Fact

SSC Campus enables earlier intervention to assist possible at-risk students

This fall’s implementation of SSC Campus and the hiring of a full-time early alert coordinator should allow the university to more quickly identify students who may be struggling with classes or having trouble adapting to college life.

SSC (Student Success Collaborative) Campus is accessible by faculty, staff and students through the myShip portal. The system’s key component in the effort to identify possible at-risk students lets faculty members record class attendance and submit concerns they may have about their students.

The person who receives that information is Felicia Shearer, the Early Alert Program coordinator. Shearer worked part time with the program during its pilot phase, then started full time last month. She is vocal about the importance of identifying and helping at-risk students and the role that the larger university community can play through SSC Campus.

“SSC Campus allows us to close the circle, so to speak,” Shearer said. “It gives us one place where everyone concerned about a student can share information and get it to the people who can best help.

“Our goal is to provide assistance to struggling students at the very first opportunity. The sooner we can reach out to them, the more likely we can help and the better off they will be academically and socially.”

While students often are referred to the Early Alert Program for academic problems, the reasons behind those problems may be complicated. A lack of financial or academic resources, stress, homesickness or roommate concerns may lead to poor attendance and performance in class.

“In our work with students, we refer them to whatever office or program can best assist them — a counselor; the Learning Center; the financial aid office, the Career and Community Engagement Center, the Home@Ship program, whatever is needed,” Shearer said. “If they live on campus, we may involve Housing and Residence Life and have residence hall staff check on them.

“Sometimes students just don’t know who to ask about a problem, or they think that no one notices or cares,” she added. “We’re trying to make sure they know that we do care, and we’re here to help. These interventions are not punitive. We want them to succeed.”
Dr. Ben Galluzzo, associate professor of mathematics, received the Henry L. Alder Award for distinguished teaching from the Mathematical Association of America during its annual conference in Columbus, Ohio, in August. He was one of only three professors nationwide to earn the award.


Dr. Luis Melara, associate professor of mathematics, recently reviewed the paper “A feasible active set method for strictly convex quadratic problems with simple bounds” for Mathematical Reviews®, a publication of the American Mathematical Society. Following the spring 2016 semester, he lectured at several universities and conferences in Asia: Tribhuvan University and the International Conference on Applications of Mathematics to Nonlinear Sciences, both in Kathmandu, Nepal, in May; the International Conference on Applied Mathematics at the City University of Hong Kong and Madras Christian College in Chennai, India, in June; and Kyung Hee University in Suwon, Republic of Korea, in August. In addition, he chaired the session “Impact of Catastrophic Events on the Spread of Dengue: The Case of the 2014 Gas Explosion in Kaohsiung, Taiwan” at the conference in Kathmandu, and was the invited inaugural speaker for National Statistics Day at Madras Christian College in June.

Dr. Matthew Shupp, NCC, DCC, assistant professor in the Department of Counseling and College Student Personnel, was the keynote speaker at the Northeast Association of College and University Housing Officers annual convention at Westfield State University in Massachusetts. His address centered on the conference theme of “Reconnect, Renew, Re-Energize” and residence life’s impact on college students’ experience. Shupp also presented the program session “Supervision Strategies for Student Affairs Professionals: A Cross-Cultural Examination” to chief housing officers, and served as a judge for the convention’s New Professionals Case Study Competition.

Dr. Joseph Zune, associate professor of geography/earth science, received a fellowship from the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa through its African Diaspora Visiting Fellows Program, based on his proposal for initiating a collaborative teaching and research exchange with Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana. He was a visiting fellow in the Department of Geography and Rural Development at Kwame Nkrumah University from March 17 to May 8.

University technology staff presented at the Pennsylvania Banner User’s Group Tech Days at Duquesne University May 31 and June 1. Dr. Amy Diehl, associate vice president of technology and library services and director of systems and applications, was the lead presenter and moderator for the panel “Through the Looking Glass: Examining Unconscious Gender Bias in Technology” and served as a panelist for “Banner Integration in an Ever-More Complex IT Environment.” Andrea Rosenberry, applications manager, and Todd Ditzler, applications software and database administrator, presented “Ellucian XE: A New Hope.” Ravi Anne, associate director for applications, and Derek Cohenour, applications administrator, presented “Automate Your Financial Aid Processing Flow with TDClient and UC4 Scheduler.”

Dr. Claire Jantz, professor of geography/earth science and director of SU’s Center for Land Use and Sustainability (CLUS), received a $486,000 grant from the Delaware Watershed Research Fund for a three-year study addressing the impact of future development and environmental change on the watershed.

Other faculty and staff on the project are Drs. Timothy Hawkins, Christopher Woltemade and Scott Drzyzga, professors in the geography/earth science department, and CLUS staff members Alfonso Yáñez and Antonia Price.

The new project builds on one that Jantz currently is leading at SU, supported by a $1 million grant from the William Penn Foundation, to develop a land use mapping, modeling and monitoring system for the Delaware River Basin.

The grant is being administered by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University.

**SECA campaign kicks off today**

The university’s 2016 State Employee Combined Appeal (SECA) campaign begins today and runs through Oct. 28.

This year’s theme is “One Team, One Commonwealth.” SU’s goal is $22,268.

“You have the opportunity to help others in their time of need by supporting the good work of nearly 1,400 participating charities,” President Jody Harpster said of the campaign.

“Whether it is conserving our natural resources, providing assistance to the elderly, finding a cure for cancer or providing shelter for a needy family, you can find organizations whose missions are consistent with your values and the causes you care about most.

“By donating even a small amount, you can make a difference in our communities and our world.”

Contact Nipa Browder in Human Resources at ext. 3110 or nbrowder@ship.edu for more information.
The Student Veterans of America chapter set up its annual American flag display in the quad last week, commemorating the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. SVA and the Army ROTC Raider Battalion will hold a memorial service at 5 p.m. today next to the display. Helping to set up the flags, designed to depict a folded flag, were (from left) Morgan DeCray, SVA treasurer Cody Bryner and SVA vice president Kyle Mobry.

Undergraduate, graduate research funding applications now being accepted

The Institute for Public Service and Sponsored Programs (IPSSP) is accepting applications for the 2016–17 Student Research Grant Programs. The Undergraduate Research Grant Program call for proposals is available online on the student research page of the university website. The application deadline is Oct. 9 at 11:59 p.m. With support from the SU Foundation, the program provides funding to undergraduate students for research and scholarly activities related to their programs of study. Applications will be entered into the InfoReady review system.

The Graduate Research Grant Program call for proposals is available on the graduate research overview page on the SU website. The maximum award per proposal is $1,000. Students may apply for additional funds in subsequent years, but no student will receive total funding greater than $1,500.

The program has secured $14,000 from the School of Graduate Studies and IPSSP to support graduate student research and scholarly activities related to their programs of study. Award funding will be split between semesters. Applications for fall graduate research funding will be accepted through Dec. 9. Applications for spring 2017 funding will be accepted from Jan. 17 through April 17.

Please review the calls for proposals for program requirements. Additional questions should be directed to Chris Wonders at cawonders@ship.edu or Pam Bucher at psbuch@ship.edu.

Constitution Day lecture is Sept. 19

Dr. Steven Lichtman, associate professor of political science, will present the 2016 Constitution Day lecture, “The Future of the Supreme Court,” at 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 19, in Grove Forum.

Lichtman will discuss briefly the vacancy caused by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, but will focus on how a more liberal-leaning court might look at cases likely to reach it in the next few years.

Lichtman’s co-edited book, Judging Free Speech: First Amendment Jurisprudence of US Supreme Court Justices, was published last year.

Campus directory changes due Sept. 29

Any changes to the campus directory must be made by Thursday, Sept. 29, to be included in the 2016–17 directory.

Each employee is responsible for keeping his or her information current.

Information that can be updated by employees includes office location and phone extension and whether to include home address and phone and spouse’s name in the directory. Employees can change this information by logging into the self-service tool on the Account Self-Service page of the university website.

Information that must be updated through Human Resources includes name, home address and job title. Employees can review this information by logging into the State System portal and clicking on the employee self-service tab.

Contact Human Resources at ext. 1124 about any needed changes.

Fire drills start Sept. 19

Fire drills will be conducted in academic and administrative buildings beginning Monday, Sept. 19, according to Matthew Dominick, environmental health and safety coordinator.

Most drills will be conducted during the final five minutes of class periods to minimize disruption of teaching.

Instructions were sent to all offices detailing procedures to be followed when alarms sound.

The schedule is:

Sept. 19 — Franklin Science Center, Memorial Auditorium, Kriner Dining Hall, Reed Operations Center, Student Rec Building
Sept. 20 — Ceddia Union Building, Wright Hall, Huber Art Center, Reisner Dining Hall
Sept. 21 — Old Main, Shippen Hall/Luhrs Elementary, Shearer Hall, Rowland Hall, Seth Grove Stadium, Interfaith Chapel, Performing Arts Center
Sept. 22 — Grove Hall, Gilbert Hall, Dauphin Humanities Center, Math & Computing Technologies, Horton Hall, Hoffman Mills Warehouse
Sept. 23 — Henderson Gym, Lehman Library, Stewart Hall, Heiges Field House, SU Conference Center
Coming soon...

Sept. 14  Nathan Medley, countertenor, 7:30 p.m., Old Main Chapel
Sept. 17  Field hockey hosts East Stroudsburg, noon
          Tennis hosts Holy Family, noon
          Football hosts Clarion, 1 p.m.
          Men's soccer hosts Salem International, 3 p.m.
Sept. 21  Women's soccer hosts Kutztown, 4 p.m.
Sept. 22  Scotty McCreery, 8 p.m., Luhrs Performing Arts Center
Sept. 24  Field hockey hosts Seton Hill, 11 a.m.
          Football hosts East Stroudsburg (Parents and Family Day), 1 p.m.
          Men's soccer hosts West Chester, 1:30 p.m.
          Women's soccer hosts West Chester, 4 p.m.
Sept. 28  Field hockey hosts IUP, 4 p.m.
Sept. 29  The Purple Xperience, 8 p.m., Luhrs Performing Arts Center

For more details on university events, visit www.ship.edu/events.
For more details on athletic events, visit www.shipraiders.com.