



Fresh from the JAR

LRC Newsletter

PCC-Caswell Learning Resources Center Improves Services in Relocated Facilities — from Lionell Parker, Librarian, Learning Resources Center—Caswell County Campus

With a recent facelift, the Learning Resources Center (LRC) at the Caswell campus of Piedmont Community College (PCC) opened on August 21, 2006. The new LRC opened for Fall Semester 2006 in an improved site, the former film editing room. The unveiling was exciting for students and faculty as they learned of the new location. The new LRC offers an improved layout, including a testing/video room, study tables, and thirteen computers for student use. Updated and new furnishings include bookshelves, computer desks and seating, with space for eight new study areas for individual or group study. Eight additional internet-accessible computers have been added to enhance research and study. Also, a new circulation desk improves service to LRC users.

The Caswell LRC now offers improved services to students attending the Caswell County Campus. The addition of a full-time librarian will augment LRC services. The librarian is available for increased library instruction and will provide library research and instructional services to ACA, Huskins, ABS, and SPOT students. The librarian provides information literacy services, more support to faculty in their teaching activities, and more support to students while they are in the learning process. The LRC also provides research assistance, electronic databases, reference materials, and electronic journals.

The LRC has also acquired a 20 laptop portable computer laboratory to be used by the librarian and faculty for instructional purposes. The portable laboratory, provided by the Division of Instruction and Student Development, will be housed in the LRC and checked out to faculty on a reservation basis.

The reaction of the faculty, staff, and students has been very positive. Statistics show a more than 100 percent increase in use of the LRC, and services to faculty and students have increased. A collaborative environment is being developed with the implementation of the first phase of the Library Liaison program.

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Succeeding in Online Courses

—from Angela Vaughn, Distance Education Staff Assistant

Sometimes students sign up for online courses not knowing what to expect, or thinking that online classes will be easier. Online courses are not designed to be easier than traditional classes, nor are they harder than traditional classes. Online courses are just delivered in a different format. Online courses are more convenient because you can attend your class anywhere and anytime you have access to a computer with Internet access.

Here are some tips to help you become a successful online student, whether you are thinking about taking online courses in the spring or you are currently taking online courses:

- If you have limited experience with computers or the Internet, consider taking a computer class such as CIS 110 or CIS 111.
- You must have access to a computer with a dependable Internet Service Provider (ISP). Computers are available in the LRC and at local public libraries if you have a problem with the one you have at home.
- When registering for Internet classes, keep in mind the amount of time you will need to spend on each class. Reading can be extensive. You will have assignments to complete and due dates to meet.
- Don't fall behind in your class. Log in to your course regularly and communicate with your instructor. Complete assignments by required due dates. If you experience problems logging into your course, seek assistance immediately.
- Ask questions! When you are not sure about something, don't hesitate to ask your instructor. Instructors can be contacted by e-mail or phone. Check your syllabus to determine the best way to communicate with the instructor. Remember to put your current e-mail address in Blackboard, so your instructor will be able to respond to your e-mails.
- Do not procrastinate. Be focused, determined, and patient.

Audio/Video Services

The Learning Resources Center's Audio/Video department offers various services to enhance learning at Piedmont Community College. These services are available to both students and faculty.

Services include:
Poster Printing
Laminating
Taping Satellite Broadcasts
Document Scanning
Classroom Videos
Student Videos
Department Videos
Training Videos
Duplicating Non-Copyright DVDs



Googleit™ Trivia Contest

Congratulations to Jannie Lipscomb and Erin Abele for answering both of the questions correctly:

- What are the capital and official language of Thailand?
Bangkok and/or Thai
- Name the movie and character who said, "This is the ocean silly, we're not the only two in here?"
Dory in Finding Nemo



A Loving Home Danaya Grubbs (Student)

Texas is a place where my heart will always lie. The capitol was my birthplace, but the South Texas countryside is where I call home. I miss her so much that at times I think I can hear the coyote's howl the javelina's grunt, and the deer scatter into the woods. I wish that I could describe the beauty of the bluebonnets flowing in the wind or the proud Indian paintbrushes standing tall in the fields, but words just cannot describe. My body may still be in North Carolina, but my thoughts will always be on my Lone Star state.

Walking Tall Julie Davis (Student)

It is an interesting thing, to think about what character an author would play in her own artistic creation. In the story "A Worn Path", written by Eudora Welty, I believe she would have been the gentlewoman in town who Phoenix Jackson stopped and asked if she could please tie her shoes. The kindness of the stranger towards Phoenix, is a symbol put intentionally into the story, giving hope to the reader that this story was not only about woe and determination, but also about humanity. As I interpreted the interview of the author, I understood her to have a deep love and admiration for her, and she wanted us, the readers, to feel the same. I trust that she put a piece of herself into this tale, to support Phoenix, giving her the respect and dignity that she felt was deserved.

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Students have shown their satisfaction by coming to the LRC more often: before and after classes and while waiting for rides to leave campus. The increased numbers of computers and the additional study space have proven to be added attractions to faculty and students who come in to study, read newspapers, plan their classes, and review materials before class.



The LRC has extended hours and operates Monday through Thursday 7:30 am to 8:00 pm and 7:30 am to 4:00 pm on Fridays. Librarian Lionell Parker and Learning Resources Center Associate Mary Jones welcome everyone to visit and explore the LRC's resources.

Do You Have Suggestions?

If you have any suggestions, ideas, or concerns, please send them via e-mail. In the subject line, enter **Newsletter Suggestions** and send to Vanessa Nwanze, Reference Librarian, at nwanzev@piedmontcc.edu

Places Unimaginable Nina S. Kirk (Student)

My writing is like the smooth rhythms of jazz soothing your eyes with every word melody. Each line brings a feeling of suspense and anticipation. Like a Miles Davis composition, it starts off slow and mild, but towards the middle and the end, the reader may experience an upbeat artistic expression, and arrangement of words. Addicted to and often intoxicated by such stimulating verses, my writing takes the reader to places unimaginable. The finale is always so exciting that you never want the story to end.

New Resources

Greatest Discoveries with Bill Nye. Genetics (video)
IT Essentials II: Network Operating Systems Companion Guide
Mandate: The President & the People
Many Peoples, Many Faiths: Women and Men in the World Religions
Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinos & Latinas
Study Guide for Nursing Care of Children
Thomas Day: African American Furniture Maker

Tech Byte. . .Your Virtual Library

The LRC's web site offers many ways to learn about the resources and activities at your library.

You can find a link to our electronic databases by clicking on "LRC Resources" on our web site. Electronic databases give you access to hundreds of online journals, magazines, and newspapers.

Database suggestions:

The *CQ Researcher* database via NC LIVE is a detailed database that provides thousands of articles on social issues such as abortion, the death penalty, gangs, home schooling, and other issues.

The *ProQuest Nursing Journals* database is an excellent database for students in PCC's Associate Degree Nursing and Nursing Assistant programs. This resource is a comprehensive database that provides access to more than 500 profession journal articles and research material.

We're on the Web!
www2.piedmontcc.edu/lrc