

Spring 2011

ASC Newsletter

Academic Success Center, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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Expect Success

"I was struggling in the class in general...I am truly grateful for this program and hope that it will continue to help many other students throughout many years."

AT&T Tutoring Student

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Message from the Dean

The quote above reflects the spirit of a new, individual tutoring program that the Academic Success Center (ASC) has launched through a grant from AT&T, with the help of the UNLV Foundation. In support of our core mission to diagnose, prescribe and partner with our students to the completion of their degrees, this new program offers that "added boost" for students who need more intensive help than group tutoring can provide. The ASC offers a special "thank you" to AT&T for their vision in launching this critical program.

We are also celebrating on a number of other fronts: our Academic Success Coaches, who are graduate assistants from colleges across UNLV, have worked with hundreds of students on test anxiety, reading, math anxiety, college success skills, time management and learning diagnostics/prescriptions.

ASC Academic Advisors continue to take a holistic approach to mentoring and guiding students through their general education curriculum and into the ultimate decision of degree pathways, which are often linked to career choices.

Our student-athletes continue to excel and score big academically, and our tutoring program has served thousands of students in subjects



Dr. Gayle Juneau, Dr. Ann McDonough and Dr. Tim Gauthier

like math, biology, chemistry, psychology and sociology. A special thank you to Dean Patricia Iannuzzi, Professor Jen Fabbi and the UNLV Libraries for their partnership with our tutoring program.

We are enthusiastic about welcoming and mentoring high school students with an all-new Early Studies Program (see below), coordinated by Dr. Dan Gianoutsos, who manages the First Year Experience for hundreds of alternatively admitted students and exploring majors in the Academic Success Center.

In short, the ASC continues to partner in a number of areas with our dynamic campus to ensure that our students graduate from UNLV!

Ann McDonough

Expect Success...Early!

The Academic Success Center (ASC) is the new home for the UNLV Early Studies Program (ESP). This exciting program provides high school students an invaluable opportunity to get a head start on their college education by enrolling in UNLV courses before high school graduation. Early Studies students also have the opportunity to earn dual credit (university and high school credit) with the approval of their high school counselor. In addition, Early Studies students have full access to elite ASC resources, such as tutoring, academic

advising and academic success coaching. The Early Studies Program attracts some of the best and brightest students in Clark County and creates a more streamlined bridge from their high school to UNLV. As we consider the Early Studies Program a prelude into the First Year Experience, the program is directed by our Coordinator of First Year Programs, Dr. Dan Gianoutsos. For more information, email us at earlystudies@unlv.edu or visit the ASC website.





Stephanie Tyler-Jackson, President of AT&T Nevada visits the ASC's Tutoring area on the second floor of the Lied Library

Paving Ways to Success

The Academic Success Center, in partnership with the AT&T Corporation, is offering individual tutoring opportunities for students enrolled in 100-200 level UNLV courses. The mission of this program is to provide unique individual academic support to students. Our goal is also to improve student retention while helping the students achieve academic success.

Over 20 students from almost all academic colleges took advantage of individual tutoring during the spring semester. These students represented a diverse student body with very different educational, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. Each student was assigned to a tutor and allotted 15 hours of individual tutoring a semester, but more hours were available if needed. Knowing our students have full schedules with class, work, and other responsibilities, tutoring sessions were set up at convenient times for both the student and the tutor. The flexibility in time allows students to tailor their schedules to get extra tutoring right before a test or when needed.

Students elected to take advantage of this program for various reasons, for some it was the individual

attention, while others were taking the course for a second time and wanted to utilize all resources available to succeed. Mid-semester grades of the participants showed that most students were showing improvements. Simultaneously, the students indicated on our evaluations that they felt the program helped them personally develop better study strategies. The ASC and AT&T are truly committed to helping students achieve the best they can, and with the help of a fantastic group of tutors and support staff, we are definitely on track to achieve this goal.

Student comments on their experience with one-on-one tutoring:

“The one-on-one tutoring service has been of tremendous help. It is very constructive and informative since I can ask specific questions and the tutor takes time to answer for my understanding. I’m thankful for the opportunity given to participate in it.”

“My tutor is awesome. She is smart. She explains well. She is accommodating to my schedule.”



Elizabeth Linkous



David Jackson

Student-Athlete Academic Advisors Hit the Road

When student-athletes travel for competition, they still must fulfill their academic responsibilities. While Student-Athlete Academic Services (SAAS) provides such services as travel letters for professors, tutoring, and laptops available for travel, on occasion, an athletic advisor might also be asked to accompany the team on the road. This past spring semester, both Elizabeth Linkous and David Jackson had the opportunity to travel with their teams.

Elizabeth Linkous, the most recent addition to the SAAS staff, currently serves as the advisor for men’s soccer, softball, and men’s and women’s tennis. She was able to travel with the softball team on their trip to Santa Barbara, CA, on March 10-13. The team played in the Gaucho Classic against Santa Barbara,

San Diego, and Wisconsin.

David Jackson, Director of SAAS, works with baseball and men’s basketball and spent extensive time on the road with the Runnin’ Rebels this season. Dave was on the road with the team for games at Illinois State, Wyoming, BYU, TCU, New Mexico, Utah, and again for the first round of the NCAA Tournament. During each trip, Dave held mandatory study hall sessions and academic meetings for at least two hours with each player after daily shootarounds. These meetings allowed the Runnin’ Rebels to receive the same academic support they would normally be provided at home and helped to keep them focused on their academics while they prepared for their next opponent.

Academic Advisors Share Their Knowledge

Academic Advisor Sal Mora and Assistant Director Dr. Peter Kim, of the Academic Success Center, had the opportunity to present at the National Academic Advising Association’s (NACADA) regional conference in San Diego, CA, which took place March 2-4, 2011. The presentation, Diversity & Academic Advising: Perceptions of Academic Ability, centered on preconceptions and misconceptions that advisors may bring with them to meetings with students related to the students’ race, appearance, or what they may “look like” on paper. The presentation was well-attended and well-received. Several connections were made with advisors and administrators from within the region for continued communication on the topic of cultural/racial awareness in advising.



Sal Mora and Dr. Peter Kim

Tutoring and Supplemental Instruction: Studying in a Collaborative Learning Environment

The Academic Success Center (ASC) took over campus-wide tutoring in 2009, and what started out slow has certainly taken off over the past two years. In 2009, approximately 400 students took advantage of the tutoring program. In 2010, over 1,400 students utilized tutorial services that were delivered in a variety of different formats.

Every semester we have tried out new programs to accommodate the growing needs of our students. We started with a small staff and only provided group tutoring; then we moved to a drop-in lab format that was open all day. This format provided more hours and options for students with busy schedules. In fall 2009/spring 2010, we offered tutoring at night for students in the residence halls. Our intent was to take the service to the students, so in collaboration with the Division of Student Affairs, we provided evening tutoring four nights a week in the Dining Commons.

In 2010, the tutoring program evolved to include more hours and types of tutorial services. Through our collaboration with the Lied Library, we now provide 50 hours a week of drop-in lab tutoring in the library. Drop-in lab tutoring is available six days a week (Sunday to Friday) and students are taking advantage of the convenient location, along with the extra evening and weekend hours that are now available to them.

In addition to tutoring services, the ASC provides Supplemental Instruction (SI) and pretest study sessions for a variety of science, math, and business courses. Through this program, a tutor is matched up with a UNLV faculty member to attend his/her lectures and then the tutor conducts 2-3 study sessions a week based off of the content delivered in class. Typically, a tutor works with 10-15 students in a supplemental instruction session. These 60-minute study sessions are truly designed to reinforce and complement in-class learning. The tutor becomes fully engaged in the class by keeping up on the readings and attending all class sessions.

During the fall 2010 semester, 229 students took advantage of supplemental instruction for BIOL 189, ECON 261, and PSY 210. These students were able to actively demonstrate what they understood from class while connecting with fellow classmates



in a rich learning environment. Multiple study sessions were set up during the week to keep the size of the group to a minimum. Over 200 students took advantage of supplemental instruction during the spring semester for BIOL 189, ECON 102, CHEM 242, and MATH 132.

Faculty interested in participating in the SI program are welcome to contact us at 702-774-4623 to learn more about incorporating SI into the classroom. Additional information about campus-wide tutoring and academic resources is available on the web at <http://academicsuccess.unlv.edu/tutoring>.

Through both of these programs, tutors engage the students in a collaborative learning environment that fosters a team approach to problem solving and understanding of the content delivered in their classes. We look forward to growing and continuing our service to the UNLV academic community.

Class Concierge Services

Class Concierge services continue to expand. Dr. Gayle Juneau offers ongoing support for students who are close to graduation. Students, faculty, advisors and staff can contact Dr. Juneau at (702) 895-5951.

Academic Success Center Outstanding Faculty Awards

Gayle Juneau

The Academic Success Center is proud to award one of the 2011 Outstanding Faculty Awards to Dr. Gayle Juneau. Dr. Juneau is currently serving as the Executive Director of Academic Advising at UNLV. In this position, she establishes university-wide objectives for academic advising and provides central leadership for the 11 advising centers at UNLV. Dr. Juneau also serves as the Class Concierge for UNLV students; in this role she

assists students in resolving complicated admissions, enrollment, course scheduling, and graduation issues. Dr. Juneau also teaches a course at UNLV on Gender, Race, and Class. Everyone at the Academic Success Center is grateful for the service and contributions provided by Dr. Juneau!



Tim Gauthier

The Academic Success Center is honored to award Dr. Tim Gauthier with one of the 2011 Outstanding Faculty Awards. Currently the Director of the Interdisciplinary Degree Programs at UNLV, Professor Gauthier served as the Associate Dean of the University College at UNLV from 2005 to 2008. He proved himself instrumental in the creation of the University College in 2003 by

developing curriculum, creating processes and procedures, and by serving as a liaison with many departments on campus. When the University College became the Academic Success Center in 2008, he was pivotal in assisting students in any way that he could, through support and guidance, during their transition to their new colleges. The Academic Success Center thanks Dr. Gauthier for his continued assistance and support!



ASC Reaches Out to the Community

The Academic Success Center representatives have been busy this past semester offering their support to the UNLV and Las Vegas communities. Our Academic Advisors and Learning Support Staff participated in several Admissions recognition dinners and receptions honoring the academically talented students of the Clark County School District. During these events, students had the opportunity to ask questions of the Academic Advisors and connect with the Learning Support Staff before they enroll on the UNLV campus.

Academic Success Coaches and Learning Support staff conducted academic study skills and time management presentations for the Departments of Student Affairs Maintenance and the Greek Leadership. The outreach on campus that we do helps other programs understand our mission of academic support. We encourage departments and organizations to refer students who might need a helping hand academically.

Silverado High School invited the Learning Support Team to present a session during their teacher in-service day in February. We discussed with the high school teachers how to better prepare their students for the rigors of college life.

We continue to make friends in the Las Vegas community by attending special events such as the Andre Agassi Academy celebration of their graduating seniors. Information about the Academic Success Center's services and programs was shared so when these students come to campus they will be armed with the knowledge of the academic support they can receive from amongst the programs we have available.

It's never too early to get students interested in college. Career Day at the Lois Craig Elementary School Career Fair was another opportunity to present information about life at the college level. An integral part of the career program was making the connection between "real life" work experience and education.

In addition to assisting current students in building skill-sets and helping them with the transition to college in the first year, we are also busy making connections with the community. We hope our outreach programs allow future UNLV students to come away with the knowledge of how our programs and services can be a positive influence in their pursuit of a well-balanced and successful academic life.

Testing Center Administers New Exam

The Testing Center in the ASC is proud to announce the acquisition of a new test, the NCEES (National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying), that will be administered every April and October at UNLV. The NCEES is a two-day licensing exam for engineers and surveyors. In March, the ASC Testing Manager attended a Chief Proctor training session in Atlanta, GA to learn about the NCEES testing procedures. An NCEES test administrator was sent to UNLV to observe the inaugural administration of the exam, which occurred on April 8 and 9, 2011. There were a total of 104 candidates tested during this 2-day administration.

Academic Success Center Outstanding Community Partner Award

I Have a Dream Foundation

The mission of the "I Have a Dream"® Foundation is to help at-risk children from low-income communities become productive citizens by providing a long-term program of tutoring, mentoring and enrichment, with the assured opportunity for higher education. Additionally, their goal is to have every Dreamer graduate from high school, be functionally literate and prepared to either fulfill employment or pursue the ultimate goal of an "I Have a Dream"® sponsored higher education.

Locally, the "I Have a Dream"® Foundation, Inc. - Las Vegas, project began in December 1993. A group of private citizens, led by Co-Sponsors Julie Murray and Kevin Stolworthy, came together to form the Las Vegas project. It was determined that the Las Vegas project would serve children living in Bud Weeks Plaza, a Las Vegas Housing Authority public housing project across from Walter Bracken

Elementary School. Bracken Elementary was selected on the basis of low school district test scores in the areas of academic skills, self-esteem and school readiness. In 1996, Harrah's Entertainment, Inc. gave the local project its first funding to adopt Dreamers.

The "I Have a Dream"® Foundation is the proud recipient of the 2011 Academic Success Center Outstanding Community Partner Award. Executive Director, Lindsay Harper, and Dreamer, Xavier Blair, were in attendance at the Honors Ceremony to accept the award.



Dreamer Xavier Blair and Lindsay Harper, Executive Director of the "I Have a Dream"® Foundation

Additional Academic Success Center Award Winners for 2011

ASC Service Award

Rimi Marwah

ASC Student Centeredness Award

Brianne Heinle

ASC Special Award of Appreciation

Sarah Abromowitz

ASC Student Employee Awards

Megan Bavaro and Allison McSwain

ASC Student Awards

Crestcencia Ortiz and Rebecca Ruiz

Congratulations to Dr. Peter Kim on his induction into the Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society, UNLV Chapter, and to **Krislynn Schmidt** for receiving the Classified Employee of the Month Award for March 2011!!!



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