



Important Dates for Fall Quarter 2011

- **September 7:** Fall Classes Begin
- **September 13:** Last Day to Add Classes for Fall Quarter
- **September 20:** Last day to drop classes with no penalty
- **September 21:** Grades of “W” assigned for Fall classes dropped on or after this day
- **October 25:** Last day to withdraw from Fall classes
- **November 22:** End of Fall Quarter

Spanish ILP Workshop

Do you speak Spanish? Are you interested in satisfying H1G competence as an ILP in one meeting? Attend a gathering on Thursday, Sept. 16, from 4-6 pm. You will be assessed on conversational Spanish. Email your name, Student ID#, preferred phone number, and faculty mentor name to snlassessment@depaul.edu to register. ILP fee applies.

New Fall Quarter Class

Essentials of Compensation Management, a five-week online course will examine the strategic use of compensation systems by management to attract, motivate, retain, and reward employee performance. This course will explore the factors of job analysis, job description, and job evaluation as the basis of compensation strategy offering students an opportunity to develop competencies in making equitable compensation decisions. Competences: H3B, FX (you may select only one). Faculty: Tyler Kahde-man



Online Learner Library Resources

Did you know that as an online learner you have immediate access to many electronic resources from the DePaul library databases? You are also eligible for additional services, like having library materials delivered to your home or desktop. For information regarding navigating the library, doing research, obtaining materials, FAQ's, and more, please visit <http://www.library.depaul.edu/infofor/OnlineLearners.aspx>.

MBS Direct Now Offers Textbook Rental Program

You now have the option to rent textbooks—rather than buying them—through the online book store MBS Direct. For more information, please visit their FAQs at: <http://tinyurl.com/44ep3l6>



Did You Know? SNL Has a Center for Your Continuous Professional Development



Brandy Agerbeck, CAEA Graphic Facilitator

Since 2007, the School for New Learning has hosted a series of programs, conversations and conferences for adult learning practitioners across sectors via the Center to Advance Education for Adults. CAEA began with an initial generous grant from SNL alum Trish Parson and the Mason Parson Family Foundation with continued support from The Bertram L. Scott/Elizabeth A. Fender and the Mason Parson Family Foundation and other university, community and business sponsors.

Recent programs have focused on current issues in adult learning, including: global diversity and inclusion, adult transitions in life and work, emerging technology, learning trends, research and practice. Programs have featured diverse speakers with a wide

range of provocative perspectives, including Consuls Generals from many nations, Andres Tapia, Elliot Masie, Margaret Wheatley, Dr. Roosevelt Thomas, and many others. Many events are live-streamed so you can participate over the internet. CAEA also hosts regular book discussions in collaboration with Chicagoland Learning Leaders and community conversations on burning issues in adult learning and development.

Center director, Pamela Meyer, invites all current students and alumni who are interested in the field of adult learning to participate in the CAEA community, "Our mission is 'to create community among adult learning practitioners across sectors to exchange ideas and inspire imaginative strategies for learning in diverse settings.' If you are looking for a place to connect with creative, thoughtful practitioners and enjoy the support of a growing community of practice, this is the place for you."

Ways You Can Participate:

Join our mailing list: For announcements about upcoming programs and learning opportunities: <https://app.e2ma.net/app/view/Join/signupId:28443/acctId:16880>

Join our network:

Meet other learning professionals, view videos or recent programs, and join online discussion forums: <http://caeacommoning.com/>

Attend a Program:

Many of our programs are free and all are open to anyone interested in adult learning practice. For a current list of upcoming programs visit the CAEA website at: http://snl.depaul.edu/About/Centers/Center_to_Advance_Education.asp or call (312) 362-6508.

Get Involved with Adult Student Affairs & The Adult Student Association (ASA)

Enjoy student life at DePaul through events and programs geared specifically for the adult student. Students look forward to quarterly events such as "Stress Free Days" and "Fuel for Finals."

Adult students can participate in student life by joining the Adult Student Association. This student group addresses the needs of adult students, helps make connections with other adult students, and communicates issues and concerns that they may have about their experience at DePaul.

The Adult Student Association provides opportunities for adult

students to network, share resources, and socialize with other adult students. Members also have the advantage of working on important campus issues that impact adult students. At DePaul, adult students are undergraduate students 24+ years of age and all graduate and professional students. ASA works hard to respond to the needs of these students.

To join ASA, simply log onto Demon Direct using your Campus Connect username and password at wa.is.depaul.edu/DemonDirect/demon-direct.aspx. Demon Direct is an online tool that provides direct access

to student involvement opportunities at the University. Demon Direct will allow you to view the events calendar, join, or communicate with other members of ASA. ASA meets quarterly but most information is available on Demon Direct. Membership is free.





Bernadine Thomas, Adult Student Affairs Assistant Director

What is your job title and what are your primary responsibilities?

I am the Assistant Director for the Office of Adult Student Affairs. My primary responsibilities are to advocate on behalf of the adult students as well as to assist them in their transition to college and support them in achieving their educational goals. I am also responsible for creating and overseeing programming and services for adult students including community building events (we host a new adult student reception each quarter for incoming adult students as well as food and free chair massages during midterms and finals), academic support (we provide math and writing tutors), social networking (such as our annual wine and cheese celebration) and a strong network of partners for service referrals (we provide resources within DePaul as well as resources from within the community). In addition, I develop, coordinate and implement initiatives to support our population at the Loop, Lincoln Park, and suburban campuses.

What is your educational background and where did you work prior to your position in Adult Student Affairs?

I received my MA in Adult and Continuing Education from National-Louis University.

I received my BA in Communications through Chicago State University. Currently I am pursuing certification as a coach. My focus will be on Life & Career Transition. In my role as coach I want to guide you to discover who you really are, what you want, and assist you in designing action steps to close the gap between where you are now and where you want to be.

Prior to my current position, I was the Assistant Director for the graduate programs for four years with the School for New Learning. Before that I worked 15 years for Kelly Services in various positions. My last position there being Office Manager for the Vice-President. I've taught adults at Chicago State University, National Latino Education Institute formerly Spanish Coalition for Jobs, and the Paul Simon Job Corp on the city's south side. I am also a Professional Advisor and I teach a course for SNL entitled "Exploring Success Techniques for Enhancing Career Skills" at the Oak Forest campus. The purpose of the course is to provide students with the coaching tools needed to meet challenges in their job and career advancement. We cover such topics as self assessment, networking, resume and cover letter writing, interviewing techniques, effective job

searches and developing a career action plan.

What do you like most about working at DePaul and in Adult Student Affairs?

What I like best about working at DePaul is the people I work with. I feel our students are at the forefront of everyone's mind. What I like most about working in Adult Student Affairs is that I can relate to most adult students because I was also an adult student facing some of the same challenges our students now have. I am able to refer them to the wealth of resources available here at DePaul. I also like that in addition to the Adult Student Center, students can find academic support and resources with our office through workshops, resource referrals, financial assistance and other academic programs. They can also visit a math or writing tutor, learn about scholarships, participate in skill-building workshops or connect with learning resources.

We also now assist veteran and commuter students. Adult Student Affairs is now the home of the Office of Veterans Affairs which is dedicated to the needs and concerns of the student veteran population. A Veterans Liaison is available on campus to provide various resources to ensure the success of our student veterans. We also provide resources for commuter students.

What resources does the Adult Center offer for distance education students residing in the Chicago area? What about students residing outside the Chicago area?

Good question! Distant education students are important to us and we are working to come up with new ways in which to engage them and provide resources for them. Last year we piloted a few new initiatives with the distant learner in mind. One in particular was a teleseminar whose focus was on your career. It was entitled "How to Protect Yourself From Job Layoffs." It was very successful. This is something we will continue to build on this year.

Where is the Adult Student Center located?

Adult Student Affairs is located on the 11th floor of the DePaul Center. My office is located at DPC 11015 and my Director, Haydee Nunez is located at DPC 11007. The Adult Student Center is also on the 11th floor – DPC 11017. Stop in and visit us! Our hours are 8 am – 8 pm Monday through Thursday and 9 am – 5 pm Friday.

SNL Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Vera Dolan published an article: The isolation of online adjunct faculty and its impact on their performance in the International Review of Research in Open and Distance Learning. Using a grounded theory qualitative research approach, this article examines the experiences of 28 adjunct faculty members who work at the same university, exploring their views on whether periodically meeting face-to-face with management and peers has the potential to affect their motivation on the job and consequently the quality of education they provide to students. A few management representatives also shared their perspectives on the phenomenon; this enabled the researcher to compare the views of these two populations on whether face-to-face contact among faculty enhances teaching performance. The results of this study suggest a few issues that online schools must address in their efforts to improve adjuncts' sense of affiliation and loyalty to their institution, which in turn will positively affect student retention levels. The main issues of concern to adjunct faculty are (a) inadequate frequency and depth of communication, regardless of the means used, whether online or face-to-face; (b) lack of recognition of instructors' value to the institution; and (c) lack of opportunities for skill development.

Dr. Gabriele Strohschen was inducted into the Delta Theta chapter at DePaul University of the Phi Beta Delta International Scholars Honor Society in May of this year, based on her extensive research and service activities in the area of international/intercultural adult education. Dr. Strohschen was an invited keynote speaker at the "Fifth International Symposium on Green Tourism Management" held at Jinan University, Guangzhao, China. In June, she addressed the issues of cross-cultural awareness and education program design features for green tourism professionals, who study at university graduate and at workforce development levels in partnership with the industry sector throughout the Canton region of China. Within the context of her adult education theory of "blended shore education," (Strohschen, 2009), she focused on social sustainability, which she poses can be achieved by means of education, training, and development, in tandem with ecological and economic sustainability efforts.

Dr Strohschen was also invited by Renmin University's Human Resource graduate program and by East Normal China University's Education graduate program in Shanghai to provide guest lectures for faculty and students on adult education practices. She finished her lecture

and study trip with a seminar for HR and Training employees upon the invitation of Johnson Controls, INC.'s Department for Leader Development - Asia Pacific in Shanghai.

Arieahn Matamonasa is the 2011 recipient of the University's Excellence in Teaching Award for SNL. She will be honored at the Academic Convocation this coming Autumn with the presentation of a plaque. Arieahn has her Ph.D. from the Fielding Graduate Institute in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in prevention of violence. She teaches on campus as well as Learning Assessment Seminar, Foundations of Adult Learning, and Service Learning Externship online and Valuing Human Differences in the Graduate Hybrid Program.

Dee Schmidgall co-presented with Lisa Torrescano *Make the most of your LMS: Applying User-Centered Design Strategies* at the Distance Teaching and Learning Conference in Madison, Wisconsin. Dee is an interaction designer and multimedia specialist for SNL Online. Lisa, a former SNL Online instructional designer, is currently serving as a FITS instructional consultant for DePaul's nursing and psychology programs.

New SNL Online faculty teaching Fall 2011

Jane Wagoner teaches a variety of courses in the City Colleges of Chicago, including ESL, Reading, Introduction to Literature, Freshman Composition, The Research Paper and Developmental English. She has created several hybrid classes and earned a Master's Online Teaching certificate. Her BA is from Edgewood College in Madison, WI, and her MA from DePaul University. Jane will be teaching LL 150 Academic Writing for Adults. Email: jwagoner@depaul.edu

DePaul's Financial Fitness Program

DePaul's Financial Fitness Program provides free services, resources and tools to help students manage costs from entering DePaul through graduation and beyond. Services Include: Money management workshops, free and unlimited one-on-one financial counseling, accessible written and online resources and tools, and more. For more information, please visit: <http://financialfitness.depaul.edu/>



SNL Online Alumna & Staffer Megan Stemm-Wade



Megan Stemm-Wade

What is your job title and what are your primary responsibilities at SNL?

My title is Instructional Technology Consultant, part of Faculty Instructional Technology Services (FITS) I'm basically a liaison to SNL to provide instructional design and Desire2Learn support. I am responsible for course design and revision, D2L training, and ongoing support of courses in D2L, for both SNL Online and SNL faculty.

How did your education at SNL impact your current job?

I know I would not have my current position had I not gone back to SNL to complete my BA. My focus area was Communication & Culture, and I took all the courses I could involving writing, media, and cultural studies. My SNL experience sharpened my professional writing

skills, and helped build my professional confidence. It also created a network of DePaul friends and mentors. Once I graduated (in '08), DePaul was one of the first places I looked for employment, as I felt so nurtured and stimulated by the environment here. Happily, FITS (then IDD), needed content developers (writers!) to work in the Blackboard learning management system, and my career in Instructional Design began.

Looking back as a student, is there anything you would have done differently?

SNL was actually an opportunity for me to look back on my previous experiences as a student and to basically do EVERYTHING differently. I worked very hard during my time at SNL to achieve some personal goals that I had not reached in my earlier college career. I really feel I

had the best possible time as student in SNL. If I changed one thing, it might be to establish a relationship with my wonderful faculty and professional mentors Renee Gilbert-Levin and Kate Johnson sooner in the process. I worked pretty independently for my first few quarters, and when I did reach out to Renee and Kate, their guidance was amazingly supportive and helped me really sharpen my focus.

What advice do you have for current SNL Online students?

Believe in yourself. Absolutely believe in yourself. You can do this. Keep track of your competencies; keep on top of your assignments. Never give up because completing your degree is so worth it. Set goals for yourself and celebrate when you achieve them. Learn from what didn't go as expected when you don't. Above all, go to commencement! It will be a shining day in your life.

The School for New Learning experience helped me by:

Changing my life. Creating my own Individualized Focus Area allowed me to take my degree path very personally and very seriously. I became a more focused, more motivated student at SNL, and was encouraged to achieve my personal best. I was exposed to media studies, through great courses taught by Dorothy Balabanos, Gary Fox, and Warren Scheideman, which opened up a new path for my life. I'm very proud of my work at SNL and thrilled at the doors that have opened because of my education. Before SNL, I never thought I'd complete my Bachelor's degree, and now I'm getting my Master's in Media and Cinema Studies. I am so proud every day!