

E-NEWSLETTER



ASPIRE PROGRAM, Student Support Services

It's never too early to start thinking about Housing for 2012-2013!!

Now is a great time to begin planning – It's important to think about where you want to live and who you want to live with. Start talking with other students so you are ready for the Housing Selection Process, which is expected to be held in early March. Information will be sent to your ksc mailcruiser account – so check this often!

Returning Students - We have Housing Information for You!

If you are a returning student and interested in living in a res hall, be sure to fill out the Returning Student Housing Interest Form in March.

Don't forget about the new Living Learning Communities (LLC's)!

Here's the Scoop on Your Housing Deposit!
This information will be sent to your ksc mailcruiser account in January.

WHAT? A \$300.00 housing deposit for the 2012-2013 academic year.

WHEN? This deposit needs to be paid online during course registration time: March 26, 2012 – April 6, 2012.

WHO? This deposit must be paid by anyone who has a housing assignment for the '12 – '13 academic year or by anyone who has a lottery number. If you have a lottery number, but did not select housing, you will be placed on a waitlist. *Remember – if you do not pay the deposit, you will lose your room*.

HOW? Use the Housing Deposit Event website to pay your deposit online! Payments will ONLY be accepted via MasterCard, Visa, or e-check.

**Students who have 52 or more credits by 2012 are eligible for junior/senior housing! Please fill out the 2012-2013 Apartment Group Lottery Application in February. **

Individual students will receive an email that states either:

- Their group lottery number is high enough to select an apartment and will be provided an appointment time to choose their apartment

Their group lottery number is not high enough to select an apartment- Therefore

each individual in the group will receive a lottery number that they can use during the General Housing Selection Event. Please be on the lookout in January for more housing information. Feel free to contact the Residential Life Office at 603-358-2339 or reslifeadmin@keene.edu with questions.

For those of you interested in moving off-campus, an Off-Campus Housing Fair will be held on Thursday, February 2, 2012 from 5-8pm. Landlords will be available to provide information about their '12-'13 properties. Also, you are invited to join the 'KSC Off-Campus Student Relations' Facebook Group for resources, upcoming events, and helpful tips. Please contact Alison Riley, Coordinator of Student and Community Relations, at 603-358-2994 or ariley3@keene.edu.

Happy New Year and Time to File Your FAFSA!

The 2012 FAFSA is available on-line at www.fafsa.gov.

The deadline for Keene State College students is **MARCH 1, 2012**, so be absolutely sure to complete and submit the FAFSA way in advance just in case it gets held up for some reason. We recommend February 14th as a safe deadline.

We say it every year and we're going to say it again:

If you're even 1 day late with your FAFSA, you stand to lose thousands of dollars in good financial aid. By good we mean gift aid that doesn't need to be repaid, e.g. grants and scholarships...the good stuff!

If you do not have your taxes done before February 14th, then just estimate income information on the

FAFSA and check off that you WILL FILE. Once you and/or your parents file your 2011 taxes, you can go back onto FAFSA and update the form with accurate information.

DO NOT HOLD OFF ON FILING YOUR FAFSA BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T DONE YOUR TAXES YET! ESTIMATE!

Aspire will be offering FAFSA and Scholarship workshops in late January and early February. If you received this newsletter, you'll be invited!

Have questions? Need help? Call us in Aspire at 603-358-2325 or KSC Financial Aid at 603-358-2280 or 800-572-1909.

Time for Some Management

Tick tock goes the clock. It is 8:00 PM and you have not started studying for a quiz you have tomorrow afternoon. You begin to pace back and forth in your room, your heart starts to beat a little faster and a subtle tightness forms in your stomach. You ask yourself, where did all my time go? Perhaps it was the several hours you spent on Facebook, or the time you spent in the Student Center enjoying a sizzler and conversing with friends? Regardless of how this

student's time was spent, they are experiencing a time management crisis! Time management is a critical and valuable skill to learn in college. Effective time management skills lead to a less stressful life and help you accomplish more in a day. Both studying *and* enjoying time with friends is possible when one is able to manage their time effectively. Here are some tips to help you

manage your time effectively.

Plan your day. Planning each day fosters a sense of control over your course work and personal life.

Write a to-do list putting the most important assignments or tasks on top. This is called prioritization. Using a calendar or personal planner when planning your day is a helpful way to organize your assignments and you!

In Fall 2011, from 20 sections, the total attendance at SI study sessions was 626.

In Spring 2011, 47% of the SI course students went to an SI session.

Would working with a tutor benefit you this semester?

Interested in being an SI Leader for next semester? We are especially in need of SI Leaders for the 100 and 200 level Science courses.

Go to <http://www.keene.edu/aspire/si.cfm> for more information

Whether you've worked with an Aspire tutor in the past, or have never even heard that we offer tutoring, we suggest that you take a look at your schedule and think about whether this is a good idea for you. Tutoring is effective. Nearly 50% of our fall 2011 tutees earned an A, AB, or B in the courses they were tutored for, and 99% received a passing grade!

We tutor for all courses with the exception of ENG

writing (including ITW) and MATH (including IQL). You can stop by the Center for Writing or Math Center for assistance with courses in these areas.

While we can't guarantee a match (sometimes there just isn't a qualified tutor--especially if the course hasn't been offered before-- or his/her available slots are scooped up quickly) we do our best to do so. All matches are based on tutor

availability. This fall, 92% of the 373 tutor requests filed were matched, for 152 course sections. Our "Top 4" most popular request areas were for CHEM, PSYC, BIO, and GEOG courses.

So, come on in to meet with one of us as soon as possible to fill out your tutor request(s), and we'll answer any questions you have!

LOOKING FOR A PART TIME JOB?

There are many jobs available on and off campus for students. The key to finding a job is to apply as soon as you return to campus. Jobs, particularly work study jobs, get filled very quickly.

How do you know if you qualify for work study? It would be listed on your financial aid award letter. If you have any questions

please see the Financial Aid office in Elliot.

If you don't qualify for work study funds, you can still work on campus in a student hourly position. Both work study and student hourly positions are listed on the Student Financial Services web page at www.keene.edu/sfs/ocemployment.cfm. If you're looking for an off

campus job, you should check out www.keene.edu/aca/job_search.cfm. This is a listing of many off campus jobs and internships. Look carefully, many of these jobs are not in this area. The folks in Academic and Career Advising can also help you navigate the search for an off campus job. A final tip about looking for a job on or off campus:

TALK TO PEOPLE. Talk to your friends, people you know who work on campus, (even Aspire staff) or people in the stores downtown. Someone might just know about an available job or will keep you in mind when one becomes available. Again, the earlier in the semester you look, the better. **GOOD LUCK!**

Scholarship Search

I wish money grew on trees. It would be so much easier, to say the least. But alas, it doesn't; so we need to go out and earn or find money. One way to find money for college is to apply for scholarships.

KSC has its own scholarships that students will be invited to apply for in late March/early April. You'll receive notices from Financial Aid about this and a reminder from Aspire as well. The application for these scholarships is online.

To apply for KSC Scholarships, you'll need to

write an essay describing your goals, campus and community involvement, and commitment to earning your college degree here at KSC. You'll also need 2 faculty recommendations, so be sure to be thinking about this now and to ask faculty early on. Many students don't follow through on this process because they say they're too busy or they don't get their act together in time. Don't be one of those students who drops the ball! Plan ahead and let us know if we can assist with

the process in any way. Believe us, it's worth it!

Another idea for scholarships is to check back in with your high school, church, and other community organizations at home. There may be funds there that you can apply for. We've seen it happen, so it's worth a try!

There are also many websites that provide scholarship information. Just keep in mind that you NEVER want to pay to apply for a scholarship. If a scholarship site asks for payment, get out and get out quick! One legitimate scholarship site is

www.studentaid.ed.gov/

SAP (Satisfactory Academic Progress) and Your Financial Aid

Last July 1, Keene State College's Financial Aid Office established policies and procedures to fulfill the requirements expressed in the Higher Education Act (HEA) as revised for the 2011-12 academic year.

It is important that you know that, if you receive Title IV federal or selected other types of financial aid, the Financial Aid Office will

review your academic progress at the end of each academic year to make sure that you are still eligible to receive financial aid.

They'll be looking for 3 things: maximum time frame within which a degree must be granted (how long it is taking you to graduate), minimum completion percentage (how many credits you

accomplish), and minimum cumulative grade point average (good academic standing).

If you are notified that you need to file an appeal, please see us, as we can support you to navigate through this process. More information is available on this site: http://www.keene.edu/sfs/KSC_SAP.cfm

Two Reasons NOT to Attend Graduate School

As a junior or senior moving closer to completing your undergraduate degrees, one of the questions that may be at the back of your mind is: *Should I go to graduate school?* It is a decision that should be made after exploring many questions and answers.

First ask yourself: *Why do I want to go?* There are many reasons to attend. Here are 2 reasons NOT to attend graduate school. **"I can't get a job in this economy, so I may as well stay in school."**

It is true that this is a difficult time to find work but that is not a good enough reason for taking on a commitment that requires a significant investment of your personal and financial resources. If you have been unsuccessful in finding work, consider volunteer or internship positions that may lead to a job. Working in or outside of your interests will provide you with some growth opportunities that will help to further define your interests. By working first, you will also be able to decide if that field of work is

a good fit. You may also discover that a job may provide enough professional development so that a graduate degree is not needed to advance in the field.

"I don't know what to do with my life. A graduate degree will help me decide."

Graduate school can help you accomplish your career goals but will not solve your uncertainty about a career path. Instead, you should explore what real choices and interests you have. Choosing a graduate program means a

commitment to a career field that motivates you enough to specialize in it. It may feel daunting to decide your career path. According to psychology researcher Jeffrey Arnett, "Emerging adulthood is an exceptionally full and intense period of life but also an exceptionally unstable one." Through volunteering, internships, networking and using career counselors, you will be able to explore and learn more about the possibilities.

FREE Online Tools for the college student:

Many of these tools offer the ability to collaborate & to access your creations in different ways.

Flashcards: Create or use existing flashcards. Share them in a group study session and use them as a way to memorize facts or vocabulary. Available for smart phones.

<http://www.quizlet.com/>
<http://www.cueflash.com/>

Note Taking & Homework Tools:

<http://www.quick-markup.com/> - Create great notes/presentations and access anywhere.
<http://www.quicknote.de/> - Jot down ideas & to-dos on this combined notepad and clipboard.

<http://www.readplease.com/> and www.satogo.com (System Access to go) offers free screen readers.

<http://graph.tk/about/> - Easy, fast, reliable online graphing tool. No install needed.

Presentation, Sharing & Collaboration

Tools: Alternatives to try. No more emailing around of presentations!

<http://www.polladdy.com> - Create free quick basic research surveys. Collect responses via email.

<http://www.prezi.com> - A more interactive visual power point

<http://www.weebly.com/> - Drag & drop interface to create a professional website. Named one of TIME's 50 Best Websites.

<http://www.zoho.com/> - A powerful comprehensive suite. Access, edit & share presentations from anywhere.

Productivity Tools for You or Your Group

Projects: Prioritize and get things done for yourself or as a group

<http://www.sandglaz.com/> - Simply click and type freestyle to manage your "To Do" Lists. Allows for easy group project management.

<http://www.todo.ly/> - An intuitive and easy to use "To Do" List and Task Manager

Online budget tools:

<http://www.buxfer.com/> - Helps college roommates, friends keep tallies of shared expenses. It divides up each person's share and alerts you when bills are paid by others in the group.

<http://www.budgetpulse.com/> - Simple, functional. Does not sync bank account information.

<http://www.mint.com> - Links to checking & savings account to calculate your average spending.

<http://www.moneystrands.com/> - Gathers data from your bank, credit card to give an accurate view.

<http://www.bookburro.org> - A firefox extension that finds best prices for books

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Supplemental Instruction: Fact or Fiction

Many types of academic support are available at KSC. It is up to you to make use of them.

The SI program has SI Leaders in specific courses that hold weekly group study sessions.

Regular participants improve their grades.

Answer True or False to find out what you know about SI review sessions:

1. Group study sessions are only for failing students.
2. The course instructor runs the group study sessions.
3. I am expected to already understand the lecture, readings or how to solve any equations.
4. SI study sessions are voluntary but attendance is taken during study sessions.
5. The SI Leader will give me a peek at the exam questions or answers.
6. I heard that the sessions were all the same, boring and unhelpful.

Answers:

1. **False.** Study sessions are meant for everyone including those who are doing very well. Working in a structured group offers a safe opportunity to learn from others. In sessions, students can be seen helping each other, which helps them retain the information. Often there are handouts with exercises, vocabulary activities, or outlines. Be prepared to use your notes and textbook to participate. Think of SI as a weekly built in study time.

2. **False.** The sessions are run by SI Leaders who are students proficient in the course material. They have taken the course previously & received their faculty recommendation. SI Leaders receive training during the semester to learn how to be effective.

3. **False.** Not everyone will immediately understand the material. Often, hearing a tough topic explained by a fellow student helps. But remember, you must do your part to study too. It can be less intimidating to ask questions in a smaller group setting. Advanced students help stimulate discussion, can practice more problems, or assist others which also reinforces their own learning.

4. **True.** No one will force you to attend. You must take ownership of your learning. Like anything else, you will get whatever you decide to put into the experience. Attendance is taken for the Aspire Office assessment data. We compare the grades. Your faculty does not see the attendance.

5. **False.** The SI Leader does not know which specific questions will be on an exam. Key topics are focused on during an exam review. The SI Leader decides this based on the syllabus, lectures, class work, assignment, consulting with the instructor, and having taken the course. Practice quizzes/exams are just one way they review. You should join all exam reviews BUT you will benefit much more by attending sessions regularly. SI becomes a way to help you retain the information better. Reviewing regularly helps those with busy schedules and is more effective than last minute cramming!

6. **False.** Just like class lectures, some review sessions are better than others. SI Leaders receive training and feedback on how to make their sessions more effective. As the semester continues, SI Leaders make changes and adjust to students' needs. Students need to be ready to take a more active role. Don't anticipate that the SI Leaders will simply give the answers to homework or worksheets. That won't help you learn.