

THE BSI NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME TO THE FALL SEMESTER. THIS IS THE FOURTH EDITION OF THE BSI NEWSLETTER. WITH THE GOAL BEING COMMUNICATION, EACH EDITION WILL CONTINUE TO BE FILLED WITH INFORMATION THAT WILL BE HELPFUL TO YOU.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE, PLEASE SEND YOUR ARTICLE TO ELLEN OPPENBERG AT elleno@glendale.edu.



FUNDS CUT BUT CREATIVITY SOARS

Like all 2009-10 categorical funds, Basic Skills fell victim to a very large reduction. Even so, its designation as an initiative will hopefully continue the BSI program for years to come. The Foundational Skills Committee allocated BSI funds for the following projects to start up and/or continue this year.

Student Services

Career Assessment
Math Project w/ Career Counseling

English

SLOAC Data Management
E-Mersion (Tech-Ed)
English Collaborative
English Common Final
Adjunct Mentoring

Math

At-Risk Intervention
Adjunct Mentoring
Math Collaborative
Common Final
Algebra Class Pilot

Miscellaneous

Faculty Teaching and Learning Center
Staff Development

ESL-CR

Heritage language Learners
ESL Collaborative
Grading Rubric for ESL Level II
Adjunct Mentoring

Non- Credit

Garfield Library-Cont of Services
Garfield Library-Organizational Structure
Articulate CR and NC ESL
Transition Project
Developmental Skills Lab

Technology

e-Lumen
ULD



NEW IDEAS UNDERWAY - STAND BY

In addition to the projects listed above, other innovations are also being tried to improve success and retention rates of students in basic skills classes.

Supplemental Workshops

Many thanks to Nancy Yaldizian for helping to organize and sponsor SIs for Eng 188-191 and Math 155-146. The workshops began on October 12th and are being offered 3 times a week.

(This intervention idea has sparked great interest among dev skills faculty, many of whom are working with Nancy to create their own SIs to complement their Spring 2010 basic skills classes).

Learning Center Tutors Being Trained to Help Students in Reading Courses

Alexa Schumacher, Shant Shahoian and the staff of the Learning Center collaborated this semester to train tutors to work with students in Eng. 186, 188 and 190 reading classes. Thanks to all involved and particularly to Alexa for developing the training component.

Volunteers in the Classroom

Piloted during the Spring 2009 semester, this intervention was so popular with English dev skills instructors that it is now in its second semester. In addition to volunteers being used in English courses, this rewarding idea is being tried this semester by an ESL and Math instructor.

(Due to recruitment efforts needing to occur prior to the semester, please contact Ellen Oppenberg if you would like a volunteer in one or more of your basic skills classes for Spring 2010).

Idea Exchange with Other Colleges

Although in its beginning stages, Ellen Oppenberg is linking developmental skills instructors on our campus with those on other campuses. As an example, 2 faculty members are accompanying Ellen to PCC this week to observe a very successful reading program entitled Reading Apprentice they are using to improve literacy levels in many of their developmental skills and college courses.

(If interested in being connected with another basic skills program or instructor on another campus, please contact Ellen Oppenberg for assistance).



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THIS IMPORTANT EVENT

In response to the faculty survey that was randomly distributed earlier this semester to developmental skills instructors, a mini taskforce met to brainstorm the faculty's request for workshops pertaining to many topics associated with Basic Skills students and instruction. The result of this exciting meeting: On March 6, 2010 all faculty and staff of GCC and neighboring colleges will be invited to attend *GCC's First Annual Student Success Conference*. The emphasis will be on best practices that can be adapted for all disciplines.

Stay tuned for more info. If you are interested in being on the planning committee for this event, please contact Ellen Oppenberg. Many thanks to Jan Young, Bill Shamhart and Francien Rohrbacher for their creative input.



THERE IS A CELEBRITY AMONGST US

Did you know that adjunct English instructor, Nancy Nevins, was a performer at Woodstock? Her accomplishments are amazing! Here are some excerpts from an email she has allowed me to reprint.

"*Ang Lee* uses one of my songs in *Taking Woodstock*. You can hear it and my name rolls by in the credits. (I'm featured, sometimes with my own chapter(!), in at least 6 *Woodstock commemorative books*).

* **Stacy Butler** interviewed me for 3 hours; the edited 6 minutes was a feature on the **CBS 5:00 news** in August.

* **Rhino and Warner Bros.** re-mastered and released at least **4 different CD products**. They chose and featured 2 songs I wrote long ago that Sweetwater performed at Woodstock! In fact, my oldie, "Lookout," is the lead track on the Walmart Woodstock CD. My favorite is a gorgeous 6 CD Rhino package **Woodstock: 40 Years on: Back to Yasgur's Farm**.

* Then, on Labor Day, Sept 7, I was a featured performer with the **Heroes of Woodstock** tour in Sausalito at the **57th Annual Sausalito Wine and Art Festival**.

If you'd like to peruse a few pics and the CBS video, they're still on my website along with a couple backstage shots at Sausalito on Labor Day: www.nancynevins.com"

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Many of your colleagues attended conferences during the summer and last spring. They brought back handouts to share with you. Susie Chin (Librarian), Susan Hoehn (LD Specialist), Jan Young (NC Dev Skills Instructor), Alice Mecom (NC ESL Instructor and SLO Coordinator) attended varied workshops addressing student success, technology, research, etc. Please email them or Ellen Oppenberg to request handouts.

In September, Ellen Oppenberg attended the BSI Basic Skills Coordinator's Workshop. A great deal of information and outstanding books were given out, highlighting effective practices across the state and innovative ideas.

(If interested in reviewing any of this information, please contact Ellen Oppenberg).

This week the BSI Conference will take place at the Burbank Hilton Hotel. As always, it will be filled with networking opportunities and best practices galore. Those who will be attending are: Ellen Oppenberg, Chris Juzwiak (English); Narineh Movsessian, Liz Russell, Yvette Hassakoursian (Math); Kathy Flynn (ESL), Paul Mayer (NC-ESL), Alice Mecom (NC-ESL).



HAVE YOU SEEN OUR WEBSITE?

Dana Nartea took on this enormous project last semester to design a webpage for our basic skills program at GCC. Forms and an amazing amount of information are available including links to other various helpful websites. Check it out and let Dana or Ellen Oppenberg know what else you would like to see included. <http://www.glendale.edu/index.aspx?page=3822>
Speaking of websites, if you are interested in reading the minutes of previous Foundational Skills Meetings, go to <http://www.glendale.edu/index.aspx?page=377>.