**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

It’s hard to believe it’s October and we are approaching the mid-point of the semester; not only is Columbus Day on the calendar, but so are mid-terms, other tests, papers and presentations. October is also the month that you can start planning your schedule for the spring semester. A quick glance at our calendar and one can see just how busy things are in SSS and on campus. I enjoy the month of October because it usually brings about a full schedule of events and for many other reasons, too; it brings cool temperatures and colorful scenery, football season is in full force, and the World Series takes place.

This year, October also brings many opportunities to SSS students. During the month we are pleased to present four different workshops. Friday, October 3rd finds English tutor Marilyn Olenick offering the “Basics of Writing.” Marilyn will review some key points to assist you as you complete your writing assignments. Please note that this session applies to all writing assignments, not just those from an English course. On Wednesday the 8th, be sure to join Financial Aid Coordinator Stacey Zelinka for “Transferring to Another Campus – How Will this Affect your Financial Aid?” This workshop will answer your questions and provide you with useful material if you are moving to another campus in the future. Stacey will highlight some key pieces of information that you may not have considered at this point. In addition, you won’t want to miss “Graduate School – 101” on Wednesday the 22nd. It’s never too early to start planning and to learn the ins and outs necessary for researching and applying to and then enrolling in graduate school. And last, but certainly not least, one of my favorite topics will be presented on Friday, October 31st – “Living with Procrastination.” Come and hear some of my favorite tricks to help avoid the pitfalls of procrastination. In addition, since it is Halloween that day, you never know what other tricks and treats you will find in SSS!

Be sure to stop in the office to say hello and to check the schedule of upcoming events here in SSS and on campus. Also, please be sure to sign in when you are participating in the Book Resource Program. Remember, in order to provide lunch for our students, we must have ten or more students register in advance for a workshop. Take advantage of all that October has to offer. We look forward to seeing you this month.

# Legacy Award Winners!

Every spring SSS holds a White Elephant Sale. The proceeds from the sale help to support the SSS Legacy Award. Each fall, at the Welcome BBQ, three monetary awards are given to qualifying SSS students to assist them in paying for their spring semester textbooks. Congratulations to their year’s Legacy Award winners, Yami Orduna, James Cottrell, Gerald Rollins.◊

# Career Corner

According to a recent MONSTER article, Allison & Taylor, a company that provides reference and background checking services, has identified a few top job hunting trends. One that may be most noteworthy as you start planning your career search may be this: your electronic footprint is becoming critical. Employers now routinely run a Web search on candidates looking at their social media accounts and professional affiliations online. Be sure to take care about what you post to your accounts, and evaluate them from a professional perspective to make sure the content is appropriate. Know that many employers are also using electronic reference systems, which rank an employee’s performance on a scale system. While this approach may prove broad and factual, it has the downside of limiting the opportunity employers have to favorably assess a candidate. Also, take the time to practice your on-camera interview skills; live video interviews are becoming the norm, particularly for introductory interviews. Please watch for our upcoming career workshops. ◊

# Grammar Tips: Words Often Confused

**Eminent:**

Of high rank or repute; something that stands out

**Immanent:**

Inherent or inborn

**Imminent:**

Destined to happen

**Example:**

The eminent king known for his immanent wisdom will be a part of the imminent peace talks. ◊

— Marilyn Olenick, English Tutor

# English & Math Tutoring

Don’t forget about the free English and math tutoring available to all SSS students. Anson Carter’s math tutoring hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm and Thursday, Friday, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Marilyn Olenick’s English tutoring hours are Monday thru Friday, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Both Anson and Marilyn’s tutoring hours are posted in the SSS Department. Stop by to say hello and review your assignments with Marilyn and Anson. ◊

# Plan Ahead Now for Spring, 2015

While most students are concerned about completing tests and projects due this month, it is also time to think about planning your spring, 2015 schedule. The Schedule of Courses for next semester is set to be announced by October 11th. For this reason, now is the time to visit eLion, print out a degree audit and begin planning your classes for spring. On the degree audit you will find all the information you need as you consider entrance to major requirements. In addition, you will find your advisor’s contact information and the date when you can begin scheduling classes. If you are considering a change of major, you may want to first visit the Exploring Majors section of eLion and then meet your advisor to discuss possible majors. Remember that you should always meet with your advisor before scheduling classes, so it is recommended that you make an appointment with him or her a few days prior to your registration period. The first day to schedule spring classes is October 18th. Note that students are eligible to schedule classes based on the number of credits they have completed and/or enrolled in. Visit this link for more information. [Registration timetable](http://www.registrar.psu.edu/Reg_Timetable/act_RegTimetable_Main.cfm) ◊

# Math Matters

On Halloween, Johnny Goblin and his sister Greta randomly select one piece of candy from a candy sack containing 6 Kit Kats and 3 bags of Skittles.

What is the probability that they select Kit Kats?

Do you know the answer?

Submit your solution by email to (adc15@psu.edu) or in the SSS office (Murphy Center 109). Correct solutions received by October 22nd will receive 1 activity point from SSS. ◊

— Anson Carter, Instructor in Mathematics

Event Calendar for October 2014

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3The Basics of Writing-AcademicWorkshopNoon-AC110 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8Transferring to Another Campus? How will it Affect your Financial Aid?Noon-AC110 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22Graduate School 101Noon-AC110 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31Procrastination WorkshopNoon-AC110Happy Halloween! |  |

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