

Student Development & Public Affairs Newsletter

Missouri State University

ISSUE 01 — September 2012



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Letter from Dr. Rachelle Darabi, Associate Provost

I am happy to introduce you to the *Student Development and Public Affairs Newsletter*. Our unit is focused on student success, and in that spirit, we wanted to publish a newsletter that would provide faculty with best education practices and also information about MSU happenings.

To support students academically, we provide the Academic Advisement Center; the Achievement Center for Intercollegiate Athletics; the BearCLAW (Center for Learning and Writing); Citizenship and Service-Learning (CASL); First-Year Programs (GEP 101, First-Year Foundations); SOAR (Student Orientation, Advisement and Registration); the Partners in Education Program; and the Individualized Majors Program.

To support the teaching community, our unit provides many development opportunities for GEP 101 faculty and Master Advisors, along with extensive offerings through the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning. A new program, operating as part of the Bear CLAW, is the Absent Professor Program which provides effective workshops by either substituting for faculty who cannot attend class or by providing workshops focusing on student success that supplement course material.

Through the assessment office, we assess student learning by facilitating various campus studies, surveys, and exams used to support the academic mission of MSU.

Student Development and Public Affairs is also responsible for assisting the campus in achieving the goals of the Public Affairs Mission. We do so through providing grant opportunities for Public Affairs projects on campus, providing speakers for the Public Affairs Convocation series and Public Affairs Conference, and by spotlighting campus community members who live Public Affairs through their daily activities.

I hope you will read and enjoy our first newsletter. ■



Connecting with Students Outside the Classroom: Living-Learning Community Faculty Fellows Program

Fall has arrived at Missouri State University and within the residence halls we begin another year of fun, excitement, and activity for our Living-Learning Community (LLC) programs. Although our LLC program is one that is specifically designed to serve and support our students, there is one portion of our program that serves two-fold to support not only students, but faculty. This portion is our LLC Faculty Fellows program.

The Faculty Fellow program began five years ago when the LLC program was developed. The purpose of LLC Faculty Fellows is to provide each LLC floor with multiple faculty connections, increasing the likelihood of LLC students interacting with faculty members outside the classroom. Although we know, as professionals, it is important for students to connect with faculty outside the classroom, we sometimes forget the impact on faculty members who connect with students outside the classroom. Allow us to share the perspective of one of our current fellows to shed some light on what it means to be an LLC Faculty Fellow.

Connecting with Students...cont.

The commitment to be a Faculty Fellow is minimal; we ask for your time, energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to meet the following expectations:

- Attend one social event/semester – e.g., lunch or dinner with the floor, etc. (the cost of your meal will be covered)
- Attend one educational event/semester – e.g., program held on the floor or elsewhere on campus
- Present a program to members of the floor one time during the year (the subject matter is up to you)
- Meet with the Residential Programming Assistant (RPA) at the beginning of each semester to discuss plans for the upcoming weeks.

We look forward to connecting students with faculty outside the classroom and to providing the opportunity to faculty to connect with students outside the classroom. If you are interested in learning more about Living-Learning Communities at Missouri State University, please visit our website at www.missouristate.edu/LLCs . If you are interested in learning more about the LLC Faculty Fellow opportunity, please contact Alisa Garbisch, Coordinator for Residential Academic Programs at AlisaGarbisch@MissouriState.edu or via phone at 6-8840. ■

TESTIMONIAL

Iwona Zalewska-Duszek currently serves as a faculty fellow for the Sophomore-Year Experience floor in Wells House. This community is for female students in their second year of college, looking to expand upon their first-year experience on the LLC and continue development of their leadership skills and career path. Iwona is a faculty member in the Department of Art + Design and this is her first year as an LLC Faculty Fellow. Please read her thoughts about her experience as a Faculty Fellow and what she has found the most beneficial while meeting students outside the classroom.

LLC: What has been your most rewarding experience as a Faculty Fellow?

IZD: To be a Faculty Fellow for me is learning about a student's life away from the classroom, getting to know him/her on their private ground. From this very perspective, it was interesting, informal, yet fruitful experience.

LLC: As a faculty fellow, how does it feel to help students succeed?

IZD: To help students succeed relates not only to the specific field of study, but more generally to acknowledging that they are getting equipped with a broader knowledge about many aspects of life during their study at the University, and that they are exposed to many different views. The highest award is to learn that the students' enthusiasm, passion, and interests find a reflection in their future endeavors.



Wells 4EW students with one of their faculty fellows at Firehouse Pottery in November 2011

LLC: What has been your most memorable moment as a Faculty Fellow?

IZD: A visit to the Art and Design Gallery, located at Brick City and discussing the show that had been held there. Many students have never been to the gallery before, so it was an eye-opening experience for them.

LLC: As a Faculty Fellow, how does it feel to be involved with students in their living space versus the classroom?

IZD: It is satisfying, informal and friendly assistance. Particularly for the students away from home, they are looking for some guidance and support.



Jump START to Success: Summer Bridge Program for Conditionally-Admitted Students

Jump START—Summer Transition and Academic Readiness Training for conditionally admitted first-semester students recently concluded its second year of programming. A significant number of students applying to Missouri State do not meet admission criteria. The University allows these students an opportunity to prove themselves academically by enrolling in the summer under individual review. If successful, they are allowed to continue conditionally in the fall. These students are the focus of Jump START, a summer bridge program directed by Susan Martindale and Tracey Glaessgen, both academic advisors in the Academic Advisement Center. The purpose of Jump START is to expose underprepared students to a realistic college experience that emphasizes a supportive environment. This program unites

academic resources, co-curricular activities, campus involvement, and a rigorous course load. The goal is that this preparation will increase the students' likelihood of success in the fall and beyond. Due to positive outcomes, enrollment increased from 50 students in 2011 to 68 students in 2012.

With the Associate Provost's support for the program's framework, consultations were scheduled with academic departments, faculty, and support services including Academic Assistance, Admissions, Student Engagement, Residence Life and Services, Achievement Center for Intercollegiate Athletics, and Bear CLAW (Center for Learning and Writing). Planning meetings and ongoing communication with those involved kept everyone informed. Martindale and Glaessgen facilitated connections with students through multiple avenues,



Jump START...cont.

including attending classes when invited, providing weekly academic support, joining in campus activities, and conducting individual advising appointments.

With a desire to assist underprepared students and the encouragement from upper administration to find ways to retain these students through graduation, Jump START is one means of addressing these challenges. Though conditionally-admitted students are at a high risk for attrition, providing university-wide support from their first-semester should make these students more likely to persist. With the implementation of Jump START, students will have additional academic support and specific student engagement opportunities that are designed with their particular needs in mind. Part of the program's benefit is the rewarding experience of collaborating with faculty and staff in different disciplines and divisions, experimenting with new pedagogies, and the collective sharing of ideas. More importantly, students experience a jumpstart on their academic success through an enhanced and cohesive first-year university experience. ■

Best Practices Note

Dr. Rachele Darabi attended the 31st Annual Conference on The First-Year Experience in February 2012. The Plenary Address was given by Dr. Charles Blaich, Director of the Center of Inquiry at Wabash College. His presentation, *Knowing the Path Versus Walking the Path: Moving From Gathering to Using Data to Improve Student Learning*, related "findings from the Wabash National Study on the institutional conditions, good practices, and student experiences that promote liberal learning." Please follow this [link](#) to view Dr. Blaich's presentation, which also includes helpful links associated with his research.

The 32nd Annual Conference on The First-Year Experience will be held in Orlando, FL, on February 22-26, 2013. More information on this event can be found at <http://www.sc.edu/fye/annual/>.



Residence Life Academic Success Initiatives

Last year was the second year Residence Life was tracking and offering academic success tools to students on academic probation who were living in the residence halls. The multi-phase initiative offers several chances for students to engage with the hall staff member. The conversations they have include personal academic struggles and campus resources available to assist them. To promote success, a congratulatory letter is sent to students receiving a 3.0 or better GPA for the fall.

Students who are placed on probation receive a personalized letter that includes a prescheduled meeting invitation and a questionnaire to complete that will guide the conversation with their hall staff member. If the student fails to respond to the first letter, a second prescheduled meeting time is offered. If the student does not respond at this point, the hall staff member sends an additional letter including a 13 page information packet about Missouri State resources and tips for academic success. Prior to midterms, letters are sent to students on probation wishing them luck,

offering assistance, and reminding them to plan for success. After midterms, students on probation who have D/F midterm grades receive another prescheduled meeting letter.

In an attempt to be more proactive in our approach to student success, letters offering assistance are also sent to students not on academic probation. The letters offer assistance and remind students to utilize resources for better preparation.

During the spring 2011 semester, out of the 163 students living in the residence halls who were on academic probation, 97 students took advantage of meetings offered by hall staff members. It was promising to see that almost 60% of the residents engaged in conversations with Residence Life staff members in the first year of offering this service.

This past spring 2012, out of the 231 students living in the residence halls who were on academic probation, 122 students accepted the invitation to meet with hall staff members. Almost 53% of residents took advantage of the



Residence Life Academic Success Initiatives...cont.

time and resources offered by hall staff members. What proved most exciting about the program was that students interacted with hall staff members with many scheduling follow-up conversations. This personalized follow-up helped keep students accountable in their academic success.

Residence Life staff focuses energy on programming for academic success. The program efforts cover topics such as understanding syllabi, utilizing planners and calendars to manage time, study sessions, acknowledging academic successes, setting academic goals, how to study/take notes/register/prepare for exams, etc. Campus resources such as the Bear CLAW, Majors Fair,

and Career Center were utilized to show the campus-wide support of academic success; faculty members even came into the residence halls to support these events.

For the 2011-2012 academic year, efforts were focused on academic success with:

- 59 active academic programs
- 18 passive programs (bulletin boards, campaigns, etc.)
- Total attendance for these programs has been 1,713 residents. ■



Upcoming Events

**Student Development &
Public Affairs Newsletter
ISSUE 01 September 2012**

October 2nd, 9:30 AM

[Power-up Workshop: Universal Design Seminar on Teaching Techniques](#)

October 9th, 7:00 PM

[Public Affairs Convocation Lecture presents Warren St. John](#)

October 12th, 9:00 AM—4:00 PM

[Faculty Writing Retreat](#)

October 22nd, 8:30 AM—3:00 PM

[Positive Approaches to Academic Advising](#)

October 24th, 10:30 AM—11:30 AM

[Study Away 101 Information Session](#)

Missouri State University

901 S. National Avenue
Springfield, MO 65897

417.836.8346 ph

417.836.6372 fax

<http://www.missouristate.edu/studentsuccess/70459.htm>



Hello, Faculty and Staff at MSU!

Q. Will you need to miss a class this semester?

Q. Would you like your class to hear about the Bear CLAW and the services offered there?

Q. Could your course benefit from supplemental workshops on study skills, basic writing, or citation methods?

ANSWER!

We provide effective workshops focusing on student success that supplement course material and benefit students by utilizing top scholarship recipients who provide struggling students necessary survival skills!

- *Study Skills!*
- *Academic Writing!*
- *Motivation!*
- *Ethical Leadership!*
- *APA, MLA, Chicago, MORE!*
- *Custom presentations are available!*

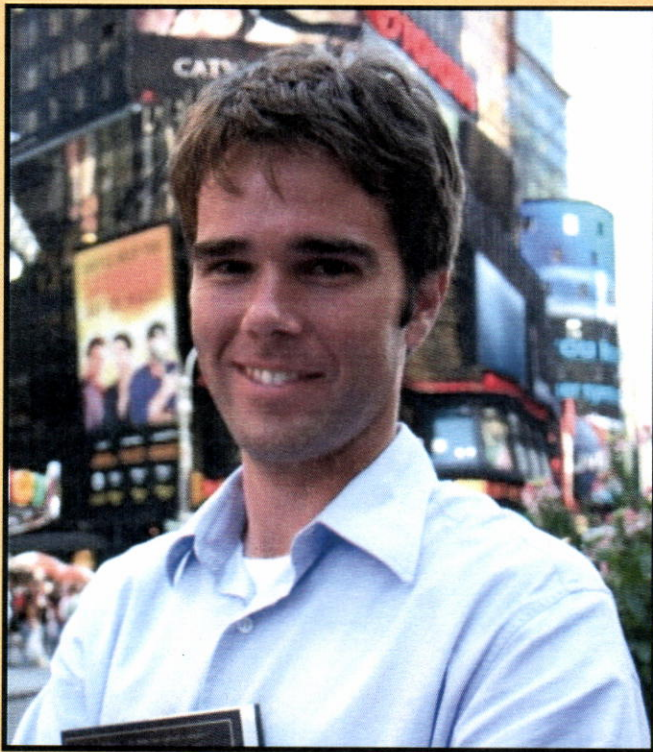


BEAR CLAW
— CENTER FOR LEARNING AND WRITING —



See our website: <http://absentprof.missouristate.edu>

Fall 2012 Public Affairs
Convocation Lecture
Presents
Warren St. John
bestselling author of
Outcasts United



For more info visit

<http://publicaffairs.missouristate.edu/Convocation.htm>

Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Time: 7:00 pm

*Location: Juanita K. Hammons Hall for
the Performing Arts*

*Book Signing of "Outcasts United"
following the lecture. Books will
be available for purchase.*

*Free tickets may be picked up by MSU
students, faculty and staff September
10-14 at Hammons Hall for the
Performing Arts, JQH or the Plaster
Student Union ticket offices. Tickets
will be available to the public starting
September 17.*

Warren St. John is a feature writer for *The New York Times* and best-selling author of *Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer: A Road Trip into the Heart of Fan Mania* (2004). *Rammer Jammer* was named one of *Sports Illustrated's* best books of the year and ranked number one on the *Chronicle of Higher Education's* list of the best books ever written about collegiate athletics.

His latest book, and Missouri State's 2012-2013 common reader, *Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, an American Town* (2009) was released to rave reviews. Warren's research for *Outcasts United* led to an acclaimed series of front page stories in *The New York Times* about the Fugees and the struggle of Clarkston to adapt to its new identity, and he has appeared on the *Today Show*, National Public Radio, MSNBC, CNN and other outlets to discuss his reporting on the town and team in his book.

POSITIVE APPROACHES TO ACADEMIC ADVISING

An advising conference
featuring

DR. JENNIFER BLOOM
former president of NACADA

MONDAY OCTOBER 22, 2012

8:30 A.M.—3:00 P.M.

(DR. BLOOM'S PRESENTATION 9:00 A.M.—12:00 PM)

**MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
PLASTER STUDENT UNION**



In the morning, DR. JENNIFER BLOOM, Clinical Associate Professor and Director of the Master's degree program in Higher Education and Student Affairs at the University of South Carolina, will present a workshop on "INCORPORATING APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY INTO ACADEMIC ADVISING." Jenny Bloom is a former president of the National Academic Advising Association and is co-author of the book *The Appreciative Advising Revolution*. You may read her article "Incorporating Appreciative Inquiry into Academic Advising" at <http://www.psu.edu/dus/mentor/020829jb.htm>. Come to this workshop to learn about six phases of Appreciative Advising –Disarm, Discover, Dream, Design, Deliver and Don't Settle.

Topics such as advising best practices and transfer opportunities will be discussed during the afternoon break-out sessions.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Through the cooperation of NACADA Region 7, MACADA, the Academic Advisement Center and the Provost's Academic Advising Council at Missouri State University, this professional development opportunity is offered at no cost to the participant.

Preregistration is available at <http://www.missouristate.edu/advising/141662.htm> and will be open until October 15 or until the workshop is filled.

If you have questions, please contact Tracey Glaessgen (traceyglaessgen@missouristate.edu) or Kathy Davis (kathydavis@missouristate.edu), conference coordinators, by email or by calling 417-836-5258.