



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Tara Scales Williams, Ph.D.

### Inside this issue:

Welcome to Penn State	2
What's Happening on Campus?	2
Keep on Truckin'	2
How to Become a Master Student	3
Internships: What You Need to Know	3
Praise for Helping Students Succeed	3
Being a Proactive Student	4

It is my privilege to welcome you to Penn State's University Park campus and to the Multicultural Resource Center (MRC). This is one of the most exciting times in your life and MRC is happy to share it with you.

I am often asked, what does MRC do and why should I go there? I hope to answer these questions for you. I like to view MRC as a "home away from home" while you are at Penn State. As a student you have been assigned an MRC counselor who is here for you. We provide individual counseling and advice to undergraduate students as you navigate through Penn State, with the goal of helping you graduate. MRC counselors are very knowledgeable about the complex make-up of the University and can guide you to the right resources that will help ensure your academic, personal, and professional success. Counselors are connected to many offices on campus

and we want to help you get connected. Simply put... we are here for you, and anything that is important to you is important to us.

We want to celebrate your successes and provide support when you are in need. Come and meet your MRC counselor and begin building a relationship that I hope will carry you through your Penn State experience and beyond. Call 814-865-1773 to schedule an appointment today.



Tara Scales Williams  
Director  
tcs111@psu.edu

## TIPS FOR THE FIRST-YEAR STUDENT

By Alex Liang

As a first-year student, I came to Penn State all alone. None of my classmates from high school enrolled with me and it was a challenge to make friends right away.

Four days before the first day of classes, I received an e-mail from Edward McKeon, my counselor at the Multicultural Resource Center, and immediately scheduled an appointment with him. Throughout the entire year, I scheduled biweekly meetings with him, and we talked about roommate conflicts, clubs and organizations, and academics. After a year knowing Ed, I became a mentor for AASIA (Asian American Students in Action) and eventually became a coordinator.

Besides my MRC counselor, I met Wayne Gersie, who was my Business Seminar professor. He and I bonded very quickly in class and

at the end of the semester, I found out that he was an MRC counselor, too. I visited him a few times as he gave me advice and tips for internships. At the end of the year, he gave me an opportunity to become a teaching assistant (TA) for his Business Seminar class.

The Multicultural Resource Center is a resource of opportunities. The staff will provide students with many opportunities, such as boosting your résumé with leadership experiences. They will take time out of their lives to help make your Penn State experience healthy and enjoyable.



# WELCOME TO PENN STATE

By Denise Hinds-Zaami

You are now a Penn State student! There is a reason for your coming here and a mission to unfold. So welcome to your next stage of scholarly inquiry and academic involvement. Your family and even you're ancestors have been waiting for you to reach your potential. Now is the time for you to pursue your dreams, which will ultimately allow you to accomplish your goals. Hold your head up high, smile, and go forth to do the best that you can with every opportunity given. You may have family and friends who have given you support; at the Multicultural Resource Center we are

here to give you the same. Ultimately, you must believe in yourself.

As a counselor at the Multicultural Resource Center at University Park, I'm here to assist you with information, study skills, recommendations, an understanding ear, encouragement, and much more in order to help you graduate. You are Penn State!



# WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS?

By Ed McKeon

Welcome to Penn State and University Park! You should be excited because you have chosen a University with an abundant array of resources and opportunities. Now you may be thinking "How do I begin to discover what is available to me?" There are several ways to accomplish this. First and foremost, be sure to read the student-run newspaper, the *Daily Collegian*. Not only does the paper provide local, national, and world news, but it contains information about exciting events happening right here on campus including concerts, cultural events, and movies. You can also find a listing of student organization meetings, information about volunteer opportuni-

ties, classifieds, and much more. The *Daily Collegian* even includes discount coupons to use on campus and downtown. Another information source for campus events is the calendars link on the Penn State home page: [www.events.psu.edu/](http://www.events.psu.edu/).

So make sure you stay informed by using your resources to find out what's happening on campus, and get out there and make the most of your opportunities.



# KEEP ON TRUCKIN'

By Michael J. Wityk

Not long ago, I was driving to work and found myself stuck at a red light behind a pickup truck that was the biggest piece of road legal machinery I'd ever seen. The tires were massive, easily eclipsing the height of my headlights and, as I sat motionless at the intersection watching smoke billowing from the chrome pipes in methodic surges, I remember studying the curiously motivating message emblazoned on the truck's one and only bumper sticker. In bright red lettering, it simply read: Keep on Truckin'. My job involves student interaction and that is precisely what makes it rewarding and fulfilling. When I engage students in conversations about their academic progress, I feel it is my duty to do everything in my power to help them succeed at Penn State. Whether it is a personal issue, a problem with their student aid package, or simply an informal

discussion about a possible course selection or choice of major, I'm honored that students seek my counsel, trust my judgment, and realize that I have their best interest at heart. Penn State is among the finest in the nation with world renowned faculty, top notch facilities, and an unyielding commitment to student success. But most of all, what makes Penn State so special is that it will challenge you academically in ways you never thought possible. You will not receive a degree from Penn State, you will earn it. And to that I say: Keep on Truckin'.



# HOW TO BECOME A MASTER STUDENT

By Wayne Gersie

The learning process in college is very different from the learning process during the K through twelve years. In order to perform at the highest academic level, it is crucial that a student understands and recognizes the difference between the two distinctly different learning styles. Most students understand that the expectations in college are higher than they were in high school. Students who struggle academically are students who are not able to transition from the learning styles of high school to college. In high school students are identified as dependent learners, which means that they are dependent on an instructor to facilitate their learning. In college, the opposite is true. The student takes part in an independent learning process that requires responsibility for his/her own learning. This

learning process requires time management and self-discipline. Students who are successful in college understand this clearly. An independent learner is expected to conduct most of their learning outside the classroom. A good rule of thumb is the 2-to-1 rule. This rule suggests that for every hour a student spends in lecture they should commit two hours outside of lecture to prepare and review coursework. The lecture should be a learning opportunity to supplement independent learning. Therefore, it is critical that you manage your time accordingly.



# INTERNSHIPS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

By Diane Farnsworth

It's never too early to start thinking about internships! Employers look for students who have experience. In fact, most employers would agree that nearly all of their offers for permanent employment are extended to students who have had some internship or co-op experience. In today's competitive market and grave economic times, you can't afford to not seek out these opportunities. When considering an internship, allow enough time to plan a course of action in obtaining one (most internships for summer are confirmed by mid-February). It's important to ask yourself what you want from the experience. Formulate an answer by considering location as it relates to cost of living, transportation, etc. Keep in mind that internships can be for credit or wages; some are for credit **and** wages. You would need to contact your department/college to arrange receiving credit.

To identify potential employers, look at all of the resources available. To begin, contact the internship coordinator in your college or go to the college's Web site to access opportunities. (Yes, there's a contact in every college!) Visit Web sites such as [www.monstertrak.monster.com/](http://www.monstertrak.monster.com/) or [www.internships.com/](http://www.internships.com/)



Another resource is the Internship and Summer Job Directories found at Penn State's Career Services, Bank of America Career Services Center. The staff at Career Service's are ready to help with every step involved, from résumé writing to interviewing.

Please let our staff at the MRC know if we can be of further assistance to you. Good luck!

# PRAISE FOR HELPING STUDENTS SUCCEED

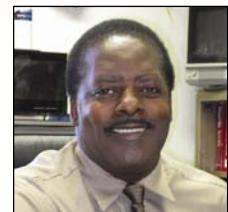
By Vern Carraway

For years, the student-centered Multicultural Resource Center has provided early access to resources to promote student success within the "Penn State Experience." The Multicultural Resource Center provides clear insight into the issues confronting students in their pursuit of the Penn State degree. Our combined professional staff experience adds up to an excess of one hundred years worth of knowledge, keen insight, and skill.

Our brand of untiring dedication and educational commitment could have saved me from bumping into

many walls as I once traversed the American higher educational system.

The Multicultural Resource Center can help determine the path for success for students who choose to navigate the higher educational landscape. Let us help place you on the fast track for success.



# BEING A PROACTIVE STUDENT

By Moran He

College life is about gaining independence, but it also means learning to handle the flip side of it—greater responsibility. Even the most confident students can sometimes find themselves overwhelmed by the great variety of choices in classes, majors and careers, activities, and services at Penn State.

BEING PROACTIVE is key! Looking at the big picture of the entire semester or year is a good way to begin. Taking the initiative to utilize faculty office hours, consulting with advisers, forming a study group at the beginning of the semester, or checking your bank account are just a few examples to be proactive—and they pay off! If you have trouble in a class at the beginning of the semester, speak with the professor or seek

tutoring as soon as you detect a problem. The reason is that you might lack the motivation to seek help at the moment you find yourself in serious academic trouble and in the most need of support. Other reasons why you need to be proactive: you need to allow two weeks or so to schedule a meeting with an academic adviser as the late-drop deadline looms; it usually takes four to six months to find a good and rewarding internship opportunity.

So, what is the key again? BE PROACTIVE!



PENNSTATE



## Multicultural Resource Center

The Pennsylvania State University  
220 Grange Building  
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802-6701

Phone: 814-865-1773

Fax: 814-863-0704

**This publication is available in alternative media on request.**

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. It is the policy of the University to maintain an academic and work environment free of discrimination, including harassment. The Pennsylvania State University prohibits discrimination and harassment against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. Discrimination or harassment against faculty, staff, or students will not be tolerated at The Pennsylvania State University. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901; Tel 814-865-4700/V, 814-863-1150/TTY. U.Ed. OVP 10-55