



P.A.S.S. program

at the Teaching Center
located in Broward Hall

The P.A.S.S. program began in Spring 2010 as a collaborative effort by the Teaching Center and the Chemistry department to provide learning assistance to students in Chemistry 1025. **Peer Assisted Study Sessions (P.A.S.S.)** are weekly meetings of 1-4 students led by a trained peer leader who received an A in the class during a previous semester. The study sessions include active learning techniques such as note review, creating concept maps and note cards, learning from practice materials, group discussions, text book review, etc.

The P.A.S.S. leaders are pre-selected by the Chemistry department, then screened, interviewed, and approved by the Teaching Center. Leaders are selected for their academic strengths, interpersonal skills and desire to help their peers. Once approved, the peer leaders register for a course in supervised teaching (CHM 4940) and then participate in training in collaborative learning techniques provided by the Teaching Center.

The leaders attend regular biweekly meetings where additional staff development occurs in the form of workshops and discussion. The peer leaders are observed and evaluated by the Teaching Center P.A.S.S. coordinator and at the end of each semester grades are assigned by the Chemistry faculty teaching supervisor, Dr. John Mitchell. Also, the students complete an evaluation of the program and their peer leaders.

Student participation in the program is voluntary. However, students who received low scores on the chemistry placement exam are strongly encouraged to attend. Also, students who scored below the class average on the first exam are directly invited to attend P.A.S.S. through a targeted email. Additionally, the P.A.S.S. student grades are compared to other students enrolled in the course and to class averages from previous semesters. One aim of the program is to reduce the percentage of students who earned grades of D, E, or W which was 30% in semesters prior to Spring 2010.