

STARSCAPE

what's on the horizon at STARS



Services for Transfer and Re-Entry Students

University of California, Santa Cruz

Fall, 2002

AT A GLANCE

Thinking about
graduate school?

Get to know your
faculty.

Considering a teaching
credential?

Write a successful
research paper.

Need a tutor for that
math class?

~see inside

CONTACT US

STARS Center
216 Academic Resources Center
831.459.2552

STARS at Kresge
at the entrance to Kresge College
831.459.5886

ADA ACCOMODATIONS

If you have disability related needs, please call the main STARS office at 459-2552 as soon as possible.

A Message from the Director

Each day, I appreciate more and more the beauty and space of STARS' new home in the Academic Resources Center (ARCenter), located at the top of the Great Meadow. (STARS at Kresge is still our thriving satellite in the north end of campus.) As part of the Academic Resources Collaborative, the main STARS Center has re-located here along with EOP Advising, Pre-Graduate Programs and Learning Support Services.

We find that, in many ways, we are situated in the heart of campus. A near neighbor is McHenry Library which is just down the road from Quarry Plaza, Baytree Bookstore and Hahn Student Services. TAPS has re-routed the core express shuttle to swing by every 20 minutes, night and day, stopping a few yards away at the Music Center. Many of you are coming for modified supplemental instruction sections, tutoring, academic and personal advising, information and referrals, specialized programs, and to use the computer workstations. Senior art student shows will soon grace the walls, and the ARCafe is almost up and running. On the menu will be sandwiches, salads, desserts, cold and espresso drinks—and pizza in the evenings.

It was difficult for STARS students and staff to leave our old Center in the Classroom Unit Building where we had been for over twenty years. But, as the days pass, we appreciate more and more the wonderful spaces created by architect and UCSC alum Richard Fernau: the open rooms with high beamed ceilings for group study and student meetings; the cozy nooks and crannies for quiet individual work; the large area for computer workstations; and the glorious views of the ocean and meadow that remind us how fortunate we are to be able to spend our days in one of the most beautiful places on earth.

As I write this, the sun is just poking out from the clouds, warming my office and lifting the fog off the coastline. In a few minutes if I am lucky, I will be able to see Monterey on the horizon rising out of the sparkling bay. A family of deer grazes in the meadow below me as a peregrine falcon soars overhead. Yesterday when I looked up from my work I saw a bobcat prancing around the same setting, seeming as though she owned the field.

I invite you to come by, enjoy, and take advantage of this place and the resources here. Make your contribution to the enhancement of academic support services on campus and the development of the ARCenter. Find your own special niche to study where you can look up from your book and observe a bobcat, or soar for a moment with the falcons. We look forward to seeing you.

Corinne Miller

Academic Success Workshops

The Coalition for Student Academic Success (CSAS) offers the following workshops. All students are invited to attend. For disability-related accommodations, please call EOP at x94333.

Where in the World Am I? Understanding University Culture with *Larry Trujillo*, Chicano/Latino Student Life Resource Center. This session provides students with an understanding of the nature and structure of a research university, the importance of seriously engaging in your course work, developing faculty mentorships, discovering research opportunities, and finding campus resources. Tuesday, October 8, 4-5:30 pm. Baytree Conference Room A.

Effective Note-Taking Skills with *Patrick McKercher*, Writing Lecturer. Learning to determine what is important can be difficult. Many of us take too many notes, others too little, and some take no notes at all! What is the optimal balance? This workshop will improve your ability to take notes from lectures, textbooks, and in discussion sections. Wednesday, October 9, 12-1:30 pm. College 8, Room 301.

Study Techniques in the Natural Sciences with *Bob Kuhn*, Biology Lecturer. Basic skills covered in this workshop include reading comprehension/interpretation, organization (scheduling and studying), note-taking, quantitation, and graphical analysis—all techniques specifically designed for the natural sciences. Thursday, October 17, 6-7:30 pm. Thimann, Room 391.

Critical Reading in the Social Sciences and Humanities with *Isabel Velez*, History of Consciousness. This session is designed to assist you in effective and efficient reading strategies for studying at the University. Come to this workshop and learn to identify the important points quickly, understand difficult material better, and recall more of the information longer. Thursday, October 17, 4-6 pm. Baytree Conference Room A.

Time and Stress Management with *Peg Shemaria*, Counseling and Psychological Services. Stressed out from juggling academics, job, family, and social responsibilities? Need new strategies to help you set priorities and get important work done? This workshop is for you! Wednesday, October 23, 12-1:30 pm. McHenry Library, Room 325.

Writing the Research Paper with *Virginia Draper*, Writing Lecturer and *Annette Marines*, Reference Librarian. This workshop is designed to provide support to students who need to prepare from 5-40 page research papers. Issues covered will include understanding the professor's expectations, identifying a topic and preparing a strategy that includes research, reading, preparing drafts, and writing a final paper. Wednesday, October 30, 4-5:30 pm. McHenry Library, Room 167.

Test Anxiety with *MaryJan Murphy*, Counseling and Psychological Services. Do you panic before, during or after exams? This workshop will help you develop stress reduction techniques that can improve your preparation and test taking abilities. Wednesday, November 13, 3:30-5 pm. McHenry Library, Room 325.

Preparing for the Subject A Exam A hands-on writing and test taking strategies workshop for anyone planning to take the fall Subject A exam. **Choose one of the following workshops:**
Tuesday, November 5, 7-8:30 pm, Academic Resources Center, 2nd floor with *Ellen Newberry*, Writing Lecturer
Wednesday, November 6, 12:15-1:45 pm, Crown Senior Commons with *Cissy Freeman*, Writing Lecturer
Thursday, November 7, 7-8:30 pm Oakes Learning Center with *Ellen Newberry*, Writing Lecturer





STAR DATES

These lunchtime talks are held on Wednesdays in the STARS Center, from 12:15 - 1:30 unless otherwise noted. Feel free to bring your lunch and we'll provide the cookies. These talks are open to students, staff and faculty.

October 16 Out of this World Educational Opportunities Many UCSC transfer students complement their major programs with field experience, internships or study at off-campus sites, locally and throughout the world. Representatives from campus internship programs, UCSC, the Education Abroad Program, and Volunteers in Asia present information and application procedures about their programs.

October 23 Transitions of a Campus: UCSC Past, Present and Future meets in the BayTree Building, Room D Every wondered how this campus unfolded into what Ansel Adams described as the most beautiful campus on earth? Frank Zwart, the UCSC Associate vice Chancellor for Physical Planning & Construction, gives an audio-visual presentation of the history off the campus' building construction and plans for its future development.

October 30 Writing a Stellar Statement of Purpose Considering graduate school? Fall is the time to submit an application, which includes writing a statement of purpose. Joan Walker, Career Center Adviser, describes the attributes of an effective statement of purpose and gives advice on how to write yours.

November 8 Flowers for the STARS! Learn how to make simply beautiful bouquets. Join Jinna Wilson for a hands on workshop on the fine art of flower arranging. We'll provide the flowers. Jinna, with her partner Charles, formerly owned and operated a florist shop in the Bay Area. She is also a UCSC alumna, and current graduate student in creative writing at Mills College. NOTE: This workshop will be held on a Friday!

November 13 Earn a Teaching Credential at UCSC Learn the ins and outs of becoming a teacher. Representatives from the UCSC Education Department explain the requirements and the steps it takes to earn a teaching credential at UCSC.

Astronomical Events

Thursday, October 10, 5:15 pm New Transfer BBQ at the Academic Resources Courtyard

Take a break from the hectic start of the quarter. Meet other new transfer students and compare survival skills. Get those lingering questions answered. RSVP 459-5899.

Saturday, October 26, 10-11 am UCSC History Walk

Enjoy a Saturday morning promenade through the graceful original gateway to the Cowell Ranch that eventually became UCSC. Stroll by the first residence, carriage house, limekilns, and cookhouse built on campus property and listen to their history. Walk and talk suitable for all ages.

Tuesday, October 29, 11 am - 1 pm STARS Housewarming

Come to the STARS Housewarming—enjoy pumpkin pie and apple cider, and meet other transfer and re-entry students. Visit the ARC, where STARS staff and Student Study Center have found a new home. Explore our universe.

Thursday, November 7, 11 am - 1 pm STARS at Kresge Housewarming

Come meet the STARS staff and student advisers, and enjoy their hospitality and fresh baked treats.

November 21 Dinner with Faculty in the Arts and Humanities

This is an informal evening of conversation with faculty members from the Arts and Humanities. Take this opportunity to meet the faculty and talk to them about their work or get advice about careers in their fields. Look for an email invitation to this event late in October.



Re-Entry Student Voices and Visions

Congratulations to our 2002 Re-Entry Book Award recipients. In their applications for the award, students share their reasons for returning to school and the challenges they've faced. Take a moment to read some of their inspiring stories.

My reason for returning to school at this time in my life is that I am intending to make a career change. For 20 years I worked in the film industry in special effects. I made creatures, puppets, models, etc. During my years in the film industry, I saw the technology of special effects change forever. Much of the type of work I was doing 20 years ago is now done with computers. Also, the work demanded a lot of travel and very long hours. I am a single parent and needed to find a career that would allow me to meet my child's needs. After 20 years it was time, so I am returning to school to finish my degree.

Although I feel like the fifteen year old surfer I started traveling as, I now will be schooling with fish young enough to be my grandchildren. I am a voracious reader, albeit slow, and write my journals and read at a constant 'turtle's pace' --perhaps this will keep me competitive.

Crawling out of my past I have dug my way up to this place. I am entering the University of California at Santa Cruz with great pride and determination. I will study mathematics there, a field I consider to be both noble and spiritual. The complexity and fluidity of mathematics gives it a unique beauty. I found this love for math while at De Anza and cannot wait to continue on with it. This excites and intimidates me all at once and those feelings are welcomed. I am in this to learn and to become a part of something so much larger than myself. My mother says I chose to study math in an effort to control the chaos that was my past. She believes I seek sound and true answers in an effort to balance out all the uncertainty I lived through. I am skeptical of this but remain intrigued.

By the age of fifteen I had decided to run away from my parents' home and hang out on the streets of downtown San Jose. I still managed to attend school, yet it was difficult because of learning disabilities I had had since the second grade. The people I chose to be with on the streets

weren't exactly role models for staying in school; they mostly kept my mind away from the importance of an education. By the time I was towards the end of my junior year in high school, I had fully dropped out of school; I felt as though I needed an 'early summer.' Drugs were a big influence since junior high and by this time in my life I had developed a serious problem. If it weren't for a few close family members and friends I would've never been able to carry on in life.

Today punching in at nearly forty, I find myself at a very exciting stage in my life; I'm serious, I'm focused, and the first time in my life, I know what I'd like to do and where I'd like to be. And although part of that inspiration arrived in the form of a seven pound, four ounce baby girl, my present academic success and the goals I have set for my future and myself are all mine.

My curiosity about the outside world led me to a study expedition to Egypt, then to study abroad in Zimbabwe, and then to join the Peace Corps, where I served for two years as an English teacher in Sichuan Province, China. There is so much to write about my experiences abroad, but for the purpose of this letter I'll say that my time spent in other countries was invaluable to me. I learned so much about what life means for people living in different societies, and it helped me to understand what life meant for myself.

Mine has not been the usual route one might take to reach their educational goals. I have faced an unusual amount of challenges. Such as leaving home at sixteen in order to survive the violent alcoholic environment I was born into, or living through being left for dead when a stalker attacked me (before there was even a name for it). Not to mention the physical, neurological, as well as emotional recovery involved in surviving such an ordeal. Then there were the learning disorders, which were a result of the trauma and loss of blood that I experienced during the physical and sexual attack. Living through that horrific experience was a walk in the park compared to the challenges I faced when my daughter became ill and was subsequently diagnosed with bipolar disorder among other things. Getting her help, as well as assisting in her recovery, was truly the challenge of my life.

Transition Tips for New Transfer Students



Visit STARS

STARS at the ARCenter and STARS at Kresge are open to all transfer students campuswide. They are places where you can get questions answered, find out about other campus resources and activities, study, check your e-mail, do research on the web or just have a cup of coffee and visit awhile. STARS at the ARCenter is located between McHenry Library and the Music Center, at the top of the Great Meadow. STARS at Kresge is located across from the Kresge College office. Both centers are open daily from 9am-5pm.



Contact with your professor is invaluable. Go to office hours prepared so your professor will know you're a serious student. If you plan to go to graduate or professional school you'll need at least three strong letters of recommendation. If your professor isn't familiar with you, he/she won't be able to write a very strong letter. This isn't kissing up – it's giving him/her something to write about.

Begin connecting with faculty and TA's

Sit in the front rows in class and participate in discussions – even if you are shy. Go to the professor's or TA's office hours with questions and comments after you've read your assigned material and studied your notes. Be prepared to discuss the material and respond to questions. If you want to do research, look for someone whose work interests you. Start thinking about who you would like to write letters of recommendation for you.



Looking at everything you have to do in a quarter can be very daunting. The enormity of it all could even cause you to freeze and not know where to begin. Break the tasks apart into smaller pieces. Smaller goals won't seem as overwhelming and you can benefit from the reward of accomplishing more goals sooner. Pretty soon several parts will add up to a whole, and that paper you thought you'd never be able to write will be finished.

Build a Support Network

Get to know other students in class and form a study group with those who are reliable and motivated. Broaden your network outside of class, too. Look for people who share your experiences, interests and background by attending lectures, on and off campus functions, concerts, films, etc. The more people you know, the better chance you'll learn about all kinds of resources. A cup of coffee with someone could keep you in school.

Don't give up, ask for help

If you're having trouble, and begin to feel overwhelmed, ask for help early, before you feel as if you're drowning. There are people on campus whose job it is to help you, so don't be afraid to ask. Here are a few of them.

- *Academic Preceptors/Advisors: for academic problems.
- *Psychological Counselors: available at each college and at the Health Center who can help you deal with some non-academic difficulties you might be experiencing.
- *Residential Preceptors: they can help with personal/living problems on campus.
- *Resource Advisors: in Centers, like STARS at the Academic Resources Center (ARC) and Kresge College, all over campus.

There are a lot of resources any of these people can steer you toward such as:

- * study skills workshops
- * tutors in a variety of subjects
- * non-academic support groups



Keep a planner or calendar--there's just too much going on to keep track of it all. Schedule time to study, do laundry, eat meals, and sleep.

Using Computers as a UCSC Student



Most of you will need to use computers at some point during your time as a UCSC student. You may benefit from the following tips from experienced students and staff.

About E-Mail

★Set up a CATS computer account. A lot of university business is communicated by e-mail, such as correspondence from faculty and TAs, as well as announcements and invitations to special programs and events. It's essential to have a CATS account even if you have an existing e-mail account. And, once you've done that, it's easy to forward your CATS account to your regular e-mail, so you only need to check one address for all your mail. Go on-line to <http://ic.ucsc.edu/labs/beginquartlinks.shtml> to register for your CATS account and to forward your cats e-mail to the e-mail you're already using. (Tip: You'll need your Teleslug PIN # to sign-up.)

General Suggestions

★Determine which platform you're using (PC or Macintosh). Find out what application and which version of the application you're using to create your document (for example, this was created on a Macintosh (platform) in Word (application) 6 (version)).

★If you're working in different locations (for instance, in Ming Ong lab and the STARS Center lab), it's easiest to revise work by staying with the same platform you've created the document in (Mac to Mac), working in the same application and version. Most applications will read earlier versions of themselves (Word 6.0 will read Word 5.1) but not later versions of themselves (Word 5.1 won't read Word 6.0). However, if you know you might be revising a document in an earlier version of the application, you can save the document as an earlier version.

★Maybe you can't stay with the same platform or application. You can save your work as a text

document, which should allow another platform and application to read your work. But text applications don't format the document, so you'll have to spend the time formatting the document in order to print. Nowadays, most PC created documents can be read by newer Macintoshes, but again the formatting may be off.

★Have a method to backup your work—floppy disk, zip disk, or CD—and save, save, save. Save your work every 10-15 minutes to avoid re-creating work in case of a computer problem or a power outage. Among the variety of computers on campus there are many Macintosh computers, and most have zip disks, not floppy disks. If you plan to work on more than one computer, make plans to have the right kind of disk or send your document to yourself electronically. If you're going to send it to yourself electronically, practice with an unimportant document first!

★Label your disks/CDs with your name, the name of the document(s), phone number, and/or email. The contact information allows others to return your disk/CD if you lose it.



Free Meals for Kids

University Dining Services sponsors 'Free Meals for Kids.' Friday dinners and Saturday brunches, children 15 and under eat free! A maximum of two children can eat free when accompanied by an adult purchasing a meal. This deal is available at any campus restaurant, excluding the UCSC Inn.

Kids under 3 eat free every day. If you have questions, call University Dining Services at 459-4529.

Play Ball with the STARS!



Help make STARS intramural softball teams the champs again while you get some exercise and have fun! Last spring our STARS teams made it to the playoffs, and the teams are always looking for a few good players. Games are usually Wednesday and Friday afternoons at 4. Contact T.J. Cox at 459-4762 or tcox@physics for more information on how to join the team.



Need Tutoring Help?

Having difficulty understanding a new concept in calculus? Or maybe you need help writing a research paper? There are a variety of tutoring and learning support services available on campus.

STARS offers free tutoring for transfer and re-entry students in many lower division and some upper division math, biology, chemistry, physics, CS, CE, marine science, psychology, economics and writing classes. Visit the STARS Center at the ARC for a tutoring authorization which includes the tutor's name and contact information. You and the tutor decide when and where to meet and how to organize your tutoring sessions. A free drop-in writing tutor is available to review your work on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 2-5 pm at STARS at Kresge, across the piazza from the college office.

For all students, Modified Supplemental Instruction (MSI) is available for a wide variety of classes. MSI is a form of small group tutoring. The class has a learning assistant, an undergraduate student who has successfully completed the course and will be part of the teaching team. The learning assistant attends class and leads an MSI group, limited to 10 students, for that class. Classes may have more than one MSI group meeting. For a list of classes with MSI sections, go to <http://www2.ucsc.edu/eop/lc/lc1.html>.

The Math Department offers drop in math tutoring Monday through Thursday evenings. See <http://www.math.ucsc.edu/Undergraduate/Dropintutors.html> for the schedule of tutoring times and locations.

Other departments, divisions, and colleges, offer different tutoring services. For a list of learning support resources across campus, go to http://www2.ucsc.edu/eop/learning_support/.

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Check out our website at <http://www.ucsc.edu/stars>

Services for Transfer and Re-Entry Students invites you to

STARS Housewarmings

*join us for sweet and
savory seasonal treats!*



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