**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

We’ve made it through the month of January, dealing with cold temperatures, snow and ice, the start of a new semester and our new year’s resolution. February is a good time to step back and see what we can do for ourselves now that the new year/new semester is well underway. For those students who began their studies at PSU in the fall of 2012 or spring of 2013, **February 13th** is the deadline for the **Entrance to Major** application. Be sure that you have declared your major and campus location by visiting eLion and entering the necessary information. Take care of this early so that you can cross it off your “to do” list and free up some time for other things. If you have questions about the ETM process stop by SSS on **February 3rd** for our **ETM workshop**.

**February 14th** is **Valentine’s Day**; most people think of hearts and flowers, candy and sweethearts. This year, why not consider treating yourself? Plan your work/study schedule so that you can have an extra night free from those activities. Treat yourself to some extra time doing something you enjoy, like visiting the gym, watching a movie, going out with friends or maybe finishing that book you started reading over the winter break. And don’t forget to have a piece of chocolate!

On **February 12th** Stacey Zelinka will present a workshop on managing the **FAFSA** process. See how easy applying for financial aid can be. On **February** **20th**, SSS will hold a financial literacy workshop, **Managing Your Summer Finances**. Many students depend on their summer job to help finance their fall and spring semesters. Attend this workshop and gain tips to help you budget your summer earnings. Learn the strategies for composing an impressive resume by attending our **Resume Writing workshop** on **February 24th**.

Take advantage of the events held in SSS this month, complete the Entrance to Major application early in the month, and plan a treat (or two!) for yourself in order to acknowledge Valentine’s Day. Make February a month where you will be good to yourself! ◊

# The Benefits of Good Note Taking

As all students know, tests usually cover material that the instructor has presented in class. As a result, it is very important to have thorough and organized classroom notes from which to study. Linda O’Brien, in her book How to Get Good Grades in College, offers six steps to follow when taking classroom notes. First, be an active listener. To take good notes, you must focus on the speaker and actively listen to what is being said. Next, take notes to help you pay attention. We can think much faster than we can talk, and as a result, our mind sometimes wanders when we are listening to a lecture. Taking notes helps us stay focused and pay attention to what is being said. O’Brien’s third step is to recognize important information. Instructors often speak louder, speak slower, and/or offer verbal cues, such as “the most important point,” as they lecture. In your notes, be sure to underline, highlight or put some sort of notation besides the most important information. This will be a great help to you later on, when it is time to review the notes. In addition, students should take notes that are easy to read. Always date and number the pages within your notebooks. Write on only one side of the page; this frees space for additional comments, questions and your own notes as you study. Be sure to leave spaces between new ideas and topics; your notes will be easier to understand this way. Use symbols and abbreviations when possible; this will help you take notes faster. Just be sure to remember what those abbreviations mean! The fifth step is to review your notes as soon as possible. Ideally, it is best to go over your notes right after class while the material is still fresh in your mind. This gives you a chance to make additional comments, clarify confusing material, and edit the notes in general. Editing and reviewing are the most important parts of note taking. Finally, get lecture notes if you miss class. Copy notes from classmates, or ask the instructor for the information. Put these notes into your notebook immediately. You are now ready for the test! ◊

# Math Matters

How many eyes are given away in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas?"  
Submit your solution by email to ([adc15@psu.edu](mailto:adc15@psu.edu)) or in the SSS office (Murphy Center 109). Correct solutions received by February 23rd will receive 1 activity point from SSS. ◊

— Anson Carter, Instructor in Mathematics

# Grammar Tips: Words Often Confused

An easy way to remember whether to use

“WHO” or “WHOM” is to compare them to pronouns.

“Who” is subjective, as is “He,” “She,” “We,” and “They.”

“Whom” is objective, like “Him,” “Her,” “Us,” and “Them.”

When you are unsure, simply compare who and whom with a pronoun:

*“Who loved the movie?”* Substitute “who” with “he”:

*“He loved the movie.”*

*“I visited the woman whom I met at school.”* Substitute “whom” with “her”:

*“I visited her.” ◊*

— Marilyn Olenick, English Tutor

Congratulations!

The following Student Support Services students earned the Dean’s List honors for the Fall, 2014 semester.

Brittany Acevedo, Aaron Aciukewicz, Arielle Belskis, Robert Cappelloni, Robert Carey, Brenda Carrasco-Sickmon, Atyia Collins, Gregory Copelli, Jason Crispell, Trey Decker, Joseph Demellier, Marissa Featherman, Theordore Frear, Nicholas Frushon, Morgan Fulton, Kevin Katchko, Heidi Kile, Brian Klapat, Danielle Maddalena, Laura Miller, Vincent Munro, Donald Nevel, Devon Nicoletti, Nicolas Olziejewski, Ryan Oliver, Yamileth Orduna, Joseph Perillo, Eric Pollick, Ian Robinson, Lance Sherry, Dean Stewart, Joseph Wheate.

Students must obtain a 3.50 G.P.A to be included on the Dean’ List.

Keep up the good work! ◊

Event Calendar for February 2015

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| 1 | 2 | 3 **It’s Time: Declare your Major.  (Sophomores only) Noon-SSS** | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 **Fun with the FAFSA**  **Noon-AC107** | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 **Managing your Summer Finances**  **Noon-AC107** | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 **Get Noticed…Resume Writing Tips**  **Noon-AC107** | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
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