



SSS Student Support Services Newsletter



September 2007

Student Highlight: Mike Borden

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Important Dates

- * September 3— Labor Day Holiday, campus closed
- * September 4— Fall Semester Begins
- * September 5— Fall In

"If I could have drawn a picture of what I wanted college to be like, and then got exactly what I asked for, I would have come up way short on what it has actually been for me. College is more than I ever thought it could be."

Mike Borden says that he didn't expect to find himself at Aims, but at the end of some of life's detours, this is where he arrived and he's glad to be here.

Mike is an advocate of trying new things and having fun while working hard. He began his interest in running and triathlons with a goal to run for eight minutes straight, and has recently passed a professional athlete in a half-Ironman triathlon with his sights set on a full

Ironman next year.

Mike sees goals in his life and his education in much the same



way. He has decided to pursue an A.A. degree here at Aims and plans to transfer to receive his Bachelor's Degree with a goal to teach high school in either P.E. or History. Mike says that at Aims he has learned that he can learn. He has found that college is not as mysterious as he thought and he has

achieved some goals that he never planned on, such as being published in the Aims Literary Journal.

In addition to academics, Mike has pursued the extracurricular side of Aims. With no experience in student government, Mike took a suggestion from a friend that he should try it out and became the Vice President for Public Relations last year. He enjoyed student government so much that he is now President of the Associated Students of Aims Community College for 2007-2008.

Why has Mike decided to become involved in the Aims community? "It's fun," he states simply. He's made friends with people he would not have met otherwise and had experiences outside of textbooks and homework that has made his time at Aims more meaningful.

Want to get involved?

Getting involved on campus is a great way to meet new people, learn new things, and get connected to Aims.

If you want to get involved, stop by the Student Life Office in College Center room #733. Let them know what kind of things are interesting to you,

and you just might find a club, organization, or volunteer opportunity that fits with these interests. Clubs on campus focus on interests ranging from careers like welding and nursing to fun activities like bicycling and pottery.

If you want to meet representa-

tives from clubs and see what they are all about, there will be a number of clubs and organizations with tables at Fall-In, which will be September 5 at 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on the Greeley campus. They would be happy to tell you more about what they do and how you can get involved.



Tutoring Corner: A Helpful Suggestion from Kim Wallin

One of the most important things you can do to be successful is to have a regular time scheduled for studying in a quiet place with access to resources and no distractions. I can recommend a great place for this study time: the Academic Resource Center. This is the official name for the “tutoring center” or “the lab”. However you refer to them, Horizon Hall rooms 301 to 306 are rooms you want to be familiar with. Take a few minutes to walk through the area and get comfortable with



the layout. Stop in my office first and I will be glad to give you the tour and point out some of the great features. Each room is dedicated to a specific area of study. There are multiple resources available such as class specific software, reference books and dedicated drop-in tutors. Inside each door you will find a schedule of the tutor(s) who will be available and their areas of expertise. Drop-in tutors are available Monday through Thursday 7:30 am to 8:00 pm. Fridays are 7:30 to 5:00 and Sunday afternoons. Rooms 301 and 302 are

open extended hours with video viewing, audio listening stations, CIS/CSC software and quiet study areas.

To keep this resource free, it is crucial that you take a moment to sign-in. Homework is the default setting under reason for using the lab, so it is very important to look at the drop down menu and chose drop-in tutoring or one-on-one tutoring when appropriate. It’s also important to choose the appropriate category such as math or writing. Doing this provides valuable information that is needed to determine the budget for the lab and the need for additional tutors!

To schedule your fall tutor, call Kim Wallin at 339-6383!

Let’s Talk About Mentors

Research shows that to truly retain information it must be heard, seen and discussed. So here’s another opportunity to read (*see*) information about how valuable a mentor can be. A mentor is a person from the community who is working or teaching in your chosen field. The mentor acts as a sounding board – a non-judgmental person who will listen to your questions and help you as you decide if this is the future for you. Quite often what we know about a job or a degree is just what we’ve seen on television or

heard second-hand. A mentor is a first-hand source of information. A mentor is especially useful when you are not sure what to

**Kim’s Fall Semester Office Hours:
Mon/Wed/Fri from 8:00 – 2:00 and
Tue/Thurs from 11:00 – 5:00**

do with the degree you are pursuing. Having an opportunity to shadow a career can make you more comfortable with your choice. Just as important is finding out that a certain

career is not what you thought. Having a mentor while you are working on your general education credits before you’ve committed yourself to one path can help you chose the appropriate major.

Stop by and see Kim Wallin or call her at 339-6383 so you can *hear* more about this opportunity and *discuss* your options.

Fall Semester Advising Appointments

Be sure to schedule your first Fall Semester 2007 advising appointments! It’s time to check in, make sure your class schedule works, and sign up for a tutor!

If you have not already called your advisor, call Frances Hernandez at (970) 339-6372, Therese Lask at (970) 339-6273, Natalie Nelson at (970) 339-6654, or Kim Wallin at (970) 339-6383.

We look forward to seeing you!



Tutor Tip

A good paper takes time. Stop in early in the writing process - well before the final paper is due. If a student brings in a paper at the last minute to quickly be proofed on the day the paper is due, all he/she gets from the experience is frustration. Finding out what is wrong and not having the time to learn *why* and how to correct it means the same mistakes will be repeated. Plan ahead. No one writes the perfect paper in one sitting!

*This tip brought to you by
Evelyn Goddard*

Student Support Services Fall Retreat 2007

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the first annual Student Support Services Fall Retreat. We hope you enjoyed the day and are feeling ready to start fall semester!



At the retreat we heard from Sandra

Harmon, a former Student Support Services student who is beginning a degree at UNC this semester. We talked about study skills, working together to be stronger and more prepared students, tutoring, mentoring, financial aid, and study groups. We went over the fall schedule of events and enjoyed break-



fast with time to chat with old friends and make new ones.

If you were unable to attend this time, we missed you and hope you will be able to make it next year!



Attention 2007-2008 Graduates and Transfer Students!

If you are planning to **graduate** during the 2007-2008 school year, make sure you talk with your advisor as soon as possible and fill out a graduation application. This needs to be done the semester before you plan to graduate, so call your advisor today!

If you are also planning to **transfer** and continue your education beyond Aims, we will be having some great opportunities

this semester that you will want to take advantage of. First, your advisor will schedule a specific transfer advising session with you to go over requirements, deadlines, and resources.

If you would like to visit a campus, we will go to CSU on October 26 and will announce the date for a UNC visit this fall. Aims will be having a Transfer Fair on October 17 where you can apply for

free to UNC and talk with a representative about your transfer credits, financial aid, and advising. We will also be having two workshops this fall dedicated to transferring. On October 23 we will have UNC's Stryker Insititute here, a program for non-traditional women, and on November 6 we will host a transfer panel where you can ask former Aims students about their transfer experience.

Scholarship Opportunity

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program

Spring 2008 Application – Deadline: October 9, 2007

The Gilman International Scholarship Program provides awards of up to \$5,000 for U.S. undergraduate students to study abroad for up to one academic year.

The program serves students with high financial need, community college students, students in under-represented fields

such as the sciences and engineering, students from diverse ethnic backgrounds, students attending minority-serving institutions, and students with disabilities.

Eligibility: Students must be



receiving a Federal Pell Grant at the time of application.

For more information, full eligibility criteria and the online application visit: <http://www.iie.org/gilman>.

SSS Student Support Services

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We're on the web!

<http://www.aims.edu/student/>

The Student Support Services (SSS) program provides opportunities for academic development, assists students with basic college requirements, and serves to motivate students towards the successful completion of their postsecondary education. The SSS program may also provide grant aid to eligible SSS participants who are receiving Federal Pell Grants. The goal of SSS is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants and facilitate the process of transition from one level of higher education to the next.

Services provided by the program include:

- Instruction in basic study skills
- Tutorial services
- Academic Advising
- Assistance in securing admission and financial aid for enrollment in four-year institutions
- Information about career options
- Mentoring

Direct financial assistance (grant aid) to eligible SSS participants who are receiving Federal Pell Grants.

Your Student Support Services Staff

Director:

Therese Lask
970-339-6273

Academic Advisor:

Natalie Nelson
970-339-6654

Tutoring and Mentoring

Coordinator:

Kim Wallin
970-339-6383

Staff Associate:

Frances Hernandez
970-339-6372