December 13, 2012

I hope this newsletter does not find you chewing your pencils with frazzled hair and dark circles under your eyes. Finals will be over soon and you will be basking in the glow of no homework to do every night, and checking off another successful semester completed toward reaching your goals. YAY!

**Congratulations** to all our nontraditional students that will be graduating on Saturday. What a huge accomplishment to be proud of - all your hard work has paid off. I raise a glass of eggnog in your honor. I wish you all the best in your new endeavors. As alum, you can maintain your UW-W email account by following the steps listed on this link: [http://www.uww.edu/icit/services/email/stu_accounts.html](http://www.uww.edu/icit/services/email/stu_accounts.html)

A former nontraditional student reflected on her nontrad tenure at UW-W, and I want to share her thoughts to help those of you still on your journey.

1. Just do it! Grit your teeth, forge ahead and don’t look back!
2. Silence the naysayers. Even though you have lots of positive support, there are still a few negative voices. Use it to your advantage and inspiration to continue: “Oh, yea? I’ll show you!”
3. Anything is possible. Don’t let life stand in the way of achieving your dreams.
4. Find Support. Being an older nontrad can sometimes be difficult. Build a good support group of family, friends, and other nontrads. I found the Non Trad Pad in the UC as my refuge.
5. Have faith in yourself. You can achieve things you never thought possible when you make up your mind to just do it.

**Scholarships:**
Currently enrolled UW-Whitewater students will have access to online scholarship applications beginning on Monday, December 17, 2012. The general application period is from December 17th – February 15th, 2013. Here is the link: http://www.uww.edu/scholarships

Most scholarship applications have deadlines in the spring and are applied to the costs for the following academic year. I will inform you of all the local scholarships I learn of in upcoming newsletters. In addition, there are some great scholarship blogs that send out emails with several good links:

http://ctherd.blogspot.com/
http://www.scholarshipdude.com/
http://collegeapps.about.com/?nl=1
http://www.nontradstudents.com/scholarships.html
http://non-traditional-students.blogspot.com/2008/01/finding-scholarships-and-grants-for.html

Grades for fall semester will be posted online and available to students beginning on Friday, December 28th. If you do not know how to check your grades, follow the instructions found on this link: http://www.uww.edu/registrar/wins/how-to/student/view-grades

There is a reason you have a Winter Break which is to enjoy time away from the pressures of homework, studying, and working on your laptop. For the most part, you will find that as you unwind you will gain a sense of renewal and refreshment. Take this time to build memories with your built-in support group at home. Enjoy the much needed down time and I look forward to seeing you next semester. We begin classes on Tuesday, January 22, 2013. Until then enjoy all the special things that bring you happiness and joy. Lynn