In addition, the new Lending Library provides NSU students with access to study guides for most graduate-level tests. Students can visit OAS to borrow in-house or check out a selection of test-prep resources, including books on the following exams:

- LSAT
- DAT
- MCAT
- GRE
- PCAT
- OAT

Testing services is also going to offer a mock MCAT exam on March 24, 9:00 a.m. If you couldn’t take advantage of the one offered in November, or if you just want more practice, registration for the next mock exam ends March 19.
OAS Attends CRLA

November 9–12, 2011, Gail Levine, assistant director in the Office of Academic Services, attended the 44th Annual College Reading and Learning Association conference in California.

The theme of the conference was “Hands Across the Curriculum: Partnerships for College Success.” The keynote speaker, Francisco Reveles, Ph.D., of California State University—Sacramento, emphasized that “As educators and tutors, we are in the perfect position to offer support, to mentor, and to serve as role models to the students we come into contact with in the classroom or in the tutoring centers.”

Because Nova Southeastern University is a CRLA-certified tutoring center, Levine chose to attend several sessions that focused on best practices in tutor training.

While each tutoring center develops its own training modules for tutors, training should include the following:

1. Definition of tutoring
2. The role of the tutor
3. Basic questioning skills
4. Using praise effectively
5. Basic communication skills
6. Ethics and etiquette in tutoring
7. Speaking skills
8. Active listening
9. Incorporating study skills
10. Critical thinking skills
11. Learning styles
12. Cultural diversity
13. Assertiveness training
14. Evaluation in tutoring
15. Individual and group dynamics in tutoring

Every university has valuable personnel on their campus to assist in tutor training. These include administrators, librarians, academic advisors, mental health counselors, student affairs staff, and, most importantly, faculty. While most tutoring centers primarily use peer tutors and graduate assistants, NSU employs professional tutors who bring their own areas of expertise and contributions to the training program.

While many participants at the conference were in the early stages of receiving or learning how to become CRLA certified, other universities that already hold CRLA certification, like NSU, were looking to expand their levels of certification. NSU received level I certification in 2007 and level II certification in 2011.

With a new CRLA tutor training handbook currently under revision and expected to be published by late 2012, Levine is eager to see any possible new training modules that NSU may adopt to enhance NSU’s current training efforts.
Testing Basics

Testing Services continues to be a test administration site for CLEP, DSST, and NYU Foreign Language Proficiency exams. Students must contact their academic advisor before making appointments to take any exam and then contact Testing Services for specific dates or appointments. Students can also contact the Office of Student Disability Services for more information on individualized accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Testing Reminders

We hope your efforts to stay on track and keep up with the rigors of college level study are effective. However, if there are topics that you are struggling with in your attempt to reach this goal, please stop by the Office of Academic Services and see what we have to offer—You may be surprised.

Tutoring centers come in many shapes and forms. Some have a multitude of resources—such as computer labs, study rooms, textbook resources, and satellite locations.

But the goal for all remains the same:

Assist students to become active and independent learners!

NCPTW Conference

The weekend of November 5, 2011, staff from OAS attended the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing, held on the Biscayne Bay Campus of Florida International University. The three-day conference featured both professional staff and peer tutors presenting on topics ranging from new advances in online, asynchronous tutoring platforms, to ways to explain common grammatical errors to students, to applying the situational leadership model to the tutoring process. Attendees to the conference came from writing centers and tutoring offices from all over the U.S. and as far away as Japan.

This was an excellent opportunity to network with tutoring professionals from schools of varying sizes and populations. The highlight of the event was keynote speaker Brian Fallon, Ph.D., of the Fashion Institute of Technology. His speech asked all tutoring professionals to focus on empathy and relatable experiences to help improve relationship building with students.