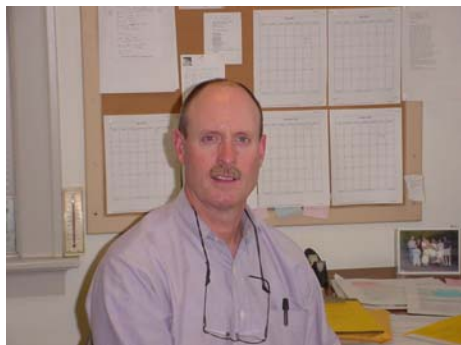


Academic Skills Center Newsletter

Spring 2005
Volume 2, Issue 1

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Academic Skills Center
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Dartmouth College



Carl Thum, Director ASC

A Message from the Director

Greetings from Hanover and Dartmouth! Several transitional items have occurred this year in the ASC.

Kate Eifler joins Janice Wightman as an interpreter for Dartmouth's deaf/hard of hearing students.

Rob Morrissey, after two years of accomplishments in the ASC and DCAD, moved over to the Development part of campus. Michelle Smith has done a great job already of taking over the special responsibilities of working with Dartmouth's student athletes.

And Nancy Pompian, after over twenty years of dedicated service to student learning and students with disabilities, is retiring on June 3. A celebration of her years of excellent work will be held on Monday, May 23. Please blitz or write

her, if you have something special to say her as she leaves her work at the College.

Cathy Trueba will be starting her role as Director of Student Disabilities Services on July 18. Cathy comes to Dartmouth from the University of Wisconsin.

This is our second e-newsletter to alumni who have a special relationship to the Academic Skills Center. We received several responses to our first e-newsletter and will be happy to receive e-mails, letters, or calls from you again.

- Carl Thum

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Deaf Services Program Expands



*Janice Wightman,
Interpreter/Coordinator*



*Kate Eifler,
Staff interpreter*

Dartmouth has continued to experience growing demand for interpreting services. As a result, the ASC was pleased to welcome Kate Eifler as a full time staff interpreter at the beginning of the 04-05 school year. Kate joined us from the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis, St. Paul, where she interpreted for several years before coming to Dartmouth. Kate also came to Hanover for the kayaking and the small town life. She enjoys the woods and the weather in New Hampshire too. Kate along with Janice Wightman, staff interpreter/coordinator, provide interpreting services for undergraduate curricular classes and extracurricular activities. Interpreting services are provided to meet the College's growing

interpreting needs and increase the sense of community for deaf/hard of hearing students.

Dartmouth College strives to promote equal learning opportunities for all students, faculty, staff and guest. Deaf Services is a primary method of ensuring these equal opportunities as well as facilitating access to courses, programs, and activities through sign language and interpreting services, auxiliary aids, training, and consultation.

Kate and Janice hope to continue to enable all aspects of the College to remain barrier-free environments and to continue the improvement of the Deaf Services Program at Dartmouth.

From the Director of Disabilities...



*Director of Student
Disabilities Services,
Nancy Pompian*

*"It's been
impossible not to
be inspired by
buoyant, smart,
and resourceful
young adults
developing before
my eyes..."*

~ Nancy Pompian

In the early 80's, I received two pieces of advice: don't be a mother to students and don't look to them for inspiration. I have tried not to tell students what to do, even when many asked for direct advice. But it's been impossible not to be inspired by buoyant, smart, and resourceful young adults developing before my eyes. Some of those students are now the parents of young adults themselves. Happily and sadly, spring term marks the end of twenty-four years in the best job I ever had. Thanks to all the alums reading this and to current students who have worked so hard to help themselves and to help others make the most of their educational experiences.

Highlights over the years have been establishing disabilities services, Dartmouth's three national symposiums on learning and psychiatric disabilities, in 1987, 1989, and 2000; a forceful student group that pushed for a waiver of the foreign language requirement for learning

disabilities and (later) hearing loss; a student-run chronic illness discussion group that ran for years; linking psychiatric services with Dick's House Counseling, hiring sign language interpreters for deaf and hard of hearing students, and building a network of evaluators, disabilities coordinators, and Dartmouth colleagues who keep the wheels turning. Throughout the years, Carl Thum has been a constant source of encouragement, support, and good ideas.

Cathy Trueba will be taking over this summer. Dartmouth is very fortunate to attract such talent and experience in its chosen candidate. I extend to Cathy best wishes for a long and enriching experience as director of student disabilities services.

~ Nancy Pompian

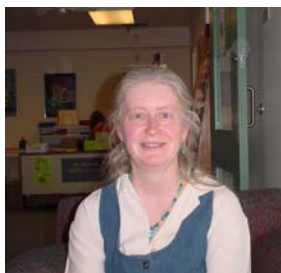
Tutor Clearinghouse Continues to Grow

This spring marks the beginning of Holly's fourth year at the helm of the Tutor Clearinghouse programs and activities.

The Tutor Clearinghouse has always been a centerpiece operation in the Academic Skills Center. Holly has been focusing her attention on solidifying the Study Groups that have been traditionally offered, while trying some new things, as well. Advertising and recruiting are keys to our efforts. She is getting the word out to a wider audience; hanging banners in the Collis Atrium at the beginning of each term and including pertinent information in the Coed Fraternity Sorority newsletter. "Usage of the Tutor Clearinghouse programs has increased by 10 percent over the last four years. Of course, I'd like to see the numbers continue to

increase."

Other activities that have kept Holly busy this year include developing a pilot program to offer review sessions for study groups prior to midterms and finals. "One phenomenon we've noticed over the course of the last four years is that prior to exams many study groups experience a flood of participants who've not registered with the group. While I see this as a good indicator of our success, this effort is aimed at addressing the need without disrupting the dynamic of a group that has grown over time." This new program is still in its developing stages and is anticipated to be fine-tuned over the next year.



*Tutor Clearinghouse
Coordinator, Holly Potter*



*Holly, Janice and ASC
student assistants Kelly
Thomason '05, Elizabeth
Swedo '06, and Pam Cortland
'06, at Nancy's retirement
reception*

There is a NEW Academic Advisor and CHAMPS/Life Skills Coordinator at Dartmouth

Michelle Smith is halfway through her first year as the new Student-Athlete Academic Advisor and CHAMPS Life Skills Coordinator. In an effort to meet the diverse needs of Dartmouth student-athletes, one of Michelle's primary responsibilities is to serve as a liaison between the Academic Skills Center and the Athletic Department. As the Academic Advisor to student-athletes, Michelle offers individual advising on topics such as mapping out D-plans, course selection, and effective time management and study skills.

"The CHAMPS/Life Skills Program has been successful at meeting the needs of Dartmouth student-athletes in the few years the program has been in existence at Dartmouth," Michelle said. As the coordinator of the CHAMPS program, Michelle focuses on informing student-

athletes of the many resources on campus through individual and team meetings, workshops and programs. "My goals for the future of the program are to continue to develop and expand the CHAMPS/Life Skills program at Dartmouth through the addition of various programs, speakers and workshops," says Michelle.

Michelle's first year at the ASC has gotten off to a quick start and we look forward to many more!



Michelle Smith,
Academic Advisor/CHAMPS
Life Skills Coordinator

ASC to welcome a new Disabilities Director

After an extensive search process, the ASC looks forward to welcoming Cathy Trueba as the new Director of Student Disabilities Services in June.

Cathy grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah, and completed her undergraduate education at the University of Utah. After spending a year skiing at Stowe, when she first fell in love with New England, she moved back to Colorado where she taught skiing for two years and worked part time at the ESL program at a public school.

After realizing she enjoyed working with young people, Cathy moved to Madison, Wisconsin in 1984 and received her Masters in Special Education. After teaching high school for a year, she was hired by the University of Wisconsin as a learning disabilities specialist.

Cathy has been at the University of Wisconsin, Madison since 1987 working at the McBurney Disability Resource Center, the campus student disability

services office. She began working solely with students with learning disabilities, but soon began to work with students of all types of disabilities and to oversee the accommodations specialists.

Cathy says that she is "looking forward to being part of a small, highly regarded campus community where I can work closely with students, administration and faculty to deliver the best possible service to students with disabilities. I am excited about the opportunities to develop progressive and innovative ways to deliver services and involve students in achieving their goals. I am happy to be back in this beautiful part of the country and taking part in the educational, social and recreational activities of the region."

We are all looking forward to Cathy's arrival in July!

By the Numbers: The ASC at a Glance

*128: Number of active tutors
Spring '05*

*48: Number of study groups
offered Spring '05 covering 18
different courses*

*41: Number of stairs one must
climb to get to the ASC*

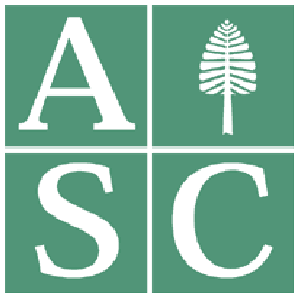
*34: Average number of students
seen by Carl and Nancy in a
given week*

*27.6: Average number of blitzes
sent from the ASC account on
a given day*

*6: Number of full time staff at
the ASC plus one full-time
student office assistant and
two part-time student
assistants*



Cathy Trueba,
Incoming Director of
Student Disabilities
Services



Academic Skills Center

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**Helping Students
achieve academic
success**

Check out our website!
www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills

Bon Voyage Nancy!

Nancy Pompian will be retiring this June after 24 years of dedicated service to students and the Dartmouth community at large. She has been the driving force behind disabilities services and will be greatly missed here at the ASC.

A reception will be held on Monday, May 23 at the Top of the Hop in order to recognize and celebrate all of her efforts throughout the years.

Nancy will continue to live in Hanover, where she and her husband moved from Haverhill, NH four years ago. She plans to take a year to explore what's next (and do some traveling, too). She will continue to consult for the Educational Testing Service.

We want to thank Nancy and wish her the best of luck in the next chapter of her life's journey!

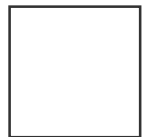
A special thanks to all students who have worked for us this year:

Sheila Quigley, Pamela Cortland, Elizabeth Swedo, Kelly Thomason and our many tutors and study group leaders

Let us know what you think about the newsletter via email or mail to the addresses listed to the left!

Kelly Thomason '05 ASC newsletter editor

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