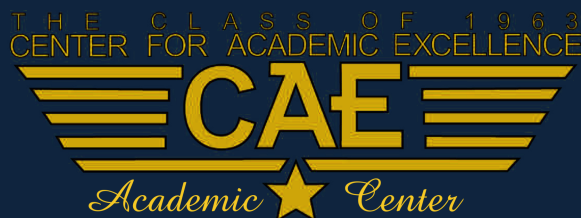


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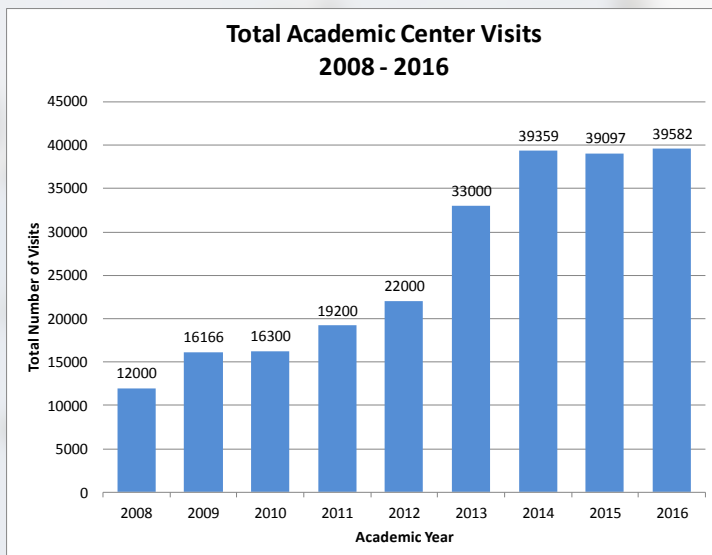
Summer
Academic Year 2017

Greetings!

As the Director of the Class of 1963 Center for Academic Excellence (CAE), I, Dr. Bruce Bukowski, would like to share some exciting updates on the ways in which we continue to serve the Brigade. This year was record-breaking for the CAE, as we had the most midshipmen visits in our history, with 39,582 visits this year. This is a massive increase from just 22,000 visits in 2012. As well, this year saw the highest percentage of midshipmen utilizing our services: in AY2011-2012, 44% of the Brigade utilized CAE, while in AY2015-2016, that number increased to 67%. This increase was reflected in CAE use by all classes: First Class, from 11% to 32%; Second Class, from 32% to 62%; Third Class from 52% to 74%; and Fourth Class, from 80% to 93%. This increase in CAE use demonstrates how widely midshipmen benefit from our services, with support for not just athletes, plebes, and struggling students, but also upperclassmen and high achievers. In fact, this year we had over 1500 visits from midshipmen with perfect 4.0 CQPRs! Our goal is to provide *all* midshipmen with the highest quality academic support possible. Each service offered by the CAE grew and improved this year: the Tutorial Program, the Writing Center, and the Advanced Learning Skills Program.

The Tutorial Program continued to expand this year, encompassing Supplemental Instruction Courses, Evening Tutoring, Topic Specific Review Sessions, and the Midshipmen Group Study Program (MGSP). Supplemental Instruction (SI) Courses are noncredit courses that provide learning support in chemistry, mathematics, physics, and engineering. SI courses provide a review of the major topics covered during the week and offer an opportunity for students to ask questions in a structured environment. Enrollment for SI courses has grown from 400 to 720 since AY2010-2011, with 14,470 visits this year. These courses are a consistent source of support for midshipmen who might need help with technical disciplines. In addition to SI courses, our professional staff held 7,368 tutoring sessions in AY2015-2016 during Evening Tutoring. Evening professional tutoring is available to all students in chemistry, mathematics, physics, engineering, and Arabic. To supplement Evening Tutoring, our Topic Specific Review Sessions expanded tremendously this year, more than doubling in student visits from previous years (1299 visits in AY2014-2015 to 2616 visits in AY2015-2016). Topic Review Sessions are 30-50 minute sessions with professional staff, during which they might review a specific course topic, or discuss how to use calculators and Microsoft Excel. Finally, the student-driven Midshipmen Group Study Program (MGSP) provides regularly scheduled, out-of-class, peer-facilitated sessions, where students work together to compare notes, discuss important class concepts, and develop more

effective study strategies. Each session is facilitated by an MGSP leader: in traditional MGSP, a competent student who has previously taken the course, been recommended by the course instructor, and has been chosen and trained by CAE; in the Writing Center, a Peer Writing Tutor who has been recommended by a faculty member, selected by CAE, and trained by the Writing Center staff. In AY2015-2016, MGSP leaders were responsible for 10,059 tutoring sessions.



The mission of the Class of 1963 Center for Academic Excellence is to support the mission of the Naval Academy by providing the highest quality instructional support programs for all midshipmen seeking to improve their academic performance.

Speaking of the Writing Center, the growth we've seen over there has been extraordinary. The Writing Center provides one-on-one writing consultations and workshops that address all writing projects at every stage of the writing process, with the goal of creating a professional and supportive environment for midshipmen, faculty and staff to improve their writing skills. The CAE took over the Writing Center in 2013, and appointments in just these three years have increased enormously, from 1277 in AY2012-2013 to 3,869 in AY2015-2016. The Writing Center staff has also expanded its workshop services, developing sessions for midshipmen to attend on a multitude of topics, from Grammar Tutorials to Essay Organization. The most popular workshop this year was the "Fearless Speaking" series, which focuses on improving public speaking skills, a very important topic for future line officers in the Navy and Marine Corps. The Writing Center hopes to continue to broaden these services next year as well, including a focus on 1/C Capstone delivery.

Finally, our Advanced Learning Skills Program also grew exponentially this year, with the help of our new Learning Skills Specialist, Mr. Seth Endicott. He and his team have helped to increase visits by over 480% in just one year, with 580 visits in AY2014-2015 growing to 2,794 visits in AY2015-2016. The Advanced Learning Skills Program offers a variety of services. The Advanced Speed Reading Program, facilitated by Ace Reader software, has proved to dramatically increase midshipmen's comprehension while greatly improving reading speed. On average, midshipmen take 16 minutes less time per hour to read after participating in this program. The Advanced Learning Skills Program also offers an Academic Effectiveness course. The Academic Effectiveness course is a once-a-week class for incoming plebes to learn strategies for studying, test preparation, test-taking, memory improvement and time management among other skills. Mr. Endicott also provides one-on-one consultations for midshipmen who need help in any of these areas, and puts on a series of group workshops, the most popular this year being sessions on Time Management, Procrastination, and Preparing for Finals. Over 650 midshipmen attended these consultations and workshops this year. Next year, we hope to develop more workshops and an Ace Reader course that are specifically tailored to Navy and military knowledge.

I would personally like to thank the Class of 1963 for their support as we continue to develop in ways to support the Brigade. With the help of their patronage, we have continued to tailor our program according to the needs of midshipmen, and greatly increase the number we serve. This year, we had weeks where we helped over 2,000 midshipmen, in just one week. As we grow in size, we are also constantly striving to improve the quality of our support services. Likely evidence of the effectiveness of our programs, Academic Board cases have dropped dramatically in the last three years. We look forward to continuing our tireless efforts to provide the best possible support services for our future naval officers. Thank you, and here's to another record-breaking year!

Sincerely,



Dr. Bruce J. Bukowski

Director, The Class of 1963 Center for Academic Excellence



Sample workshop flyer from Spring