March 2012

A Note from the Vice President for Student Affairs

Dear Parents,

Spring is upon us and with the warmer weather we begin looking forward to summer. We hope your student will take the opportunity to expand his or her horizons this summer through an academic or vocational experience. The time between academic years is a great opportunity for students to grow personally and to add life experiences that will translate to their resumes and future careers. Saint Xavier offers May and Summer Term classes and assists students in finding summer internship or employment opportunities. You will find details on these offerings and other points of interest presented below.

As always, the staff of the Division of Student Affairs is here to help your student succeed and may be reached at 773-298-3121 or studentaffairs@sxu.edu.

I wish you the joy of the Easter season and hope you find opportunities to connect with your daughter or son. We look forward to occasions to meet with you in the future.
Sincerely,

John P. Pelrine, Jr.
Vice President for Student Affairs

Fall 2012 Registration Has Arrived

Make sure that your son or daughter has met with his or her academic advisor in order to register for Fall 2012 classes. Priority registration begins on March 7th, but most first year students will be able to register during the 3rd week of March. Students may check CLAWS under “priority registration date” for their exact date and time for registration.

All undergraduate students need to be cleared by their academic advisor in order to register. They can check CLAWS to see the contact information for their advisor. If they need any assistance, they can contact Records and Advising by either stopping by A203 in the Warde Academic Center or by calling 773-298-3501. Also, Summer 2012 registration is now open on CLAWS.

May / Summer Term Classes

Students may register now for May and Summer Term Classes. May Term is a three-week session in May at a 30 percent reduced tuition cost. A wide variety of courses are offered in an intensive format that allows for in-depth focus and creative learning opportunities. Housing and meal plans are available on a limited basis; interested students should contact the Office of Residence Life at reslife@sxu.edu. Summer registration is also open for courses in June, July or the full summer.

Summer Internships

In a challenging job market, it is more critical than ever for college students to find pre-professional experiences that can prepare them for the world of work. Summer is a great time to start preparing for the future by exploring internships! Deadlines are fast approaching for many competitive experiences. Career Services staff can help students get started with resources and strategies. Students can visit our walk-in hours on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Career Services modular unit behind Pacelli Hall, or call 773-298-3131 to make an appointment. Remind your students that internship listings are also available at CougarJobs.com and on our Facebook feed – “like” us at SXU Career Services.

Housing Reassignment

The Office of Residence Life will host the annual Housing Reassignment Lottery on Saturday, April 14. Residents who intend to return to University Housing for the fall 2012 semester will complete the contract and room selection process on that day given all eligibility requirements for renewal are met.

A series of information sessions will be held the week of March 19 to review the specifics of the process and answer any questions residents might have about their eligibility and reassignment.

If your student is planning to live in University Housing and you have any questions, please contact the Office of Residence Life at 773-298-3977 or reslife@sxu.edu.

Football Success!
The Saint Xavier University football team finished up its national championship campaign with a 14-1 overall record and the NAIA’s No. 1 ranking in the 2011 NAIA Football Coaches’ Postseason Top 25 Poll. The Cougars also held the No. 1 ranking for eight weeks (Sept. 12 to Oct. 31) during the 2011 regular season, marking the first time an SXU varsity team has received the top spot in school history. SXU also won the national title in its first national championship game appearance, which was the first time this has occurred in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics since Carroll College (Mont.) did it in 2002. The national championship has garnered the team and the University plenty of attention with the Cougars making visits with Gov. Pat Quinn in Springfield and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel at City Hall. They also appeared on FOX, WGN and Comcast SportsNet.

A Note from Counseling Services (aka - “Who are you, and what have you done with my child?”)

Has your college student become someone unrecognizable? Often during the college years our students transform into someone we feel we don’t know – in both positive and negative ways! These changes can happen so quickly, it’s hard to keep up with them. Several factors can contribute to this normal process, and awareness of them will help you continue to relate to your college student.

College is a place of new relationships. These relationships with other students, faculty and staff will influence your student in new ways. Negotiating these relationships is one of the most difficult tasks for your student, and they are learning about themselves and others. A conflict with a friend may solidify personal values. Mentors among faculty provide new directions for the future, and your student may begin to exhibit these new parts of their personality. Allowing your student to talk about the new people in their life can help you understand them better.

Education is transformational. Think of all the classes that your student is attending and the new ideas that are entering their lives. Even if your student doesn’t seem excited or even interested in some classes (yes, that happens), those ideas and concepts are being presented to them. They’re being presented not just with information, but a new way of critically thinking about themselves and the world around them. They may challenge everything in their life. When they talk about something of interest, explore it with them.

This phase in their life – regardless of age – is a time of transition and development. It’s normal and healthy for change to occur, and it can be exciting to watch them grow. They are becoming adults, and your relationship with them will need to adjust. But the new relationship with your adult child can be rewarding in different ways.

Students may access professional counselors at Counseling Services by calling 773-298-3131 or in person at the modular unit behind Pacelli Hall.

News from the Office of Financial Aid

It’s time to file for financial aid for the 2012-2013 academic year. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now available. SXU’s priority FAFSA deadline is March 1, 2012. If you have not yet filed your 2011 income taxes, you are encouraged to file the FAFSA
using estimated data. If you have filed your taxes, you can now streamline your submission by selecting the new option to Link to the IRS within the FAFSA application. Financial Aid may be contacted at 773-298-3070 or finaid@sxu.edu.

Spring Break Service Trips

Forty-eight students traveled to five sites across the country to spend their spring break volunteering to help others in need. Five Student Affairs staff members served as trip leaders along with Sisters of Mercy and staff from University Ministry. Students served the people of Baltimore, Maryland; Glenmary Farm, Kentucky; Joplin and Saint Louis, Missouri; and Chicago, Illinois. Service opportunities included repairing tornado-damaged homes, health care at Sisters of Mercy medical facilities, assisting in workshops for adults with developmental disabilities, organizing food pantries, serving meals at homeless shelters, providing daycare and tutoring children and teens.

Students witnessed and learned about the causes and effects of poverty in rural and urban areas. They participated in prayer and reflection on their service experiences. In St. Louis, Joplin and Baltimore, students met with Sisters of Mercy and learned about the Mercy mission and ministries to those who are ill, impoverished, or in need of education. Students returned with opened eyes and opened hearts to the needs of their fellow Americans. For many students, the experience confirmed their interests in studying nursing, education or business at Saint Xavier University.

Campus Ministry sponsors Spring Break Service Trips every year; all students are welcome. Applications are available in November for the following spring.

Academic Success Workshops

The Learning Center in conjunction with the Student Success Program and Career Services offer a series of Academic Success Workshops to help students become more successful in the classroom and in their future professional lives. Topics include reading effectiveness, time management, test-taking tips and career exploration. Workshops are open to all students, free of charge and are designed to assist students who want to develop the skills, strategies and essential attitudes to reach academic, career and life goals.

Your student may contact the Learning Center in the Warde Academic Center Room L-108 or at 773-298-3956 for more details on the strategies mentioned here as well as for free tutoring, writing assistance and academic skills assistance.

Spring Sports Overview

The SXU baseball and softball teams spent spring break in Florida from Feb. 25 to March 4. The baseball team got an earlier-than-normal start to its 2012 season playing four games at the Tennessee Valley Invitational in Dayton, Tenn. The team did well winning three of its four games to kick off the new campaign and got solid starts from junior right-hander Mike Stirling and sophomore righty Scott Vachon. The men’s volleyball team is in the middle of its season and has the privilege of hosting the 2012 Mid-America Men’s Volleyball Intercollegiate Conference East Division Tournament on March 30-31 at the Shannon
Center in Chicago.

Other athletic news and game schedules may be found on the Cougar Athletics page.

**2012 Mother Paulita Morris, R.S.M. Student Service Award Recipient**

Joseph Roccasalva has been selected to receive the 2012 Mother Paulita Morris, R.S.M. Student Service Award. Joe is a senior majoring in mathematics/secondary education and is a native of Chicago. Joe is an excellent leader and role model and strongly exhibits Saint Xavier’s core values. Joe is active on campus and is well-known to many students. He is a peer tutor with the math department and the Learning Center and is a student worker in the Student Success Program. He has served as vice president in the Education Club and development chair for the SXU Improv Club. Joe sings with the University Choir and the SXU Chapel Choir. He has volunteered to serve in the Archdiocesan “Totus Tuus” (a spirituality-based leadership training) and is active in Campus Ministry and his local parish. Joe has also served for many years as a Religious Education Program teacher’s aide. Joe was recognized March 15 at Mission Day, which recognizes excellence among students, faculty and staff who "serve wisely and compassionately in support of human dignity and the common good" as called for in Saint Xavier University’s Mission Statement.

**Student Spotlight**

Brittany Jones, a senior forward on the Saint Xavier University women’s basketball team and president of the Student Government Association, knows how to make the most of her time on campus. In addition to the demands of being involved in a varsity sport and cocurricular activities, Jones is a stellar student earning Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete and Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference All-Academic recognition in her pursuit of a psychology degree at SXU. She recently became Saint Xavier’s all-time career leader in blocked shots surpassing the old mark of 140 set by former standout Erin Hannemann (2006-10).

**New Radio Program – “Veteran Matters”**

“Veteran Matters” is a 10-part series that will explore the experiences of U.S. war veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq. The show will be hosted by Vietnam veteran Peter Hilton, Ph.D., from the Department of Education at Saint Xavier. The show is produced by Sister Susan Sanders, Sister Joy Clough and Peter Kreten, the producers of WXAV’s public affairs program “God Matters.” The program will air on WXAV 88.3 FM Chicago and www.wxav.com beginning at 9 a.m. April 22. (Note: Time subject to change.)
Living our Mission this Lent

The Student Liturgical Advisory Board has been planning prayers, environment and themes for this season of Lent. They have chosen to focus on “finding ourselves through God’s grace.” The prayer they invite the Saint Xavier University community to share this Lent is: “Renew us through Your love, O Lord.” It is important to students, as they continue the process of development and identity formation, to know that they are loved by God whose grace renews us daily; they are never beyond God’s embrace, and each day is a new beginning.

Campus Ministry invites students to deepen their experience of Lent and develop an adult appreciation of their faith through a variety of Lenten programs including retreats, faith-sharing groups, spiritual direction and prayer services. Lent weekday liturgies are at noon every Tuesday and Thursday in McDonough Chapel. The Sacraments of Anointing and Reconciliation are available at a special prayer service on March 27.

For more information on these and other programs, please contact Campus Ministry at campusministry@sxu.edu or 773-298-3900.

Important Dates and Upcoming Events

- March 30-April 1: Awakenings Retreat (sign up through Campus Ministry)
- April 3: Ask a Pro: Careers in Computer Science (panel hosted by Career Services), 3 p.m., Butler Reception Room
- April 4: Residence Halls close for the Easter break, 6 p.m.
- April 10: Annual Interfaith Expo, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Butler Reception Room
- April 14: Housing Reassignment Lottery, 8 a.m., Andrew Conference Center
- April 18: Alcohol Screening Day
- April 22: WXAV – “Veteran Matters”
- April 29: Blessing and Commissioning of Graduating Students Mass*, 8 p.m., McDonough Chapel
- May 4: University Housing closes for the semester, 6 p.m.
- May 12: Commencement Liturgy*, 4:30 p.m., McDonough Chapel
- May 13: Commencement Ceremonies*, Shannon Center
  Undergraduate – 10 a.m.
  Graduate – 3 p.m.
*Parents Welcome