

Learning center offers extra programs, educational support

By Lauren Varga

The Rider Learning Center (RLC) shows its support for students' education by offering extra educational support beyond the classroom and helping students improve upon their academic standings.

Rider University offers many programs free of charge to students who seek extra help or support in their studies. One of these programs is the Educational Enhancement Program (EEP).

"EEP provides programming, tutoring, courses, seminars and services for the whole Lawrenceville campus and Westminster," said Kendall Friedman, associate director of the RLC, Tutoring Services, and of EEP. "Although we have particular populations that we need to administer to."

Within EEP there are a number of programs offered. One of these areas is the Math Skills Lab (MSL). This program is taught through individual tutoring, structured workshops and computer assisted instruction.

According to Friedman, MSL is a self-passed math course for liberal arts and education students who did not pass the

math portion of the placement test.

"What is great about the MSL is that you can go at your own pace," said junior Natalie Stetser.

Another area EEP focuses on is Introduction to Academic Reading and College Reading.

"Introduction to Academic Reading is for students who took the reading portion of the English placement test and did not pass," said Friedman.

"The second class is College Reading which is a floating elective open to freshmen and other students who want to improve their grades."

The RLC and Tutoring Services are a major part of the EEP program. The RLC provides free individual and small-group tutoring in writing, reading comprehension and study strategies.

"The [RLC] provides professional and peer tutoring to students," said Friedman. "We have seven professional tutors. Professional tutors are adults with advanced degrees, masters and doctorates."

According to Friedman the professional tutors do not just tutor students—they also hold workshops for students within the classroom for exam preparation and strategies.

and opera theater departments, which hold several performances a year, that all require rehearsal and performance schedules.

"Bristol Chapel is becoming more of an all-purpose room for rehearsals, performances, and other special events," said Woodhull. "The pros of the building outweigh any faults, but the problem still boils down to the fact that with all the ensembles on campus, the Chapel and Playhouse are not adequate space for rehearsals

Along with professional tutors the RLC has eight student writing associates who are highly trained, contrary to what some people may think, becoming a student writing associate is a very detailed process.

"They have to be recommended by a teacher to take a class called Theories of Writing and Tutoring which is taught by Dr. Anne Salvatore of the English department," said Friedman. "After taking that class a person must then be recommended to the Learning Center by Salvatore. Next we interview the student and they go through an additional eight hours of training in tutoring strategies and things of that nature."

According to Friedman after a student completes 10 hours of training and 25 hours of tutoring they are certified by the College Reading and Learning Association.

The most successful program that EEP offers is the Supplemental Instruction Program (SIP), which is open to students who want to improve their understanding of course material and improve their grades.

"I work very closely with the professors and they share and performances."

The new auditorium, scheduled to open in the spring of 2006, will include a modified pit and the necessary fly space and backstage areas for theatrical productions. The agreement is also in response to the growing number of enrolled students, an issue that officials are paying close attention to.

"Enrollment has grown rapidly over the past ten years," said Annis. "We've been talking and working with architects to

the students' grades with me after each test," said Friedman. "Generally the students that come in to work with the supplemental instructor receive at least half a grade higher than the students who do not get supplemental instruction."

The students who teach the SI classes are not chosen randomly, they are all students who have taken the class in the past and have received an A for the semester.

"All SI instructors are recommended by the instructor and have gone through specialized training on group dynamics and learning strategies," said Friedman. "The instructors sit in on the class every week, act as a model student and meet with the professor to form creative learning material like charts and practice tests. The tutors then hold two review sections a week."

The SIP has grown since its start. There are now seven classes that a student can obtain supplemental instruction for whereas in the past there were only four.

EEP also has such programs as Services for Students with Disabilities, Rider Achievement Program (RAP), Turning Point Program: Students on Conditional Academic Standing

create a master plan that will address issues of a larger student body, adequate facilities and parking challenges."

For Westminster students, the question has changed from "let's find a date when there are no choirs performing or rehearsing" to "let's find a date where the least amount of students are performing or rehearsing." According to Woodhull, programming has become next to impossible.

"There is never a time peri-

and International Student Services.

This year Mary Beth Carstens, took on the position as the new assistant director of the RLC and Tutoring Services and coordinator of RAP services. Carstens has spent her entire career in higher education and before obtaining a job at Rider she was the assistant director in management at Boston University.

"My background is working with college students," said Carstens. "I got my masters in student development/higher education."

According to Carstens she was very particular about where she wanted to find employment and she was more than excited when she heard about the opening here at Rider.

"Her enthusiasm and general fondness for the students is clear," said Friedman.

According to Friedman, one message instructors from the RLC and tutoring services would like to stress to students is if they have a paper due they should call and schedule an appointment as soon as possible because at this point in the semester instructors tend to get booked quickly.

od where a rehearsal or performance space isn't being used," said Woodhull. "Keep in mind, that each student has to have their own recital, and performance majors have to have two, during their time at WCC. We are maxed out in every sense of the phrase."

Westminster is pleased with the results of the negotiations and what the University will gain. Rozanski is pleased with the partnership formed between Rider and the Princeton Regional Schools by the agreement.

"To build a similar performance facility would cost several million dollars were we to proceed on our own," said Rozanski. "At the same time, the enhancements we have funded will benefit not only the Princeton High School students, but also the many community groups who will use the auditorium in the future."

The new deal has also helped in connecting Rider's Princeton and Lawrenceville campuses. Woodhull thinks that the integration of the two campuses will drastically change the culture of the student body.

"Everything is interconnected," said Woodhull. "If one chain in the link is broken, then positive change won't happen. But for the first time in four years, since I've been here, the links are no longer broken, and positive change is happening."

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"We have had scheduling issues," said Dean Perry. "If there is an opera coming up, that group may request rehearsal space for the entire month leading up to the opera, leaving other groups to vie for remaining space and time."

Westminster has several choral ensembles, music theater

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