

Student Support Services Fall 2012

December 2012

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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Students,

Fall is such an exciting time of year. Academically, it signals a new beginning, a fresh start for students after a hopefully restful summer. The cooler autumn breeze brings relief from the humidity and the bright rustic colors are warm and comforting. Change is certainly in the air, in more ways than one.



As you see your environment change around you, I encourage you to think about the changes you'd like to see in yourself this year. The change can be as basic as adjusting your daily routine to fit in more study time or as challenging as having a little more patience with roommates, professors and classmates.

We are especially excited about the many changes at Student Support Services. We have two fantastic new staff members—Erica Granoff our Academic Coordinator and Cheryl Plumb, our Administrative Assistant. Although they are new to UB, they have unique backgrounds and are excited to meet you.

We're also thrilled about our new peer mentoring program this year—Expanding the Collegiate Experience through Leadership (ExCEL). First year SSS students will be paired with upperclassmen, who will show them the ropes at UB. If you'd like to participate in the program, there's still time to join. Just swing by our office.

You'll see new workshops this semester, as well as engaging social and cultural activities. Among them are our men's and women's groups as well as workshops on health and stress management. We will also be taking a trip to New York City to see *STOMP* the musical.

As you may know from experience, change is not always easy. It requires work and discipline on our part. Yet the rewards and results are often greater than we expected. Understand however, that change is not a one person game. You have a staff of dedicated SSS advisors and a team of knowledgeable tutors who will guide you in achieving your goals at UB.

With that, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new and returning students. We are looking forward to meeting our freshmen and are eager to see our upperclassmen again.

SSS has grown significantly since our humble beginning in 2011, and we will continue to build a program that serves you—our students—in the best ways possible.

Wishing you a successful fall semester,

Aamna

Inside this issue:

SSS Staff Bios	2
ExCEL	3
Deans List	3
About SSS	4

IMPORTANT FALL ACADEMIC DATES

Labor Day— No Classes	September 3rd
Last day to add a class	September 7th
Last day to drop a class	September 14th
Mid Semester Examination Week	October 15th– 19th
Last day to drop a class without receiving a "W"	November 2nd
Thanksgiving Recess— No Classes	November 21st-25th
Last day of Class	December 7th

DIRECTOR-Aamna Qureshi

Aamna has been active in TRIO programs since her undergraduate work at the University of Connecticut. Her experience with SSS began at UConn, where she was a summer RA, a peer tutor and a peer advisor. Aamna earned her B.A. in English and later an M.S. in Education from the University of Pennsylvania, as she enjoys helping students excel in reading and writing. She taught middle and high

school English in Philadelphia for 3 years, where she had an opportunity to see many challenges that urban public school systems face. Although she enjoyed teaching, Aamna knew her place was in higher education. When UB earned the SSS grant, she joined the team as the Academic Coordinator before becoming Director in January. In her new role, she is

working to expand the breadth of programs and services offered to SSS students to make their college experience a successful one. Aamna especially enjoys mentoring students to take a proactive role in their education. She is thankful of her own mentors who encouraged her to do the same, and credits them for her success.



ACADEMIC COORDINATOR-Erica Granoff

Erica is the new Academic Coordinator for the SSS program at UB. Erica attended the University of Connecticut, receiving her B.A. in Communications with a focus in Interpersonal Communications. While there, Erica was a student in the SSS program and enjoyed every minute of it! She held positions in SSS that included being a Peer Advisor, Summer Resident Assistant and Assistant Hall Director, as well as a

student worker and study abroad participant. After receiving her B.A., Erica attended San Jose State University and earned her M.A. in Educational Leadership with a concentration in Higher Education and Administration. There she held an Academic Advisor position at the Academic Support Program for Increased Retention in Education (ASPIRE).

Prior to coming to UB, Erica was a Hall Director at SJSU, Barry University and lastly UConn. Erica is excited to work with the SSS program again. She is a proud product of SSS and is passionate about giving back to the program, as the program has assisted her in getting where she is today

LEARNING SPECIALIST-Sandy Sillo

If you have come to the Learning Center, you have most likely met Sandy Sillo. Sandy has been working as a Learning Specialist for the Student Support Services program at the University of Bridgeport since the program began in 2011. Sandy received her B.A. from Sacred Heart University in English with a concentration in literature. During her undergraduate career,

she was nominated to be a Teacher's Assistant; she assisted students in all writing courses at Sacred Heart University. She also worked as an editor for the student journal, Horizons. Sandy earned her M.A. in Teaching from Sacred Heart University. She gained valuable internship experience working with students and

teaching literature at the high school level while earning her M.A. In addition to being a Learning Specialist, Sandy also is an adjunct professor at UB, teaching various writing courses and the First Year Seminar. She loves teaching! Sandy is happy to be a part of the UB community and looks forward to meeting you.



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-CHERYL PLUMB

Cheryl is the new Administrative Assistant for SSS. She comes to SSS with a background in engineering, training, and technical writing. Cheryl earned her B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Columbia University, and her B.A. in Cooperative Engineering from Fairfield University. Prior to joining SSS, Cheryl ran her own software training company. In addition

to supporting SSS, Cheryl also works as Orientation Trainer and Troop Organizer for Girl Scouts of Connecticut, as well as founder and organizer of Kids in Motion, a town-wide physical fitness program for elementary school students. She aspires to earn her M.S. in Nutrition, as well as her N.D. in Naturopathic

Medicine from UB in the future. Having been a first generation college student herself, she understands first-hand the challenges involved when venturing further than previous generations in a family. Cheryl is excited to be part of the outstanding team at SSS, and looks forward to meeting all of the SSS students this fall.

SSS History & UB

In 1968, Student Support Services, which was originally known as Special Services for Disadvantaged Students, became the third in a series of federal educational opportunity programs. Student Support Services (SSS) program is now one of the eight federal TRIO education campaigns that identify and assist students from disadvantaged backgrounds as they progress from middle school through college. In August 2010, the U.S Department of Education awarded a 1.1 million dollar Student Support Services grant to the University of Bridgeport. This grant is to provide a range of services, such as supplemental instruction, financial and career advising, and tutoring to help qualified low-income, first generation college students, and students with disabilities, boost their academic performance and successfully complete college.

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