...by Marcella Sherman

Dale Mabry campus’s 40th Anniversary event on September 11, the 10th Anniversary of the Writing Center, will also mark the Grand Opening of Dale Mabry campus’s Learning Commons. The institution of the Learning Commons, providing centralized academic support for students, is something new for HCC as well as for libraries all over the country, primarily at the university level. The well-used services of Dale Mabry campus’s library, Tutoring Center, and Writing Center will now be located together in the heart of the campus, the Learning Resources Center. Writing assistance for all HCC classes and all HCC students will be available to students on the third floor; reference librarians, video materials, library resources, and tutoring assistance will be housed on the second floor. Students will also find comfortable work space for both individual and group study and computer labs for all College-related work. Dale Mabry campus’s new Learning Commons is an innovative collaboration designed to provide students with a dynamic and versatile learning environment.
Young Hawks visit HCC

...by Anne White
CSI means more than a television show to 8th grade students throughout Hillsborough County. For 300 middle school students, teachers and counselors, CSI means Career Seeking Investigation, a special event that was held on May 9, 2008 at Dale Mabry, Ybor City and Brandon campuses.

This was an exciting event with a detective/investigation theme. The students completed an Investigative Report before the day of the event, then they collected clues (HCC give-aways) while on campus. Students experience hands-on interactive sessions in several of the Associate of Science programs, toured the campuses, and had a final Q & A session during which they completed their Investigative Findings.

The students were placed in groups of 20 for campus tours and interactive sessions with HCC instructors in HCC labs and classrooms. The students competed for the spots to participate in the CSI event. Professor Sean Kenney sent to our participating middle schools a tutorial to prepare for a Computer Science Jeopardy. Professors Stephen Gagnon and Fred Jaeger of Hospitality Management lead the students in a Scavenger Hunt in the Gourmet Room Kitchen in Sanitation and Safety.

First year Experience in Dublin

...by Steve Johns
Professors Steve Johns, Sarah Ramirez, and Carol Zavarella attended the 21st International Conference on the First Year Experience at University College of Dublin in Dublin, Ireland. In June the conference focused on first year students and students in transition. The sessions were really enlightening and candid. The conference was a great way to learn of ideas and best practices that other institutions are implementing as well as providing a forum for candid discussions about the challenges and opportunities. Ultimately, it was an eye-opening experience to hear that throughout the world, students are very similar. Johns reports “I’ve adjusted the content in my College Success class, especially using the constructs of diversity and earlier detection of issues that students might have. I think the conference content made me more aware of how to look for indicators that students are struggling. I really believe that the more attentive we are to some of the clues that students give through their behaviors and what they tell us about their challenges, the more likely we are to positively affect retention.”
Volunteers of the Year

...by Paulette Gross
The HCC Respiratory Program received the Volunteers of the Year Award from the Gulfcoast Chapter of the American Lung Association. The students in the program volunteered and participated in the Tampa Bay Asthma Walk 2008 as well as the volunteerering at the 2008 Stair Climb. Gina Ricard, Respiratory Program Faculty, served on the planning committee for the 2008 Tampa Asthma Walk.

Sustainable Energy

...by Desi Saludes
With gasoline prices hovering around $4.00 a gallon, there has been renewed national interest lately in the need for alternative energy supplies and the coming “green economy”. With this new energy economy in mind, a group of HCC students and students from 3 other community colleges traveled to Denmark this summer to study sustainable energy technologies and policies.

In the 1970’s, as a response to the OPEC cartel’s cutting of international oil supplies, the government of Denmark adapted an aggressive series of national policies to address that country’s future energy, setting aside large federal subsidies for the development and implementation of alternative energy supplies in that country. As a result, Denmark today is a world leader in “green” energy technologies including wind, biomass, geothermal, cogeneration, conservation, and recycling.

Students attended presentations and were given detailed tours at several research centers and manufacturing facilities. While in Denmark, students lived with host families for two weeks, allowing them to truly immerse themselves in Danish culture. The trip was part of an HCC class, “Perspectives in Sustainable Energy”, which is offered every summer by Desi Saludes, Physics Instructor on the Dale Mabry campus. For information on next year’s class or information on sustainable energy, contact Professor Saludes at dsaludes@hccfl.edu.
Nursing Orientation Welcomes 130 into 3 Fall Classes

...by Paulette Gross
New nursing student orientation is geared to give students the tools to be successful. Dissatisfied with the previous three hour orientation, Nursing Program Manager Risë Sandrowitz developed a two day event that encompasses strategies learned from OnCourse principles formulated by Dr. Skip Downing of Baltimore Community College System.

Presentations were made by Dale Mabry and Plant City counselors, representatives of Dale Mabry Bookstore, publishers of nursing textbooks and SNA representatives. One of the highlights was a presentation delivered by Lou Lombana, Dale Mabry counselor, on test-taking strategies for nursing students.

Students find nursing tests more challenging as they are designed to prepare students for the high stakes exam they will take upon graduation to become licensed by the state of Florida Board of Nursing. Three quarters of the orientation time was spent on interactive activities to enhance and enrich self awareness, self esteem, personal responsibility, self management and interdependence.

Faculty trained in OnCourse principles act as facilitators, leading groups in these various exercises. Students and faculty leave our orientation on an emotional high, ready to face the new semester. Anyone who may be interested in learning more about OnCourse may contact Risë Sandrowitz at 813.253.7268 or visit www.oncourseworkshop.com.

What is oncourseworkshop.com?
On Course is “a gold mine of resources to support your efforts for improving student academic success and retention.”

Dale Mabry CAC

...Marcella Sherman
Dale Mabry Campus Advisory Council will hold the first monthly meeting of 2008-2009 academic year on Friday, September 5. The council is made up of faculty, staff, and students who work together on a wide variety of campus issues and projects. Campus Advisory Council is designed to serve as the conduit for effective communication between all campus community members and administrators. Dale Mabry campus president, Dr. Robert Chunn, along with other administrators, participates actively in the council as he monitors council discussions and reports regularly on important developments. Further, all Campus Advisory Council members are also members of Institutional Advisory Council, which reports directly to College president, Dr. Gwendolyn Stephenson, at monthly meetings. For more information about CAC membership or bringing an idea, project, or problem to the council’s attention, visit the Dale Mabry campus CAC Web site or contact Angelica Acevedo, chair of the membership committee.
Health Science Programs Orientation

...by Paulette Gross

New students have orientation for several health science programs each summer. For newly admitted students in Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene, Radiation Therapy, Radiography, Respiratory Care and Sonography, students, this may be dream come true. The programs are highly competitive and the admissions process is very demanding.

More than 130 students begin lining up before 7:30 AM, even though the program does not start until 8:30 AM. The orientation begins with a group session led by Dean Amy Anderson. This year, the speakers included Librarian Christa Fowler who introduced students to the myriad resources available to them; Thomasine Banks, Financial Aid Manager, who instructed students how to apply for financial aid; Jason Wilson, Student Programs Coordinator, who presented the registration process and answered questions, and Aziz Agbo-Panzo, Property Manager of Hawks Landing. The dean facilitated a Question and Answer session after the speakers.

After the group session, students participated in a program-specific orientation. Topics covered at these sessions include uniforms, clinicals, and labs, as well as requirements such as CPR certification, immunizations, drug screening and background checks.

Study Abroad Program

...by Tom Klee

On June 19, Professor Tom Klee and 6 HCC students left for 13 days in Belize as part of a Study Abroad program. The students represented three HCC campuses: Dale Mabry, Ybor City, and Plant City. In June 2007, Michael Brennan, HCC’s Director of International Education, and Professor Klee traveled to Belize to scout out the possibilities of running a Study Abroad program. Faculty members from two other community colleges joined that trip: Professor Penny McDonald from Brevard Community College and Professor Woody Moses from Highline Community College. The class was created through work of Dr. Margaret Hopson Fernandes and Professor Klee. Financial support to help offset the costs was facilitated by the Students for the Environment Club, the HCC Foundation, and the Student Governments from Dale Mabry, Plant City and Ybor City. The students spent the first week in the rain forest at the Hill Bank facility of the Programme for Belize in country host in accommodations similar to camping in a cabin. The students spent the first week studying the rain forest and the implications human use of the rain forest resources has on both the people and the ecosystem and visited a Mayan ruin. They spent the second week at the Hugh Parkey Foundation facility at Spanish Caye and snorkeled in the Barrier Reef Ecosystem there. The emphasis for the whole class was on the ecosystem and the impact of human interactions.
Let Me Introduce Dr. Dennis P. Sweeney, D.D.S.

...by Paulette Gross

Dr. Dennis Sweeney joined HCC August 31, 2006 as the Director of our Dental Clinic. He has over 35 years of experience in dentistry including four years teaching in a Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting program and directing a clinic similar to ours at Edison Community College. He was voted teacher of the year at Edison three years in a row. Prior to Edison, Dr. Sweeney was in private practice in Ft. Myers, Florida and Kankakee, Illinois.

He graduated from the University of Illinois with a Doctor of Dental Science Degree (D.D.S.). In addition to his dental and teaching experience, Dr. Sweeney current and past honors include membership in the West Coast Dental Society, member of the American Association of Endodontics, President and Secretary-Treasurer of the Kankakee Dental Society, Chair of the Kankakee Fluoride Program, public spokesperson for the American Dental Association, consultant for Connecticut General Dental Insurance and consultant for the Illinois State Medicaid Fraud Unit. If you see Dr. Sweeney on campus, be sure to introduce yourself. He is an important and integral part of our Dale Mabry Family!

Dr. Dennis Sweeney

The clinic, located in the first floor of the Learning Resources Building, is a state-of-the-art facility. It houses not only the clinic, but Debbie Heysek, Program Manager of the Dental Hygiene Program and Connie Reed, Program Coordinator of the Dental Assisting Program. Assisted by Ivette Claudio, the dental clinic coordinator, the team of Dr. Sweeney, Debbie Heysek and Connie Reed provide outstanding dental care to clinic patients and dental education for our students.

Have a story...

Please send all news worthy items to Dr. Mary Bendickson, Dean AA Programs (mbendickson@hccfl.edu) or Brent Ellis, Assistant to Dean (jellis16@hccfl.edu) to be included in future issues of A Hawk’s Eye View. Please include pictures when possible.