Digital Literacy Week

The Learning Commons is proud to announce Digital Literacy Week, a new initiative offering free workshops for DSC students to promote computer and information literacy. Workshops offered include an introduction to using FalconMail and Falcon Online, learning about computer basics and file management, searching online resources at Daytona State College, and effectively using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint.

The first Digital Literacy Week ran April 1 – April 5, 2013, offering workshops on the Daytona Beach, New Smyrna, and Flagler/Palm Coast campuses. The curriculum for the workshops was developed and taught by Academic Support Center, DSC-UCF Writing Center, FalconAid, Falcon Online and library staff.

Additional information and workshop material can be found on our DigLit Research Guide: http://researchguides.daytonastate.edu/DigLit. The Learning Commons plans to offer more Digital Literacy workshops again at the beginning of the fall 2013 semester.

(Don’t) Cram for the Exam!

At the end of each semester, the Academic Support Center, library and DSC-UCF Writing Center are flooded with students working on final projects, papers and seeking tutoring for their final exams. With this in mind, the Learning Commons created an event called Cram for the Exam to help students relax, get additional tutoring and academic support, and take advantage of extended hours of operation.

On March 4 – 5, the first-ever Cram for the Exam was held with great success in the Mary Karl Learning Resources Center. To help students alleviate stress, free yoga sessions were offered and therapy dogs from the nonprofit, Reading Paws, were on location. Attendants also enjoyed pizza, snacks and beverages.

Cram for the Exam will be offered again May 7 and 8 from 5 to 9 p.m. in the Mary Karl Learning Resources Center. Massage therapy students also will contribute their services to the event.
ASC launches Math Up

Math Up is a four-day, noncredit series of free study skills and review sessions for students registered to take MAT 1033 (Intermediate Algebra) during the upcoming semester. The ASC first launched Math Up in fall 2012, serving 94 students. Math Up was refocused in spring 2013 and 87 students participated. The curriculum, designed and facilitated by ASC learning specialists, consists of review of professor-identified key concepts for success as well as study skills and test prep specific to the course. The ASC chose to conduct this series after identifying a need in the area of MAT 1033, which has historically had one of the highest incompletion rates. Because MAT 1033 is a pre-requisite, failure of this course is a roadblock to a student’s future academic endeavors.

Jeannie Johnson, ASC learning specialist, said, “We all like to give our students a leg up with their studies. That is exactly our goal with Math Up! Math Up prepares students for the changes they will face between MAT0028 and MAT 1033 while building participants’ knowledge, study habits and confidence.”

In the Math Up evaluations, student comments included, “I feel less anxiety now about starting my MAT 1033 class next week” and “It’s like everything clicked.” One student shared, “This course was extremely beneficial to me and will definitely help me in my continued math studies here at DSC.” The ASC plans to host the next Math Up before the start of fall semester.

WAC/WID Program

Associate Professor of English, Jessica Kester, is the coordinator of the brand new Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) and Writing in the Disciplines (WID) initiative on campus. In general, the WAC/WID program emphasizes the link between literacy education and disciplinary study.

One of Kester’s main goals is to make faculty’s lives easier; she says, “I think the program will make responding to student writing more manageable, and give instructors the tools to work with writing within their disciplines.” The ultimate goal of the program is to use the partnership between faculty, administrators and the writing center to give students the tools necessary to succeed in a world that expects strong, field-specific communication skills in academia and beyond. Kester notes, “Students often complain that the expectation of writing changes all the time, and WAC/WID benefits students because they will learn how to think through various writing situations in different disciplines by asking the right questions.”

All participating faculty will teach students the writing conventions of their disciplines using the framework of best practices in writing studies theory and pedagogy.

Student Spotlight

Josh Washington has been a valued member of the writing center team since the fall 2011. He was hired as a first-impression clerk and cross-trained as a peer tutor a year later. Always quick to assist students, Josh’s dedication is infectious and is continually recognized, respected and appreciated by everyone he meets. Josh routinely goes above and beyond his daily writing center duties. As an aspiring filmmaker, he practices his craft by creating promotional videos for the writing center. Over the summer, he plans to attend a six-week program at USC’s School of Cinematic Arts, where he will focus on screenwriting.

“It is in fact a part of the function of education to help us escape, not from our own time — for we are bound by that — but from the intellectual and emotional limitations of our time.”

— T.S. Eliot
Learning Commons
Integral to the DSC Quality Enhancement Plan

The Learning Commons is in the forefront of Daytona State College’s first-ever quality enhancement plan, as part of our SACS reaccreditation. The name of the DSC QEP is “SOAR: Students Optimizing Academic Resources” and will consist of a one-credit hour freshman seminar targeting first-time-in-college associate of arts students who need a little extra support to achieve college success. These students will enroll in the seminar concurrently with ENC 1101. To meet the QEP’s goal of “students achieving college success,” the Learning Commons will play an integral role within the training and curriculum development of the freshman seminar to increase student knowledge and understanding of academic resources.

Since August 2012, the final QEP committee has been meeting to fully develop this initiative with staff and faculty from around the college. This final group includes Emerging Technology Librarian Cheryl Kohen, who is a member of the Learning Commons.

QEP Co-Chair and English Faculty member Tom Bellomo said SOAR will allow underperforming students to achieve college readiness and increase retention rates. “Having students learn about and access the library, writing center and Academic Support Center as they apply their knowledge to their writing assignments will provide for contextualization, engagement and a narrowed focus that will enhance their learning experience,” he noted.

The QEP that will be submitted to Daytona State’s accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), in late summer 2013 for review.

For more information about the QEP, look here:

QEP Q&A:

QEP update:
http://www.daytonastate.edu/sacs/qepupdate.html

Timeline:
http://www.daytonastate.edu/sacs/qep_timeline.html

What Are You Reading?

Michelle McCraney, Associate Vice President Division of Library and Academic Student Services – The Paris Wife: A Novel by Paula McLain
Great read, a heartfelt reminder that love needs to be taken care of and respected or it will be lost and ruined.

Mercedes Clement, Senior Professor, Chair of Library Services – Attitude 101: What Every Leader Needs To Know by John C. Maxwell
John Maxwell’s excellent read firmly points to attitude as the key in making or breaking a leader. Leadership, according to him, has less to do with position than it does with disposition, because it will influence the way the followers think and feel.

Susan Pate, Associate Vice President College of Arts and Sciences – Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn
Flynn’s new novel is not literature, but was an easy read and highly entertaining. I love mysteries and this one keeps the readers guessing with many twists and turns.

Michiko Gosney, Assistant Director for the Academic Support Center – Alas, Babylon by Pat Frank
Set in Central Florida, this apocalyptic novel reminded me of how dependent we are with technology, and how civilization can turn in to barbarism without law and order. Very entertaining and informative.

Jenna Kranz, Associate Director for the DSC-UCF Writing Center – Omnivore’s Dilemma and The Botany of Desire by Michael Pollan
Michael Pollan is fascinating. He’s a non-fiction author whose writing makes me think deeply about the food I eat, where it comes from and how it impacts our environment.
Deborah LaStarza has worked as an FIC and peer tutor in Daytona’s Bldg. 500 ASC and is currently serving as a part-time office assistant to Dr. Michelle McCraney. As a nursing student at DSC, Deborah is always searching for ways to be successful in her own academics, and it gives her great satisfaction to be able to pass this information to others, so they, too, can experience success. She plans to complete her RN degree in December 2014 and then bridge over to the DSC BSN program while working in the industry. During her time off from work, Deborah studies and enjoys spending time with her three girls and family.

Kristen Davis started at Daytona State in January 2013 as the new Circulation Services librarian. She previously worked at the Embry-Riddle Library while attending graduate school at FSU to obtain her master’s degree in library and information studies. She is originally from Pennsylvania, but has moved all over the country to attend school, finally ending up with a Bachelor of Science in Geology and Paleontology from the University of New Orleans. She spends most of her free time walking her two Welsh Corgis and rescuing turtles. She also is a volunteer with Sunshine Welsh Corgi Rescue.

Shannon Murdock turned in her chef’s coat to pursue an academic career in July 2012, when she became a student worker in the DSC-UCF Writing Center. She soon displayed an interest in assisting the writing center full-time, allowing her to become our senior staff assistant in January 2013. Shannon completed her associate of arts degree in December 2012 from Daytona State College and plans to pursue a career in political science and/or journalism. When Shannon is not working or studying, she enjoys watching motion pictures, eating, playing card games and billiards, scrapbooking, baking and walking on the beach.

Joshua Cruz joined the writing center in the Spring 2013 semester. He holds B.A. degrees in English and philosophy as well as an M.A. in English literature. By the end of 2013, he will also finish an M.A. in higher education administration and reading/writing/literacy studies, both of which include his academic interests in composition, student advocacy, development of self and learning through play; he recently published a paper combining several of these interests in the Xchanges Journal. He enjoys 19th and 20th century British literature, fire spinning, playing the acoustic guitar and Dance Dance Revolution.

Scott Sands joined the DSC-UCF Writing Center staff as a Learning Specialist in April 2013. He has been tutoring and teaching writers since 2002, most recently in Illinois, where he served for two years as coordinator of writing assistance at the Julia N. Visor Academic Center at Illinois State University (ISU). In May 2007, Scott earned his M.F.A. in creative writing from Georgia College & State University, specializing in playwriting. He currently is working on his Ph.D. in English Studies from ISU, with a specialization in Writing Center Theory and Practice. His research interests include writing assessment, writing pedagogy and metacognition. When not working with writers or writing himself, Scott enjoys reading, especially fantasy and science fiction, watching baseball and football, and participating in improvisational theatre.

Amanda Brooks joined the writing center staff in August 2012. Previously, Mandy worked for two years as a peer tutor in the writing center at Stetson University, where she graduated summa cum laude in May 2012 with a B.A. in English and a minor in creative writing. Mandy's professional interests include contemporary poetics, Dante’s Commedia, gender theory and cross-genre digital art. Mandy enjoys reading fantasy novels, trying out recipes found on Pinterest, crocheting, watching Doctor Who and playing with her two cats. She plans to pursue her M.A. in composition and rhetoric.

“The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.”
– B.B. King
“Welcome. Use whatever you see! Move the furniture! Make it yours! Study. Practice. Play!” With these simple words, DSC-UCF Writing Center Associate Director Jennifer Kranz conceived a new idea about the design of student learning spaces at Daytona State College. A passionate leader in the realm of learning space design, Ms. Kranz has been instrumental in the creation of not only the writing center’s cellar space and regional campus locations, but also in the redesign of the Learning Commons space at the DeLand Campus library. The new DeLand library area includes flexible spaces where students can collaborate or work alone. This area includes two collaboration stations where students can gather around 55-inch monitors, connect their devices and work on projects without having to huddle around a small screen. There are plenty of free-standing mobile whiteboards scattered throughout. Jenna also has worked on the redesign of the nook in the entranceway of the Daytona Beach Campus library and computer lab, 103B, in the Academic Support Center of building 210.

While space design has long been a hobby and passion for Jenna, it was not until the writing center’s expansion during 2011-2012 that she was able to bring this talent to her job as the center’s associate director. Since then, Jenna has conducted roundtable discussions and presented research on learning space design at back-to-back Southeastern Writing Center Association conferences in 2012 and 2013. In April, she presented her ongoing research and space assessment techniques with administration officials at Florida Southern College.

“You cannot open a book without learning something.”
– Confucius

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”
– William Butler Yeats
Career Employee Association President
Valerie Lee

The Learning Commons congratulates our very own Valerie Lee, library media technician, on her appointed leadership role as the Career Employee Association (CEA) president.

The CEA is known for many popular events and activities. In fact, Lee began her CEA position by hailing in the Annual Ice Cream Social in July 2012. During the event, she had the honor of awarding the CEA Employee of the Semester for spring 2012.

In fall 2012, CEA participated in the DSC Benefits Fair and the Association of Florida Colleges Holiday Bazaar to sell holiday items to support the CEA Student Award Fund. This fundraiser was a success, with the proceeds enabling the association to award three students scholarships for the 2012-13 academic years. In spring 2013, the CEA 6th annual Chili Cook-off was fun for the whole community, with chili cooks and chili eaters ranging from students to the board of trustees.

As CEA president, Ms. Lee is responsible for meeting and talking to fellow CEA employees and then representing those employees at President’s Cabinet, Planning Council and the District Board of Trustees. Valerie has greatly enjoyed her CEA position, stating, “Being the Career Employees Association president has been a wonderful experience.”

Accolades

Estefany Bologna, administrative assistant to Dr. Michelle McCraney and University of Central Florida student, was selected to present her thesis at the Southeastern Psychological Association’s annual meeting in Atlanta, Ga., on March 13-15. Her thesis examines the influence of abortion on college women’s mental health. After obtaining her bachelor’s degree, Bologna hopes to obtain her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and continue her research with women’s issues.

Librarians Mercedes Clement, Dustin Weeks and Cheryl Kohen were all recognized at the Jan. 17 Daytona State College District Board of Trustees meeting for their excellent service at the college.

The Southeastern Writing Center Association (SWCA) hosts a biannual regional writing center conference to generate collaboration and share scholarship among southeastern writing centers. Joy Bancroft, John Chrisman, Chris Gebhardt and Jenna Kranz, from the DSC-UCF Writing Center, and Cheryl Kohen, DSC librarian, attended and presented at the conference Feb. 21 – 23 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. They presented on space design, social media, basic writers and Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) programs.

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