Note from the Director

Welcome!

Hard to believe we are in week 5 of the spring semester.

Many of our students will be graduating this year. We congratulate them and wish them the very best in all of their future endeavors.

I encourage you to take a few minutes to read this edition of our spring E-Newsletter which has important and relevant information to assist you throughout the semester.

Wishing you a successful semester.

Priscilla F. Levine, LCSW
Director

Undergraduate Assistant Updates

This semester we have a new Undergraduate Assistant working in the DSS Office. Jenna Dato-on is a sophomore Psychology major/Dance minor from Rancho Santa Margarita, California. You may have seen her around campus involved in Christian Life Community (CLC), working with Resident Housing Association (RHA) and serving with the Belles Service Organization.

Jenna is looking forward to getting to know all the students in DSS as well as helping them to achieve their goals. If you have not yet had the chance to introduce yourself to her, please make some time to stop by and say hello. She will be working in the Graduate Assistant Office, Room 208, every Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

This addition to the DSS Office comes with news that our Undergraduate Assistant, Amanda Keepers, will be graduating this May. Amanda, who is a Liberal Studies (Elementary Education) and Special Education major, can also be seen around campus tutoring in the ARC as well as serving with the Sursum Corda Service Organization. Amanda’s plans for the future include, “eventually getting my Masters in Special Education from either the University of Oregon or the University of Washington and hopefully teaching Kindergarten or Special Education at an elementary school.”

Amanda wanted to say, “Thank you so much for the wonderful two years that I’ve spent here! I have very much enjoyed interacting with all of you and hearing about your own unique experiences and lives. I’ll be very sad to leave at the end of this semester, but I know I’ll take everything I’ve learned with me. Good luck to Jenna as she takes over for me!” Please make sure to stop by and thank Amanda for all of her hard work. She will definitely be missed by everyone in DSS.

From Left to Right: Undergraduate Assistants, Jenna Dato-on and Amanda Keepers.
The Academic Resource Center

The second floor of Daum Hall always seems to be in a hustle and bustle, filled with students and tutors working on various types of classes from Accounting to Psychology and everything in-between, which is only proof that the Academic Resource Center (ARC) is in full swing. The ARC, previously known to students around campus as the Learning Resource Center (LRC) is recognized campus-wide for their tutoring services and writing support. However, after a conversation with La’Tonya Rease Miles, Director of the ARC, it is evident that the ARC is much more than just tutoring.

Partnering with First Year Experience (FYE), the ARC introduced a new program this past fall semester known as “First To Go,” which is an academic support group for students who identify themselves as first generation college students. This program pairs students with faculty or staff members who were also first generation college students as a way to offer support and to help students transition their way into university life. According to Miles, “First To Go” really allows students to communicate with other first generation students, such as myself, and get the mentoring and guidance that they will need during their years here at LMU.” “First To Go” is not just for freshman, but open to all students who are first generation.

The Spring Book Festival is another program being put on by the ARC this semester. Continuing with the First Year Book that students read in the fall semester, The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, the ARC is hosting a book festival to continue a deeper discussion with students on the themes found in Rebecca Skloot’s hardback. “We want to know how this book inspired students. If they are now considering a career in health care, then we want them to come to the Health Professions Fair,” shared Miles. “If they felt compelled to work for social justice, then we have a forum they can attend.” The Spring Book Festival will be held in late February.

Although the ARC will be continuing to create different programs, they are still offering tutoring for students in subjects such as Accounting, Economics, Chemistry, Math, Physics and Languages (Spanish, French, German, Chinese and Japanese). They also continue to offer writing support for English and most core subjects. If you are unsure as to whether the ARC offers tutoring in your class, drop by Daum Hall and check with the receptionist for the comprehensive list. If you are interested in becoming a tutor, keep your eyes open for recruitment later this spring for the 2011-2012 academic year. Finally, don’t forget that the DSS Staff is here as a resource and advocate for you if needed.

Career Counseling at DSS

You are at LMU, pursuing your degree... and then what? What are you going to do after graduation? How can your degree be applied to the world of employment? These are questions that many college students ask themselves.

To assist you in answering these questions, the DSS Office has partnered up with Career Development Services (CDS) to offer career and internship counseling in the DSS Office once a month. Don Ward, Internship Specialist with CDS, comes into the DSS Office to meet with students for individual 30 minute meetings during the last Monday of each month from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. To sign up for a session, check for an email from Elmira Melgoza, DSS Coordinator. Each month Elmira sends out a reminder email about the session asking students to make an appointment. Drop-ins are also welcome. If this time does not work for you, Don is more than willing to set up individual meetings with students at a more convenient time. He may be reached by phone at (310) 338-6006 or by email at dward14@lmu.edu.

These sessions are your opportunity to address any individual needs that you may have including: looking for employment, creating a strong resume, and building effective interviewing techniques. It is never too early or too late to start exploring your career options. Don has worked closely with DSS for a couple of years now and is very familiar with the needs of our students. All information shared is kept in the strictest of confidence.

The next career and internship counseling session in the DSS Office will be on Monday, February 21st from 1:00 – 3:00pm. To set up an appointment, please contact Elmira at (310) 338-1854 or by email at emelgoza@lmu.edu.
Announcements

Student Testimonials
Are you interested in sharing your experiences with DSS? The DSS Office is looking for interested students to provide testimonials about the services or support they have received from DSS. We are looking for students who may want to write a short statement about their experiences (it could be with your name or anonymous) or students who are interested in being taped talking about the department. These testimonials may be used for future news letters or other DSS related publications. If you are interested, please contact Elmira Melgoza, DSS Coordinator, at (310) 338-1854 or by email at emelgoza@lmu.edu.

Summer Information
If you are attending summer school, please note that your accommodations do continue. You must still follow the same procedures as during the school year with regards to accommodation and proctoring forms.

Accommodation Form Reminder
Accommodation Forms must be completed for each class. DSS must approve and stamp your Accommodation Forms before you present them to your professors. Once your professor has signed your forms, it is your responsibility to return them to the DSS Office. You are still able to complete your Accommodation Forms and are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

AHEAD
The DSS Office follows the AHEAD (Association of Higher Education and Disability) guidelines related to disability and post secondary education. You can find more information at www.ahead.org.

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DSS MISSION & GOALS:
Loyola Marymount University’s Disability Support Services (DSS) Office provides specialized assistance and resources to enable students with physical, perceptual, learning, ADHD and/or psychological disabilities to achieve maximum independence while pursuing their educational goals. Services are offered to students who have established disabilities under federal and state law.

We’re on the Web!
www.lmu.edu/DSS