The HCC Hawks men’s basketball team, coached by the recipient of the Suncoast Conference Coach of the Year, Derrick Worrels, had another successful season. They are the 2009-2010 Suncoast Conference Champions. But the team’s success does not only come from individual players. It is not solely derived from the tenacity and natural talent which are abundant on this squad. It doesn’t only come from height or stature. It is not merely found in certain players’ abilities to drain a three pointer from the top of point or blind pass an alley-oop. The success comes from a sense of unity. It is created from encouragement that instigates that desire to achieve. It is cultivated. It is coached.

Watching Coach Worrels lead the team during practice, one notices the psychological dynamic in his coaching style. He uses the excitement, the anger, the raw emotions of the players. He calls on them to harness that energy into productivity. If two players go up for a rebound and one comes down with an elbow to the eye, calling for a foul or talking trash, Worrels does not stop the play entirely; no, he insists that the player uses that hostility, that heat, on the court through action and not words.

As a former HCC basketball player, Worrels had tremendous success and little has changed since then. Coach Worrels, in his 10th year as the Hawk’s head coach, has coached his teams to six state tournament appearances. This year he has passed an amazing milestone of his 200th win, and this is something that should be applauded. Not only does the team deserve that standing ovation after winning, so does the coach who drives the team forward each year. Congratulations Coach Worrels.
A Bird’s Eye View of...

SPRING FACULTY IN-SERVICE AND QEP INSTITUTE
by Joanne Nelson

On Thursday, April 15, 2010 our Dale Mabry campus hosted the Spring Faculty In-service and QEP Spring Institute where faculty from all campuses considered the question “What is assessment?” Classroom, program, and institutional assessment were the focus of the morning’s discussions using the construction analogy “From Foundation to Roof: Building Assessment.” Metaphorically speaking, this theme means that faculty are a building’s foundation because without faculty ownership of assessment in their classrooms there is no assessment. Similarly, General Education and AA / AS program assessment comprise the building’s walls as SACS accreditation and curriculum development rely on their structure. Finally, institutional assessment is analogous to the building’s roof as we examine critical success factors to know whether or not student learning outcomes were achieved.

Break-out sessions covered myriad topics related to assessment and were presented by HCC faculty, staff, and administrators. Some workshop sessions relayed information about a specific type of assessment instrument. Others demonstrated an assessment strategy used as an ungraded measure of student learning; for instance, my workshop on Classroom Assessment Techniques (or CATs, for short) was about the use of various practical, ungraded, quick, easy options that let us know how well students are learning and how effectively we’re teaching. On the other hand, a workshop also might have offered a strategy other than testing used as a graded measure of student learning. Examples of different types of rubrics used to grade assignments comprised another criterion for a workshop presentation, along with other innovative ways we can assess our own teaching effectiveness.

The QEP report centered on the question “What has our institution learned?” and emphasized the importance of being systematic in collecting and presenting evidence that we’re assessing student learning outcomes. Foremost is ensuring students are learning what we think they’re learning. Assessment is the vehicle for determining how well students, faculty, programs, and the institution as a whole are doing – from foundation to roof.

ASSESSMENT WORKS! by Gladys Nixon-Arrington

During the April 15, 2010 Spring Faculty In-service, I attended a presentation on Classroom Assessment Techniques (CATs). These assessments are practical and provide excellent feedback to both students and instructors. In an effort to utilize what I learned, I implemented one of these informal assessments in the classroom. The feedback and level of participation by my students was nothing short of amazing. I would encourage instructors to utilize this assessment technique. They are practical and allow students an outlet of expression.
SPRING JOB FAIR by Laurie Ragsdale

On Tuesday, April 13th the Career Resource Center hosted its annual Spring Job Fair. The event was held in the Gymnasium from 9:30am-2:00pm and attracted large numbers of both employers and job seekers. There were 62 local employers represented and by the end of the afternoon over 1,300 job seekers had come through the gym. Although they may not have been looking for a job, many students took advantage of the opportunity to network with the recruiters to learn about the companies and were able to find out what types of skills are in demand. Representatives from Hillsborough County’s Fire Department and Sheriff’s Office were happy to share information on how to prepare for careers with their respective departments. Feedback was extremely positive from the other employers as well. Most commented on the quality and quantity of motivated, interested candidates. Several recruiters were happy to report that they were leaving with dozens of resumes of potential candidates. A number of students have interviews lined up and at least three job seekers left the gym with a job!

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION by Margaret Hopson-Fernandes

Sponsored by Students for the Environment, the Dale Mabry Earth Day Celebration was held on April 22 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the shade sail plaza and SGA Lounge area between the Humanities and the Library buildings. Several campus and college organizations collaborated to offer a fun-filled and informative event. Croc Encounters and Big Cat Rescue joined us again along with many other community guests including the Hillsborough County Water Department, City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department, and SWFMWD. Food was served by Abby's Health and Nutrition. Several alternative energy vehicles were displayed. HCC Biology students presented Earth Day infomercials in a poster session in the SGA Lounge between 10:00-11:45 a.m., and Vic Harke and the library staff featured a wonderful Earth Day (Earth Week) book display near the front information desk of the Dale Mabry Library.
The brick courtyard on the Dale Mabry campus was transformed into a “Kaleidoscope of Cultures” on Thursday, April 8, 2010 as students in the English for Academic Purposes (EAP) program showcased their countries during the 13th annual celebration of the HCC International Festival.

As in past years, the festival began with the always impressive Parade of Nations. As the name of each country was announced, students representing 45 countries and dressed in native costumes carried their flags to the main event stage. President Chunn welcomed the students and guests and, after opening remarks, officially kicked off the event.

Throughout the daylong festival, visitors had a chance to learn about countries, customs, and cultures from all over the world – from Angola to Colombia to Iran and Turkey to Vietnam. Almost every table offered visitors the opportunity to learn via games and quizzes. A “frog toss” game from Colombia challenged visitors to throw brass tokens into the frogs’ mouths to earn points. The Chinese delegation challenged festival goers to use chopsticks to move peas from one bowl to another for a prize. Students from Cuba and Colombia staffed tables offering chess and dominoes lessons to inexperienced players and challenging the experienced ones to test their skills.

For the first year ever, EAP students designed and manned special interest tables. Students from the EAP Reading VI class put the spotlight on international authors from twelve countries, showcasing a range of literary works which have been translated into English. EAP student Mariely Reynoso reminded festival goers that the environment is an international concern as she displayed ways to recycle, reuse, and reduce products. In addition, members of the HCC Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) club distributed financial aid information in English, Kreyòl, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

As usual, the highlight of the festival was the talent displayed during student performances. The offerings were no less colorful or spectacular than in years past. Participants and visitors alike were delighted as EAP student Haipeng Dai led a lively Chinese Dragon dance. Professional singer Naisys Mendez-Cordova from Cuba charmed the audience with her voice as she sang popular Hispanic songs. An international fashion show featured EAP students modeling both native and contemporary dress from their countries. Everyone’s favorite, international dances, brought the performances to a close but not before Tammie Villafana and Janeatha Robles from the HCC Xstatik Dance Club instructed everyone in the ever-popular US line dance. Music for all the performances and dances was provided by DJ Richard Scally.

No international festival is complete without food, and this year’s buffet included dishes from Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. In order to sample the international cuisine offerings, visitors received “passports” to the event and had to travel the world to meet with at least five delegations of students. As the travelers stopped at each country’s display and interacted with the delegates, asking questions and participating in games and activities, they received “customs stamps” in their passports. Five stamps entitled them to a ticket good for one meal at the international buffet.

The International Festival ended in mid-afternoon as flags were packed away, posters were taken down, and the music stopped, but the cultural diversity that exists on the Dale Mabry campus will continue to be a rich influence on students, faculty, and staff each and every day of the year.
STUDENT WORKER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON by Laurie Ragsdale

A Student Worker Appreciation lunch was held on Thursday, April 22nd to thank all our hard working federal work study and student assistants at Dale Mabry. The fun took place at the pool/patio area of the Hawks Landing apartment complex. A barbecue lunch was served and students had the opportunity to participate in some activities to win some great door prizes. The event was sponsored by the Career Resource Center and Dean of Student Services Dr. Frank Babcock.
The District Board of Trustees of Hillsborough Community College has conducted a national search to select the next President of the College, who will replace retiring President Dr. Gwendolyn W. Stephenson. The search process is in its final stages. Each campus and the district office is hosting a forum for each of the four finalists for the Presidency.

The four forums at the Dale Mabry campus were scheduled from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 13 April, with Chancellor Myrtle Dorsey (Baton Rouge Community College, Baton Rouge, LA); Wednesday, 14 April, with Pres. Ken Atwater (South Mountain Community College, Phoenix, AZ); Thursday, 22 April, with Pres. Mark W. Rocha (West Los Angeles College, Culver City, CA); and Friday, 23 April, with Pres. Anthony S. Tricoli (Georgia Perimeter College, Decatur, GA).

Each candidate was introduced by Dean Mary Bendickson. Questions were asked of the candidates from faculty, administration, staff, and students and fell into several general categories. There were questions about each candidate’s philosophy for a community college, with added attention to Hillsborough Community College specifically. The movement of community colleges in Florida toward becoming four-year baccalaureate institutions was broached, as well as whether the candidate perceives such a move for HCC in the future under his or her leadership.

Another common area of inquiry was professional development and upward mobility for both faculty and staff (at all levels). A related theme included questions about each candidate’s leadership style.

Questions about academic issues were posed. Each candidate was asked about his or her familiarity with nursing programs. There were questions relating to technology and distance learning. Some questions delved into international programs and the response to globalization in higher education. Each candidate also commented on unique or special academic programs at her or his institution, including ones that reach out to the K-12 student population through dual-enrollment and partnership programs. Interactions with students, student recognition, financial aid and housing, and textbooks were also topics of inquiry.

Each candidate was asked about her or his response to the challenges of critical thinking, critical analysis, and informational literacy as they affect the future of Hillsborough Community College.

For more information concerning the our Presidential Search visit: http://www.hccfl.edu/dao/presidential-search.aspx