LEARNING ASSISTANCE CENTER

Meet our Staff

We are always interested in suggestions for expansion or improvement of our services. Please drop a note in our suggestion box and feel free to contact Toni Knott or another team member with questions or comments any time!

Toni Knott, Learning Assistance Center Coordinator / Instructor

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Toni has a B.A. degree in English with a minor in Journalism and a M.A. degree in English Literature.

She was previously employed as an adjunct instructor at SCC and also served as a tutor for Student Support Services and as managing editor for the Milestone publication. Her teaching experience includes Mars Hill College and Western Carolina University.

Mary D. Bennett

- Mary has been helping learners of all ages and ability levels to be successful for three decades.
- She has taught developmental math, biology and botany. Currently she is assisting in the LAC in the specialty areas of basic math and algebra, science, computer skills, study skills and research.
- Her hobbies include contra dancing (ask her!), horticulture, cooking, and art.
- Favorite words from an SCC student, "Hey, I learnt som'in tonight."

What do our students say about the Learning Assistance Center?

find out here
Mary Bradley, Developmental Math Instructor

- Twenty five years of teaching experience from early childhood to middle school through college. Teaches Essential Mathematics, Introductory Algebra, Intermediate Algebra and education courses at SCC.
- B.S. Ed. in Home Economics and Middle Grades Education from Western Carolina University. Currently working on Master's degree in Mathematics Education.
- Personal interests include gardening, landscaping, and crafts.

Deborah Cochran, Biology Instructor and General Learning Consultant

- Teaches Anatomy and Physiology at SCC. Background in biology, basic chemistry, and basic math.
- B.S. in Education (Science, Math, and Gifted Education) and M.S. in Cell Biology from Western Carolina University.
- Interests include gardening, church, arts, politics, and parenting

Sarah Carothers, Math Instructor and Physics and Math tutor

- Eight years at SCC teaching math, physics, and psychology.
- Enjoys horseback riding, hiking, sports, music, and reading.

Amy Eilers
Amy completed a BA degree in Applied Mathematics with a concentration in Engineering at University of North Carolina-Asheville in May 2002. She finished an MS degree in Applied Mathematics at Western Carolina University December 2004. She currently is an adjunct math instructor here at Southwestern and has extensive tutoring experience. Interests include teaching, reading, dancing, parenting, and sports.

Joyce Gibson
- BA in fine arts and English
- M.Ed. in Biology
- 10 years teaching experience, from kindergarten to college level
- Over 5 years experience teaching GED
- Taught and tutored Anatomy and Physiology for over 9 years

I am a country girl, raised in the mountains about 30 miles east of Asheville. As many of my contemporaries, I am what you see, no more, no less. I respect all who have a thirst for knowledge, a desire to honestly better themselves, and a love for the tradition of the mountains. I love to learn and to pass on that knowledge to anyone who values it. When you possess knowledge, you possess the world. A person should know
when to work, when to study, and when the most valuable activity is to just sit back and observe the wonders and beauty of nature.

I have raised dairy goats and made cheese, raised baby chicks in my kitchen, raised Appaloosa horses (including helping a foal to be born in my bathroom one cold winter night), and Bassett hound pups. I have felt the miracle of life in a newborn kitten. Bread and brownies often bake in my oven. Books have been read on many winter nights. Soup beans can be found boiling on my wood stove. I have a lot I’d love to share with anyone who wants to know more about the world we live in. Also, I’d enjoy learning from you; everyone has some knowledge to share.

I lived in Tennessee for about sixteen years, and now I am home again. I am enjoying every minute of it, and I am here in the LAC if you need assistance. I like to feel that we are all here for each other. And, as a teacher and learner, I’d like to tell you that “there is no stupid question.” There is only the wonder we experience when we understand the mysteries of the universe.

Michele Glover, History Instructor and General Learning Consultant

- Teaches history (Western Civilization I and II) and humanities (Nature of America)
- B.S. in Elementary Education from Castleton State College, VT and MA in History, WCU
- Enjoys family (4 kids!!), tatting (ask me!!), hiking, watching football and pets (1 cat and 3 dogs)

Melissa Halling, Mathematics, English, and Chemistry Instructor

- Teaches Pre-Calculus Algebra, Essential Mathematics, Chemistry Concepts, and Composition Strategies for SCC.
- B.A. in Math and English from North Dakota State University; M.A. in English from Eastern Kentucky University;
- A.A.S. in Horticulture from Haywood Community College.

Eric Hendrix, English

This fall of 2005 finds me tutoring on Thursdays from 3 until 8 p.m. in the LAC. I’m due to graduate in spring 2006 from Western Carolina University (WCU) with a master’s in professional writing. I received my bachelor’s degree in English from WCU.

If you need help with English assignments, papers, etc., on any level, I’m glad to help. If you are an ESL student, I especially enjoy working with foreign languages, whatever yours may be. My Spanish is adequate, as is my German, but my greatest strength with ESL students is that I can help organize thoughts and develop sentences in English from your native tongue.”
Ken Hollingsworth, Anthropology, Geography, Humanities Instructor

- Over twenty years of teaching experience. Teaches Comparative Cultures, World Regional Geography, General Anthropology, Southern Culture, and Nature Hiking at SCC. Teaches Cultural Geography and Archaeology at Western Carolina University.
- B.A. in Geography and M.A. Ed. in Geo Sciences from Western Carolina University.
- Interested in environmental studies and Native American studies.

Liz Kelly
Elizabeth "Liz" Kelly is a Visiting Instructor for Western Carolina University's English Department. She earned her BA in English and Music from Piedmont College and completed her Master's degree in English at WCU in 2001. Liz's concentration lies in Rhetoric and Composition, which is evident through her work with WCU's First-Year Composition and Liberal Studies Programs. After extensive training in academic and creative writing as an Assistant Editor for the Habersham Review (a literary journal published by Piedmont College) and a Graduate Assistant for WCU's Writing Center, Liz spent the last five years teaching First-Year Composition, among other courses in writing and literature, for WCU and SCC. She has worked closely with WCU's Committee on First-Year Composition to enrich the writing curriculum and continues research in the field of Rhetoric and Composition as a means of personal and professional development.

Liz focuses on first-year writing, process writing, reading skills, research, and critical thinking.

Tina Lee
Tina graduated from Rockingham Community College in 1998 with an Associate's in Science degree. She graduated from Western Carolina University in 2001 with a B.S.Ed. (Mathematics) and in 2004 with an M.A.Ed. (Mathematics).

Ms. Lee taught at Swain County High School for four years (2001-2005) before teaching part time at SCC (Math 080).

Tara McDonald, Learning Consultant & Adjunct Instructor

- Tutors in the LAC in writing, social science, computers, and general academic problem-solving, and occasionally teaches sociology, religion, or study skills
- Leads cultural diversity trainings, leadership trainings, and other workshops for SCC and on the side, and has an editing/writing business,
CoachWrite, with her husband

- MAEd in Two Year College Teaching & Sociology from WCU; studied ministry in Earlham School of Religion’s MDiv program; undergraduate studies at Oklahoma State U in psychology; BA from Coker College in sociology, with minors in criminology and education
- Is very active in the Unitarian Universalist church locally and continentally, and enjoys reading, social justice activism, gardening, British comedy, and home decorating

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**Naci Morris**

It took me approximately 12 years to obtain an undergraduate degree in English (emphasis in professional writing) and Life. The time and effort were well worth it. At one point I attended Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC. It was there that I discovered the value of community colleges and the opportunities and experiences that are afforded by them.

After graduating from Western with a B.A., I went on to get my M.A. in a mere two and a half years—a short spell considering.

I love people. I love teaching. And I firmly believe that all of us are by far more capable than we think.

Southwestern is the perfect place for me. It offers a good deal of the diversity that I crave, and need, in life. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be a part of your community.

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**Deborah Thomas, College Reading and Study Skills Instructor and Learning Consultant**

- Teaches College Reading and College Study Skills at SCC.
- Professional & technical writer for more than twenty years.
- B.A. in English and Spanish from University of South Carolina; studied Instructional Design at UNC-Charlotte.
- Interests include organic gardening, protecting our rural landscape, hiking, mountain biking, and travel
Back to SCC Home