

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

SIMPSON COLLEGE

Director

Graeme Armstrong
Phone: 515.961.1231

E-mail: graeme.armstrong@simpson.edu

Assistant Director-Counselor

April Goers
Phone: 515.961.1232

E-mail: april.goers@simpson.edu

Learning Specialist

Darcie Sprouse
Phone: 515.961.1227

E-mail: darcie.sprouse@simpson.edu

Administrative Assistant

Denise Kalbus
Phone: 515.961.1230

E-mail: denise.kalbus@simpson.edu

What is SSS?

by Graeme Armstrong

September 2005 seems like yesterday. That's the date when the SSS program kicked off on Simpson's campus. In the past eighteen months, we have seen lots of students pass through the doorway into our office in the Brenton Student Center. Our primary goal is to help students stay in college and be successful throughout their 4-year experience. We are really pleased to tell you that students who join our program are staying at a higher rate than those who do not join.

We have developed a lot of programming to help students get involved socially and be successful academically. On top of that we have

tried to implement a supportive and culturally enriching environment. This includes developmental workshops, peer mentoring, supplemental instruction (SI) for traditionally challenging subjects, many opportunities for off-campus trips / visits, and many other enriching experiences.

TRiO programs have come a long way since 1964 when they were first formed to address access to college for underrepresented student populations. We think you will enjoy the experience and hope you take advantage of the many opportunities that SSS can offer.

Participant of the Year

by April Goers

Each year the SSS staff selects a student encompassing all aspects of being a star student and participant of SSS. This year the staff has voted Emily Lundt as our *Participant of the Year*. Emily has been in Student Support Services for nearly the full 2 years that our department has been on Simpson's campus. Academically, Emily is a model student. She is majoring in Math with a minor in Biology, and has maintained a Deans List eligible GPA. She is devoted to her studies which shows through her solid study skills. She has a dedication to succeeding in all she does.

Emily has shown great leadership by being a member of the SSS Theme House this year spear-heading different fund-raising efforts, and as a Peer Mentor within our program. She has a positive attitude and willingness to help whenever she can.

Another aspect of this award is the students' dedication to Student Support Services. In ad-

dition to her leadership roles, Emily also attends nearly all of our events and activities we have going on. She frequently stops by the office just to say hello and check-in. This past semester, she was an SI Leader for Biology 110 and got great reviews from the students that attended her SI sessions.

Overall, Emily is more than deserving of this award. We are thrilled to have a personality and model student like Emily as a part of our program. Congrats Emily!



Student Support Services
TRiO
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Peer Mentoring

Peer Mentors can help with:

- learning more about SSS
- showing you where your classes are located
- where to go on campus for specific services
- roommate issues
- homesickness
- college coursework
- college study skills
- questions about different majors on campus
- becoming a part of the Simpson Community
- ...and much more

Interesting Stats about the mentoring program:

- 96% of the students that had a mentor this year would recommend it
- 94% had a successful first year and are returning to Simpson this fall
- 91% reported they had a positive first-year experience

Quotes from first-year students about their mentors:

"I think that having my mentor has really helped me get used to Simpson. She was there when I was going through what most freshman go through, the difficulties of adjusting..."

"I really enjoyed being mentored by Rachel. She helped me with getting to know the campus and meeting new friends. The SSS events that we went to were interesting and fun. Not only did we go to SSS events but we also went to bingo night and movies."



Urban Adventure Trip to Minneapolis/St. Paul

by Rachel Unekis

What did you do for Spring Break 07'? I don't know about you, but 12 SSS students experienced the many sights and sounds of the twin cities in Minnesota. This year's Urban Adventure Trip was planned by Kirsten Towne and Rachel Unekis. It was a fun-filled weekend enjoyed by all of the students!

The weekend started on Friday, March 9. Our first stop was at the The Hennepin Stage where we saw the hilarious musical *Zombie Prom*. The words that best describe this musical are "nuclear Grease." Going to this show was a great way to start off the weekend. After the show we made our way to Embassy Suites, the beautiful hotel at which we stayed for two nights.

Saturday was packed full of activities; we started off at the Minnesota Science Center. We first viewed



Steve Lovitt, Kirsten Towne, and Allison Boardman inside a shark's mouth.

We enjoyed cosmic bowling while we ate pizza and dessert. Even though this was a big day we still had time to swim and play Balderdash back at the hotel.

A trip to Minneapolis is not complete unless you go to the Mall of America, which is exactly what we did on Sunday. We started with a backstage tour at Underwater Adventures, a large aquarium under the Mall of America. Our tour guide was informative and we had fun seeing a different view of the aquarium. We spent time shopping before we got back in the van to trek back to Iowa.

Overall, it was a fun weekend and a great way to start off spring break. I would like to thank Student Support Services for giving all of us the opportunity to experience Minneapolis / St. Paul. Also I want to thank our drivers, April and Darcie who maneuvered our large 15 passenger van through places no other van would dare to go!



Group photo at the Underwater Aquarium

the IMAX film "Hurricane on the Bayou" and then went on to spend a couple of hours in the exhibits. Our afternoon kicked off with a visit to the Weisman Art Museum, located on the University of Minnesota Campus. The main exhibit was an expansive Bob Dylan display. After leaving the museum, we returned to downtown Minneapolis where we spent the evening at Game Works. Level one of the building had a large arcade area with everything from Dance Dance Revolution to skee ball. We all had a fun time in the arcade, but quickly realized that we were hungry. We went upstairs to find a private room with a pizza buffet just for us.



Students waiting to enter the IMAX at the St. Paul Science Center

Awards Banquet

by Graeme Armstrong & April Goers

This Spring on May 11th, about 50 SSS students gathered in Great Hall for a program celebrating student successes over the past year. A major accomplishment this year was that the majority of planning was undertaken by SSS students. They worked up a great menu and developed the great list of activities for the evening.



special recognition of students.

Also a special thank you needs to go out to the awards banquet planning committee: Katie Larsen, Rachel Willems, Ashley Backstrom, and Maria Vosberg.

Their creativity and hard work made the evening very enjoyable. It was a great way to celebrate SSS students and their successes.



Guest Speaker:
Mary Chapman



Darcie Sprouse
announcing awards



Katie Larsen & April Goers

Our keynote speaker for the night was Dr. Mary Chapman, VP for Community and Workforce at DMACC, and also a member of the Board of Trustees at Simpson. Mary gave a wonderful address about persistence, perseverance, and reaching your goals. She shared with the students her own personal story about overcoming obstacles as a first generation student and her successes. She took a moment to congratulate our graduating seniors: Ashley Backstrom, Kim Dillon, Cheryl Gravett, and Travis Cherniss.

Thank you to April Goers (Assistant Director) and Denise Kalbus (Administrative Assistant) for their hard work and attention to detail. They were able to ensure



FALL 2007 WORKSHOPS & CULTURAL EVENTS

SSS Kick-Off Event
August 27th

Time Management
Workshop
September 6th

Lunch with uSSS @ Pfeiffer
September 18th

Boone Railway
& dinner at Hickory Park
September 29th

Lunch with uSSS @ the
Storm Grill
October 17th

Ghost Hunter
— Halloween Event
*Wear your SSS t-shirt to be
eligible for a drawing*
October 31st

Lunch on uSSS!
& Etiquette Workshop
November 5th

Des Moines Civic Center,
"Radio City Christmas"
December 6th

Study Blitz
December 9th

Brown Bag Lunch with uSSS
- SSS Office
December 12th



English 97

For the students that elected to take English 097, *Developmental English*, the seven week experience was worthwhile. English 097 is a FREE, one credit, accelerated course offered to SSS students. The cost of textbooks is even covered by Student Support Services!

Students who took the course went on to perform stronger in English 101. We are excited to run the course again in the fall! Tara Wendell, an instructor in the English department, will be leading the course.

If you have concerns about college level writing, speak with your academic advisor during orientation to get registered for the fall course. It will be running September 4th to October 17th.

Resources Available

- Two HP computers w/ network printing to a HP LaserJet
- LASSI—an online learning assessment (*bookmarked on our SSS PC's*)
- Laptop PC
- Portable micro-cassette recorders & headphones (*analog & digital*)
- TI 83 graphing calculators
- Digital camera
- Jump drives
- Planners
- Transparencies
- Planners
- Color printing
- Backpacks



Supplemental Instruction makes its mark on campus

by Darcie Sprouse

After its third successful semester, Supplemental Instruction (SI) has proven to be beneficial to both SSS students *and* SI leaders. Kyle Liske and Kristy Prescott returned as SI leaders for microeconomics and western civilization, respectively, while three new members were welcomed to the SI team! Heather Scott joined us as the leader for Math 140 while Emily Lundt took over Biology 111 sessions, and Allison Boardman led a new section of Chemistry 102.

Supplemental Instruction is still in its pioneering stages, but the SI leaders have definitely made their mark on students and participating faculty. One professor remarked that in addition to being enthusiastic, the SI leader for his course is usually thinking of new ways to explain the course material.

Students enjoy attending SI sessions to get help with homework questions, discuss course material, and take practice tests...among other

things. Students attending biology sessions have commented that there are topics discussed in SI that wouldn't ordinarily come up in a one-on-one tutoring session.

Kyle Liske laments that the most rewarding aspect of being an SI leader is seeing your students do well. "If they do well, then you know you did a good job," Liske adds. Whether it's getting to meet first-year students or being able to explain things in a different manner than the professor, SI is a great experience for all those involved.

If you are interested in being an SI leader or attending an SI course, please contact Darcie Sprouse in the Hawley Center. We are considering SI for the following courses this fall: History 101, Chemistry 101, Biology 101, Psychology 101, and Math 140.



SI Leaders: Heather Scott, Emily Lundt, Allison Boardman, Kyle Liske, and Kristy Prescott



Students socializing while enjoying pizza

Pizza Party

by Darcie Sprouse

Students kicked off the spring semester by attending a pizza party in Camp Lounge. Over thirty students were on hand to enjoy pop, pizza, and snacks. The pizza party was a great way for students to meet each other. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to interact by participating in icebreakers and "getting to know you" games. Students were also able to receive SSS motivational goodies like t-shirts, stress balls, etc. We hope to see you at the next pizza party spring semester!



Cheryl Gravett, Mayra Aguirre and Jenn O'Toole taking in the information.

Etiquette Workshop

by Darcie Sprouse

SSS hosted an etiquette workshop to help students prepare for internships and career inter-

views. Del Shepard, Director of Counseling and Career Services, shared tips on how to dress, questions to ask, and how to act during an interview. First impressions are very important when seeking a job; Del covered specific things to do in an interview like sit still and don't fidget. Malory Menefee agrees saying, "It made me think of the impression that I can make with the clothes I wear and the manners that I use." First year student, Jenn O'Toole, also found the workshop helpful. "Interviews are one of the single most important things to conquer and the etiquette workshop helped to make achievement possible," she explains.



Del Shepard leading the workshop

views. Del Shepard, Director of Counseling and Career Services, shared tips on how to dress, questions to ask, and how to act during an interview. First impressions are very important when seeking a job; Del covered specific things to do in an interview like sit still and don't fidget. Malory Menefee agrees saying, "It made me think of the impression that I can make with the clothes I wear and the manners that I use." First year student, Jenn O'Toole, also found the

workshop helpful. "Interviews are one of the single most important things to conquer and the etiquette workshop helped to make achievement possible," she explains. Del strongly recommends that students think about building a resume long before their senior year. Be sure to check out the etiquette workshop next spring to learn specifically about creating a resume!



Join SSS and receive a

- SSS logo t-shirt
- Free copy of... "How to Get Good Grades in College"
- SSS logo drawstring bag
- Academic year planner
- Bookmark

Grant Aid

by Graeme Armstrong

I have heard there are scholarships available through SSS, is this true?

Actually the SSS program at Simpson does make Grant Aid Awards. Each fall and spring semester, students who have met the grant aid participation guidelines and are eligible under the federal income guidelines can apply for grant aid.

How do I know if I meet the income guidelines for eligibility for a Grant Aid Award?

As a general rule if you have received a Pell Grant as part of your Financial Aid package at Simpson, then you may qualify for the Grant Aid program. When you complete an application we will confirm this.

Is it cash award?

No, usually SSS will award a "book store voucher" for use at the Simpson College Bookstore. We have worked to ensure our program students get priority on used book purchases, so that your award can stretch even further. Same amount of dollars, more books!

Who gets the awards?

The majority of SSS Grant Aid Awards go to students who are first-year or sophomore students. As long as you apply you are eligible to be considered.

Does that mean I have to apply every semester or every year? How does that work?

Students in the program are required to apply for an award each semester.

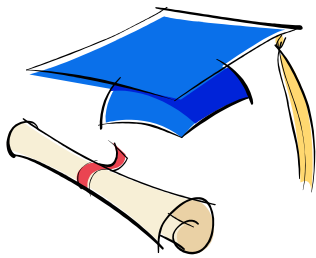
Don't worry if you forget, we will send out reminder e-mails, postcards, and even personal phone calls to ensure you meet the application deadlines.

So what's the catch?

Every student has to meet the Grant Aid Award participation guidelines, which include needing to be a current/active SSS student, be in good academic standing, meet with your SSS advisor on a regular basis, and have attended SSS program events throughout the semester. It's not difficult. Last year nearly 40 students who met all the participation guidelines were awarded a grant. Plus... when you first sit down with your SSS staff member we will run through all these requirements with you.



www.simpson.edu/support/
Indiana, IA 50125
701 N.C. Street



MEET THE STAFF

“CONTINUING TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES TO ENSURE COLLEGE SUCCESS”



*Graeme
Armstrong*
Director

Graeme Armstrong is a first generation college student who attended Simpson and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Management and went on to complete a Masters degree in Organizational Development. Graeme brings eight years of teaching experience, counseling, and advising non-traditional students to the SSS program.



*April
Goers*
Assistant Director

April is a first generation college student who went to Iowa State University as an undergraduate and completed her studies with a Masters degree in Higher Education. April previously worked in Upward Bound, and has had a great deal of experience helping students become successful in all they do.



*Darcie
Sprouse*
Learning
Specialist

Darcie was a first generation college student at Iowa State University where she completed her Bachelors degree in education. She is currently working on a Masters degree at Drake. In addition to teaching, Darcie has worked with special needs students of all ages as a director for Sylvan Learning Center.



*Denise
Kalbus*
Administrative
Assistant

Denise Kalbus is the Administrative Assistant for Student Support Services at Simpson. Denise is a non-traditional, first generation college student currently taking classes at Simpson College with the Division of Adult Learning. Denise is striving for a degree in Corporate Communications and is projected to graduate in Spring 2008.

