In the ASC’s annual student survey, students always ask for the ASC tutorials to be open more hours, particularly during the weekends and evenings. The ASC coordinators took this request seriously. Last fall, when they tossed around the idea of doing a pilot project to better serve evening and weekend students by rejigging some of the existing hours of operation to be able to open on Saturdays, there was a small hurdle --how to fund opening on Saturdays without negatively impacting the operating budget of the tutorials. So they reached out to the Student Government Association for additional funding.

Neish Dawkins, student trustee of the SGA, was instrumental in helping to get this initiative off the ground. According to Dawkins, “the SGA is an organization that serves as a platform where the students’ voices can be heard. We have the privilege to appropriately allocate student activity fees to any club or organization that the student body wants to form or to existing organizations or clubs. The funds come from student activity fees. The student activity fee is designed to fund clubs and organizations and any initiatives that the students are behind; for example, opening the ASC on Saturdays and providing the funding for that.”

In order for funding for the ASC to be considered, a proposal needed to be submitted to the SGA, so the ASC coordinators went to work. “A request is submitted to the finance committee and from there they will make a decision on how to allocate the funds. The purpose of this organization is to appropriately allocate funds. We don’t want to just spend money frivolously,” says Dawkins.
Vinicius Granja, Treasurer of the SGA, also played an important part in helping out the ASC. “We are student advocates and at the same time we build a bridge between students staff, and administrators. Susan Arietta requested money for the ASC because the budget got cut by the school. She was asking for help. She gave all info, goals, and achievements and all of the good things that the ASC does for students: offering math, reading/ESL, science and writing tutoring.”

But even with all of the info the ASC provided, Granja wanted to hear what students had to say about the ASC. He was happy to report that he got good feedback. “We haven’t heard anything bad from students. Students say they are very helpful. So this helped for the budget committee to vote to support the ASC. They felt that the money allocation would be beneficial to the entire student body.”

Granja had also used the services of the ASC and was familiar with the help that they provide to students. “I always got good feedback from the ASC tutorials. I used to come very often to get help with my writing and speaking. One of the members of the budget committee is a tutor in the Math tutorial. He also gave information about the tutorial and all the work that the ASC has been doing. He didn’t vote, but the majority of the budget committee voted yes.”

Dawkins works at the desk in the ASC’s Writing Tutorial, so he also knew first-hand how much the ASC’s tutorial services help students. "The Writing Tutorial plays a major role at this institution. It is a light house for students, grooming them to become professionals at expressing their thoughts and ideas."

In making their final decision, the Executive Board members of the SGA turned to advisors Adam Frank and Rachele Hall. Their role is to meet with SGA student officers once a week for one-on-one meetings so executive board members have an opportunity to share their plans, and the advisors can help them with their goals. Frank tells us, “When we offer advice, we play devil’s advocate with them just to help them know they are looking at all aspects when they are making a decision. The SGA budget committee is the group that made the decision to fund the ASC. My role was to provide insight as to what the ASC offers, how it’s structured, and to answer any questions they might have had about the ASC. The goal is to make sure they are able to justify whatever decision they make. I was very pleased they voted to do it.”

Like Frank, Westchester Community College students are also very pleased that the SGA voted to help theASC pilot a Saturday program for the tutorials. Some comments from students who attended the tutorials on Saturdays during the fall semester and filled out the ASC’s Saturday program survey include:

- Can’t come during week, so really need weekends!
- It’s amazing. Very helpful and should stay this way, especially for working students and single mothers.
- The Saturday Program really benefits people like me who have a busy week schedule.
- It’s very important because Saturday I don’t work, so I can come for some help in math.
- I consider that the ASC being open on weekends is a step forward for all students.
- It is hugely helpful that the ASC is now opened on Saturdays; otherwise I wouldn’t be able to get the help I need.
- Please keep it going. It is beneficial to us.
- My original college did not have these types of services. They are a big help. Keep it up.

As time goes by the SGA is evolving into a more service-based organization. Franks says, “I think the SGA has made some pretty big strides in becoming more of a service-based association as their focus this year is on how they can best serve the needs of their peers; their vote to fund the ASC is proof of that.”

Current projects that the SGA is working on to enhance the college community include a plan for sidewalks to be installed on Knollwood Road. The executive board of the SGA has been hard at work on this initiative. Dawkins tells us, “Students as well as staff mentioned that there is a need for sidewalks on Knollwood Road and the access roads around the college, so we wrote a letter to Paul Feiner, Greenburgh’s Town Supervisor, and NYSDOT speaking about this issue. Feiner responded to the letter. He requested a meeting with the executive board of the SGA. A few of us met with him to discuss lobbying strategies. He did agree that it is really unsafe along those roads, and he wants to get on board to help us with this project."

Currently, Feiner is in full support of the idea, but he needs New York State support so the SGA is petitioning Westchester County and New York State. They currently have 136 signatures but are in need of 874 more. The petition can be signed at http://owl.li/h8usi

Frank adds, “I’m confident if the SGA Officers continue to stick together and work together, they can do anything. They are a powerhouse team, and I have no doubt that they will continue to work on worthwhile projects that promote the needs and betterment of the student body, like the sidewalk project and the ASC Saturday hour initiative.”

The students who use the ASC and the ASC Coordinators are grateful that the SGA felt that our Saturday program was a worthwhile investment! We thank them for their support.
TOP 10 REASONS TO COME TO THE ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTER

- **Math Tutorial**
  - It’s free!!
  - No appointment necessary, just walk right in.
  - We have books and calculators that you can borrow while doing your homework at the Center.
  - Many of our tutors are also Instructors in the Math Department.
  - Convenient hours.
  - You have computers available for student use to do your MYMATHLAB Homework.
  - Your professor will receive a report of the time you spend at the Center.
  - You have a choice of tutors including Spanish speaking tutors to choose from. Find one that works for you!
  - Plenty of room to come study as a group.
  - At the end of each semester, we offer review packets and workshops to help you prepare for final exams.

TOP 10 STUDY TIPS FOR YOUR COLLEGE SUCCESS

- **Prioritize.** What's most important in your life? Consider your family, your job and your educational goals. Analyze your responsibilities.
- **Budget your time.** Assign your activities in order of priority and include study time in your schedule. The rule of thumb is two hours of work for every hour in class.
- **Be prepared.** Don’t expect your professors to spoon feed you all the information you need to know. You are responsible for the course work. Do all the work. Listen carefully and write it down. Take good notes.
- **Learn how to take a test.** Learn to predict test questions. Read instructions carefully, budget test time, answer the easy questions first. Use memory techniques to help you remember important information for your tests.
- **Avoid distractions.** Study in a quiet environment with like-minded people. Use the library and the Academic Support Center where you can ask for help when you need it.
- **Attend all your classes.** No one and nothing can replace the professor and the information learned in class.
- **Take care of your health.** Eat, exercise and sleep so you can be prepared to do the work. Stress and exhaustion impact your memory and your comprehension.
- **Study with a buddy or a study group.** It’s true what they say about more brains being better than one!
- **Connect the dots.** College learning, and the information you acquire in your classes, fit to form a bigger picture. Utilize one course to help you in another. Make sense of the information you are learning.
- **Ask for help before you need it.** Support is available if you reach out. Use the Academic Support Center, the Library, and your professor to ask for help whenever you need clarification.

TOP 10 TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR READING SKILLS

- Think about what you already know about the subject.
- Preview your reading material to get a general idea of the information.
- What do you want or need to learn—what is the purpose for your reading?
- Ask yourself questions about the reading material as you read.
- Take notes and highlight your material.
- Review the reading to assure yourself that you understand what you read. If you do not understand, or cannot tell yourself (or someone else) what the reading was about, ask yourself, why not?
- Use contextual clues and word parts to help you understand the meaning of new vocabulary words.
- Be able to identify key words and main ideas.
- What details, both major and minor, support the main ideas?
- Summarize the material using your own words.
Academic Support Center, LIB G-31:
PreAlgebra, Beginning Algebra, College Algebra, Math for Elementary School teachers, Mathematical Literacy for College Students, Foundations of College Reading, Analytical Reading, Introduction to Academic Writing I, II, and Upper level of ESL:
M-Th 7:30a-5p & F 8a-4p.
Evening Hours on Tuesdays & Wednesdays & Saturday Hours begin the week of February 25th.
(914) 606-6470

ASC Writing Tutorial, LIB G-13:
Comp & Lit I, II, Basic Writing I, II and Papers in All Disciplines
M-Th 9a-5p & F 9a-4p.
Evening Hours on Tuesdays & Wednesdays & Saturday Hours begin the week of February 25th.
(914) 606-7853

ASC Science Tutorial, SCI 219:
General Biology, Biological Science, Chemistry, Anatomy & Physiology, Microbiology, Non-major Physical Sciences, Respiratory Care and Foods/Nutrition, and Emergency Medical Service:
M-Th 9a-5p & F 9a-4p.
Evening Hours on Tuesdays & Wednesdays & Saturday Hours begin the week of February 25th.
(914) 606-6906

Mount Vernon Center:
Reading, Writing, and Math: M, T, W, Th 11a-8p, F 12p-4p, & Sat 10a-4p. Spanish: Sat 10:00a-4:00p.
Computers: W 12:30p - 3:30p & Sat 10:00a-2:00p.
Accounting: Sat 11a-3p.
(914) 606-7220

ASC Workshops

Improve Your Study Skills & Reduce Test Anxiety Workshops:
- 2/13: Manage Your Time, Learn to Read Your Text
- 2/20: Develop Your Note-Taking Skills
- 2/27: Improve Your Memory Techniques
- 3/6: Identify Your Learning Style
- 3/13: Reduce Your Test Anxiety
- 3/27: Decrease Your Math Anxiety
- 4/3: Predict Test Questions
- 4/10: How to Take the Test
- 4/17: Review of Study Skills & Test Taking Skills

Review Your Grammar Workshops:
- 2/12: Build Sentences: Simple, Compound, Complex/Compound Sentences
- 2/19: Verb Forms
- 2/26: Prepositions
- 3/5: Punctuation
- 3/12: Articles

Writing - Let's Get Started:
- 2/6: Conquering Fear of Writing
- 2/13: Brainstorming/Organizing
- 2/20: Writing the Introduction & Thesis
- 2/27: Revising the Paper

For more workshop information call:
Reading & ESL @ 914-606-6470
Writing Tutorial @ 914-606-7853

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If the Library or the Academic Support Center contributed to your academic success, then apply for
THE STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES AWARD
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