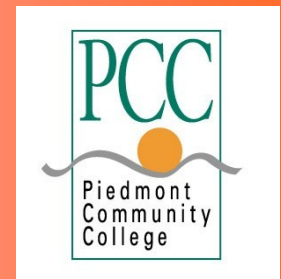


FRESH FROM THE JAR

LRC NEWSLETTER



PCC-Caswell Learning Resources Center Moves to Improved Facilities

Article by Lionell Parker—

Librarian—Learning Resources Center—Caswell County Campus

It was a long awaited move with an improved facelift for the Learning Resources Center (LRC) at the Caswell campus of Piedmont Community College (PCC) this summer.

The Learning Resource Center, often called the LRC, moved from its location in room K152 to room K116 a couple of weeks before classes started. The new site, the former film editing room was converted to the New LRC. The New LRC offers an improved layout including a testing/video room, study tables, and twelve computers for student use. The furnishings—bookshelves, computer desks, and seating—were delivered from the Gordon P. Allen LRC. A new circulation desk was added to enhance service to LRC users.

The earlier approval of the conversion of the Caswell campus of PCC to a full service Campus and with the completion of the Film and Animation Building, a high level of excitement was in the air. The LRC was to get improved quarters, the Cosmetology program would be added, an improved Student Success Center was planned, and the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program would get additional space, all of these efforts to provide improved services to students attending the Caswell County Campus.

“It is so exciting to see our plans become a reality,” said Dean Susan Scaggs as she discussed all of the exciting changes going on at the Campus. “The changes in our Learning Resources Center are a part of a bigger transformation of the campus from a satellite campus to a full service campus. It is so exciting to have these services enhanced for the benefit of the students and this community,” she said.

The construction of the new Film and Video Production Technology (FVPT) and the Digital Effect and Animation Technology (DEAT) facility served as the catalyst for many of the changes, thereby creating additional space for current and planned programs. The FVPT/DEAT facility was funded by the 2000 Higher Education Bond Program and the Board of County Commissioners of Caswell County.

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Welcome Back Distance Education

Article by Angela Vaughn—

Distance Education Staff Support

Whether you are enrolling for the first time or you are a returning student to the Distance Education program, we welcome you to the fall semester and wish you success. We thank all of the Distance Education instructors for your hard work and dedication. PCC works diligently to keep its Distance Education program up to date, especially in a continuously changing world.

We are happy to announce that our online course management system, Blackboard, has been upgraded to 7.1 Enterprise. This upgrade provides benefits for both students and instructors. For instructors, Blackboard 7.1 provides exciting new tools and functions that improve the management of courses, enhance the grading process, and increase communication with students. Students will notice enhancements to the Discussion Board, including the ability to rate the Discussion Board threads. Students may also subscribe to Discussion Board threads and will be notified by e-mail each time a new post is added to the thread.

Every e-mail sent via Blackboard now includes the Course ID in the subject line. Students may subscribe to Backpack, a new mobile learning application that extends Blackboard into an off-line learning environment. Students can easily use Blackboard Backpack to manage assignments, annotate documents, take notes during lectures, and quickly search their personalized collection of learning material. To download a preview copy of the Blackboard Backpack, go to <http://backpack.blackboard.com/>

Hours for the Distance Education Center are 8:00 am until 9:00 pm, Monday through Thursday, and 8:00 am until 5:00 pm on Friday. For technical support, please contact Libbie McPhaul-Moore at 336-599-1181, ext 445, or Angela H. Vaughn, ext. 246. Please visit the Distance Education website: <http://www2.piedmontcc.edu/lrc>

Announcement by Gretchen Bell, Dean of Learning Resources Center and Distance Education

The staff at the Gordon P. Allen Learning Resources Center welcomes a new employee, Lionell Parker, who joined the staff here on Wednesday, July 5th, as the Librarian on the Caswell County Campus. Lionell is a graduate of the North Carolina Central University with a Master's Degree in Library Science. He also received a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Duke University. Lionell has experience in library services, distance education, and business.

A Good Website: Do You Know?

Article by Vanessa L. Nwanze—
Reference Librarian

For the most part, there are two things you need to train yourself to do at once when evaluating website: Train your eye and your fingers to help you quickly find what you need to know about web pages, and train your mind to think critically by asking a series of questions that will help you decide how much a web page is to be trusted. Below are a few key points to consider:

Purpose: What is the purpose of the site or page? Web pages may be...Commercial, Informative, Educational, or Entertaining

What does the URL (Web address) say about the creator of the web site, and its purpose? Look at the domain name (edu, com, gov)!

Authority: Who is the author? What are his credentials? Does he have sufficient authority to speak on the subject? Is there a reference list? Is the site a hoax?

Objectivity: Does the content reflect a bias? Is the bias explicit or hidden?

Appropriateness & Relevance: Is the content appropriate for your assignment? Is the content accurate, complete, and well-written? Is the content relevant to your topic or question?

Currency: Is the information on the page up-to-date? Can you tell when the page was last updated? Are there dead links?

Responsibility: Are the authors up-front about their purpose and content? Is there a way to contact the authors? Is there a reference list?

Clarity: Is the information clearly presented? Is the text neat, legible and formatted for easy reading? If there are graphics, do they add to the content or distract? Are the pages well organized? Are there mistakes in spelling or word usage?

Accessibility: Can you get in? Does the site load quickly? Can you move around the site easily? Is there a text-only alternative for the visually-impaired?

Hoaxes: Information on the Web can be entertaining, harmful, or hateful. This type of information could give misinformation to the unwary reader.

PCC-Caswell Learning Resources Center . . .

Dean Scaggs, assigned Mindy Scott, who serves as secretary to the Dean, the responsibility of overseeing the details of the ongoing projects and keeping things to rolling. Ms. Scott sprung into action to meet the deadlines of moving everyone before the beginning of classes. Ms. Scott handled all of the scheduling for the physical improvements necessary to transform the Film Editing Laboratory into a Learning Resources Center.

"I am happy that we are able to increase the level of services provided to the Caswell campus with the addition of a full time Librarian to offer a full line of Library Services along with an increase in the number of computers available for student and Faculty use," said Gretchen Bell, Dean of Learning Resources Center.

"With a full time librarian at the Caswell campus, we will be able to offer Library and Information literacy services, more support to faculty in their teaching activities and support to our students while they are in the learning process. The LRC will continue to provide research assistance, electronic databases, reference materials, and electronic Journals"

Campus administrators, President James Owen and Vice President for Instruction and Student Development, Dr. Randy Young, took opportunities to survey the progress of the Learning Resources Center project during visits to the Caswell campus.

"It [the LRC] is really beginning to look good, but there's still a good ways to go," noted President Owen. Dr. Owen viewed the LRC while the staff was about halfway through the move, but he complimented the staff on the progress. Dr. Young noted to the staff that he felt that the LRC was beginning to look very good.

"We really want the services to the Caswell campus to be improved, and we will be providing a 20 laptop portable computer laboratory to be used by faculty for instructional purposes," said Dr. Young. The 20-laptop portable laboratory will be held in the LRC and checked out to faculty on a reserve basis.

Move those Books

It was one week before the start of classes and fall convocation, Dean Bell secured additional help from part-time librarian Barbara Gilchrist to assist the Caswell LRC staff in moving the books. The books were moved, shelved, and put in order. The excitement grew as the beginning of classes approached.

Reactions

The LRC was completed on time and fully functional on Opening Day, August 21, 2006. The reaction of the faculty, staff, and students has been positive. The students show their satisfaction by coming to the LRC before and after classes and while waiting for rides to leave campus. The increased numbers of computers and additional study space have proven to be added attractions to faculty and students who have come in to study, read newspapers, and plan their classes, or review materials before class.

"I love books and I have found the LRC very supportive of our program," said Paula Hindman, Director of the Digital Effects and Animation Technology program. Hindman visited before the LRC was officially opened to point out resources to Chelsea Abbott, a new instructor in the DEAT Program.

Continued on next column . . .

PCC-Caswell Learning Resources Center . . .

Michael Corbett, Director of the Film and Video Production Technology Program echoed Hindman's remarks: "I am excited for the new facility which supports the programs on the Caswell campus. . . I look forward to working with the staff in the LRC," Corbett said.

The LRC will be open Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Friday from 7:30 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. Librarian Lionell Parker and Learning Resources Center Associate Mary Jones welcome everyone to come and use the materials.

The Two Kittens Ellen Ashley (student)

Alley and Waffles, two sister kittens, were lounging, side by side, on their masters queen sized bed. Waffles was a chubby, black and orange calico with little interest in playful antics, while Alley was a sleek, gray and white tabby, energetic and mischievous, the mirror image of their mother. The one characteristic the two shared was an intense love for their mother and a little jealousy. Alley constantly told Waffles that Mother Cat loved her best because they looked just alike, to which Waffles would respond, she was the favorite due to the fact she was different. Suddenly, Mother Cat jumped up on the bed and wrapped her soft cuddly body around both Alley and Waffles, purring and licking each simultaneously. The moral of the story is a mother loves her children equally.

Mr. Know it All Shantelle Wade (student)

I am one of the most reliable sources of knowledge in the world; I have information about the moon, sun, stars, boats, trains, and cars. With me you can find out who got where first and how long it took them to get there. I can tell you good or bad things about famous people. You can also discover how life was long ago and learn how to put things together; what chemical not to mix up. I can even teach you how to train your dog and show you a picture. Some might even say I know everything; I can tell you about events you never knew happened, and I can be found far and wide in many different languages. Sometimes I even tell a great story, so if one day you are sitting around, and doing nothing, stop by and pick me up; I am A BOOK!



Awaiting the End of Life Carlos Swicegood (student)

The Green Mile is a movie set back in 1935 about an innocent man named John Coffey who is sentenced to death. Towards the end of the story, the ex-prison guard Paul Edgecombe is distraught with the feeling that he is living his life as a form of punishment. He was given something from John Coffey that allowed him to live longer than the average person. Paul and John had developed a sort of bond with each other and before John was executed he gave Paul the gift of life. This started to become like a curse to him which is evident as Paul lives and gets older. Once most of his close family and friends died out, he was left all alone in a nursing facility that didn't suit his active lifestyle at the incredible age of 108. So, as Paul Edgecombe aged, he started to see his life as a form of punishment for his involvement in an innocent man's death.

GoogletTM

- What is the capital and official language of Thailand?
- Name the movie and character who said, "This is the ocean silly, we're not the only two in here?"

*Stop by the Circulation/Reference Desk on the lower level to enter your answers by **October 16, 2006.**

*To enter, students, faculty, and staff must fill out ballots with the answers to all two trivia questions and provide their names and e-mail addresses.

*Two lucky winners will be notified on **October 23, 2006** via e-mail and announced in the next newsletter.

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 L. Nwanze, Reference Librarian, at nwanzev@piedmontcc.edu.

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