This year’s International Festival celebrated the diversity of our campus with more than 200 student participants. All-in-all, more than 80 flag bearers marched in the Parade of Nations, carrying the flags of 40 countries.

The weather was perfect for the occasion, and the plaza was a colorful and festive place as many of the flag bearers sported their hometown garb.

On the patio, students lined up to sample many ethnic foods—including Mediterranean, Asian, and Spanish treats—as they were entertained by a talented collection of singers and dancers. Festival goers drank about 40 cases of water and used more than 2,000 plates. It was a wonderful celebration for all involved.
The Match Game

On Friday, March 25, the Ybor City Campus Chess Club hosted a tournament with the Dale Mabry Campus Chess Club. The tournament, which ran from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., pitted six players from each team against each other.

The Ybor City team—club president Daniel Kadyk, vice-president Michael Laperche, secretary Valentin Gallegos, warden Doug Moore, and members Maurice Johnson and Terrance Lyle—were defeated and had to surrender the trophy that the Ybor City club had provided. Just wait until next time!

Festival of the Moving Image

The 9th Annual Ybor Festival of the Moving Image, which ran from March 23 through 27, featured a collection of interesting and amazing works from a variety of artists.

The Digital Lounge Show, located in the HCC Art Gallery, intrigued visitors with video installations by Francesca Talenti plus a group of works by international filmmakers. Because attendees were provided with wireless headphones that would pick up the audio signal from whichever work they stood directly in front of, the gallery had an eerie silence as festival-goers drifted from installation to installation.

On Friday, New York performance artist Pat Oleszko took to the Mainstage Theatre with her show, which examined the BP oil spill, among other natural environmental horrors. Oleszko has gained notoriety for her provocative body of works, which includes inflatables. In this piece, footage of a massive trash vortex was projected on a screen of inflatable ghostly apparitions (pictured below).

Later in the show, the flotilla of garbage, made mostly of plastic bags, swept across the stage. Captured within it were some iconic images: the Statue of Liberty, a polar bear wearing sunglasses, and the globe itself, all helplessly caught in the swirling tide of trash (pictured at the bottom of the next page).
This year, the Festival partnered with the Gasparilla International Film Festival, which increased its reach to more festival goers than ever.

Some of the films that were screened for the festival included the Academy Award winning animated short film *The Lost Thing; More than Skin Deep*, a film by Tampa filmmaker Stan Kozma that examines the history, science, and culture of skin cancer; *Waste Land*, which looks at catadores, those who rummage through the world’s largest garbage dump, Jardim Gramacho in Rio de Janeiro, in search of recyclable material.

The Ybor Festival of the Moving Image began in 2003 due to the enthusiastic support of Dr. Lois Gaston, who served as Ybor City Campus president at that time. Dr. Gaston invited HCC Special Projects Manager David Audet, who has a long history in the Tampa art scene, to develop an annual festival. David has worked tirelessly on producing the festival ever since.
On April 14, the 37th annual Juried Student Art Exhibition opened at the Ybor City Campus Art Gallery. Generously sponsored by Las Damas De Arte, the exhibition featured the fine works of our students. The winning work was entitled *Wolves, Bears, Cubs, Otters, Oh My!*

While there was no official *Wizard of Oz* theme, one interesting work featured more than 100 characters from the film, mostly those crazy flying monkeys, hanging from the ceiling. Above is the Tin Man as he falls from the sky, his trusty ax hanging precariously above him.

Congratulations to our talented students.

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**Olympic Pride**

On Wednesday, April 13, HCC’s Ybor City Campus held the third annual HCC Olympic event. Teams competed in ten different events: Ping Pong, Pong, Dizzy Bat Race, Beachball Volleyball, Water Balloon Toss, Neck Relay, Dragon Tag, Corn Hole, Rock Band, and in a team problem-solving competition.

After a spirited competition on a lovely warm day, the final standings were announced. The top ten are as follows:

1. No I in Team (Ybor) - 51 Points
2. Alpha Lambda Alpha (Brandon) - 47 Points
3. The SGA (Ybor) - 40 Points
4. Drop it Like its Hot (Ybor) - 39 Points
5. HCC Mighty Mights (Ybor) - 36 Points
6. Phi Theta Kappa (Ybor) - 30 Points
7. Gryffindors (Brandon) - 28 Points (Tie)
7. Ybor Chess Knights (Ybor) - 28 Points (Tie)
9. Fantasy Island Fanatics (District) - 25 Points
10. Southshore Storm (Southshore) - 24 Points

Bringing up the rear are these teams:

11. Southshore Charlie Sheens (Southshore) - 23 Points (Tie)
11. PC Hammers (Plant City) - 23 Points (Tie)
13. CJSA (Ybor) - 18 Points
14. Math Masters (Ybor) - 8 Points

At left, teams play beachball volleyball. At right, a team strategizes to build a container that will break the fall of an egg without breaking the egg itself.
Join the Toast of Ybor City!
by Dr. Shelly Stein

At the end of each semester, my public speaking students often ask, "What can I do to continue improving my public speaking skills?" Since most colleges don't offer advanced courses in public speaking, I often suggest an argumentation and debate class or to join a Toastmasters Club.

Established in 1924, Toastmasters International is a self-paced, hands-on communication and leadership program. Toastmasters Clubs meet at various locations at various days and times, so it is easy to find a meeting that is convenient. For the person who does not need the college credit, a Toastmasters program is more cost effective than a college course or a workplace seminar: there is a one-time $20 new member fee and $27 dues every six months.

To follow up on the advice I have given my students, I visited a Toastmasters Club at the Tampa Police Headquarters downtown on Franklin Street. We met in the boardroom and the Toastmaster of the day was the head of Tampa's call centers. One of the scheduled speakers was the police department’s PR guy who promptly declined when he heard what I did for a living. Little did he know that I was as intimidated as he was! I was surrounded by uniformed officials and had no idea what a Toastmaster's meeting was all about!

Typical of each meeting, we began promptly on time, had a greeting from the Toastmaster, the pledge, the invocation, and then went on to the various volunteer speakers. For each meeting, members sign up to speak (if they are prepared) to fulfill a particular speech assignment. Each speech goes toward fulfilling a specific set of objectives and culminates in one of many possible Toastmasters certifications. Speakers are timed and evaluated by other members and even the meeting itself is timed and evaluated. At the end, we had “table topics” or impromptu speaking where everyone participates. Guess who was called on first?!?

Of the many things I learned at that first meeting, the most important was that the advice I had been giving my students was good advice. Secondly, I learned that Toastmasters is as much about leadership and meeting management as it is about public speaking. Third, I knew that I had to find a less intimidating club!

If you Google “Toastmasters,” you will see clubs dotted all over the Tampa Bay area. In fact, the Tampa Bay area has more active clubs than any other place in the world other than in Mumbai, India. The club that I found was the best fit for me was the Top of the Morning Oldsmar Toastmasters club, which meets each Wednesday morning at 7:30 a.m. at an assisted living center in Westchase. Granted, this is early, but I have a 9:30 a.m. SPC 1608 (Introduction to Public Speaking) class that I must meet here in Ybor City, so it worked out well for me!

I particularly liked this club because it has a variety of members who are there for many different reasons. Several people are entrepreneurs; there are a couple of second language speaking professionals who want to perfect their English language skills; a few people are retired but active in community groups; another just moved to the area and was looking for jobs and wanted to brush up on her communication skills (she just got a job!). Then there’s me.

Personally, I am working toward my Competent Communicator certification, which requires that I deliver 10 speeches, each targeting a specific goal or skill. I am currently on speech number nine, working on persuasion. My fellow club members have issued a moratorium on my speaking about any speech communication-related topic, so I am searching for a new topic ideas. A great part of the Toastmaster’s experience for me is in seeing how the Toastmaster’s curriculum compares to what I’ve taught for the past 23 years. In addition, I am able to receive some truly honest feedback on my own skills. The best part is now I have some very good stories and current public speaking experience to share with my students.

Now that I am familiar with Toastmasters, I feel that I am ready to begin a club here at the Ybor City campus. My goal is to start a club this fall for students, staff, faculty and alumni. I will send out a survey this summer to see who might be interested, and to see what times and days would be best for meetings. If you are interested in learning more about Toastmaster’s, feel free to email me at sstein2@hccfl.edu.