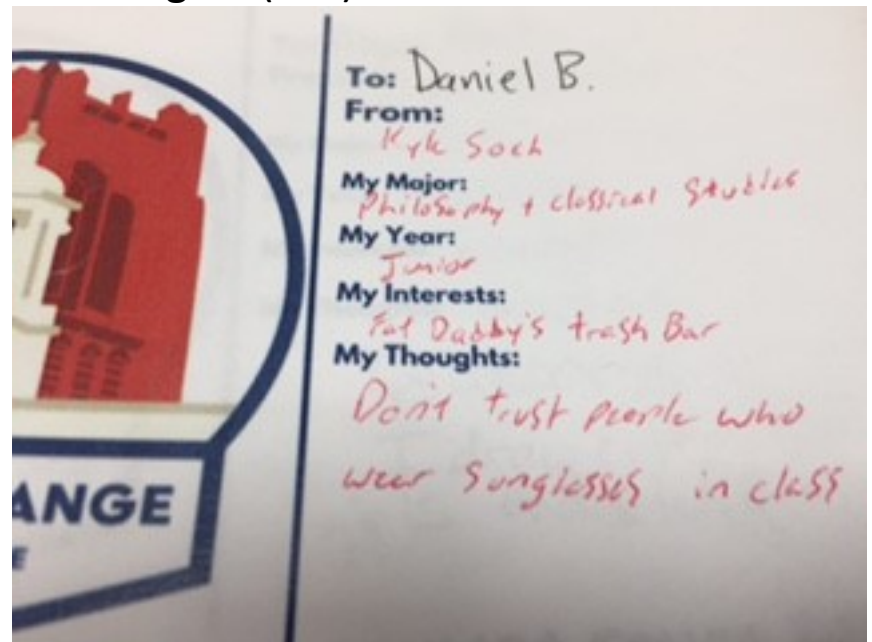
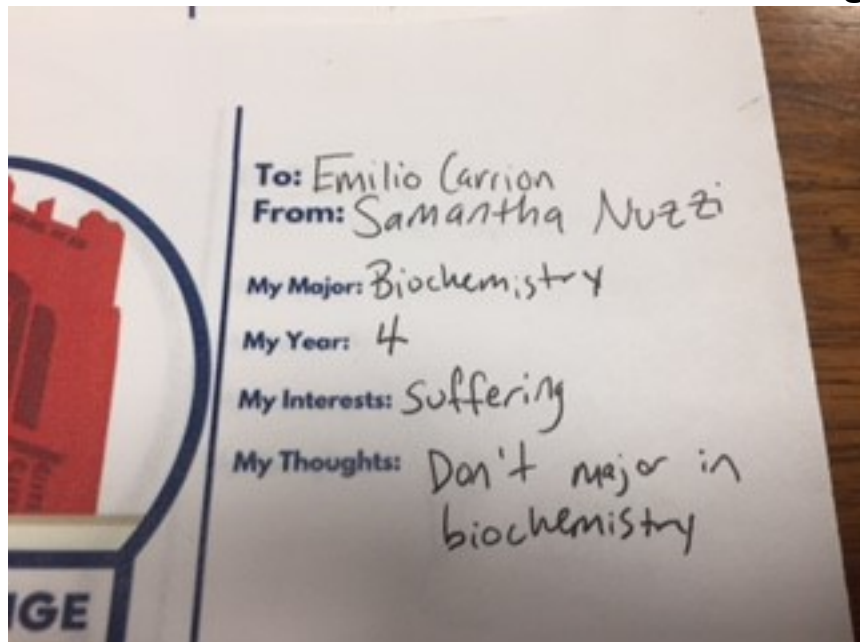
Like Comment Share

You and 8 others


Positive Thoughts (majority)



Concerned Insightful Thoughts (???)



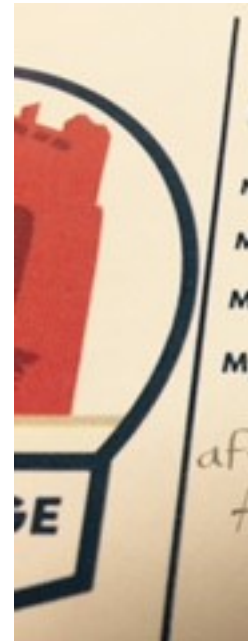
Helpless Thoughts (only a few thankfully)



To: Julianna M.
From: Megan L.
My Major: Archaeology
My Year: (class of '17) Senior
My Interests: Knitting, writing novels, mermaids,
My Thoughts: School is really hard, and sometimes doesn't seem worth the stress, but other days it does. Jesus

ORANGE
FIVE

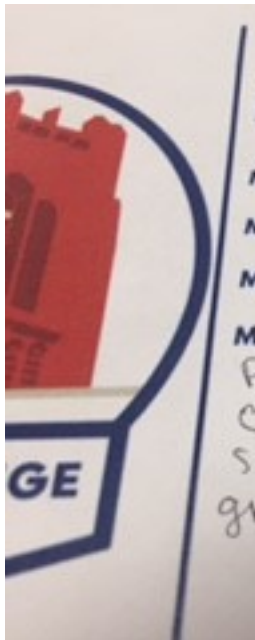
ORANGE FIVE SPRING 2017



To: Elizabeth M.
From: Dylan Girard
My Major: Electrical engineering
My Year: Senior
My Interests: Hockey, electronics, Comedy
My Thoughts: I have an exam after this class that is going to wreck me. Please help

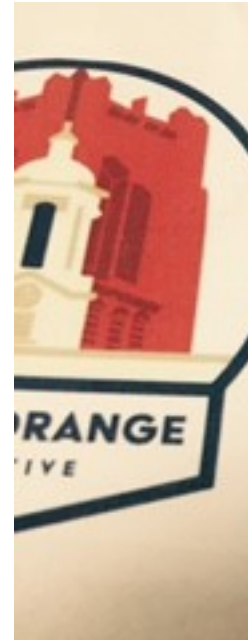
ORANGE
FIVE

Out of the Box – Maybe You Know This Person Thoughts (most enjoyable)



To: Mandy C.
From: Morgan O'Donnell
My Major: Nursing
My Year: Sophomore
My Interests: Soccer, dance, running
My Thoughts: my cousin goes to Penn State! His name is Clay so tell him hi if you see him. Hope you have a great day U

ORANGE
FIVE



To: Morgan S.
From: Andrew Kuczynski
My Major: Comp. Engineering
My Year: SO
My Interests: Ice Hockey
My Thoughts: If you know either Pablo Pencherrera or Dylan Cane, please send them my regards. I know it's a big school but maybe you know them. Maybe.

ORANGE
FIVE

ORANGE FIVE SPRING 2017

3. Exchange plant material between the courses



OB Initiative

November 30, 2016

Blue Coleus Semester Long Extra Credit Assignment:

Blue members now is the time to show off your Gator Glory coleus plants that you have been growing since the beginning of the semester!

Here's how it will work for the Blue:

- 1) A successful upload of a current picture of your plant within this post (and not in a new post) by this Sunday (December 4) at midnight will get you 5 extra credit points towards either your midterm or final.
- 2) The coleus picture with the most likes from members of the Orange (Blue votes will not be allowed) by next Weds (Dec. 7) will get an additional 5 points and will be designated the "Best in Show for Fall 2016". In event of a tie Dennis and Dave will cast the tiebreaker.
- 3) The most creative in how you show your plant (such as in a shoe, glass, trumpet, etc.) will also be awarded 5 additional points and will be designated as "Coolest in Show". The winner will be decided on by Dennis and Dave at the conclusion of the posting.

Here's what I am asking from the Orange:

That you serve as judges and vote for the best looking plant by "liking" individual pictures of the posted coleus plants . Each Orange member has a maximum of 3 likes that they can use. Let the competition begin....



Like

Comment

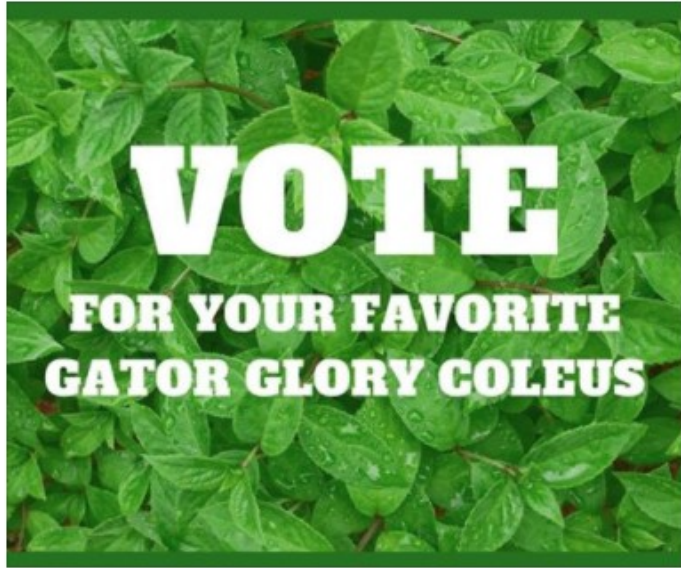
Share

You and 10 others



Virginia Frazier
December 2, 2016

Remember to vote for your favorite Gator Glory coleus before the end of the semester. Help out your Plant Pals at Penn State University and give the best photos a like!



Like Comment



Bo Conaghan
December 7, 2016

He's still killin it



Jelena Novaković in State College, Pennsylvania.
December 5, 2016

Here is my coleus I really enjoyed growing it 🌱



Like Comment Share



Erik Boyer
December 4, 2016

The important thing is my plant is still alive.

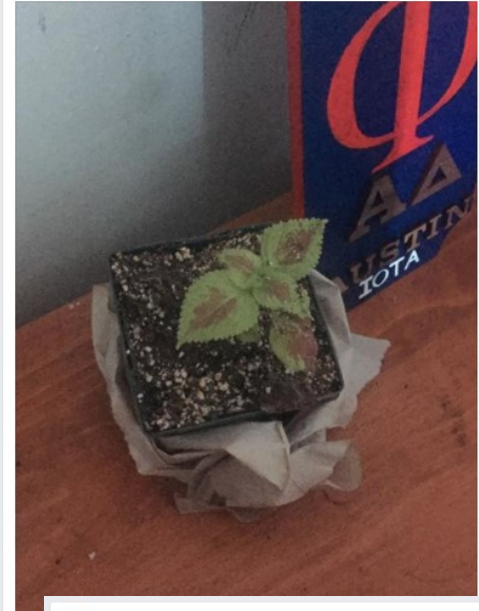


Like Comment Share



Robert Al-Moustafa
December 4, 2016 · State College, PA

I guess this is what happens when you forget to water your plant before thanksgiving break. At least the plant survived.



John Reid
December 4, 2016

First plant I think I've actually had that has grown



John Reid updated his profile picture.
November 14, 2016 · 📍



Share



A real life Apples to Oranges Comparison

Part 1. "Nittany" Apples to Florida



Virginia Frazier
October 27, 2016

Thanks for the apples, Penn State!
Orange members, how did they taste?



Like Comment Share

18

Like Comment Share

View 4 more comments



Tashauna Homz It was very very good!

Like · Reply · November 1, 2016 at 4:19pm



OB Initiative 'Nittany' Apple Pie - DELICIOUS!!!



Like · Reply · 2 · November 1, 2016 at 7:25pm

out the first 'Nittany' apple from Penn State. Dr. David Clark, who teaches the UF course, has earned a national Innovative Teaching Award with Penn State for this project. #ufcals #plantscience #innovativeteaching

Like Comment Share

7

A real life Apples to Oranges Comparison

Part 2. Oranges to Penn State



OB Initiative

November 28, 2016

Orange Day for the Blue..."So there's this really great class in Florida who has done something incredible for us."



Like Comment Share

You and 1 other

Like Comment Share



Zech McPhearson

November 16, 2016

Thankyou for the Florida Oranges! #UF



Strawberry Ice Cream for the Blue in Honor of Dave's Lecture in Florida



OB Initiative
February 1

Blue...The Strawberry Ice Cream is in the house. Dave's lecture for tomorrow in Gainesville is "All About Strawberries". So to allow us (the Blue) to feel a part of his lecture he has graciously provided for us to get Strawberry Penn State Creamery Ice Cream for class today.

Orange....As Dave will attest (since he's an alumnus of Penn State) Penn State Creamery Ice Cream is some of the best in the world. It's a little known fact (if you're not from Penn State) that Ben and Jerry learned how to make ice cream from a Creamery short course (Oh what would life be like without Cherry Garcia?).

Thank you Dave and the Orange for such a nice gift. Lecture is at 2:30 today (when the Blue will get their ice cream) so soon after class I'll try to post pictures of the Blue with their treats.

Thanks again...Dennis



Like Comment Share

You and 13 others



OB Initiative
February 1

The strawberry ice cream was fantastic and was well appreciated on a winter day. Thank you Dave and the Orange again. Here are some pics of us and our treats....Dennis




Like Comment Share






You and 3 others

Again not everything worked

Strawberry Ice Cream sent to the Orange

 **OB Initiative**
February 6

One of the best things about Penn State's Creamery is that they will ship to Florida! Orange, which of these five flavors look the best to you?

 <p>PENN STATE BERKEY CREAMERY STRAWBERRY ICECREAM</p>	 <p>PENN STATE BERKEY CREAMERY VANILLA ICECREAM</p>
 <p>PENN STATE BERKEY CREAMERY PEACH ICECREAM</p>	 <p>PENN STATE BERKEY CREAMERY CHOCOLATE ICECREAM</p>
	 <p>PENN STATE BERKEY CREAMERY CHOCOLATE MARBLE</p>

Like Comment Share

11

Dennis,

Don't make it a round of PSU ice cream because it doesn't travel very well (attached) ☺

Come to think of it, I guess you probably wouldn't hold up in a Styrofoam box for 5 days either!

Dave



4. Initiate the Blue and Orange Faculty and Student Exchange



Virginia Frazier shared UF College of Agricultural and Life Sciences's photo.

February 23

The word is getting out about the Blue and Orange Initiative!



UF College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
February 23

Like Page

We are pleased to welcome Penn State Department of Plant Science Blue & Orange Initiative students and faculty to our campus today! Thank you adviser Tarrah Geszvain, Prof. Dennis Decoteau, and student Katelyn Brouse for visiting our greenhouse facilities and Dr. Clark's Plants, Gardening and You courses.



Like



Comment



Share



You and 21 others

The Blue was in Orange's house *and it was fun (and educational)!*



OB Initiative in Gainesville, Florida.

February 24

The blackboard says it all. To the Blue: this Dr. Dave Clark - one of the best college lecturers (and an even better friend) that you'll ever meet. He will be visiting us next Fall with some of his Orange students and staff. With Tarrah Geszvain and Katelyn Brouse.



Like Comment Share

11



OB Initiative in Gainesville, Florida.

February 24

This is a picture from before lecture #2 in Gainesville and the entire Orange class is saying "Welcome friends" to the Blue. How cool is that? If only my phone was on video. Thank you. With Tarrah Geszvain and Katelyn Brouse



Like Comment Share

18

It was a true cultural exchange for Katelyn

OB Initiative
February 24

Undergrad Hort 150 TA and Pennsylvanian Katelyn Brouse wanted to see alligators during the Blue exchange at Orange. Dave was willing to provide that experience with wildlife major Nicole Jennings helping to lead the way at La Chua Trail - Paynes Prairie State Preserve. Thankfully everyone made it back with all limbs attached.




NOTICE
ALLIGATORS ARE COMMON ALONG THIS TRAIL. THEY CAN BE DANGEROUS AND SHOULD NOT BE APPROACHED, FRIGHTENED OR FED. PLEASE GIVE THEM THE RESPECT THAT THEY DESERVE. KEEP YOUR DISTANCE.

Like Comment Share

You and 12 others

Virginia Frazier
February 26

Katelyn getting her first look at some Gainesville gators!



Like Comment Share

You and 10 others

OB Initiative Three plane tickets round trip from State College to Gainesville = \$____.00, Rerouted ticket to Jacksonville when we missed our connection in Miami to Gainesville = threatened \$200 per ticket by the airline but we talked them out of by looking desperate, Rental car from Jacksonville to Gainesville = \$160.00 (for a minivan even though there were only 3 of us but it was their smallest vehicle available, Ugh!!!), Katelyn seeing the gators and our visit with the Orange = PRICELESS!!!
Like · Reply · 2 · February 26 at 8:28pm · Edited

OB Initiative An even better shot of Katelyn Brouse seeing gators:
https://youtu.be/Q_PxZIOFY8

Katelyn is about to be Gator Bait!
Katelyn visited UF representing "Blue" from the Blue and Orange Initiative. When she...
YOUTUBE.COM

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · 2 · February 27 at 2:24pm

Write a comment...

Why the Orange visit is set for the Fall



OB Initiative
January 31

Dear Orange. This is Tyson Building - home to about 1/2 of the Plant



Like Comment Share

You and 7 others



Rebecca Hamilton
November 11, 2016



Like Comment Share

You and 4 others

Results - Overall

- The Blue and Orange Initiative effectively coupled two courses of similar content and delivery style from Penn State University and the University of Florida to improve the student experience at both universities.



Results – Student Activity

- Over 400 students joined the Facebook group since it was initiated during the 10th week of the Fall semester.
 - This resulted in 472 posts from 157 authors with 690 comments and 2600 likes of posts.



Results – Student Interactions

- Partnerships among students occurred through extra credit opportunities in a combined class Facebook site focused on
 - plant-based challenges (PSU fall color versus Florida palm trees),
 - plant and fruit exchanges (PSU apples to Florida and Florida citrus to PSU), and



Interactions leading to PSU and UF students becoming Blue and Orange Plant Pals (BOPPs).



The student postcards



Results - Exchanges

- Representatives from the Blue visited the University of Florida during the Spring semester to gain a better understanding of the ORH 1030 class dynamic and make personal connections with the 235 Orange students



Results – Student Comments

- Quantitative and open-ended questions from the course evaluations indicated that
 - the students from both universities enjoyed the hands on activities and friendly atmosphere,
 - the common interest and experiences in growing plants for class, and
 - appreciate the crossover information between liberal arts and science.



The word is getting out

 **OB Initiative**
November 16, 2016

This Blue Orange thing is growing. Who knew there were games already. This is from the Chick Fil A in State College. Go Blue Orange.....Dennis



kids meals  look for choices under 350 cal

Include a small side, kid's size drink + a special surprise

entrees		sides	
A Chick-fil-A® Nuggets		Waffle Potato Fries	
4-ct 3.59 130 cal		\$310 cal	
6-ct 4.39 190 cal			
B Grilled Nuggets 		Fruit Cup 	
4-ct 4.05 70 cal		\$35 cal	
6-ct 5.05 110 cal			
C Chick-n-Strips™		Cinnamon Apple Sauce 	
1-ct 3.25 120 cal		60 cal	
2-ct 4.45 230 cal			

BLUE ORANGE GAMES
Collect all 5

or look for BEYONCÉ, FLO, SHANEKA BUCKLEY for more to add yours!

Like Comment Share

5



Special Thanks



This is how the Blue ended the Fall Semester
Sending our appreciation to the Orange



Thanks to you!