Warning: If you run into Shawn Robinson somewhere, and there’s a pool table, darts, or a chessboard near, don’t get too loose with your betting money. It seems like our new campus president is a bit of a shark. He was a member of the American Pool Players Association and the National Dart Association. He was also the most valuable player on his high school chess team.

Dr. Shawn Robinson took over as campus president on September 10. Bringing with him a rich history of service at many levels, Dr. Robinson has experience as a math professor and as academic assistant to the provost at Valencia Community College. He also served as Dean of Social Sciences and Physical Education at Valencia, all while continuing to stay in the classroom as an adjunct instructor.

Dr. Robinson also served as an advisor for Phi Theta Kappa, and operated as the Florida web master for that organization.

Holding a B.S. and M.A. (1991) in Mathematics Education, an Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction with a Community College emphasis (1994), and a J.D. from Florida A & M (2005), Dr. Robinson is well equipped to lead the Ybor City Campus.

He has implemented an open door policy for everyone, including students, staff, and faculty, to visit without appointment on Wednesdays (2-4pm) and Thursdays (4-6pm). If you drop by, you’ll notice that there are several chess sets with pieces in place and ready to go. Watch your king.
After 6 years of fantastic service, Ybor City Campus cantina supervisor Terry Andresen is leaving us. Under his leadership, the cantina was the best among all of the college’s cafeterias.

Terry was presented with an appreciation plaque by Dr. Robinson. We will all miss him. Good luck, Terry!

On Sunday, October 14, History Professor Kim Williams is leaving on a four-day humanitarian mission to Haiti to visit a school and Centre d’Apprentissage et de Formation Pour la Transformation (CAFT), an association which instructs Haitian teachers in modern pedagogical practices.

Part of the yéléHaiti project, founded by musician Wyclef Jean, the teacher training project conducts onsite workshops to improve teaching methods (including “active learning” techniques) in 16 schools each in Gonaives and Port-au-Prince.

According to the yéléHaiti site, Haiti’s educational system is said to be the feeblest in the Western Hemisphere, based on an antiquated 2-tiered system that has not changed since Haiti’s independence in 1804: “rote memorization” or “learning by repetition” enforced by daily use of the classroom whip or other baton type instrument. Rote memorization, a learning technique which avoids understanding of the subject, when coupled with the daily fear of corporal punishment, encourages repetition without comprehension, actively punishes creative thought processes and suppresses critical thinking.

To address this problem, the project started with 16 schools in 2005, doubling to 32 schools in 2006 due to widespread acceptance and anticipation, yéléHaiti funds CAFT, an non-government organization (NGO) that provides teachers with the training and knowledge to impart another approach in their teaching: “active” and “participatory” learning, and removing the whip from the curriculum. While teachers in the US get a great deal of schooling to become teachers, this is not the case in Haiti, and teachers follow tradition. They have not been exposed to methods that teach conceptual and cognitive development, and, taking their students education very seriously, embrace these new teaching methods.

Kim will be collecting donations of schools supplies, including backpacks, crayons, rulers, notebooks, pencils, and folders, along with teachers’ supplies, such as chalk, grade books, and planning calendars (remember, materials must be printed in French). She plans to transport about 80 pounds of materials with her. She will also collect cash donations to support the programs in Haiti.

Coincidentally, Plant City Campus math professor Craig Hardesty will be visiting Haiti on a mission trip at the same time. They will be visiting a school together. Craig will be provide a presentation on All College Day about his trip.

Virtual Library Tour
by Jeneice Sorrentino

Did you know that the Ybor City Campus Library can be toured virtually? To take the tour, go to www.hccfl.edu/yborlibrary and click on the “Video Tour” link in the banner. Virtual tours of all the HCC campus libraries were recently produced with the assistance of the PDWS staff.

HCC students and employees have a powerful virtual library at their fingertips 24/7 through the statewide Library Information Network for Community Colleges (LINCC). By logging on to the campus library’s web page and simply entering your library card number when prompted, a rich variety of resources may be accessed including:

- Over 17,000 electronic books
- Over 75 databases, many containing journal articles in full text. To see a list of the databases by subject, go to http://www.hccfl.edu/library/pdfs/dbs_subject.pdf
- A statewide reference service, staffed by librarians, available from 10:00 a.m. to midnight Sunday through Thursday, and 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

An easy way to introduce students to these resources is to schedule library visits for your classes. The librarians will tailor an instruction session to your class assignment and demonstrate the resources. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact Alicia Ellison at 7731 or Jeneice Sorrentino at 7613.

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Chemistry Professor Burt Rubini likes to throw pots and cups. But don’t worry about being hit with anything. Burt does his throwing on the pottery wheel in his small home studio.

He is an amateur potter that mostly throws (forms pottery on a wheel. Think Demi Moore in *Ghost*), but he also does some hand-building. He mostly uses earthenware and porcelain clay bodies for his pieces, an unusual combination because the earthenware clay he prefers is very porous, gritty and dark, while porcelain is extremely smooth (almost glassy), having no grit at all, and is pure white. He has chosen practically opposite ends of the spectrum for his two preferred clay bodies, but these are the two he’s always liked best!

Ceramics has been a serious hobby for Burt since his graduate school days. He began by building pieces by hand, but he tried the potter’s wheel in 1992 and fell in love with that technique.

Working with all that clay may have a real practical benefit: Burt has very smooth and soft hands. He has passed on his interests to his daughter, Emma, and she creates objects by building and on the wheel.

**Sew and sew**

Reading and Writing Lab Assistant Karen Anderson is an expert seamstress. Besides managing all of the paperwork, entering grades on the computer, ensuring that the students have all they need, and generally taking care of everything that needs to be done in the lab, Karen spends time making beautiful pillows, blankets, curtains, and clothing.

Moreover, Karen teaches sewing classes at night and on weekends at Hancock fabrics. Near the holidays when people begin to request personalized gifts for friends and loved ones, Karen stays extra busy keeping up with the orders.

One of the big advantages to getting something made instead of buying off the shelf is that you get exactly what you want. You don’t need to settle for a color that’s not just right or a fabric that’s too flimsy.

One customer wanted a nostalgic look to fit the style of the house but couldn’t find any kitchen curtains that would work. After spotting a nice retro fabric, a print that features car hops on skates delivering platter of food, she took the material to Karen, who created the curtains pictured at right. Karen can use whatever fabric she is presented with, and she has plenty of satisfied customers.

*A custom-ordered bed skirt*
The ceremony for the second annual HCC Employee Excellence Awards was held on Friday, October 5. In the Ybor City Campus tradition, it was preceded by a breakfast in the courtyard. Sue Flaig was on hand to present the awards to the winners:

**Katen Amin**, who could not attend the ceremony, was honored in the faculty category.

The winners receive certificates valued at $230 that they can redeem for the gift of their choosing. They are also in the running to receive the college-wide awards, which will be presented on All College Day.

**Congratulations!**

**Rick Still**, Campus Services, was honored in the supervisor category

**Nitza Sada**, Office Administration Department, was honored in the staff category.

**Carlton Williams** was honored in the adjunct faculty category

Also honored during the ceremony were employees who have dedicated their service to the college.

**5 years**
- Barbara Calhoun
- Shannon Farbe
- Michaelene Hayes
- Linda Herlocker
- Alisa Keaton
- Nancy Mills
- Joe Perez
- Julio Torres
- Kimberly Williams

**10 years**
- Khang Dinh
- Terri Johnson
- Anne Sumner-Kenefick
- Henry Portugues

**20 years**
- Benita Cabrera
- Norma Caltagirone
- Frances Cox
- Zora Hughson
- Debra Magwood

**25 years**
- Chuck Bowen

**35 years**
- Sylvia Marion Carley