Note from the Director

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed your holiday break and are well rested for the return of the school year.

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.

If you have any issues or concerns, during the year, please know that our staff is here to help.

Wishing you a wonderful semester!

Priscilla F. Levine, LCSW
Director

New Graduate Assistant

The DSS Office would like to introduce you to our new graduate assistant, Karen Quimson who comes to us from the Philippines. Karen graduated in 2009 from Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science. She is looking forward to reaching out to new people and helping them out in any way that she can.

You may have seen Karen around as she also works for the Academic Resource Center (ARC) helping with their First to Go Program.

If you have not yet had the chance to introduce yourself to Karen, please make some time to stop by and say hello.
**ARC Welcomes University Advisor**

Last fall the Academic Resource Center (ARC) expanded their office by welcoming University Advisor, Sandra Luca, Ph.D. We caught up with Luca after her first semester at LMU to find out more about what her position entails and how she could be a resource to our students at DSS.

Per the ARC’s website, “the University Advisor serves as a key resource to students seeking clarification about University academic policies and their program of study.” But what exactly does this mean? “My job is to help students understand University policy, whether that is questions on petitions, overrides, approvals, etc.,” shared Luca. “But it is also to help students figure out where exactly they need to go and who they need to see and hopefully avoid having them run around campus with no clear direction.”

Advising on University policy should not be confused, however, with advising on what classes students should be taking. “Academic advising will still be done with each student’s faculty advisor that is listed on PROWL, however I can be a resource for students who are undecided, planning on changing their majors or thinking about adding a minor or a double major.”

Luca explained that she can help those students develop a plan to help them stay on track. “My hope,” shared Luca, “is that after meeting with me, students will have a solid direction for what they need to have done.”

Luca encourages all students to be proactive in understanding their academic requirements that will affect their studies and path to graduation. “For example, a misconception when students are changing majors is that the Core Curriculum requirements are the same across all the colleges, and it’s not. Each college has their own requirements and many students don’t realize this until they register for graduation,” explained Luca.

“Really it all comes back to the University Bulletin,” says Luca. “Answers to any questions students may have regarding their academic careers can be found in their copy of the University Bulletin. I’m here in case they need help to understand what it all means.”

If you have any general questions about University policies they can be emailed to advising@lmu.edu. However, if you would like a one on one meeting with Sandra, please feel free to contact her via email at sluca@lmu.edu.

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**Workshops**

During the fall semester, the DSS Offices offered a few workshops for our students that included a pre-advising workshop as well as a workshop on midterm deficiencies. They were geared towards DSS students offering helpful tips to assist students to stay on track.

If you are interested in any academic workshops in the future or have any suggestions on possible workshops please feel free let us know as we are always looking for new ideas. You can contact the DSS Administrative Assistant, Natalia Cordero at ncordero@lmu.edu with any feedback.
Educational Testing Services (ETS)

Many of you will be taking the GRE, GMAT, PRAXIS, TOEFL, or some other high-stakes examination this year. To help you prepare more effectively, the Office of Disability Policy at Educational Testing Services (ETS) has developed a brochure, “Tips for Test Takers with Disabilities.” This brochure can be found on the ETS Office of Disability Policy website at: www.ets.org/disabilities

Learning Ally

Learning Ally, formally Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D), serves those whom cannot read standard print due to blindness, visual impairment, dyslexia, or other learning disabilities by providing digitally recorded textbooks and literature titles. For those of you who have books on tape as an accommodation, the DSS Office will no longer be carrying a membership. Students are now able to register with Learning Ally individually, for $99 a year, and order any available books. (Learning Ally provides a “Hardship Fee Waiver” if the fees present a financial burden. The Application can be found online at http://www.learningally.org/feewaiver/). In order to register you must bring in your paperwork for DSS authorization. Please contact DSS to set up a time to authorize your paperwork.

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.

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 encouraged to complete your Accommodation Forms as early in the semester as possible.

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY
DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

Daum Hall
1 LMU Drive, MS 8208
Los Angeles, CA 90045-2659

Phone: 310-338-4535
Fax: 310-338-5344
E-mail: dss@lmu.edu

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.

AHEAD

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