The Center for Student Achievement (CSA) celebrated its one-year anniversary on September 2, 2009. The CSA is a joint venture between the offices of Student Affairs and Academic Affairs to help students reach their academic potential. The mission of the CSA is to enhance student learning, academic success and personal growth through engagement in the Salisbury University academic community. The goals of the CSA are:
- Support the academic success of all students
- Promote academic success through strategic use of resources
- Increase student’s ability to become independent learners
- Implement practical, proven strategies for improving academic skills
- Help students develop competencies that directly enhance their success in the classroom
- Increase student retention
- Improve graduation rates

New initiatives for fall 2009 include Supplemental Instruction (SI) for six courses including Calculus, Applied Calculus, Algebra and Trigonometry, Economics, Music Theory, and Chemistry. SI is a voluntary academic assistance program that utilizes peer-led group study to help students succeed in traditionally difficult courses. SI sessions can be described as “super-group tutoring” wherein the SI leader facilitates group study strategies and collaborative study techniques specific to the course.

Tutoring for Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, Nutrition, and Exercise Physiology also became available in the CSA beginning September 14. Students can stop in during tutoring “drop-in” hours for additional help in these courses. No appointment needed! Students should consult the Web site (www.salisbury.edu/achievement) for tutoring and SI schedules, as well as a full complement of services offered including study strategies workshops.

The CSA is here to help all students identify and evaluate their needs in order to reach their academic potential. Hours of operation for fall 2009 are Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and Sunday 5-9 p.m. The CSA is located in Guerrieri University Center Room 213. Parents and students can e-mail the CSA at achievement@salisbury.edu or call 410-677-4063.
SU Prepares for Seasonal Flu and H1N1

by Jennifer Berkman, Director of Student Health Services

As the fall semester commences, SU is preparing for what is projected to be a busy flu season. A subcommittee of SU’s Emergency Management Committee has been meeting all summer to monitor the global, national and regional situation. Prevention and intervention plans are in place in order to better manage the seasonal and H1N1 flu, should SU’s campus be affected. As students come to campus for the semester, Student Health Services is seeing a number of students accessing care for classic flu symptoms. This is a phenomenon being seen at other colleges and universities nationwide.

It is important for students, parents, faculty and staff to understand the difference between the “true” flu and other respiratory illnesses, like the common cold. The hallmark of the flu is a fever of 100 degrees or more, along with cough and/or sore throat. Many people have congestion, a runny nose or sore throat, but no fever. Without a fever, these individuals should know they are suffering from something other than the flu.

Prevention measures include getting vaccinated. Seasonal flu vaccine clinics will be held on campus this semester and clinic dates, times and locations will be announced campus wide. Vaccines will be given on a first-come, first-served basis. Students, faculty, staff, spouses and partners are eligible to receive the seasonal vaccine. Vaccines will cost $15, which can be paid by cash, check or Gull Card. Students under age 18 should obtain a parental consent form prior to flu vaccine clinic dates from Student Health Services. If and when the H1N1 vaccine becomes available, clinics will be subsequently scheduled later in the fall.

The treatment for seasonal and H1N1 flu is the same. People with flu-like illness are advised to stay away from classes and limit interactions with other people (self-isolation) for at least 24 hours after no longer having a fever (without fever-reducing medications like Ibuprofen or Tylenol). Most individuals will not need to access medical care unless complications arise or severe symptoms surface. The more the ill persons isolates themselves, the more effective the campus will be in reducing the number of people affected. For this reason and the high demand for services for very ill students, Student Health Services will not be issuing medical excuses for classes. Everyone should understand the need for providers to be accessible for medical care during this time in addition to the need for self-isolation. Parents and students should have a transportation plan in place in case the student contracts the flu and needs to return home.

Parents and students can stay informed as the flu season progresses. Regular updates are posted on the University’s emergency preparedness Web site, www.salisbury.edu/emergency.

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Academic Advising

Quite often faculty and administrators receive questions from parents about academic advising and what they can expect for their student. To begin with, all matriculated, degree-seeking students at Salisbury University are assigned an academic advisor. Students who have a declared major are assigned a faculty advisor within their major department, while students who have not declared their major are assigned faculty or professional advisors by the Office of Academic Affairs. Students can access their advisor's name through their Gull Net account. At a minimum, students must meet with their academic advisor during program planning to discuss their General Education and major requirements, academic issues, and long-term academic planning. In addition, your student’s academic advisor will activate her or him to be eligible to register online via Gull Net during his or her assigned registration time period. If students do not meet with their advisor, they will not get activated to register and will need to wait for open enrollment (January) to register for classes. October is program planning time for the fall, so this is a great time for you to ask your student questions about how they are communicating with their advisor and their plans for courses for the spring semester.

Academic advising is a critical component to the success of your student achieving their educational, career and life goals. As a parent, here are some key components for you to understand about academic advising in supporting your student through this process:

- Both students and faculty advisors have responsibilities in the advisor/advisee relationship.
- During program planning, students are responsible for making an appointment with their assigned advisor and arriving to the appointment prepared and on time.
- Students should always check their GroupWise (@salisbury.edu) e-mail account as their advisor, faculty and administrative offices primarily contact them that way.
- Students should log into Gull Net before the meeting with their advisor to access their student center and review their degree progress, remaining requirements and create a list of courses in which they are interested in enrolling.
- Students should become familiar with and follow academic policies, rules, procedures and requirements.
- If your student has not yet decided on a major, we encourage her or him to seek assistance beyond his or her academic advisor through the Office of Career Services. This office offers career and interest inventories, information on careers based on majors/minors, graduate school information, and one-on-one appointments. The Career Services Web site is a valuable resource for major and career exploration (www.salisbury.edu/career).
- Any holds on a students’ account will prevent them from being able to register during pre-registration.
- We understand that parents are a valuable resource and support for their son or daughter in making major, career and educational decisions. We also know that parents often want to know how their student is doing academically. The best way to find this out is to have clear and open communication with your student. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibits the disclosure of private information like grades, even to a student’s parents. Students can give advisors written permission to talk to their parents, but without it, advisors are very limited in what they can talk to parents about.

The parent-student relationship is an important one. Parents serve as key pillars of support and guidance even as students move into adulthood. We encourage parents to be actively involved by maintaining lines of communication and providing support. Being familiar with what Salisbury offers to students, in terms of support and services, can often be very helpful to parents and students. Finding the balance between guiding your student and supporting their independence can be a major challenge for all parents, but it will have a big payoff in the end for your student’s success.
Family Weekend October 2-4, 2009

We invite parents and family members back to the Salisbury University campus for a weekend of events specifically designed for family fun and interaction. Program and registration information was sent out earlier this month to your student’s permanent address. You will find the most up-to-date schedule, online registration and lodging information on the Family Weekend Web site:

www.salisbury.edu/parents/familyweekend

Here are some highlights of the weekend:

- **Academic**
  - Open Classrooms for Parents
  - Teacher Education and Technology Center (TETC) Tours

- **Home Athletics**
  - Football vs. Apprentice School
  - Women’s Soccer vs. Mary Washington

- **Entertainment**
  - Psychic Mentalist Duo The Evasons
  - Movie: *Transformers 2*
  - Family Weekend Showcase 2009 Student Dancing and Singing Groups

- **Food and Fun**
  - Leadership Brunch with SU President and Administration
  - Post-Game Free Ice Cream Social and Faculty Mixer
  - Recipes from Home Dinner and *The Meeting Dinner Theatre*
  - Jazz Brunch with Slim DeNone and the High Rollers
  - Family Weekend Golf Challenge – Nutters Crossing
  - SU Ward Museum
  - Adrenaline High Kayak Trips

- **Student Services**
  - “Ask the Experts” of Career Services
  - Financial Aid: Overview and News
  - Study Abroad Resource Session
  - Campus Master Plan Update Session

- **Family Weekend Information Center**
  - Friday 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
  - Guerrieri University Center
  - Up-to-date schedule, campus resources and directions