Tutoring Center gains recognition

By Tim Green
Staff Writer

High standards in tutor training have landed the student teachers of Rider’s Tutoring Services acknowledgment from the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA).

CRLA is an organization that comprises developmental educators, tutors and instructors of college reading courses. The association provides information on ways to improve student instruction.

The training program that is currently being used by Tutoring Services was evaluated by CRLA and now many of the student instructors will receive certification as well. The learning center itself was certified by the organization in 1995.

“I am happy about it because it means the tutors are getting recognition,” said Kenneth Friedman, director of Rider’s Learning Center and Tutoring Services.

“This will benefit the tutors in their careers or in graduate school.”

Rider’s Tutoring Services puts its peer tutors through a “rigorous” training program so that they may be of more assistance to students in need of tutoring, according to Friedman.

All student tutors engage in a 10-hour training program, as well as completing 25 hours of actual student tutoring.

“I did two years of research before developing the training program,” Friedman said. “The program is more comprehensive than other universities that are larger than we are.”

A key component in the tutoring program is the use of supplement instructors. These special student tutors are made available in all areas of study. The supplement instructors go through the normal tutor training program, as well as a more intensive instruction in group dynamics and interactive learning strategies, according to Friedman. In most cases, the supplemental instructors will sit in on the course lectures for the subject they are tutoring.

“I went over ways to convey information, work with large groups and dealt with questions I probably wouldn’t know how to answer,” said Bruce Matechin, a junior biochemistry major who works as a supplemental instructor.

Matechin described his first time working as a supplemental instructor as a “scary situation,” but he always makes an attempt to help his students.

“The first class I tutored had 25 students in it, so I sort of felt like I was a professor,” he said. “As a tutor I always try to make the students understand. If someone doesn’t know where I am going I will sit down with that person individually after class, or I will try to have another student explain it to him or her. That way another student I am tutoring can learn the material better by explaining it to someone else.”

Robin Matlack, a junior biology major, also works as a supplemental instructor for Tutoring Services. She feels working as a tutor helps her gain a better grasp on the subjects that she is studying at Rider.

“It helps me to figure out if I know what I am talking about,” Matlack said. “It serves as a good reinforcement.”

Qiana Jackson, a sophomore biology major, is one of Matlack’s students, and she believes her tutor to be very thorough.

“Robin reinforces what I am learning in the lecture,” said Jackson. “She breaks down all the aspects of the material from A to Z. I also like that she gives other examples for me to learn from.”

Tutoring Services is currently participating in a study conducted by the University of Missouri, Kansas City, which is evaluating the effectiveness of the use of supplement instructors, according to Friedman.

At other universities where supplement instructors are used, students being helped by the special tutors on average receive a grade that is 25 percent higher than students who do not make use of tutoring, according to center personnel.

At Rider, students who use supplement instructors get a grade that is 51 percent higher than students who do not have tutors.

Last year, approximately 900 students made use of tutoring. Most of the students who go to Tutoring Services are freshmen, but the center is making an effort to help students at any course level.

Free tutoring is available in a variety of different styles of tutoring such as: one-on-one instruction, small group, walk-in and supplemental instruction.

Tutoring Services offers assistance in any class that a student needs additional help in, no matter what a student’s weakness is.

“Many universities limit tutoring to people with low GPAs, but here at Rider anyone can get it,” said Friedman.

Security Briefs

All information provided by Vickie Weaver, director of Safety and Security

Desk Beating

Security responded to a fight in progress at Poyda residence hall early Saturday morning, Oct. 12.

Before being restrained by a fellow student, a male student broke a desk into pieces.

Upon the arrival of security, the vandal ran in the direction of Centennial Lake but not before jumping on a student’s vehicle on route to his destination.

Lawrence Police Department was contacted and upon arrival found the student to be intoxicated to the extent that medical assistance was necessary. The student was sent to a nearby hospital and charged with an underage drinking violation.

Door Beating

A male student was seen kicking doors on the B-wing of Poyda residence hall on Saturday, Oct. 12.

When asked by the Residence Director to stop, the student refused to comply and fled campus.

When security arrived, the Residence Director pointed out vulgar remarks printed on the hall windows by the male suspect.

The student was charged with verbal harassment, humiliation, indecent conduct and failure to comply.

Stay Dry...

Fire safety was taken to a whole new level in Poyda residence hall, in the early hours of Tuesday Oct. 15.

Awakened by a fire alarm at three in the morning, a male student opened his door only to be inundated by a bucket of water that had been tilted against his door by unknown suspects.

The tidal wave damaged the student’s books, clothing, carpet and sneakers.

Nothing was filed because no one was found.

Reminder from Security:

According to The Source, any student found in the presence of alcohol can be arrested by the Lawrence Police Dept. Safety and Security urges all students to drink responsibly.