Adult Learner’s Lounge: The Academic Center for Excellence offers adult learners a lounge where they can relax and study or just enjoy each other’s company in a quiet location. In addition to comfortable furniture and a table and chairs, the lounge is equipped with two computers for student use. It is also a great place to eat your lunch.

Accompanying the lounge is an adult learner’s kitchen where a sink, microwave, and refrigerator are located. Adult learners who commute may leave food in the refrigerator while attending class and heat it up during a break.

Veteran’s Resource Room: Across from the Adult Learner’s Lounge is the Veteran’s Resource Room. Resources are available for students who are either active duty or retired military.

Writing Center: The Academic Center for Excellence houses the Writing Center which provides support for every stage of writing. No matter what the class, if you have a paper to write, you can get help. The Writing Center also provides various workshops throughout the semester. The Writing Center is open Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 5 pm and Friday from 9 am to 12 pm. Online hours are Monday through Thursday from 7 pm to 11 pm and Sunday from 5 pm to 9 pm. For more information about online resources and workshops offered, visit the website at http://gsw.edu/Academics/Academic-Resources/WritingCenter/index.

Academic Skills Center: The Academic Skills Center offers many resources including a computer lab, Math Tutoring Center, free tutoring in most core subjects, study booths, and a friendly staff ready to assist you with anything you need help with. The ASC is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm and Friday from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. For more information about resources and workshops offered, visit the website at http://gsw.edu/Academics/Academic-Resources/Academic-Skills-Center/index.

GSW Experience for Non-traditional Students (UNIV1000N):

Georgia Southwestern State University requires all new freshmen to complete a course which prepares them for their college experience. It is called the GSW Experience (UNIV1000). Although the course is not required for students transferring to GSW with at least 9 credit hours, it is very helpful to all new students to GSW. A UNIV1000 course has been designed especially for non-traditional students (adult learners). Karen Jansen is the instructor for this course and the intention of the course is to give adult learners an opportunity to share a class with their peers. Whereas traditional UNIV1000 classes meet during the daytime, this class is set at night. During Spring 2013, the class meets on Mondays at 7:00 pm. In addition to attending the class, students are required to participate in GeorgiaView D2L discussions and complete some online assignments.

Regular speakers are scheduled to visit the class throughout the semester. These include a visit from the university president, Dr. Blanchard, a representative from Financial Aid, Career Services, and Writing Center. A Library class and tour is provided, as well as other random speakers.

All new adult learners coming to GSW in the Fall are welcome to enroll in this UNIV1000N course; and any adult learners already here are welcome to visit the class at any time. Just email Karen Jansen at Karen.Jansen@gsw.edu.
Where does the money come from?

Going to college as an adult learner comes with many more challenges than traditional age students might have to face. One of them, of course, is finding financial aid for college. The first thing you are told is to complete your FAFSA to determine what federal aid you may be eligible for. Learn more about federal grants and loans at: Scholarship.com: Pay for School. Sometimes you will see terms that you may not be familiar with. You can find a complete list of terms and definitions associated with obtaining financial aid at Federal Student Aid Glossary. Want to look for scholarships, check out this comprehensive listing of scholarship search sites: Back to College: Search for Scholarships. So you are unique? Why not look for a scholarship that embraces that uniqueness at this site: 11 Sexy Scholarships Reward Fashion, Romance, and Humor. You may also check out Fifty Places to Find a Scholarship taken from 1001 Ways to Pay for College.

Time for an Adult Learner Organization

When I became a student at GSW summer semester 2006, I saw a sign on the bulletin board of the library announcing a meeting of the non-traditional organization called Never Too Late (NTL). The next semester I did not see anything about it. Apparently, the organization dissolved.

I have been hoping to start up another organization for non-traditional students, or adult learners at GSW. However, it’s been one of those things that has been put on the back burner again and again.

Having an organization will enable adult learners to have regular meetings on campus and have fundraisers for various activities. It will be an opportunity to establish a community of seasoned learners who can provide an array of resources for each other.

If you are interested in starting an organization, please contact me at Karen.Jansen@gsu.edu.

Academic Skills Center Website

The next time you are sitting at your computer surfing the web, check out the Academic Skills Center website. On the home page, you will find a link to Campus Life where a comprehensive list of campus resources is available. If you need assistance in any of your courses, check out the Tutoring Services page which has a list of frequently asked questions and schedules for SI sessions and small group sessions already set up. You can print a Request Form from the website, complete it and turn it into the ASC to receive free tutoring. The ASC also offers a variety of resources, all listed on the website, including links to many online resources such as practicing for the compass test, improving study skills, help in mathematics, research and writing, and more. Why spend so much time looking for something on the internet when ASC may have already looked it up for you.

http://gsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Resources/Academic-Skills-Center/index