



Student Support Services Newsletter



March 2008

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Important Dates

- * March 14— SSS Helping Hands Club Meeting
- * March 14— FAFSA Priority Deadline for Aims
- * March 14— Aims Foundation Scholarships Priority Deadline
- * March 15-21— Academic Resource Center (ARC) Closed (including tutoring, computer labs, and testing)
- * March 17-21— Spring Break
- * March 15-21— Academic Resource Center Closed
- * March 26, April 2, and April 9— 7 Habits (rescheduled)



Student Highlight: Dan Beal

Dan Beal and Judy Knapp have discovered through their mentoring experience that they have a great deal in common. They are both helpers who want to change the world, and it's clear they have the drive, motivation, and talent to make it happen.

Dan, a student at Aims and a member of Student Support Services, and Judy Knapp, President of The Community Foundation, have participated in the Student Support Services

Mentoring program since October 2007. Dan is interested in non-profit work and Judy has given him insight on how to run a successful non-profit business.

Judy and Dan also have another thing in common: they are both non-traditional students. Judy knows what it is like to juggle a family, homework, and student involvement. She commuted, took correspondence classes, and tried to fit in education whenever she could to earn her degree. Dan is also working hard to be successful in his journey to balance a family life and education.

Judy and Dan meet twice each month and talk about possible degrees, what classes would be

the most helpful, what the field is like, and what things Dan could be doing now for his career. Judy has encouraged Dan to start meeting people and



Judy Knapp and Dan Beal meet in Judy's office for a mentoring meeting.

build a network. Dan wrote out of list of things he wanted to know about Judy's career because he believes it is important to "ask the hard questions." He wants to make sure that this career path will fit with both his skills and his life goals. Judy was happy to reply with lengthy responses in order to give Dan a realistic view of this profession. She wants to show him the wonderful, exciting side of non-profit work, but also let him know the realities of finding a position and what it is like to work in this world. Judy's hope is that Dan is prepared for his career and won't have any surprises so that he can fully enjoy the work he will be doing.

Judy has experienced both the

academic and professional sides of her career. She wants to share with Dan the differences between what he is experiencing in the classroom and what he will see in the business world. She has given him resources for papers and projects and has even come to his English class to talk about writing in the business world. Judy's rich experiences in both business and non-profit work are helping Dan formulate a plan to achieve his goals in this rewarding career. Dan and Judy both assert that what they get out of mentoring meetings is

much more valuable than the one hour of time they invest.

Dan is even more excited about working in non-profits because of his mentoring experience. He says that in addition to being encouraged by his family, he is motivated by all of the people he will help in the future. He takes his education and his opportunities to heart because he says, "there are people counting on me who don't even know they are counting on me yet."

FAFSA and Scholarships

To receive financial aid in the 2008-2009 school year, you will need to fill out the **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) again using your 2007 taxes. The application can be filled out anytime after January 1, 2008. The priority deadline for financial aid is March 14 at Aims and March 1 if you are transferring to CSU, UNC, or many other colleges. If you have your FAFSA in by the priority deadline, you have the greatest chance of receiving the most aid that you qualify for.

Go online and fill out the Aims Foundation Scholarship Application by

March 14! By filling out this one application, you will be considered for all of the scholarships that the Aims Foundation awards each year. The application can be found at:

www.aims.edu/student/finaid/scholarships

Applications are available for the **Assistance League of Greeley Single Parent Scholarship**. Students must be a single parent with child(ren) living at home, a resident of Weld County, have a high school diploma or GED, declare an educational goal, and have a 3.0 GPA. Applications are available in the Student Sup-

port Services Office or in the Financial Aid Office. They are due **April 20** and require three letters of recommendation, so pick one up today!

If you have any questions, please call your advisor!

Additional Student Support Services Grant Funds

Student Support Services is pleased to announce that we have an additional 14 grants that will be awarded to students in Fall Semester 2008.

In order to be eligible for the grant funds, you must fulfill the regular grant requirements during Spring Semester 2008. The requirements are: have a cumulative GPA of 2.4, have a Spring Semester 2008 GPA of 2.4, be eligible for Pell grants, have

completed 12 credits, be enrolled for Fall Semester 2008, meet with your advisor at least twice during Spring Semester 2008, complete two activities during Spring Semester 2008 including Freshmen Seminar class (based on requirements outlined in syllabus), Seven Habits of Highly Effective College Students (based on requirements outlined in syllabus), Student Support Services sponsored workshops, learning communities, mentoring pro-

gram, or tutoring for a specific class or classes.

Please note: Students are only eligible to receive the award twice, so receiving the grant in fall semester may affect your eligibility for Spring Semester 2009.

If you are interested or have questions, contact your advisor!

March iFocus Workshops

With midterms right around the corner, workshops in March start off focused on giving you tips on how to be more successful with test taking.

“**Test Taking for an A**” will be held on the Greeley campus Tuesday, March 4 at 12:10-1:00pm in the College Center room #727. This workshop will focus on strategies to take different types of tests.

If anxiety and worry affect your test taking ability, attend the “**Overcoming Test**

“**Phobia**” workshop. This will be held on the Greeley campus on Wednesday, March 5 at 2:10-3:00pm in the College Center room #727.

“**Demystifying Math Tests**” will focus on ways to improve your math test scores. This workshop will be offered on the Greeley campus on Thursday, March 6 at

10:10-11:00am in the College Center room #727.

Remember, all iFocus workshops count toward the two activities you need to be eligible for the Student Support Services grant. Hope to see you at the workshops!



Welcome the New Tutors

The Academic Resource Center continues to grow with two new tutors joining the staff. **Jenna Boland** will be in the writing lab where she will be glad to assist you with English and composition. Jenna earned her BA from UNC and is currently completing a Masters in English there. While Jenna really enjoys early American literature she found physics to be a challenge. An ongoing challenge is trying to find enough hours in a day while working and attending school. Jenna's dog, Anya, keeps her company through it all. Jenna enjoys reading and would recommend One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, a book worth looking for over spring break. Jenna would like to encourage students to read their essays out loud to help catch mistakes. Please welcome Jenna to Aims when you are in the writing lab.

Next door in the math lab **Julie Hopkins** can be found tutoring fundamentals, algebra and beginning accounting. Julie comes to us from California where she took up golfing after learning to ice fish in Wyoming where she grew up. Julie picked the right state this time as she can enjoy both of her favorite sports here. Julie attended school at the University of Wyoming and Idaho State University where chemistry was the subject that made her head spin. She enjoys James Bond movies but wouldn't say which Bond is her favorite. Julie asks that you bring everything when you come to a tutoring session, the syllabus, textbook, notes, old quizzes and corrected homework as it's all helpful. So load up your book bag and visit Julie in the math lab.

As I've introduced you to the tutors in the newsletters I have included what subject s/

he found difficult in college. Everyone has a class or two that really requires an extra effort. As you work with the tutors ask them questions about study skills and strategies that helped them. I have found that a key component mentioned by almost every tutor has been the importance of a positive attitude. Put the words: I can do this, I will practice until I get this, this will get a little easier everyday and I will not give up, to the tune of your favorite song. Hum it while you brush your teeth, sing it out loud in the car, whistle it as you walk between classes and dance to it at your graduation party.

Introducing Student Support Services' New Lending Library!

When you return from spring break you will find a new lending library located in the Student Support Services office. The purpose of the library is to provide items for our students that can be used to improve their study skills/habits. Most items can be checked out for a two week period while some can be used for the entire semester. Students will be required to sign a contract, return the items in good condition and on time. The remainder of the spring term will be used to see how well the system works. Feedback from the students is critical to the success of the library. Our goal is to add more items based upon your needs and sug-

gestions. The exciting items available for check out include digital recorders which can be used for recording lectures. The recorders have files so different classes can be recorded and downloaded to your computer. If you have a fast talking instructor who you struggle to follow this is for you. There are Texas Instrument calculators (TI 83) which are needed for MAT 135 and BUS 226 available. For our students taking biology we have a set of eight study guides. The folding illustrated pocket guides shows numbered anatomical structures and contain answers that can be covered for easy self-testing and memorization. The set includes

Muscular and Skeletal Systems, Anatomy of the Heart, Vertebral Column and Spine Disorders, Anatomy of the Brain, Spinal Nerves and the Autonomic Nervous System, Circulatory System, Anatomy and Disorders of the Respiratory System, and last but not least the always popular, Anatomy and Disorders of the Digestive System. Finally there are several books available dealing with math anxiety and how to overcome it, strategies for memorizing information, and study skills workbooks. Please take a minute to check out our new acquisitions when you come in for your next appointment after spring break.

Summer Financial Aid

Planning to take classes this summer? If you would like to receive financial aid for summer semester, you will need to fill out a **Summer Supplemental Application** and turn it in to Financial Aid.

You can pick up a form either at the Financial Aid Office in the General Services Building or in the Student Support Services Office in Horizon Hall #344. If you have any questions, please call your advisor!

Spring Break 2008

"Please note that the dates in the Student Handbook and Day Planner for Spring Break 2008 are *incorrect*. The correct dates for Spring Break are **March 17-21**.

During the break, classes will not be held. **From March 15-21, the Academic Resource Center (tutoring, computer labs, and testing) will be closed.** Most other offices on campus, including **Student Support Services, will be open.**

Student Support Services Helping Hands Club

Vision by Dan Beal

Vision just what is it? Most, individuals associates the word with seeing. The meaning of the word I am referring to is that of foreseeing the future. As President of the Student Support Services Helping Hands Club I would like to extend my interpretation of vision that I have for the future of Helping Hands. I foresee students becoming more aware of the amazing help that is offered by the staff at Student Support Service (SSS). This would be obtained through personal stories and action of those students that are involved with the club. The Helping Hands Club is a way that impacted students have to channel their appreciation, by extending a hand to

those that may need it. This vision also includes leadership and companionship for members, and the heart warming feeling that come from helping others. Helping Hands Club has so many great opportunities to do some phenomenal things for Aims students, the people of Greeley, and surrounding areas. I also envision the future to be very rewarding for all SSS students and club members, as we work

together for the success of everyone.

So, I challenge **ALL** SSS students to form your own vision of where you would like to see the SSS and the Helping Hands Club in the future. I Believe that our vision needs to be always evolving, never idle to allow for the most incredible experience possible for our members, and those we touch.



Photos



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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.

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