



NOVA SOUTHEASTERN  
UNIVERSITY

College of Undergraduate Studies  
Office of Academic Services

# NEWSLETTER

NSU's Office of Academic Services

Volume 11, Fall 2013

## TUTOR PROFILE



*Marissa Hoffman*

This is the start of Marissa's senior year and she will be graduating in May with a degree in Secondary Math Education and a minor in mathematics. Marissa is completing work on her Divisional Honors Thesis through the Undergraduate Honors Program. She has been involved in several student organizations since she started at NSU and has held leadership positions in the majority of them. Some of these include an advocate for the Honors Program, treasurer for Ablaze, and officer of Alpha Chi Honor Society.

This will be the start of her third year tutoring at the Office of Academic Services – one of two jobs she loves; the other is working in the Farquhar Dean's Office.

Marissa's drive for teaching and helping other is what made her want to tutor while going to school – she would love to be a high school math teacher here in South Florida after she graduates.

## Director's Message

### ***Welcome to the Fall 2013 semester!***

The Office of Academic Services (OAS) is committed to your success, and we want you to make this semester your best yet. As part of this effort, I invite you to peruse this newsletter and find out about the variety of academic support resources and services we are proud to deliver. I am excited to announce some changes that affect the Office of Academic Services *effective immediately*.

*As some of you may know, the main campus office has relocated to the ASA (Athletics and Student Affairs) building, 2nd floor. Along with this new location, the Office of Academic Services is now housed under the College of Undergraduate Studies. This new college, under the leadership of Dr. Brad Williams, was*

created to provide undergraduate students with the best level of service in support of their success at NSU.

***Lisa Walther-Austin***  
**Director, Office of Academic Services**



## Tutor Recognition Ceremony 2013



On April 17, 2013, OAS held our annual celebration to recognize NSU tutors for their hard work, valuable contributions to the office, and achievements throughout the 2012–2013 academic year. Tutors were addressed by Don Rosenblum, Ph.D., dean of Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences; Lauren Llorente, a graduating tutor; and Briana O'Dowd, an

alumni tutor and adjunct professor while she finishes her doctorate in Developmental Psychology. In addition to the OAS staff, the ceremony was attended by faculty and administrators of the college. At the end of the ceremony, the tutors were gifted with candles or flashlights, symbolizing our message of lighting the way for education and learning.

## TUTOR PROFILE



*Isabelle*

The moments Isabelle enjoys the most about tutoring are when a student spontaneously says “I get it now!” or when he or she voices this long “Ohhhhh I seee!”, sign of truly understanding. Those are the moments when she loves tutoring.

Isabelle was born and raised in Port-au-Prince, Haiti where she finished high school. She then started as a freshman in 2010 at NSU where she graduated with distinctions in May 2013. Isabelle earned her B.S. in Biology with a minor in Mathematics.

During her time at NSU, she was very involved with the International Students Associations (NISA); first as a member, a secretary and finally the President of NISA during her senior year. Fostering cultural awareness, facilitating integration and cross-cultural communication were the passions behind her engagement.

On a more personal note, she grew up with countless siblings and cousins, so she is very family-oriented as she thoroughly enjoy every second spent skyping with her family abroad.



## OAS Holds Panel at SWCA 2013

The Office of Academic Services was extremely proud to attend the Southeastern Writing Center Association 2013 Conference. OAS, in addition to offering tutoring in math and science courses, takes significant efforts into improving and adding to our extensive writing tutoring program and the chance to participate in the SWCA’s annual conference was the just the opportunity to do that. Hosted in the DeSantis building here at NSU, SWCA 2013 was composed of colleges from Alabama to Virginia.

Tutoring coordinators Cortney Palmacci and Robert Miyares held a panel titled “The Necessity of Online Tutoring Services” where they explored the need to have online tutoring services in the environment of today’s higher education system. They discussed the platform that OAS uses to deliver their tutoring services and the benefits it provides. The presentation also discussed the various hardware and equipment that enhance communication

between distance students and tutors. Following the informational segment of the presentation, the OAS coordinators opened the floor to discussions regarding online tutoring services at other universities and welcomed a spirited discussion on the difficulties faced by online sessions and ways that each college has come to mitigate them.

Following the discussion, one thing was quite certain: both OAS coordinators and panel attendees firmly agreed about the necessity of providing equal services to both distance and online students. Ensuring that students are given equal opportunities no matter the location should be the cornerstone of any higher education system that offers online tutoring.



Cortney Palmacci, Robert Miyares  
Assistant Director of Tutoring and Coordinator of Academic Services



Tutoring centers come in many shapes and forms. Some have a multitude of resources—such as computer labs, study rooms, textbook resources, and satellite locations.

But the goal for all remains the same: **Assist students to become active and independent learners!**



Wendy VanWoerden,  
Administrative  
Assistant for  
Testing

## Testing Basics

Testing Services continues to be a test administration site for CLEP, DSST, and NYU Foreign Language Proficiency exams. Students must contact their academic advisor before making appointments to take any exam and then contact Testing Services for specific dates or appointments. Students can also contact the Office of Student Disability Services for more information on individualized accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

## Testing Reminders

We hope your efforts to stay on track and keep up with the rigors of college-level study are effective. However, if there are topics that you are struggling with in your attempt to reach this goal, please stop by the Office of Academic Services and see what we have to offer—You may be surprised.

## Tutors Needed

If you want to become a peer tutor (math and/or science), you must have the following:

- minimum of 30 earned credits
- overall GPA of 3.4 or higher
- “B+” or higher in courses you want to tutor

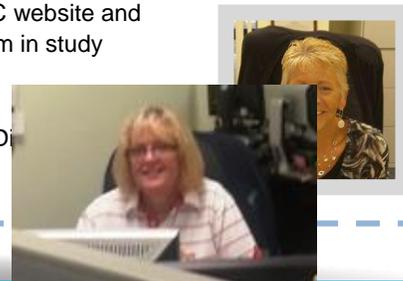
To apply, visit [www.fcas.nova.edu/services/academic\\_services/index.cfm](http://www.fcas.nova.edu/services/academic_services/index.cfm), fill out an application, and drop it off at the OAS office: Parker Building, Suite 100.

## Testing Services News

Testing Services completed the third administration of the LSAT for the first year pilot. The February examination was a huge success, much as the October 2012 administration was, and it was determined that we will be offering the LSAT at NSU every October and February from here on. Be on the look-out for the Nova Southeastern University listing on the Law School Administration Councils web site if you want to take your LSAT test right here at NSU in either of those months!

Planning is underway for November’s Mock MCAT. Students who are interested in going to medical school are urged to look for the advertising of registration in October. This wonderful offering allows students to get a feel for what the real MCAT will be like. With the Mock MCAT, students get the chance to take one of the retired MCAT exams in a simulated “real test” setting and AAMC’s institutional rate is passed on to the student (only \$20). This covers not only the cost of the exam itself, but also an entire year of access to the AAMC website and all of their resources to assist them in study preparations for the real thing!

Pat Krauss, Assistant Director



## CONTACT US

### MAIN CAMPUS HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday – Thursday  
8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Friday  
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

### REGIONAL CAMPUSES

Tutoring hours vary.  
For appointments, call  
800-757-7257, ext. 28350

These hours are subject to change.

**FRONT DESK**  
(954) 262-8350

**TESTING**  
(954) 262-8374

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