

Welcome to the Penn State Learning newsletter for December! Now that finals are almost over, this is the perfect time to settle down with your laptop and a cup of hot chocolate and read the newsletter. This issue features a holiday party re-cap, a farewell to graduates, birthdays, Krampus, and the fabulous Miranda Fenush of 205A Boucke. Read. Enjoy. Don't burn your tongue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & RE-CAPS

1. **SAVE THE DATE: Monday, January 11, 6-8 p.m., 121 Sparks - Penn State Learning All-Staff Meeting!** Rather than holding separate scheduling/training meetings, your Program Coordinators (Brendaly, Duane, Miranda, and Cindy) have decided to combine our groups into one big meeting followed by breakout meetings for each tutor/receptionist group. We'll review safety procedures, announcements, and policies as a large group and then schedule shifts in smaller groups. Be there or be square.
2. **NEW TUTORING COURSE:** If you have traveled abroad, want to expand your global perspective, or simply want to connect with international students on campus, consider signing up for **APLNG 250** (formerly known as APLNG 297A): **Peer Tutoring for Multilingual Writers** (TR 1-2:15 p.m., 11 Ferguson). The course is open to all undergraduate students who have completed ENGL 15 or ESL 015 writing classes. This class will be especially useful for students seeking to teach English abroad. Please contact Megan Stump (mss36@psu.edu) if you have any questions.
3. On December 4, 2015, a special group (i.e., those who RSVP'd "yes") of Penn State Learning tutors, receptionists, staff, and scholars convened to celebrate the holiday season. We ate homemade guacamole and chips, layered dip, meatballs, vegetarian chili, camembert cheese & crusty bread, pasta salad, ravioli casserole, holiday punch, doughnuts, Hanukkah-themed rice krispie treats, hot chocolate, and all manner of cookies and chips. We played a "vonderful goot game" called Dutch Blitz, SPIT, and Cards Against Humanity. No one played the painstakingly-crafted, Penn-State-Learning-themed charades.

We also built graham-cracker houses and detention centers, marshmallow snowpeople and watchtowers. Gabe Williams, Korean tutor, brought his full-length keyboard and played his own compositions for us, a lovely and relaxing backdrop. Most importantly, we all met new people *and had fun with them*. Thank you to all who helped make this holiday party a success! (And special thanks to Spanish tutor Ilana Shtivelman for the pictures!)



DECEMBER GOODBYES

As we end the Fall 2015 semester, we must say goodbye and good luck to several tutors who are graduating or moving on to bigger and better things.

Ryan Creedon, GSG Leader: Ryan accepted a position as a teaching assistant in the meteorology department in the spring and will not be returning to PSL before he graduates in May.

Nate Deprosopo, Writing Tutor

Anne Forbes, Receptionist: Having graduated with her Masters in Accounting this December, Anne will stick around next semester to work as a receptionist and study for the CPA exam. She plans to start working in New York for EisnerAmper LLP in their tax department this coming June.

Jaeyoung Kim, Korean Tutor: Jaeyoung is seeking an internship related to her major, International Politics.

Namhyo Kim, Korean Tutor: Namhyo will move to Washington, D.C. to begin her internship with a non-governmental organization.

Devin Moore, Math Tutor

Kelsey Patterson, Writing Tutor

Jordan Reabold, Writing Tutor: Jordan is in the process of applying for jobs that will pay her to write or edit every day, "whether it's a publisher, content marketing agency, or another place specializing in all things wordy."

YingYing Zheng, GSG Leader: YingYing accepted an internship at Volvo in Hagerstown, MD, and will not be returning to PSL before she graduates in May.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Meghan O'Leary, Writing Tutor, December 1

Year: Junior

Major: English

Post-grad goal: Get a job as a book editor in some major city

Time at PSL: one semester

What makes you laugh the most? *My ten best friends; we all met on the same floor freshman year and have been inseparable ever since.*

If money was no object, what would you do all day? *I would read for fun and not for class!*

What is the most interesting thing you can see out of your window? *I'm cheating a little on the window location, but my apartment's balcony has an amazing view of Beaver Stadium.*

Chloe Atherton Cullen, Writing Tutor, December 22

(not pictured)

Year: Sophomore

Majors: Broadcast Journalism & English

Post-grad goal: Work for 30 Rock in NYC

Time at PSL: one semester

If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be? *Pizza. No competition. It would be worth going to the gym, even.*

What is one of your favorite books? *To Kill a Mockingbird, and my two dogs were named Harper and Boo after the novel.*

What is your middle name? *Atherton, because I am of [President Atherton's] lineage. When I was in 7th grade, my grandpa got us a personal tour with one of the deans (who had written a book about President Atherton), due to name-dropping.*



Jayme Rhoads, French & Italian Tutor, December 22

Year: Junior

Major: French & Francophone Studies, GLOBE, and Comparative Literature, with a minor in Italian

Post-grad goal: To obtain a Master's degree in France, then apply for the New Zealand Bachelor, and then work as an in-house translator for LUSH cosmetics.

Time at PSL: one semester

If you could eat only one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be? *Risotto with black truffles alongside a zucchini flower salad, with rose macarons for dessert.*

If you had to describe yourself as an animal, which one would you choose? *A penguin, because they are always dressed up.*

If you were ruler of your own country, what would be your first act? *To ban all tobacco products.*

Zacharias Ricci, GSG Leader for STAT 200, December 4

Abby Houston, Writing Tutor, December 8

Joshua Werns, Math Tutor, December 28

Nevin Brosius, Math Tutor, December 30

Rachel Winpisinger, Math Tutor, December 31

FUN FACTS

Fall 2015 Data!

Most hours worked*:

Receptionist Drew Van Wagner, 211+ hours

Writing tutor Phoebe Canagarajah, 111+ hours

Math tutor Blake Burger, 163+ hours

Language tutor Jayme Rhoads, 113+ hours

Most shifts subbed:

Receptionist Zareen Fazleabas, 24 shifts

Writing tutors Kristen Bouloubasis & Laurel Kandianis, 7 shifts (a tie!)

Math tutor Jessica McKinley, 12 shifts

Language tutor Chris Scalzo, 8 shifts

Best-Attended GSG Review Sessions:

Math 110, nearly 1,300 students, led by Jeff Ross, Wendy Wu, and Cassandra Burger

Econ 102, 1,120 students, led by Sarah Her & Matthew Rea
Chem 210, 1,128 students, led solely by Natalie Morrissey

*We recognize that working a lot of hours does not necessarily mean you're better than everyone else. Some of you are busier with classes and activities than others. We just think it's interesting information, and we encourage you to thank the people who are always subbing for you.

Of Note!

Per Jayme's post-grad plans (above), *New Zealand Bachelor*, Season 2, is coming to tv3 in 2016. A Season 1 update (spoiler alert!): Art & Matilda are still dating after Art dumped Dani in Season 1. Some think Art led Dani on, but Dani says he didn't.

George W. Atherton, the seventh Penn State President and ancestor of Chloe, was the first Penn State President to lift the ban on dancing. For a long list of his more boring accomplishments, see [his library page](#).

And now for some **tutoring-related holiday jokes**** for all subjects but economics, which apparently does not celebrate the holidays, possibly because it was raised in the Krampus tradition (see Miranda Fenush and/or *Krampus*, the movie).

What do you call Santa's helpers? *Subordinate clauses*.

Why isn't every bearded man in a red suit Santa Claus? *Because correlation doesn't imply Claus-ality*.

What do cobalt and aluminum get for Winter Solstice? *CoAl*

What's purple and won't get much for Hanukkah or Kwanzaa? *A finitely presented grape*.

Qu'est-ce qui a trente-quatre jambes, neuf tetes et deux bras? *Le Pere Noel et ses rennes*.

**From various Christmas-centric internet sources (thus, names of some holidays have been changed to foster inclusiveness).

RESOURCES

Miranda Fenush, 205A Boucke



Miranda Fenush has been an Administrative Staff Support Assistant as well as the Receptionist Coordinator for Penn State Learning since April 2013. Miranda supports PSL staff, hires and trains receptionists, and keeps Boucke and Sparks fully stocked and running smoothly. Miranda is also the person who reimburses you for your criminal background checks. So, thank her the next time you see her!

Where are you from?

Tyrone, PA. About 30-40 minutes away from here. We have a Burger King & Sheetz, and you can drive through the whole town in less than 2 minutes.

What brought you to Penn State?

I came here once I started working for Penn State Learning. And I like the atmosphere. Tyrone isn't very culturally diverse.

So this is refreshing.

What do you like most about your work here?

The relationships built with the receptionists and tutors. And the overall unity/pride that comes from being on the PSU campus.

Part of your role here is to hire and supervise receptionists. What is something we should know about a receptionist's job that we might not already know?

I'm not sure if it's unknown, but just how important it is being the first face/impression for PSL when a student walks in. For some, it's their first time, and the way you hold yourself as a receptionist reflects how PSL is viewed. So I always base my hires off of how bubbly they are/what vibe they give off when they come in for an interview.

What do you like to do when you're not working?

Work out. Read. Visit my cat (and family I suppose) at my mother's house.

What are three things you would you like to do (or try) that you haven't done (or tried) yet?

1. I'll be visiting London and Paris next spring, so I'm looking forward to trying authentic cuisine from local areas.
2. Attend an NHL Stanley Cup final.
3. Be able to eat Cap'n Crunch without cutting up the roof of my mouth.

Any unique Christmas traditions in your home?

Half of my family is Austrian, and I remember when visiting my Grandfather he would always warn of us the Krampus. In a quick summary, it's this alpine-region twisted tale of a demon/monster that scares the bad children into behaving for the holidays, instead of the jolly, large-bellied guy who hands out presents. The Krampus provides beatings and all kinds of twisted torture. We don't traditionally celebrate Krampusnacht (Krampus night) within the family, but we always keep it in mind.

