

Dear Ms. Tiger...

Dear Ms. Tiger,

No matter how hard I try I just cannot seem to focus. Last semester was not the best for me; my grades were terrible and not me at all. I don't know why because in high school I was always a good student and I got some B's here and there but mostly A's. Now here in college I am getting C's and, yes, even some D's. I don't know what to do, please help. I don't like disappointing my family and I know I have it in me to do better.

Dear Student,

Take a deep breath! We all know you have it in you. You would not have gotten this far or even sought help if you didn't. I have observed this as well with many students and have come up with a few tips to help you out.

Attend class every day! Attending class on a regular basis is very vital to student success. Yes some professors put their notes online and yes, some don't take attendance but the facts are that students who attend class regularly get higher grades. By going to class you are engaging actively in your work because you can ask questions, converse with your classmates about the work at hand and speak to your professor right after to follow up on the lesson.

Tutoring is free, use it! The academic support center (located on the first floor of General Studies) is open for students and has both professional and peer tutors to aid in student success. You can schedule an appointment easily online or come as a walk-in.

Be organized! Rewrite and organize your notes. When your notes are legible and organized it is much easier for you to study them. The semester just started so you have a chance to jump right in and start on a good note.

Stay Focused! College is not high school. It is a whole new ball game and you have to keep the bigger picture in mind. There are a lot of distractions and of course you should have fun but remember there is a time and place for everything. Have a good study regiment and stick to it.

Hope all this helps. Just remember the company you keep has some effect on your academics. Your social group of friends should be approving of you studying and staying organized and not the opposite. If you feel they are not serious and pulling you away from your books maybe it is time to pull away from them.

Let me know how it goes!

With love and paws,

Ms. Tiger

Staff Profile: Dion Crommarty

CHRIS WILLIAM-BUNGE

Even though we are not perfect on the road to equality, it is reasonable to say that we are definitely heading in the right direction. That is what Dion Crommarty, the ResLife coordinator at Penn State Mont Alto, says about the students on campus and everyone in the world when it comes to racial equality.

As the ResLife coordinator, Dion supervises the resident assistants (RA's) and helps them with their jobs in the residence halls on campus. He also assists the RA's with campus-wide programs and activities that provide a lot of entertainment and fun for many students. He does his best to be a role model that students can all look up to, help make sure that their well-being is taken care of, and educate them to be better citizens in the community.

As an American citizen as well as a proud African American, Dion comes from a distinguished family. His great-great grandfather was one of the first black postmen from 1897 to 1904. In Gainesville,

Florida he eventually owned his own church and 100 acres of land, known today as the "Crommarty Compound". It was burned down by the KKK, but was rebuilt and the church



Photo by Michael Garrett

still stands to this day. Dion sees people everyday who come from different backgrounds, and sees how well people on campus accept each other and treat each other with respect and dignity. This is something he notices and ap-

preciates, as he continues to see "Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of working together coming true."

"Black history is part of American history, and everyone should pay attention to it," Dion says. We should appreciate the history that made us who we are today, and learn from the mistakes so we don't repeat them in the future. "We may not be a perfect society", says Dion, but he believes that if we keep working at it and can keep going with it, perhaps one day Dr. King's dream will be fulfilled. It may be a long time before we get there, and it certainly isn't perfect yet, but as long as we keep going in the right direction, any progress is always a good thing, he says.

As Dr. King once said: "Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

EVENT CALENDAR

Events related to Black History Month, Thon, and MA Sports are in bold.



- 2/6- **The Black-Jew Dialogues 8:30 p.m., WSC**
- Men's Basketball vs. Lehigh Valley 8:00p.m., MAC**
- 2/7- Four year Degree Far 12:00-2:00p.m., Mill // Nittany Leaders: I Touched the World 8:30 p.m., WSC
- 2/8- PAWS: Leadership 2:00p.m., Auditorium // **THON Date Auction 9:30p.m., Auditorium** // Four-year Degree Fair 4:00-6:00p.m., Mill // **Men's Basketball vs. PS Du Bois at 6:00p.m.** // **Women's Basketball vs. PS Du Bois 8:00p.m., MAC**
- 2/9- **M&M Movie Night: Black History: The Blind Side 8:30p.m., WSC**
- 2/10- **THON Canning Weekend** // Walmart Van Trip
- 2/11- Pancake Palooza 8:00p.m., Mill // **Women's Basketball vs. PS Wilkes-Barre 1:00p.m., MAC** // **Men's Basketball vs. PS Wilkes Barre 3:00p.m., MAC**
- 2/13- **M&M Movie Night: Black History: I Can Do Bad All By Myself 8:30p.m., WSC**
- 2/14- Stuff A Plush 11:00a.m.-1:00p.m., WSC
- 2/15- **THON Meeting 8:30p.m., Auditorium** // Rage Aggression Defense Class 4:40-8:30p.m., MAC
- 2/16- Hoover's Grill 8:30 p.m., WSC
- 2/17-2/19- **THON Weekend at University Park**
- 2/20-PAWS: Choosing a Major 2:00p.m., Auditorium // **M&M Movie Night: Black History: The Tuskege Airmen 8:30p.m., WSC**
- 2/21- Distracted Driving Simulator 10:00a.m.-4:00p.m., HR in the Mill
- 2/22- Ash Wednesday // Healthy Relationships 2:00p.m., Library, 215 // Walk Around the World 7:00p.m., PRS // Movie Night: The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 9:00p.m., Auditorium
- 2/23- Free Bingo Night 9:00p.m., MPR
- 2/24- Free Walmart/Target Van Trip // Movie Night: The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 9:00p.m., Auditorium
- 2/25- Silent Library 9:00p.m., MAH Study Rooms
- 2/26- Nittany Leaders Accepting the Challenge 6:00p.m., WSC
- 2/27- 2012 Orientation Leader Applications Available 12:00p.m., WSC // **M&M Movie Night: Black History Dream Girls 8:30p.m., WSC**
- 2/28- Nittany Leaders: The Red Handkerchief 8:30p.m., WSC
- 2/29- Nittany Leaders: Accepting the Challenge 2:00p.m., WSC

Stay tuned for our next issue for more info on activities to come. Also, if you don't have one already, be sure to pick up a student activities calendar so you can keep up with the events and be sure not to miss out!