

Learning Resource Center

The mission of the Learning Resource Center is to promote student success through tutoring, workshops, and study skills development.

Director's Message

by Tracy McDonald



**Tracy McDonald,
LRC Director**

Welcome to a new year and to the 40th anniversary of the Learning Resource Center.

In the fall, I was greatly honored to have been named as the new director for the LRC.

Previously, I was the program coordinator for our Math and Science Help tutoring program.

I am a proud alumna, earning both a bachelor's and master's degree in applied mathematics from Cal Poly Pomona.

I have been teaching in the Math and Statistics department for 20 years and have enjoyed helping students in my own classroom and our tutees within the LRC.

We all look forward to reaching out to more students with the programs we offer in the LRC, as well as expanding our services to include more opportunities to promote student success.

We anticipate an exciting year in 2013 and hope that you will visit us and utilize our services!

"Coffee, Tea, & LRC" Commemorates 40th Anniversary

by Casey Thompson

On January 31, the LRC hosted its "Coffee, Tea, & LRC" open house event. This year's celebration was a special one as the longtime campus resource commemorated 40 years of serving Cal Poly Pomona's students.

Guests were treated to a tour of the facilities, refreshments and door prizes, as well as a chance to have their questions answered by the program coordinators and staff.

Attendees included President J. Michael Ortiz and Provost Marten L. denBoer. Associate English Professor Barbara Gill-



Dr. Brian Jersky, Dean of the College of Science, receives a tour from some of our LRC tutors.

Mayberry, co-founder of the LRC, was also among the more than 70 members of the campus community in attendance.

The goal of the event was to inform the campus community about all the services the LRC has to offer. Guests were invited to watch

tutoring sessions in action as staff members informed them of each program's individual purpose. Faculty and staff members were encouraged to refer students to take advantage of the LRC's free tutoring services.

The LRC would like to thank all the generous donors who helped make this event possible: CPP Athletics, Corner Bakery, Dale Bros., Farm Store, Foundation, Staff Council, CPP Tutor Club, Upward Bound, Maria Osuna, and all our staff who donated.

See Page 4 for a list of our Door Prize winners.



College Reading Skills Program (CRSP)

by Robert Matranga

The College Reading Skills Program, or CRSP, has been part of the Learning Resource Center for nearly 25 years.

The program operates under the federal Department of Education as a TRIO Student Support Services program. As such, the program serves low-income students, first-generation college students, and students with disabilities.

Learning Resource Center staff have collaborated every four or five years, depending on the timing of grant competitions, to produce an application showing Cal Poly Pomona's continued need for CRSP.

The drafters of the original grant sought to provide a service that would further the program's goal to increase retention and graduation rates amongst TRIO-eligible students at Cal Poly Pomona.

Increasingly a buzz topic for university administrators, the creators of

CRSP were ahead of their time in recognizing that preparedness for college-level reading and critical thinking contributes significantly to university students' ability to thrive.

A quick search for similar programs produces meager results. Yet worldwide hunger for college-level reading resources manifests itself in a daily report of visitors to the CRSP website: people from all over the United States and all parts of the globe navigate to various pages of the CRSP site regularly.

While maintaining its historic focus on reading improvement, the current staff of CRSP, under the leadership of Laura Ayon, has developed the program's service philosophy and diversified its offerings over the past eight years, exemplified by the Program Manual and Contract signed by each participant.

The former quarterly peer-mentoring meeting is now the Profes-

sional Mentor Meeting, which features speakers from various campus organizations and programs, such as the Office of Financial Aid and the Office of Student Life, and community professionals such as a recent visit by alum Martin Greco from Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Peer mentoring now takes place in small groups throughout the quarter with topics and materials developed by the program's peer tutor-mentors. The program has also begun offering Financial Literacy Workshops on topics such as credit, budgeting, saving, and scholarships. Additionally, students preparing for graduate entrance exams are now provided with more updated study materials and support.

Though it has changed in many ways, the program's core goals remain the same: to increase retention and graduation rates of low-income students, first-generation college students, and students with disabilities.



Tutoring

By Melissa Stocking

In 1973, the Learning Resource Center began offering free tutoring to students in university-wide subjects through one of its first programs, ASI Tutoring. Since then, the LRC's partnership with ASI has strengthened, as evidenced by ASI's pledge to provide fixed allocations to the LRC for tutor salaries beginning in the 2012-13 fiscal year.



One of four LRC programs, ASI Tutoring is unique in that it offers one-to-one, 50-minute sessions, scheduled by appointment, in every subject area excluding English (writing and English

tutoring are offered by the University Writing Center).

In 40 years, ASI Tutoring has provided tutoring to thousands of Cal Poly Pomona students. In 2011-12 alone, we completed 6,616 sessions. Every year, as students respond to program assessments, the overwhelming majority of tutees state that tutoring helped raise their course grade.

Last year, the ASI Tutoring Program provided assistance in 205 discrete courses. Tutors are trained in tutoring techniques through the LRC's

College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) training program.

In 1995, ASI Tutoring received CRLA Level One certification. Each tutor in the program completes a minimum of ten hours of training for this certificate. Since 2007, the ASI Program has also provided Advanced Tutor Level Two certification to a select group of tutors.

Web-based scheduling for both tutees and tutors was initiated in 2006. Students can schedule appointments online and tutors can manage their schedules conveniently. Tutees are encouraged to attend their appointments prepared with questions, having read the material in advance.

University Writing Center (UWC)

by Leonard K. Vandegrift

The University Writing Center opened on the ground floor of the University Library in fall 2000 under the leadership of Dr. John Edlund.

The program began by providing one-on-one tutoring to students in any discipline on any writing assignment at any point in the writing process. Soon after, group tutoring for English 095 and GWT workshops were also added.

In 2005, the Writing Center began hosting an online GWT preparation program, which evolved into CPU 401, a hybrid course that allows students to meet the GWT requirement by portfolio assessment.

Students enrolled in the course receive both online and face-to-face tutoring, which has helped significantly increase their chances of satisfying the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement.

In 2010, the Writing Center became part of the Learning Resource Center, which allowed both to share front desk service and save on their individual budgets. Since then, the Writing Center has added group tutoring for English 096 and developed a series of STEM writing workshops.



Math and Science Help (MaSH)

by Tracy McDonald

This winter, MaSH welcomed its new Program Coordinator, Theresa Vail. Since its early inception in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, the program has seen many changes.

It began, under Wes Griffith, as a tutoring program for Math 12 in 1998 and expanded to provide tutoring for all lower division math courses in 2002.

In fall 2006, led by directors Cidni Griffith and Jill Shirley, MaSH became part of the College of Science. During this time, tutoring in chemistry and physics was added.

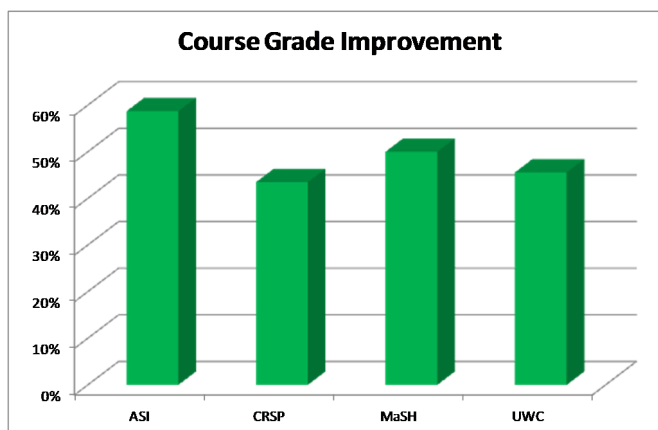
With the CCRAA grant, new leadership and more courses in computer science and biology were introduced with Director Dr. Marcia Ewers in the summer of 2007. This continued under Director Tracy McDonald in the spring of 2010.

Another major change took place in the fall of 2009, when MaSH joined the Learning Resource Center while maintaining its location in building 8.

MaSH moved to the library in the summer of 2010 to be housed with its sister programs within the LRC.

Learning Resource Center Impacts Student Success!

(2012 Survey Results from 333 LRC Tutees)



The majority of LRC participants are in good academic standing with a GPA of 2.5 or higher.

GPA > 2.5

- ASI Tutoring — 54%
- CRSP — 59%
- MaSH — 62%
- UWC — 62%

GPA > 3.0

- ASI Tutoring — 35%
- CRSP — 33%
- MaSH — 34%
- UWC — 45%

Self-identified Study Skills Improvement

- ASI—Test Taking 40%
- MaSH—Test Taking 26%
- CRSP—Reading 84%
- UWC—Organization 37%



“Coffee, Tea, & LRC” Door Prize Winners

- Makeda Bostic—Fruit Basket
- Maria Lisa—Dale Bros. Growler
- Cidni Griffith—Staff Council Tote/ Lanyard
- Sara Gamez—Homemade Scarf
- Anne Simpson—Baseball Cap
- Sandra Bufalini—CPP T-shirt / Alumni Sticker / Pen
- Gloria Concha—UB T-shirt / Water Bottle
- Craig Rich—Sterling Merlot
- Alan Krinik—Starbucks Gift Bag
- Tiva White—Pretzels
- Edward Rocklin—Mug/Tote/Lanyard
- Linda Collins—Pen Set
- Pam Sperry—Theatre Tickets
- Ingrid Cantrell—Basketball Tickets
- Kim Allen—Basketball Tickets
- Shari Jackson—Bronco Bucks
- Sandra Harper—Bronco Bucks
- Vicky Vega—Dale Bros. Growler
- Ernesto Rodriguez—Album/ Notecards
- Mits Kobayashi—Staff Council Tote/ Lanyard
- Gregg Max—Baseball Cap
- Elisa Mitchell—See’s Chocolates
- Pam Adams—CPP T-shirt / Alumni Sticker / Pen
- Karen Vaughn—Bronco Polo Shirt
- Raul Ramirez—Dale Bros. Growler
- Bryan Jersky—Starbucks Gift Card
- Bruce Kennedy—Tote / Banana Holder
- Mary Claire Gager—Vagina Monologues Tickets
- Paul Storey—Basketball Tickets
- Joyce Cheung—Bronco Bucks
- Kevin Colaner—Bronco Bucks
- Oanh Binh—Wired T-shirt
- Norma de la Llarta—Pen Set
- Justin Bowman—Book
- Brandon de Paul—Starbucks Gift Card
- Derek Noreen—Starbucks Gift Card



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