

Skill center to develop new look

By Vicki Aldrich
Gamecock Staff Writer

The Communications Skills Development Center, CSDC, will be getting a new name and look, according to the new coordinator.

Ronald Schmelzer, who became coordinator this past September after leaving a skills center at Steed College in Tennessee, said CSDC's name may be changed to Academic Skills Development Center. This name better defines the center, he said.

CSDC, a division of the Counseling and Human Development Center, is located in the Pendleton Building on Pendleton Street. One-hour short courses in improving study and test-taking techniques are offered there.

THE SHORT COURSES include: memory improvement, reading rate and comprehension improvement, time-management, test-taking, note-taking, listening improvement and anxiety management.

Schedules for these monthly courses are posted in various departments, the Pendleton Building and the Russell House.

Another service offered is a learning center lab aiding students in improving study-habits. Presentations to University 101 and English 101 classes, and extended

courses for high school and pre-college students are also available.

The lab houses video tapes, tape recorders and reading machines to help students with reading, comprehension and vocabulary. CSDC also includes a library with "How-To" books on study techniques.

STUDENTS USING CSDC are assigned counselors who are graduate students in reading or English. These counselors diagnose the student's study problems by administering tests and plan programs to improve these problems.

Schmelzer said he is trying to offer more University groups study skills presentations. In the past, CSDC waited to be asked to give presentations, but now the center will offer their services to such groups as resident halls, fraternities and ROTC classes.

Schmelzer suggested as an addition to the Center a peer-helper program in which trained people in resident halls help other residents with their study problems.

Going to a University is like going to a foreign country, Schmelzer said. You have to learn a foreign language or read four or five books in one class. He said he learned from his advisor, Alton Raygor at the University of Minnesota that giving students help in study skills improves their psychological outlook.

3 USC incidents a week

Vagrants hard to control

By Steve Wong
Gamecock Staff Writer

An average of three incidents a week are reported concerning vagrants on the USC campus, but S.C. vagrancy laws haven't been effective in dealing with the cases.

USC Campus Police Chief Marvin D. Harrelson said the only law dealing with vagrants is the "disturbing schools" law, which prohibits persons from loitering on campuses or disturbing students and teachers.

THE PENALTY for this misdemeanor is a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$1000, or not less than 30 days or more than 90 days in the county jail. "The word 'interfere' is the key," Harrelson said, like if "they're blocking your movements."

He said there are cases on file where people had actually gotten students to take them to the student's rooms. "If you take these individuals to your room, they'll clean you out. They (students) shouldn't do it, and if seen, we should be notified so we can check it out."

ONE OF the most popular methods of these "pan handlers" is to get you into a conversation and then ask for money, Harrelson said. Usually they say they are traveling to or from somewhere and need money

for food. "The best thing to do is not get into a conversation. If you start, get away as soon as possible and contact us," he said.

Randy Harbeson, an off-campus student, said, "Every day on the way home one vagrant at the bank always stops me — tells me he's got a son about my age. Last time I told him about my problems and he hasn't bothered me since."

An anonymous student said, "I've been stopped three times this year: once near McDonalds and once in front of the Russell House by bums and once by a hooker on Main Street. The one near McDonalds must've got mad or something when I refused him money because as soon as I left he went to the corner and urinated on the sidewalk."

LT. BRENDON GALVIN, chief of investigations for the Columbia police, said, "As a rule they approach the young adult and elderly — prostitutes the young adult."

Lt. Galvin also said the worst places in the city for beggars are Main Street, Sumter Street and around the State House, and for prostitutes around the 900 and 1000 blocks of Assembly Street. "Of course we like all incidents reported," Galvin said. "We need input from the students and citizens. Police officers are recognized too readily."



Leslie Erickson — GAMECOCK

Tunnel vision

Enjoy life while you may, children, and keep your eyes wide open. These youngsters at USC's Children's Center will soon enough encounter the all-too-frequent world of adult "tunnel vision."



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