**Student Support Services**

The Pinnacle

**“Our mission is to support you in your success.”**

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# From Murphy Student Services Center

Patricia Staskiel, Coordinator TRIO SSS

I’m sure that everyone is familiar with the old joke, “If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?” The answer is, “Pilgrims, of course!” I am hoping that any showers we see in April are rain showers, not snow showers! While April showers may bring flowers, April brings about a calendar full of activities in SSS and on campus. Check out both the SSS and campus calendars to learn what’s taking place this month.

If you are a sophomore, be sure to join Gail Stevens on Thursday, April 2nd as she presents an informational session on making the move to University Park. Gail will share practical ideas on how to make a smooth transition from our campus to University Park. Our 16th annual White Elephant Sale takes place on Thursday, the 16th in the Commons. Prizes are on display at 10:30, with the drawings starting at 12:30. Come support this fundraiser; there are lots of great prizes! Heather Paris will offer useful tips for preparing for an interview on Tuesday, April 21st. I know many of you are searching for summer job and internships; Heather’s session is one that you don’t want to miss! Patty will provide hints for planning for final exams on Thursday, the 23rd. Organization of materials is key, so come and see how you can make finals week a little less stressful.

Tuesday the 28th we will hold our traditional SSS Year End Celebration at Apple Tree Terrace in Dallas. I’m especially pleased to announce that our guest speaker will be SSS and Penn State Wilkes-Barre alum Jacqueline Tona. Watch the mail for your invitation, and be sure to RSVP that you’ll be coming to this event as we honor the successes of our students.

Finally, stop by the SSS area on Wednesday and Thursday, April 29th and 30th from noon until 1:30 as we bring back “Chillin’ Out.” We will provide drinks and snacks and lots of fun to help you de-stress as the semester comes to a close and you gear up for finals. Come and relax for a while in SSS!

I am hopeful that we will have warm weather and lots of sun this month, but no matter what you find outside your window, you can always count on SSS to provide the perfect environment for you to complete your assignments and find answers to your questions as the end of the academic year approaches. All of us in SSS are looking forward to seeing you this month. ◊

16th Annual White Elephant Sale to be held on Thursday, April 16th

Come join us for the annual SSS fundraiser! For those of you unfamiliar with the White Elephant Sale, it is similar to a silent auction, where people purchase tickets for a chance to win one of many items. Some of the items are “gently used” while others are brand new. All of the items are donated by students, staff, faculty, and businesses from the community. Some of prizes this year include gift cards to Grotto Pizza, Pizza Perfect, McDonald’s, Walmart and more. We have a beautiful Penn State wreath, Dolce and Gabbana perfume, and terrific baskets.

The proceeds from the sale support the SSS Student Legacy Award, which is given to three first semester students in attendance at the Welcome Barbeque in the fall. At the barbeque this past September, SSS was pleased to present three students with book store certificates in the amount of $125 each.

Prizes will be displayed in the Student Commons at 10:30 and the drawing for prizes will begin promptly at 12:30 p.m. We hope to see everyone in the Commons on April 16th! ◊

Math Matters

How many ways can the manager of a baseball team construct a lineup from nine starters!

Submit your solution by email to (adc15@psu.edu) or in the SSS office (Murphy Center 109). Correct solutions received by April 24th) will receive 1 activity point from SSS. ◊

— Anson Carter, Instructor in Mathematics

Active SSS Students

To baseball fans there is no better time of the year than April and the start of the season. Even with cold, damp weather, the sun always is shining if you are playing or watching a game. This year, eight members of the PSU Wilkes-Barre baseball team are SSS participants; Eric Adamczyk, Frank Brodi, Jeff Carter, Marty Cirelli, Danny Costantino, Carlos Osario, Dean Stewart and Eric Williams. Good luck to all the athletes at PSU Wilkes-Barre. ◊

Grammar Tip: Quotation Marks

Quotation marks follow periods or commas at the end of a sentence, but go before a colon or semi-colon. Quotation marks can also follow a question mark or exclamation point unless the entire sentence is a question or exclamation.

Ex:

The professor asked, “Are you tired?”
The student replied, “Yes.”
Did she say, “Yes”?
The instructor often told students that “patience is a virtue”; however, he was not a patient man. These are, in my opinion, “the greats”: John Donne, Kahlil Gibran, and James Redfield.

One exception to the rule for commas and periods is the MLA Style for parenthetical documentation. If you’re quoting a source and citing that source in parentheses at the end of the sentence, the period should follow the parentheses.

Ex:

In Free Culture Lawrence Lessig claims, “the Internet should at least force us to rethink the conditions under which the law of copyright automatically applies” (140). ◊

— Marilyn Olenick, English Tutor

Event Calendar for April 2015

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|  |  |  | 1 | 2**From Wilkes-Barreto University ParkSophomores OnlyAre You Ready?Noon-AC107** | 3 | 4 |
| 5**Happy Easter** | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16**White Elephant SaleNoon-Student Commons** | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21**Preparing for that Interview****Noon-AC107** | 22 | 23**Ace Those FinalsNoon-AC107** | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28**Year End Celebration6:00 PMNewberry Estates Dallas** | 29**Chillin’ OutNoon-SSS Murphy Center** | 30**Chillin’ OutNoon-SSS Murphy Center** |  |  |

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