

Student Assistance Center Offers Tutoring

By Kimberly Anastas

Students having difficulty with their coursework are now able to receive personal tutoring simply by contacting the Student Assistance Center.

Linda Meashey, academic assistance counselor, said the University has recently made funds available for tutoring.

Tutoring is free to all students. The funds are used to pay student tutors.

A student must have a grade point of average of 3.0 or higher and must complete an interview to be eligible to become a tutor.

In the past, said Meashey, "individual tutoring was very spotty to non-existent."

The response, said Meashey, has been good so far. Many students have expressed an interest in tutoring, although tutors are still being sought for certain subjects.

If no tutor is available for a requested subject, Meashey said she will contact the professor for assistance in locating a tutor.

"We'll work to find a tutor for a student if none is available," she said.

Tutoring, however, may not always be the answer.

If a student is having trouble with a particular math problem, for example, he may decide to go to the Math Clinic under the direction of Dr. Jeff Hartzler,

program chair for mathematical science and computer science.

"The Math Clinic is for homework help. . . For more extensive help, students may want to go to the Student Assistance Center for one-on-one help,"

Photo by Jeff Quinn



said Hartzler.

The clinic, said Hartzler, is open many hours a week and faculty as well as student tutors are available for assistance.

Student tutors from the Student

Assistance Center and the student seeking the tutor, said Meashey, try to set up a meeting time convenient for both.

The Writing Lab, under the direction of Joanne Smith, is available for

that all the tutors in the Writing Lab have at least a bachelor's degree.

She said that many are graduate students.

Several students, said Ridley, schedule weekly appointments at the Writing Lab to ensure an improvement in their writing skills.

Meashey, who began her position in August, said that her responsibility as an academic counselor is to help students wherever and however they need it.

Tutoring is one way in which students can seek additional help from SAC. Meashey said that if peer tutoring is not helpful to some students, group sessions in note-taking, for example, can be arranged.

"No student will be turned away."

Meashey said some problems can be solved just by talking to someone.

"We'll do our best to help those who seek help," she said.

"My job never existed [at Penn State Harrisburg] before. Pieces of it were being done by different people. My position is good for the students because they can come to me and we can work out their [academic] problems or I can refer them to whomever they need."

students seeking help with term papers, resumes, and letter writing.

Located in W-242 Olmsted, the Writing Lab is available for students by appointment.

Lisa Ridley, student employee, said

* Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles on the Student Assistance Center.

Dorm R.A.s Are People Too

By Penny McDonald

When students enter a campus dormitory for the first time, they are usually unsure about the rules and rights of students.

They then ask the returning students all the vital questions they need to know in order to survive on campus.

The veterans will usually help them find answers to all of their questions, but may stress to the new student not to turn to their resident assistant because he is a "cop" or a "snitch."

Most students do not know that resident assistants (R.A.s) are here to help more than be enforcers.

They are students too and they want to be treated as such.

They have normal goals and dreams just as any other student would. They just happen to like helping others.

Joanne Smith is the R.A. on first floor Wrisberg.

An accounting major, she wanted to be a resident assistant because she was very active at her previous campus and now she wants to try something different.

Smith has big hopes for her floor; she said she "wants to give everyone a sense of belonging and help the year be more pleasant."

Scott Squeglia is the resident assistant on second floor Wrisberg. A criminal justice major, he wanted to be a resident assistant to develop his interpersonal and leadership skills.

Squeglia said he wants to build a community on his floor "where

understanding and respect dominate."

Saul Pellicano is the resident assistant on third floor Wrisberg. A math science major, he wanted to be a resident assistant because he wanted to learn how to communicate with different types of people.

Pellicano's goals for his floor are to have a sense of respect between students and to help them learn how to deal with each other."

Eugene McCoy is the resident assistant on first floor Church. A public policy major, he wanted to become an R.A. because he likes to help people and he likes to be close to the administration to help convey information to the students.

McCoy said he would also like to develop a sense of community between students on his floor.

The resident assistant on second floor Church is Kim Ahner. An accounting major, Ahner also emphasizes helping people and creating a sense of community.

She said she would like to create "happy memories for the girls on [her] floor."

Mark Olenick is the resident assistant on third floor Church. An EET major, he took the position because "it's a great way to make a lot of friends at once."

Typically, Olenick also hopes to create a community on his floor.

The dormitory resident assistants appear to have the right attitudes and, of course, they are there to help anyone who needs help in any way.

Dr. King Is Remembered

By Bernie Mixon

It was like stepping back into the pages of history.

Fifty thousand people gathered at the Washington Monument to retrace the steps of Martin Luther King and his followers participating in the original March on Washington held 25 years ago, on Aug. 28, 1963.

King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech to a quarter of a million people who gathered to march for civil rights.

Amid 90+ degree temperatures, Reverend Jesse Jackson, Coretta Scott King, widow of the slain civil rights leader, and Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis, led demonstrators in marching to the Lincoln Memorial, singing "We Shall Overcome" as they went.

Jackson said that 25 years ago "we looked forward to new frontiers" under President Kennedy.

"Today, Reagan and Bush attempt to return us to an old fortress," he said.

"They are trying to rebuild old walls. They have fought to crush the dream."

Dukakis said many of the late civil rights leaders' dreams remain unfulfilled and, if elected, he will work to change it.

"We cannot look back or look down when we know that the cancer of racism and bigotry is still with us and that over the healed wounds of the past, new wounds are opening in our cities and in our suburbs," he said.

"We have to look up, because that

march for good jobs and real freedom didn't end that August afternoon 25 years ago. We have to march on."

But the question on the minds of many people attending the march was: "Where is George?"

Republican presidential candidate George Bush was not present at the march.

When it was announced to the audience that invitations were extended to both presidential candidates, the crowd began chanting this rhetorical question.

While in California campaigning for Republican candidates, President Reagan issued a statement saying that since King led the landmark March on Washington, "America has made vast progress toward fully achieving Dr. King's dream of a color-blind society."

George H. Love, president of the Greater Harrisburg Chapter of the NAACP, said that today's college students have encountered some of the problems that their mothers and fathers went through when they were in college.

"On predominantly white college campuses, college students are coming across things that their parents hoped would end," said Love.

He cited the April sit-ins at University Park as prime examples.

Love predicted that the "25th Anniversary" will reflect continuing solidarity among people who are concerned with fairness and equality, so that negative forces will not prevail."

The Associated Press Contributed to this report.