

APAC ALMANAC

Finals Week Edition

What's New: Tutor Videos

by Reva

Due to the shift into online tutoring, we've had to get creative about how we help students! Several tutors at the APAC have created short tutoring videos on general topics in order to extend our reach to students who want to know more about the services we offer or may not have the time for synchronous online tutoring sessions. Topics vary from services at the APAC, college survival tips, and tips on general academics. They can be found on our website under [academic resources](#) as well as our social media platforms.

Congratulations to the Write-a-Thon Champion!

The Academic Center hosted its end of semester Write-a-Thon online on April 27th. Participants gathered on WebEx to work on their final writing projects, with support from APAC writing tutors. Also, students tracked their progress on a scoreboard and competed to see who put in the most hours on their writing. With 8.5 hours spent on her biology and writing assignments, the Academic Center is happy to crown Katelyn Lamprey the Queen of the Spring 2021 APAC Write-a-thon! Best wishes on your exams, Katelyn, and thanks to all who participated!

Looking Back On The Year

by Gemma

Unlike previous editions of our newsletter, this month we would like to shift our focus to a more reflective stance as we wrap up on an eventful year (quite the understatement—I know). Here at the APAC, our tutors and specialists have persevered through the many challenges thrown our way and have made so many accomplishments that we hope have benefitted not only us, but the Avery Point community as a whole. Kickstarting, editing, and putting together this very newsletter is one of those accomplishments, and we hope that it has been and will continue to be a valuable resource for Avery Point students!

Accountability Sessions

by Julie R

With the switch to virtual modality, the Academic Center has had to further extend what is meant by adaptability by implementing accountability sessions. The intent of these sessions has been to overcome the struggle in lack of motivation, which so many students have faced while learning and studying in a more distracting environment. These appointments were designed to help students maintain the focus necessary to complete their work while attaining goals in the process with a peer tutor as an overseer to ensure productivity. These sessions revolve around guiding students to create SMART goals: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. Setting goals allows students who have partaken in accountability sessions to make progress not only in their studies, but also in forming good habits and staying organized as the semester progresses. A wide array of students have become involved in accountability sessions, mostly consisting of our athletes here at Avery Point who have had to handle an increase of academic as well as athletic responsibilities. In this challenging year, accountability sessions have been a new resource for students to help them slowly achieve success as they look towards broader goals.



Keeping Connected

by Julie R

As we near the end of yet another semester like no other, we've seen an increase in the sense of what it means to undergo such drastic change together. In being part of the APAC both in person one year ago and today, I can attest to the growth in awareness of students' individual needs. This awareness has led to the creation of new resources. Prior to virtual learning, the APAC was a common ground for students, but with the seeming loss of interaction, we have adapted by recognizing the need for a sense of community and embedding social outreach into resources that maintain the goal of academic achievement.

The Creative Workshop

by Erin

Do you find yourself crossing out the same few lines of that poem you started a few days ago? The words seemed to come easier then, and you can't quite find the rhythm again. Join us at the APAC for feedback and help breaking that writer's block! This semester we held a Creative Workshop for this purpose. We learned how to properly workshop other's works and shared advice that we had gotten as we learned to write. If you missed the workshop, or still find yourself looking for inspiration, here's some advice we collected.

- Keep a journal to write down anything that seems unusual or resonates with you
- Write about what you know. It doesn't matter what you're writing about. It's how you express it. Look for beauty in the mundane.

Feedback from this year's APAC Creative Writing Contest will be released in the upcoming weeks!

Embedded Tutoring

by JD

As classes moved to online modalities this past year, the APAC provided an additional level of student support within their classes: embedded tutoring. Tutors worked closely with a specific class, their responsibilities varying from synchronous class visits to posting review notes. The purpose of this strategy: to foster a sense of class community through regular peer support. As the embedded tutor for ENGL 2203W, I formed connections with the students through these repeated encounters, allowing me to witness and encourage their growth as writers. Furthermore, as a student, I benefitted from the embedded tutoring for CHEM 2444/2445: review sessions hosted by the inestimable Fatima. While all of the courses had synchronous online class times, meeting with peers in one-on-one or group settings allowed for the heightened student engagement (and, often, commiseration) that would otherwise take place in a classroom. Embedded tutoring thus helped facilitate a more cohesive class experience throughout these unique semesters—a particularly essential task during a time that felt anything but cohesive.

APAC Reading Group

by Sarah

Most recently in our reading group, the APAC tutors have been discussing how the pandemic impacts mental health and wellness outreach. Informed by research in *Wellness and Care in Writing Center Work*, edited by Genie Nicole Giaimo, we've been discussing how wellness activities can often reinforce and normalize problematic narratives. Since the long-term goal of such activities is often to encourage more productivity, or prevent the loss of it, this results in a college campus culture that glorifies "the grind" and leaves many college students exhausted and overworked.

We've hosted many wellness activities, including our Virtual Tea Time and our Time Management and Creative Writing workshops, and we'd like to hear what you think! Please follow [this link](#) to answer a brief, anonymous survey to help us in our research efforts.

Social Media

by Maxx

During the pandemic, social media has been one of the best tools we have to reach out to students. With this in mind, the APAC used social media to promote our services and events, and to provide useful information to students. Even if students don't visit the APAC directly, we hope to offer some advice for academic success through periodic posts about topics like productivity and study tips. All of these have been posted on several platforms including [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [TikTok](#), as well as the two additional platforms linked at the bottom of the page.