



# INDIANA UNIVERSITY EAST



STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Newsletter – Fall 2011

## Deep Thoughts from the Director

As fall semester draws to a close, I want to thank all Student Support Services students and staff for a most excellent adventure. Thank you to everyone I met who made me feel welcome in SSS! Student Support Services is more active than ever. Our goal for the fall was to become more visible in the IU East community. New students have joined SSS, tutoring requests are at an all time high, students are accessing Disability Services for e-texts with our scanners, and Peer Mentoring will take hold this academic year. I am glad to be a part of the fun!



There is more in store for SSS at IU East for the Spring Semester. The term kicks off with our Parents Partners and Peers program on January 18, 2012. I hope all students and significant others can attend. I look forward to meeting more SSS students in the coming months as we race toward Spring Break, Commencement, and Graduation.

Good Luck with your final exams, projects, and papers as we wrap up fall semester 2011. If the SSS Staff can assist you with any of your academic needs, please let us know. Happy Holidays and best wishes in the new year to you and your family!



S.S.S. Welcome Back!

*BRETT*

# Student's Page



## A Reflection:

### My Time at IUE and at Student Support Services

When I came to IUE, I was terrified. I was an older student and did not know how being so would work for me. During the application and acceptance process, I was introduced to Traci Taylor in Student Support Services. Meeting her made me feel better because Traci told me at that time most of the students were older, and I would fit right in. After the first couple of weeks, I figured out that there were more people than just Traci in Student Support Services and that I could benefit from a whole lot more in the department.

As the years have gone by, I have gotten to know and am thankful for the team in SSS. Traci has been there every step of the way, and Elaine has set up tutoring for me when I could not get through Spanish. I have never had the pleasure to have Jaci tutor me, but she has always been there to lend an ear and some great advice. Stephanie is always sitting at her desk and is the first one to greet everyone as they walk in. Whether you bypass her and go to whomever you need to see or you ask her for help, she's always there with a smile and sometimes a good joke (and candy on her desk helps too!). I was thrilled to meet Jen this semester as she is new to SSS. She is always upbeat and no matter what the dilemma or victory to share with her, she is always there to lend a hand and give praise when needed. Brett is a wonderful addition to the SSS team. His door (and all of their doors) is always open if he is there. I have had many meetings with Brett when I need to. He is very approachable and is there when he is needed.

What I will take away from SSS and IUE as I get ready to graduate in May is that they all work as a team. If one of them is busy or out, another one steps in and does whatever they have to for the student. They always make you feel welcome and always say hello and goodbye as you come and go. We are lucky at IUE to have some great and talented people here to assist us whenever we need them. I will always remember what they did for me long after I leave IUE.

~ Bob McKinley



Students hanging out at the S.S.S. Holiday Party.

Student Support Services: Three little words that mean so much to me. I first filled the application out at orientation day because the guy said I could be up for free money; who doesn't like that?! My mother and I sat down and filled everything out, and I dropped it by the office before I left campus. After that I never thought a lot about it until I received a phone call telling me I was accepted to the Student Support Services program. After a short meeting with Jen, I was pretty sure SSS was the place I needed to be. I'm the first person in my family to be going to college, and even with my parents working two jobs, money is still awfully tight. SSS gives students the chance to earn supplemental grants, extra FREE money towards the end of the semester, by doing one simple thing: staying in touch. I would stop by every week or two and have a meeting with Jen. If I couldn't stop by, I would update her in a weekly e-mail. This never was a job to me because the girls in SSS are like one big family; they can always relate to what I have going on. Once I became more comfortable with SSS, I started to open up to more of their programs. I met with Jen one day to go over study techniques, talked about test anxiety, and was even prepared to take free biology tutoring if my grade began to drop. SSS offers a variety of workshops throughout the year, two I have attended this semester, to help you with financial aid, stress, and whatever else you need! Thanks to Student Support Services I received a supplemental grant a few weeks ago. This grant was a huge weight off my shoulders, and it helped me realize that my dreams were not that far away. Becoming an SSS student is super easy, and I wouldn't change filling that application out for the world!

~ Toni Stephen



My experience with Student Support Services has been nothing but beneficial since I started attending IU East. The staff is always courteous, helpful, and willing to listen to your academic concerns. Even if they don't know how to help you, they always point you in the right direction. Their social events are always great fun. Attending their Halloween Party this year made me want to attend every other gathering they put on.

~ Drew Foster



# Student's Page

# The Pack Peer Mentoring Program

This spring semester Student Support Services is launching its new Pack Peer Mentoring Program. It's no secret that being a college student can be difficult! Through the development of one-on-one relationships, our peer mentors are here to provide you with additional guidance, support, and an increase connections to IUE in a way that only another student can. Our peer mentors are successful, experienced students who have been in your shoes and can equip you with the knowledge, resources, skills, and encouragement you need as you navigate life as a college student. Whether you have questions about how to study, register for classes, approach your instructors, resolve conflicts with your friends, what to do if you miss class, are thinking about graduate school, or just generally feel like you could benefit from talking through your situation with another student, consider requesting a peer mentor.

You don't have to deal with stress and challenges alone! The mentors are here to provide a listening ear and to help you gain the skills and confidence you need to be successful. Your peer mentor will stay in weekly contact with you and will meet with you face-to-face at least once a month to discuss how the semester is going, share experiences, and set goals. Together you'll attend Student Support Services events and will participate in a mentoring program event once a semester, which will give you the opportunity to meet other students active in the SSS program.

If you would like to request a peer mentor, please stop by the Student Support Services office in Whitewater 116 for an application. Information from the mentee application will be used to help pair you with a mentor. We'll also be having a mentor/mentee matching session on Thursday, January 12, from 4:45-5:45 p.m. in Whitewater Hall 209. At this matching session, you will have the chance to meet the mentors and provide feedback on whom you might like to work with. This information will also be considered when matching you with your mentor. Mentor/mentee pairings will be made and mentoring relationships will begin after this matching session. If you would like more information on the peer mentoring program, please contact Jen Gogel in Student Support Services at 765/973-8302 or [gogelj@iue.edu](mailto:gogelj@iue.edu).



If you need help, remember that our peer mentors care about you, can help you build the bridge to your future, and provide you with a lifeline back to the IUE pack!



*~ Jen*

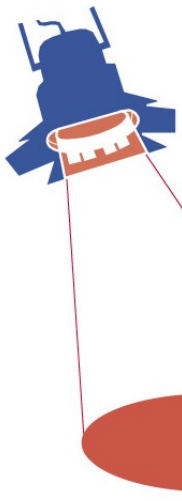


S.S.S. students hanging out at the fall get-together.



**'Why follow the steps of another to find out where our dreams will lead us.'**

**~ Peter Block**



# Spotlight on a tutor!

Sarah Creech has returned to SSS – but not as a student! This time, Sarah is tutoring other SSS students. During the fall semester, Sarah dedicated a lot of her time and energy to our office and students.

She tutors all English courses, Sociology, Political Science and History during approximately 10 hours a week in our lab.

In May of 2011, Sarah graduated with her degree in General Studies with a Social Sciences concentration from Indiana University East.

She enjoys helping students, meeting new people, and especially celebrating the students' accomplishments. She says "the first few sessions can be awkward until you start to discover students' learning styles and personalities". Her favorite subject to tutor so far is sociology.



In her free time, you might find Sarah playing with her kids and dogs, rockin' out on the drums or any outdoor activity – she's a nature nut! When asked if she could pick any celebrity to write a book about her life, she said it would be Russell Brand with the title: That Was Then, This Is Now.



Thank you so much, Sarah, for all the hard work you do in SSS!

## Cultural events & Financial Literacy

**Cultural Events:** During the upcoming semester, SSS will supply you with information and tickets to attend at least TWO cultural events! In the past, we have attended Civic Theatre, Richmond Symphony Orchestra, events at Earlham and other interesting and educational opportunities around the city of Richmond. In the spring, we plan on attending “The Acting Company of New York: Julius Caesar” in March at Earlham’s Goddard Auditorium and we also hope to attend “Never the Sinner”—a play based on one of the most famous court cases of all time involving Leopold, Loeb and Darrow.

If you have other Cultural Event ideas and/or want to attend these mentioned, please contact Elaine.

**Financial Literacy:** It is vitally important to fully understand your financial future from student loans to credit scores and even monthly budgeting! Throughout the spring semester, Elaine will conduct workshops and meetings to meet the needs of students regarding financial literacy. If you would like to learn more about a specific subject or have ideas about workshops, contact Elaine and let her know.

**Registration** for classes has begun. Make an appointment to meet with your advisor **NOW**. Don’t wait until January 9th (first day of classes). If you register early you’ve got a better chance of getting the classes you want when you want them. **Last** day to register for classes is January 13, 2012.



## 2012-13 FAFSA & Scholarships

**Deadline:** March 10, 2012

Stop by Student Support Services or call 765/973-8310 to set up an appointment for assistance with your FAFSA.

## Workshops and Book Club

As always, Elaine Bruns in SSS will be conducting workshops throughout the spring semester. Stay tuned for specific dates, times and topics. Additionally, Book Club was hard at work reading this semester. We read Hunger Games, Catching Fire, Mockingjay, Being Written, and we’re currently in the middle of Ugliers. If you’re interested in joining book club, let Elaine know. We meet twice a month.



Beware of this guy if you see him in a dark alley!

# Moving Disabilities into the Spotlight

I have always been an advocate for people with disabilities. I grew up in a very supportive environment and have always had the desire to provide a similar environment for others, regardless of their abilities.

When I was 8 years old I had the opportunity to learn how to ski. I have always been an active person, but skiing was something that I had believed to be out of my reach until that time. I met ski movie mogul Warren Miller at a charity event. He asked me if I wanted to go skiing. I said yes so he took me up the chairlift and skied down the hill with me. I was truly changed by the experience. For the first time in my life I felt like I was a part of something bigger and more powerful than I had ever imagined. I felt I like I was a part of the mountain. I also felt the freedom of movement that was smooth, and I did not need to move my arms or legs to have motion.

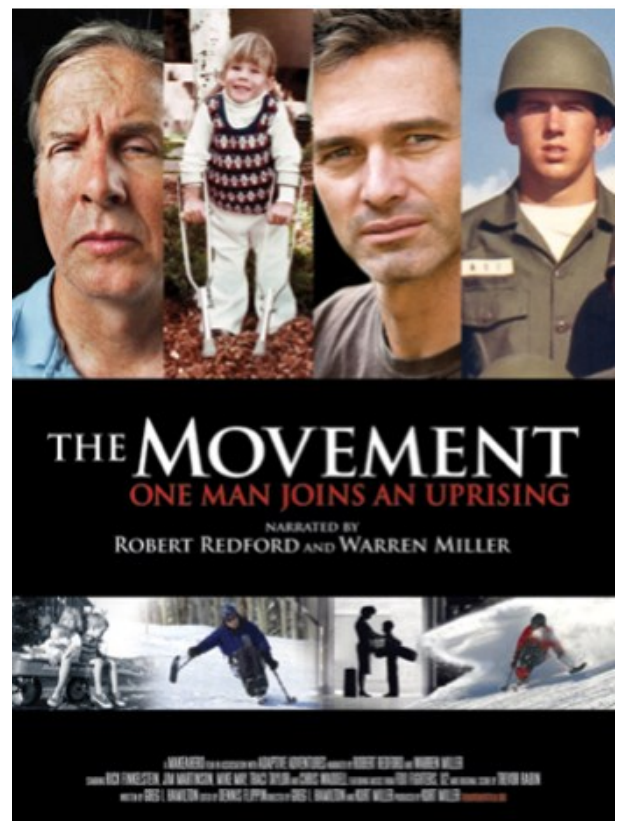
A few months later I received a phone call asking if I wanted to learn how to ski and of course I said yes. So I went to a week-long ski course at a school in Colorado designed especially for people with disabilities.

In 2010, Warren's son Kurt called me to let me know that he had created a non-profit organization focused on publicizing the adaptive sports movement. He said that they were going to do a film about a few athletes with disabilities and asked me if I would be willing to participate. Being a lifelong advocate, I agreed. We did the filming later that year, and the movie "The Movement" debuted at the Oregon film festival in October of 2011. The award-winning film has premiered in various cities around Northern America for the past few months.

The Movement is an official selection of the 2012 Sundance Film Festival, which will take place in January of next year.

I am planning on showing the film during the IU East Disability Awareness event in March. I hope that you will join me in supporting this wonderful project that helps to remind everyone that any person can be athletic regardless of their disabilities.

-Traci



## Thank you, tutors!



Jaci Noggle

Sarah Creech

Anna Harrison

Devon Niehoff

Dorotha King

Shannon Estep

Courtney Cain

Teresa Price

Daniela Huijon

Lisa Mueller

Jason Coblentz

Ryan Lacey

Josh Smith

Ryan Doughty

Cathy Kildow

Tyler Harrell

Carvin Rinehart

As the Academic Development Coordinator in Student Support Services, it is my job to help you find the tutors who will help make your classes a little less stressful and a little more enjoyable! Every semester, I begin the search for tutors in all different subject areas, and most semesters, available students come to SSS willing and able to help their peers in need.

Each of the tutors working for SSS deserves a round of applause for helping out during Fall 2011! Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU!

Additionally, if you are interested in providing tutoring services or being tutored in the spring, connect with me in SSS and fill out the forms early! Spots will fill up quickly this semester and the sooner I know you need a tutor, the better!

~ Elaine

‘A man who limits his interests,  
limits his life.’

~ Vincent Price



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‘Quality is more important than  
quantity. One home run is much  
better than two doubles.’

~ Steve Jobs



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