Math Up: 2013 Learning Resources Exemplary Practice Award

The Association of Florida Colleges (AFC) recognized the Academic Support Center for a program that prepares students for the challenges of Intermediate Algebra (MAT 1033). Math Up: Gateway for Success was awarded the association’s 2013 Learning Resources Exemplary Practice Award. This is the second time in three years that Daytona State’s Academic Support Center (ASC) has been recognized by the association.

On November 15, 2013, three ASC Learning Specialists - Brandi Horn, Michele Pelham, and Rachel Wendt - and the Assistant Chair of the Mathematics department, Barry Gibson, presented at the 64th Annual AFC Convention. They discussed the best practices employed, which make this program a success.

Michele Pelham, ASC Learning Specialist and one of the presenters said:

“It is always exciting to be part of a team that takes an idea to meet students’ needs from beginning stages of development all the way to implementation and evaluation. In designing the curriculum for Math Up, we focused on creating a presentation of study skills and math concepts, which would be flexible, engaging, and stress-free for students. Of course, the best part of all was facilitating the workshops and seeing how students enjoyed it.”

Barry Gibson, Assistant Chair of the Mathematics department states, “The Math Up program has offered students a new avenue to become successful through Intermediate Algebra. Many times students come to DSC and have not taken math courses for an extended period of time. I am now seeing these students perform better because of Math Up!”

The Math Up program is a team effort, mainly between the ASC and the Math department. However, other departments also contributed to the program’s success. For example, the Student Development department helped promote and encouraged students to come to the workshop. Many of the academic chairs and faculty from other disciplines also shared information with students. Robin Campbell, one of the students who attended Math Up wrote:

“Math Up gave me structure, a discipline to actually learn the material, and therefore built my self-confidence as I did well each week. This gave me a solid learning foundation that worked with my style of learning. At the end of Math Up, they held a drawing for two grand prizes of one-on-one tutoring. And I won one of them! However, I did so well that I didn’t need the tutoring, so I asked permission from the department head if I could use them for my next math class. I got an A in the class.”

The team effort is evident, and students reap the rewards. In spring of 2013, the Learning Commons extended the concept of Math Up for MAT1033 to a new set of workshops called Gear Up, which include Word Up for ENC1101(College Composition), Math Up for MAT0028 (Elementary Algebra), Chem Up for introductory science courses, and Digital Literacy Workshops.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

– Nelson Mandela
Learning Commons Employees Receive the Penguin Award in Recognition of Teamwork and Exemplary Customer Service

The Penguin Award was created by Ruby Newell-Legner as part of her training to reinforce teamwork. The goal of this award is to promote collaboration within an organization. The Learning Commons has been awarding the Penguin award to a member of the Academic Support Center, Library and Writing Center for several semesters. This recognition helps boost morale throughout the division and brings awareness to the exemplary work provided by Learning Commons staff. The Penguin Award winners for the Fall 2013 semester include Scott Metzger from the ASC, Cheryl Kohen from the Library and Joshua Cruz from the Writing Center.

Each employee is recognized based on individual qualities such as:

- Customer service
- Attitude toward co-workers and students
- Participation in departmental and college events

Below are some comments their Learning Commons colleagues wrote about them when nominating the recipients:

Scott Metzger, Learning Specialist, Academic Support Center

“Scott has been really so helpful this past few weeks, and always. He is always willing to pitch in and is so flexible with his hours. Scott also has a wide breadth of knowledge. You can assign him anywhere without a problem. He is very easy to get along with because he is honest and tells you how he feels/thinks about things. If you want an honest opinion on how things are going, he is the one to go to. He is a leader in his own way and a model for others on professionalism in the workplace. He is dependable and brings stability to the workplace. Sometimes I wish we can have more of him.”

Cheryl Kohen, Emerging Technology Librarian, Library Services

“Cheryl is always ready to lend a hand anywhere and everywhere with a very pleasing manner and a friendly smile. She makes sure to always acknowledge and say hello to fellow co-workers, listen to and consider their feelings when working with them. She not only teaches classes, facilitates workshops, keeps the guide up to date and running smoothly, she also can be found working and attending various campus events. She does all of this with a smile (while pregnant). Cheryl deserves recognition for all the hard and caring work she performs each and every day!”

“Cheryl consistently creates relationships with people within the Learning Commons and across departments. She remains connected to other institutions and professionals to stay abreast of trends and research. She is professional and represents the Learning Commons and DSC well at all times.”

Writing Center, Learning Specialist, Joshua Cruz

“Josh Cruz consistently presents a personable and friendly manner to students and staff, supporting a cordial working environment and collaboration. When offering assistance and collaborating, he presents suggestions in a thought-provoking and often gently-humorous manner.”

Congratulations to our winners. Your service to the Learning Commons is greatly appreciated!

Be a Global Road Warrior! Library Resource Spotlight

No, this doesn’t mean you are going to co-star in a Mel Gibson movie. It means you might want to check out the library’s Global Road Warrior database. This database was originally designed for business travelers and provides a very detailed profile of every country on earth. The amount of information provided for each country is amazing, everything from basic demographic information to cultural information like superstitions and business etiquette. It even includes recipes for well-known dishes from each country! The database is very easy to use. You just pick your country and then use the left navigation bar to move between categories. So whether you are packing your bags for an around-the-world tour or just going on a mental vacation from the comfort of your couch, Global Road Warrior is a great travel (and research) companion.

“When you know better, you do better.”
– Maya Angelou
Good Times with the Good Times Committee
The Division of Library and Academic Student Services established a Good Times committee this past summer, in which staff members from our three departments plan events that will engage students and promote the Learning Commons. The Good Times Committee enjoyed a wonderful Fall 2013 semester of developing and marketing events that were both fun and informative for the DSC community. Below are some highlights from these well-attended events!

Banned Books Week, September 22-28, 2013
The Daytona and DeLand libraries handed out bookmarks and buttons, organized book displays, and created reading lists all to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Banned Books Week, the national book community’s celebration of the freedom to read.

National Tutoring Week, October 7-11
The Academic Support Center, Library, and DSC/UCF Writing Center celebrated National Tutoring Week by hosting a Jeopardy-like event, Stump the Tutor, in the lobby of the Daytona campus Library. Students enjoyed answering questions on commonly tutored subject areas, such as math, grammar, and science, while both competing against and getting help from Learning Commons tutors.

Spooky Spelling Bee, October 31
Hosted by our Spelling Zom-bee, students enjoyed competing against each other to correctly spell Halloween themed words and receive Halloween candy! Examples of our spooky spelling words included ghoulish, hobgoblin, Nosferatu, and tarantula.

Technology Petting Zoo, November 6
In collaboration with the Information Technology department and the Advanced Technology College, the Learning Commons hosted a Technology Petting Zoo, where students could be ‘hands-on’ while testing out tablets, lap-tops, and robots!

Student Art Show, December 4-5
The Daytona Library and DSC/UCF Writing Center were delighted to host the first DSC Art Club Exhibit! The opening was a huge success. Students showed and sold their art to the DSC community, with all proceeds going to support future initiatives by the student club.

(Don’t) Cram for the Exam, December 4, 5
Hosted on the Daytona, DeLand, and Deltona campuses, students were able to de-stress during finals with free snacks, raffles, prizes, learning materials, extra tutoring help, and therapy dogs! The event allowed students to use and learn more about the services that the Academic Support Center, DSC-USF Writing Center, and Library provide. Learning Commons tutors worked with students to clarify concepts for their final exams. Students used conceptual-based handouts, which highlighted key points for Math and English core courses. Students were able to take mental breaks and enjoy coloring book activities that were then displayed in the library.
Apart from activities and food, students were also able to enter several raffles to win prizes such as flash drives, mouse pads, and stress balls. The Learning Commons would like to thank the DeLand School of Dental Sciences, the Deltona Cosmetology department, the Daytona, DeLand, and Deltona faculty who stopped by, and Co-Curricular Activities for their support. Additionally, special thanks to the Reading Paws therapy dogs and their human companions! Learn more about this great organization: http://www.readingpaws.org/.

New Staff
Janson Jones

Janson Jones is a native Floridian raised in Volusia County. After graduating from Seabreeze High School, he studied biology and creative writing at Florida State University. He eventually transferred to the University of Oklahoma and completed his B.A. in Creative Writing & Composition and M.A. in Modernity & Theory. After that, his life in academia took quite the circuitous trip across the country. With a strong focus on composition, rhetoric, technology, and discourse communities, Janson taught composition for thirteen years at OU, Daytona State College, the University of Alaska Anchorage, and Valdosta State University. He also served as the inaugural director of the Digital Composition Studio while in Alaska at UAA. Jones is now a Coordinator for the University of Central Florida's Academic Support Services and serves as a Learning Specialist for the DSC-UCF Writing Center. His life outside academia is filled with multiple iTunes album downloads, nature photography, wildlife blogging, and keeping up with his four-year old daughter, Auralia.

What Are You Reading?

Beata Kozlowski, Library Media Technician

The Private Life of the Brain: Emotions, Consciousness, and the Secret of the Self by Susan Greenfield

“Neuroscientist Susan Greenfield examines emotions as building blocks of consciousness. Through the exploration of varied states of human experience such as childhood, mental illness, and drug addiction, she proposes how emotion will ebb and flow in relation to self-consciousness.”

Michelle McCraney

A House in the Sky by Amanda Lindhout

“This book truly speaks to the power of the human spirit and one’s ability to overcome tragedy.”

Rachel Owens, Associate Professor, Baccalaureate Studies Librarian

The Sound and the Furry: A Chet and Bernie Mystery by Spencer Quinn

“The latest in the Chet and Bernie mystery series, these books are funny and full of heart, a must for all dog lovers.”

Joy Bancroft, Learning & Media Specialist

The Ocean at the End of the Lane by Neil Gaiman

“This is my first foray into Neil Gaiman, and it’s one of those books you stay up too late to finish. It’s adventure, mystery, myth, and memory – in 178 riveting pages.”

Nancy Jontes-Lee, Senior Library Media Technician

Bad Monkey by Carl Hiaasen

“He writes about places in Florida I’m familiar with.”

Michiko Gosney, Assistant Director, Academic Support Center

The Dog Stars by Peter Heller

“A post-apocalyptic novel, but what I like about this genre and this book is how despite of tragedy where everything the hero knows about life has changed and will never return to what it used to be, there is still a way to find goodness, and there is always hope.”
Rachel Owens: Librarian Author Extraordinaire

DSC Librarian, Rachel Owens, has been writing fiction since June 2012. She decided to become an author herself because “[she] wanted to read something that didn’t exist.” Her series, the Jamie Brodie Mysteries, revolve around a librarian, Jamie Brodie, who solves mysteries using the power of research. Rachel’s got four currently published (Cited to Death, Hoarded to Death, Burdened to Death, and Researched to Death) on Kindle and is working on the fifth of the series, Encountered to Death. She doesn’t plan on breaking into any other genres as a writer because she loves the “puzzle aspect” of the mystery, and it’s even her favorite genre to read.

When Rachel’s not writing, she’s an avid organic gardener, kitten mother, and world traveler.

Accolades

The Division of Library and Academic Student Services continues to go above and beyond! See all of the professional development our staff is pursuing.

Fatima Gilbert, Supplemental Instruction Coordinator, presented at the Daytona State College Global Education Lunch & Learn Series on November 6th, 2013. She talked about what life was like during the Kingdom of Shah and 2500 years of the Persian Empire. She also discussed what life was like after the Revolution of 1979.

Cheryl Kohen, Emerging Technology Librarian, has given two webinars on the benefits of using social media in the library. On October 16th, Are You LinkedIn? Professional Networking 2.0 was given to the Northeast Florida Library Information Network and Using Social Media to Promote Your Library’s Services and Generate Fun! was given on August 21st to the Southeast Florida Library Information Network.

Jenna Kranz, Associate Director of the Writing Center, has been busy researching and studying the effects of collaborative learning spaces on student engagement and success. In October, she was invited to Stetson University to present on rhetorical space design to administrators from across the college. After the presentation and Q&A session, Jenna visited several areas on campus in which she was asked to re-envision their current spaces and consider ways each could improve based on user needs. She sees publishing in her future, and with Dr. Harold “Trey” Orndorff, Assistant Professor of Political Science, has been writing the hypothesis, abstract, and research methods section that will be used for a Spring 2014 comparative study of different learning spaces.

Joyce Scott Retires from the Library

After 11 years of service with Daytona State College Library, Joyce Scott, Library Media Technician, is retiring. During her time as Library staff, Joyce primarily worked in the Technical Services area and assisted with staffing the Circulation Desk. Manager Dustin Weeks commented that, “Joyce has always been one of those utterly reliable employees who responds to any requests with a smile and ‘No problem.’ She has earned every moment of her retirement and will be sorely missed by all of her library family.” Joyce plans to spend more time with her family and be more active in her church, but expresses that she will truly miss everyone at the college!

Judie May Retires from the Academic Support Center

Judie May has been with Daytona State College for almost 20 years. She started as a student employee tutoring for the Student Disability Services department and later worked full-time for DSC as a learning specialist for 14 years. Judie is known to be “the quiet one.” She is always focused on tutoring students and is one of the most sought after learning specialists at the ASC. Celayne Moore, DSC student, wrote, “Ms. Judie May is so wonderful. She teaches me according to my learning style. She is good at explaining and has really helped me a lot! Thank you so much.”

Judie will certainly be missed by both the students and her co-workers, but the good news is that she is not planning to leave the ASC full-time. Judie is planning to volunteer part-time as a tutor. In addition, she is looking forward to spending more time with her five grandsons - Kayden, Mekhi, Terren, Cameron, and Damon - and teaching them to enjoy her favorite hobby, drawing. She is also looking forward to more snuggle time with her cat, Molly May.

“You can never be overdressed or overeducated.”
– Oscar Wilde
Student Employee Spotlight

Ray Stefaniw is a First Impressions Clerk with the Library Services Department. His goal is to earn his business degree. This is Ray’s second attempt at getting a degree; he was four credits away from getting his Associate of Science degree from Kaplan College when life got in the way of his education. Ray started a family and had to work full-time as a collection agent for Emmett Goodman Jr. Law Firm in Macon, Georgia. However, after several years of working, he realized he needed a degree, and that is why he is back at Daytona State College, to pursue his dreams. Ray said, “I love it here, both as a student employee and as a student. My interactions with faculty and students are always pleasant. I enjoy working for the library.” In his free time, he enjoys travelling with his two children, 11-year-old Madeline and 13-year-old Connor. He is also a mean poker player.

Student Spotlight: Miss Norma

Norma Poole-Bland, affectionately known by the Learning Commons’ staff as Miss Norma, is a Daytona Beach native, mother of one, and welcomed presence throughout our division. She’s been attending Daytona State College since October of 2012 and is currently working toward her AA in Criminal Justice. She loves the education she’s getting here at DSC and notes she wouldn’t be able to do it without the Learning Commons. Miss Norma says the Learning Commons has “the most patient, professional, sympathetic staff to assist with any class or writing assignment.” After she earns her AA, she plans on working toward her BA in the same field. After that, she dreams of attending Stetson Law.

In addition to her busy academic life, Miss Norma is an active volunteer and community activist. She works with local law enforcement for safe streets and safe neighborhoods, volunteers with the 7th Judicial Circuit to help families of murder and homicide victims, and does HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, and teenage pregnancy outreach.

Miss Norma’s educational path and her love of community lend itself perfectly to her future career goal. She wants to ultimately lead to the modification of laws regarding women, children, and minorities.

“The Bean

In the Library

Monday - Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

“Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation.”
– Walter Cronkite