GOODBYE, MIC!

As most of you already know, SSS Advising Coordinator Mic Nauman has accepted a position in UW-L's Academic Advising Center, where she begins on January 2. To say Mic has been an important part of SSS these last five years is about as big an understatement as you can make. Mic has been the beating heart of this program, a daily inspiration to students, fellow SSS staff, and colleagues around campus. We will continue to strive to provide all of our students with the best possible service, but there's no question that she will be sorely missed. While Mic has contacted many of you personally, she also wanted to take this opportunity to say one more farewell to the SSS family:

Dear SSS Students, Staff, and Alumni,

Life is all about adventure, and as I embark on my new adventure in UW-L's Academic Advising Center, I want you to know that you have impacted my life in so many amazing ways. Whether we connected over a conversation about changing majors, a game of spicy Uno, a workshop, presenting together, an advising appointment or a bowl of chili, I have appreciated the opportunity to not only get to know you, but to learn from you. SSS will always hold a significant place in my heart because it is here that I learned to be a better listener and was able to utilize my strengths each and every day. I’m not one for goodbyes, but rather see you around, so I’ll end this by once again saying thank you for letting me be a part of your UW-L journey, and please remember that I am just one floor down in Centennial.

Sincerely,

Mic
Hello SSS Scholars!

Yes, SSS Scholars is the new name for students who participate in the TRIO Student Support Services Program. We are excited about this name change and we have come to realize that our students are Scholars and that they will do great and exciting things in the world.

I am amazed at how fast the semester has gone. This is my second fall at UWL, and I am annoyed that there was not enough time in the semester to get to know more of the students. However, as I always indicate my door is open and you are welcome to come into my office at any time.

There will be a lot of changes going forward in the SSS Office. We are losing Mic to Academic Advising Center. This is a very good move for the university, but not so good for SSS Program. We will dearly miss Mic in our office; however, she is not far away and remains within UWL system.

Thank you for participating in our surveys and for participating in the new SSS video. These tools help to improve what we do and to reach more students like yourself that could use our services. If you have not completed a survey, please do so before the start of the spring 2018 semester.

Finally, I do not want to take up much more of your time and I thank you for helping to make fall 2017 a great semester and we look forward to seeing you in the spring. Congratulations to all the December 2017 Graduates! A great way to start the New Year as a college graduate. Also, a special congratulation to Nancy Yang & Raquel Garcia, who have both been accepted into the McNair Scholars Program. This is such an incredible honor. Thank all of you for making us so proud of each of you.

Sincerely,

Sylvia
GOT IT! STUDY

Got It! Study is an app which provides real-time assistance for students in science and math classes. Simply take a photo of the problem you’re working on, and an expert will walk you through solving the problem. This is a great supplemental tutoring tool for late-night study sessions, or for anytime you can’t make it in to see our tutors here in SSS.

To start using Got It! Study, simply:
1) Download & install from the app store on your phone
2) On the signup screen, select "PRESET ACCOUNT"
3) Enter your UWL email address
4) Follow the in-app directions

Starting Spring Semester, SSS Scholar Rachel Bluhm will be available at scheduled times to assist you with setting up and using Got It! Stay tuned for more info!!

Testimonial:

"After recently finding out about the Got It App in Student Support Services I decided to try it out. There was a quick two minute sign up and I was on my way with getting math and science help. When I had a question while I was studying late at night I decided to try it out. Now I use it all the time in my time of need such as late hours of the night, or even in between classes when I do not have the time to go to a tutor. This app is very helpful and easy to use, because you take one snap picture of the problem and you are directed to a tutor who answers all of your questions. This app is even great for further explanation; For example it goes step by step in explaining the problem and if there is confusion during one step you have the opportunity for further explanation so you really understand the problem. This has helped with homework problems, studying for quizzes and exams, and even reviewing after class. I highly recommend giving this app a try and letting it help with your academic success."

--Shaelyn Ramirez, UWL SSS Scholar

PEER COACHING UPDATE

Peer Coaches have been up and running for Fall semester. We have ten Peer Coaches who participate in the program with almost 50 students assigned to them. They have met as a group three separate nights during fall semester. On November 29th, 2017, the Peer Coaches invited their students to a social gathering specifically for new SSS members put on by Student Support Services.

Nate Emerson, advisor to the Peer Coaches, has seen an increase in participation by the students in this program. With new students coming to SSS every week, it is crucial to include them in the Peer Coaching program. This "Check & Connect" program has been invaluable to the new students becoming familiar with the SSS department and all of the services it provides.

Because the Peer Coaching program wants to include all students new to SSS, it will be expanding next fall, and they will be looking for students to become Peer Coaches. If you are interested please contact Nate Emerson at Nemerson@uwlaux.edu. There will be training this spring semester for new and current Peer Coaches so please consider becoming a Peer Coach.
GUEST SPEAKERS

This semester, SSS had the good fortune to bring in two incredible visitors: Norris Thomas and George Mendez. Mr. Thomas is a UWL alum and motivational speaker, as well as a former NFL player and Upward Bound Director. On November 2, he spoke to SSS students and staff about STEM careers, as well as his experience as a first-generation college student.

Mr. Mendez is a former NBC executive and studio manager for Saturday Night Live. On December 5, he talked about his career working with SNL, The Today Show, and Conan O’Brien, as well as his experiences growing up Mexican-American and Irish-American.

SSS Scholar and Leadership Council member Haley Gudmundson recapped Mr. Mendez’s visit:

*The speaker, George Mendez, spoke to UWL students on Tuesday evening about opportunity. Throughout his lifetime and career, Mr. Mendez has had several new opportunities present themselves. His advice to the La Crosse students was to take these opportunities because you never know where they can lead you. After high school, Mr. Mendez’s high school teacher called his parents and suggested a broadcasting institution in New York. George bought suits, packed his bags, and traveled to New York. During his time in school, he was a disc jockey but soon experienced a back injury that led him to leave school. During his recovery time, George was presented with the opportunity to take a job at NBC and he did it. This choice led to his career being a stage manager for Saturday Night Live. George’s speech about his journey through his career was captivating and humorous.*

*The reception to follow was full of friendly faces and delicious appetizers! During this time, George answered any additional questions and continued to share life experiences.*

- Haley Gudmundson

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Check out SSS Scholar Devin Decker's article on George Mendez's visit in The Mercury!
**SPOTLIGHT ON STUDY ABROAD: SAMANTHA SELWAY**

SSS scholar Samantha Selway, a sophomore majoring in Geography (Environmental Sciences concentration) and minoring in German, spent the summer of 2017 studying abroad in Fulda, Germany, and has plans to study in Austria for the full 2018-19 academic year. She answered some questions about her experience with us.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Why did you decide to study abroad?</strong></th>
<th>I decided to study abroad to improve my language skills and visit my relatives who I haven't seen in 10 years.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Why did you choose your program/location?</strong></td>
<td>I choose it because it was a small town in the country I wanted and it also had disability accommodations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Did you have anxiety about being far away from home?</strong></td>
<td>Not really, I was more anxious about culture shock, language barriers, and general transportation than being away from home. I was also too busy to worry most of the time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who supported you and was it hard to finance the opportunity?</strong></td>
<td>My parents and my personal savings were able to help me fund my trip but there are also many scholarship opportunities when studying abroad. I don’t spend much usually but the saying “Take half as many clothes and twice as much money as you think you’ll need for any vacation” holds true, even if you don’t spend it all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Would you decide to do it again if you had the chance and why?</strong></td>
<td>Yes, I am hopefully going back next year to further improve my language skills and stay immersed in the culture for longer. It is an incredible growing and learning experience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What advice would you give others about studying abroad?</strong></td>
<td>Use incognito mode when booking flights and other transport so the websites don’t up the price. PACK LIGHT! Organize all your credit transfer stuff before you leave so you don’t have to worry about it once you get back. Also, remember adapters and bring/buy a portable charger.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Are there special steps you should take to prepare to go abroad and is there a lot of planning to do?</strong></td>
<td>If you are studying for longer than 90 days you will need a visa. Also, if you take medication, you will need to go through your insurance beforehand to get the right amount for your trip so you don't get overcharged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What was the greatest thing you learned from the experience?</strong></td>
<td>I learned that I am capable of being completely independent despite my disability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What advice would you give others?</strong></td>
<td>Honestly, planning is a pain but the experience is well worth it. One you get there, just have fun and be safe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Are you available to answer questions that others may have about studying abroad? What is the best way for students to contact you?</strong></td>
<td>Yes! Email me at <a href="mailto:selway.samanth@uw.lax.edu">selway.samanth@uw.lax.edu</a> or text me at 952-358-1044</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SSS is a department of the Division of Student of Life and the subdivision of Diversity & Inclusion.

Staff:
Sylvia Jimison, Director
McKayla Haldorson, Program Assistant
Mic Nauman, Advising Coordinator
Lynette Prieur Lo, Senior Advisor
Nate Emerson, Advisor
Tracie Bateman, Math Specialist
Luke Fannin, Writing Specialist
Makayla Newberry, Graduate Intern

From all of us here in SSS, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year! See you in January!

Scholarships!
Don’t forget! UWL Foundation scholarship applications are due February 1. If you haven’t already applied, don’t wait till after break—the deadline will come and go before you know it! The Foundation has hundreds of scholarship opportunities available exclusively to UWL students, but don’t forget to check in with the Scholarship Resource Center for external scholarship opportunities as well.

ALSO! Starting January 24, SRC Director Josh Bonnell will be in the SSS offices every Wednesday from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. to answer questions and offer assistance in finding and applying for scholarships.

Additionally, SSS Writing Specialist Luke Fannin will be available via email (lfannin@uwlax.edu) and by appointment (www.calendly.com/lukefannin) to help you out with scholarship application essays (and anything else you might be working on) over break.

Thanks to SSS Scholars & Leadership Council Members Erin Nulty & Ashley Schoenbeck for doing an amazing job representing SSS at the Transfer START event on Dec. 8!