The Learning Commons Welcomes Dr. Amy Locklear

The Learning Commons congratulates and welcomes Dr. Amy Locklear in her new role as Daytona State College’s Vice President of Academic Affairs. She comes to us from the College of the Mainland in Texas City, Texas, a college of approximately 5,000 students. Prior to that, she held several positions at Brevard Community College (now Eastern Florida State College): Adjunct Instructor, Liberal Arts Department Chair and Provost. She earned a Ph.D. and M.A. in political science from Emory University, a M.P.A. from Georgia Southern University and a B.A. in political science from Georgia Southern College.

Something that attracted Dr. Locklear to Daytona State is our impressive academic support services. She works closely with Associate Vice President Michelle McCraney, who oversees the Learning Commons. Dr. Locklear notes that we are going to have students more challenged than ever because of changes in developmental education and that DSC is “in a better position than many schools because of a robust academic support area, and the Learning Commons, of course, is the centerpiece of that.”

Dr. Locklear mentioned that since she has joined the Daytona State College team, the main reward has been the fantastic group of faculty and support staff that she has had the opportunity to work with. She finds the biggest challenge to be finding new ways to help students who are struggling in light of recent changes to developmental education.

When Dr. Locklear is not at work, she can be found enjoying nature with her daughter, hiking, camping, gardening, or reading The Sun, her favorite prose, poetry and photography periodical.

DSC Excellence Award Recipients

Three members of our Daytona State College family were recognized for their commitment and contribution to the college community. The National Institute of Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) award of excellence went to Rebecca Block, Jessica Kester and Joy Lewis.

Writing Center Director Rebecca Block and English Professor Jessica Kester won the award for the creation and implementation of DSC’s Writing Across the Curriculum/Writing in the Disciplines (WAC/WID) program. WAC/WID is designed to develop student literacy and communication. The initiative is based on an international movement that has been spreading across the United States for 40 years. It was introduced to DSC in spring 2013 and had 19 participants in its inaugural year.

Joy Lewis was recognized for starting a chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, Honor Society for Education majors, at DSC and serves as the club advisor. The club is currently working on organizing the Teaching Beyond Borders program.
organized a Scholarship Boot Camp, where DSC students from the education department went to New Smyrna Beach High School to help college-bound seniors write scholarship essays.

The awardees were recognized in May during NISOD’s annual International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence.

First a Cellar, Now an Attic!

Tucked away in the area formerly occupied by the Honors College is The Attic. A part of the DSC-UCF Writing Center, The Attic is a place where students can receive writing assistance, study alone, or work in groups. The space includes a multimodal area stocked with two available student-use computers, a PC and a Mac. These computers are loaded with a variety of multimodal applications and programs designed for document creation, video editing, audio recording and image processing. Come by The Attic and check it out!

Beata Kozlowski Attending FSU

Library Media Technician Beata Kozlowski recently began her Master of Science in Library and Information Studies through Florida State University. She took a Management of Information Organization course and Introduction to Information Services course during her first semester. Beata says, “It was a fabulous first semester. I learned a great deal and am very excited to apply what I’ve learned in my studies to my work here at the DSC Library.” Ms. Kozlowski expects to graduate from the program in May 2016. Kudos Beata for continuing your education!

KUDOS & THANKS

The DSC Library and Learning Commons want to give a big “thank you” and “kudos” to Bijan Fallahi, who has worked as a library volunteer since summer 2012. Mr. Fallahi graduated in August 2013 with a Master of Science in Library and Information Studies degree from Florida State University, specializing in leadership and management and health care information.

Bijan volunteered at the DSC Library’s research assistance desk, helping students with research questions and working on adding content to the library’s online research guides (http://researchguides.daytonastate.edu). When asked about his experience with volunteering at the Daytona library, Bijan said, “I’ve been able to meet and work with some wonderful people both in school (FSU) and at DSC. If the right opportunity comes along, I’ll be ready.”

The Learning Commons thanks Bijan for his excellent work and wishes him well in all future endeavors!

Student Spotlight: Jay Patel

Jay Patel began working at the Academic Support Center on the Daytona Beach Campus during spring 2013 and quickly became a valued member of the team. His current goal is to get his Associate of Arts degree at DSC and to transfer to University of Florida and pursue a degree in Physics and Economics. According to Jay’s supervisor, Debra Leonard, “Jay is quick to assist students and strives to increase his knowledge in areas outside his realm of expertise in order to better help students.” Jay currently tutors courses in sciences such as physics and chemistry, and all areas of mathematics up to pre-calculus. Additionally, he has recently been entrusted with running the Science Movie Nights workshop, which is sponsored by The Learning Commons and DSC Science Department. Jay is also an active member of the STEM Community Scholars Program and Honors College.
BOOK REVIEW

Who killed Matt Bendel? The police suspect his partner, Elliott Conklin (the assistant chair of the psychology department at Santa Monica College) because Elliott was found with the body, covered in blood—and he doesn’t have an alibi. Elliott wants Pete Ferguson to help clear his name. But Pete doesn’t have time because he’s had to take over one of Elliott’s classes and he thinks Elliott might be guilty.

Jamie Brodie, however, isn’t so sure. Matt had a secret that may have gotten him killed, and the investigation of that secret leads to someone from Jamie’s past—and another death that will change Jamie forever.

“Psyched to Death” is the sixth novel in the Jamie Brodie mystery series by author Meg Perry (actually, it’s Rachel Owens—but use Meg Perry’s name to find the book on Amazon). As the story unfolds, Rachel presents a complicated tale about the toll of police investigation and family affairs—as told through the eyes of a UCLA librarian whose involvement in the case comes primarily from those around him; as Jamie says in the novel, his partner (Pete) is an ex-cop. His brother Kevin is a cop. Jon (the detective in charge of this case and boyfriend of Jamie’s best friend at work) is a cop. He knows cops.

But more than that, the heart of this story is struggle: struggle to solve a murder, struggle to come to terms with the past, struggle to understand one’s own identity, struggle to understand the implications of a series of events and how personal, spur-of-the-moment actions can irrevocably alter other people’s lives. It is those gritty realities that come together to form this compelling examination of just how difficult it is to balance the meaningful things in life.

New Staff

Pat Isringhausen

Pat Isringhausen joined the Writing Center staff in January 2014. Originally from Illinois, Pat earned her BS in Mass Communication, MA in Teaching English as a Second Language and a Post-Baccalaureate certificate in Teaching Writing at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE). She taught ESL for nine years, including two years in Seoul, South Korea, and English 101 and 102 at two community colleges. She finally found her true niche as a writing center tutor. After six years tutoring at SIUE, she has opted for warmer climes and ocean air. Pat was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Central Africa, an experience that has led her to 15 countries... so far. When not traveling, she enjoys reading popular novels and living in her cat’s apartment.

Lucilia Csihas

Lucilia Csihas, comes to us from the Adult Education department, where she served as an Enrollment Specialist at Daytona State College. She began her new position as a Senior Media Library Technician here at the Library in July 2014. Lucilia attended Hussian School of Art in Philadelphia, graduating with honors, while obtaining an associate degree in Specialized Technology in Commercial Graphic Arts and Design. Lucilia has recently obtained an AS Certificate in Graphic Design Technology Interactive Media Support, as well as an AS Certificate in Graphic Design Technology Design Support here at the college. Currently, Lucilia, is completing her AA degree, with hopes of pursuing a bachelor’s degree in the future. In her free time, Lucilia enjoys visits and quality time with her two adult children, as well as a multitude of creative endeavors such as painting, decorating, freelancing, photography and perusing museums.

Tom Moore & Fred Harden Retiring

The library recently said goodbye and good luck to two of its longtime employees, Senior Media Technician Tom Moore and Professor/Librarian Fred Harden.

Tom retired after 17 years this past March. His famous admonition to students leaving the library, “Now, you go do well young man (or lady)!” will be missed. Tom, who came to the library after retiring as a Marine Fighter Pilot was beyond reliable and someone who was always willing to fill in, pitch in, or suggest a good place to meet for an “adult beverage” after work.

Fred worked in the library for almost 24 years, most of those years as our evening librarian. Fred also came from a pretty unique background for a librarian, having previously served as a Volusia County lifeguard. He was known throughout the college by students and staff alike as someone who would always go the extra mile to help. He also served as the Surf Team’s faculty advisor for many years and helped them win several championships at the regional and state level.

Now that they are retired, Tom is heading to his cabin in the mountains and Fred is heading back to the beach! We all wish them the best of luck!
What Are You Reading?

Margaret Overbey
Faculty, School of Mathematics

_Private LA_
by James Patterson and Mark Sullivan

In this book, “an international security/investigation agency is called in to investigate the disappearance of two Hollywood superstars along with their children.”

Andrea Reese
Faculty, School of Mathematics

_The Husband’s Secret_ by Liane Moriarty

This book “follows several intersecting lives that are both united and ripped apart by a terrible secret from the past.”

Dana Davidson
Senior Learning Specialist, Academic Support Center

_And the Mountains Echoed_ by Khaled Hosseini

“It is difficult to follow such great novels as The Kite Runner and A Thousand Splendid Suns, but Khaled Hosseini does not disappoint with And the Mountains Echoed. In this novel, he broadens the setting and range of characters without losing the emotional impact that made his other two novels international bestsellers.”

Gregg Stone
Senior Learning Specialist, Academic Support Center

_The Serpent of Venice_ by Christopher Moore

“A satiric Othello (and several other of Shakespeare’s works) complete with a love-lorn dragon snake thing, a ghost, a fool, a giant, Marco Polo, and others.”

Cheryl Kohen
Emerging Technology Librarian

_The Fault In Our Stars_ by John Green

“John Green is a big name right now in the genre of young adult fiction and there’s a good reason why; his main characters, though often teens, are written with such emotional depth that any adult will find this book deeply satisfying. Also, you can watch the characters come to life in an author-approved movie!”

What Students Are Saying About the Learning Commons!

STUDENT SURVEY RESPONSE,
(DON’T) CRAM FOR THE EXAM EVENT, SPRING 2014

“Thanks for the fun and help all semester.”

“Really nice and refreshing. It helped me keep on studying.”

“This is pretty cool on how they come together and the event is free for students to get extra help.”

“Wonderful event and helpful. Liked everything about it.”

STUDENT SURVEY RESPONSE,
LIBRARY INSTRUCTIONAL SURVEY, SPRING 2014

“Librarians did a wonderful job.”

“It was a great start and it’s reassuring to know there’s additional help if we need it!”

“Presenter did an awesome job and was super friendly.”

“Really loved learning how to use the DSC online Library resources.”

STUDENT COMMENT CARDS,
ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTER, FY 13/14

“I wanted to say that I don’t know what I would do without the ASC. I am here so often utilizing the computers and the Web, doing my math labs and getting assistance from the wonderful tutors that my family call the ASC ‘my office!’ Keep it up and thank you sincerely!”

“Very friendly atmosphere. Helpful without being critical.”

“The ASC has been a great help. They are always there for me. Please don’t change the program; it’s my first time in college and they make the transition a lot easier for me.”

STUDENT COMMENT CARDS,
WRITING CENTER, FY 13/14

“With valuable help from your staff, I achieved an A. Your staff gave valuable technical and writing help that helped me to succeed. Thanks.”

“Keep up the good work. You guys are awesome at what you do.”

“He is an excellent tutor! He listened to me and came with a plan to help me write better.”

“They are great helpers…helped me understand how to write an essay.”