With my background in library and information science, I’m particularly passionate about the topic of reading. I’ve been an avid reader from an early age, and while in university, I volunteered with young students who needed help to become better readers. Recent studies show that traditional reading in the United States is on the decline: book reading is down, newspapers continue to disappear, and publishing is in a state of disarray. As teachers, you know how important reading is to education. Did you know that reading for pleasure has its benefits, too? A 2009 study by the University of Sussex reports that leisure reading for as little as six minutes a day can reduce stress by 68% (note: this is not a scientific research study. It was commissioned by a chocolate maker, which makes it awesome in a different way!). I could sure use some stress reduction, especially a method that’s easy, portable, and has such good results. Reading fiction also makes you more empathetic, a better critical thinker, and a better writer. This summer, I’m challenging your students to read something they enjoy for just 10 minutes a day. I also encourage you to visit your library in person or online, download some free classics for your mobile device, visit Walden’s library and choose the Language and Literature collection in ebrary, or check out our summer reading recommendations on page 5 of this issue. If you have more time, become a change agent by visiting Reading is Fundamental or the International Reading Association for resources you can use in your community to improve literacy and support the joy of reading.
Staff Spotlight: Andrea Obrycki, Career Services

Please describe your primary role at Walden.

As a career services advisor, I work with students and alumni to set career-related goals during appointments and webinars. Topics include résumé reviews, how to get started on LinkedIn, the importance of a professional brand, and how to grow a professional network.

How do you support students at Walden?

I continuously seek new ways to deliver content to students and alumni. I am the go-to gal for our OptimalResume system, run our monthly Resume Cafes, and assist in managing our social media presence.

What is your favorite part about your job?

Working with students is easily my favorite part! During appointments, I always ask what our students’ “stories” are to learn about their backgrounds and passions, what led them to Walden, and ultimately what they would like to do post-degree. The stories we get to hear are very inspiring!

What do you like to do when you’re not working?

Outside of Walden I am active in the Minnesota Career Development Association, serving as a Board Member and Co-Chair of their Mentorship Program. This summer you can also find me on the sand volleyball court; walking my dachshund puppy, Beau; gardening; and planning a wedding!

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

Reach out to Career Services early in your program. We are here to help you set action steps so you are prepared for whatever comes next in your career!

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

We enjoy working with faculty! Connect with us if you are interested in integrating our resources into your classroom.

Disability Services

What Are We Up to in Disability Services?

This quarter we’ve been busy, as usual, in Disability Services. We can never say it’s been “routine” because every day is different in our office. Disability issues are unique to each individual and often require a tailored approach to services. So, although the volume of activity remains fairly consistent, the nature of the activity changes daily and student by student. On average, every month, we evaluate and respond to 32 new student applications, answer 140 student phone calls, respond to 196 emailed requests for accommodations, respond to 660 emailed requests for advocacy, and send out 972 emails on behalf of students with disabilities. In addition, we process 39 requests for course materials in an alternate format and an average of 20 requests for captioning services each month. These numbers don’t include requests related to residencies, which often require even more tailored services. It’s been “business as usual,” but that doesn’t mean it’s been boring!
Quick Start Videos

Students may be interested in watching our live or archived career webinars, but perhaps it’s hard for them to find a spare hour to watch one. We know students often juggle family responsibilities, jobs, and their academic programs. To provide a short overview of topics such as resume writing, researching jobs, networking, or interviewing, we have created new Quick Start Videos.

Our New Facebook Page

We surveyed our LinkedIn group members on whether they would like a Career Services Facebook page, and the overwhelming response was, “Yes!” We’re excited to have launched our new Facebook page on June 16. On our new Facebook community, we will post announcements of upcoming webinars, newsworthy articles, and topics for discussion. We hope students and alumni will engage in this forum to make valuable professional networking connections. We invite students to log on today and “like” us on Facebook!

Academic Skills Center

Welcome New Graduate Assistant Tutors to the Academic Skills Center!

We are pleased to announce that four new Graduate Assistant tutors have joined our growing team in the Academic Skills Center. These individuals, all Walden students, were hired for their demonstrated experience and academic excellence in their respective content areas, as well as their backgrounds in mentoring and teaching. We welcome them to our 13-person tutoring team, which supports areas such as math, statistics, biostatistics, and research. We look forward to having them support students across the university as part of ASC Tutoring Services!

- Bo Bennett (Research/Quantitative Reasoning)
- Edward Irobi (Advanced Biostatistics and General Statistics)
- Tim Tapp (Healthcare Finance)
- Rich Vermillion (CUGS Math)

Welcome, Rob Matthews!

Rob Matthews joins the Academic Skills Center as a Math Instructional Support Specialist. Rob earned his B.S. in Math, with an emphasis in Education, from the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse. He has previous experience teaching and tutoring in math in various educational settings. Rob also coaches collegiate-level soccer and is a referee with the U.S. Soccer Federation.
Paper Review Scheduling: Sign Up by Assignment

In May, the Writing Center launched its new scheduling system, myPASS. This streamlined system aims to improve students’ experience when they make paper review appointments with the Writing Center. Learn more about it on our Paper Reviews page. To better accommodate all students, myPASS includes three separate schedules for different assignments:

- An Undergraduate Schedule for undergraduate coursework;
- A Graduate Coursework Schedule for graduate coursework not involving the premise, prospectus, or proposal;
- And a Proposal Schedule for all work involving the premise, prospectus, and proposal.

Students should make appointments on the schedule that corresponds to the document submitted for review.

Capstone Writing Community

The Writing Center hosts a private online writing community exclusively for Walden students in the proposal and final stages of writing the capstone (dissertation, doctoral study, or project study). For more about the community and a link to the survey students fill out to request an invitation, visit our Capstone Writing Community page.

WriteCast: Interviews with Students and Faculty

Last month on the Writing Center’s podcast series, WriteCast, writing instructor Nik interviewed doctoral students and a faculty member at the Walden academic residency in Atlanta. To listen to these lively interviews, download past episodes, view transcripts, or subscribe to WriteCast, visit our WriteCast archives.

Library

Welcome to Our Newest Librarian

The Walden Library is pleased to announce the addition of our newest librarian, Janet Crow. Janet is an evening part-time reference librarian living in Minneapolis. She enjoys helping students in all phases of the research process, and her focus is always on teaching students to be confident, independent library users. Janet has a B.A. from Augsburg College, and she received her MLIS from Simmons College. During her free time, Janet enjoys hiking, gardening, biking, and crafts. Join us in welcoming Janet to the Library team!

2013 Annual Report

In other exciting news, the Library’s 2013 Annual Report is now complete and available for perusal! Interested to know what the Library was up to in 2013? Check out our 2013 Annual Report for all the details!
Summer Reading Recommendations

The Career Services Center recommends *The Charisma Myth*
Is charisma learned or are we born with it? In *The Charisma Myth*, Olivia Fox Cabane provides tips for mastering nonverbal behaviors to strengthen the three core elements of charisma: presence, warmth, and power.

The Academic Skills Center recommends *10 Percent Happier*
Dan Harris’s book *10 Percent Happier* is funny, easy to read, and helpful in finding ways to manage stress and prioritize your life.

Disability Services recommends articles on universal design in education
Universal design in education is a set of principles faculty and course developers can use to create inclusive classrooms, where assignments and materials are accessible to a universal audience from the point of origination. We suggest [this series of articles](#) on the topic.

The Library recommends *Fool Me Twice* and *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*
We love a good book recommendation, and we’ve got two to share! The first is a nonfiction title that’s sure to intrigue: *Fool Me Twice: Fighting the Assault on Science in America*. Written by Minnesota author Shawn Lawrence Otto, *Fool Me Twice* is an intriguing look at how the American population’s appreciation and understanding of science has changed over time. Equal parts fascinating and maddening, *Fool Me Twice* is sure to raise some eyebrows and get you thinking.

In terms of great fiction, we’re happy to recommend the strangely captivating Haruki Murakami novel, *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*. Published in the mid-1990s, *Wind-Up Bird*, like most Murakami, is oddly timeless. It can be hard to neatly summarize a Murakami novel, so let’s just say that this story involves a man looking for his lost cat. Even the most ordinary lives can be deeply strange.

The Writing Center recommends *365 Journal Writing Ideas*
Keeping a journal about your memories, experiences, and reflections can make you a stronger writer. Follow the fun exercises in *365 Journal Writing Ideas* by Rossi Fox to learn more about yourself and develop the good habit of writing regularly. Her daily prompts and weekly actions give you a creative break from academic writing, too!

Webinars

Student-oriented webinars are listed on the CSS homepage under the heading “CSS Webinar Schedule.” For individual webinar schedules, see below.

- Career Services Center [live webinar schedule](#) and [webinar archive](#)
- Writing Center [live webinar schedule](#) and [webinar archive](#)
- Library [webinar archive](#)