

To the class of 1963, greetings from the Class of 1963 Center for Academic Excellence. It has been a busy and exciting year since I started working as the Director of the CAE and I am happy to report to you events that have taken place and new initiatives for the Center for this coming school year.

First, the numbers....and they are amazing. Just over 2100 different midshipmen utilized the services that the Center supports with 22,000 visits and over 18,000 hours of academic support this past school year. The Extra Help classes were at a record high of 399 students seeking assistance in Calculus, Chemistry and Physics (last year totals were 279). We are offering 31 sections of support classes for the Mids presently this fall. Historically Extra Help classes have been only offered during the academic day but this year we will be offering 6 different classes in three subjects at night during the midshipmen study time from 2000 to 2300 hours.

The tutoring program, under the direction of Dr. Rebecca Sheperd, has hired 21 tutors who will assist with 35 different course offerings. This past school year 906 midshipman utilized tutoring, up 156 from the previous year with over 5214 different visits. The Plebe Intervention Program under Commander Don Carlson is also growing and will have 95 students assigned to it up 24 from last year with 10 sections of Learning Skills classes being required for these students to participate. These courses run 6 weeks and cover the basic study skills that these students will need to be successful. More learning skills will be added as the semester begins. Last year, another 164 different students enrolled in the learning skills classes separately. The Midshipmen Group Study Program (MGSP) under Dr. Beth Mutch (90) had a record 139 midshipmen assisting students in 36 subjects this fall. This is the largest group ever and last year the program had over 7500 visits from over 1600 mids.

Last year we established major goals and I am glad to report we have accomplished those goals and a few others that we added during the course of the year. One goal was to improve our system of gathering data. I am glad to announce the Academic Center is replacing its current tutoring software program with a more functional and reliable alternative. Starfish CONNECT is a tutorial programs software system that will allow for better communication, data collection, data analysis, and scheduling for all tutorial and support programs for the Center for Academic Excellence at the United States Naval Academy. We will be able to quickly assess, and evaluate the programs that we are offering.

Another major challenge the Center has faced is marketing. More people needed to be informed of the Center's services, from faculty and staff to midshipmen. We have addressed this problem by restructuring the military billet assigned to the center. Our new billet serves as the Strategic Communications Director and Academic Liaison to the Brigade for the Academic Center. Lt Foster Davis will be working with an array of brigade personnel in updating academic support for the midshipmen. He will be working with the Battalion Officers, Company Officers

and Midshipman Academic Offices to communicate information regarding academic support throughout the year. We are sure this will greatly enhance our profile on the yard and will increase participation of the brigade in the Academic Center.

With the retirement of a staff member we have realigned the Stem Position to assist academic support for the midshipmen who are youngsters. Dr. Tom Lusby will be teaching a section of EM 300, offering extra help classes for Statics and Physics and tutoring during the day for these courses. This move will assist support of the youngsters who as you all know have a challenging year in academics especially in the engineering areas.

We have accomplished all our initial goals and have established many new ones for this coming year. These goals will help us to better serve the entire brigade.

Last and not least, the Academic Center has moved to the Levy Center. We feel this is a great move as we are right in the middle of Bancroft hall. The strategic location has provided us great access to the Brigade of Midshipman. We are developing plans for increased night support and we feel this move facilitates the needs of the midshipman. We will have a ribbon cutting ceremony on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September at 1300. We would be honored for you to see the new place. If you are in Annapolis at any time, give me a call and I will gladly show you the new Class of 1963 Center of Academic Excellence. I know you will be impressed and proud that you have contributed greatly to this vital import service that the United States Naval Academy provides for the midshipmen. Look forward to seeing you at the football games this fall and we all thank you for your support. You can count on us to continue to explore new ways to provide academic support for all Midshipmen at the United States Naval Academy.

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