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Keeping Up With the Trends: Podcasts and Student Success

By Kate Bernas, ab9599@wayne.edu

If you are a typical college student in today’s fast-paced, technology-driven world, you may be interested to know that the University Advising Center podcast series is a great source for providing you with the academic success strategies you need as well as the ease and convenience you desire.

Podcasts are a unique yet simple way to publish material to the web. They are generally short audio productions that can be listened to directly off the computer or easily downloaded to an iPod or MP3 player for more on-the-go learners. In addition, since they are generally produced with a somewhat conversational style, students will find that they are not only interesting and informative, but also enjoyable to listen to.

The University Advising Center currently offers 11 podcasts on a wide variety of student development and study skill topics including: “Top 10 Tips to Survive College”, “What You Should Know about College Professors”, “Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Integrity” and “Effective Listening and Note Taking.” And, according to academic advisor and the developer of the UAC podcast series, Anita Carter, the department is continually working to improve the offerings for students and currently has three new podcasts in production. “Podcasts should be seen as a supplement to the advisor-student relationship,” Carter advises. “Personal contact with staff is essential for students in connecting with the University, but we are not always around during the middle of the night or over the weekend to provide encouragement or to offer strategies.”

She also points out that, while the UAC podcasts have been developed with the Wayne State student in mind, there are many colleges and universities also using this method to provide support to students. The topics of many podcasts are not university specific. “Students looking for information on a study skill or student development topic that we do not cover may be able to search the Internet and find a podcast published by another institution that is relevant to them as well.”

You can find the University Advising Center Podcast series at http://advising.wayne.edu/podcast.php. For questions about the podcasts or if you have suggestions for other topics you would like to see offered, please contact Anita Carter at acarter@wayne.edu.

In addition to University Advising podcasts, the Academic Success Center’s Supplemental Instruction department just starting posting podcasts. Go to www.success.wayne.edu to check out Start on the Right Track and What is Supplemental Instruction? New postings will appear on a monthly basis.
Student Organization Gives New Ideas for Learning

By Susan Sheiner, ax5983@wayne.edu

There is a new student organization on campus and its main focus is on learning. Students for New Learning (SNL), a support group for students with Learning Disabilities and ADHD, held their first meeting on September 21. In addition to monthly meetings and online support thorough a Blackboard site, Students for New Learning will also have guest speakers to share strategies and success stories.

“One of the visions of SNL is to be a resource for students regarding learning styles, learning strategies and learning technologies” said Randie Kruman, of Student Disabilities office. It is a support group for students to learn about learning and make it a less intimidating process, she said. Kruman was inspired by the idea to create SNL after she learned of similar organizations at two other college campuses.

The organization has advisors including Kruman, Angela Zanardelli, of the Academic Success Center (ASC) and Latesha Bigford also from the ASC, but it is mostly student driven. Student officers include President, Maximillian Shear, and Vice President, Kathleen Hansen. Shear is optimistic about the new organization.

“Students who are interested in joining should contact Latesha Bigford at bb4716@wayne.edu. They will be asked to fill out a student interest form. Students do not need to be registered with Student Disabilities Services in order to join the group, although they can be.

Student President Maximillian Shear will be graduating with a degree in Psychology and Photography this spring. He hopes to pursue a PhD in Clinical Psychology. Along the way, things were challenging at times, with a diagnosis of Dyslexia. However Maximillian persisted.

“You realize that maybe you are a better student than people give you credit for,” he said.

The next SNL meeting is scheduled for November 16 from 4:00-5:30 in the Community Room of the Undergraduate Library. SNL will continue to meet every third Monday of the month.

College Work Study: Guaranteed Jobs for Students

By: Ron Kent, ad0831@wayne.edu, and Nannette McCleary Shaw, ab7639@wayne.edu

A guaranteed job? Is there such a thing in today’s economy? Well, maybe, if you are a WSU student with a College Work-Study (CWS) award. For 2009-2010, Wayne State University has received a significant funding increase for College Work-Study programming as a result of recent federal stimulus initiatives. Over 2,200 WSU students have been awarded CWS as part of their financial aid package and are eligible to obtain part-time employment on WSU’s campus.

College Work-Study is an employment opportunity where students work part-time on-campus, earn a competitive hourly wage, and receive a paycheck every two weeks. In addition, students receive valuable work experience in a supportive environment which is practical, conducive to their studies, and offers flexible work hours. Job responsibilities differ widely depending on the diverse requirements of the more than 300 departments throughout the university.

For example, two of the more common postings are for General Office Assistant, where students assist offices with day-to-day operations, and Student Research Assistant, where workers have the opportunity to contribute to the significant studies conducted at WSU. Typical departments that hire CWS students include the University Library System, School of Medicine, and various business and academic units. Since CWS students must apply for these positions, they often get a jumpstart to developing their professional resumes, as well.

Overall, College Work-Study saves students time and money. It is convenient to attend classes and work on-campus. This convenience means more study time, and earning cash to go along with the money saved on transportation.

To learn more about eligibility for College Work-Study, please contact Office of Student Financial Aid at (313) 577-6648 or www.finaid.wayne.edu. If you have CWS, accept your award via Pipeline, and visit Career Services at 1001 Faculty/Administration Building, (313) 577-3390 or www.careerservices.wayne.edu to check out job opportunities.
Support + Responsibility = Success

By Denise Thomas, ac9970@wayne.edu

At Wayne State University, our motto is “Support, plus responsibility, leads to student success.” All you have to do is look around the university to see support is virtually everywhere. Your first contact with WSU was an employee helping you with your educational endeavors, making you aware of resources, and providing you with academic information. Your educational experiences are enhanced through the relationships you form while at WSU.

Beyond building relationships, there are other types of support. You can participate in intramural sports, learning communities, or volunteer opportunities through the Dean of Students Office and this is just a sampling. These opportunities provide for learning experiences in a supportive environment. In Making the Most of College, Richard Light states, “Students involved with some outside-of-classroom college activities are far happier with their college experience than those who are not involved.”

To help you achieve in the classroom, the Academic Success Center offers study skills assistance. Student Disability Services helps students with temporary and permanent disabilities. The Writing Center will review your writing projects and mathematics tutoring is available through the Mathematics Resource Center. Using these services is key to developing confidence in your academic abilities. Ask your Academic Advisor about the many available academic support services.

The student and the university share responsibility in the ultimate goal of graduation. It is the student’s responsibility to fulfill their degree requirements, and the university’s responsibility for providing the tools necessary for the student’s success. It does this by providing a vibrant educational community and an academically vigorous curriculum. WSU provides these opportunities. The student is responsible for recognizing and taking advantage of them.

Graduation is one measurement of student success, but, success can be defined by means besides graduation. A graduating student has had many educational and life experiences at WSU: challenging curriculum, diverse student body, faculty interaction, collaborative group projects, and community involvement. Because of these experiences, behavioral and thought patterns have changed. The end result is a confident, well-rounded, culturally diverse, educated student who positively contributes to society. This favorable outcome can be defined as success.

Support, plus responsibility, does lead to success. My advice to all students is to get involved, make contacts with WSU personnel, seek out support services, and become a part of the WSU community. An unforgettable college experience is right in front of you.

Improving Your Study Habits

By Jazmine Walker, ec3736@wayne.edu

According to Shelley O’Hara, author of “Improving your Study Skills”, one of the easiest ways to waste time is to be disorganized. Perhaps there have been times when you haven’t been able to find your textbook or even your notes. The first task is to organize your study space! This includes cleaning unnecessary clutter and making your space more simplistic. A good study space includes a comfortable chair, good lighting, and a solid flat space to place your books, assignments, and papers.

Once you have managed your space, you can begin to focus on managing your time. By recording due dates in a planner for class assignments, tests, or papers, you can breathe easier because now you have a plan. While it may seem tedious to write down all the things that you have to do, it’s actually freeing.

If you have a deadline looming, decide how much of the project you need to tackle during that time period. If you feel overwhelmed, you can improve your motivation and your performance by breaking up the task into smaller sections, or “chunks.” Each time you accomplish one little bit successfully, give yourself a reward. With this knowledge you can pace yourself. You know what your assignment is. You know how much you need to read every night. You can concentrate on the immediate task at hand.

If you plan ahead, you will not need to cram. By getting a good night’s rest, you are giving your brain a chance to put the information you’ve been studying into the hard drive storage of your brain. Begin to tell yourself you love acquiring new knowledge, and let yourself feel a joy in learning. So start early and you will have a better chance of understanding and remembering what you need to know in order to be successful in your courses.
Study abroad can be a wonderful experience for any college student to look beyond the horizon and see the classroom outside of the classroom. A study abroad is more than a mere trip taken for pleasure to see the sights in a new place. It is a learning opportunity with a lasting lifetime effect. Here are ten locations offered by Wayne State University’s Office of Study Abroad and Global Programs you might consider for your trip abroad.

1. **Canada.** For the student who is not quite ready to travel very far. WSU students can take courses not offered at Wayne at the University of Windsor.

2. **Japan.** There are three programs offered to students looking to travel to the other side of the world. Spend two weeks, a semester, or even a year in the Land of the Rising Sun.

3. **Ghana.** Students can spend three weeks during the summer in this African nation learning about the culture and the politics of the Ghanaian people.

4. **France.** Get an up-close look at the Eiffel Tower during a Spring Break jaunt to study the art and the architecture of Paris.

5. **Mexico.** The Universidad Veracruzana in Xalapa, Mexico offers students the opportunity to live with a host family and immerse themselves, during any semester, in the community and culture of this Central American country.

6. **Brazil.** WSU students of all majors and levels can attend one of three universities located in Brazil for a semester.

7. **Italy.** Students can earn college credit during this summer program learning the language and culture of Italy. The duration is six weeks.

8. **Belize.** This is a service learning program over Spring Break allows students the opportunity to learn about health care in a developing nation.

9. **China.** Participate in the Spring Break program (visiting three cities) or the summer program (in Beijing).

10. **Germany.** Students with at least 2 years of German language coursework can spend their junior year (the traditional study abroad year) in Munich.

For more information about any of these programs, please contact the Office of Study Abroad and Global Programs, located in 131 Manoogian Hall. Call them at (313) 577-3207 or visit them on the web at [http://studyabroad.wayne.edu](http://studyabroad.wayne.edu).

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**Mission Statement**

The mission of the Comerica Academic Success Center is for all Wayne State University undergraduate students to become self-determined, motivated, and independent learners. To support students’ success in the University environment, the Academic Success Center provides individualized services and the tools to develop effective learning skills.

**Free services of the Academic Success Center include:**

- Tutoring and Supplemental Instruction
- Individual Support with a Learning Specialist
- Study Skills Enhancing Workshops

**Thank you to our editorial board:**

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