On Wednesday, April 20th, Dr. Ken Atwater held his first Spring Semester Open Dialogue with Dale Mabry campus students, faculty, and staff. The first issue the President addressed in his formal remarks was the immediate budget prospects for HCC. Noting that the State Legislature and the State Senate were in negotiations regarding the 2012 budget, he said that the projections for HCC were for a budget reduction of approximately 8.3% from last fiscal year. Despite this budget projection, Dr. Atwater stressed that the institution’s priority is to continue to support the total educational experience for students.

Dr. Atwater added that the state retirement fund for employees, including all community college employees state-wide, would not be able to continue total funding and that each employee could anticipate paying into his or her retirement fund.

Formal remarks continued with a reminder of the three pillars to which he has referred on several occasions. The first pillar upon which the College will move forward is the commitment to “Lead Through Innovation.” He spoke specifically of the importance of technological innovation in all aspects of the College’s work. Much of Dr. Atwater’s subsequent discussion was on issues related to this pillar. Reference was made to Datatel, and how maximizing its use to the benefit of the College will facilitate using our resources effectively and efficiently to meet the needs of students, faculty, and staff.

The second pillar that Dr. Atwater focused on was “Building Collaborative Partnerships.” He touched on curricular issues and relationships with the greater College constituencies.

“Improving the Overall Student Experience” is the third pillar. This concept relates to the first pillar by pursuing how technology can optimize an engaging and supportive learning environment for every student. This pillar also focuses attention on improving all other services to the student body. There were brief exchanges about both student registration for classes and student financial aid.

After Dr. Atwater concluded his formal remarks, an Open Dialogue began and the remainder of the one-and-one-half hour session presented a candid and honest communication of ideas among students, faculty, and staff. Dr. Atwater responded to comments and questions. Among the diversity of topics covered during the Open Dialogue was the need for more and better data on which to base decisions; it was explained that information available apparently is inconsistent across several campuses.

(Continues at “Open Dialogue” on page 2.)
There was some discussion of the need for renovation of the Technology building. Dr. Atwater addressed the issue of the Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funds, noting that there was a modest sum of money available for capital improvements to our campus. He did suggest that local funding for capital improvements with a bond initiative might be a more rational approach to securing funding because it would be Hillsborough County sources investing in Hillsborough Community College.

There were brief words about technology in campus classrooms, comments about the distribution of full-time faculty across the College, and an exchange of opinions on cigarette smoking on campus. There was a question about providing ongoing e-mail service to retired faculty and even to alumni. And in light of rising gasoline prices, there was even discussion of a forthcoming car-pooling software program for students, faculty, and staff. To reinforce the importance of the May 6th Commencement, Dr. Atwater concluded the Open Dialogue session with a reminder about attending, calling it a celebration of the future for our graduates.

**Grand Opening of Opticianry Program’s Russell Stimson Research Library and Remodeled Clinic**

by Bill Underwood

A grand opening of the Opticianry Program’s Russell Stimson Research Library will be held June 1st from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in DTEC 221. Russell Stimson was a widely read author and owner of a large optical laboratory in California. The 900-volume Stimson collection contains many rare books on optics, and it is the largest collection of optical books in the country. His estate donated the collection to Canada College in Redwood City. Canada College no longer offers an Opticianry program and placed the collection in storage. The collection was purchased by William Waterman, who operated a private Opticianry program in the San Francisco area. Waterman is now retiring and has donated the collection to HCC. He is a former faculty member and Program Manager for the Opticianry Program. The library will be available to members of the ophthalmic community by appointment.

The grand opening activities will also provide an opportunity to tour the recently remodeled Opticianry Clinic.
Through the Community College International Program, I’ve had the gratifying privilege to be a mentor parent to many international students at Hillsborough Community College from 2008-2011. Some majored in International Business, others in International Media/Communication, and still others Hospitality (Hotel/Restaurant). Although they studied in different majors and came from different countries – Brazil, Indonesia, South Africa, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Belize, and Guatemala – they all have one very important common thread as a member of the Evans family. They call me Mom, Mama, Mama Tia, or Tia. They are my international children and I loved being their American mom while they were here studying in the USA. The bonds created through the CCI Program will endure for the rest of our lives. These students left their native countries for 12 months and had the adventure of a lifetime with the Evans family.

As a family we have worshipped together, had overnight stays at my home, gone to the beach, and visited Busch Gardens, Disney World, and Universal Studios. We have attended professional and college football games, professional baseball games, and professional hockey games. The international students have watched their American siblings (my daughter and son) play football, lacrosse, and volleyball. We have celebrated birthdays and other holidays. We have attended Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society Induction ceremonies, walked in the American Heart Association’s Annual Heart Walk, participated in campus and coastal cleanups, and volunteered at the Child Abuse Council and at the Humane Society of Tampa Bay. We have enjoyed family game nights, group discussions around the dining table, and cheering through tears as the students become Hillsborough Community College graduates.

As in all families, however, everything was not always fun and games. We shared lots of good times, but there were also sad times such as when my mother passed away, when relationships ended badly, and when we had to say goodbye to each other at the airport. We shared scary times such as a 2:00 a.m. emergency room visit and when the students were victims of bicycle thefts. We shared the stress of staying up late to finish projects or to study for exams. But like families do, we supported each other through difficult times which actually brought us closer together. We are one extended family, and now my children feel as though they have siblings and cousins all over the world. My daughter, Aymara, plans to study abroad. The Evans family will visit Brazil in the near future for a “family reunion” so we can meet the families of our international children.

I can only hope that opening our home and hearts to these international students has had as much of an impact on them as it has had on the Evans family! My family has learned a great deal about the customs and traditions of many countries. We learned there are lots of similarities and differences. We have eaten foods native to Brazil, Guatemala, Indonesia, and South Africa. This phenomenal experience has been life-changing and unforgettable not only for the international students but for us as a mentor family as well.

The mentor families are so important to the success of the CCI Program. One of the reasons I wanted to be a mentor mom was that I was an exchange student in college and can recall the vital role my host family played. They were my source of comfort and strength while I was away from my parents. Being a mentor parent is very rewarding as it has afforded me the opportunity to reciprocate the love and kindness shown to me while I was studying in another country. More importantly, it has broadened my family’s knowledge about several countries’ customs and cultures. It has given us a chance to provide a positive family atmosphere for all the CCI students who have studied at Hillsborough Community College in the last three years. The CCI program is a great program, and I encourage my colleagues and their families to become mentor families for the international students because of the amazing experience it is.
EAP Students “Get Involved” by Barbara Smith-Palinkas

Take a career skills inventory test. Find low-cost dental care. Get an eyeglass prescription filled. File 2010 income taxes. Find a new place to live. Sound like someone’s to-do list? It’s not but if it were, then every one of these tasks could be taken care of right here on the Dale Mabry campus.

Surprised? So were the 20 students enrolled in EAP 1540 – Writing V when they first began exploring services and opportunities available to students, staff and faculty here on the Dale Mabry campus. As part of their Spring 2011 service learning project, students were charged with learning about services available on campus, raising awareness of those services among HCC students, and encouraging students to “Get Involved.”

After selecting specific campus services to explore, students researched them on the HCC website. Armed with some general background information and a set of questions, students then set out to interview the managers and directors of 11 Dale Mabry campus services and departments. The services and departments chosen included Athletics, the Career Resource Center, the HCC Dental Clinic, Hawks Landing, Library Services, the HCC Opticianry Clinic, the Student Government Association (SGA), Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), the Tutoring Commons, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA), and the Writing Commons.

After the interviews, with their research and interview notes in hand, students put pen to paper in order to write descriptive summaries of these departments. Next, students sharpened their writing skills further by composing persuasive essays intended to encourage students and other HCC community members to “Get Involved” in the services and opportunities available here on the Dale Mabry campus.

To increase awareness of these services among the HCC community, students set up a “Get Involved” table at the International Festival on March 10, 2011. During the festival, they shared their written summaries and persuasive essays with visitors, promoted the services, and answered questions. After the festival, students continued to spread the word by making presentations in other EAP classes. Their final task, almost completed, is to compile a booklet of their written work which will be made available to future HCC students. Students noted that this service learning project and the knowledge it brought to them helped them “Get Involved” here on campus; it made them eager to get others involved as well.

African-American & Hispanic College Male Summit by Keith Berry

The HOPE Scholars Program presented the African-American & Hispanic College Male Summit: Dreams Deferred or Life Changing Decisions at the Dale Mabry campus on April 15. Helping Black/Brown men with Opportunities in Programs that will advance their Education, or HOPE, is a targeted pilot program designed to improve the retention, graduation, and four-year college transfer rate of African-American and Hispanic males. Thirty students were selected from the Dale Mabry and Ybor City campuses from applications students submitted late last year to our college committee. The Program aims to serve African-American and Hispanic males currently enrolled in at least nine credit hours at HCC, and who have completed at least 12 hours with a minimum grade point average of 2.3 in college credit courses.

As a part of the HOPE initiative, participants are assigned a faculty mentor, scheduled seminars, and individual tutoring. Faculty mentors are a valuable component of the program as they work directly with students to create resumes and thoughtful exploratory papers designed to help focus these young men on what they intend to achieve through pursuit of their chosen majors. Students learn to build relationships with the HOPE staff, faculty, and speakers who participate in the HOPE Scholars Seminars.

Additionally, students take part in tours in an effort to learn more about college life and transfer opportunities. The benefits of the HOPE Scholars Program are immeasurable. We look forward to strengthening these targeted young men as we continue educating the next generation of leaders that America needs to stay strong and competitive in a global society.
A Successful Disaster by Amy Anderson

HCC’s Health Sciences programs, along with HCC’s Police Academy students, conducted a mock disaster training drill on Thursday, March 17. It was a valuable learning experience for more than 200 students from four campuses, who played the part of victims and responders. Students, under the guidance of faculty, staff, and members of the healthcare community, were able to accurately portray injuries while practicing disaster response and critical care skills.

It was a true interdisciplinary activity with participation from police cadets as well as faculty, staff, and students from 10 Health Sciences programs. Students learned to work with members of other health care specialties, developing a greater understanding and appreciation for the work their teammates do.

Reflecting numerous partnerships in the area, the event was completed in conjunction with Tampa Fire Rescue, Hillsborough County Emergency Management, the Medical Reserve Corps, and the Florida Department of Health.
Despite early morning torrents of rain, the 14th Annual International Festival took place as scheduled at the Dale Mabry campus on March 10, 2011. As evidenced by the spirit and enthusiasm of participants and visitors, it takes more than a downpour to disrupt the much-anticipated yearly event.

As always, the impressive Parade of Flags signaled the official start of the festival. This year, Ms. Angela Carlson, Manager of the Center for International Education, announced each of the 45 participating countries. As she did, students dressed in their native costumes carried flags to the front of the staging area. Dale Mabry Campus President Dr. Bob Chunn then offered opening remarks welcoming students and guests and inviting all to enjoy themselves at the ever-popular annual event.

Visitors to the festival first stopped at the “Customs Office” staffed by volunteers from the HCC Honors Institute. Here, travelers received passports and were apprised of this year’s festival “travel regulations” which included instructions to visit each of the seven international areas – Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Europe, Mexico and Central America, Middle East, and South America – and to interact with representatives of these areas by asking questions, playing games, or taking quizzes.

Under the protective cover of the Social Sciences and Library buildings, visitors made their way from one table to the next. Each table contained colorful posters, hand-crafted items, figurines, pictures, maps, and interactive games. Throughout the daylong festival, visitors had a chance to learn about countries, customs, and cultures from all over the world. This year, countries represented ranged from Afghanistan to Bolivia and Colombia, from Ecuador and Egypt to Iran, and South Korea and Venezuela to Vietnam. Those in attendance were also able to learn about international study opportunities at HCC, including the Study Abroad Program offered through the Center for International Education.

In return for asking questions, playing games, or taking quizzes, festival-goers received stamps in their passports. Collecting seven stamps from each world area allowed them to exchange their passport for a ticket to sample food from one of three food tables. Menu offerings were as varied as the displays and included Vietnamese meatballs with sweet chili sauce, Baba Ganoush, pita quarters, fried sweet plantains, and baklava.

No festival would be complete without international music, and Felix “Indahouse” Rodriguez provided a selection of world music that kept people dancing from mid-morning to early afternoon. Participants and visitors were also treated to several special performances. Katherin Castro recited a poem by Enrique Buenaventura. Diery Arias and Francisco Hernandez performed a crowd-pleasing medley of Dominican dances. Juan Carlos Cabrera and his band Tahuantinsuyo Fusion played a fusion of Peruvian contemporary and traditional music to an appreciative crowd, and two members of HCC’s Xstatik Dance Team, Tammy Villafana and Janeatha Robles, captivated the audience with their Bel Air and Soca dancing.

For a few short hours, HCC’s Dale Mabry campus became a lively, colorful, culturally diverse outdoor classroom. And just as another successful International Festival drew to a close, the sun pecked out from behind the clouds.
Dale Mabry Job Fair by Lorraine Canalejo

On April 12th, the Career Resource Center (CRC) hosted its annual Spring Job Fair in the Dale Mabry campus gymnasium. Almost 40 employers attended, offering full-time, part-time, and volunteering positions. The employers were not disappointed that over 600 people came to meet them!

The CRC Job Fair provides not only a chance for students to find potential employment but also an excellent opportunity to network with Human Resource personnel in order to learn what employers seek in an employee.

Today’s Trivia

According to the Nielsen Company, the average teen sends or receives 3,339 text messages every month.
The Spring term saw inspiring work by members of both the campus and the larger community prominently displayed throughout the library building by the Dale Mabry Campus Art Gallery. Architectural models by students in classes taught by Professors Tisdale and Bulnes were on view in cases on the second and third floors of the library over the course of the term. Visitors to the library were able to see the impressive quality and the scope of work created in the Architectural Design and Building Construction Technology department. Titled Green Campus and Community, these timely models tackled the issues of responsible urban planning and innovative use of existing space.

For the eleventh year running, the Dale Mabry Campus Art Gallery hosted the Fine Arts Competition Showcasing Hillsborough County High School Students this April. Nineteen schools participated this year and 263 works of art created by students throughout the county were exhibited on the third floor of the library, making this one of the largest competitions to date at HCC. Dr. Mary Bendickson, Joann Dye, Dr. Barbara Goldstein, Larry Hart and Eric Joost served as judges, and awards were allocated in the categories of Painting and Drawing, Sculpture and Craft Media, and Photography and Printmaking. The awards ceremony and reception was held on Tuesday, April 12th in the exhibition space and was well-attended by students, teachers, and community members. The overall Best of Show designation was awarded to Alexander Peters from Tampa Preparatory School for his sculpture Andy the Anole. The Art Gallery thanks the generous sponsors of this event: The Dale Mabry Campus Student Government Association, AOE Supply, the Museum of Science and Industry, and the Tampa Museum of Art. We appreciate the opportunity to recognize great work produced in art classrooms throughout the county and to expose HCC’s students to beautiful and thought-provoking art.

In celebration of Women’s History Month, the Art Gallery exhibited laine wyatt: obsession/compulsion during March and April. The exhibition included photographs, mixed-media sculpture, and video art as it examined the relationship between consumer and object, especially focusing on how easily the consumer can become consumed by the material world. The artist delivered a gallery talk during the opening reception on March 24th and engaged a number of students in discussions of her art.

The Art Gallery continues to make interdisciplinary connections in the arts with the exhibition Sharp Objects: Injecting Memory and Reality with Images and Installations by Nurse-Artists International on the second floor of the library May 16-June 9. Nurse-Artists International is an organization based from Fort Meyers and includes members working in many different artistic media and from all over the world. The group is made up of artists who are or were practicing nurses, and it encourages exploration of connections between the arts and health. By continuing to link the work being done in the classroom with the world of art, the Dale Mabry Campus Art Gallery strives to offer students and faculty new ways to recognize the role art can play in their lives.

The Dale Mabry Campus Art Gallery’s programs and events are always free and open to the public. The Art Gallery is located on the second floor of DLRC and is open Monday-Thursday 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. and Friday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
On Thursday, April 14 the Dale Mabry campus hosted the Spring 2011 In-Service and QEP Institute where faculty from all campuses joined together to focus on the development and delivery of engaging, innovative instructional technology strategies promoting successful student learning opportunities. Dr. Atwater’s opening remarks expressed his vision for the future of HCC based on three pillars. The first pillar, Leading Through Innovation, was about our goals as a 21st century college. For us to be a leader through innovation, Dr. Atwater stated, we must leverage the power of technology. Dr. Atwater advocated the move to a greater virtual learning environment, adding that “our sustainability efforts are awesome.” The second pillar, Building Collaborative Partnerships, discussed HCC’s vital presence in the community and footprint in community college education. Partnerships, he asserted, are key to our success as a college as well as the success of our region and the state of Florida. We must look for partners externally and internally, as operating in “silos” is ineffective. Silos are not productive to advancement because, as Dr. Atwater contends, “we are one college. Together we are powerful; independently we cannot be.” The third pillar, Improving the Student Experience, was all about student success. Since faculty are at the forefront of student success, Dr. Atwater challenged us to re-commit to student success. He inspired faculty’s fervent devotion toward this goal by concluding, “You are the foundation and backbone of HCC. Help us become a premier community college as we help our students be successful.”

Next, Dean of USF Graduate School Dr. Karen Liller spoke about a partnership between USF and HCC. The off-site teaching assistant program is an example of “out-of-the-box thinking” that mutually benefits both institutions. Mr. Craig Johnson updated us on academic news, specifically acknowledging the progress of QEP since its inception. He advocated partnerships in the community and broached a FUSA concern about academic organizational structures. Mr Steve Gorham’s video entitled Instructional Technology News presented a comprehensive approach to informational technology delivery. In the same video, Mr Richard Senker spoke about Blackboard 9.1 replacing Campus Cruiser and listed dates for transitions. Center for Innovative Teaching and Technology news came from Dr. Celeste Fenton as she informed everyone of major projects over the past year. She explained how faculty were engaged as facilitators and mentors, and also commented on Blackboard training underway. Ms. Linda Prescott offered brief QEP course updates, encouraging faculty to attend QEP sessions in the afternoon. Following the updates were AS and AA division meetings.

After lunch, break-out workshop sessions covered myriad topics related to technology and helped prepare faculty for future conversion to Blackboard. Finally, cluster meetings addressed academic issues and concluded an information-packed day.
Many people are often unaware of the many microbe-related health concerns in their community. From our yearly flu shot to the threat of West Nile virus, there are many pertinent health issues we face on a continual basis. As Microbiology service learning students studied simple practices about the prevention of human pathogens, they became motivated to make a difference within our own HCC community. Becoming involved in Dale Mabry’s first annual Safe Spring Break event was a natural fit. Students created posters, pamphlets, and presentations aimed at educating their peers on topics such as STD prevention, vaccine awareness, and foreign diseases. The STD prevention team focused on herpes and human papillomavirus (HPV), diseases that are common among college age students. The vaccine awareness team chose Gardasil and Menactra as their main focus, which protect against HPV and meningitis respectively. Since college students are likely to visit tropical destinations over Spring break, the third team focused on cholera, malaria, traveler’s diarrhea, and dengue fever, reminding people that foreign travel requires extra precautions. Service learning courses represent a unique opportunity to weave community service into the overall learning experience. These students were proud to have been part of the Safe Spring Break event since educational programs like this one help people enjoy healthier lives.
Emerging Green Builders and Dale Mabry Beautification Spring Event
by Anne White

Under the direction of Professor Joseph Tisdale, the Dale Mabry Emerging Green Builders student club, comprised of the Dale Mabry AS Programs Architecture Program, constructed six earth boxes for the Dale Mabry Child Development Center. The event was held on Saturday, March 12 at the Dale Mabry campus as a Dale Mabry Campus Beautification Committee service learning activity. Club President Ms. Susan Newsome and members designed and built the boxes following guidelines of the childcare center’s national accreditation for an edible teaching garden. The center’s Director, Ms. Theresa Fernandez, along with Professor Fred Jaeger, Hospitality Management’s Program Manager, developed the idea during the Spring semester’s planning meeting of the Dale Mabry Campus Beautification Committee. The earth boxes are constructed with environmentally-safe materials to house vegetables that are grown in an environment free of pesticides and harmful contaminants.

AS Degree Programs Dean Elizabeth Johnson said this project represents the community spirit we share at Dale Mabry campus. The project involved not only a coordinated effort of students studying Architecture and Building Construction, Culinary Management, Criminal Justice, but also the Dale Mabry Child Development Center Staff.

The children of the Dale Mabry Child Development Center will care to the garden and reap the rewards of delicious and nutritious vegetables including summer squash, heirloom tomatoes, spinach, and cucumbers. This summer, Dietetic Technician students will use the garden during their Community Nutrition practicum to teach the benefits of a diet including vegetables.
Give Kids a Smile by Connie Reed

Give Kids A Smile® is a national initiative by the American Dental Association aimed to focus attention on the epidemic of oral disease among children. To date, over 2000 Give Kids A Smile® events have been scheduled through the American Dental Association network (including the Hillsborough County Dental Association’s). Nationwide over 325,000 children will be seen and treated by over 12,500 volunteer dentists and 37,000 other volunteers.

Fifty seven children received free dental treatment at the 2011 Give Kids a Smile® event on March 4, 2011. The Hillsborough County Dental Association, Suncoast Community Health Center (Dover), the Ronald McDonald Van, and More Health, Inc. partnered to provide dental screenings and treatment to children aged 2-17, and also to educate families on good oral hygiene habits.

Eighteen Hillsborough County dentists volunteered their time and expertise to provide many dental services including fillings, extractions, and stainless steel crowns. The dentists were joined by

their staff, student dental hygienists, and student dental assistants from Hillsborough Community College and Sanford-Brown Institute to help make the event a success. Students from Hillsborough Community College assisted the dentists and practiced their skills while helping the community.

$46,535.00 in free dental treatment was donated during this event. Give Kids A Smile® is meant to accomplish two things – help children get the dental care they so desperately need AND raise awareness that our children need better oral health to maintain their general health. Unfortunately, dental volunteer events will not wipe out untreated dental disease in America until parents and children are educated about prevention at an early age.

We want your stories! Please submit articles (as Microsoft Word attachments, please) and photos to Joanne Nelson at jnelson45@hccfl.edu or Alex Tavares at atavares@hccfl.edu.