

Academic Support and Achievement Program

Spring 2014

Highlights:

Get the inside scoop on ASAP from Junior Alyssa Carrasco . . . p. 1

Thinking of making an appointment? Make the most of it . . . p. 2

Special Interest:

Peer-Led Team Learning was piloted in spring 2013 and is now available for all sections of CHE 221. But unlike tutoring, or even Supplemental Instruction, this collaborative workshop requires a semester-long commitment with no promise of getting the homework done. Is it worth it? PLTL alum Anna Grygiel sets the record straight . . . p. 2

Multitalented athletes may flaunt Triple Threat status, but ASAP has done them one better: meet Alyssa Carrasco, a certified Quadruple Threat!! The Junior Biology major with an eye on medical school works with ASAP as a certified peer tutor, peer tutor supervisor, student assistant, and—new this semester—Supplemental Instruction leader.

Though she spent her elementary school days in the sunny south, Alyssa returned to her native Long Island just in time for high school. Many colleges courted Alyssa, but choosing SUNY Cortland was a no-brainer once she visited campus. Three years later, Alyssa cites the terrific Biology Department professors and the support of Alpha Sigma Alpha for keeping her here. As Alyssa puts it, the professors “know when to give the pep

talks and keep me going . . . and there’s nothing like have 80+ sisters who have your back—especially for a girl with just one brother!”

We caught Alyssa with a spare moment, and asked her what makes ASAP her choice for a “home away from home.” **Flip the page to find out more!**



Make the Most of your ASAP Visit

ASAP is all about helping students succeed as independent learners. Start taking the reins with these tips:

Plan ahead: Schedule a session several days before your assignment is due. You'll want time to continue working on your own or to schedule additional ASAP appointments.

Let us know who you are: When you schedule, please tell us if you're a graduate or ESL student or if you've been referred; you'll want to meet with a tutor who has the experience you need.

Come ready to work: Tutors ask questions! Tutors work with you, not for you. We will help you develop strategies and identify—and use—information resources.

If you're planning a visit for a writing project, we also suggest you:

Come in while a response can help: We specialize in helping you see ways to revise your work. We can offer only limited help on the day papers are due.

Come prepared: Bring assignment sheets, class notes, and/or instructor comments with you.

Bring a draft-in-progress: If you do not have a draft yet, we can talk about strategies for getting started.

Bring realistic expectations: Our goal is to help you become a stronger writer; we do not edit, proofread, or revise student work.

**We're here
to help!**

Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
B-205 Van Hoesen Hall

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(607) 753-4309

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
www.cortland.edu/asap

Student Perspective: Why PLTL Matters

At first, Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL) may seem puzzling: CHE 221 students make a semester-long commitment to get together and solve difficult problems. Why bother? It's not getting the homework done. Or, is it?

Freshman Anna Grygiel, a dual Biology and English major who participated in PLTL last semester, sets the record straight.

Why should a student invest time in PLTL?

“PLTL prepares you for figuring out the questions your professor hasn't asked yet. You learn how to solve, but also the process of why it's done the way it's done. With the process, you can figure out more!”

What surprised you most about PLTL?

I thought the leader would lead. Instead, you get to sit down with your friends to solve a problem, you get to brainstorm, you get to be in charge. The leader keeps you on track and encouraged.

Does PLTL matter in the big picture?

“YES! PLTL helps with the whole how-to-

study piece: how to look at options, approach problems, and use groups advantageously. PLTL also teaches the importance of being challenged and motivated by those around you. Being inspired by my leader makes me want to achieve even more!”

So, PLTL helps students learn to collaborate like scientists, develop confidence in their abilities, and take responsibility for their own learning. It isn't about the homework after all—it's a whole lot more!



Alyssa Carrasco: ASAP's Quadruple Threat

(Continued from front page)

Why work for ASAP?

“As a peer tutor, I see firsthand students' aha moments. As a peer tutor supervisor, I give near-peer advice to new tutors and witness their growth. As a student assistant, I'm part of the professional work day, and as an SI Leader, students actually approach me, which makes me feel good about what I'm doing.”

What should students know about ASAP?

“Don't be nervous about coming—the office is so welcoming and reassuring!!”

What's your best tip to new tutees?

“Be on time and let your tutor know if you need to cancel. This helps you with time management and communication, which is what you'll need in your professional future.”

What's ASAP's best-kept secret?

“It's a terrific resource; I didn't know until the first time I walked through the door—and now I'm part of that resource network!”

Any ASAP fun facts?

“The dogs are sometimes the very best part of the day.”

About ASAP

We provide academic support to undergraduate and graduate students of all ability and achievement levels through tutoring in writing, reading, math, time management, and study skills, as well as through our Supplemental Instruction, Peer Tutoring, PLTL and online tutoring programs. Students who have regularly used ASAP's services tend to demonstrate increased academic confidence, stronger learning skills, and improvement in their coursework.