

# Connected: An Academic Advising Communiqué

## Greetings:

I trust that the semester has started off well for you and that your students are settling in for a productive and successful academic year! Was it just me, or did the opening of school seem to go extra smooth this year? I did an unscientific study and found a number of contributing factors to the reduced stress for students (and advisors): course availability, the pre-scheduler used at NSO, and the new online GRO filing. There was either no wait, or only a short wait, at the Financial Aid and Registrar's offices the first week of classes. The new My Financial Aid page and mobile app were undoubtedly contributing factors as well.

I received some great information from advisors in response to my call for feedback on things that can be strengthened or improved. Thank you! Please know that I value your input and will take all concerns and suggestions to the appropriate areas for further discussion, evaluation, and hopefully resolution. I am always interested in your ideas and comments.

We are looking forward to the 2012-2013 Kick-Off scheduled 8:30 – 1:00, on Wednesday, September 12. It is not too late to RSVP to save a space for yourself at this annual event. We promise an information packed morning of things you need and want to know about services and programs to support students not to mention this is an excellent way to meet new people and connect with others who you only know as a voice at the other end of the telephone line. It's all happening on the 12th at 8:30 in the South Ballroom. Please RSVP no later than September 5: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JZWFSQB>.

There is always a feeling of renewed excitement as the new academic year gets underway. Here is wishing the absolute best to you and your students. Please let us know how we can be of support in the ARC. Thank you!

Roxie Catts



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Wednesdays for college  
survival skills
- UPAC & Brown Bag  
meeting dates



## Get the EDGE! For Sophomores & Juniors exclusively

By Susan L. Miller-Pinhey, M.A.

Encourage students to get the EDGE this semester and fast track their future. Brought to students by Career Services and Leadership Programs and sponsored by Liberty Mutual, The EDGE will give students the resources and skills they need to land that stellar internship or career position. This career and leadership **development series** is designed to empower students through self-assessment, development workshops and if they work it, will ultimately provide them with a proactive action plan.

The Edge targets Sophomores and Juniors only. **Seating is limited** to 25 students per session so have students sign up today for either the Morning or Afternoon session to ensure themselves a seat. And it's **all free**, courtesy of the Liberty Mutual sponsorship. Both sessions will be held on Tuesdays beginning September 18<sup>th</sup>. The Morning session meets 11:30 am to 12:30 pm and the Afternoon session meets 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Extra bonus: delicious food included at each and every session.

**This nine-week program** focuses on critical topics that employers consistently cite in the areas of leadership and career prep. Presentations include:

- Assessment and self-evaluation
- Effective resume writing and cover letters
- Leadership styles in group settings
- Effective job searches in TODAY'S market
- Group dynamics and conflict resolution
- Interviewing skills
- Networking with sponsors, alumni and employers



UPAC  
Fall Meetings  
Career Services  
Workshop  
Room  
SUMC 411  
8:15 - 9:45a.m.  
October 10  
November 14  
December 12

# Think Tank

By Cassandra Hirdes-Tomlinson

100,000 visits later, the THINK TANK enters its fourth year at UA continuing to focus on world-class tutoring and academic support across three campus locations.

**New Location:** THINK TANK's new home at Bear Down Gym. The setting is fantastic (with comfy new lobby furniture ideal for studying). We continue to house numerous free services: The Writing Center, Math and Science tutoring, Language tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, Weekly Course Reviews and Academic Skills Tutors. **Want more?** Students can use their Bursar's Account option for fee-based one-on-one tutoring, Exam Prep, and individualized appointments with a Learning Specialist. It is like having their own personal academic coach! **Help students incorporate tutoring into their new lifestyle:** For that student playing volleyball or grabbing a salad they can check us out at Park Student Union. For the health conscious we are available at the Rec Center. Tutoring locations and hours vary by subject. Visit our web calendar [thinktank.arizona.edu/calendar](http://thinktank.arizona.edu/calendar) or mobile version [tt.arizona.edu](http://tt.arizona.edu).

**Workshop Wednesdays!** Academic Skills Tutors are a wonderful resource offering **free one-on-one** peer tutoring on topics ranging from how to study more effectively for exams to adjusting to college life. They are available Monday-Thursday from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at Bear Down Gym. Students can **drop-in or schedule** a free 30-minute appointment to meet with them. Academic Skills Tutors facilitate our one-workshops Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Workshops focus on helping students develop **college survival skills** such as time management, note taking, memory strategies and much more. Our workshop schedule can also be found at <http://thinktank.arizona.edu/college-survival/workshops>. Academic Skills Tutors are also available to visit classrooms, clubs, or organizations to present on any of the topics on our workshop menu. **Questions?** Contact Cassandra Hirdes-Tomlinson at [chirdes@email.arizona.edu](mailto:chirdes@email.arizona.edu).



# Have your students tackled their future yet?

By Susan L. Miller-Pinhey, M.A.

It's time for students to get their game on...at the UA Career Services' Kick-Off from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Suite 411 of the Student Union Memorial Center on Wednesday, **September 12th**. There's no better time for students to get off the bench and into the game than right now. Besides a one-on-one with the government agencies attending, students will be able to:

- Opt-in and become a Power User of Career Services.
- Get their resume critiqued by professionals and employers.
- Get psyched (and prepare) for the upcoming career fair.
- Find out more about Campus Interviewing.
- Learn more about the resources available to them from Career Services.

Talk to **representatives** from the F.B.I., I.R.S., U. S. State Department, Social Security Administration, Office of Federal Relations, City of Tucson, Arizona Legislature, AmeriCorps/VISTA and the Peace Corp.

- Receive a list of employers attending the upcoming career fair.
- All that and they can grab a piece of pizza and soda too (while supplies last).

Never mind the big tailgate party. What students will find at the **UA Career Services' Kick-Off** is solid information that is critically important to their future... all in an informal setting. Help your students Jump Start their Job Search TODAY!

## UA CAREER SERVICES' KICK-OFF

Wednesday, September 12

11am to 2pm

Student Union Memorial Center

Career Services' office in

Suite 411



## 1-Credit Classes Offered by the Libraries

Cheryl Cuillier

There's still time for students to enroll in the University Libraries' Online Research Lab class this fall. The class starts Sept. 4 and runs through Nov. 12. The course is **open to all majors** and seats are currently available. Four sections are being offered.

LIBR 197R is a 10-week, one-credit course offered completely online and designed specifically for undergraduate students. Through a series of **interactive tutorials**, assignments, and activities, students will learn to use library and online research tools to locate, select, and evaluate information.

In LIBR 197R they'll learn to:

- Go beyond Google
- Develop research strategies
- Effectively use library resources
- Save time ... and more!

For more information on LIBR 197R, please contact librarian Yvonne Mery at [meryy@u.library.arizona.edu](mailto:meryy@u.library.arizona.edu).

### Information Research Strategies

The Libraries also offer a one-credit online class specifically for graduate students and researchers. LIBR 696A addresses higher level research skills, such as advanced-level database searching, conducting literature reviews, managing citations, creating bibliographies, copyright basics, and the "open access" movement in academia. The **10-week class** for Fall 2012 began Aug. 20, but please keep it in mind for next semester.

Student comments after taking LIBR 696A:

*"... My library research skills have improved greatly. I honestly did not know how much I didn't know about searching the literature that is out there!"*

*"... A principal benefit of this course was to expose me to a variety of library resources and several research methods that I was not aware of."*

*"Being that I am very close to graduating, my only regret is that I did not opt to take this course earlier."*

To learn more about LIBR 696A, please visit [www.bit.ly/libr696a](http://www.bit.ly/libr696a) or contact Jill Newby ([newbyj@u.library.arizona.edu](mailto:newbyj@u.library.arizona.edu)) or Jeanne Pfander ([pfanderj@u.library.arizona.edu](mailto:pfanderj@u.library.arizona.edu)).



## Wildcat Student-Athletes Manage Academics and Sport to Prepare for Life After College

By Mike Meade, Cats Academics

Professional staff in CATS Academics provide comprehensive support services for approximately **450 intercollegiate student-athletes across 19 sport programs**. Student-athletes manage demanding schedules above and beyond their academic responsibilities. Aside from class time and study time, daily practice, strength and conditioning sessions, watching film, competition and travel account for a large majority of their daily schedules. While their participation in sport makes their experience unique, staff in CATS Academics and throughout the McKale Center encourage student-athletes to become well-rounded through their involvement on campus. Additionally, the Life Skills Program in the Athletics Department coordinates community outreach and career development programming initiatives to prepare student-athletes for life after college.

Student-athletes receive support from CATS Academics, beginning with the recruitment and application process. Academic counselors work with prospects to ensure they have met University admission and NCAA initial-eligibility requirements, while learning specialists become familiar with their academic backgrounds and learning styles to tailor academic support plans when they arrive on campus.

As is the case with all incoming students, the first-year transition is a critical time for new student-athletes. CATS staff strive to reinforce time management, organizational skills and effective study strategies through programming in the **Student-Athletes Invested in Learning (S.A.I.L.) Program**. Given the multiple responsibilities student-athletes must manage, the CATS Academics team coordinates required study hall, regular individual appointments, and content-based tutoring to add structure to their daily lives. Additionally, staff closely monitor their academic progress in courses and **encourage them to explore academic interests early**, a must for student-athletes who are required to decide on a degree program by end of the second year to meet NCAA progress-toward-degree regulations. While student-athletes' accomplishments in sport are commendable, we make it a priority to celebrate their achievements in the classroom. Fulfillment of academic goals builds their self-confidence, strengthens their identity as students, and helps them to become independent learners in the process.

One football student-athlete alumnus reflected on his experience at UA: "I hope my hard work and the support of CATS Academics gives hope and motivation to other kids who live in a tough situation. My **learning specialist and academic counselor helped me** focus and realize that effort and commitment can help you achieve your dream. My degree has opened up new doors to my life and my career."

## Brown Bags

Join us for one or all.  
They will be held from  
11:30 - 1:00 pm in the  
Career Services, SUMC  
411

Thursday, September 6

Monday, November 19

Tuesday, December 4

On **9/6**, Our 1st topic  
will be Satisfactory  
Academic Progress (SAP)  
appeal paperwork for  
student financial  
aid. There will be a team  
of experts from the Office  
of Scholarship and Finan-  
cial Aid available to discuss  
the most recent revisions to  
the SAP appeal paperwork

## PASS

### Pathway to Academic Student Success

By Brandi Burke

The Pathway to Academic Student Success (PASS) Probation Program is **a new pilot program** housed within the Office of Academic Success and Achievement and is funded through the Student Services Fee (SSF) for the 12-13 academic year.

PASS was developed to **serve students who are currently on academic probation** and provides students in need of academic assistance with peer advising, workshops, individualized plans, and continuous support to improve students' persistence towards graduation at UA.

PASS staff includes: Arezu Corella (Program Director), Brandi Burke (Coordinator), 4 Graduate Assistants, and 22 Peer Advisors. Our current partners include the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, College of Education, Pre-Physiology, and Pre-Pharmacy and **anticipate to serve approximately 300 students in the fall 2012 semester**. We are happy to accept referrals (pending workshop availability) if you have a student who is need of academic assistance and is on academic probation. For more information regarding this program, please contact Brandi Burke at 520-626-8544 or [brandiburke@email.arizona.edu](mailto:brandiburke@email.arizona.edu) or visit <http://pass.arizona.edu>.

## Advising Resource Center

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Suite 411

Tucson, AZ 85721-0019

Phone: 520-626-8667

E-mail: [advising@email.arizona.edu](mailto:advising@email.arizona.edu)

Follow us on Twitter @UofAAdvising

Plans are underway to offer  
2-3 'late start' Tier I courses this fall.

Stay tuned to the UPAC Listserv for  
enrollment information.



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