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!

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.

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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.
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 family are the most important things in my life. I love college sports, especially HCC and Kansas 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

**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.

**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

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**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**

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.

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