

Friends of the Academic Skills Center

a newsletter dedicated to the ASC

* Academic Skills Center * 301 Collis Center * Dartmouth College * Volume One * Fall 2003 *

New Deaf Services Program at Dartmouth

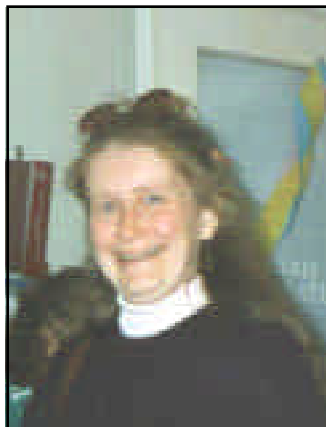


Janice Wightman

The Academic Skills Center welcomes **Janice Wightman, CI**, to the brand-new position of Interpreter/Coordinator. For the first time, Dartmouth is experiencing a demand for sign language interpreters in undergraduate classes and extracurricular activities. Janice coordinates accommodations for deaf students as well as providing interpreting services. Janice hails from Brattleboro, VT, where she worked for many years with the Austine School for the Deaf and the Vermont Interpreter Referral Service. "Dartmouth feels like a family," Janice says. "Even though my position is a new experience for the College, I have received incredible support in creating this program." In addition to interpreting for deaf students, Janice educates other members of the Dartmouth community who wish to learn more about interpreting. ❖

Study Group Program Breaks Record

The Study Group Program has expanded dramatically under the leadership of **Holly Potter**. This term, a record-breaking forty-one study groups are being offered in a range of subjects, including Biology, Economics, and Physics. "Study groups are basically tutoring in a group environment, with a trained leader who is there to facilitate discussion and academic support," says Holly. "Because student feedback from past terms has been so favorable, we've put additional effort into advertising,



Holly Potter

A Message from our Director

Hello again! You used the Academic Skills Center at some point during your undergraduate career, whether for tutoring, study skills strategies or disabilities services. We are sending you this newsletter because we remember you and want to update you about the ASC. We'd certainly like to hear from you, too.



Carl Thum, PhD

Let us know what you think about the newsletter via email at asc@dartmouth.edu, or send us a postcard at HB 6173, Hanover, NH 03755.

Athletes & the ASC

Robert Morrissey, Academic Counselor and CHAMPS Life Skills Coordinator, celebrated his first year in his position as a liaison between the Academic Skills Center and the Athletics Department. The CHAMPS Life Skills Program is an NCAA initiative designed to encourage students to make five life skills commitments (academic excellence, athletic excellence, community service, personal development, and career development). "CHAMPS essentially consists of programming for student-athletes when they're off the field," says Rob. "We bring speakers to campus to talk about issues affecting athletes, get teams involved in community service, and educate student-athletes about the resources that are available to them, such as the Academic Skills Center or the nutritionist at Dick's House." Rob offers individual advising and workshops with a focus on student-athletes. ❖



Rob Morrissey

which has paid off in a 30% increase in the number of study groups offered." ❖

Disabilities News



Nancy Pompian

Nancy Pompian, Student Disabilities Coordinator, writes: Fall term 2003, the number of students with disabilities was stable within four categories, with no significant increases. Learning disabilities, often combined with Attention Deficit Disorder (both inattentive and hyperactive), number 127 and far outweigh the three other categories: psychiatric disabilities, 24; Attention

Deficit Disorder without learning disabilities, 22; and physical disabilities, 22 (examples: cerebral palsy, deaf and hard of hearing, lupus, bone and joint disorders, low vision, narcolepsy, and Crohn's disease). For the first time, we are serving students who use sign language. Other students who are deaf or hard of hearing take advantage of remote real-time captioning (CART). A stenocaptioner in another state listens to a classroom lecture over a high-grade telephone line and sends back the translated-into-English words to the student's laptop over the Internet. The delay is about one second.

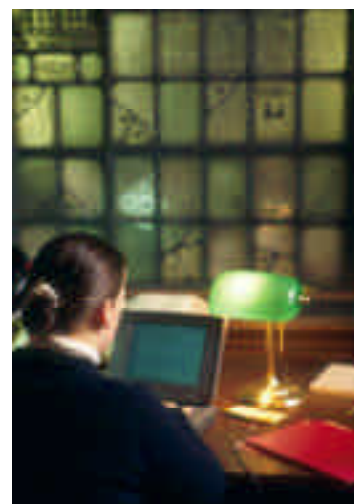
The commonest accommodations for all students with disabilities are extended time for exams, a separate room for exams, and a reduced course load. Each accommodation is granted on a case-by-case basis, and the documentation must support the accommodation. Students who are unable to carry three courses at a time may take two courses and petition for reduced tuition; if their disabilities are severe, they will be

granted tuition relief. To date, reduced tuition has been approved for certain psychiatric conditions and traumatic brain injuries.

Five years ago, a Dartmouth alumnus with dyslexic children donated Dragon Dictate Naturally Speaking software and a computer, which are kept in Berry Library. The program allows students with writing disorders or hand

problems to dictate their papers and essay exams, which are translated into words on the screen. A student who has benefitted from using DDNS trains other students in the use of the software. Another student, the ASC's intern, dictates exams into a tape recorder and acts as a scribe for students who can't use their writing or keyboarding hands. The intern has also scanned reading materials to be read aloud on the Kurzweil reading program, also located in Berry Library. Other auxiliary aids are loans of laptops, tape recorders, and assistive listening devices.

In the last five years, students with disabilities have received advising on life after Dartmouth, to smooth the transition to employment and graduate school. Many of them keep in touch and tell us how the world beyond Dartmouth is expanding horizons and offering flexibility in graduate education and the workplace. ❖

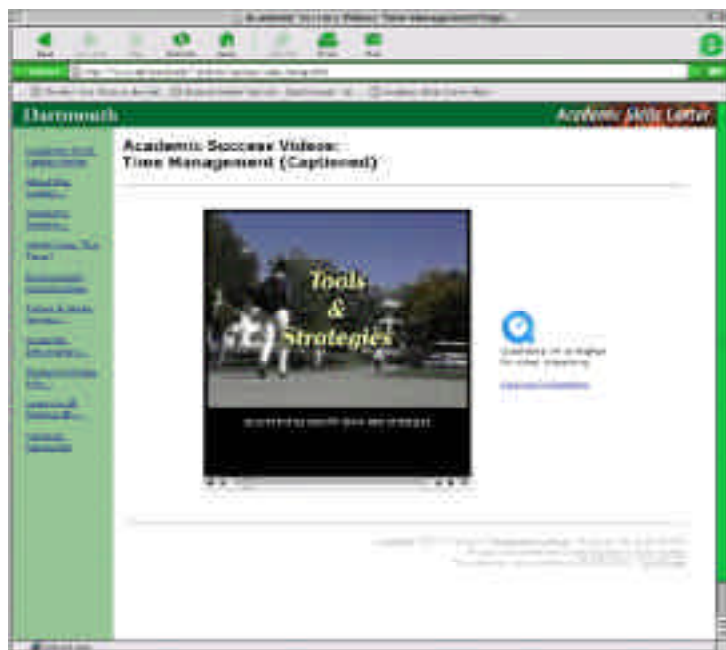


Studying in Baker

ASC Goes Digital

Reflecting the increased dependence on electronic media and digital information throughout the College, the ASC has now placed a large proportion of its information on its web site (<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills>). The web site, which was revamped last year, now includes our Strategic Learning videos and many of our free handouts. It also includes application forms for tutors and study groups, reflecting the ASC's efforts to make academic support as accessible as possible.

The ASC has also been experimenting with a digital version of its term flyer. Currently, every first- and second-year student receives a copy of the flyer each term in his or her Hinman box. The flyers, which contain useful information about upcoming ASC events and general services, are often lost in the piles of brochures that students receive every term and end up in the recycling bin before they even get a glance. In order to save paper and money, ASC Intern **Petra Halsema '03** designed a PDF version of the flyer, which will ideally be distributed via Blitzmail at the beginning of winter term. ❖



You can explore the ASC web site at www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills