This fall has been busy at the Holman Success Center. We’ve completed phase 1 of the remodel for the study tables space in the south commons on the first floor of the library, and are in the midst of phase 1 of the remodel for the Holman Success Center office on the lower level of the library. There have been several changes to some of our existing programs, and lots of additions to the services we provide. The beginning of the fall semester marked the roll out of our targeted social media plan to connect with students and to provide them with information they need to be successful in a format they can relate to and will use. If you haven’t already done so, please check out our new website at: http://www.emich.edu/hsc. Our blog is being written by one of our very talented graduate assistants, Andrew Kercher, as well as “guest bloggers”. The content in the blog this fall has been excellent. You can check out our blog here: http://www.emich.edu/hsc/blog/. If you are interested in writing a guest post, please let us know.

Study Tables
Phase one of the study tables project is complete (pictured above). Students are visiting the study tables area in record numbers – averaging 1,000 scans per day this fall! If we continue at this pace, students will have logged over 50,000 hours by the end of the semester. The addition of “drop in” tutors in the study tables area has been very popular with students. Our tutors have been very busy this term. We’re kicking off “Cookie Thursdays” this week where the first 100 students to scan in at study tables will get their pick of a giant EMU cookie provided by one of our local vendors.

Because of the large number of students attending study tables, we were able to collaborate with the Academic Advising office to offer advising support to students within our study tables location. During the month of October before registration for winter opened, academic advisors staffed study tables daily from 10 –7pm. This was so popular with students that we have decided to continue to staff advisors at study tables regularly.

This year, we began providing textbooks for students to use at study table’s as several informal surveys indicated that as many as 50% of our undergraduate students do not purchase their textbooks. We are averaging 10 books being checked out and used in the study tables area per day. We anticipate this number will increase as more students hear about this service. To fund future textbook purchases, we have created a fund “Bottles For Books”. We collect returnable bottles and cans in the study tables area and use that money to fund our “Bottles for Books” account. We’re hoping to team with a group on campus to do a bottle and can drive in preparation for next fall. Learn more about study tables at: http://www.emich.edu/hsc/study-tables/index.php

Tutoring
We adopted a new model for tutoring this year. We have trained “drop in” tutors to cover the most requested courses with the highest attrition rates. Tutors are helping students in 18 subjects including
Chemistry, Biology, Accounting, and Math. Some tutors are so popular that we have had to secure additional space in the library to accommodate the large groups of students who drop in for those sessions.

To support the academic subjects not covered by drop in tutoring, we adopted a 24/7 online tutoring platform called InstaEdu. Tutors for this system are recruited from around the world and go through a rigorous screening process. EMU students have utilized this system for help in subjects like Java programming, advanced Spanish, and Therapeutic Recreation. Our students have been very pleased with the quality of support they have received through this system and have given in great reviews. Learn more about tutoring at: http://www.emich.edu/hsc/tutoring/index.php

Supplemental Instruction
One of the ways that we support students in some of the more rigorous courses with high attrition rates is by providing Supplemental Instruction in those courses. With Supplemental Instruction (SI), we hire undergraduate students who have been recommended by faculty and who have successfully completed the course in which they will be assisting. This student, or Supplemental Instructor (SI), attends the class and holds two structured study sessions per week outside of class. These sessions are well attended. In fact, our Statistics SI averages at least 15 students per session. Last Friday, we had 30 students attend! Learn more about Supplemental Instruction at: http://www.emich.edu/hsc/si/index.php

Promoting Academic Skills and Success (PASS)
The PASS Program was designed to support students who have been identified as “academically at risk”. Students in the PASS Program take Math, English, Speech, and UNIV 101L during their first year to help them build the foundational skills they will need to be successful in their other courses. Each PASS student is assigned a Success Coach/mentor who will help the student through the transition to college; connecting them with support services as needed and assisting them to navigate the complexities of financial aid. The PASS program is supporting 300 first semester first year students this fall. Learn more about the PASS Program here: http://www.emich.edu/hsc/pass/index.php

Introduction to the University- UNIV 101L
UNIV 101L is a course designed to help first semester first year students through the transition to college. The course satisfies a graduation requirement in the General Education program. The course is taught by Graduate Students recruited out of several of our graduate programs including the Educational Leadership, College Counseling, and Psychology Programs. Students selected to teach UNIV observe one of the UNIV classes taught over the summer. They then complete a week-long training in August prior to the beginning of the fall term. UNIV instructors teach 1 or 2 sections of the course in the fall, and serve a double role as Success Coach to all of the first year students in their classes. Each UNIV 101L class is capped at 20 students to allow for quality student-to-instructor and peer-to-peer interactions. Topics covered in the class include goal setting, time management, identifying learning styles, how to study based on your learning style, communication skills, diversity, financial awareness, and more. 794 students enrolled in UNIV 101L this fall. You can learn more about the UNIV 101L class here: http://www.emich.edu/hsc/univ/index.php

Eagle Rewards
This summer, we connected with the marketing department in athletics to create a new program that would encourage students to attend athletic events as well as academic activities as engagement in both types of activities have been shown to improve persistence and degree attainment.

Students are assigned a unique QR code at the beginning of the fall term. Students use this QR code to scan in to activities and events. Attendance is tracked through this system and students earn points for their attendance at these events and activities. As their points accumulate, they earn prizes like t-shirts, hoodies, umbrellas, and more. At the end of the academic year, students with at least a 3.5 GPA will be in the running for numerous awards such as 12 free credits of tuition, free housing for an academic year, a free meal plan, gift cards to the bookstore, and more.