

Learning center

SC students who plug in connecting to new skills

By Sherry Kahan
staff writer

Dave Rumrill of Redford was a tad nervous about starting college at the age of 45.

Because he had been laid off from his job, he had time to drop by the Learning Assistance Center at Schoolcraft College to get an idea of what academic life is all about.

The center, set up in Room 130 of the liberal arts building and coordinated by Sirrka Gudun, is a way Schoolcraft has found to help the uncertain find out everything they want to know about college without really starting.

Rumrill learned about the center from Gudun during an orientation meeting, the kind of session she will be offering 7:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday in Schoolcraft's physical education building.

"They took me around the room and showed what help they could offer me," he said. "Before school started I went through all their video tapes on memory training, note-taking and test-taking. It helped a lot. The difference between my business notes when I started and when I finished the class was just phenomenal.

"LAST YEAR when I took Business 101, the staff helped me with the accounting part which was hard for me. The volunteers there give you suggestions so you can understand what you are doing and then learn how to do it."

Coordinator Gudun is already gearing for adults starting summer and fall classes. Beyond the June 24 orientation session, there will be similar programs July 22 and Aug. 19 at the same time and location.

"I'll discuss the support services at the center," she explained. "We hope to make adults feel more comfortable about re-entering the education realm by giving them a good understanding of

ways to learn."

Much of the resource material, such as videotapes and cassettes, was produced in classes and workshops at the college. "That's so they will be geared to specific Schoolcraft classes," said Gudun.

Helping students to break into academics are three part-time assistants and about 25 volunteers, each donating about three or four hours a week to help students with such courses as math and computer programming.

One of them is 65-year-old Tom Hendrick of Redford, who uses his accounting experience "to relieve the anxiety of other people."

He does more than tutor. "Volunteers help conduct school tests used to show students at what level they are," he explained. He also reads chapters of textbooks into tape recorders for use by students.

HE'S HAD several rewarding moments. One of them came while he was making a telephone survey to students who had not returned to college. "Someone told me that if it hadn't have been for the center, he wouldn't have passed his course," said Hendrick.

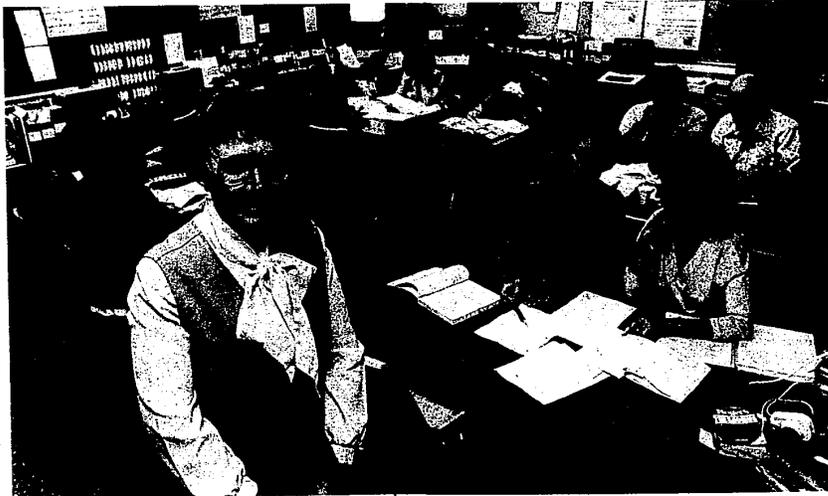
But returning adults are not the only ones to find value in the center, now more than two years old.

"I've graduated from two colleges and have never been exposed to ways to increase my ability to read," reported Norv Cleveland of Plymouth. The 25-year-old who graduated from Michigan State University and Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit.

"I wanted to be a priest but didn't like the celibacy part," he said.

Planning to enter Schoolcraft's nursing program in the fall, he has been using tapes containing advice on how to increase his reading speed.

Some people regard a learning center as beneath them," he said. "I find it very beneficial," he stated.



Sirrka Gudun, coordinator for Schoolcraft College's learning center, is ready to welcome new students.

Manager named at Mutual Life

Gary A. Biotti of Farmington Hills has been appointed manager of the Detroit agency of Provident Mutual Life Insurance Company of Philadelphia.

A graduate of the Detroit College of Business and Eastern Michigan University, Biotti joins the company after 10 years experience with New York Life Insurance Co. The most recent position he held before joining Provident Mutual was that of assistant agency manager.

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Snively passes rifle training

A Farmington resident, Roth Jay Snively, has successfully completed the National Rifle Association Class C Rifle Coaches School, held May 1 and 2 at Waterford.

This school, sponsored in Michigan by the Oakland County Sportsman's Association, was designed by the NRA in its capacity as national governing body for the shooting sports, to educate coaches at the grassroots level.

After meeting course criteria, these coaches will be responsible for training

young athletes, many of whom will learn in conventional and international competitions.

Thirty students attended the 20-hour instruction period which covered the philosophy and psychology of coaching, how to motivate young athletes, skill fundamentals, basic coaching methods, and error identification and correction.

Many of these newly-trained coaches will have the opportunity to instruct at the forthcoming Michigan State Junior Olympic Shooting Camp.

Hobart joins Hamilton

Glen E. Hobart of Farmington Hills has joined Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Company of America as senior vice president of management information systems.

Hobart, 43, a certified public accountant and a graduate of Texas Christian University, previously held a similar position in data processing with American-Amicable Life Insurance Company, Texas.

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