The value of one is the power of many."

Did you know that the United Nations has designated 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers (IYV)? The International Year of Volunteers 2001 provides a unique opportunity to highlight the achievements of the millions of volunteers worldwide and to encourage more people globally to engage in volunteer activity.

This year, Canada has joined with 123 other countries worldwide in adopting 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers. In Canada, the year will impact over 7.5 million volunteers in more than 180,000 organizations. Stand up and be proud to say, "I Volunteer."
Hello VIPs!!

We hope your first term has been a lot of fun so far, and your volunteering experience has surpassed your expectations! ☺ Midterm exams are over now and probably everyone did a fantastic job! For those of you who went to the Hallowe’en party, we hope you all had a great time! We have met quite a few of you at the Orientation session in September and we hope to meet the rest of you very soon!

Inside this Newsletter, you’ll find lots of neat information that will hopefully be useful. There are study tips to ace December exams, information on Western’s All Campus Job Fair and cool ideas for the holiday season. Next term, we hope to have more events for you all, but in the meantime, if you have any questions or suggestions about the program, or you just want to say “Hi!” please do not hesitate to email any of us! ☺

Take care and good luck with the rest of the term!

Your VIP Coordinators,

Adam, Kala and Olivia

Compiled from the VIP Newsletter Survey

What is the best study tip that you could offer to fellow students?

- Manage your time well - 42%
- Study alone and in quiet - 23%
- Take good notes - 23%
- Talk to your profs, TAs - 12%

Where is your favourite place for studying?

- Taylor Library - 33%
- Weldon Library - 27%
- At home - 27%
- UCC CentreSpot - 7%
- Chapter’s Starbucks - 6%

What is your favourite “study food”?

- Other (Various) - 39%
- Fruits & Veggies - 17%
- Chips - 17%
- Chocolate - 17%
- Coffee & Coke - 10%
With the holidays quickly approaching, here are a few gift ideas for your friends and family!

**For a Personal Touch:**
- ♥ Stationary Set - include stamps and an address book of close contacts
- ♥ Calendars - to keep track of important dates (like your birthday!)
- ♥ Mug with favourite candy/tea/coffee - great for when you’ve just come in from the cold!

**For the Hard to Buy:**
- ❄️ Holiday Scented Candles - to get everyone in the festive mood!
- ❄️ Scarf and Mitts - to keep you warm during snowball fights & tobogganing!
- ❄️ Gift Certificates - for books, movies, etc...very practical!
- ❄️ Magazine Subscriptions to their favourite magazine (you can borrow them later!)

**Fun Gifts:**
- 🎁 i-zone camera - the pictures are stickers which you can use for decorations!
- 🎁 Beanie Babies - give your friends & family their favourite animal
- 🎁 Fun Stuff - Yo-yo’s & stress balls, just for the fun of it & also to keep you sane while you study!
- 🎁 Gingerbread house kit - a great group activity, and you can eat it too!

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**Soft Ginger Cookies**

**Directions**

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Sift together the flour, ginger, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves, and salt. Set aside.

2. In a large bowl, cream together the margarine and 1 cup sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg, then stir in the water and molasses. Gradually stir the sifted ingredients into the molasses mixture. Shape dough into walnut sized balls, and roll them in the remaining 2 tablespoons of sugar. Place the cookies 2 inches apart onto an ungreased cookie sheet, and flatten slightly.

3. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven. Allow cookies to cool on baking sheet for 5 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely. Store in an airtight container.
Fun Ideas for Your EC Group

Hi to all the English Conversation Leaders! I hope everyone’s been having a wonderful term so far. As we approach the end of the fall term, I have brainstormed some ideas for activities, some tried and true, some that just sound like a lot of fun! These could be used in your last few sessions with your participants or you can try them next term.

1) My roommate came up with this one and I thought it was a wonderful idea. Get your group members to create a commercial for a made-up product. They can create the type of product they want (even if it is made-up, like a gadget to turn your book pages or something unique like that), and then think of a way to advertise it. I have found that either TV commercials or Radio commercials work well. Then they can come up with a fun skit and perform it. This activity will require some time and it’s also helpful to tell your group about it in advance so they can start coming up with ideas before the meeting.

2) Another good idea is to do impromptu speeches. These can vary in length from 1 to 3 minutes and you can have the group come up with their own topics. Basically, they can talk about anything they want, so have them write down speech ideas on pieces of paper and then draw them out of a hat or whatever you have nearby (hands will do!). Some good topics might be a favorite place, technology, hobbies, a famous person... or anything else they can think of!

3) This idea I think I saw on the internet. Basically you need to have some pieces of paper, as well as some masking tape. The Leader comes up with the names of some famous people and then tapes them to the backs of the group members. (They can’t know who they are!) Then each group member in turn asks questions about which celebrity he or she is. The fastest member to identify which famous person he or she is will win some sort of prize (I usually give chocolate!).

Cheryl Leung,
English Conversation Leader
An Interview with Sharon Lee, Recruitment Coordinator, SDC’s Career Services

By Kala Patel

You’re all invited to the All Campus Job Fair! What is the All-Campus Job Fair, you ask? After having spoken with Sharon Lee, the organizer of the Fair, this is what I learned: It’s an opportunity for students across all degree programs to meet with potential employers offering immediate full time, part time, summer, full-time-upon-graduation, or internship employment. The fair will also include continuing education programs such as Nursing and Teaching for students interested in furthering their studies. Employers and students have recently conveyed increased interest for such an event, combining both summer and full time job postings. Approximately 15,000 students are expected to attend this event, which will be held on Thursday, January 31, 2002.

If you’re interested in this event, drop by the UCC, 11 AM - 4 PM to meet with potential employers. At present, Sharon and her committee are busy organizing this event. The committee includes two VIPs, Christina Sanguinetti and Crystal Leung, All-Campus Job Fair Assistants. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Christina at cmsanguin@uwo.ca or Crystal at cleung@uwo.ca to see how you can help out!

Please read on to see what Christina and Crystal have to say about their experiences thus far!

Our experience in SDC’s VIP Program has been great. We’ve been learning a lot by helping to organize the All-Campus Job Fair. It’s great being involved in the Western community and knowing that we’re helping out other students by exposing them to the job market as well as potential jobs. We’re helping to plan and organize the career fair by setting up the SDC booth and other media components. We’re very lucky and thankful for this hands-on opportunity!

- Crystal Leung & Christina Sanguinetti, All-Campus Job Fair Assistants

Key to Your Success

By Adam Vajda

For many years, SDC’s Learning Skills Services has been helping students succeed in school. Through its multitude of services, the Learning Skills Counsellors can help you with topics such as time management, strategies for multiple-choice tests, learning from lectures and textbooks, review techniques, memory skills, essay research, and strategies for science/math problem solving. The staff is also available for individual counseling to help students become more effective learners. Students who are doing well at university will also find that SDC’s Learning Skills Services can help them find alternative study approaches to improve performance and/or efficiency in learning. Presentations are also available to help students with many of the topics listed above. If you want to make next term your best academic term, check out SDC’s Learning Skills Services. If you would like to learn more about the services offered by Learning Skills Services, please drop in to Room 200, UCC 10am - 1pm daily, or make an appointment with one of the counsellors. For more information, visit their website at www.sdc.uwo.ca/learning/

The staff believes that their goal is to help all students reach their full potential by being efficient and effective learners.