Spring break at West Chester is March 9 through March 15. While it is important to take time for self-care and relaxation, it is also important to be productive so you don’t get off track. Here are a few ideas to help you use your time productively.

**SPRING INTO A PRODUCTIVE BREAK!**

**Goals:** Assess how you are doing so far this semester. Is there something you want to improve? Use this valuable time over break to establish a new habit. A to-do list can be a great way to break the goal down into smaller steps and check them off as you get them done. Make sure that your goals are realistic and work hard to achieve them!

**Catch Up or Get Ahead:** Use your time wisely to catch up on reading or note taking that you may be a bit behind on. Or if you’re already on track, maybe you want to use the break to start a larger assignment or begin studying for an exam. If you’re visiting family or friends, let them know you need some quiet time to get work done so you give yourself the best possible start for the second half of the semester!

**Organize:** During the semester, things can get hectic and messy and that doesn’t just mean your dorm room! Taking some time during break to organize papers, look ahead to large assignments, set up any doctor’s appointments, and even organize that dorm room can give you a fresh start when you come back from break.

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OSSD’s Student Ambassador Program is geared toward addressing the transition faced by high school students with disabilities as they move from high school to college.

As an Ambassador, you will be asked to share your college experiences with high school juniors and seniors in the form of a panel. It is our job to help these future students, and to give them the best advice to start their journey into college.

To be an ambassador please contact:

Amy Stotz fus
AS795932@wcupa.edu
(subject: Ambassador)

The dates the OSSD needs ambassadors for this semester are listed below:

Bishop Shanahan
Tuesday, April 7th @ 1:15pm
(leave campus by 12:40pm)

Downingtown East
Monday, April 13th @ 1:45pm
(leave campus by 1:15pm)

Delta Alpha Pi International Honors Society

West Chester University Office of Services for Students with Disabilities would like to take this opportunity to invite you to participate in Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society - Mu Chapter.

Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society presents an opportunity to change any negative stereotyping associated with disabilities by recognizing students with disabilities for their academic accomplishments. In addition, this honor society facilitates the development of skills in leadership, advocacy, and education.

Membership is open to both undergraduate and graduate students who meet the following criteria:

⇒ Present with a documented disability and work with one of the faculty members in the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (OSSD)
⇒ Demonstrate an interest in disability issues
⇒ Undergraduate students must have completed a minimum of 24 credits and earned an overall Grade Point Average of 3.10; graduate students must have completed a minimum of 18 credits and earned an overall Grade Point Average of 3.30

Delta Alpha Pi is also looking for enthusiastic leaders to run for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you wish to join and/or have an interest in running for office in the future, please contact Linda Laskaris by email at llaskaris@wcupa.edu. Delta Alpha Pi looks forward to working with you.

Calling All Ambassadors!
A student request is required for every exam!
For instance, if you have 3 exams for a Biology class, you will need to complete 3 separate Proctoring Center Student requests submitted one week before the scheduled exam.

Purpose of Proctoring Center
It is preferable that faculty provide testing accommodations. However, this is not always possible due to scheduling conflicts and other issues. The purpose of the OSSD Proctoring Center is to support faculty with providing testing accommodations for students with disabilities.

1. A student will complete the online form at (or visit OSSD webpage, Proctoring Center tab, Student Login)
http://www.wcupa.edu/viceProvost/USSSS/OSSD/ProctoringForm/StudentRequestLogin.aspx

Students will log in using their WCU email and complete all 3 sections of the online form.
- Section 1: Course Information
  Please select the correct course and section number. Then correctly enter your professor’s WCU email.
- Section 2: Exam Date and Time
- Section 3: Accommodations
  Please select your testing accommodations and click submit. Please let your professor and the Proctoring Center staff know one week in advance of the exam if you need any assistive services and/or technology to complete the exam.

*The student's completed request will be forwarded to his/her professor via email.*

2. The professor will then schedule your exam at the Proctoring Center.

3. Once your professor schedules your exam, you will receive a confirmation email that will contain the exam information.

*If you do not receive a confirmation email that your exam has been scheduled, please follow up with your professor before contacting OSSD Proctoring Center staff.*

Congratulations!
To OSSD student, Matthew Sayre, for his acceptance into a doctoral program in Physical Therapy at Wheeling Jesuit University! We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.
With snow and subzero temperatures outside, it’s hard to believe the semester is over in 10 weeks! As we are all surely busy with school, it’s also important to give some thought to what you’ll be doing with your summer break. Summer is an opportunistic time to build your resume and/or make some extra money by taking advantage of jobs and internships.

Your first step should be to use the Ram Career Network to help you find the summer job or internship that you’re looking for. Under the “Jobs and Internships” tab, you can filter through the listings by using the “Advanced Search” and selecting the criteria you need. Then by typing “summer” in the keyword search, you can look specifically at summer positions. You can also stop by the Career Center, 225 Lawrence, and look at job/internship opportunities in the binders, which are categorized by major/field.

However, if nothing on the Ram Career Network catches your fancy, don’t forget about the power of Google and talking to your family and friends to see if they know of any openings. With enough determination, you can find yourself a great summer opportunity to build your resume.

Stay on top of your work, even on a snow day!
Here are some suggestions for how to use your day off in a productive way:

* Develop a schedule to stay on track
* Take some time for self-care: do laundry, take a nap, or clean your room
* Call a friend or family member
* Write the first page of an upcoming paper
* Catch up on reading, or reread for detail
* Go to the gym
* Organize your binder or folders
* Check and respond to emails
* Upload Smart Pen lectures
* Take time to be social and talk to friends or dorm mates
* Fill out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
* Organize your room
* Check D2L for updated syllabus or other assignments
* Make flashcards
* Check your planner
* Fill out a brainstorming map or start outlining an upcoming paper
* Do your homework for the following day
* Start the research for an upcoming research paper
* Take a walk in the snow
* Work on your resume or cover letter
* Get some extra math help at one of these websites: www.khanacademy.org www.coolmath.com www.kutasoftware.com www.purplemath.com
On March 31st, Tamagawa University's Taiko drum ensemble will return to Asplundh Hall and rattle our bones with their thundering percussive assault. Beautifully orchestrated theatrics accompany a hypnotic collection of drums of all shapes and sizes in one of the most entertaining two hours you'll have on- or off-campus this year. The traditional style drumming taiko is little known outside of Japan, but is a joy to watch when combined with the dance routines of young students, who also love to wait after the performance to shake hands and exchange remarks in Japanese and English. This is a great program for anyone remotely interested in art, music, theater, or a combination of all three! This amazing performance has been featured in The New York Times, and you won’t want to miss it!

Have you ever had the experience of sitting through a 50 minute class, furiously writing notes, but not remembering a word your professor said? Have you ever struggled to pay attention in class, missing valuable test material? If so, the Livescribe Smartpen may provide some solutions to these problems. The Smartpen is a device that combines a microphone and a camera, recording MP3 files of the audio during your classes and linking it with the notes you write on special dot paper. The combination of your notes and the recordings are called pencasts and can be uploaded to Macs and PCs in a digital format.

The OSSD has a loaner program in place if you want to try out the pen for one of the semesters you are here at West Chester. We provide these loaner pens on a first-come, first-served basis and require training to learn about the functions and features of the pen. We also provide information on where to go if you are interested in purchasing a Smartpen and materials on your own. For more information about the programs the OSSD provides for smartpens, please contact Dan Soltis at DS796797@wcupa.edu. You can also check out the Livescribe® website for additional details and videos: http://www.livescribe.com/int/.
We have all been asked and haunted by this question at some point in our lives. Even if you have a major picked out or have a clear idea of what your dream job is, it’s important to understand that career development is a lifelong process and it’s not always easy.

Lucky for you, there are people here on campus that can help you along the process. The Twardowski Career Development Center offers both advice and assessments that can help you narrow down your areas of interest and find careers within your major. It may all seem overwhelming, but you are not alone and you have plenty of support right here on campus to help!

Things to think about before meeting with the Career Center or faculty:

If you can answer all of those questions, taking the first steps to developing your dream career will be a piece of cake. But if you’re still not sure how to begin, why not start by stopping by the Career Center during their drop-in hours? You can stop in any time on Monday through Friday from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Chatting for 15 minutes with a member of the Career Center faculty might be exactly what you need to get started.

So what do you want to be when you grow up?

What do I enjoy doing?
What am I good at?
What is most important to me in a career?

The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities announces the 2015 West Chester University TRIO Student Support Services Supplemental Scholarship recipients. The scholarship is awarded to students with documented disabilities selected for their outstanding dedication to their academic achievement. This year’s recipients are Timothy Barnes, George Briner, Jayla McCray, and Genevieve Wright. Congratulations to all of the recipients for this much deserved honor.

Student Achievements
One new tool we have uncovered that helps students with dyslexia to read typeface more easily is Open Dyslexic Font. This free font set increases letter spacing, shifts the weight of each letter to the lower half of the character, and reduces eye strain, all of which improves readability. Usable on Macs and PCs, you can download the font set from the following website: http://opendyslexic.org/download/. After you install your font on your computer, you can use it in word processing applications and other programs. If you have the capability to convert pdf texts to word documents, for example, you can read assigned class texts in Open Dyslexic.

Also, if you follow the instructions from the website above, you can even use the font on internet browsers, like Internet Explorer, Safari, or Google Chrome. The installation differs and is called an add-on for Firefox.

If you’ve reached the end of this article and it’s been more readable for you, you might want to give Open Dyslexic a try!