

Fall 2011

## ASC Newsletter

Academic Success Center, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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*Expect Success*

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## Message from the Dean

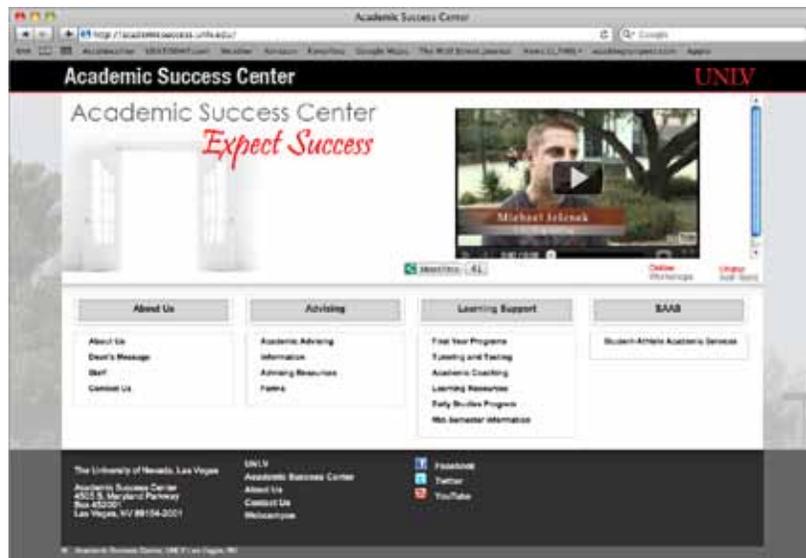
A critical underpinning of the Academic Success Center's (ASC) foundational support of students is our campus partnerships. In addition to the Colleges, the UNLV Libraries and Enrollment Services, among others, the ASC has worked closely with Distance Education, in part, to retool and relaunch nearly all of our services online. Students enrolled in Distance Education courses, as well as students taking "in-person" classes, now have access to academic advising, academic success coaching and tutoring online.

In addition, there is a link to Student-Athlete Academic Services, as well as a number of academic success tools. For instance, students are invited to take online workshops that cover areas

such as college success skills and transitions into UNLV.

We look forward to continuing to serve UNLV students with our expanding website and our great campus and community partners!

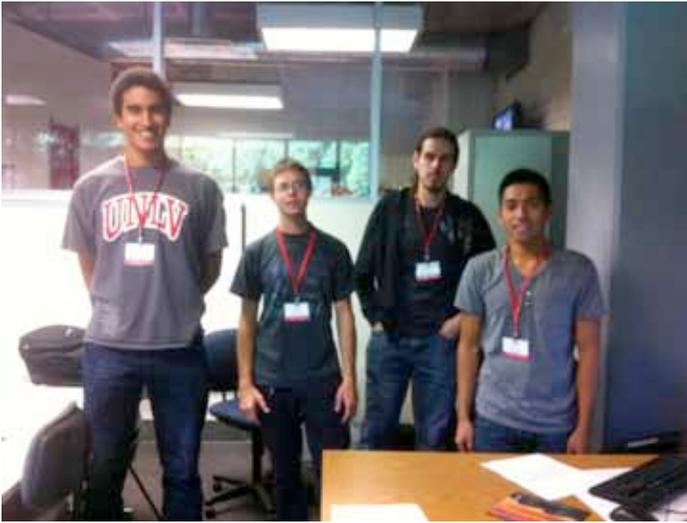
**Ann McDonough**



## Retention Increases with Participation in ASC Programs

One of the key goals of ASC programs is to increase student retention. Retention means that students stay in school and progress toward their degrees. Measures show that ASC programs are having a positive impact on student retention at UNLV. First, the Academic Success Coaching program is now in its second year and retention rates for students that participated in the first year are encouraging. Of the 279 students that joined the program in fall 2010 and that met face-to-face with their coach, 71% were retained from fall 2010 to fall 2011. Of the 222 that chose not to meet with their coach, 61% were retained from fall 2010 to fall 2011. In the first year of the coaching program, with no requirement that students meet

with their coach, those that met with their coach face-to-face at least one time were retained year to year at a 10% greater level. Second, students who took advantage of ASC tutoring programs also showed higher retention rates. Students using ASC tutoring services during spring 2011 in the Lied Library, our drop-in tutoring lab, were retained to fall 2011 at an 88% rate. Of students who used tutoring, supplemental instruction, and recitations/exam review sessions in spring 2011, 86% returned for fall 2011. These are all encouraging numbers and they show that students who participate in ASC programs are more successful.



Staff (L to R) Beau, Steven, Luc, & Billy (GA)

*"A comfortable working environment with qualified personnel who can convey an abundance of academic knowledge"*

**- Drew Miller; Junior; Mechanical Engineering**



*"The tutoring lab has been a great asset in reviewing material outside of class"*

**-Adam Wolverton; Sophomore; Electrical Engineering**

## ASC & College of Engineering Partner to Tutor Engineering Students

The ASC and Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering have teamed up to provide free tutoring for engineering students at UNLV. On September 19, 2011, the newly opened tutoring lab started on the second floor of the Thomas Beam Engineering (building A) next to the Engineering Advising Center. Tutors are available 22 hours a week, 1 - 6 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday, and 1 - 5 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Students may receive tutorial assistance in a variety of mathematics, physics, electrical/computer engineering, mechanical engineering, computer science, and civil engineering courses. The staff, which includes one graduate assistant and three undergraduate engineering students, conducted over 70

tutoring sessions within the first three weeks of opening. Tutors have worked with over 50 engineering students, many of which continue to return on a daily basis. The most popular courses tutored include: CPE 100, EE 330, MATH 283, and PHYS 180.

In order to take advantage of free tutoring for engineering courses, students must present a valid UNLV student ID. Upon their initial visit, students are also signed up for free online tutoring, which is available 24/7. Engineering students taking advantage of this program may also seek tutorial assistance at the Lied Library where the main campus-wide tutoring program is open Sunday through Friday.

## Retooled IDS 100 Reaches All-Time High Enrollment

The ASC partners with the College of Liberal Arts to coordinate a 3-credit first-year experience seminar, IDS 100, which is geared toward exploring majors. This fall, IDS 100 reached an all-time high enrollment with four, full 16-week sections and one mid-semester course. Topics for the newly retooled IDS 100 include: time management, study skills, learning strategies, basic research techniques, civic engagement, critical thinking and much more. With help from the Office of Civic Engagement and Diversity, the IDS 100 curriculum now includes service-learning – "a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities" (for more information on service-learning, see Servicelearning.org). The ASC believes that service-learning is a true win-win for both the participating students

and the community non-profit organizations. The ASC has also teamed with University Libraries to incorporate the ETS iSkills assessment into the curriculum to provide IDS 100 students the opportunity to evaluate their critical thinking and information literacy skills, while receiving development information and experiences to improve these skill sets. For more information on IDS 100, contact Dr. Dan Gianoutsos at 702-895-3177.

### ASC Testing Center Grows

In 2010-2011, nearly 7,000 students were served by the ASC Testing Center. The Center offers national tests, such as ACT, computer-based tests, CLEP, and correspondence test proctoring. For more information, call the ASC Testing Center at 702-895-0667.

# Math Initiatives Help Students Succeed

When many of our students arrive on campus they need help in math. The ASC has been an active campus partner in providing resources to these students. Some of these initiatives include:

- Extensive math tutoring. In fact, math is our most popular subject across all of our tutoring services;
- New supplemental instruction offerings in math classes;
- A new online tutoring program designed to help students refresh their math skills to be ready for college level math courses;

- Working with the Psychology Department to identify students who are math anxious and provide them interventions to help deal with this issue. For many students, simply addressing their math anxiety can help them be successful in math courses.

Math is a critical need in our society today and by addressing this issue on many fronts, the ASC is helping students meet their goals.

## Leading the Region

Cheryl Tillotson has been elected by the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) as the Pacific Region 9 Chair for 2011 - 2013. The NACADA Region 9 consists of Academic Advising professionals from California, Hawaii, and Nevada. The collective work of Region 9 is to promote the values of NACADA and accomplish progress for the academic advising profession in ways that benefit the three states as well as the region's success as a whole community. Some of the major responsibilities of the position are providing leadership oversight of the Region 9 Steering Committee, assisting with the selection and hosting of the annual Region 9 conference, participating in the regional and national NACADA conferences, and encouraging Region 9 members to get the most out of professional development from participating in the NACADA organization.



**Cheryl Tillotson**

Dr. Gayle Juneau, 2009-2011 Region 9 Chair, and the Executive Director of Academic Advising at UNLV, spoke on behalf of Cheryl's election as the next Region 9 Chair by stating the following:

"When Cheryl Tillotson was announced as the newly elected Chair of Region 9, I jokingly stated that I was thrilled because we like to keep things 'in house' at UNLV.

Of course, it is a tremendous honor to host the Chair position for four years at UNLV; however, my enthusiasm stems mostly from knowing Cheryl as a colleague and advising professional. She has been a consistent leader in NACADA at the university, state, regional, and national level for over a decade. Two years ago, she held the distinguished position of Region 9 conference chair and she was also awarded with the honor of receiving an Outstanding Advisor Award (Primary Role) in 2010. Cheryl is well-regarded by colleagues around the country for her skills and tremendous accomplishments in the academic advising field. I speak on behalf of many colleagues when I say that her tenure as Chair is highly anticipated for Region 9!"

## Academic Resource Fair Helps Students Make the Grade!

The ASC hosted the *Fourth Annual Make the Grade: Academic Resource Fair 2011* in the UNLV Student Union on September 7, 2011. This event provided a one-stop-shop for students to learn about various academic support programs across campus. The ASC collaborated with departments across campus to share information with students about tutoring and other academic learning support services. Participants included: Tutoring, Academic Success Coaching, Writing Center, Engineering Tutoring Program, Library Services, Veteran Services, Center for

Academic Enrichment & Outreach, and International Programs. Academic Advising was a new and welcomed addition to the program this year. Most colleges had a representative available to discuss majors, minors and potential career options for students graduating. Over 300 students visited the tables and talked to representatives about services that could assist them with academic success. Campus community members wishing to know more about any of these services may stop by the ASC.

## Early Studies Kicks Off the Fall Semester

The ASC hosted the Inaugural Early Studies Program (ESP) Kickoff Event in August. This event recognized currently enrolled ESP participants, prospective students, parents and Clark County high school counselors. ESP participants are typically Clark County junior and senior high school students. Campus community partners including, Dr. Neal Smatresk, Dr. Michael Bowers, several Deans and distinguished UNLV faculty and staff were present for this event. Many guests shared their stories about the early studies students they have worked with in the

past, as well as their enthusiasm for the program. For more information about the ESP, please visit the ASC website or contact Dr. Dan Gianoutsos at 702-895-3177 or at [earlystudies@unlv.edu](mailto:earlystudies@unlv.edu).



**President Neal Smatresk with Early Studies participants**

## ***Announcements and Acknowledgements***

### **Student-Athlete Academic Services (SAAS) Welcomes Two New Staff Members**

**David Wedley** joins SAAS as the Athletic Academic Advisor for Softball, Volleyball, and Women's Soccer. David graduated from UNLV in May with a M.S. in Sport and Leisure Studies Management. During his studies, David was a Graduate Assistant within the SLS department, while also volunteering time with the Compliance Office for UNLV Athletics. Prior to his move to Las Vegas, David earned his B.S. from Grand Valley State University, where he served as an assistant baseball coach for four years, providing him with extensive experience in collegiate athletics.

**Marissa Nichols** is the new Graduate Assistant for SAAS, serving as the Athletic Academic Advisor for UNLV Cheer and Dance, and the Life Skills Coordinator for all student-athletes. Marissa is a former UNLV student-athlete and graduate, having played softball from 2004-2010, while earning multiple degrees (B.S. Human Services Counseling; M.Ed. Counselor Education). Marissa recently began the Ph.D. program in Higher Education Leadership this August, continuing her exemplary career of academics and athletics at UNLV.

### **A Special Thank You to an Esteemed Colleague**



**Anne Hein**

The ASC would like to recognize the countless contributions made by Anne Hein, Director of Academic Advising for the ASC. After 26 years of dedicated service to UNLV, Anne officially retired on November 17, 2011. Anne was admired across the campus as an outstanding member of the UNLV community and was the recipient of numerous awards including, the UNLV Board of Regents Academic Advisor Award and the President's Professional Staff Member of the Year Award. We congratulate Anne on all of her accomplishments and we wish her the best in all her future endeavors!

### **ASC Welcomes New IDS 100 Instructor**

The ASC welcomes Katharine Johnson, an IDS 100 Instructor teaching three of the four sections this fall. "We're thrilled to have Katharine as part of our team. Along with her extensive experience, Katharine has a niche for finding new and innovative ways of teaching and she possesses a passion for helping students succeed in college," explains Dr. Dan Gianoutsos, Coordinator of First Year Programs. Katharine's background includes over 16 years of higher education service in teaching, career counseling, service-learning, recruiting and training. Exemplifying the true ASC spirit, Katharine explains that she finds comfort in knowing that her students can come to her as a resource, especially when they're not sure where to go. She also explains, "I love getting to know my students by learning about their intriguing life story and their academic, professional and personal aspirations." Katharine has been very impressed with her fall IDS 100 students thus far, especially in terms of their passion for getting engaged in the college experience, their seriousness about their academics, their professionalism and their willingness to share their opinions and past experiences. When not in the ASC or the classroom, Katharine enjoys camping, listening to live music and playing Words with Friends.



**Katharine Johnson**

### **Four New Graduate Students Join Academic Success Coaching Program**

*James (Jay) Cassidy*, Clinical Mental Health Counseling master's program

*Amna Haider*, Marriage and Family Therapy master's program

*Crestcencia Ortiz*, Theatre master's program

*Jessica Perreault*, Educational Psychology Ed.S. program



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