



# Center for Student Success Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

## Special points of interest:

- Welcome Week 2014
- 5 Essential Tips for the First Week of Classes
- Calendar of September Workshops

September 1, 2014

### Welcome Back!

Welcome back to AUA! We are excited to welcome our students back to campus and a special welcome to the new students joining the AUA Family this year! The Center for Student Success has worked all summer in preparation for the 2014-2015 academic year! The Math & Writing Center team is equipped with AUA's talented math and writing consultants. The Workshop Series has a line-up of exciting topics and new speakers promising to make this year's workshops a great success! Aside from these activities, the Center continues to offer Advising Support Services every Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30-3:30pm in case any students



need assistance in strategizing test-taking skills or time management related issues.

This year's Welcome Week of Events has a fun line-up of events and activities! From karaoke to yoga, the Welcome Week of Events has something for everyone to enjoy! For the table tennis fans, be sure to sign up for the Table Tennis Challenge! The winner of the tournament will play against AUA's Registrar! Finally, the Math &

Writing Center Consultants have been busy preparing mini-workshops to help refresh your math and writing skills in time to get back into the classroom! We hope you will participate in the scheduled events and activities set for the week. This is a great opportunity for you to learn more about the Center and meet your fellow classmates. For more information please visit: <http://newstudent.aua.am/welcome-week/>



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## 5 Essential Tips for the First Week of Classes

It's your first week of college and you are sitting in a classroom of unfamiliar faces. You may have met one or two people at New Student Orientation but chances are, you do not remember their name. Turn to the person next to you and introduce yourself because chances are they are probably as nervous as you are! These people may turn out to be the folks you form a study group with later in the semester. The first week is full of a lot of first impressions. Therefore, it would be a good idea to be friendly and make a friend or two. Another important tip

for the first week of classes is to arrive to class on time – this can help you avoid being in the wrong classroom before anyone else notices! If class starts at 9:00am, you should have your materials out and ready by 8:55am in a seat somewhere that you can concentrate and away from any distractions. This leads to tip number three: be prepared to take notes! The first day of class will be full of a lot of information. Most instructors also begin covering material, so be ready to be attentive! In order to be attentive, plan to go to bed at an early

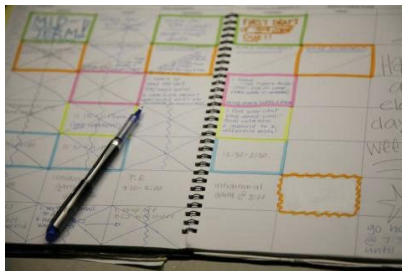


hour the night before. Our fourth tip to you is to make sure you are well-rested and nourished to be able to function. Finally, if you are using a laptop or mobile device in

class to take notes, be sure you do not have a browser open to your Facebook account! For the next fifty or more minutes, you should be capable of ignoring your newsfeed about what you or your friends did last night!



## Keeping up with everything



You probably realized by now that in order to manage all your time effectively, you need to create a plan for yourself. This plan will change on a daily to weekly basis, so it's time that you find a planner or agenda that you will use. Some of us prefer to stick to the oldest form of technology: pen and paper format! Color coding assignments or events or



crossing off assignments with a pen may be the format that you need. While there may be others who prefer using the latest apps such as Skedule or Studious (both free and available for Androids). For our Apple users, try Trello or School Helper. These apps provide resources to help you track your assignments and stay on

top of your deadlines. After you choose the one that best suits your needs, go ahead and start planning! Mark deadlines for yourself on drafts of essays or when you need to plan study dates. Finally, in order to make the most effective use of these resources, be sure you stick to it! It's not enough to carry a planner around—its about referring to



## Undergraduate Student Clubs



AUA student clubs offer significant ways for students to be involved in the life of AUA and beyond. This extracurricular activity offers students the opportunity to enhance their leadership skills, develop communication strategies, and establish friendships outside of the classroom! Undergraduate students are invited to establish clubs for the 2014-2015 academic year by submitting a club charter and application listing the purpose of the club. On September xx, 2014, a workshop on how to create a

student club is will take place to help give you all the tools and information you will need. Last year, nine undergraduate student clubs were formed and over 150 undergraduate students participated in club activities. A few highlights from last year's clubs' activities include: Valentine's Day performance by Star Jam, a reenactment of Johnathan Rand's "Check, Please!!!" by the Drama Club, and Writer's on the Storm, a club gathering to discuss writings. For further information, please be sure to

visit the Center for Student Success's website to learn more about how to form a club under the Student Activities tab. Also, please be sure to check out the list of current clubs' meeting times and dates by visiting: <http://studentsuccess.aua.am/undergraduate-student-clubs-information/>.

# Math Consultant Blog



Shahe Jokarian,  
Computational Sciences

One of the reasons why I like math is that you can find elements of math nearly in every sphere in our life. Especially in spheres that I am interested in, like technological progress and human development. During my education, I developed a couple of strategies which helped me with my assignments, mostly with math prob-

lems. I am sure they can be useful for you as well. The first thing is to set the environment for your studies, because you need a place where there are all the tools needed for your job. The next step is to schedule an appropriate amount of time thinking about the problems. Third, try to explain what you have understood. Then ask someone to try and understand their point of view on the same problem.

Even if you got an answer with your way of thinking, it is important to try to understand different points of view. The last step is to ensure you have gained a better understanding of the problem. I find the Center for Student Success is the best place here at AUA where you can find a good environment for learning sharing ideas, and tackling them together.

*“Even if you got an answer with your way of thinking, it is important to try to understand different points of view.”*

# Writing Consultant Blog



Inga Vatinyan,  
English & Communications

Nowadays, almost everyone uses new technologies in their writing process. Therefore, referring to the disadvantages and advantages of this phenomenon seems quite reasonable. Let us take a look at a couple of negative effects, caused by the use of new technologies while writing. Firstly, using computer or other devices is most likely to distract and put one into a writer’s block. Secondly, writing on a computer often makes people concentrate on the number of words and pages and pay less attention to the context, while writing by hand helps them think out their sentences and forget about the word limit for a moment. Regardless of the above mentioned disadvantages, the opportunity of time-saving is a huge advantage that new technologies provide. One can get any information in one second and have that information corrected and organized by various word-processing software immediately. In conclusion, it is worth mentioning that the best way to come up with a good piece of writing is to combine the use of new technologies and the old ones.

# Center for Student Success

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## Mission Statement

The Center for Student Success is a learning environment that extends outside of the classroom and aims to promote student achievement of academic goals while enrolled at AUA. Through a holistic approach to education, the Center provides a unique range of support programs including math and writing consultations, academic support services, disabilities services and workshops to enhance overall personal and academic development in a welcoming space. The Center encourages AUA students to challenge and support one another, to accept responsibility and to collaborate in serving the best interests of all students.

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

[HTTP://STUDENTSUCCESS.AUA.AM/](http://studentsuccess.aua.am/)

## Calendar of September Workshops

- |    |  |                                   |  |
|----|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| #1 | Dissecting Your Syllabus - come learn more about your syllabus and how to understand it!                                       | Center for Student Success Lounge | Tuesday, September 9th, 4:00pm         |
| #2 | Constitution Writing—preparing to start an undergraduate student club? Come learn how to prepare a constitution!               | Center for Student Success Lounge | Thursday, September 11th, 4:00-5:00pm  |
| #3 | Start-up a Student Club! - calling all undergraduates interested in creating a club, you don't want to miss this info session! | Center for Student Success Lounge | Wednesday, September 17th, 4:00-5:00pm |
| #4 | Active Listening—think you are a good listener? Come hear some strategies and improve your listening skills!                   | Center for Student Success Lounge | Friday, September 19th, 4:00-5:30pm    |
| #5 | Developing Leadership, Negotiation, and Communication Skills   | Center for Student Success Lounge | Friday, September 26th, 4:00-5:30pm    |

### Here are the workshops coming up in October:

- ◆ What Am I Reading?
- ◆ Public Speaking and Communication
- ◆ What Is My Body Telling Me?
- ◆ Put It In Your Own Words: How to Avoid Plagiarism
- ◆ Engaging Your Reading and Class Discussions!

Coming Up  
Next . . .