

New Year For Student Support Services

By Andrea Keller

Happy October, SSS! Can you believe you've already got six weeks of classes behind you? Just two more weeks and you'll be relaxing during your much needed fall break! It's been a very busy time in Irvin Hall and we are happy to have provided services to so many students. You've been a terrific group to work with thus far and we look forward to having a fantastic year! Be sure to check out the Events page on our website so that you always know what's going on in SSS.

We have several workshops, activities and social events planned for the year. Look ahead and keep those dates open on your calendar-you won't want to miss out! We hope our students will take advantage of everything going on in Irvin Hall this year. Our specialists, tutors & staff are eager to help you make the most of your time at HCC! Let's have a great year, SSS. We hope you enjoy getting to know our staff

through this newsletter. This is my 2nd year serving as the director for SSS and my 10th year of working at HCC. It's hard to believe it has been that long, but it's been a great journey. Life truly does fly by! My husband is a teacher/coach in a nearby school district and we have 2 young children that keep us on our toes. My hobbies include cooking and playing the piano. I also enjoy attending sporting events and fine arts performances. I love to support the Scotties!

Extra, Extra!

Be sure to "Like" us on Facebook (Highland SSS), follow us on Twitter (sss@highlandcc.edu), and follow us on Pinterest (Highland Community College) for updates and birthday announcements!

October Events

- October 2-Transfer Workshop, 1:15pm and 2:30pm, Irvin Hall, 2nd Floor
- October 9-English Specialish Workshop, 1:15pm and 2:30pm, Irvin Hall, 2nd Floor
- October 9-Newman University Admissions Rep, 11am-1pm, CT lobby
- October 14-15, Fall Break, NO CLASSES!!
- October 17-Last day to drop a class with a "W" and no grade penalty
- October 22-Fall event at Klinefelter Farm
- October 23-Developing Relationships with Your Instructors Workshop, 1:15pm and 2:30pm, Irvin Hall, 2nd Floor
- October 24-Bethany College Admissions Rep, 10am-1pm, CT Lobby
- October 30-LASSI Workshop, 1:15pm and 2:30pm, Irvin Hall, 2nd Floor
- 31-Halloween!!

Michelle Hurn, Math Specialist

I grew up on a small farm near Eureka, Kansas and graduated from Emporia State University in 1992. After getting married in 1994, I moved to the Hiawatha area where I have lived while working for HCC. My role at HCC has changed a little since I began working here, but has always involved teaching and tutoring mathematics.

My main priority in life outside of my job is my children. As they get older we spend more and more time at school activities. This fall my fifth grade daughter is going to be a Munchkin in the Hiawatha High School production of "The Wizard of Oz." I have a feeling that I will spend a lot of time taking her to and from play

practices. One of my favorite downtime activities is reading and I have read many series of books along with my children as they have been growing up. My husband, who is also a mathematics instructor on the HCC campus, is a huge sports fan. So I keep up with how the Royals and Chiefs are doing through him.

October Birthdays

- October 1-Cody Catterson
- October 1-Terri Simmons
- October 2-Corey Smith
- October 6-Veronica Pitchford
- October 8-Kaley Pyles
- October 10-Andrew Stanton
- October 17-Geoffrey Vaughn
- October 21-Ashley Lupp
- October 21-Chris Provo
- October 25-Anthony Scott

SSS Staff Contact Information

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- Randa Arnett, English Specialist: 785-442-6151, rarnett@highlandcc.edu
- Michelle Hurn, Math Specialist: 785-442-6075, mhurn@highlandcc.edu
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- Kristi Kelley, Office Assistant: 785-442-6058, kkelley@highlandcc.edu



Audrey Caudle, Retention Coordinator

My first year at Highland was a success and I learned a lot. Over the last year I've been to quite a few trainings to learn more about financial aid, persistence and retention, and of course, TRIO programs. I feel like it typically takes someone at least a year at a new job to get a truly good understanding of the job and I can proudly say, I made it a year and I am feeling great!

I team taught my first class at HCC last spring and I'm currently teaching my first Orientation class solo. I've got my own set of Academic Advisees which I'm learning to manage along with my SSS duties. I sat in on the Retention Committee last year

and I'm now ready to start working on some more projects in regards to Retention very soon. Last year was very productive and this year will be even better!

Things have changed a lot in all aspects of my life over the last year. I was able to find a rental house in Highland and after 15 years of commuting anywhere between 30 minutes to an hour; I finally live and work in the same town. Brady, who is almost 4, started pre-school and loves it! His favorite thing about preschool is being the helper for the day and the snacks. He also still loves dinosaurs, animals, and books. I on the other hand still haven't

read a book in quite a while. I have gotten to go see some very good bands though; I saw 2 of my favorites this summer, the Killers and Matt and Kim. The two best movies I saw last year were World War Z and Oz the Great and Powerful.

I enjoy seeing all of the students in Irvin Hall especially when they stop in and say Hello. We have had a lot of students utilizing Irvin Hall so far this semester and a great group of Staff, Tutors and Foundation Scholars available to support our students in the success they desire. I hope this is another great year at HCC for everyone!

Kimberly Bechtold, Transfer Advisor

Last year was full of change for my family, we moved back to the area after living in Kansas City for 6 years and started new jobs. Within 2 weeks of finding out I got the job at HCC we had our house up for sale and began the moving process, just an FYI I never want to move that fast again! It all worked out though, we both loved our new jobs and our house sold pretty quickly.

Even though we no longer live in Kansas City it seems like we go there a lot

to visit friends or just to get away. I'm not going to lie if we are anywhere near our old house we almost always drive by just to see if the new homeowners have changed anything and because we kind of miss it. So far the house looks the same and we're happy someone else can enjoy it.

There are definitely things that I miss about the city like restaurants, a beautiful Price Chopper only 2 minutes from our house, shopping and all other major con-

veniences but I don't regret our decision to move one bit! I love that our son is getting to grow up with both sets of grandparents, uncles and aunts and cousins close by and that he's getting to experience the kind of childhood that we had.

I'm looking forward to another great year and getting to know all of the new students. I learned a lot last year and hope I can continue to help students easily transition to the next step after HCC.

Randa Arnett, English Specialist

Hello! My name is Randa Arnett. I am the English specialist for the SSS grant program and a Spanish instructor here at HCC. My husband, Doc, and I live on a "farmlet" a little west of Wathena, KS. We have a Rocky Mountain Horse named Journey, a rescued French Brittany Spaniel mix named Layla, and a rescued Cantankerous cat name Ginger. We have children and grandchildren galore, most of whom live at

various, significant distances from Wathena. I am originally from Iowa, but have lived in several other states throughout my life.

As a child, I spent much time on my grandparent's farm in eastern Iowa and I still appreciate my rural roots. I enjoy working with students here at HCC, whether in the classroom learning and sharing "Español," or assisting a student one-on-one with an English essay. Each semester

brings new faces and interesting perspectives that make my teaching experience a career, rather than just a job.

My hobbies include horseback riding, sewing, baking, and spending time with family and friends.

I look forward to meeting/working with our SSS participants (both new and returning) in the months to come.



Shelley Smith, Math Specialist

I grew up in Sabetha and after living in Topeka, Lawrence and Overland Park for 13 years, my husband and I decided to move back home to raise our family. My husband also grew up in Sabetha. With both of our families there, we decided to move back so our three daughters would get the chance to build the same kinds of relationships growing up that we had with our grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.

The first part of my career I spent as a computer programmer/analyst working in various industries ranging from energy corporations to life insurance. It was an excellent time to be in that field. With the year 2000 approaching, many updates needed to be made in the software world. In the last job I had as a computer programmer/analyst, the position turned into more of a software trainer/instructor role. From that point on I knew I didn't want to sit behind a computer all day and write code, I wanted to teach. I have been teaching for HCC and Washburn University as an adjunct

instructor since 2004 and now I am on the main campus as a Math Specialist and Instructor.

Okay time for some fun info about me. I spend most of my time running my three beautiful, intelligent, funny, out-going, witty, etc. (I might be a little biased – I am their Mom!) daughters to all of their many activities. They play all kinds of sports, dance and take piano lessons. I'm sure I have forgotten to mention some activity of theirs, but luckily I haven't ever forgotten to pick anybody up yet! I also spend a lot of time taking care of my two dogs, Disney and Poppins. They are about the cutest dogs ever and I have to admit are pretty much treated like babies. I absolutely love to read! For the past few years most of my reading has been tween or teen books, in order to know if they were appropriate for my oldest to read. So of course now I can't wait until Nov. 22nd when "Catching Fire" comes out. Even though movies are never quite as good as the book, some of them

are still pretty entertaining. Speaking of movies, I have a rule in my house that before you can watch the movie, you first have to read the book. I haven't gotten any complaints on that rule so far (my girls love to read), except from my husband. He is not a reader and does not follow our rule. So glad my daughters got the love of reading from me. You could also probably tell from my dogs names, that my family loves anything Disney. We have taken our girls to Disneyworld 5 times in the last 9 years! If you ever want to go, I can give you lots of insider tips. I am also a KU fan. My husband went to college there, I worked for the university and we lived in Lawrence. Kind of hard tonot be Jayhawk fans! One last thing about me and my family is that we are Duck Dynasty fans. We hurry home from church every Wednesday night to watch it. It makes us Happy, Happy, Happy!

Feel free to come see me anytime, I am here to help you.

Kristi Kelley, Office Assistant

First I want to say welcome back to all of the returning students from last year and to tell the new students on campus, welcome to the HCC family!

After completing my first full year on campus I am excited to see what this school year has in store for all of us. I thoroughly enjoy seeing the students on campus and witnessing the successes many have achieved, whether it be passing that one test or winning the big game! I enjoy all aspects of my job, but working with the SSS students is truly the highlight for me.

I have had a few big changes in my life over the last year, one being that I took and passed the test to become a licensed property and casualty insurance agent. It was extremely tough but it is

something I am proud of accomplishing.

The most exciting change is that I got engaged on 8/23/13 to Rick Blevins! We have been together for over five years and he succeeded in completely catching me off guard and surprising me in front of several of our friends when he proposed. Not only will I be getting a husband, but I will also be getting a step-daughter, Lillie! She lives in Nixa, Missouri with her mother, is 10 years old, and is in the 5th grade. I do not know who is more excited, me or Lillie!! No date official date has been set yet, but some of the planning has already started!

A few of my hobbies are playing volleyball and softball. I love to bake and to collect cookbooks. My friends and my fami-

ly are the most important things in my life. I love college sports, especially HCC and K-State! We have 2 dogs, Morris and Sammy, who are 12 years old and 13 years old, respectively. More than anything, Morris makes us laugh at his craziness and Sammy makes us laugh with his constant grumpiness.

I hope this continues to be a great year! The whole SSS staff hopes to see more of you at our activities and events, whether it be a workshop or a social event. We are open to suggestions from you guys to know what will keep you coming in to Irvin Hall for the SSS program so please let us know if you have any ideas. Have a great fall semester and go Scottie Dogs!!

Congrats to 2012-2013 SSS member Buddy Lisk on his renewable \$25K Buick Achiever National Scholarship funded by General Motors Foundation. Buddy graduated from HCC last spring and is currently a junior at Kansas State University. He is studying Nuclear Engineering.



Services Offered by Student Support Services

ADVISING/COUNSELING

SSS staff are dedicated to ensuring each participant reaches their educational and career goals. Participants will have:

Personal SSS Counselor
Personalized Education Action Plans
Regular Meetings Each Semester with SSS Counselor

Students will also benefit from advising/counseling in the following areas:

Academic
Financial
Personal
Career

ACADEMICS

Participants in the SSS program have a wide variety of academic tools at their disposal. These include:

Peer Tutors
English and Math Specialists
Developmental Instruction in English and Math

Study Groups
Study Skills Assistance

CAREER

SSS participants will enjoy having the benefit of several career exploration tools including:

Career Counseling with a SSS Counselor
Career & Life Planning Course
Professional Mentoring
Job Shadowing
Internship Opportunities

FINANCIAL AID ASSISTANCE

Financial Aid Tools include:
Financial Aid Assistance
Scholarship Search Assistance
Financial Literacy Workshops
Grant Aid

TRANSFER/ADMISSIONS ASSISTANCE

SSS employs a full time Transfer Advisor to assist participants when they are ready to make the step to the next level of education.

Transfer Visit Days
Recruitment Days
College Resource Library
Transfer Workshops
Transfer Advising

PERSONAL GROWTH

SSS will give its participants the opportunity for:

Peer Mentoring
Leadership Training
Personal Counseling
Community Projects

SOCIAL EVENTS

SSS participants will also enjoy the benefit of attending a variety of activities each semester including:

Social Events
Cultural Activities
Community Learning Groups

Tutor and Study Group Information

Fall 2013 Study Groups

MONDAYS

Human Anatomy: 6-7pm, Erin Clary
Intermediate Algebra: 7-8pm, Carl Leahy
General Chemistry: 8-9pm, Erin Clary
Human Growth & Development: 8-9pm, Marlyse L'Ecuyer

TUESDAYS

Nutrition: 4-5pm, Kayla Bales
College Physical Science: 6-7pm, TBD
General Psychology: 7-8pm, Keshana Cook
General Sociology: 8-9pm, Hannah Olson

WEDNESDAYS

College Chemistry I: 4-5pm, Tyler Tryon
College Algebra: 6-7pm, Diana Pratt

Beginning Algebra: 7-8pm, Kayla Bales
College Biology: 8-9pm, Brittany Gerety

THURSDAYS

College Algebra: 6-7pm, Matt Hastings
Calculus I: 7-8pm, Jake Burnett
U.S. History I: 8-9pm, Jake Burnett

ACADEMIC SPECIALISTS

Specialists are instructors that can provide one-to-one instruction in the areas of Mathematics, Writing, and English. Schedules for English and math specialists available in Irvin Hall.

STUDENT TUTORS

Students provide a free, walk-in peer tutoring center available 59 hours per week, days and evenings. Peer tutors are trained to assist in a variety of study strategies. Peer tutors also provide study groups for a selection of current classes each semester. The tutor office hours are Monday-Thursday 9am-9pm, Friday 9am-4pm, and Sunday 5pm-9pm.

Be sure to stop by Irvin Hall for your October events calendar!

