On December 3rd, the Ybor City Campus family joined together to celebrate the groundbreaking of the new Student Services Building. The building, which will house academic advisors, financial aid, student government, the bookstore, a gym—everything related to student services, is scheduled to be complete in January 2010.

So far, tremendous progress has been made, and those of us who work on campus are amazed at how quickly the building is taking shape. Located on the northwest corner of Palm Avenue and 14th Street, directly across Palm from the Cuban Club and across 14th from the newly-renovated Ybor Performing Arts Building, this will be the eighth building on the Ybor City Campus.

The building has not been free of controversy. Critics have claimed that the design does not fit in well with the Ybor City Historic District and that HCC did not get approval from the Barrio Latino Commission, neither technically required for construction to commence. Because the Ybor City Campus wants to be a good neighbor, some changes have been made to the design to assuage the concerns of our critics. The exterior colors will be muted, so the rendering shown above does not accurately portray

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the building’s appearance. Other minor changes will be made to help the building fit in with its surroundings.

To ensure that the new building meet our students’ needs, the Ybor Campus Student Services Management Team developed a number of philosophy statements to guide the design process. These included that the building be welcoming, energetic, and vibrant, provide a nurturing atmosphere, be technology based, facilitate service efficiency, allow training and orientation, encourage communication and student engagement, and be “Ybor-ish.”

In addition to all of these qualities, the building will be a certified “green” structure, utilizing natural light effectively with moveable wall units. These green elements will not only help the environment, but also keep operating costs down.

Floatin’ Down the Avenue
Submitted by Judy Nolasco

After a year’s sabbatical, Dean Jack Evans and his staff brought the HCC float back this year to the 2009 Gasparilla Parade of Pirates and the Krewe of Sant’ Yago Night Parade. The theme of the float is International Education. The Summit International students proudly wore their traditional native dress representing each of their countries. This year’s students are from Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan, South Africa, and Turkey. Additionally, former HCC students who received scholarships from the Krewe of the Knights of Sant’ Yago’s Education foundation also participated. These former students currently attend the University of Tampa and the University of South Florida after graduating from HCC.

“The Heart and Sole of Ybor” at the 2008 Heart Walk!
Submitted by Judy Nolasco

The Ybor City Campus raised over $700 for the 2008 Heart Walk. Students, faculty, and staff joined the combined teams of Judy Nolasco and Cheryl Borman to form the “Heart and Sole of Ybor.” Pictured above, International students from the CCID Summit program and members of the Ybor SGA joined in the walk.
Changing Times

On January 20th, students, faculty, and staff began to gather around television sets and computers to watch live coverage of the inauguration. There was no better place to celebrate the occasion than the Ybor City Campus Cyber Café.

Excitement sparked the room as noon drew near. When the announcement that Obama was president crawled across the screen at noon (during a musical performance), applause broke out, but no one left until the official swearing in was over. How nice it was to share this event with each other.

Evidence, Not ProoF

On January 15, the Ybor School of Visual and Performing Arts Gallery celebrated the work of one of our own: Festival of the Moving Image creator David Audet, whose Photo Essays were displayed. The show also featured the creations of Miami Beach’s Judith Robertson, given in the newly-renovated main stage theatre.

Thanks go out to art gallery director Carolyn Kossar for all her work to make the gallery successful.

Celebrating History

Submitted by Judy Nolasco

Ybor City Campus President Dr. Shawn Robinson was the keynote speaker for the Academy Prep Center’s 3rd Annual Black History Celebration, “Reconnecting to our Past to Revolutionize our Future.” The event was held at the Eckerd Family Auditorium on Columbus Drive in Tampa.

Dr. Robinson spoke about growing up and about what builds character. He spoke about the lessons he learned from his family and how they were such a positive influence in his life. He also showed the students some of his achievements in school activities and how they helped him learn to make decisions and lay out a plan for his future.

Three of our students from the CCID Summit Program who are here from South Africa also spoke about how and why they are here and how coming to America has been such a wonderful opportunity for them. The program also included the choir, the step team, and an African dance ensemble from Academy Prep of St. Pete.

All About a Boy

Tamika Thomas, Senior Staff Assistant in the campus president’s office, is expected to deliver a future HCC student on April 5; her Ybor family threw a shower for her on February 18.

Special Visitors

Students in Psychology Professor Norma Caltagirone’s Human Sexuality class had a unique opportunity to gain insight on sexual reassignment surgery when guest speakers Apple and Gianna gave a funny and frank presentation about their own experiences: Apple (left) had surgery 16 years ago; Gianna has been taking hormones and is in the process of changing. Both explained how estrogen changed many of their perspectives. The Q + A session was a hoot.

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Go Figure
Two math instructors working at the Ybor City Campus have birthdays just days apart. Happy Birthday, ladies.

Another Successful Intersession
Submitted by Judy Nolasco

The Ybor City Campus hosted 644 students during the 2008’ holiday break. Twenty-six sections of classes from Accounting to Fire Science were offered and taught by twenty-four full and part-time faculty from December 15th – December 31st. This was the fourteenth year of Intersession for HCC, which began in 1995 with about 100 students at the Pine Brook Center in Brandon. Students from all over the state as well as many current HCC students attend the classes to make up credits or to just get a little ahead in their education.

Some comments from the students in a recent survey show that the classes “take more commitment,” “they are more focused and more challenging,” and there are “less distractions.” Many students commented that the classes helped them learn how to better manage their time, and they liked being able to focus on just one or two classes.

Some of the positive comments from the faculty were that the “students are great,” “every single one was highly motivated,” and they “worked extremely hard.” The students receive 45 hours of instruction just as they do in a regular semester, and many say that the daily instruction as opposed to classes that meet once or twice a week helps them better retain the information.

Student Success Seminars – A Huge Success at Ybor!
Submitted by Judy Nolasco

This is the third semester for the Student Success Seminars at the Ybor City Campus, and the attendance keeps growing. The seminars are presented by HCC faculty and staff on topics such as “Writing for College – Why Is It Different?”; “Test-taking Strategies”; “Job Searching During a Recession”; “Formatting Papers Electronically”; “The Ten Commandments of Human Relations”; “Where’s Your Money? Your Budget, Your Credit, & Financial Aid”; “Take Good Care of Yourself”.

Last semester, 184 students attended seven seminars offered throughout the semester. This semester, 163 students have already attended the first three! The seminars have been a great way to reach students about topics they may not have the opportunity to learn about and to review topics that are important to their success in college.

Many of the professors offer extra credit to students who attend, many bring their classes, and some students just come on their own out of personal interest. If students walk away having learned one new thing that can help them be better students, better citizens, or just better people, the seminars are worth the effort.

HCC CARES

Members of the Ybor City Campus C.A.R.E. Committee and students of the Law Enforcement and Corrections academies packed up and loaded 1800 pounds of food collected at the campus to donate to Metropolitan Ministries for the holidays.

Pictured above (L-R), Katen Amin, Judy Nolasco, Sheila Merchant, and Mindy Neal box the goods for delivery. At right, the Law Enforcement/Corrections Students work to get the packages into the hands of those needing them.

Submitted by Judy Nolasco