



# The Helm

Keeping Advisers on Course

Counseling and Advising Services  
College of DuPage  
March 2006/Volume 2, Number 3

## Result of AQIP 1

### Automatic Enforcement of Prerequisites



Beginning Monday, May 1, 2006, students who attempt to register for a fall term class in person, online, or by touchtone phone will have their records automatically checked to ensure that they have met the course prerequisites for the given class.

This is an outcome of the AQIP Action Project, "Improving Students' Skills in Developmental Reading, Writing, and Mathematics," where some barriers to student success were identified. Those barriers included lack of student preparedness for course material, improper placement of students in courses, and students allowed to register for courses without appropriate prerequisites. One of the team recommendations, among other things, was to automate the process of checking course prerequisites.

"Obviously this change will cause a lot of issues, particularly for the front line at registration," states Joe Collins, Associate Vice President of Academic Planning and Assessment. "We are working as a team to create a process at 'point of refusal' which will let everyone know what they need to do."

Questions regarding the change of prerequisites as listed in CurricUNET should be directed to Cathy Stablein at extension 2650. For other questions, please contact Nuga Atewologun at extension 4234 or Joe Collins at extension 3203.

## Program Eight

### Earn Full Semester Credit in Half the Amount of Time

Program Eight is a newly developed program that allows students to take back-to-back eight-week classes set during the traditional sixteen-week semester time frame.

"Earning a semester of credit in half the number of weeks is a growing trend in community colleges," states Psychology Professor Russell Watson, one of the two full-time faculty members teaching the eight-week sessions.

"Many students in the eight-week sessions are returning students who want to jump into a course, learn, and move on to something else. I find some highly motivated students who are also working and can juggle a schedule easier if it's on an eight-week calendar," adds Watson.

Under the Program Eight format, courses are offered in specific clusters which begin at 8:00 a.m. each day, and may run until 3:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and from 8:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Planned class offerings for the first eight-week session of Fall Term 2006 include Psychology 1100, Speech 1100, English 1101, and Anthropology 1100. For the second eight-week term, Psychology 2220, Speech

1100, English 1102, and Sociology 1100 are being planned. Students may elect to take one or all of the classes within the cluster.

Speech Professor Marco Benassi believes that "As we offer more 8 and 12 week classes and the community becomes more aware of them, we will fill a unique educational niche allowing greater flexibility." He adds, "We can use semesters as an opportunity... if we look to positive, innovative models for structuring class times."

Since its beginning in Fall Term 2005, the number of students enrolling in Program Eight classes has doubled. Looking ahead to Fall Term 2006, finding these "8-Week Session" classes will become even easier. The classes will continue to be listed in the *Class Schedule*, following the "12-Week Session" listing. They will also be listed under their very own section, "Program Eight", which can be found between "Political Science" and "Psychology."

For more information, call Health, Social and Behavioral Sciences, (630)942-2495, or Liberal Arts, (630) 942-2047.

## Historically Black Colleges and Universities Tour



Over thirty College of DuPage students will be leaving on the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) tour from March 20 through 28. These students will be visiting Howard University, Georgetown University, Hampton University, Norfolk State University, Virginia State, and the College of William and Mary.

They will make Williamsburg their home base and visit two institutions each day. Students will have an opportunity to meet with admissions personnel, tour the buildings and grounds, experience the campus community, as well as visit historical and cultural exhibits.

According to Julia Willis, Multicultural Affairs Specialist, “Four students from last year’s tour group are currently attending institutions that they visited.” Criteria for interested students includes: 2.5 or above GPA; community service experience or completion of two volunteer activities between the time of application and trip; a typewritten essay answering a specific question; willingness to fundraise sponsorship money (minimum of \$250); and submission of a complete application and permission forms.

For questions or more information contact the Multicultural Student Center at: (630) 942-2848.

### Forty-four Spots for Eligible Students

## Peer Leader Program Provides Assistance to Students



For students interested in developing their speech and communication skills, or sharing their knowledge and experiences with new College of DuPage students, an interesting opportunity is available—becoming a “Peer Leader.” Those students selected for a Peer Leader position will be eligible to register for a special section of *Speech 1100: Fundamentals of Speech with Peer Leader Service Learning* offered during the first five-week session of summer term. This is a three credit hour, fully transferable course that includes the students’ participation in the College of DuPage Orientation Advising Registration Sessions (OARS) for fall term. The tuition for this course is waived for all students chosen to serve as Peer Leaders.

Peer Leaders will be required to complete twenty hours of service during OARS which will be held from July 10 through August 16. They will be assisting new students with scheduling questions (after the new student has met with an adviser), online registration, and leading campus tours.

Students who are interested in being selected for the Peer Leader program will need to: 1) complete an application; 2) have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5; 3) provide a letter of recommendation; 4) have the ability to commit to specified dates and hours of scheduled time at OARS; and 5) possess leadership and effective communication skills.

According to Colleen Morgan, Coordinator of New Student Orientation, “Many Peer Leaders go on to become student workers or become involved in other parts of our campus community. Some become involved in student government, honors, the student ambassador program, or clubs within student activities. The training they receive to become Peer Leaders pumps them up, so to speak, in areas they might otherwise not know about, so in the end, they also benefit from the total experience.”

Call Colleen Morgan for questions or more information at: (630) 942-2822.

### 2006: Centennial of Cooperative Education

## Cavalcade of Cool Co-ops and Internships



In celebration of the centennial of the cooperative education program, a sample of creative co-ops and internships will be showcased on April 5, in the SRC Upper Walkway. This will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

According to Jean Spahr, Manager of the Cooperative Education and Internship Program, “The whole college is in-

vited to stop by to view and vote for the ‘coolest of the cool’ internships. We are looking to do this in a fun venue. Everyone who votes will be part of a drawing and eligible for a variety of prizes donated by COD faculty. It is our hope that by seeing what student-interns have accomplished, it will inspire others to intern while at COD.”



## Student Success and Food for Thought Workshops

### Learning Styles

**March 8, noon to 1pm in the Student Resource Center (SRC), Room 1450A (inside the cafeteria)**

**Edison Wells, Counselor**

This time is really all about you! Come and find out how understanding your personal learning style can improve your study skills and test scores.

### Test-Taking Anxiety

**April 4, noon to 1 pm in the Student Resource Center (SRC), Room 1450A (inside the cafeteria)**

**Jacqueline Dlatt, Professor**

Are you looking for ways to reduce test-taking anxiety? If so, this workshop is for you. Find out how to minimize stress during test taking.

### Acquaintance Rape: Myths, Stereotypes and Facts (Food for Thought presentation)

**March 29, 1 to 2:30 pm in the Student Resource Center (SRC), Room 1450A (inside the cafeteria)**

**Host: Nathania Montes, Counselor**

**Presenter: Melanie Morong, Prevention Educator, YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago-West Suburban**

What are your attitudes about acquaintance rape? How can you help a victim of sexual assault? This presentation will involve participants in open, non-judgmental discussions about attitudes and situations that can lead to sexual assault.

### Devastation Help and Hope: Surviving a Disaster and How to Volunteer in a Disaster (Food for Thought presentation)

**April 5, 1 to 2:30 pm in the Student Resource Center (SRC), Room 1544**

**Host: Lynette Arendt, Counselor**

**Presenters: Karen Masterson, Financial Aid Specialist and Katrina Volunteer**

**Carol Wozniewski, Executive Director, Mental Health Association in Illinois**

Walk alongside Katrina and 9/11 volunteers as they share stories of disaster relief and survival. Do you have a desire to become a volunteer? Learn the importance of training, the roles and levels of training in different relief organizations, and how to become involved.

### Learning Disabilities and Student Success, Part II: "Hearing Their Stories"

**April 12, 6 to 7 pm in the Student Resource Center (SRC), Room 1450 AB (inside the cafeteria)**

**Presenter: Michael Duggan, Counselor**

Through an informative video produced by Muhlenberg College, college students with learning disabilities will share their experiences and success strategies in higher education.

### Taking Home With You

**April 17, noon to 1 pm in the Student Resource Center (SRC), Room 1450A (inside the cafeteria)**

**Presenter: Dana Thompson, Counselor**

Are you worried about leaving home to go away to school, and what to take with you? Learn how you can deal with home sickness and stay connected to your family and friends.

### Tough Guise (Food for Thought presentation)

**April 25, noon to 1 pm in the Student Resource Center (SRC), Room 1450A (inside the cafeteria)**

**Presenters: Carol Wallace and Ron Jerak, Counselors**

Do real men have to be "tough guys" or are there other ways to express masculinity? Recognizing societal influences and analyzing the use of the personal influence to affect masculine behavior will be discussed.

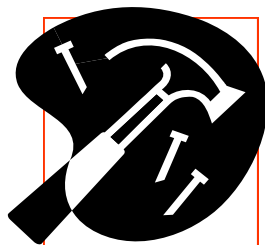
### Jobs, Trends, and the Economy: A Workshop for Undeclared Majors

**May 3, noon to 1 pm, in the Student Resource Center (SRC), Room 1450A (inside the cafeteria)**

**Presenters: Nancy Wajler, Manager of Career Services, and Sandy Werner, Counselor**

Are you overwhelmed and confused about your college major and career path? This seminar focuses on which careers will be in demand in the global marketplace, and on helping you identify the right career.

Student Success educational sessions are sponsored by Student Services and Food for Thought educational sessions, sponsored by the Counseling Services, are free of charge and open to all College of DuPage faculty, students, staff, administrators, and community members. Pre-registration is not required. For more information for Student Success call: (630) 942-2259 and Food for Thought call (630) 942-2004. For Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations, call (630) 942-2141 (voice) or (630) 858-2692 (T.D.D.)



**Tools and Tips**  
By  
**Marge Peters**

# Finding College Rankings

Americans love rankings: the top ten teams, box office champs, best buy products.... When choosing a transfer school, many of our students are also interested in rankings as they plan for further education. They often ask advisers: "Where's the best place to study my major?" Personal knowledge and contact with colleagues at other colleges will help a faculty member recommend strong programs to students, but sometimes ranking lists can help bring attention to other schools, too. Here are two web-based sites that will help locate college ranking data:

**College and University Rankings Guide from the Education and Social Science Library of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign** <http://www.library.uiuc.edu/edx/rankings.htm>

Be sure to read the background essay outlining cautions and controversial issues in attempts to rank colleges. The guide annotates and links to numerous ranking guides for undergraduate schools, as well as for international school rankings and graduate/professional programs.

**U.S. News College Rankings: America's Best Colleges and America's Best Graduate Schools**

<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/eduhome.htm>

Probably the most famous of the ranking guides, the U.S. News annual list of best colleges covers National Universities, Master's Universities, Liberal Arts Colleges, Regional Colleges and business and engineering undergraduate programs. Only a bit of the ranking data is free on the web -- you are invited to pay for "premium" data. The Library has the full rankings guidebook in the College and Career Information Center (CCIC) LB 2331.63.A46, so don't pay for information that the Library can provide for free!

Beyond business and engineering programs, U.S. News does not rank undergraduate majors programs. *America's Best Graduate schools* does rank Liberal Arts, Social Sciences, and Sciences specialties, as well as professional programs (Law, Medical, etc.) Whether a strong graduate curriculum at a given university translates into a strong undergraduate program is open to discussion, but the full U.S. News graduate guidebook is also in CCIC, call number LB 2332.63.U7.

## What Time Is It?

Check out the newly designed **Academic Advising Calendar** at: <http://prem.calendars.net/academicadvising> . At this location you will be able to find dates of various advising activities such as college representative visits; departmental advising sessions, open houses or fairs; orientation dates specific to program areas; as well as special seminars or workshops. If there is an event which you would like to include on this calendar, contact Mandy Kouri, at extension 2812.

## Special Student Services Information Night, April 3rd

Special Student Services Information Night is an opportunity for students with disabilities, parents, teachers, counselors and community members to learn more about COD's Special Student Services Department. The presentation will take place on April 3, at 7:00 p.m. in SRC 2800. For more information call: (630) 942-4260.

## May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

A Mini Fair will be held to commemorate Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month on May 10. The event is planned to celebrate the diversity of the cultures and traditions of the many nations that make up Asia and the islands. If faculty or students have suggestions for demonstrations or activities which they would like held, please contact the Multicultural Student Center at: (630) 942-2848.

**We welcome comments and suggestions to The Helm.**

**Please contact: Mandy Kouri, Advising Support Coordinator**

**Counseling and Advising Services**

**SRC 2044f/Ext. 2812**

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*Either you decide to stay in the shallow end of the pool or you go out in the ocean.*

*Christopher Reeve*