Welcome to USI!

As Director of University Division I’m happy to welcome you all to a NEW academic year. We know that many of you have questions and concerns about beginning your academic life here. USI is a great place to discover what you want to do for the rest of your life and to prepare for it, too. University Division staff members are here to facilitate USI students’ academic success by helping students build a solid foundation for their college careers.

The theme to the start of this year is NEW. We have several new initiatives being implemented that are designed to help students be even more successful in their academic transition to USI. This fall, for the first time, all first year students are taking UNIV 101 (First Year Experience) as part of the new Core 39. This course is an introduction to the USI and the undergraduate experience with a specific focus on academic success, campus involvement, and community engagement. What I love most about this course is that the connection every first year student gets to develop with a caring faculty or staff member in that first semester, whose sole purpose is to make this transition to USI a smooth one.

In addition to the advising assistance provided to our undecided students, University Division helps students be successful in the classroom everyday with the services we provide in Academic Skills. We encourage you to take advantage of all the tutoring and learning assistance we provide in ED 1111. NEW this year is an expansion of tutoring hours. We will be open from 9 am – 9 pm Monday – Thursday and 9-3 on Fridays. Please check our web page for the most up-to-date schedules: http://www.usi.edu/university-division/academic-skills

Another NEW initiative that has started this fall is the Undergraduate Career Readiness Program. This program is going to immediately connect students’ educational choices to future career paths and will help students begin to plan for future careers. Students will begin this process by completing the Strong Interest Inventory in their UNIV 101 class. Individual interpretations and additional career counseling will be available through our staff in University Division.

Finally, University Division Advising is also pleased to announce we will be hosting the 7th Annual Exploring Majors and Minors Fair in the University Center - Carter Hall on Wednesday, October 15th, from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. The intent of the Exploring Majors and Minors Fair is to provide an opportunity for students to investigate various curricular and career options in one place at one time.

Remember, University Division is here to help. We will be glad to answer your questions or make an appropriate referral. Have a great year.

Sincerely,

Michael “Brody” Broshears
Distinguished Sophomore Award

On August 22, 2014 24 students were recognized at USI the New Student Convocation. This award is given to sophomores who have made a positive impact on USI’s campus during their freshman year. University Division would like to congratulate five of our tutors from Academic Skills, two members of Student Support Services, and one SI leader. Congratulations to Sean Pedley, Connor Curry, Jarise Ross, Elizabeth Miller, and Amelia Peterson. Sean Pedley is currently a member of the USI baseball team and serves as an Anatomy and Chemistry tutor and a Peer Coach. Connor Curry is a member of the USI baseball team, serves as a CIS tutor and peer coach. Jarise Ross is an Anatomy and Chemistry tutor for Academic Skills. Elizabeth Miller and Amelia Peterson work as writing consultants for the Writers’ Room. Nicholas Lomax and Gary Martin are student workers in the Student Support Services department of University Division. Elizabeth Downard is a SI leader for HIST 102 for. Congratulations to these student employees on their positive impact they have made around campus so far and what they will accomplish in future semesters!

Academic Advising Expanding

University Division is expanding its services to the student body all across campus with new advising centers. The advising offices will now not only be located in the Education Center, but will also offer services to students in all four academic colleges: College of Liberal Arts; College of Nursing and Health Professions; Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education; and Romain College of Business. Dr. Keith Powers is responsible for the Pott College Advising and Resource Center which is located in ED 3104. Mrs. Renee Rowland will be working in the Liberal Arts building in LA 3043. Dr. Sarah Stevens is located in the Health Professions in HP 2023D and Mr. Timothy Fitzgibbon is Advisor and Coordinator of Programs and Services for University Division located in ED 1142. A search is ongoing for a new director of Advising for Romain College of Business. These offices will provide students with major and career information, help with course scheduling, provide resources to help enhance students’ academic experiences and will assist with students’ academic concerns.

Academic Survival Week

Academic Skills held its first annual Academic Survival Week during the week of September 1. The event was a huge success! Approximately 900 students visited Academic Skills throughout the week, including 20 UNIV 101 sections. Students and faculty visited Academic Skills and learned more about services, picked up information, and visited with staff. The Academic Survival Guide was also a success. It is a new publication of Academic Skills that provides students with helpful information about study skills, time management, and overall college success strategies. An electronic version of the Academic Survival Guide can be located at the following link: http://www.usi.edu/media/3360088/USI-Academic-Survival-Guide.pdf
Where Are They Now?

This is a statement from Emily Meyer, a 2013 graduate about her experiences here at USI, and what she is doing now. This is a new article in the newsletter that will feature past students who have benefited from University Division.

“While attending USI, I served as both a tutor and Academic Peer Coach. Working in Academic Skills taught me so much about patience and how to communicate so students could better understand the subject material and how to be academically successful in college. That job was rewarding in so many ways but the best part occurred when a student with whom I had been working would come to me so excited to announce that they had finally mastered a tough subject or gotten a good grade on an assignment.

After I graduated in May 2013, I began law school at the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law and intend to practice corporate and transactional law. Ultimately, I would like to be in-house counsel for a company. I am currently in my second year and, among other things, am an “Academic Fellow,” which is similar to the Academic Peer Coach program. I mentor first-year students and work with them on time-management skills, outlining, and how to study for law school exams. Being an Academic Peer Coach definitely prepared me for this role and, as a result, I understand how to adapt my teaching style to these students’ various needs. In addition to being an Academic Fellow, I am the treasurer of the Federalist Society, a member of Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity, Business Law Society, *University of Louisville Law Review*, and serve as an Associate Justice on the University of Louisville Student Government Supreme Court.”

-Emily Meyer

Student Support Services

Student Support Services (SSS) is part of University Division and has a great impact on student success. SSS is a federally funded grant program supporting 140 first-generation, income-eligible, and/or disability-eligible students at USI.

The primary goal of the program is to assist students who demonstrate an academic need to maintain good academic standing, persist from year to the next and ultimately graduate from USI. Some of the services include academic skills development, career advising, personal and financial aid counseling, peer tutoring and mentoring, and activities designed to enhance a student’s overall experience on campus. The staff includes Heather Bauer (Program Director) and Theresa Ohning (Academic Coordinator). Contact either of the SSS staff to discuss the needs of current participants or to make referrals to the program:

Heather Bauer – Email: hmbauer@usi.edu Phone: 812-461-5249
Theresa Ohning – Email: tgohning@usi.edu Phone: 812-228-5087

University Division

Mission Statements

**Advising:** To provide academic services that enhance the connection between students and the University of Southern Indiana.

**Academic Skills:** To enhance student success and the educational process at the University of Southern Indiana.
New Night Time Tutoring

This year Academic Skills is offering new tutoring hours that are expanded for student support here at USI. We now have tutors here in Academic Skills until 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday. So come visit us. We are located on the first floor of the Education Center in room ED 1111. Our operating hours are from 9 a.m.—9 p.m. on Monday—Thursday and Fridays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tutoring is available in the following subjects: accounting, anatomy & physiology, biology, chemistry, computer information systems (CIS), economics, finance, history, humanities, philosophy, physics, political science, psychology, Spanish, study skills and writing.

Like us on Facebook!
And
Follow us on twitter
@USI_ASkills

Exploring Majors and Minors Fair

University Division Advising will be hosting its seventh annual Exploring Majors and Minors Fair on Wednesday, October 15th, 2014 in Carter Hall located in the University Center. This will allow students the opportunity to investigate a number of different curricular and career options in one place at one time. There will be a number of different departments there who will have information on their academic programs and services available to the USI students.

Student Spotlight of the Month

Erica Oberbroeckling

-Junior, Accounting Major
-Peer Coach & Tutor for Academic Skills
-Studied abroad this past summer for two weeks in Australia
-Is a member of the FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes and SAAC (Student Athletic Advisory Committee)
-Plays volleyball for the USI women’s volleyball team-COME OUT AND SUPPORT THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM THIS FALL
-GLVC Academic All-GLVC