



The Nest

Notre Dame College • Academic Support Center

From the Desk of Gretchen Walsh

Bright New Beginnings—Welcome to Spring Semester, 2011

As we start a new semester, let us take a moment to reflect on our fall, 2010 semester. Our students performed well academically: two of our students had straight A's and our cumulative GPA was 2.70.

What I feel is especially impressive is the growth that one sees in our students over the course of the four years. Our seniors' average GPA was 2.77 and our freshmen average GPA was 2.35. One of our students completed a major in Criminal Justice and graduated in December. Our complements to

Mike Lavin for his strong, successful, academic career.

Additionally, at the end of this past semester, the Academic Support Center was very fortunate to receive a private donation of \$12,500, which we plan to use to expand our services and area. What a wonderful Christmas surprise! On a similar high note, we have applied and have been accepted

into Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society, which is a prestigious national honor society for students with learning differences. Notre Dame College will be the first school in Ohio to be a member, and our

chapter will be Beta Alpha! Other colleges that have a chapter include Kansas State University, California State University, Union College, and the University of North Texas. In order to be inducted into the chapter, the national rules require a 3.1 GPA and the completion of at least 24 hours of course work.

Moving onto this semester, we welcome seven new students to the ASC. For our returning students, please set a specific goal for each class that you are taking. Plan to meet with an instructional advisor on a weekly basis to review your syllabi and keep on track with the assignments. If you have difficulty

with the reading or the amount of reading required in college, consider employing a reading strategy, such as SQR3 or trying the adaptive equipment. With persistence and a game plan, you will be more successful than you ever thought possible.

Lastly, I would like to remind our parents to join us on February 16th at Mayfield Country Club at 7:00 for the kick-off event of our Parent Leadership Group. It will afford you an opportunity to meet and talk with our instructional advisors and also to become more involved with Notre Dame College and the Academic Support Center.



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We would like to thank everyone...



who joined us at California Pizza Kitchen on Wednesday, November 17, for our ASC fundraiser to make it a success!

The fundraiser was held at the restaurant in Legacy Village. All of the money raised was placed into the **Kendel Book Scholarship Fund**. The ASC is excited to announce **Derrick Smith** as the first recipient of this scholarship. We hope to do another fundraising event in the spring.



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Workforce Recruitment Program Write-Up

On October 20 and 21, the Academic Support Center of Notre Dame College played host to a Workforce Recruitment Program representative.

Scott Coburn, the Disability Employment/Reasonable Accommodation Program Manager of Defense Finance and Accounting Service Office of Equal Opportunity Programs in Columbus, Ohio, visited Notre Dame to interview 17 students, who are members of the Academic Support Center for government positions. The Workforce Recruitment Program is a federally funded program, which allows students with documented disabilities the opportunity to interview and apply for thousands of government jobs. Gretchen Walsh, Director of the Academic Support Center applied for the students in her program and for the second year in a row, the ASC was accepted and given two days for students to interview for these positions. Of the 100 students in the program, 17 juniors and seniors were given the opportunity to interview with Scott and have their resumé uploaded into a government database which allows individual government entities to contact students directly regarding employment. Last year, of the 14 students who interviewed, two were offered and accepted summer positions, which they

completed in the summer of 2010. “We are extremely grateful and honored to have this distinguished program on campus again this year,” Walsh stated. “This program provides our students with a unique opportunity to gain excellent interviewing skills while also applying for hundreds of positions at once. I’m hopeful that more of our students will be contacted again this year and that because of this program, more of our excellent students will be hired for government positions this upcoming year.” Marcie Estep, Services Coordinator for the Academic Support Center, worked with the students to register them and prepare them for their interviews. Estep stated, “The students of the ASC are extremely well-prepared to enter the world of work. They are anxious to turn the knowledge that they have gained from their educations at Notre Dame into real world experience. These positions offered by the government provide our students with those types of opportunities.” Students will begin receiving calls as early as December of this year.

Kathleen Kendel Scholarship Fund

The sudden death of **Kathleen Kendel**, the beloved and talented instructional advisor at The Academic Support Center, is a great loss to the Notre Dame community. So many students were influenced and inspired to greater achievements because of her loving and tireless efforts. Her memory lives on in the **Kathleen Kendel Scholarship Fund** set up in her honor to continue the work of helping ASC students successfully graduate.

Derrick Smith, a Criminal Justice major as well as an outstanding athlete, is the first recipient of this fund. Derrick writes, “Success doesn’t come easy because life can have many ups and downs. What I want others to learn from me is never give up on a goal, no matter how hard it may seem to reach.”



In the Spotlight...



James A. Yates was born in Elkhart, Indiana, where he attended Goshen Community Schools. After high school, he was recruited to and signed with Ferris State University, where he played five years of very competitive football from 2005 through

2009. During his time at Ferris, he majored in elementary education and double minored in social studies and science. After taking his teaching test to obtain his license, he was certified to teach preschool all the way through fifth grade. Yates was currently working as

a G.A. for Gretchen Walsh while working towards his Masters of Education at Notre Dame College. Presently, he lives in Twinsburg, Ohio. James has one older brother who is a CPA and works in Cleveland for KPMG.

Notre Dame is the first college in Ohio to become a chapter of the Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society for students with disabilities.



The Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society, the first of its kind in the U.S., was founded in 2004 at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania and is open to undergraduate and graduate students with disabilities.

"It is exciting to see the academic success of our ASC/NDC students recognized by a respected national honor society," says Gretchen Walsh, director of the Academic Support Center for Students with Learning Differences. "It shows that our students are real go-getters."

Students initiated into the society must have a documented disability and demonstrate an interest in disability issues.

Undergraduates must have completed a minimum of 24 credits and have earned a grade point average of 3.1 or higher; graduates must have completed at least 18 credits and hold a GPA of 3.3 or higher.

Delta Alpha Pi's slogan is, "Working for an aDAPtable world." Because of the negative stereotyping associated with a disability, students have been reluctant to identify themselves publicly. The Delta Alpha Pi

Honor Society strives to change that perception by recognizing students with disabilities for their achievements. In addition, the society facilitates development of skills in leadership, advocacy and education for student participants.

Notre Dame is the society's newest chapter, Beta Alpha. Eighteen students of the College's Academic Support Center will be inducted into the honor society. It was senior, **Chariya-Marie Curd**, who suggested the College apply to become a chapter.

"High test scores might tell you something about intelligence; low test scores do not tell you anything."

Sr. Jeanne Moenk



ASC Students Leads Habitat for Humanity Trip

A group of Notre Dame students headed to Florida this month to take up Habitat for Humanity's "Collegiate Challenge," a year-round alternative break program that connects students with one of the 200 Habitat affiliates throughout the country.

The group spent one week working in partnership with the local affiliate, the local community and partner families to help eliminate poverty housing in the area.

Sophomore **Erin McGrath**, who coordinated the trip, said that it adds to a student's college experience. "I am excited to see how each individual student will change through the experiences we will gain," she said.

Erin and her fellow volunteers each paid \$100 for the trip, while the College picked up the rest of the tab. The students drove to Florida and made a stop at a Habitat affiliate in Mount Airy, N.C., where they spent the night at a Baptist church.

After enjoying a day off, the students worked on the homes, seven hours a day, for the rest of the week. They stayed at a local church and had the afternoons available to soak up the sun, before heading home to snowy Cleveland.



Some Good Advice...

OMG!! I Missed Class, What Do I Do?

- Call or e-mail your professor ASAP!
- Apologize. It was your fault, so take some ownership.
- Ask for any assignments that you may have missed.
- Get the lecture notes.

Some Good General Advice:

- Get at least 7-8 hours of **sleep**. A refreshed body can deal better with the tensions and burdens of life.
- **Eat** something for breakfast. A nourished brain is more likely to work for you, rather than against you.
- **Exercise**. Even if it's just a little bit, stretch your muscles a few times a day.
- Learn a **relaxation technique**. Being able to relax during a time in your life when relaxation is difficult is truly a gift and is very beneficial during stressful times.

The Cing (The Center Wing of the ASC)

Get Organized this Semester!

Getting organized at the beginning of a new set of classes sets you up for success for the semester. Below you will find some helpful tips for getting (and staying) organized to make this semester your best one yet!

After Each Class, Read Through Your Syllabus.

It is important to know the expectations of the courses that you have started. Reading through your syllabus will help reinforce the professor's expectations and will allow you to see what you need to do in order to be prepared for each class.

Write Down Important Dates in Your Planner.

After viewing your syllabus, you will know when papers and assignments are due and when quizzes and tests are scheduled. Put these dates in your planner right away so they don't sneak up on you. Since dates can (and often do) change, write them in pencil to keep your planner neat.

Organize Your Binders.

You should have a binder for each class. In each binder, place extra lined paper in the event that you need to take notes in class. If your teacher provides handouts, three-hole punch them and place them in your binder, so they are organized. It would be helpful to get section dividers for each binder, so you can organize notes, handouts, graded assignments, and other papers.

HELPFUL HINT:

If receiving PowerPoint notes from your professor, ask him/her to print them as "handouts" with 3-6 slides on each page. This will keep your binder from getting over-stuffed.

Plan out Your Week.

At the beginning of each week of the semester, take a look at the assignments and tests you have coming up over the next couple of weeks. Make a weekly "to-do" list of everything you need to get done for class to make sure it is completed in a timely manner.

Find a Buddy!

Make sure you have a student contact for each one of your classes. If you have a question about an assignment or test coming up and can't get a hold of the professor, you have someone else you can contact for help.

Toss the Trash.

Every couple of weeks, go through your bookbag and binders and see if there is anything that you don't need. If you find an old paper that you no longer need for the class, recycle it. This will help keep your bookbag and binders neat.

Follow these simple tips to be more organized this semester. When students are more organized they tend to be less stressed and perform better.



Important Dates to Remember...

February 3

Dragon and Livescribe Workshop

February 8

Falcon Friends- He Said/She Said

February 9

Transfer to Action

February 16

Parent Leadership Cocktail Kick-off at Mayfield Country Club

February 17

Linked In

February 23

Transfer to Action

February 28 - March 4

Spring Break

March 8

Falcon Friends - Be a part of it!

March 9

Transfer to Action

March 15

Study Skills and Adaptive Equipment Workshop

March 23

Transfer to Action

March 29

Summer Job Anyone?

April 1

Last day to Withdraw

April 4

Transfer to Action

April 19

Falcon Friends - Wrap Up

April 21-25

Easter Break

April 26

Summer Interns Mandatory Meeting

April 29

Recognition Day and Delta Alpha Pi Induction Ceremony



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**“If we all did the things we are capable of,
we would astound ourselves.”**

Thomas Edison

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Changing the World...One Student at a Time.