

# ASSIST Transfer Channel



Issue: 2

February 14, 2005

## Letter from the Director

Welcome to the second edition of the ASSIST Transfer Channel, a semi-annual newsletter for counselors, advisors, faculty, evaluators, articulation officers, and everyone else who is interested in the latest information about ASSIST.

We're e-mailing this edition via the new ASSIST-Channel-L@uci.edu e-mail listserv and we would be appreciative if you would forward it on to any others at your campus who you think might be interested. If anyone would like to have future editions of the ASSIST Transfer Channel automatically delivered to their e-mail address, please check out the Subscribing section of this edition for instructions.

This edition includes another special section for students titled "A Student Guide to Exploring Majors" that explains this new feature in ASSIST. Feel free to print copies and hand them out in transfer centers and other key places on campus.

A record number of people have been using ASSIST. During the 2004 calendar year, over 660,000 people used ASSIST to request over 5.8 million articulation reports and our server computers handled 84 million site hits during 4 million site visits. November and May are typically the busiest months each year and we expect the overall numbers to continue climbing throughout 2005.

Even though our usage numbers look high and are increasing every year, there are still far too many students who don't know about ASSIST. We rely on college and university counselors, advisors, faculty, students, and others to spread the word. We encourage every college and university to include references to ASSIST in their campus web sites, catalogs, schedules of classes, and other resources that transfer students often use. To help out, we have a page on the ASSIST Information Center (<http://info.assist.org/gifs.html>) that includes some standard language about ASSIST along with a number of graphic images your campus may want to consider using. Feel free to contact Doug Koeppen in our office if there's anything else that we might be able to provide to help add more references to ASSIST throughout your campus.

Lastly, I want to mention some upcoming activities we are planning that will help us better understand how we can continue improving ASSIST. This spring, we will be designing focus groups to be conducted in the fall term with students (and possibly with counselors and advisors). During these focus groups, we hope to gain detailed feedback about how students find ASSIST, how they use it to meet their needs, and what other information or features they might find useful. We also hope to test some alternative layouts for the web site. While I can't promise that we'll be able to make immediate improvements, the ASSIST Board of Directors wants to collect this information to help us focus on our most important users - students. I'm sure there will be a written report that details our findings; I'll make sure to mention it in this newsletter once it is available.

Thanks for your continued support of ASSIST and please feel free to contact any of

### Inside This Issue

**Letter  
from the Director**

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**A Student Guide to  
Exploring Majors**

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**What's Under the  
Hood?**

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**We Get Feedback**

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**On Campus**

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**Subscribing**

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*(Letter from the Director continued)*

us at (949) 824-4385 if you have comments or questions. You can tune into the next edition of the ASSIST Transfer Channel in Fall 2005 - until then ...

Eric Taggart  
Director  
ASSIST Coordination Site