



WILDCAT ADVANTAGE

ACADEMIC SERVICES CENTER

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Academic Services Center celebrates 35th Anniversary ~1972—2007~

Table of Contents

Page 1 Rene Moen
(cont. on p. 6)

Page 2 Carolee Mock

Page 3 Doris Bruesch

Page 4 Maria Kaduc
Bunnie Johnson-
Messelt
Early Advantage

Page 5 Adam T.
College Prep
Merne Manor

Page 6 College Study
Skills
Rene Moen
(cont.)

Memories from Rene Moen, Former ASC Director



Rene Moen, Former ASC Director

Students arriving at the North Dakota State College of Science in fall '72 learned of a new educational program, then called the Learning Skills Center (LSC). President Blikre envisioned this center as an academic support program that would result in greater retention of college students and would increase job productivity when students became employed.

Charged with these important goals, Counselor Rich Hauck and I traveled to a technical school in Michigan, where we visited a well-established learning center. We also met with NDSCS educators who shared concerns about their under-prepared students, especially those having strong technical potential but weak academic skills.

As the coordinator of this new program, I listened carefully to all discussions and expectations.

Rich Hauck and I met with college administrators to present plans for the new learning center. The first program area to be developed would provide academic skills instruction for students identified as under-prepared in reading, writing, or math. The second area would offer tutorial assistance and study materials for students having difficulty with college courses. As Rich and I left the meeting, we knew our work had just begun.

The LSC was located on the second floor of the Mildred Johnson Library, a perfect location. This location allowed students to be in close proximity to library services, and we hoped the great book displays would draw students into the library. Later, when the center's study labs were in place, students and staff could move easily between study labs. My contribution was to move my office into a coat room area so that my former office could become the center's Math Lab. Thanks to the maintenance crew for giving my office a door.

The first years of operation brought about an amazing growth of the LSC program. As student numbers increased, former classrooms became LSC Labs: Reading Labs (two), Math/Science Lab, Writing Lab, Open Center Lab, and the Study Skills/Tutorial and Disability Services (cont. on page 6)



Memories from a former staffer..

ASC Memories.....by Carolee Mock

I retired December 1997—and I must say that retirement is enjoyable, but I can easily reflect back on my thirteen years at the ASC and find ever so many good memories of working with students and colleagues. When I first started out at the Center, I had a round table in Room 226 where students gathered around for study, and I used various classrooms downstairs for teaching. We were so limited with space, and there was such a bustle of activity. By the time I retired, I shared an actual office with Doris Bruesch and used study rooms in the library. One thing about the ASC—each year we progressed.

I would often tell my students that one of the most important things was to find a job that they liked, and one day a student responded, "Mrs. Mock, you really like your job, don't you?" I was lucky because, indeed, I did have a job that I truly enjoyed.

Working with the older-than-average students was special—they had their fears of going to college, but they were so eager to succeed and so willing to try new ideas for study. So many of them found so much success. It was very rewarding to work with students and actually see the light bulb come on when they grasped a new concept or a solution to a problem. I spent a lot of time working with athletes, particularly the football players; it was sometimes pretty challenging but mostly rewarding. Memories of some of those guys can still make me smile.

We did a lot with College Prep, a summer program for students to sharpen skills to be ready for their fall schedules. We had great groups of students in the summer....I still run into some of them today and they will comment on what a wonderful time that was.

I worked with foreign students and found them to be delightful. I have one arm that is longer than the other and jokingly say that one of my students always tugged at my sleeve to "please explain one more time" and I would figure out another way to present the information. One foreign student from Thailand has remained in the States and is a part of my husband's and my life.

I worked with a wonderful group of colleagues within our department and throughout the campus. Coordinating tutoring I needed help from everyone else to secure good tutors—and we had some good ones. Probably the most rewarding part of my career at the ASC is MARIA KADUC, DIRECTOR of the ASC.....it's her story, not mine. If I had any part to her success, I am honored; if not, I am ever so proud to have been there. Our mission at the ASC was to help students be successful; we did, and they still do.



Learning Skills Center Staff in 1993

Pictured from left to right—back row: Carrie Belcher, Nadine Steiner, Florence Johnson, Teresa Gustafson, Kelly Bjore, Carol Knudsen, Lola Patnoude, Kara Gruenberg, Betty Goroski; Front row: Rene Moen, Maria Kaduc, Doris Bruesch, Terri Kovarik-Cernik, Carolee Mock

From Learning Skills to Academic Services...

ASC Memories...by Doris Bruesch

In the fall of 1972, my husband came home from the first faculty meeting of the year. A presentation was given at this meeting by the director of a new program, the Learning Skills Center. She presented information concerning the center: its goals and its needs. One of the needs was for more personnel. My husband told me that this was the job for me. After speaking with the director, Rene Moen, I also decided it was the job for me, and it was for the next twenty-seven years.

The program started out in a small office in the library. This was the hub of the Learning Skills Center. It was the office for Rene and her secretary during the day and became the Open Center at night. It didn't take long until we outgrew the small space. We did retain the office, and it became the Math Center. Once my youngest started pre-school, I began to work days assisting with the reading classes and continued working in the Open Center. There was always something new to learn at the center and many jobs to do. I wore many hats during my 27 years.

My next "hat" was the Reading Computer Lab. The LSC continued to grow under Rene's guidance. As the years progressed, the Learning Skills Center became the Academic Services Center (ASC). We also added another new program, College Prep. This was one of my favorite areas - we met such truly wonderful students. It was an honor to be a part of their development into confident students. Many of them were older-than-average students who did not think they could succeed in college. With encouragement, they soon found that they could succeed and did!

The Academic Services Center outgrew its various areas, and more changes needed to be made. The math area needed to be moved and other areas enlarged. At this time, I moved from the computer lab to the very office in which I began. This office was shared with Carolee Mock, Study Skills Director. My last "hat" was working with students with disabilities, which I did until retirement. We also developed the ASC Wildcat Advantage newsletter. I worked with a wonderful group of people. We really became family. It was a truly rewarding experience. Our goal was to help students be successful. This is still being done under another watch. Keep up the good work!



ASC Staff

Kathy Langenwalter,
Rene Moen, Florence
Johnson, Terri Kovarik-
Cernik, Doris Bruesch,
Maria Kaduc, Carolee
Mock, Wanda Haberer,
Jan Hunter, Teresa
Gustafson, and Kara
Gruenberg

Building on a solid foundation...by **Bunnie Johnson-Messelt**



*Bunnie Johnson-Messelt
Former ASC Director*

Congratulations to the ASC staff for serving students for 35 years. As a former director of the ASC, working at NDSCS was a wonderful professional experience for me. The foundation of the center was built by insightful, committed individuals under the leadership of Rene Moen. That foundation included the Reading Lab, Writing Lab, Open Center, Disability Support Services

Program, Refugee and ESL program, Math/Science Lab, FLEX Program, and Study Skills/Peer Tutor Program. During my stay at NDSCS, we continued to build on that foundation by adding the Early Alert Program and a Study Center. Work with the Entry Level Assessment committee led to computerized placement testing and mandatory placement into developmental courses. I was fortunate to be able

to contribute in the planning process of the ASC expansion resulting in more physical space. One theme has been paramount at the ASC from the beginning— "Students Come First." This philosophy and the dedication of the ASC staff have contributed to confidence and competence building for students using ASC services. That is truly good work!

A Director's Story...by **Maria Kaduc**

Maria Kaduc, ASC Director



"Well girls, you are ready for college now," is a statement I will never forget. Anna, a friend of mine, and I had just completed an English as a Second Language (ESL) course at Wahpeton High School. The year was 1985, and we had both immigrated to the United States from Czechoslovakia. Upon arrival, I had almost no knowledge of the English language. Our ESL teacher made an appointment for us to meet Rene Moen, Learning Skills Center (LSC) Director, regarding attending college at NDSCS. My memories of this meeting are of meeting a very nice lady with a great smile who tried very hard to communicate with us, with slight success!

I spent the following four years at NDSCS, specifically at the LSC, where I felt like I was at home. All of the staff were very supportive and always there for students. They not only helped us grow academically and intellectually, but as human beings as well. Without the support of these people, I would not be where I am today. Their commitment to do what is right for students indirectly had an affect on my sons' futures. All I can say is thank you ladies from the bottom of my heart for all that you did for me and my family.

I learned valuable life lessons from my experiences at the ASC (formerly LSC). Never give up on any student, and always work with the whole person. Encourage, inspire, enthuse, motivate, respect,

and show your support for students in every possible way. Encourage them to advocate for themselves and to learn the skills that will lead to prosperity and independence. Always make students feel welcome and important. Time spent working with students is a great investment in the future. I have always felt that if I can make a difference in even one student's life, it is worth the effort. That is why, under my leadership, the ASC has adopted the slogan, "Where All Students are Welcome!" And we hope this shows.

Early Advantage Program to be held this spring...

The **Early Advantage Program** will be the new name for the former Early Alert Program effective January 2007. The Early Advantage Program will be held this year on March 26th, 27th, 29th, and 30th. Students will begin their afternoon at Enrollment Services and then proceed to the Academic Services Center for student and parent orientation and COMPASS testing. The Early Advantage Program offers those students determined to be at-risk an opportunity to come to the campus early. This enables students and their parents time to make appropriate academic decisions and to find out about campus services and programs from which they can benefit. The Early Advantage Program began in 2000 and is held on campus every spring semester.



Adam T.— A Real Success Story...

“The Academic Services Center (ASC) helped me out a lot. I struggled with math and science, and the tutors really helped me. It’s a very smart thing to go to the ASC!” Adam T.

Adam T. began his college career at NDSCS fall semester 2003. He was initially enrolled in the Occupational Therapy Assistant program but prior to spring semester 2005, he switched to the Mental Health Care Associate (MHCA) program. Adam was a regular at the ASC as he took advantage of tutorial help for math, science, and writing. Adam also received support services through the Disability Support Services (DSS) office such as note takers, books on tape, and testing accommodations. Adam was a very conscientious and hard working student. He completed his field work for the MHCA program as a para-professional at the Fargo North High School. Following his graduation in December 2006, he was hired full time by Fargo North. Congratulations Adam and well done!!



**Adam T.
Dec. 2006 Graduate**

College Prep Program Alive and Well

College Prep has been helping students succeed in college since 1990. The program is alive and well yet today. The eight-week College Prep program at NDSCS offers a unique opportunity for students, attending any college or university in the fall, to develop their skills and to increase their chances of success in college. The program offers a combination of preparatory courses to strengthen a student’s

reading, writing, math, science, study skills and computer skills. Best of all, as students strengthen their skills, this program helps them acquire the confidence needed to pursue the curriculum they chose. College Prep courses are available during the school year. However, by enrolling during the summer session, students will be able to develop their skills early and take lighter course loads dur-

ing their first semester of college. Courses offered include Effective Reading, Speed Reading, English as a Second Language, College Writing Prep, Composition Lab, Computer Prep, Intro to Keyboarding, College Study Skills, Math Prep and Beginning Algebra. This summer’s program runs June 5th through July 26th. Call the ASC for more information.



*“I really enjoyed the College Prep summer program. I learned study skills that helped me throughout college.”
Erica S.—May 2006 Graduate*



We’d like to introduce Merne Manor, a student at NDSCS. She has been hired to tutor first and second year nursing students at the ASC this semester. Welcome aboard Merne and thanks for all you do!!



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To contact the Disability Services Coordinator, Joy Eichhorn, please call toll free 1-800-342-4325, ext. 32623.

College Study Skills (CSS) is a one credit class offered at the ASC that can be a part of the game plan for succeeding in college. Though most of the strategies that are taught may strike you as common sense, it may surprise you to find out the number of college students who do not have these skills. Whether a student is taking CSS as part of a mandatory attendance requirement or for their own interest, the skills that are taught take a concerted effort on the part of the students to be utilized effectively. The focus of the class is not for students to put into practice every skill outlined but to pick and choose the skills that he or she is most interested in sharpening and for each student to develop a plan for how to put those skills into place. The class is divided into a number of sections that range from learning styles to time management to test-taking skills. Each section encourages the student to use critical thinking and problem solving to find answers that work for him or herself to improve individual study habits.

(cont. from page 1) Office. Eventually, classes in reading, math, writing, and study skills, as well as science and FLEX-time, were offered. Tutorial help and services for students having disabilities also became available. As the program expanded, the array of many classes and services led to a name change. With the vote of each staff member, the Learning Skills Center became the Academic Services Center (ASC).

Finding instructors with the best fit for each study lab was of great importance to the success of this program; surprisingly, whenever there was a vacancy, the right person seemed to apply. The ASC staff has always remained a dedicated and resourceful team. Their personal commitment to students and their solid instructional programs have enabled most students to make good academic progress.

Students having academic needs were the focus of our program, and they often became our best advocates. Our student tutors and work-study students were top-notch, sometimes even developing support materials for us. Instructors learned from student comments and evaluations what had worked and what had not worked, making changes when appropriate.

Memories bring forward the outstanding work and well-designed labs of two leading educators who are now deceased: Carol Knudsen, Reading Lab, and Teresa Gustafson, Writing Lab. Their positive attitudes and words of encouragement touched the lives of hundreds of students. They are deeply missed.

Congratulations to Maria Kaduc and the ASC staff on the center's 35th anniversary! Looking back to 1972, it is exciting to realize that this academic program was a front-runner in the learning center arena. Today, with expansion efforts completed, computer technology in place, and structured, well-planned curricula, the Academic Services Center is certainly deserving of being called state of the art.

Thanks to so many, from all corners of the campus, who took time to direct, phone or bring students to the center. A very special thank you to the ASC staff for believing in your students and preparing them well for their journey down the long road to graduation!

**Happy 35th
Anniversary ASC!!**