

## Welcome to a New Semester

While some students are coming to Southwestern for the first time and others are returning, one thing appears the same. Students start off with the idea that they want to “have a good semester.” This is where

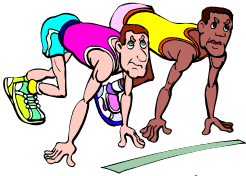
the road divides! For some students,



school appears a hobby where they dabble at it, and for others it becomes their full time job. What we see in the Success Center is that student success is often

directly proportional to energy exerted. That means, the more the student works at a subject, the more likely s/he will do well and the less energy exerted, the less likely the student will do well. From the first day of class, students face many choices. Make the choice today to be the student that you envisioned when you enrolled! The Success Center can help you accomplish this goal.

## Tips to Having a Good Semester



### 1. Attitude is everything!

Decide that you will do whatever it takes to be a good student.

**2. Keep track of your time:** Wear a watch or carry a phone with time display. One with an alarm feature or the fairly new ones that can be linked to your computer and allow you to download a computerized schedule into the watch are awesome.

**3. Use a student planner/appointment book:** Carry it with you to all classes and record *all* class, work, and appointment times, test dates, and due dates of assignments and papers. Review your planner at least once each day. Do not rely on your memory; writing important information down allows more space in your head for other important information.



**4. Keep a To Do list:** On the front of your planner or some other place that you see numerous times a day, keep a list of personal and school things to do. If you have a few minutes of down time, refer to it and you may be surprised at what you can accomplish in short periods.

**5. Create notebooks:** Keep a separate notebook with pockets for each class, labeled with your name, the name of the class, and other important class information. Different colors are helpful for some students.

**6. Read and keep the syllabus:** Understanding the syllabus is very important as it tells you what is expected of you in the class, how to reach your instructor, how you will be graded, and more.

**7. Go to every class!** Get there a few minutes early, consider sitting near the front, and have your notebook and pen ready at the start of class.

**8. Make a good first impression:** Instructors tend to respond more favorably to students who appear motivated, conscientious, responsible, and hard-working.

**9. Review your notes:** As soon as possible after each class, review the class notes. Frequent, short review periods are an enormous help in remembering and retaining information over the course of a semester.

**10. Start the first week of class:** When classes start, so should your reading, studying, and homework! Falling behind creates anxiety, hopeless, confusion, and frustration.



**11. Schedule weekly study times:** Just as you have scheduled class times, so you should schedule study times each week.

**12. Be proactive!** If there is something you don't understand, ask either in class or during the instructor's office hours.

**13. Stay healthy:** Nutrition, exercise, and getting adequate sleep are important.

## Applause for Our Accounting Star



### Rochelle Johnson

Peer Tutor Rochelle Johnson recently participated in state and national accounting competitions. In the Illinois Phi Beta Lambda Competition in the Accounting for Professionals Event, Rochelle finished first! This allowed her to compete in the national competition in Dallas during June where she finished ninth in the Nation! Congratulations Rochelle! We are proud to have you as one of our peer tutors.

## Welcome New Peer Tutors

Welcome to our new peer tutors who joined us this fall. They include: Jessikah Clark of Lebanon and Erin Rodowick of Belleville. Peer Tutors have been recommended by faculty members, have earned at least a B in the class(es) they tutor, maintain a 3.0 gpa or higher, and participate in a comprehensive tutor training program recognized by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). The Success Center is still looking for a few tutors for this fall. Contact the Success Center for more information.

## Welcome Back to Our Returning Peer Tutors

The Success Center has several returning tutors. They include: Rochelle Johnson of Fairview Heights, Julie Bruemmer, also from Fairview Heights, Amy Theuerkauf of O'Fallon, Jessica Roehl of Troy, Billie Padgett of O'Fallon, Lisa Nieweglowski of Baldwin, Bryan Schneider of Belleville, Trina Freshour of Lebanon, Sarina Feuerbach of Belleville, Carmen Rustenbeck of SAFB, and Paul Hackbarth of Belleville. Each of these students received certification through CRLA in the spring. Additionally, we have several other returning tutors, most of whom are pursuing the CRLA certification. They include Megan Terrell of Belleville, Tiffani Brown of O'Fallon, Jason Budler of Fairview Heights, and LaTasha Roberson of Fairview Heights.



## Dear Gabby Returns Next Edition

Submit any questions or comments you have about the Success Center, learning topics or useful websites to Deborah.Alford@swic.edu and she will make sure Gabby gets them to include in our next edition of The Success Story.

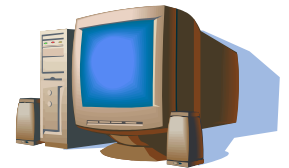
## Helpful Links and Handouts

The Success Center has many "Helpful Links and Handouts" listed on our webpage at [www.swic.edu/successcenter](http://www.swic.edu/successcenter) and would like to include yours as well. The list was expanded this fall to include sites that offer resources and practice handouts for math, sciences, English, accounting, study skills and more. Here is a small sampling of what you will find at the Success Center homepage:

<http://www.iss.stthomas.edu/studyguides/> - Information on writing, reading, math, and science skills as well as academic success skills and evaluation of Internet sites.

<http://www.utexas.edu/student/utlc/> - College success skills are included along with links to helpful handouts and information for English as Second Language students, stress, anxiety, and procrastination.

<http://www.ncsu.edu/felder-public/ILSdir/ilsweb.html> - A free online learning styles inventory that will help pinpoint learning style preferences.



## Free Online Tutoring Through IVC

IVCTutor, Illinois Virtual College Tutor is a web-based tutoring system that uses qualified college tutors to answer students' questions through chat rooms or via email on the Internet. Southwestern is pleased to be part of this endeavor that is available to any Illinois college student. Tutoring is offered in a variety of college subject areas including math, English, computer science, social sciences, languages, science, and the GED Exam. In addition to the Success Center's face to face tutoring and the Online Writing Lab (OWL), IVCTutor gives Southwestern students another tutoring option. Log on at: <http://classmate.parkland.edu/>.

## Writing Tutoring Just Isn't For



### English Classes

Many students are asked to write papers for a variety of classes: psychology, government, art, advanced math, etc.

Therefore, the Success Center offers English tutoring "across the curriculum."

Our tutors are available to assist you with any part of the writing process for many different classes and also offer tutoring with speaking assignments.