Welcome to the Winter Issue!

New Year’s resolutions are often easier to make than to keep. If your students’ resolution lists include “get better grades” or “graduate faster,” we can help them keep their resolve. It’s a proven fact that students who use our services get better grades. We also know that students who graduate credit our services with helping them get there faster.

If you haven’t looked at our services lately, I encourage you to learn more about them. Here are a few that can help move your students toward their goals:

- Writing workshops for doctoral students working on their dissertation or doctoral study
- Career advising that can help prepare them for a job search or create a resume
- Library resources for their literature review or discussion postings
- Math and statistics tutoring
- Graduate writing courses
- Paper reviews with a writing instructor
- Webinars on career paths, APA, and using the library

All of our services, with the exception of courses and workshops*, are free. Encourage your students to spend some time with us this new year and see what we can do for them.

*courses and workshops are $195

Susanna L. Davidsen
Executive Director
Center for Student Success
Please describe your primary role at Walden.

My primary role at Walden over the past few years has been as a Graduate Assistant tutor to math students and now Word and PowerPoint learners. I also support the Academic Skills Center (ASC) as a Learning Resource Coordinator. I have prepared tutoring resources such as videos, PowerPoints, and PDF documents that are posted on our YouTube and website. I have also hosted a few webinars and am working on building our social media presence!

How do you support students at Walden?

I support Walden students through one-on-one tutoring sessions on the ASC tutoring schedule and via the tutoring team email accounts. I look forward to building our social media to assist students in finding the resources they need through multiple channels.

What is your favorite part about your job?

EVERYTHING. I have loved every minute of working with Walden students and the ASC team; so much so that I decided to obtain my master's degree in adult education. I hope to change careers to the education field where my passion lies.

What do you do when you’re not working?

When I’m not working for the ASC, I am studying, working my full-time job, or enjoying time with my family. I love to cook and bake. My daughter (also a Walden student) and I make meals and treats for a nearby shelter as often as possible. My daughter, son, and I also enjoy playing online games.

If you could offer one helpful tip to Walden students, what would it be?

Get to know the Walden resources outside of the classroom. There are so many options to support you on your Walden journey at no cost to you. The Center for Student Success (CSS) has so much to offer, and utilizing these resources will assist you in becoming a more efficient, less stressed student.

If you could offer one helpful tip to Walden faculty, what would it be?

Let the students know about what is available to them outside of the classroom. A holistic online college experience is available to them, literally at the click of a button. Encourage interaction with the Walden Community and with the CSS social media spaces. Keep in touch with CSS leaders and let them know what you need to support your students.

CSS Presentations & Publications

Green, K. (2015, November). Connect to your next career opportunity. Presentation at the Arizona Library Association Annual Conference, Flagstaff, AZ.


Willard, R., & Lindquist, A. (2015, November). Writing outside the lines: A discussion of LTELL and Gen 1.5 writers. Presentation at the MELEd Conference, Bloomington, MN.
Career Services Highlights for 2015

Senior Career Services Advisor Angie Lira joined our Career Services Center this past spring, infusing new technological savvy into our team. So when we were tasked with reporting Career Services annual highlights at our CSS holiday party, we asked Angie to develop a jazzy Prezi presentation. Well, Prezi did not transition well to Business Skype delivery, so to recycle our efforts, we invite you to view our short Prezi presentation. Please open the presentation (using Firefox or another browser other than Internet Explorer) and click through the arrows to view our achievements for 2015.

Help Your Students Jump Start Their 2016 Job Search!

Each year, we deliver our four-part Job Search Support Series. We had 150 students attend this series in December 2015. The good news is that if they missed the series, they may watch the archived recordings here. On Thursday, January 14, at 6 p.m. Eastern, we will offer another webinar to complement this series, “Mobilize and Organize Your Job Search.” Encourage students to register here.

CSS Supports Our Social Change Mission through Collecting Holiday Gifts for Homeless Teens

Every December, the Center for Student Success celebrates the end of the year with a holiday party where we celebrate our accomplishments and do some type of fun activity, like a White Elephant Gift Exchange or holiday photo contest. This year, we asked if staff would be interested in donating gifts to a shelter for homeless teens in St. Paul. We had a wonderful collection of about 20 gift cards, 14 handmade hats and other winter weather clothing, and personal and household items requested by the teens. It was great to make a positive difference in the lives of those less fortunate this holiday season.

Resolutions

The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to set a goal to grow your professional network! The Career Services Center invites you to instantly add 3400 Walden colleagues to your professional network by joining our group, clicking here.
New Writing Instructor Staff

This fall, the Writing Center instructor team welcomed 12 new writing instructors: Claire Helakoski, Crystal Sands, Jes Philbrook, Meghan Barnes, Melissa Sharpe, Michael Dusek, James Horwitz, Jeannie Croichy, Max Philbrook, Nicole Evans, Rowland Cadena, and Veronica Oliver. We are so excited to have expanded our team’s collective experience, knowledge, talents, and ability to serve Walden students. For more information about each of them, please see our Meet Our Staff page. Please encourage your students to work with these new instructors through our paper review service.

New Dissertation Editor Staff

Now that the dust has settled on promotions, new positions, and multiple transitions, the team of editors is now 15 strong. Most will know the eight seasoned editors (Lydia, Dayna, Michael, Sarah, Basil, Jenny, Tim, and Carey). To their ranks we have added seven editors (Dan, Sara, Steve, Joe, Travis, Meghan, and Tara). Their experience is rich and diversified, coming from the world of academia, libraries, academic advising, and publishing. The monthly number of form and style reviews that now passes through the editors would have been cause for awe only a couple of years ago. We are now equipped for any topic, length of manuscript, or grammatical conundrum.

Chat

Did you know that the Writing Center offers chat? During our chat sessions, writing instructors are available to answer students’ questions and point them to resources. We currently offer chat sessions six days a week at various times of the day. For a complete schedule of our chat sessions, please visit the Writing Center homepage.

Self-Paced Modules

The Writing Center has revamped and added to our self-paced student modules. In addition to grammar, you can now find APA and plagiarism prevention modules. Topics covered include citation formatting, book reference entries, and journal article reference entries. Each module includes the following:

Encourage any students you feel would benefit from more in-depth discussion and practice to one of these modules. If you'd like to discuss specific recommendations for your students or a particular student, contact Amber Cook, associate director of faculty outreach and support, at Amber.Cook@waldenu.edu.

Resolutions

The Writing Center recommends that students commit to improving their writing skills in 2016. Encourage students to make a paper review appointment during the month of January so they can learn firsthand how helpful it is to receive feedback on their writing.
Library

Library Liaison Services

In October, three librarians took on new roles to provide specialized support to faculty and students across the university. The Library now has five liaison librarians devoting time and attention to meeting information literacy outcomes in their assigned programs. The liaisons also offer greater opportunity for collaboration with faculty. They can work with faculty to provide research assistance for developing courses or publishing projects. Liaisons can also work with faculty to develop instructional interventions supporting research-driven projects and assignments that students find unusually challenging. To learn more about collaborating with the Library, visit the Library Faculty Services page or contact us at libraryliaison@waldenu.edu.

Librarian Appointments for Doctoral Students

Librarian Appointments allow students to set up one-on-one sessions with a librarian liaison in their subject area. These appointments will help doctoral students brainstorm and develop effective research strategies for their dissertation or doctoral study literature review. Appointment slots are available at a variety of times to meet student demand. The appointments are between 30-45 minutes in duration and may include email follow-up if needed.

The Library is committed to assisting students through their Capstone research cycle. We realize that some students need more assistance as they find the evidence to begin their proposal, while others need more help finding the depth of literature for their dissertation. We are willing to work closely with doctoral students through each step of this research process so that they get it right the first time. Doctoral students can schedule an appointment now with a librarian to receive one-on-one assistance.

Chat Office Hours

The Library is now offering the opportunity for students at any level to meet with a librarian during drop-in office hours via chat. The hours vary by subject area and can be found by visiting the Library Subject Area pages and viewing the left column for Librarian availability. Chat information is also accessible from our Ask a Librarian page. This is a great way for students to ask more specific questions about research in their area and develop a better relationship with the librarian who liaises to their school.

Academic Skills Center

New in 2016: StatsChat Live!
An open, moderated conversation, StatsChat Live! with Patrick Dunn, PhD, and Zin Htway, PhD, gives students the opportunity to discuss a topic, learn more about it, and have their questions answered. These forums are designed with time for dialogue and discussion. Our first session will be offered on January 27 from 9-9:30 p.m. Eastern. For more information, visit the Academic Skills Center's website.

New Graduate Writing Courses!
Our revised graduate writing courses—Graduate Writing I: Basic Composition Skills and Graduate Writing II: Intermediate Composition Skills—will be offered for semester students beginning on January 4, 2016, and for quarter students on February 29, 2016. Each course is 8 weeks long and costs $195. Learn more about them on the courses and workshops page of the Academic Skills Center’s website.

Resolutions

Faculty should resolve to explore ScholarWorks and learn about all that it has to offer members within the Walden University community by visiting the Library’s ScholarWorks Faculty Support page.

Resolve to help your students learn APA citation and reference list formatting! Recommend they learn these practices and more by taking our 4-week course, WCSS 6200: Basic APA Style. Visit the course information page for details and to see a short video featuring one of our APA course instructors!
Upcoming Webinars

Career Services
Career Services Overview
Tuesday, January 12, from Noon to 12:30 p.m. Eastern

Mobilize and Organize Your Job Search
Thursday, January 14, from 6 to 7 p.m. Eastern

Resume Café
Tuesday, January 19, from 6 to 6:45 p.m. Eastern

Writing Center
Using and Crediting Sources in APA
Thursday, January 14, from 12 to 1 p.m. Eastern

Writing Effective Academic Paragraphs
Tuesday, January 19, from 5 to 6 p.m. Eastern

Literature Review and Annotated Bibliography Basics
Wednesday, January 27, from 1 to 2 p.m. Eastern

Academic Skills Center
StatsChat Live!: Topic: Probability
Wednesday, January 27, from 9 to 9:30 p.m. Eastern

Library
Upcoming webinar offerings are available on the Library website webinar page

Best wishes for a great 2016 from the Center for Student Success!