

## THE PROFESSOR JOHN SCORE II LEARNING COMMONS

# NEWSLETTER



On September 3rd, we opened our doors to students, offering support for all writing needs, along with tutoring services in:

- Biology
- French
- Business
- German
- Calculus
- Greek
- Chemistry
- Latin
- Chinese
- Physics
- Computer Science
- Psychology
- Economics
- Spanish



# THE SEMESTER AT A GLANCE

This Fall, the PJSLC was staffed by 34 student workers! Our workers offered over 1000 hours of service and we saw more than 700 Southwestern students come through our doors seeking help.



(Writing Consultants)



(Subject Tutors)

In an effort to reach even more students, the PJSLC hosted or collaborated on 6 events throughout the semester.

Our workers met once every two weeks to continue their training and professional development. During one of these meetings, Dr. Rachel McNally joined us to give a presentation on neurodivergence, offering tips on how we can best work with neurodivergent students. As well, we furnished our new Accommodations Annex, a private space for in person and on online appointments, free from audio and visual distractions.



Lastly, a consultant, Alex, started the Creative Writing Club which is hosted in the PJSLC classroom and acts as a space where students, staff, and faculty can meet, share



their ideas and discuss personal writing project as a collective.



# TIPS OR TREATS



On October 3rd, we hosted Tips or Treats, a study event based on trick-or-treating. Students who attended the event could visit different table zones based on each academic discipline. At these zones, they could meet with consultants and tutors who represented and understood these disciplines and hear advice on best navigating these subjects.



This event allowed students to gain techniques and practices to help prepare them for their courses, including but not limited to study tips, time management strategies, how to analyze readings for class properly, best practices for note-taking, focus habits & much more!



Students would receive a raffle ticket for each zone they visited, which they could put towards one of our many raffle prizes. For this event, we asked local Georgetown vendors if they would sponsor a prize, and we received several generous donations, including items from Raising Cane's, Lark & Owl Booksellers, 309 Coffee, Lulu's Pie Shop, and Baked Bear Ice Cream!



The PJSCLC was lucky to collaborate with Captain's Academy, the Peer Academic Mentors, & the Peer Research Consultants in hosting this event.

We had 38 students attend our event, 14 of whom had never been to the Writing Center or Tutoring Center before! This was the perfect way to kick off the fall semester!





# HARVEST HANGOUT



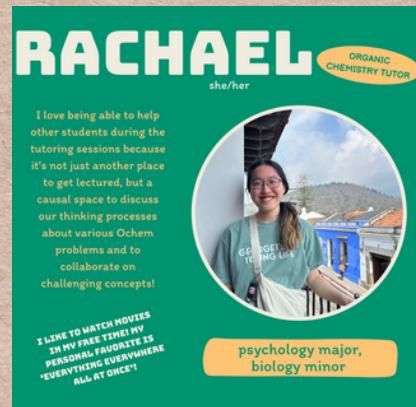
On November 21st, we hosted our second annual Harvest Hangout! Harvest Hangout is a fall-themed event targeted towards first-year students, first-generation students, and all other students who would benefit from the tutoring assistance offered at the PJSLC but have been hesitant to use the resource.



Harvest Hangout helps students connect with tutors and writing consultants at the PJSLC. By familiarizing students with their tutors, we create a welcoming environment that encourages them to utilize the space. This event demystifies the PJSLC, showing students exactly who they will be working with and how they can receive support. Our goal with this event is to make the process less intimidating and promote the Commons as a normal and productive resource.



During the event, students could enjoy apple cider, coffee, tea, and other fall-flavored goodies. Additionally, attendees could mingle with our student workers while painting pumpkins, making friendship bracelets, or playing board games. We also hosted harvest-related trivia games throughout the night and gave away prizes for our top three winners. Our last trivia game of the night focused on facts about our tutors and consultants! The answers to these questions were based on "Get to Know The PJSLC Staff" Instagram posts that went up during the weeks leading up to the event. This was a great way for students to engage with our Instagram while also learning interesting facts about our student workers. We had 59 students attend this event!





# OTHER EVENTS



## STUDY BUDDIES

We collaborated with two service organizations on campus, Alpha Chi and Alpha Phi Omega, to host Study Buddies. During this event, Alpha Chi and APO studied together with occasional breaks where they made dog toys out of old t-shirts for the Georgetown Animal Shelter. Our Computer Science tutor, Arden, who is also the president of Alpha Chi, was the one who envisioned this event and brought it to life. Great job Arden!



## MOODY-SHEARN STUDY AWAY

This semester, one of the RAs from the Moody-Shearn dorm hall hosted a study away event in the PJSLC classroom. The event was designed to encourage the residents of Moody-Shearn to study together while getting to see the new Learning Commons space. Students enjoyed snacks while learning more about the services we offer. We hope to host more dorm hall study aways in the future!

## SNOWFLAKES & STUDY BREAKS

For our last event of the Fall semester, we collaborated with the Peer Academic Mentors, Captain's Academy, and service and academic sorority, Kappa Delta Chi, to host Snowflakes & Study Breaks. This event took place the week before finals, giving students a space to study and take breaks together to prepare for their final examinations. Students were encouraged to study in the PJSLC and take breaks in the first-floor lobby of the library, where we had hot cocoa, cookies, and crafts waiting for them. Throughout the night we made candy cane reindeer, sock snowmen, affirmation chains, and paper snowflakes. We had 76 students stop by to enjoy this event!



# TESTIMONIALS



“Keep up great work! Love this space with dim lights, low-fi environment. One place on campus I feel relaxed !!”

“This was great! I got a lot of help from my tutor. She was very patient with me and made sure that she build upon my thinking process, and made me more confident in my problem solving abilities for comp sci! The environment is also very conducive to learning and working.”

“I have never had a more helpful tutor. I am taking upper-level psychology class and some information is difficult for me to understand but Ashten explains the information in a way that is extremely helpful. She is also very kind and VERY EASY to talk to. I have nothing but good things to say about her and the PJS-LC center :)”

“It was really helpful to just talk about my ideas out loud and get guidance on how to organize/incorporate them; I got some good general organization tips for keeping track of sources. It was also really nice to have such a relaxing environment to work in.”

“Lauren was very kind and helpful to me throughout our session and showed enormous patience with me as I walked her through my struggles. The most important thing I learned today is that I must separate note-taking on academic articles from note-taking on visual media, such as TV or film. She also explained to me the best way to research important topics for my paper, which was extremely useful.”

“It was really helpful to have someone who understands my ADHD brain, so they were able to give me actually useful strategies for the way I think.”

“I love the learning commons, it's an amazing new space. Thank you”





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# THANK YOU!

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