Welcome to the Summer Issue!
Susanna Davidsen | Executive Director

I love new technology. New laptop? Yes. New tablet? Yes, please. New smartphone? I can’t wait to have it in my hands! There is something about a clean slate of technology that I just have to test out and play with and, of course, make sure my cross-system applications work so I’m not too inconvenienced by that clean slate.

On July 1st, the Center for Student Success launched a new bit of technology: our first-ever website. Think of it as one-stop shopping for our services: career management, library, writing, and support courses. We have linked up all of our sites with one website and one search engine called Quick Answers. From APA questions to a list of webinars to definitions of peer review, you can find help using our new Quick Answers. Hundreds of students have already found Quick Answers helpful in its debut at the Walden Library.

Over the next year, we will be adding other student support groups to Quick Answers. Academic Advising is planning to add their information later this year, with other units to follow in 2014. Our goal is to make it easier to find the information your students need, whether it is about Walden University, your students’ research topic, or just your students.


Susanna L. Davidsen
Executive Director
Center for Student Success
Staff Spotlight

Nikolas Nadeau | Writing Center Instructor

Describe your primary role at Walden.

As a Writing Center instructor, my main role at Walden is to help students revise their academic writing, whether for a discussion post, course paper, KAM, or capstone project.

How do you support students at Walden?

In addition to providing written feedback to students, I serve on the Writing Center’s social media team, which maintains our Facebook page, Twitter feed, Pinterest page, and blog. My most recent and exciting project, however, has been the Walden Writing Center’s new podcast (titled “WriteCast”), funded by a special grant from Laureate GPS and co-created with my colleagues Anne Shiell (producer) and Brittany Kallman-Arnson (co-host). I also represent the Writing Center at residencies (the next one is Orlando!), present webinars, and research new teaching tools and technologies.

What is your favorite part about your job?

I am a big fan of Walden residencies, where I am able to meet face-to-face with students. I also enjoy speaking in front of large audiences (the bigger the better!), so giving presentations at residencies and faculty meetings is always fun for me. In addition, being a “tech guy” who also loves broadcast radio, I am really enjoying our new podcasting project. Fun fact: the microphone we use is the same one used by many famous radio personalities, including Rush Limbaugh; of course, the words we broadcast will be quite different from his.

What do you do when you’re not working?

I am beginning work on a young adult novel, in which the main character is a Korean-American short track speed skater. I also love skating myself, whether on ice or pavement, and am pondering a run at the NYC Inline Marathon this September. Musically, I play a bit of piano and am a member of a samulnori (traditional Korean percussion) group. Lastly, I enjoy cooking and baking (yes, men do bake!) and am trying all kinds of new grains and vegetables.

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

Save the most frequent comments you make in students’ writing and compile them into an autocorrect/autotext library, so you can provide detailed feedback while also saving the time/hassle of typing the same comments over and over. Also, rather than saying “this is wrong” or “fix that,” identify the problem but also model a possible solution, at least when a student is struggling to comprehend a certain writing component.
Academic Skills Center

Peer Mentor Program Continues to Improve Success for Walden Students

In 2012, the Academic Skills Center, in conjunction with the First Year Student Progress program, launched a pilot peer-mentoring program (PMP) to explore how peer support could facilitate student success and retention and assist faculty at the same time. Over the past year, the program has grown to include over 20 mentors across several programs, supporting both graduate and undergraduate courses in areas such as graduate writing, statistics, public health, research, math, and finance. Peer mentors are carefully selected through a stringent hiring process and represent some of the best and most dedicated Walden University students in their respective programs.

The PMP, which is managed out of the Academic Skills Center, is continuing to expand and grow. With the help and guidance of faculty, peer mentors are tasked with working with students, assisting with labs, answering student questions, conducting webinars, and developing other types of supportive learning opportunities for Walden students. In addition, the Academic Skills Center continues to grow the PMP via collaborative professional development opportunities, social networking, presentations at conferences, and research initiatives for peer mentors.

The PMP is privileged to have a select group of stellar, ambitious mentors dedicated to Walden students. However, as peer mentors graduate, it opens up opportunities for newer students to fill these vital roles in the program. The Academic Skills Center would appreciate support from faculty and students who are interested in learning more about peer mentoring and the opportunities available for students to fill these critical roles. As fall fast approaches, the program anticipates many openings, across various programs.

To learn more, please visit the Walden University careers website at http://www.waldenu.edu/careers or feel free to e-mail the PMP at academicskills@waldenu.edu.
Career Services

New Offering: Group Advising on Special Career Topics

On July 31st, Career Services will begin offering 45-minute group advising sessions on distinct career-related topics. These informative, career-focused sessions offer 30 minutes of content on a specialized career topic, followed by 10 to 15 minutes of Q&A. Encourage your students to join us for these short, interactive sessions to learn more about reaching their career goals! Upcoming topics include:

- Launching with LinkedIn on July 18 at 4:00 p.m. Central time
- Forging Connections for a Successful Relocation
- Job Search Strategies for Veterans
- Contract, Temporary, and Virtual Opportunities
- Optimal Resume

For more details regarding the times, dates, and registration for these upcoming sessions, please visit the Career Services Center website: http://careercenter.waldenu.edu.

Career Services Summer Book Pick

Are you considering starting a consulting business? Do you have a particular skill or area of expertise that you would like to use to help others achieve their goals and earn income as well? The book Start Your Own Consulting Business – Your Step-by-Step Guide to Success is an expert go-to guide that will walk you through the steps of everything you need to know to get your consulting business off the ground.
The Library Welcomes Emily Adams to the Liaison Team

This June, Emily Adams joined us full-time as a liaison librarian. Emily had previously worked on the Library reference desk part time on evenings and weekends while working full time for the MINITEX interlibrary loan program at the University of Minnesota. We are now happy to have her with us full time. Emily will support our College of Health Sciences programs and expand her library instruction work while remaining a valuable member of the library reference team.

Library Contest Winner Announcement

The Walden University Library ran its first Database Search Contest from June 24 to July 7. We used the IEEE Xplore Digital Library database for this contest. IEEE is the world’s largest professional association dedicated to advancing technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity.

The winner of the $25 Amazon gift card was recently announced on the Walden Library blog. We hope your students had a chance to participate, but if not look for another chance for them to get to know the IEEE Xplore Digital Library! For more information, contest rules, and a link to the contest website, visit the Database Search Contest page.


Pink shows the huge gap between what we think motivates people—money—and what really gets people to work hard and be creative. It can change how you work with others, and even how you try to motivate yourself.


If you are interested in criticism of the current reform movements in American schools, this book does a great job of highlighting the areas where reforms can fail.
New Synchronous Services From the Writing Center

After successful pilot offerings last fall, the Writing Center has established two new, synchronous, virtual offerings for students: TutorTalk and the Capstone Writing Community.

In TutorTalk sessions, students in Walden’s undergraduate, master’s-level, and doctoral programs can visit a virtual space to meet with writing instructors and editors in real time. Students can ask writing questions about their assignments or projects and submit a sentence or a paragraph of their work for synchronous review. Students can register in advance, but it is not required, and they do not need to attend the whole session; they can come, get what they need, and leave at their convenience. Tutor Talk sessions are held Sunday evenings from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Central time. For more information, please see the Webinars page on the Writing Center website.

Doctoral committee faculty: Tell your advisees! The Capstone Writing Community (CWC) is a members-only social media space for doctoral students at the proposal stage. Students can create a profile, friend each other, and post comments to each other’s pages to answer peer questions, talk about challenges/successes, and offer support. During synchronous sessions (office hours and informal “meet-ups”), students can drop in to talk with Writing Center editors and with each other. Outside of those times, students can take advantage of the site’s resources asynchronously by posting questions, commenting on colleagues’ posts, and watching video tutorials about writing the proposal. The CWC is connected to the Walden Writing Center’s Facebook page, too. “If you mentor doctoral students with an approved prospectus who are working on a proposal, have them contact Kevin Schwandt at kevin.schwandt@waldenu.edu for an invitation to join the club!

Summer Book Pick

We are often asked to recommend digestible, entertaining grammar books. One of our favorites is Patricia O’Conner’s Woe is I. In brief, breezy chapters, she discusses the most common mistakes made by users of the English language. It’s a grammar book you can actually sit down and read, but it’s also a handy reference for your shelf!
CSS Presentations and Publications

Career Services Staff Present at the Minnesota Career Development Association Conference


Three groups within CSS received grants from the competitive Laureate GPS Social Media Research Grant Program:

*WriteCast: A Writing Center Podcasting Project* (Anne Shiell and Nikolas Nadeau, Writing Center).

*The Role of Social Media in Connectedness Among Online Peer Mentors* (Heidi Marshall and Christy Fraenza, Academic Skills Center).

*Building a Sense of Community to Enhance the Mentoring Experience of EdD Faculty in an Online Program Using a Three-Dimensional Productivity and Collaboration Application, Wiggio* (Heather Miller, faculty; Laurie Bedford, CFE; Maleka Ingram, Residencies; Amber Cook, Writing Center; and Nikki Mook, PSID)

Publications


Webinars

CSS (for faculty)

Introduction to the Center for Student Success

- **Thursday, August 22, from 6 to 7 p.m. Central time**
- **Tuesday, August 27, from Noon to 1 p.m. Central time**
Library (for students)

Introduction to the Walden Library

- Monday, September 16, from Noon to 12:45 p.m. Central time
- Monday, September 16, from 8 to 8:45 p.m. Central time

Searching Strategies

- Tuesday, September 17, from 11 to 11:45 a.m. Central time
- Tuesday, September 17, from 8 to 8:45 p.m. Central time

Please see more information on Library webinars on our web site.

Career Services (for students)

Strategies for Getting Published

- Wednesday, July 31, from 11 a.m. to Noon Central time

Nursing Field Experience Process (FNP/AGNP)

- Thursday, July 25, from 11 a.m. to Noon Central time

Nursing Field Experience Process (Nursing Education, Leadership & Management, & Informatics)

- Tuesday, July 30, from 11 a.m. to Noon Central time

Career Services Overview Sessions

- Tuesday, July 9, from 3 to 3:30 p.m. Central time
- Thursday, July 11, from 3 to 3:30 p.m. Central time
- Monday, July 22, from 3:30 to 4 p.m. Central time
- Monday, July 29, from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Central time

Career Services Group Advising Special Career Topics

Launching with LinkedIn

- Thursday, July 18, from 4 to 4:45 p.m. Central time
Writing Center (for faculty)

The Writing Center sessions listed above are for Walden faculty, with more information here. See our calendar for full student webinar offerings.

Faculty Favorites: The Writing Center Resources You Swear By

- Thursday, July 25, from 11 a.m. to Noon Central time

Writing Center (for students)

TutorTalk, held each Sunday from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Central time. Upcoming sessions:

- [July 14](#)
- [July 21](#)
- [July 28](#)

Developing Your Writing: Creating a Cohesive Paper from a Discussion Post

- Wednesday, July 10, from Noon to 1 p.m. Central time

Using the Walden Doctoral Capstone Templates

- Tuesday, July 16, from 7 to 8 p.m. Central time

Preparing for the Form and Style Review

- Monday, July 22, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Central time

Reference List Checklist

- Wednesday, July 31, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Central time