ArC Spotlight: Meet our student staff

Looking for a rewarding and flexible part-time job? Check out the ArC’s tutoring program. ARC Tutors are a core component of the University of Miami. Led by Teri Martinez, Assistant Director of Tutoring Services, ArC peer tutors develop several personal and professional skills while working at the ArC.

Peer tutors not only work one-on-one or in small groups with students, but also play an integral role in leading final exam review sessions. Students selected to serve as tutors are highly trained in providing support to peers in an effort to enable them to be more successful in their college coursework. ArC certified tutors are UM students that have a 3.0 GPA or better and have received an A in the courses they tutor.

Employed as part-time employees within the ArC, the tutoring program offers tutors an opportunity to expand and build upon their skills through various professional development activities. Upon hire, tutors are eligible to become nationally certified through the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). Through a series of training seminars both live and online, students learn best practices in tutoring through small, interactive group sessions.

During CRLA training, tutors improve their communication skills, learn to assist others in incorporating study skills into their learning process, and gain experience in modeling teaching strategies. Although most peer tutors commit between 5-10 hours per week, many find that reviewing material with students assists them in furthering their own academic endeavors, providing them with a more solid academic foundation. Peer tutors also have the opportunity to take on more responsibility as lead tutors. Lead tutors receive more hours and assist with the hiring and training of other peer tutors. Current ArC lead tutors are UM graduate student, Brooke Carter, senior, Jacob Levy, and junior, Hannah Lethcoe.

“Working at the ArC as a lead tutor has brought me out of my shell and increased my social skills,” said lead tutor Hannah Lethcoe. Lethcoe, who would like to construct roller coasters one day, credits the ArC’s tutoring program with providing her with an opportunity to contribute in an office environment and grow professionally.

Students interested in becoming a tutor should apply online. If invited for an interview, applicants must submit a faculty recommendation from a previous instructor. To learn more about the tutoring program or to apply to become a tutor visit umarc.miami.edu.
ArC Offers Extended Tutoring Hours

In a new partnership with the Richter Library staff, the ArC now offers peer-tutoring appointments from 5-10pm Monday-Thursday in the Richter Library. Launched during the Fall 2015 semester in an effort to deliver more tutor availability, many students have already taken advantage of the longer hours, have you?

Students can receive up to two free hours of tutoring per week per enrolled course. Students are encouraged to review specific course material, master basic concepts or improve on skills under the guidance of a peer tutor during their sessions. For more information or to schedule a tutoring appointment, visit www.umiami.gradesfirst.com.

ART in the ArC: A new exhibit

In an effort to introduce more culture into the office, the Camner Academic Resource Center, began a brand new initiative to showcase University of Miami artists within its office space. Receiving over 15 submissions in its first semester long showcase, 11 faculty, staff and student artists were selected as the inaugural group of artists to contribute to the ArC’s newly installed art exhibit.

“Much like the ArC, art supports learning in allowing the physical manifestation of the expression of ideas,” said ArC administrative assistant, Rebecca Bauer. In addition to supporting a more cultured learning environment, the showcase also builds upon the existing cohesive nature of the university community. An in-house committee selected pieces based on first-eye impression, technique and overall artistry, ultimately ending up with a diverse exhibit representative of only a small portion of the many talented individuals at the University of Miami.

On Oct. 23, 2015, a mid-semester open house was hosted, attracting visitors from throughout the campus community, including members of the Toppel staff, featured artists and their guests.

Featured artists included Beatriz Rodriguez, Grad Student, Rebecca Bauer, Alumni/ArC Staff, Lani Shapton, Senior Lecturer, Kathleen Staples, Lecturer, Jeannette Stargala, Grad Student, Izia Lindsay, Grad Student, Jeff Larson, Lecturer, Daniele Gabriel, Grad Student, Devin Caserta, Lecturer, Eddy Lopez, Lecturer, and Erica Neff, Alumni/ ArC Staff.

The ArC will begin accepting submissions for artwork to be showcased during the spring semester starting on Feb. 1, 2016. Eligible artists should be current faculty, staff, alumni, or students at the University of Miami and must be willing to allow for their artwork to be showcased during the entire spring semester.

The ArC will host another open house to showcase the featured Spring 2016 artists work. All faculty, students and staff members are invited to attend or may call to schedule a visit.

For more information about the ArC Art Exhibit, please contact Rebecca Bauer at 305-284-4790.
The Independent Learning Initiative (ILI Program) is an academic support program offered by the Learning Specialists at the Camner Academic Resource Center. The program provides structure, instruction, and monitoring for students needing additional guidance during their college experience.

During the semester, students are assigned to a learning specialist whom they meet with on a weekly basis to identify and understand their academic strengths and areas for growth, as well as learn strategies, skills, and technologies to enhance their academic and personal success in college. Students learn to monitor their academic progress and critically evaluate skills and strategies to work toward becoming an effective, independent student.

The ILI program is designed to foster a one-on-one relationship between a learning specialist and student to assist them with the challenges of the college environment. The learning specialist meets weekly with their assigned student to help coordinate campus resources, facilitate communication with advisors and faculty, encourage strong study routines, and provides study strategy instruction.

All undergraduate students enrolled at the University of Miami are eligible to participate in the program. The cost of participation is equivalent to 1 credit hour of tuition. Students do not receive course credit for participating in this program.

Students interested in applying for the ILI program should visit www.umarc.miami.edu, click on the “Learning Specialist” tab, then on the “Independent Learning Initiative” tab, and submit a new ILI participant application.
Surviving the Transition: High School vs. College

1. Assignment Due Dates. College exams, assignment and project deadlines and dates are typically outlined in the course syllabus at the beginning of the semester.
   Tip: Try jotting down due dates into an ArC academic planner or an electronic calendar such as iCalendar or Outlook at the beginning of the semester. Having this information available earlier on will assist you in planning accordingly throughout the semester.

   High school students are accustomed to attending class daily during a set period of time. College courses typically meet 2-3 times per week, resulting in very little structure and may create large gaps of time in between class.
   Tip: Try taking advantage of daylight hours and study, review or work on assignments during gaps in between classes.

3. Exams. Most high school teachers only teach information students can expect on the upcoming exam. College professors will often lecture on a wide range of topics which may or may not be featured on an upcoming exam.
   Tip: Try incorporating a textbook reading/lecture review routine weekly to fill in the spots the professor may have left out of the lecture.

4. Studying. In most cases, studying and preparing for all classes and exams in high school resulted in late night cramming sessions. The best students recognize the need to study and prepare for classes and exams on a daily basis.
   Tip: Try recapping or summarizing lectures immediately after class. This will assist in boosting your memory and will also allow you to meet with a tutor or professor to discuss concepts or problems you have difficulty understanding earlier in the learning process.

5. Extra Credit. Students seeking to improve their grades in college are encouraged to seek additional help or guidance. Extra credit opportunities are not guaranteed and unlikely in the last few weeks of a course.
   Tip: Try making an appointment to meet with a peer tutor or learning specialist in the ArC if you need additional assistance or guidance. Ask about extra credit opportunities at the beginning of a course.

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Deadline for ODS

Jan. 27th: Last day to request notes for the Spring 2016 semester.

April 8th: Last day to schedule a final exam for the Spring 2016 semester.

June 1st: Last day to request accommodations for the Fall semester.

*Accommodations for summer and intercession courses must be submitted 6 weeks prior to the first day of classes.