

# Learning Center Review

Fall 2011 issue

## Dates and deadlines

Nov. 1 —Spring registration day for current students. See your advisor for an appointment

Nov. 9 —last day to withdraw from a course without receiving an "F"

Nov. 23 —student holiday—no classes, college offices open

Nov. 24-26 —college holidays, no classes, college closed.

Dec. 8—Last day of tutoring

Dec. 12—Dec. 17—final exam week

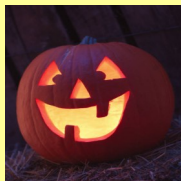
Dec. 17—Fall semester ends

Dec. 23—Grades avail to view on webmodule

## Learning Center

**Halloween Open House  
on Monday Oct. 31  
from 12 -3 PM. Join  
us!**

## Trick or Treat!!!



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## Sara Tweedy New Dean of Students *by Eileen Howell*

Sara Thompson Tweedy is the first female Dean of Students at SUNY Sullivan, and only one of a handful in the same position at the other SUNY community colleges. She finds it a great job, but overwhelming at times. Even so, she is up to the challenge.

Why did she say yes to the job? Because she has the skills that a Dean of Students needs to get things done. She's focusing on collaborating, putting students first and creating policy.

"Once students get over the idea that the Dean of Students at SCCC is like a high school Dean of Students whose main responsibility is discipline, they realize that I am here to help them be successful" the Dean said. Dean Tweedy gives a lot of credit to her administrative assistant, Penny Constant, for making the transition to this position smoother. "Penny has a real depth of understanding and history about the college."

Her job has been demanding, but is very rewarding. As Dean Tweedy said, "I've seen students at their worst, and at their best. Students drive my day. I know they have the will to succeed, and I'm here to help them do just that."



## Staff Changes in the Learning Center *by Rose Hanofee*

The Learning Center staff changed over the summer starting with Counselor Sara Tweedy being promoted to our new Dean of Students. We miss you Sara!

With that change came her replacement: Ryan Meikle is our new Counselor and he works with Chris Kubis offering personal support as well as academic advising.

Frank Sinigaglia replaced Ryan and is now our Student Advocate. He works with students taking courses to improve their English and Math skills by offering sup-

port such as early intervention and academic advising. Frank is also working with students in Operation Rebound.

Collin Campbell is the First Year Experience Coordinator as well as an academic advisor. He is our newest team member and is busy learning his new roles.

This fall we welcomed back Scott Graber as a Math and Science professional tutor. John Basham, Kaitlyn Coley and Philip Mears are new peer tutors.

Lastly, although they're the youngest members of our staff Eileen Howell and Melissa Dauch have been here the longest. Eileen coordinates Disability Services as well as Tutoring. Melissa is the department Secretary and works next door to Eileen in the main lobby of the department. Together they keep operations flowing seamlessly all year long. The Learning Center is located in the E building above the Library



### Department of Learning and Student Development

This department, located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Library, provides a variety of supportive services to students, including: academic advisement and registration, personal counseling, freshman seminar, student advocacy, services for students with disabilities, and tutoring. Services are free and confidential! Appointments are highly recommended, but we will try to accommodate walk-ins.

The Department of Learning and Student Development is a NYSVRA voter registration site.



**Contributors**  
J. Brennan  
M. Dauch  
R. Hanofee  
E. Howell  
F. Sinigaglia

## Tutoring at SUNY Sullivan—Q & A by Jim Brennan

**Is tutoring a new student service?** No, SUNY Sullivan has offered free tutoring for many years. In recent years, as more adults return to college to upgrade their skills for the 21st century, SUNY Sullivan has expanded tutoring in virtually all subject areas.

**Who are our tutors?** Our tutors are professional tutors and peer tutors. The professional tutors are highly qualified teachers with years of teaching in their subject areas. The peer tutors are student-learners who help other students. Our peer tutors serve as role models that learning is worthwhile and that success is

achievable. The peer tutors can identify with the struggles of being a college student.

**Where does one receive tutoring?** Tutoring is held in the Learning Center, which is above the Library. The Matrix math center, Writing Center and Science Study Room (AKA Bug Room) also provide tutoring. Another option for students is Net Tutor an online tutoring program. Students access this service through a link on their Angel account.

**For how long may one receive tutoring?** The student decides the length of tutoring. It may be “one-time” only or once a week for an

entire semester.

**What is a tutoring session like?** After a friendly greeting, a simple question: “How may I help you?” Our tutors are positive, enthusiastic and supportive. They build on the strengths of the student.

**How do we know if tutoring has been successful?**

Students tell us in their evaluations at the end of the semester. The best evaluation and the most gratifying for the tutor is when the student says: “Thank you for your help”; “I am finally getting it.”



## Tuscany Cooking – by Eileen Howell

I was lucky enough to vacation in Italy recently. A whirlwind of activity included museums, cathedrals, and restaurants. One of my highlights was a day class at Tuscany Cooking School in Florence. My daughter and I joined a small group of people who met to prepare and sample a

wonderful four course Italian meal.

Chef Luciano guided us through our menu of stuffed zucchini flowers, stuffed tomatoes, fresh pasta, pesto sauce, gnocchi, rolled veal, and tiramisu. We took away some great recipes, met some wonderful people from the US,

Canada, and Australia, and enjoyed a fantastic meal with the usual vino! I hope to share my recipes soon!

**Question:** What kind of mushrooms are commonly found in Tuscany? First one to answer gets a treat for Halloween.

ehowell@sullivan.suny.edu

## Students say the darndest things ...

I’m taking attendance in my class one day, and I see this student who I hadn’t seen before. I asked him his name and asked if he was in the class. He said “yes, my name is Joe”. I said that this is week 9, where have you been for 9 weeks? Joe said “I was sick.”

A student came into my office and said she wanted to drop a class. I asked her what the class was, and she said accounting. I asked her what her major is, and she said accounting.

“I wasn’t in class last week. Did I miss anything important?” or “are we going to do anything important in class today?”

“Do I really need a book for this course?”

“Sorry I wasn’t in class, I was in jail”

What annoys me? Sleeping in class

I asked a student why her instructor gave her a low grade in Psychology and she replied “cause she’s buggen!”

### Things that make your

#### Professor happy:

- Students who arrive to class on time and prepared
- Students who turn in their work on time
- Students who visit me during office hours
- Students who ask questions
- Students who are responsible, and understand that performance counts

