

January 12, 2009

# Aspire Program E-Newsletter



## Aspire Program

Student Support Services

<http://www.keene.edu/aspire>

(603) 358-2325

## FAFSA Info

### Special points of interest:

- \* Funding Your Education
- \* Making the Most of the College Experience
- \* Academic Support through Supplemental Instruction and Tutoring

### Inside this issue:

What's Up with Work Study?	2
A Letter from Our Graduate Assistant	2
College Life, Not All Learning Takes Place in the Classroom	3
A Semester of Traveling	3
Tutor Program	3
Supplemental Instruction	4
Look for 2009 Programs	4

As you may know, the FAFSA needs to be submitted annually. It becomes available on-line New Year's Day. The KSC on-time filing date is **March 1**, not May 1 like a lot of other places.

Aspire recommends you set a FAFSA deadline for **February 14** to be absolutely sure you file on time! *WARNING: Filing even one day late can cost you thousands of dollars in lost financial aid.* If you miss the deadline, you should still file a FAFSA as soon as possible, but make every effort to be on time! Once your FAFSA is submitted, the next step is applying for scholarships! The KSC scholarship application will be available on-line

## Scholarships

Did you know that every year Keene State College awards *thousands* of dollars in scholarships? These scholarships are awarded if you qualify on the basis of need. Eligibility is determined through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) analysis.

The most important thing you can do to qualify for these scholarships is fill out the

sometime in March and is typically due the first week in April. You'll need two faculty recommendations, so be thinking about this now. It's important to give faculty enough time to write and submit recommendations, so ask them well in advance. Stay posted to hear about Aspire's spring workshops on *Budgeting for College Students* and other important topics to be held this spring semester.

If you have questions about completing your FAFSA or about financial aid in general, please call SFS at 358-2280 or Aspire at 358-2325 TODAY! Don't forget to swing by SFS or Aspire to pick up your free SFS magnet.



**Keep an eye on deadlines!**

FAFSA early! We really can't stress this importance of early filing. There is only a limited amount of money and it is truly on a first come – first serve basis.

Wondering how you find out about all of this scholarship money? A great place to start is the KSC Student Financial Services Web Page. Go to <http://www.keene.edu/sfs>, and click on "Grants and Scholar-

ships" to connect to the many links that will help you pay for college. Under KSC Endowed Scholarships alone there are over 45 different scholarships that you can be considered for! Remember – Grants and Scholarships are dollars that you do not have to pay back! KSC wants to award this money every year – you just have to make sure you are ready to apply for it and accept it! Need help? Call us!

## Aspire Staff

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Alan Glotzer, Director of TRiO Programs  
aglotzer@keene.edu  
358-2322

Maria Dintino, Associate Director of Aspire  
Link Coordinator  
mdintino@keene.edu  
358-2390

Kathleen Maceda, Educational Counselor and  
SI Coordinator  
kmaceda@keene.edu  
358-2351

Jennifer Drake-Deese, Educational Counselor  
and Tutor Coordinator  
jdrakedeese@keene.edu  
358-2357

Christine Hrynowski, Educational Counselor  
chrynowski@keene.edu  
358-2467

Kelsey Caron, Educational Counselor and  
Graduate Assistant  
kcaronl@keene.edu  
358-2431

Jayne Washer, Program Support Assistant  
jwasher@keene.edu  
358-2325

## What's Up with Work-Study?

College Work-Study (CWS) is a form of financial aid, awarded as part of your financial aid package by Student Financial Services. Work-study does not provide a lump sum of money up front, but instead allows you to earn pocket money by working an on-campus job throughout the academic year. Many of you have worked an on-campus job this past fall,

but if not and you're looking for one for the spring semester, check out the on-campus job postings on the Student Financial Services website. They also list off-campus jobs for those who do not have work-study. Remember: research has shown that working 10 to 15 hours a week is manageable for most students, but more than that can jeopardize stu-

dents' academic performance and the overall quality of their college experience. If you have questions about work-study or need assistance finding a job, let us know. We'll be happy to assist you and have a direct connection with Academic & Career Advising, who also assist students in finding part time employment.

## A word from our Graduate Assistant

*My name is Kelsey and I'm the graduate assistant for the Aspire Program. I just started graduate school here at Keene State in the fall. I'm in the Masters of Education: School Counseling program and so far, I like it! I completed my undergraduate education at Keene State in 2007 and earned a BA in Sociology. I spent the time between undergrad and grad school as a case manager. I came to realize that even though I liked case management, it wasn't the job I wanted for long. I wanted to be a School Counselor. So I did some research and found that I needed to earn my Masters and saw that Keene State offers a School Counseling program. It worked out great, even though it took a lot of thinking and planning to decide that this program was right for me. Then it took a lot of planning and researching to figure how I would pay for it. Keene State, like many other colleges, offers graduate assistantships. Once I figured out what that meant, I applied! An assistantship means that, if accepted, you work at the college and the college waives your tuition (or some of your tuition, or provides some other incentive, it differs from college to college). I knew that if I didn't have to pay for my tuition, my student loans would be much lower because I would only have to cover my living expenses. I knew I had to get a part time job, too, but it was doable.*

*So you may be thinking... what am I going to do after college? It is a great question and one you should be thinking about. Maybe graduate school is where you're headed or maybe you have a particular career you're interested in. There are many important questions you should answer to help you reach your goal. Does the job or school I want require anything (certification, GRE scores, licensing, experience, etc.) for me to apply or be accepted? How much money will I earn? Or how much money will it cost? Will the employer I work for pay for further education? All of these questions can be explored with help. Aspire is here to help! Academic & Career Advising is another great resource. It is never too early to be thinking about the future and never too early to start to prepare.*



**What do I do next?  
Explore and plan!**

## College Life

### Not all learning takes place in the classroom

Too many college graduates regret that they did not take advantage of what college life has to offer. Don't be one of them! There are always events on campus. This SPRING 2009, be on the look out for dance

performances, athletic meets, student exhibits, unusual films, speakers, student musicians performing, theater shows, faculty recitals, diversity noontime lunches, etc. Upon your return, watch for announcements about the Presidential Inauguration

coverage and MLK celebration! Be sure to read the rolling announcements on the MyKSC homepage to remain updated on a number of college-sponsored events! The KSC Events page link also lists some events: <http://www.keene.edu/newsevents/?Type=Grouped&Group=All> !



Look for events on campus



## Have you considered a semester away from Keene State College?

Have you ever wished you could spend a semester traveling and experiencing people in another culture? Are you interested in what we as humans have in common, regardless of where we grew up on this planet? Have you thought about spending a semester studying and traveling in other parts of the U.S.? Did you know that it can be as

affordable as student expenses at Keene State? Through the National and International Exchange Center (NIEC), Keene State students can study at some 200 colleges throughout the U.S. Also, Keene State offers opportunities for study with partner institutions in the United Kingdom, Ecuador and France. These direct exchange programs cost the

same as if you were attending Keene State College. There are many additional locations available as well.

Feel free to make an appointment with an Aspire counselor or a staff member in NIEC (358-2348) to find out more about these incredible possibilities!

## Tutor Program

Fall of 2008 proved to be a very busy semester for the Aspire Tutor Program!

Hopefully everyone had a successful fall semester and is recharging their batteries getting ready for Spring 2009! If the fall semester didn't go exactly as you would have hoped, please consider working with an Aspire Tutor for the Spring of '09. Tutors are available in most introductory courses. They work with you, one on one, to help you organize notes, better understand texts and lectures and help you study for tests. All of their help is available to you free of charge! Just stop by the Aspire Office and we will help you get started.

All the Head Tutors were busy getting out there and recruiting for Aspire Tutoring! Dasha Bushmakin, Alisha Davidson, April Keezer and Abby Rosen were all Head Tutors for Fall 2008. These folks not only recruited but they also met with faculty, organized tutor training and tutored! It was a fun and fulfilling semester.

If you did well this semester and would like to help other students, please consider becoming a tutor. You are able to make your own hours and work as much or as little as you'd like. A GPA of 3.0 is preferred but we'll consider a 2.75. Just stop by the Aspire office and fill out a tutor application. You'll need a recommendation from the faculty of the course (or courses) you'd like to tutor, as well as a copy of your current transcript. We'll then schedule an interview with Jen Drake-Deese and go from there!

As always, we'll be happy to connect anyone with a tutor. Be sure to visit the Aspire Office as early as possible to fill out a tutor request form and meet with a counselor. We always try our best to get folks connected with a tutor as soon as possible, but some courses are more difficult than others so we do ask you to be patient. Please don't hesitate to contact Jen Drake-Deese at [jdrakedeese@keene.edu](mailto:jdrakedeese@keene.edu) with any questions! We look forward to a successful Spring of 2009!

## Supplemental Instruction (SI)

The SI program is an assistance program that increases student academic success. SI Leaders are former students who have previously taken the course and received their faculty recommendation.

### Find out what you know about Supplemental Instruction review sessions:

True or False:

1. The SI Leader will give out the exam questions and answers.
2. I can pass an exam by attending the study session right before the exam.
3. SI Leaders will have handouts during the sessions.
4. I am expected to understand the lecture, readings or how to solve the problem.
5. Study sessions are for failing students.
6. Study sessions only occur during the weekday afternoons.
7. There will be practice quizzes during review sessions.
8. The review I attended was not helpful so future sessions will probably be unhelpful too.
9. I should bring my books and notebooks to the review sessions.
10. Studying techniques and tips used are applicable to other courses.

SI Myths Debunked:

1. False. The SI Leader does not know which specific questions will be on an exam. During a study session, key topics are focused on. The SI Leader decides this based on the syllabus, lectures, class work, assignment, consulting with the instructor, and having previously taken the course.
2. False. Students will benefit by attending the study sessions regularly. This becomes a built in study time that helps with understanding and retaining the information. Students are still responsible to review on their own. Reviewing regularly helps for those with busy schedules.
3. True. To offer effective study sessions, SI Leaders will often have handouts like exercises, vocabulary activities, or outlines.
4. False. Oftentimes, hearing a topic explained again or in a different manner by a fellow student can help. The smaller group setting can be less intimidating to ask questions. In the group, those who do understand help others and this reinforces their own learning.
5. False. SI sessions are for all students including those who are failing or those who are doing very well. Working within a structured group setting offers a safe opportunity to learn from others. During a session, students can be seen helping each other which in turn, helps them retain the information.
6. False. They are held at different times of the day and on weekends too. This is based on a class survey given during the first week of class.
7. True. Practice quizzes are just one way that SI Leaders review course material.
8. 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.
9. True. Be prepared to use your notes and textbook to participate during study sessions. Don't think that the SI Leaders will simply provide the answers to worksheets. Using different techniques, they will help you review more actively.
10. True. As a result of attending SI sessions regularly, students improve their study skills and have found this helpful for their other classes.

## Stayed tuned to see what Aspire is offering during the Spring 2009 Semester



Planning Your Path for Success

### Watch your MyKSC email for e-vites!

Aspire will be offering sessions on Time Management, Study Strategies, Personal Finance, Graduate School Exploration and MORE!