**Student Support Services**

The Pinnacle

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

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**Coordinator:**
 Patricia Staskiel
 pms15@psu.edu
570-675-9297

**Career Counselor:** Heather Paris
 hdp3@psu.edu **Academic Counselor:**
 Gail Stevens
 gas23@psu.edu
 570-675-9194

**English Tutor:**
 Marilyn Olenick
 mdo10@psu.edu

**Math Tutor:**
 Anson Carter
 adc15@psu.edu

**Staff Assistant:**
 Pat Arcangeli
 paa10@psu.edu
 570-675-9112

**Location:**

Murphy Student Services Center

**Office Hours:**

Monday-Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm

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# From Murphy Student Services Center

Patricia Staskiel, Coordinator TRIO SSS

I usually seem to enjoy the activities held throughout the month of March, because although February is a short month, it often seems to drag. For me, this was especially true this year, maybe because of all of the snow and very cold temperatures. March is bringing longer, sunnier days and spring; I’m ready! Here in SSS, the month of March comes in like a lamb and goes out like a lion—at least based on the various activities offered this March.

Come visit with us as we ease into March with “Baked Good Wednesday” on March 4th from 8:30 – 11:00. The next week, the week beginning Monday, March 9th, finds Penn State students enjoying spring break, so it’s not until Tuesday the 17th that things really get started in SSS. On that day you can enhance your listening skills during an ice cream social. What could be better than improving your communication skills through better listening **and** taking part in the make-your-own-sundae event? Guest presenter Sarah Luvender will offer tips for *really* hearing what others are saying. Later that week we will offer “Grab and Go” snack day, Thursday the 19th from 8:30 – 11:00.

You can learn some facts about attending graduate school when you attend the “Is Graduate School Right for You?” session on Monday the 23rd. Join Mr. Carter as he presents another rousing “Math Matters” workshop on Wednesday, March 25th. We close out the week as Friday the 27th finds the SSS version of Willie Wonka, as we hold “Friday Candy Day” from 8:30 – 11:00.

 Complete any work you have, catch up on some relaxation and enjoy the spring break, but know that when you return to campus, SSS is ready to help you with a variety of workshops and services. Be sure to stop in to see Marilyn for assistance with papers in any subject, and find Mr. Carter for help with those pesky math problems. We will also be accepting donations for April’s White Elephant Sale.

The month of March is busy – especially here in SSS; there is much happening. Please sign up for workshops, and be sure to stop by for our weekly specialty days; we always enjoy seeing you and learning what’s new! ◊

**Spring Ahead in March** Don’t forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, March 7th, as Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8th. Spring arrives on Friday, March 20th at 6:45pm. ◊

# Career Corner

Greetings from my new, not yet decorated office in 107 Murphy Student Services Center! I’d like to introduce myself as the new career counselor/academic advisor for Student Support Services. I started in mid-January and have met a few of you, but as a way of introduction to the masses, I’ve been asked to write a little bit about myself. Prior to coming to Penn State, I worked at Wilkes University as the manager of their Pocono Education Center. I worked mostly with part-time undergraduate and graduate students in a one-stop shop type of environment where I helped students with everything from admission to advising to resume writing and career search. My education background includes a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Daemen College (that’s in snowy Buffalo, NY), and a master’s degree in Higher Education from Syracuse University, where it snows more than it does in Buffalo! I’m excited to become a part of Penn State Wilkes-Barre and to get to know your University traditions that make Penn State a great place to study. I am here to support you in your academic to career journey. You can set up an appointment with me to help you decide what major to study if you are undecided, develop a resume and cover letter for internship or full-time career, participate in a mock interview, research jobs and careers in your chosen field and much, much more! Whether you are a first year student or getting ready to graduate, please contact me to take advantage of the great resources we have available to you. I look forward to meeting and working with you! ◊

— Heather Paris, Career Counselor/Academic Advisor

# Math Matters

How many different March Madness brackets could be filled out for an office pool under the old 64 team format? Submit your solution by email to (adc15@psu.edu) or in the SSS office (Murphy Center 109). Correct solutions received by March 23rd will receive 1 activity point from SSS. ◊

— Anson Carter, Instructor in Mathematics

# Grammar Tips: Transitioning

A good essay must use transitions within paragraphs and especially between paragraphs to preserve the logical flow of the essay. Transitions establish logical connections between ideas. Repetition, often used in music and poetry, works well to transition between sentences and paragraphs and can add a poetic feel to your writing.

**Ex: “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.” –President John F. Kennedy**

Transitions should not simply be words that could connect any paragraph to any other paragraph. Good transitions connect one specific paragraph to another specific paragraph as in the examples below:
**Ex: In conclusion, the characters in *Book A* seem rather unconnected.**

 **In *Book B,* the characters share many similarities.**

**Better:
 Despite the lack of similarity between characters in *Book A,* the characters in *Book B* seem to share many.**◊

— Marilyn Olenick, English Tutor

Annual White Elephant Sale

Before you know it, April will be upon us and we will be having our Annual White Elephant Sale. This is the one and only fundraiser SSS has in support of you, our students! The funds raised from this event go toward our Legacy Awards (freshman gift certificates) that can be used at our bookstore. Please help us collect donations for this event. Gift cards to anywhere are always big prizes. Gently used or new items are also welcome. On Tuesday, April 16th, we will set up in the Student Commons to raffle off the prizes. You can sell advanced raffle tickets to family & friends. Please offer help with raffle ticket sales or collection of items. All is appreciated and the funds benefit our newest members to SSS. A number of you have benefitted from the White Elephant Sale in the past, so let’s all work together to pay it forward! ◊

Event Calendar for March 2015

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9**Spring BreakNo Classes** | 10**Spring BreakNo Classes** | 11**Spring BreakNo Classes** | 12**Spring BreakNo Classes** | 13**Spring BreakNo Classes** | 14 |
| 15 | 16**Classes Resume** | 17**Listening Skills-Ice Cream SocialNoon-AC109****St. Patrick’s Day** | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23**Is Graduate School Right For You? Noon-AC107** | 24 | 25**Math Matters Workshop with Mr. CarterNoon-AC110** | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 |  |  |  |  |

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