

The Student Connection

VOLUME 7, issue 1

A Learner Support Services Publication

September 2007

Third Annual CONSTITUTION BOWL

September 17

*Ben Franklin
returns as host!*

See page 2 for details

SPIRIT WEEK SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 10-15

Eastern's Student Government Association will sponsor Spirit Week which starts September 10 and wraps up with the annual Welcome Back Picnic on September 15. During the week, the SGA will be providing free Spirit Ribbons for all students to wear to show their school spirit. On September 12, Mr. Robert Sisk, Eastern's Interim President, will be available to chat with students during the "Socialize with Mr. Sisk" luncheon in room 133, starting at noon. The event is free and all students are invited to attend. The week will conclude with the Welcome Back Picnic slated for Saturday, September 15 from 12:00 until 3:00 p.m. at Welton

Park, near Petersburg. All Eastern Students are welcome to attend and are encouraged to bring their families. Eastern staff will provide the food and drinks, while Eastern's student organizations will be coordinating various activities. The Student Government Association and Phi Theta Kappa, Eastern's National Honorary Organization, will be providing games and activities for the younger picnic-goers. There will also be organized sporting events for those of all ages to enjoy. If interested in attending the picnic, please email Cindy Drumm at cdrumm@eastern.wvnet.edu

The SGA encourages all students to take part in the Spirit Week events and show their Eastern spirit!



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Sept 12: "Socialize with Mr. Sisk" Luncheon in room 133, starting at 12:00 p.m.

Sept 15: Welcome Back Picnic at Welton Park, 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Free lunch and activities for Eastern Students and their families.

Email cdrumm@eastern.wvnet.edu if interested in attending. We hope to see you there!

*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."
~Nelson Mandela*

NEW FACES at EASTERN

If you walk down the hallways of Eastern, you will surely notice some brand new faces as well as some familiar ones in new places. Over the summer, Learner Support said a sad goodbye to three members of their team including Dean Sharon Bungard, Lisa Reel and Heather Bowman. Fortunately, Eastern is happy to welcome some familiar faces that will be stepping into their positions. Robert "Buck" Eagle, former Financial Aid Director, will assume the role of the Dean of Learner Support and Academic Services and will be located in room 118. Monica See, former Academic Services Coordinator, will be Eastern's new Associate Director of Admissions. She will be located in room 114 and will be assisting students with such things as registration and advising, transcripts, and graduation applications. Patty Goldizen, Eastern's Cashier, is our new Learner Support Services Program Coordinator and will be located in room 138. Patty will be assisting students with Financial aid applications and general admissions issues. Eastern is currently conducting a search for a new Financial Aid Director.

On the academic front, Eastern had to say goodbye to Tim Tirrell, the Dean for Academic Services, but is happy to welcome Grover Duling as our new Associate Dean of Career Studies and Academic Services. Grover is located in room 120 and is happy to assist students with academic-related issues. Also joining the Eastern team is Curtis Hakala who is our new English Faculty Member. Curtis teaches several of Eastern's English courses and is located in room 216.

Last, but certainly not least, we would like to announce that Eastern has a new interim President. Robert Sisk has taken over the Eastern reins and is located in room 115. Students are encouraged to attend the "Socialize with Mr. Sisk" Luncheon on September 12 and meet President Sisk.

THE CONSTITUTION BOWL



Eastern will hold its third annual Constitution Bowl on Monday, September 17, starting at 12:30 p.m. in room 133. Ben Franklin (a.k.a. Robert Eagle) will once again host the event. The Bowl will consist of a game-show format where teams of students will be asked questions relating to the U.S. Constitution. Students are being asked to form teams of 3-4 to participate in the Bowl. To sign up your team for the event, please email Cindy Drumm at cdrumm@eastern.wvnet.edu or add your information to the sign-up sheet located in the Resource Center. Students, staff and faculty are also encouraged to be a part of the audience and cheer on participants.

YOUR STUDENT LEADERS

Student Government Association

Jennifer Fitzwater, President
 April Poling, Vice President
 Amanda Mowery, Secretary
 Christine Fuentes, Student Rep., Board of Governors

Phi Theta Kappa

April Poling, President
 Camaron Shore, Vice President
 Jacqueline Hedrick, Secretary/Treasurer
 Crystal Grapes, Historian

Undecided about a major?

In order to help students gain more information about possible majors and occupations, Eastern provides a program known as SIGI 3 at no charge. SIGI 3 (System of Interactive Guidance and Information) is a web-based program that is geared towards helping students find the career options that best suit their interests, skills and work-related values. The SIGI 3 program also provides students practical help with such tasks as developing resumes, writing cover letters and applying for jobs. If interested in using SIGI 3, please contact the Learner Support Services Department.

Math Resources

Algebra Help & Tutorials (links):

<http://math.about.com/cs/algebra>

S.O.S. Mathematics:

<http://www.sosmath.com/algebra/algebra.html>

West Texas A & M University:

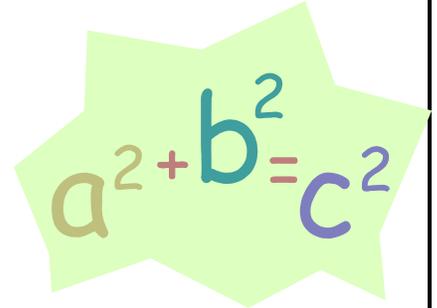
<http://www.wtamu.edu/academic/anns/mps/math/mathlab/index.htm>

PurpleMath:

<http://purplemath.com>

Free downloadable graph paper:

http://www.mathematicshelpcentral.com/graph_paper.htm



English Resources

Grammar Help:

<http://www.edufind.com/english/grammar>

Grammar Slammer:

<http://englishplus.com/grammar>

Capital Community College's Guide to Grammar and Writing

<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar>

Writing Den's Tips-O-Matic

http://www2.actden.com/writ_den/tips/contents.htm



Assessment at Eastern

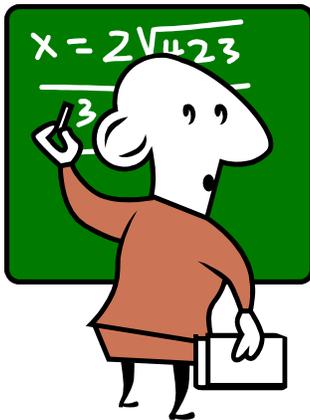
Assessment is a word you are likely to hear many times as a student at Eastern. You will hear it when you enter the College as a new student, hear it from some of your instructors while taking classes, during your final semester before graduation and after you leave the College to enter the world of work or continue with your education. Knowing if we are providing a quality education and meeting your needs as a student is very important to Eastern. Information about your experiences in the classroom, skills you develop and successes after you leave the college are all important in helping us improve our educational services

throughout the Potomac Highlands. **Assessment** is the way we find the answers to help us build and continue to offer strong academic programs and services.

Assessment asks important questions about student learning, gathers information about student performance and then uses the information to improve academic programming. At times, you will be asked to participate in assessment activities by completing surveys, taking a series of standardized tests, or completing special assignments in class. When possible, samples of standard course work

are also used for assessment processes. The intention of collecting or reviewing these materials is always to determine if we are really providing quality instruction and how we can improve our academic programming. A brief overview of assessment expectations for students is given in the College Catalog on page 17.

To keep you informed about assessment at Eastern, information about assessment processes and results of assessment activities will be included in future students newsletters.



NEED HELP IN CLASSES?

FREE DROP-IN TUTORING IS AVAILABLE!

**Just Drop in on Mondays 3:45 to 5:45 in room 137 for
assistance with any math class**

OR

**Wednesdays 4:00 to 6:00 in the Harco Conference Room for assistance with
Basic Math or Introductory Algebra**

**For assistance with Basic Math, Reading/Study Skills, Beginning Composition or
English Composition, See Vera Shockey in the Connections Center (Room 216)
or contact her at 304-434-8000.**

SUCCESS

The Summer 2007 College Success Students were given an essay assignment on a topic titled, "How do you define success?" Sandra Leonard, an Eastern Student, wrote the following essay and it is reprinted here with her permission.

According to Webster's New World Dictionary the definition of success is: 1) a favorable or satisfactory outcome, 2) the gaining of wealth, fame, rank, etc. a successful person.

Obviously Webster is the expert on words. However, I have known many people that will never be in the ranks of the wealthy, famous or high-ranking. Yet, they are more the picture of success than any of the rich I have known, any of the famous I have seen, and definitely any of the high ranking I have known.

Growing up in a farming community in Minnesota really didn't expose us to the rich, the famous or the high-ranking. However, my dad found it very important to pack his kids in the car to drive the 100 miles to Minneapolis and St. Paul to tour through the state capital, art galleries and museums exposing us to an education beyond anything near home. My favorite trips included a stop at the Como Park Conservatory in the middle of the cold and snowy winter to see and smell the blooming flowers.

Dad was a widower, farmer, factory worker and father of five. He was never considered rich. Fame didn't even cross his mind and the highest rank he ever held was as a member of the church council.

Looking back at what he accomplished I would consider him more of a "well rounded" success than the rich and famous we see and hear so much about. However, according to Webster's meaning of success I guess Dad would join the ranks of the first definition, "a favorable or satisfactory outcome." However, that definition seems rather bland to those he raised.

My definition of success would include the examples Dad taught us including honesty, following through with our promises and the idea that if you could help anyone in the community, you do it. Not for wealth, fame or rank. You do it just because it's the right thing to do. He also let us know that community didn't mean a certain mileage from home. Community meant the folks around the world long before it became the politically correct phrase in this country.

Everyday we are bombarded with news of the wealthy, famous and high ranking appearing before judges, senate committees, and collegiate and professional sports investigation committees. Many of these folks are considered to be at the epitome of absolute success where anything they do will meet approval by their adoring public. It appears as if no one prepares these individuals for making good basic personal decisions. Granted our bad decisions are not splashed all over the news media and I want to believe the "bad apples" are only a few and not indicative of the entire political, sports and business world.

I have played the lottery several times and wonder what I'd do with all that money (after paying for my grandson's future college education). Would my personality change much? Would I hoard it away from all who could use it for survival? How would I deal with fame? Knowing myself as I do, I would probably turn into a complete recluse. The highest ranks I have ever held was as president of the church council and president of the VFW Auxillary. That's as high as I choose to go. I discovered that even in those low-key positions, other people think they own your time.

Every decade of my life has held a different definition of success, from making it through various forms of education, potty training my son, then years later watching him graduate from Marine Corps Boot Camp, finding a career I enjoyed and now retirement. This is the first year I have successfully grown flowers and vegetables. Having a husband as a best buddy encourages me in my "new" school endeavor. For me, that is success!!!

Now that you know my definition of personal success, I repeat Webster's first definition, "a favorable or satisfactory outcome" for my siblings. My oldest sister took over the family farm from my dad and is one of the very few female farmers in the country. My brother is a construction supervisor in charge of overseeing the construction of multimillion dollar building projects. My next sister is recently retired from the Surgical Technician profession (Surgery and Emergency Room) and my other sister retired from the Department of Agriculture overseeing government farm projects. I am the youngest and you have already read my story. We all followed Dad's example of success and I think he'd be proud.

**EASTERN WEST VIRGINIA
COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL
COLLEGE**

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Please send any newsletter comments, suggestions or submissions to Cindy Drumm at cdrumm@eastern.wvnet.edu

PHI THETA KAPPA is currently accepting student applications. To qualify for the honorary, students must have completed at least 12 college-level credit hours at Eastern and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher. To obtain an application or if you have questions, contact Debbie Backus, PTK advisor, in



STUDENTS PLANNING TO GRADUATE IN THE SPRING 2008 SEMESTER NEED TO COMPLETE THEIR GRADUATION APPLICATION BY NOVEMBER 2, 2007. FOR MORE INFORMATION, STUDENTS SHOULD CONTACT THEIR ADVISORS.

“Education is what you get from reading the fine print. Experience is what you get from not reading it.”

~Source Unknown

IMPORTANT DATES

Sept 3	Labor Day Holiday—College Closed	Nov 2	Last day to withdraw with a grade of “W” for Eastern courses
Sept 4	SGA Meeting, 4:30 p.m. in room 133. All students are encouraged to attend.	Nov 2	Deadline for spring 2008 graduation applications
Sept 10–15	Eastern Spirit Week	Nov 19–24	Thanksgiving Holiday—No Classes
Sept 12	“Socialize with Mr Sisk” Luncheon in room 133. Free to all Eastern Students.	Dec 10–14	Final Exams for Eastern courses
Sept 15	Welcome Back Picnic at Welton Park. Free to all students and their families.	Dec 24–Jan 1	Anticipated Holiday Break—College closed
Sept 17	Constitution Bowl, 12:30 p.m. in room 133. Open to all students and guests.		
Sept 27	“Test Taking Tips” workshop, 4:30 p.m. in room 133. Open to all students and guests.		
Oct 15–19	Assessment Week		
Nov 1	Registration for Spring 2007 begins		

HAVE A GREAT SEMESTER!

