Mark Your Calendars, it's Almost National Distance Learning Week!

National Distance Learning Week is sponsored by the United States Distance Learning Association and serves to recognize and celebrate the growth and accomplishments of distance learning. National Distance Learning Week takes place November 11-15, 2013.

The Office of Continuing and Distance Education is hosting several student activities during the week and encourage you to join the fun. Students can participate in daily Facebook polls; share with us your favorite places to study, where you are studying from, and more. We also invite all students to share with us why you enjoy online learning, your online study tips, and your favorite online class.

Think you got talent? We want to see it! Our office will be sponsoring an online talent contest and the winner will receive a $25 gift card to the SDSU Bookstore. Students, submit photos of your favorite place to study, your study buddies, or the most interesting place you’ve studied. The winner of this competition will also receive a $25 gift card to the SDSU Bookstore.

Don’t miss our webinar on how to use the online SDSU library resources. This will be a great opportunity to learn how to use our online databases, how to efficiently use search engines, an opportunity to ask questions, and much more.

All participants* will receive a gift from the Office of Continuing and Distance Education. Look out for our NDLW Flyer in a couple of weeks for more information. Make sure to like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to get the latest updates about National Distance Learning Week!

* To participate and be eligible for prizes you must be a current SDSU student, currently enrolled in an SDSU online course, or an SDSU alumnus.
Welcome, Dr. Rocky Dailey!

Dr. Dailey is the online graduate coordinator of the Master of Mass Communications Program.

What motivates you about your chosen field?
Communicators are educators by nature; we prepare and disseminate information with the intention that it is received and understood in an engaging way. Being a communicator and an educator is the perfect marriage of disciplines for me. I think educators can learn a lot from communicators on how to make content engaging and memorable and I like looking for new ways to engage the students in the material.

Please tell us about the recent changes that have taken place within your department.
I joined the department this Fall to teach in the online graduate program and work with the online graduate students as their academic and project advisor. SDSU’s request to establish an online Master of Mass Communication degree was approved by the regents last August. This graduate degree is designed specifically for working mid-career professionals in the fields of journalism, advertising and public relations. We are preparing for an accreditation visit this November for the online master’s degree program.

What does a student gain by becoming a master in mass communication?
We work to help those in communications become better at what they do by bringing them up to speed with the new media skills necessary in the profession today. Our online Master of Mass Communication degree provides a quality professional education accessible to working journalists and strategic communicators. Whether in print, broadcast, advertising and marketing or public relations, students build administrative skills and credentials for leadership.

Meet Whitney Jerman, RD, LN

Whitney Jerman is an online SDSU student working toward her master’s degree in Dietetics.

Why did you choose to further your education online?
I always knew I wanted to obtain a Master’s degree to stay competitive in the field of nutrition. The online program offered a wider variety of courses, and allowed me to work full time in a location lacking a university. By working full time in the field while attending graduate school, I was able to directly apply what I learned in my online classes—which helped me retain more knowledge and skills.

What interests you about your major?
I have always been interested in nutrition, dating way back to involvement with 4-H Special Foods when I was young. Nutrition/dietetics combines my passion for food and cooking with the science I always found fascinating.

What piece of advice would you give new online students?
You will get as much out of the program as you put into it. Self-discipline is a must, but in return you gain respect and flexibility from faculty and staff. Don’t be afraid to try taking a class on something new—you may develop a new interest!

For more information about Dr. Rocky Dailey and Whitney Jerman, look for the rest of their interviews on the SDSU homepage between November 4-8 as a preview to National Distance Learning Week.

Fall 2013 Dates
- Oct. 18—First half of Fall Term Ends
- Oct. 23—Deficiency reports due
- Nov. 8—Last day to drop a course
- Nov. 11—Veteran’s Day
- Nov. 11-15—National Distance Learning Week
- Nov. 27-Dec. 1—Thanksgiving Recess
- Dec. 11—No classes; Final Exam Prep
- Dec. 12-18—Final Exams
- Dec. 18—Graduation
- Dec. 23—Grades due on WebAdvisor

Spring 2014 Dates
- Jan. 13—Instruction begins
- Jan. 20—MLK Day
- Jan. 22—Last day to drop/add and adjust final fees
- Jan. 23—“W” grade begins
- Feb. 3—Last day to submit spring graduation application
- Feb. 17—Presidents’ Day
- March 10-14—Spring Break
- March 17—First half of Spring Term Ends

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“Dirty Lil from Garbage Hill”

Dirty Lil was introduced to the SDSU campus during the 2013 Hobo Day festivities. Her story began when Dave Anderson, SDSU alum 1966, was creating a sculpture of Weary Wil which was revealed on campus in 2011. At this time, the SDSU Foundation approached him to formulate an image of his female counterpart. Dirty Lil owes her likeness to Anita Quast Lawe, SDSU alum 1940, who was active on campus and crowned Hobo Queen in 1938. She graduated with highest honors and had a successful career. Lonnie Humphries (Anita’s daughter) along with the Robert H. and Anita Q. Lawe Foundation commissioned the sculpture honoring Anita and the women of Hobo Day. Dirty Lil joined the bronze sculpture of Weary Will and his faithful dog, Pooch, outside of the Hobo Day Gallery by the University Student Union. Both statues stand about 8 1/2 feet tall and each weighs about 1,000 pounds.

Starfish Early Alerts

Have you been receiving Starfish notifications in some of your 100 or 200 level courses? Starfish is an online student success program that allows professors to send various performance updates to you and to those dedicated to supporting your success at SDSU. It is a collaborative effort between the faculty, advisors, staff, and students at SDSU to ensure student success and perseverance. Your professors’ goals are to help you be successful in your courses and to make your learning experiences as meaningful as possible. For that reason, your professors may communicate with you through Starfish if you demonstrate any academic performance or behavioral problems that may interfere with your success. To access Starfish, click on the link located in D2L in the top left corner of your homepage. If you receive a notification in Starfish, please contact your professor or seek assistance from your advisor, the Student Success Center, or other campus resources. For more information, please checkout Starfish Practice Guide for Students.

Did you know…

Adam Vinatieri, four-time super bowl winning kicker for the New England Patriots and Indianapolis Colts, graduated from South Dakota State University?

TRANSCRIPTS! GET YOUR TRANSCRIPTS!

Are you taking an SDSU course and need a transcript? You can order an official or unofficial transcript through Registrar’s Office. A written and signed request is required from the student by the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Transcripts are $5.00 each and $2.50 for each additional transcript ordered at the same time. It takes approximately 2-3 working days to fulfill a transcript request from the day it is received. Please be sure to request early enough to meet any necessary deadlines. You can find further details and download the official or unofficial request form online at http://www.sdstate.edu/campus/records/transcripts.cfm. For more information, contact the Registrar’s Office at 605-688-6195.