

The Student Supporter



Student Support Services • 225 Osband Hall
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A unit of the Center for
Teaching and Learning

November/December 2008

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Upcoming Dates to Remember

- November 3** – SAB Meeting
- November 11** – Alabama Jazz Combo, 7:30 p.m., Moody Music
- November 17** – SAB Meeting
- November 23** – SSS Fall Social
- November 25** – Last day for all tests
- November 26** – Classes dismissed
- November 27** – Thanksgiving holidays
- November 28** – Thanksgiving holidays
- December 1** – SAB meeting
- December 3** – Financial Aid Workshop
- December 4** – Financial Aid Workshop
- December 5** – Last day of classes
- December 5** – SSS tutoring ends
- December 8** – Week of final exams begins
- December 13** – Commencement

SSS WELCOMES KATHY WILSON AND ROBIN GRIFFIN

There are exciting changes in Student Support Services! Earlier this semester, Kathy Wilson joined the staff as a Student Counselor and has already been working with her students and getting to know them. More recently, Robin Griffin became a part of the SSS team. Meet Kathy and Robin!!! We invite all our SSS students to stop by and join us in welcoming Kathy in Osband 220 and Robin in Osband 219.



Hello to all SSS students! My name is Kathy Wilson and I received my bachelor's degree in Music and a master's degree in Social Work from The University of Alabama. For the last three and a half years I have served as staff therapist for UA's Women's Resource Center providing counseling and advocacy for victims of violence.

I am the proud mother of Ian, age 22, and Erin, age 20, both UA students, and Morgan, age 13, a student at Rock Quarry Middle School. I and my husband, Jeff, own The Globe Restaurant in downtown historic Northport. In my spare time I enjoy performing with Theatre Tuscaloosa and being a soccer mom.



Hi! I'm Robin Griffin, one of the new Student Counselors and I am excited about working in the Office of Student Support Services. I recently moved to Alabama from Maryland and am looking forward to seeing (and driving in) less snow. I have my Bachelor's degree in Biology from Hampton University and received my Master of Science in Counseling from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Prior to coming to Alabama I worked as an Academic Advisor in the College of Chemical and Life Sciences at the University of Maryland; I also worked in the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics at Maryland as an Academic Mentor. Some interesting facts about me are that I am a huge fan of the Baltimore Ravens, I like to bake and am interested in taking culinary classes, and enjoy traveling to and learning about the Caribbean, especially Jamaica. If you want to see all my Ravens memorabilia or just stop by I welcome you to come by my office in Osband Hall. I look forward to meeting all of you.

December Degree Candidates Announced

Student Support Services announces the following students as candidates for their degrees at the December 2008 commencement:



Ashley Brand

Tennille Daniels

D'Andre Green

Ashley Smith

Herbert Brown

Erica Davis

Shonteria Johnson

Lacye Taylor

Sikeria Caldwell

Randy Fincher

Sade Lawson

Joshua Warren

Darrion Calloway

Joy Garnett

Ronald Riley

Vonquesha Winn



SPOTLIGHT STUDENTS

LAWRENCE WILSON



During his days at The University of Alabama and as an SSS participant, Lawrence Wilson was a very busy student. Although in Nursing, one of the most demanding majors at the University, he followed a rigorous schedule in the Air Force ROTC program, and found time to serve as a Peer Mentor in Student Support Services.

When asked about his commission in the Air Force, Lawrence said, "On November 17, 2004 I was officially enlisted in the United States Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps. That contract guaranteed that if I fulfilled my obligations as a student at UA, I would receive a commission into the US Air Force. Nearly four years after that on July 17, 2008, the commission was fulfilled. I was sworn in on the way to Anchorage, Alaska. I am here now and will begin work as a nurse shortly. I am so blessed and pleased to have this opportunity to serve and I hope to use the training and success of the Air Force to build a foundation to further the education of people across this nation."

Student Support Services sends congratulations to Lawrence Wilson for all his many accomplishments.

TIFFANY BAILEY

"My Grandmother Taught Me Not to Live in Fear"



When coming to The University of Alabama, Tiffany Bailey never set out to be a trail blazer, but that's what she has become for many. A senior from Athens, AL, Tiffany decided to major in Metallurgical Engineering. When asked why she chose Engineering, Tiffany stated "I have always enjoyed math and science and found UA's Engineering Department very supportive. Engineering

can be quite overwhelming especially when you come from a small school, but I'm grateful for great faculty interaction and assistance. They really take care of you here."

Tiffany describes her home town as a small place where many are not challenged to major in difficult fields. She was always taught that she could accomplish anything in life which led her to try something different from becoming a nurse or teacher. This lesson was taught by her wonderful grandmother, Helen Nelson West—to whom her degree is dedicated. "My grandmother taught me not to live in fear. When I got to UA, I noticed that my field of study was male dominated and that I was one of a few minorities in the classroom. I never let that intimidate or stop me. I never gave it much thought really. I

just focused on the work. I didn't realize it until recently that I'm now proof to little girls in my home town that they can accomplish anything."

Tiffany takes community service very seriously and has been heavily involved, even with her challenging curriculum. She has served as a resident assistant, has served the Jimmie Hale Mission (Jessie's Place), T.O.R.C.H. Center academic program, National Society of Black Engineers, Sigma Alpha Lambda, Phi Eta Sigma, Alpha Lambda Delta, Dean's List and this list continues. Tiffany's future is very bright with two appealing job offers—Texas Instruments, Dallas, TX and Exxon Mobile, Houston, TX. Tiffany plans to continue her education and plans to assist young people in her home town, encouraging them to dream.

ANTHONY WINSTON SAYS GOODBYE TO SSS

I'm really not sure where to begin. I have to first say, "thank you" to my university family for making me feel welcome and allowing me to do what I love for the past 14 years—serve students. It is so rare in life that one gets the opportunity to do the very thing for which they were created. I have been so privileged. My story is not unique. I'm a First Generation College Student from a small town who had a dream to become something better than what I saw in my community. I had no idea that I would end up here, but the exciting part is my life is just beginning; I have much work to do. I was very fortunate to have learned valuable lessons rather early in life. Many of you have heard me talk about my grandmother, Julia Killings, who was the first person to truly inspire me to live a life of service. If we all would take a moment to look at life, we would see what truly matters—people.



I can write a book on the many people I've served. I have been so fortunate to have met many wonderful students, and I hope that I have been able to inspire and give the best advice when needed. I remember two of my first students, Dr. Michael Curry and his wife Alicia. At one time, I served as inspiration to them and today, they inspire me. That's what life is all about—finding your place and serving. It comes back to you. Nothing in life just happens. Behind every event, whether good or bad, there is always an opportunity. The question is, what do we do with the opportunities given to us daily? We live in a country where all people, no matter what color or background, have the opportunity to become whatever they desire. Granted, for some the road will be more difficult, but that's where we come in. It is up to us to help others—inspire them and to be inspired by their lives.

I see my new role as CTL Manager for Tutorials and Supplemental Instruction as an opportunity to continue to serve students and an opportunity to learn. If I can offer any parting advice, it would be to encourage each of you to truly live. Are you living or just existing? Only you can answer that, but I do know that we often settle for less than what we are capable of doing. Never stop dreaming. Dreams are only the beginning of where you can go and what you will accomplish. Remember that saying "thank you" and being respectful of self and others will never go out of style. Finally, I want to encourage each of you to "be you" and live a life of service to others—making our world a better place inspiring one person at a time. I love you all and I'm confident that you will continue to prosper—as you are in capable hands with the wonderful SSS staff.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO GRADUATE IN MAY 2009?

IF SO, CONTACT YOUR DIVISIONAL DEAN'S OFFICE (A&S, CBA, NURSING, ETC.) IMMEDIATELY TO OBTAIN THE APPLICATION FOR DEGREE.

YOU MUST COMPLETE AND FILE THE DEGREE APPLICATION NOW FOR MAY GRADUATION.



FALL SOCIAL "A TIME TO CELEBRATE"

Come join SSS for an afternoon of food, fun and celebration of the Holiday Season! On Sunday, November 23, 2008, SSS participants will have the opportunity to dress in their Sunday best for what is hoped to become an annual holiday celebration. The idea for the Fall Social was formed out of conversations during one of the Student Advisory Board meetings. SSS serves 200 participants, but we rarely have the opportunity to get together at one time to celebrate success and all the wonderful things we look forward to this time of year. The event will take place in Gorgas Library, room 205 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. SSS participants will be allowed to bring one guest. An e-invitation will be sent mid-November. Please ask any SSS staff member for additional details.



SSS COURSE OFFERINGS – SPRING 2008

GS 111-006 and 007 – Academic Skills:
College Writing – 1 hour credit

GS 111-001 and 002 – Academic Skills:
Textbook Reading – 2 hours credit

GS 111-003 and 004 – Academic Skills:
College Success – 2 hours credit

GS 111-005 – Academic Skills:
Professional Development
– 1 hour credit



THESE COURSES ARE AVAILABLE ONLY TO SSS STUDENTS. In order to register, you must contact your counselor in advance of adding these courses.

Call Kathy Wilson at 205 348 6099, e-mail kwilson@ctl.ua.edu, or Robin Griffin at 205 348 5376, e-mail rgriffin@ctl.ua.edu to initiate registration.

SPRING TUTORING AVAILABLE!



Students are strongly encouraged to complete requests for Spring 2009 tutoring services as soon as possible. Most tutoring slots are filled very early in the semester and spaces are limited.

Our tutors can provide assistance in the following courses:

CH 101, 102, 223, 231, 232

EC 110, 111

EN 101, 102

MATH 100, 112, 113, 115, 125, 126, 227, 238

PH 101, 102, 105, 106

ST 260

Please contact Dianne Teague at 348 5318 or dteague@ctl.ua.edu if you have any questions about the SSS Tutoring Program.

COLLEGE.GOV – WHAT IS IT?

The U.S. Department of Education has created a website in collaboration with students which is intended to be the go-to source for resources about planning, preparing, and paying for a college education.

Perhaps the most compelling question most students have is “How can I pay for college?” The U.S. Department of Education awards \$80 billion each year in grants, work-study, and low-interest loans. But, aid also comes from scholarships from schools, employers, individuals, private companies, nonprofits, religious groups and professional organizations. College.gov provides search assistance, scholarship advice, and links to numerous funding opportunities.

In creating the website, students were asked what was most useful to them as they planned for college. A work in progress, the site will continue to evolve as students across the country submit questions, suggestions and feedback via the Contact Page at college.gov.

Visit college.gov now to learn how your college experience can be all and more you hoped it would be!



FIDEL SEBASTIAN – STUDENT ACHIEVER FOR NOVEMBER

My name is Fidel Sebastian, and I was born in a small town called Alamosa in Colorado. I grew up in Alamosa for most of my childhood, but moved with my parents to Alabama when I was 12 years old. I attended and graduated from Tuscaloosa County High School.

So far, one of my most outstanding accomplishments is my acceptance to the University of Alabama. Because I kept good grades throughout high school I received an academic scholarship that gave me a full ride to any college of my choice. I chose Alabama because of the great business school and the exciting football weekends.

I learned about SSS through the office that administers my scholarship. I was told the program was very helpful and therefore, I took their advice. SSS helped me make the transition from high school to college and provided me with services to keep on track in all my classes so that I could be successful. From start to end, SSS has always been there for me and for other students as well. My plan after graduation is to begin my career in business and become as successful in that as I have been in high school and college. I am also considering graduate school after I have worked for maybe two or three years.



JUSTIN ZIMMERMAN – STUDENT ACHIEVER FOR DECEMBER

Justin Zimmerman of Moreno Valley, California has been named Student Support Services Student Achiever for the month of December. Justin has a double major in Political Science and Philosophy and plans to attend Law School after graduation. He attributes his academic success to having great support from his parents and close friends and lives by one of his favorite quotes “...by any means necessary.”

Now a senior, Justin has accomplished much during his time at UA—he is a member of The University of Alabama’s Mock Trial Team, University Honors Program, Resident Advisor for Parker-Adams residence hall, UA Chapter of NAACP (past-Vice President and past President), Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., The Blackburn Institute, Spirit Award Winner and a member of the Student Advisory Board for Student Support Services. Justin has never been afraid to have the full college experience. For instance he took advantage of a study abroad opportunity in Ghana, Africa. Committed to a life of service, Justin has done extensive work with Teach for America as Campus Campaign Coordinator and plans to serve before attending Law School. When asked about his campus experience, Justin stated, “I feel very fortunate for my college experiences and if I can offer any advice, it would be to encourage others to not be afraid to get involved. Get out of your comfort zone.”



**FINAL EXAMS ARE
SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 8-12.
STUDY HARD, DO WELL!!!**