October 24, 2012

Did you know that Friday, October 26th is the culmination of the first 8 weeks of the semester? It is that time again – mid-terms and I want to encourage you to do your best. You can do it! This semester will be over soon. Gear up now to end the semester strong. Your mantra should be like the Little Engine That Could, but instead of “I think I can! I think I can!” tell yourself, I know I can, I know I can, and as my mom would always say, this too, shall pass. Sharpen those pencils, recharge the laptop/iPad and bring on the coffee.

Do you agree with the results of this poll? According to a recent poll, the two top issues that nontraditional students are thinking about are:

1. **72%: Keeping up with family and job issues.** It is understandable because taking courses takes a lot of time, and so does working and taking care of family. I know that sometimes it’s a hard choice between taking care of a sick child and going to class. There really isn’t a choice sometimes. Take time to think about the support you need from your family and never assume they know what you want. You must verbalize it. Be specific – for example: I would like my spouse and kids to fix dinner twice a week. About job issues, be careful not to overextend yourself. It is best to talk to your employer about possibilities of changing your work schedule to accommodate your school schedule. Fitting into a new role is never easy. It may take six months to a year before you and your family feel as if you have mastered the transition.

2. **40%: Connecting with other older students.** At UW-Whitewater nontraditional students make up 10% of the undergraduate population. For most nontraditional students, the classroom is the primary connection to the university. You go to class and then leave campus immediately to fulfill your other commitments. You may be the only nontraditional student in your class. It does make it so much easier when there are other students to talk to about school that are your same age. There is a lot of stress that older students have to deal with that younger students don’t have. Older students have home, career, transportation, job, money, isolation, and other issues that pop up. These things really do matter to older students and it’s so helpful to talk to a friend who has been there. We do have a campus organization of your peers, Adult Student Connections that serves as your support group and advocates for all nontraditional students. You can connect with them on Facebook: UWW-Adult-Student Connections. Another resource is meeting other nontraditional students in the Non Trad Pad in the University Center – 133. It is located near Career and Leadership,
past the bay of computers, and open table area (Connection Center), back behind the fireplace in the left hand corner. Join others any time the UC is open. Treat it as your home away from home.

Upcoming Events:

**Ghouls Night Out** – **Thursday, October 25th - 4-7 p.m.** – City of Whitewater

Calling all goblins, zombies, and mummies, join other nontraditional students and their families for lots of activities, games, and trick-or-treating opportunities throughout the businesses of Whitewater. Meet tomorrow at 5:30p.m. at Sentry Foods, 1260 W. Main Street near the Traveling Taco Truck parked in the lot. For more information about the event: [http://www.whitewater-wi.gov/images/stories/park_rec/Whitewater_Fall_2012_Brochure_Final_Copy.pdf](http://www.whitewater-wi.gov/images/stories/park_rec/Whitewater_Fall_2012_Brochure_Final_Copy.pdf)

**Adult Student Connections Meeting** – **Monday, October 29th – 5-6 p.m.** – Non Trad Pad – UC-133. Everyone is welcome. Please join us to help plan educational seminars and social gatherings for all nontrads. Your input is valuable.

**Ghoulish Goodies Potluck** – **Wednesday, October 31, - 11a.m. – 1p.m.** – Non Trad Pad. A sign-up sheet is listed in the lounge. Let’s see how many different mystery foods, brain molds, and finger sandwiches we can create.

**Veterans and Service Members Appreciation Day @UW-W Football Game vs UW-EauClaire - Saturday, November 3rd, at Perkins Stadium.** Free tickets to student and community veterans and service members. Tickets will be available at “will call” before the game with presentation of a military identification card or DD214.

Finish Strong - It’s easy to feel overwhelmed when so many demands are being made on your time. Chicken Little must have been a nontrad. Remember your priorities. Don’t sacrifice your school for your family and visa versa. Simplify as much as possible. Good luck on your mid-terms. I’m in Roseman 2017 if you need help with anything. Lynn

Lynn Smith

Adult Nontraditional Coordinator