



University of
Southern Indiana

University Division

University Division Newsletter
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Notes From The Director

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Michael "Brody" Broshears

Happy New Year and welcome back to USI! Each semester is an oppor-

tunity to start anew, and whether or not you accomplished your goals this past semester, the spring is a great time to keep things going or assess what went wrong and make changes. When I work with students early in the spring semester, I often ask them, **"What factors most affected their academic success or lack thereof in the fall?"** This is an im-

portant question for every student to answer and requires students to begin taking responsibility for their personal and academic behaviors.

For those of you who performed well this past semester, how will you keep the momentum going? What majors/careers do you want to learn about this semester? How might you get more involved on campus? What plans do you have for the summer?

For those of you who would like to do better, how can you achieve a higher level of academic success? What will you do differently this semester? What are the academic

implications of another poor semester?

One of the great things about University Division is that you don't have to answer these questions alone. Your advisors and academic skills staff can help. Stop by early in the semester, if you need help rearranging your schedule, want to set up a set time to meet with a study skills or subject-based tutor, or would like to explore major and career possibilities. Remember, the staff of University Division is here to help you achieve academic success!!!

University Division Student Worker Spotlight: Tatyana Taake



Tatyana Taake is a sophomore at USI who is double majoring in Psychology and Criminal Justice. Because her father works for the United States Na-

vy, she was born in Ninzy Novgrod, Russia and attended high school in Naples, Italy, where she graduated with a 3.8 GPA. Tatyana chose the University of Southern Indiana because of its perfect size, affordability, and beautiful

campus. Outside of her studies, Tatyana enjoys working as a front desk worker in Academic Skills (ED 1111) and night staff worker in the Newman and Governor dormitories. When asked what she likes about her jobs she said, "I really enjoy talking and meeting with new people. I like to help the Academic Skills specialists with anything they might need done."

"Everyone involved with University Division is like a family. They all work together to reach a common goal: student success."

- Tatyana Taake

In her free time, Tatyana finds pleasure in watching movies, hanging out with friends, studying, and working out. Her future career plans include joining the U.S. Army and eventually working for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (F.B.I.). In terms of the military, Tatyana said, "It gives me a chance to get where I want to be in life. I want to serve my country because America gave me a second chance to succeed." University Division wishes Tatyana the best of luck with her future plans and appreciates all of her hard work and dedication.

University Division Lead Advisor: Renee Rowland



Renee earned her Bachelor of Science in Social Work and M.S., Human Services from Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky. Renee has been advising in University Division since September

2003. She feels that by developing a relationship and being knowledgeable of campus services, she has the unique opportunity of forging a partnership

with students, which enables the student to identify and attain educational goals. During her time in University Division she has received national, state, and campus recognition for her advising. She has also presented at national, regional, and state conferences.

Renee is a member of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) and the Indiana Academic Advising Network (IAAN). Renee has earned numerous awards throughout her professional career. A few of these awards include: Phenomenal Women of USI and

Community (2009), USI Outstanding Advisor Award (2007), and USI Administrator of the Year Award (2002). University Division is thankful for all of Renee's hard work and dedication.

"The more comfortable students feel with their advisor, the easier it is for them to honestly discuss various issues or concerns."

-Renee Rowland

Study Day Success



University Division's first ever, Don't Wing It Day, was held on December 7th in Academic Skills (ED 1111). As

USI's first study day, Academic Skills capitalized on finals preparation by providing students with Buffalo Wild Wings chicken wings. There was a great turnout at the event and tutoring was available in many subjects including accounting, business finance, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, biology, chemistry, and physics. A special thanks goes out to all tutors and students who attended.

USI Women's Soccer Standout



Academic Skills science tutor Susan Ellsperman was named Capital One first-team All America by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Being one of three first-team members with a 4.0 GPA,

Susan led the Eagles with 14 points on five goals and four assists in 2011. She was also named Capital One first-team Academic All-District IV and second-team All-GLVC in November. The All-GLVC and Academic All-District awards were the second of Susan's career at USI.

GENS 105/111/199 Courses

Are you a student in need of getting the spring semester started off on the right foot? If so, consider enrolling in the following one credit hour courses offered by University Division: GENS 105: College Study Strategies, GENS 111: Career Planning, and GENS 199: Critical Reading. These five-week courses will begin February 13th and end on March 23rd, 2012. These courses are put in place with the intention to enhance the academic experience, knowledge, and skills, which lead towards achieving academic success.

Academic Skills Staff Spotlight: Dr. Darrin Sorrells



Dr. Darrin Sorrells began his career in 1997 teaching at Shoals Junior/Senior High School in Shoals, Indiana, but had a true passion and desire to work in higher education. Darrin

jumped at the opportunity to work in Student Support Services as the Reading Specialist at Oakland City University. He then earned his Ph.D., which led to advancement into a Dean's position, which he held for four years at Oakland City University. A desire for a change of scenery led to Darrin being hired as Assistant Dean for University College at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. In 2009, he decided to move back to Indiana and work as Director of the Center

for Teaching and Learning at IUPUC in Columbus, Indiana. He then came to USI in the fall of 2010 and is the Learning Assistance Specialist in Academic Skills (ED 1111). Darrin has already made a tremendous impact in University Division through launching the Athletic Peer Coach Program, creating and implementing tutoring outreach efforts called Tutoring Tuesdays, successfully getting USI's tutor training re-certified through the College Reading & Learning Association (CRLA) and also earning new certification through the National Tutoring Association (NTA). Darrin recently received a USI institutional grant to supply

textbooks in selected science courses for the use of students and tutors. Darrin is responsible for the recruiting, training, and supervision of subject-based tutors and is a certified tutor trainer through the NTA. He also teaches GENS courses and is an adjunct instructor in the psychology department. He is an active member of the NTA, CRLA, American Psychology Association (APA), Phi Delta Kappa International, and the Indiana Academy of Science. In 2008-2009, Darrin was recognized as one of the top "Emerging Leaders" in education in the nation through Phi Delta Kappa International. He also plays a role as an accreditor and peer reviewer for the Higher Learning

Commission. University Division is pleased to have Darrin Sorrells and looks to utilize his skills in enhancing the overall success of college students.

"I am very fortunate to be able to impact the lives of students in a positive manner."

- Dr. Darrin Sorrells

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Tutoring is available in many subjects including math, English, anatomy/physiology, biology, chemistry, physics, astronomy, geology, geography, macroeconomics, microeconomics, accounting, finance, computer information systems (CIS), study skills, humanities, history, psychology, sociology, and Japanese, Chinese, German, and Spanish languages.

Academic Advising hours of operation are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Academic Skills is open Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

University Division

Advising Mission: To provide academic services that enhance the connection between students and the university.

Academic Skills Mission: To enhance student success and the educational process at the University of Southern Indiana.

Additional Tutoring

Rice Library - Wednesdays 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. (math, writing, study skills, anatomy, chemistry, and Spanish) *Begins January 18th.

Rec/Fitness/Wellness Center - Tuesdays 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. (math, writing, study skills, anatomy, chemistry, biology, astronomy, geology, physics, and psychology) *Begins January 17th

Multicultural Center - Mondays 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. (math, writing, study skills, anatomy, chemistry, and Spanish) *Begins January 23rd

For tutor schedules visit: <http://www.usi.edu/acadskil/tutoring.asp>

Student Success Week - Textbook Assistance Program - S.I. Leader Spotlight

Student Success Week will be held from January 30th to February 3rd, 2012. Faculty, administrators, and student presenters will be offering over 50 sessions focused on developing a student's mind, self, and awareness of the world. All sessions will take place in the University Center. Monday will be the kickoff including a keynote address featuring President Linda Bennett at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday's presentations will concentrate on how the mind is tethered to academics. A few topics include: *Keys to Speed Reading, Motivation and Academic Success in College, Developing Effective Study Skills, etc.* Wednesday's presentations will be centered around "The Self," relating to personal success and development. Some topics include: *How to Find Your Mission, Life in the Stressed Lane, Top 10 Roommate Rules, etc.* Thursday's presentations will include topics relative to awareness of the world, such as: *Cultural Awareness, Doing Service Learning, Study Abroad, etc.* The closing ceremony will be Friday, February 3rd, where there will be live entertainment, food, drawings for door prizes, and cash donations. Stay tuned to any updates and take full advantage of this week-long event.



Are you enrolled in a science course? Academic Skills has implemented a new initiative geared towards helping students offset the cost of attending college. This program was funded through a USI institutional grant awarded by the Office of the Provost. Beginning this spring, one copy of each science textbook in the following courses will be available to students and tutors for studying purposes:

BIO 105, BIO 121, BIO 122, BIO 141, CHEM 103, CHEM 107, CHEM 141, CHEM 261, CHEM 262, PHYS 175, PHYS 176, PHYS 205, and PHYS 206.

These textbooks are to be used in Academic Skills only and will be monitored by the Academic Skills staff and student tutors. Please contact Dr. Darrin Sorrells, Learning Assistance Specialist, with any questions at ddsorrells@usi.edu.



Holly Keimig is a senior at USI who is pursuing her second bachelor's degree. She earned her first bachelor's degree in Spanish in 2008 and is currently a geology major with a 4.0

GPA. She came from Casper, Wyoming and attended Ben Davis High School in Indianapolis, where she graduated in 2004. Holly chose USI because she enjoys the tri-state area and the university's affordability. She is especially fond of the small-campus atmosphere and hiking trails. Holly is a supplemental instruction leader for University Division and leads GEO 161 and GEO 132 S.I. sessions. Holly has worked for Mammoth Cave National Park in Mammoth Cave, Kentucky, while giving cave tours to the public. In the future, Holly intends to research hazard medication for volcanoes for the United States Geological Surveys (U.S.G.S.). She states, "My grandfather was a paleontologist and dentist, which may be where my inspirations and motivations derive."