January 23, 2013

Here we are again – spring semester with a wind chill factor of 10 degrees below zero. BBBRRR! Mother Nature has a wicked sense of humor. Back to school it is…here’s to happy experiences. Learning can and should be fun.

Welcome to all our new and returning students. If we have not yet met, I am Lynn Smith, the Student Services Coordinator for adult nontraditional students at UW-Whitewater. My role is to provide ongoing assistance during your college career, connecting you with other adult students, and advocating for services unique to nontraditional students. My office is located in Roseman Hall – Room 2017. My door is always open and I would love to have you stop by, call 262-472-1619, or email me at SmithLM11@uww.edu. I look forward to meeting and helping you reach your goals. If you have questions about resources that are unique to being a nontraditional student the following link: www.uww.edu/aso serves as a resource for you. Follow other UW-W adult/nontrad students on Facebook by clicking here.

Enjoy the lounge specifically for nontraditional students. It is the Non Trad Pad located on the mid-floor of the University Center – 133. You will need to go up the ramp/steps by the Career Leadership area, past the bay of computers and a large open area, and tucked back in the left corner by the fireplace is the Non Trad Pad. Stop in anytime, meet others, have a cup of coffee, tea, or hot chocolate. The lounge provides a comfortable atmosphere for study, discussion, or relaxation. It is equipped with a sofa, microwave oven, coffee pot, toaster, computer, and large lockers, all for your use. On Wednesdays, from 11a.m. – 1 p.m., several students get together in the lounge to have lunch together, please join us as your schedule allows.

If throughout this first week, you find that you might need to add or drop a course, follow these links to make any necessary changes, learn about refunds, and the spring exam schedule:

http://www.uww.edu/registrar/wins/how-to/student

http://www.uww.edu/Documents/registrar/Registration%20page/Class%20Lists/2013/Spring/2013_Spring_Deadlines_Refunds.pdf


We welcome all students to be part of the recognized campus organization, Adult Student Connections. It serves as a support group for all nontraditional students and a collective voice for the nontraditional student community.
Adult Student Connections Meeting –Tuesday, January 29th – 3:30-4:30 p.m. – Non Trad Pad UC-133. Everyone is welcome. Please join us to help plan educational seminars, social gatherings, and recreational activities. Your input is valuable.

A Workshop: How to Fit Exercise into Your Busy Schedule.

**When:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013

**Where:** Non Trad Pad – University Center – 133

**Time:** Noon – 1p.m. (Come and go as your schedule allows)

**Who:** Jen Kaina, UW-Whitewater Recreation Sports Fitness Coordinator

- Jen will help you find ways to squeeze in some healthy exercise while juggling home, school, and work.

Need Help with Computer Skills?

Are you forever losing your documents and need a few techniques for backing up your work? Wondering how to format page numbers or create hanging indents for a reference list? Haven't done library research for years, and aren't sure where to start looking for books, journal articles or something else?

Geared to meet the needs of the non-traditional adult student, these 30-minute sessions will focus on the basic topics identified by the participant (you!). Let us know what you'd like help with, and we'll get you started.

Please click this link to for the online registration form which will provide us with information regarding the session(s) you would like us to tailor to your needs. After you complete this form, we will contact you to set up a session which we will schedule between January 21 and February 15, 2013, based on your availability. If you and a friend have a similar question, you will have the opportunity to provide that information on your registration form and we will do our best to accommodate you both in the same session.


Childcare Available

If you will be studying in Andersen Library and would like to bring your children with you, students from the Future Teacher Program will provide learning opportunities for your children. Please sign up by contacting Lynn Smith with the date/s, time/s needed, number of children, and their ages. Allow a 5-day notice to make the arrangements. My email is smithlm11@uww.edu. You must be in the library during this time.
Scholarships:
Currently enrolled UW-Whitewater students have access to the online scholarship applications. The deadline to apply for most scholarships is February 15th, 2013. Here is the link: http://www.uww.edu/scholarships

Getting Acclimated: Some simple steps to help you through your first semester are:

- Take your time and learn your way around the campus.
- Introduce yourself to your instructors. Most instructors enjoy talking with their students.
- Make a list of all your classes, their locations, and their times and dates. Keep it where you can easily refer to it.
- Make a chart of all your assignments and due dates for each class so that you don't get lost or confused about when to do which assignment.
- If you don't understand an assignment, try to meet with the instructor or professor as soon as class is over for clarification.
- If he or she cannot meet with you then, ask for an appointment at a time convenient to you both, but before the assignment is due.
- If the instructor talks too fast, ask if you can have a copy of the class lecture notes. If the answer is no, ask another student to take notes for you, or purchase and use a small cassette recorder to capture lectures. The Center for Students with Disabilities can help you if you have hearing issues or other health issues that impact your learning, but you have to contact them and ask--it isn't automatically offered. The link for more information: http://www.uww.edu/csd/
- If life happens, contact your instructor immediately. Some instructors are extremely strict about due dates, but most are understanding and will work with you if they understand that you have a real emergency.
- Let your family know what your study and homework schedule is. If they don’t know what you have due, they won’t know to leave you alone for the time you need.

You may find yourself asking yourself - "What am I doing here? Am I being realistic? Is this all worth it?" Yes - as a brand new nontrad, a seasoned veteran, and an anxious one-semester-away-from-graduation nontrad - it’s worth it. By the time you are finished with your degree, whether it's Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's or PhD, you will have accomplished something great. I’m here to help you along the way. Let’s get started on reaching that goal. Have a great semester! Lynn

Lynn Smith