SSS Cornerstone

Kenyada Mullins... December Student of the Month

Congratulations Ken'Yada Nicole Mullins for being our Student Support Services Student of the Month! Ms. Mullins comes to us from Louisville & is TRIPLE majoring in Marketing, Management, & Merchandising Apparel & Textiles. This dynamic woman is able to do all of this and maintain a GPA of 3.628!!! When we caught up with Ms Mullins, we asked her what her secret is to doing well. The following are some insights from Ms. Mullins about being successful.

I have been a member of SSS for 4 years & 4 months. The greatest benefit from being a member of SSS has to be being surrounded by people who truly care about you & want you to succeed during your time at the University of Kentucky. If I wasn't a member of SSS I don't think I would have as many opportunities or access to many resources around campus. I find the tutoring at SSS to be most beneficial. When I received tutoring for my math courses I earned A's & I know without the help of my SSS tutors I would have never received those grades. Math is definitely not my friend! My favorite activity I participated in is the SSS graduation celebration at the end of the year. It was such a rewarding experience to be recognized by the SSS staff for our achievements as students. Last year I almost cried from all the stories I heard from everyone and their experiences at SSS.

As far as my involvement last year, I was a peer mentor under Ms. Cassandra's supervision. I got the opportunity to meet a wonderful set of girls that I mentored, provided a support during their first year in college. At UK, I am currently a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. where I serve as the corresponding secretary and program planning and development co-chair. Also I am the historian for the National Pan-Hellenic Council and a student ambassador for Coca-Cola. When not working or studying, I enjoy shopping, scrapbooking, and watching movies I love fashion therefore I love to shop so I can study trends and put outfits together. I am definitely a movie person, I watch movies so much that I can sit and recite a whole movie if it's one of my favorites.

I chose a degree in fashion and business because I have been interested in both since high school. During that time, I first began to take classes in both fields of study. After graduation I plan to go to graduate school in New York where I plan to study business and law.

I wouldn't change anything about SSS! Now that we have access to wifi we are all set.

Reminders for All Scholarship Recipients

Just a short reminder that those of you who are receiving either William C Parker or Robinson Scholars scholarships have requirements that must be met in order to maintain the contract. Please make certain that you have done the following:

- Three Academic Progress Sessions
- 15 hours of studying/Tutoring for both math and science courses
- Participated in two workshops
- Participated in three career/graduate school workshops
- Passed UK 101

If you are not certain if you have completed these requirements, then you need to check with an SSS Advisor to ascertain your level of completion.

As always, we will be having the TAC Meetings in the Spring and if you do not have a 2.0 or better you will be expected to attend one of the two offered sessions. These will begin after January 20. Please make certain that you meet with your SSS advisor to plan for your semester and set your goals.
What Would the Christmas Ghosts Show YOU?

"Christmas a humbug uncle, said Scrooge's nephew You don't mean that I am sure."

"I do. said Scrooge. Merry Christmas, What right have you to be merry? Out upon Merry Christmas What's Christmas time to you but a time for paying bills without money a time for finding yourself a year older and not an hour richer, a time for balancing your books and having every item in 'em through a round dozen of months presented dead against you. If I could work my will, said Scrooge indignantly, every idiot who goes about with Merry Christmas on his lips should be boiled with his own pudding and buried with a stake of holly run through his heart."

As this is the opening to The Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens, we know that our main character Scrooge is unable to see the purpose in such a holiday or in the giving to humanity. This is demonstrated in his lack of enthusiasm for giving to charity. "I wish to be left alone said Scrooge Since you ask me what I wish gentlemen that is my answer I don't make merry myself at Christmas and I can't afford to make idle people merry I help to support the establishments I have mentioned they cost enough and those who are badly off must go there."

The establishments in mention are prison houses or homeless shelters. Please remember that these would not be the 'fine establishments we have today' but very rudimentary places.

Well we all know that this loving individual continues to be rude to his fellow man and is warned by his deceased partner, Marley, that he will have a chance at reclamation. Scrooge scoffs at this as well until...

Spirit number 1: Christmas past illustrates that he was alone most of the time, parental support and caring were not available neither were his classmates due they left for their homes. As we see him grow into a man, he does find love but squanders it for money. Hmmm...

Spirit Number 2: Christmas Present: This spirit is a hardy, fun loving, and jovial spirit who has come to show Scrooge the opportunities others take to celebrate life and good fortune. He shows him his clerk's home and the "feast" he will have and the love shared by the family. He is also shown what others think of him...Hmm... Later Scrooge is shown a family out in the cold with a father bringing in scraps for the meal, two children in question of where the scraps came from, and a wife unwilling to go to the prison houses for fear of losing her family. Scrooge appalled asks why these people are out here. The spirit replies, "Are there no prisons? ..."

Before you speak, Scrooge is reprimanded, you should realize that you are worth less than these people here.

Spirit Number 3: Future: Not as jovial as the last two & not very optimistic of Scrooge's future. He illustrates what Scrooge is to gain as his life continues unaltered. Hmmm... Scrooge, in the story The Christmas Carol, is given opportunity to reclaim humanity and partake of the people and kindness around him. What would the Christmas ghosts show you? Would you find that you are embracing the world or ignoring it? Would you be shown enjoying the flaws of your family and friends and they in turn enjoying yours? Dickens is best known for this Christmas story and he performed it tirelessly his life. He considered it his best work. It has endured for years, been made into numerous movies, TV shows, plays, and recently into a cartoon. This icon does beg the question of "Why does this story resonate with so many people?" Again, I ask: What would the Christmas Spirits Show YOU?"
To everyone who is preparing to wind down the semester… are you ready for your final exams? Here are some preparation tips for you.

**Surveying:** Survey to find out what types of questions are being asked, for it helps you to know what to expect.

**Knowing the Ground Rules:** Always read directions! Need I say more…

**Answering Easy Questions First:** Answering easy questions first, for if you stumble over difficult questions for too long a time, you may not be able to finish.

Hey it was the last great “celebration” of the semester with your SSS friends! Ok maybe not, but it is the “last big hoorah” before the fun of mental gymnastics! Finals, you know, where your every minute is consumed with papers, exams, and finding those notes you know you took just last month. As you clamored to get ready for that week, we wanted to spend a few moments with you and your nerves to prepare for finals. For some this is their first rodeo, but for others well you are getting the hang of it. So, in order to help you we planned to have REVIEW SESSIONS for those Seriously Tough Subjects like Math, Science, Foreign Language, Psychology and a few others. In order for your subject to get slotted during the two weeks before finals, you must Sign UP! This can be done in the front of the SSS office on the Bulletin Board as well as by emailing Valerie.Rister@uky.edu with the Subject: Finals Review. We will have a schedule posted hopefully by December 6. Also, we are working with the Cultural Center to provide Review Sessions. Watch for this posting around the office! Lastly, you are not alone during Finals, so come into SSS & talk to us as you need. Good Luck and see you in the REVIEW!

**Events You Do Not Want To Miss**

- **Finals Review Sessions**
  - Weeks of December 9-20, in the SSS Office
  - Time for Sessions to be Determined

- **Holiday Open House Office/Conference Room**
  - Friday, December 13 at 11:30-2:30 SSS
  - Come Share YOUR Favorite Holiday Dish!

- **GRE Class Sign UPS**
  - Every Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday in the SSS Conference Room
  - Time for Class to be Determined

- **Tutoring Certification Course**
  - Every Tuesday at 5:30-6:30 in the SSS Conference Room

- **TAC Meetings**
  - Every Wednesday @1:00 & Thursday @3:00 in the SSS Conference Room