



A representative from the Broward County Supervisor of Elections helps a student register to vote



One of the highlights of the week was the free massages for students



(From Left to Right) Brenda Rojas, Instructor Kenneth Schnur, Kellee Ruise, and Valrie Johnson pose in front of the Richard Gerstein Justice Building in downtown Miami for the University Of Miami School Of Law Mock Trial Competition. Also there, but not pictured was Sandra Anderson.

Mock Trial

On April 12, 2014 several City College Paralegal students volunteered as jurors for the finals of the **University Of Miami School Of Law Mock Trial Competition**. The event was held at the Richard Gerstein Justice Building in downtown Miami.

“The students had a successful and educational day...”

The trials were presided over by actual Dade County Circuit Judges and were held in the actual courtrooms used by the Judges. The three students who participated sat as jurors in two different trials, although the same case was at issue (a civil assault and battery tort case). The students who participated were **Valrie Johnson, Kellee Ruise, and Brenda Rojas**. Brenda was elected by the other jurors to be the Jury Foreman. Normally, jurors deliberate in private, but all three of the students did their jury deliberations publicly as part of the exercise. The students had a successful and educational day and helped out the **University of Miami Law School** students in the process. ●

Appreciating Our Students

The Fort Lauderdale campus recently celebrated Student Appreciation Week April 21-25th. Students enjoyed a variety of foods each day, served to them by the faculty and staff. One of the highlights of the week was the free massages that were made available to students during their class breaks.

Additionally, over the course of the week, representatives from several local businesses and vendors, including **Broward 211, Broward County Supervisor of Elections, Broward County Transit, Sam’s Club, and Tri-Rail**, came out to share information and resources with students. ●



Students enjoy breakfast during their class break



Bagels being served by the Financial Aid team to students during Student Appreciation Week



Students from the Broadcasting Club pose in front of Paramount Studios in Hollywood, California before their backstage tour

That's Entertainment

This past April, the City College Broadcasting Club took their annual field trip, attending the **National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) Convention** in Las Vegas. The convention is the world's largest electronic media show covering filmed entertainment, and the development, management, and delivery of content across all mediums. With more than 93,000 attendees from 156 countries, and over 1,550 exhibitors, the NAB Show is the ultimate marketplace for digital media and entertainment.

During the convention, students were able to sit in on workshops and presentations for editing software, recording booths, cloud storage, and

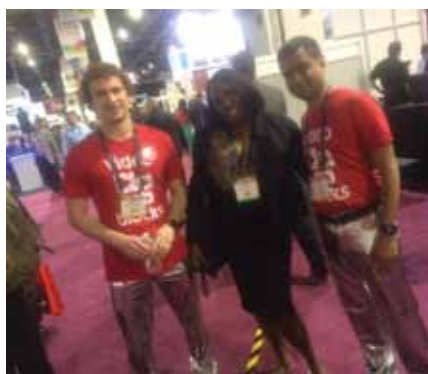
green screen technologies, as well as visit some of the many exhibitors that were on hand.

In addition to the convention, the club also visited Hollywood, California, where they visited Paramount studios. The group had a personal tour that took them through the rich history of Paramount Studio's films, actors, props, and sets. The experience gave them an inside look on how movie magic is made.

The tour was an eye opener for many of the broadcasting students, as this was their first time visiting a motion picture film studio. "I will be watching my favorite movies with a new set of eyes" said student **Wilson Louis**.



Broadcasting student Alexandra O'Campo shows off her Exhibits Pass during the National Association of Broadcasters Show in Las Vegas



Broadcasting student Juliet Romeo poses with some of the exhibitors at the convention during the Broadcasting Club's trip to Las Vegas

Get Fit

Recently, trainers from the local "Training Pit Crossfit" were on hand at the Fort Lauderdale campus to explain their strength and conditioning training programs. Students and staff were able to observe the trainers demonstrate some of their various workouts and equipment. According to trainer Marcelo, "Crossfit can help you become a better you, no matter what your fitness level is." In addition to the demonstrations, free sessions were offered to help those interested in getting started on improving their health and wellbeing.



Crossfit trainers demonstrate some of their workouts and equipment



Crossfit trainer Marcelo explains their strength and conditioning training programs to students and staff



Students and staff register to get more information about Crossfit

Visit the City College student web portal at myportal.citycollege.edu



Captain Amanda Vomero shares her story and career path on becoming a Captain with Palm Beach County Fire Rescue

Looking Forward

Recently, the EMS Department at the Fort Lauderdale Campus hosted **Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Captains Amanda Vomero** and **Jason Torlucci**, of Recruitment and HR Development, to speak to students about looking forward to their career opportunities after graduation.

Vomero spoke of her own career path to becoming a Captain and the opportunities for women in the field. She also discussed the importance of staying focused on your goals, and to not allow anyone to prevent you from reaching them.

Torlucci spoke to students about the various jobs and career paths available with the Palm Beach County Fire Department for future graduates. ●



Captain Jason Torlucci discusses the career opportunities available with Palm Beach County Fire Rescue for future graduates

Quick Response

Congratulations to our EMS students, **Silvia Couso** and **Melissa Da Ponte**, for their quick response to help a visiting vendor on campus. They were able to make the patient stable and comfortable until further help arrived. ●



EMS students Silvia Couso and Melissa Da Ponte were quick to respond in assisting a visitor at the Fort Lauderdale campus



The winners, and their poems, were on display in the Fort Lauderdale campus library following the Library Poetry Contest

Expressive Words

Students at the Fort Lauderdale campus celebrated **National Poetry Month** in April by participating in the Library's Poetry Contest. Entrants were asked to write original poems in the style of Haiku, Limerick, Sonnet, ABC, or Rhymed Poetry. Prizes were given for first, second, and third place, with **Monique Crateur** taking top honors with her poem, "*Childhood*." Second place was awarded to **Andrekia Williams-Montgomery** for her poem "*Looking at You*." The poem "*Lost*" by **Tiatanna Short** was awarded third place. In addition, Honorable Mention was given to "*The Power of Books*" by **Anthony Lamar Pyatt**. According to **Sharon Neubauer**, Library Director at the Fort Lauderdale campus, "There were some great entries. Thank you to all those students that participated." ●

Winning Library Poetry Contest Submission:

Childhood

by Monique Rene Crateur

Sticky bandages on scraped up knees,
 Getting stung by honey bees.
 Chasing a pretty butterfly,
 Getting a huge, big, black eye.
 Playing on the swing set,
 Calling out, "Are we there yet?"
 Going sledding down huge hills,
 The little things that give you thrills.
 Riding the one cent ponies at Meijer,
 Always afraid of going higher.
 Birthday cakes,
 Silly mistakes.
 Lots of presents at Christmas time,
 Pleased to find a shiny dime.
 Learning to ride a bike,
 Eating foods you didn't like.
 Carrying around your teddy bear,
 Having to get gum cut out of your hair.
 Childhood is just the start,
 Growing up is the true art.



(Left to right) Allied Health Students Precious Jenkins, Pauline Salazar, Angela Mitchem, Wendell Etienne, and instructor Dr. Fred Valdes help sell healthy snacks during student class breaks

Join the Club

The **Allied Health Club** has been active on the Fort Lauderdale campus this term with various activities that benefit the City College students they serve.

The club recently hosted guest speaker **Rebecca Miele, Florida KidCare** Outreach Coordinator, who spoke about the availability of ‘low cost’ insurance for children. According to Miele, “the State of Florida offers health insurance through Florida KidCare, for children from birth through age 18, even if one or both parents are working.”

In addition to the guest speaker, the Allied Health Club provided healthy snack options for students during recent class breaks by selling various fruits, granola bars, and drinks in the atrium area.

The club also had a successful car wash and barbeque to get everyone motivated for the beginning of the new semester.

The Allied Health Club is open to all students, regardless of their major. If you are interested please contact Program Chair **Dr. Inas Luka, MD.** ●



Students Alexandra Negron and Angela Mitchem wash cars during the Allied Health Club car wash



Allied Health guest speaker Rebecca Miele, of Florida KidCare, discusses the availability of “low cost” insurance for children

Community Outreach



Students and staff from the Fort Lauderdale and Hollywood campuses represent City College at the Broward Heart Walk

My Heart. My Life

Students and faculty from the Fort Lauderdale and Hollywood campuses joined forces on March 8, 2014 to represent City College at the annual **Broward Heart Walk**, sponsored by the **American Heart Association**.

The American Heart Association is the largest voluntary health organization working to prevent, treat and defeat heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases. The Heart Walk is the American Heart Association’s premiere event for raising funds to save lives from this country’s No. 1 and No. 4 killers - heart disease and stroke. Both campuses raised over \$1,000 through campus fundraising and donations. ●



(Left to right) Fort Lauderdale Allied Health student Brittany Johnson, Career Services Director Traci Ackerman, and Allied Health student Precious Jenkins show their team spirit in their Heart Walk shirts



Fort Lauderdale student Rivel Dumaine poses to have his picture taken for graduation

Say Cheese

In preparation for the upcoming City College graduation ceremony, Fort Lauderdale students were able to have their pictures taken in their cap and gown. Recent graduate **Rivel Dumaine** poses to have his picture taken. ●



Anesthesia and Surgical Technology students prepare "patient" for surgery



EMS student Eric Owens discuss patient transfer with nursing students Rachel Pallatto and Matthew Huffman



Surgical Technology Department Chair Victor Cornier demonstrates the procedures he will be using during Simulation Day



Broadcasting student Giovanni Lopez interviews a witness, Medical Assisting student Adrienne Lewis, during Simulation Day

City College Students in Action

This past spring, the Academic Department of the Fort Lauderdale campus held **Simulation Day**; an inter-departmental quarterly collaboration designed to highlight City College students in action applying what they have learned.

The simulation scenario began when a lawn worker cut his leg and goes into the doctor's office of the building he was working at. The patient was initially assisted by Allied Health Department students, who worked to stop the bleeding and called 911. EMS Department students reported to the scene, stabilized the patient, and then transported the patient to the emergency room. At the hospital, Nursing and Surgical Technology Department students assessed, prepped, and aided with surgery.

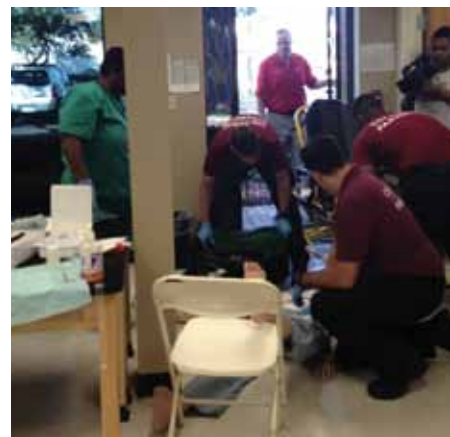
In the second scenario, Business, Legal Assisting, and Private Investigation Department students participated in a mock trial about the defective lawn tool that caused the injury. Private Investigation students provided the evidence, while Legal Assisting students acted as both the judge and the attorneys. Business Department students acted as both witnesses and jurors. The mock trial ended with a conviction of the manufacturer. In addition, the Broadcasting Department provided live coverage of both simulation scenarios, and recorded them for review.

The simulation provided faculty an opportunity to observe how students are applying their knowledge, while giving students a chance to learn through hands on participation and observation of their peers. ●

Simulation Day is an inter-departmental quarterly collaboration designed to highlight City College students in action applying what they learn.



(From left to right) EMS student Eric Owens, EMS Program Chair Anthony Bitgood, EMS student Ben Wilson, and EMS student Arnold Henry discuss the next step for "patient" as they transport him



Allied Health, Broadcasting, and EMS students contribute their part to Simulation Day

► **Community Outreach**

Career Day with the Boys and Girls Club of Broward County

Recently, City College participated in the 4th Annual Career Day with the **Boys and Girls Club of Broward County**. High school age members of the Club were presented information on various career choices by over 17 colleges. City College Admission Representatives, along with several Broadcasting Student Ambassadors, did presentations on careers in the field of Broadcasting and Private Investigation; using a camera and fingerprint machine to demonstrate some of the types of equipment they could work with. The event provided a great chance for students to see all the possible opportunities available to them.



(From left to right) Admissions Representative Christina Slater, Broadcasting Student Ambassador Trena Brae, Broadcasting Student Ambassador Shantahl Scarlett, and Admissions Representative Odette Pena pose in front of their Career Day display

The event provided a great chance for students to see all the possible opportunities available to them.

Since 1965, it has been the mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County to enable all young people, especially those who need it most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens. Their goal is for all members to graduate from high school with a plan for the future; demonstrate good character and citizenship by participating in leadership training and volunteering in community service projects; and engage in sports and activities that promote a healthy lifestyle. ●



The plaque that was presented to City College for their participation in Career Day

Miami Campus News



HIV/STD Awareness

Ms. Lori Jordahl, a health care educator from the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade, conducted an educational seminar on HIV/STD awareness. Additionally, students were offered free testing after the seminar. The event was such a huge success that the Florida Department of Health is seeking continued use of the Miami campus facility for future events. ●

Find this newsletter online at citycollege.edu

Student Appreciation Week



Director of Financial Aid Armando Rios, Executive Director Marion D'Amour, and Registrar Donysha Givens serve hot dogs, chips, and soda during Student Appreciation Week



During Student Appreciation Week students were also recognized for academic excellence. Here, Aidil Matos displays her certificate for being on the President's List



John Padilla, Jennifer Vallejo, and Richard Sharp enjoying a break from class during Student Appreciation Week



Director of Financial Aid Armando Rios and Executive Director Marion D'Amour take "serving our students" to another level

EMS Training



EMS student Dionte Brown prepares to lift an accident victim from a vehicle



EMS students prepare to hoist an accident victim



EMS instructors Richard Cook and Gilberto Martin demonstrating the proper way to evacuate an accident victim on a lift

New Leadership at Miami Campus

The Miami campus welcomes new Director of Education **Richard Jines**. Eager to live in the sunshine state, Mr. Jines recently moved from Madison, Indiana with his wife and three children to bring over twenty five years of educational experience to the Miami campus. ●



Financial Literacy Takes Over City College

City College is pleased to announce that we are going to be offering Life Skills to our students. USA Funds® Life Skills® is an online financial literacy and student success program designed both to enhance the personal finance skills of college students and to promote successful completion of their academic programs. A non-profit corporation, USA Funds works to enhance postsecondary education preparedness, access and success by providing and supporting financial and other valued services.



Students need to develop basic life management skills so that they graduate on time with a minimum amount of debt

USA Funds Life Skills helps students understand basic strategies for managing finances and for completing degree work in a timely manner by organizing complex information into a clear-cut format that is easy for students to understand and retain.

USA Funds Life Skills measures gains in student knowledge, captures attitude and planned action after course completion, and tracks students' application of the concepts and tools in the months following completion. Post-lesson assessments evaluate students' knowledge of and ability to apply key personal finance and student success concepts.

You now have access to USA Funds Life Skills, a free online learning program that offers you advice for managing your time and money wisely while on campus and after graduation.

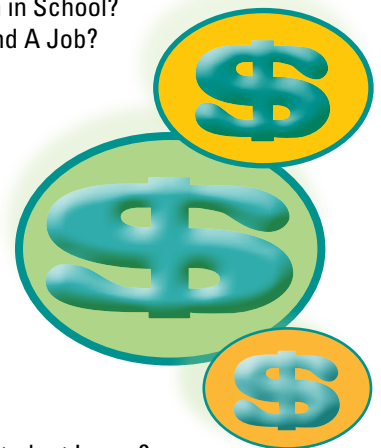
New students can take advantage of:

- What Do I Need to Know About Repaying My Student Loans?
- What If I Have Trouble Repaying My Student Loans?
- How Do I Live on a Budget While I'm in School?
- How Do I Manage My Personal Life While I Am in School?
- Now That I am About to Graduate, How Do I Find A Job?
- How Do I Prepare For a Job Interview?
- How Do I Establish Career Goals?
- Where Does My Paycheck Go?
- What Do Credit Scores Mean to Me?
- What Do Credit Reports Mean to Me?
- How Can I Protect Myself From Identity Theft?
- How Do I Manage My Debt?
- How Do I Set Savings Goals?
- How Can I Make the Most of My Savings?
- How Much Income Should I Expect?

Graduating students can take advantage of:

- How Will I Pay for My Higher Education?
- What Do I Need to Know About Repaying My Student Loans?
- How Do I Manage My Student Loans While I'm in School?
- How Do I Achieve My Goals?
- How Do I Live on a Budget While I'm in School?
- How Do I Manage My School Life?
- How Do I Manage My Personal Life While I Am in School?
- How Do I Prepare For a Job Interview?
- How Do I Establish Career Goals?
- How Do I Live On A Budget After I Have Completed School?
- How Can I Protect Myself From Identity Theft?

You can review the lessons and retake the Lesson Challenges to improve your score at any time by navigating to the lesson through the course catalog. Stop by the Financial Aid office at any location to receive the instructions about the USA Funds Life Skills Student Guide tool which outlines the steps necessary to access and complete the lesson(s). ●



▶ **Community Outreach**



City College Heart Walk teams

City College Hollywood at 2014 Broward Heart Walk

It takes a dedicated bunch to show up at an 8:00 AM event on a Saturday morning after a full week of work and full-time classes. But that's just what over a dozen City College Hollywood students, faculty and staff did on March 8, 2014—along with teams from City College's Fort Lauderdale campus.

The event, which centered around a 5K walk/run, had the goal of raising \$500,000 countywide for the American Heart Association. In addition to City College's presence, companies such as Aetna, Royal Caribbean and Merrill Lynch formed teams, such as City College's four student-lead groups, whose purpose was to raise money and add to the donation pool of the worthwhile cause of heart disease awareness. Spearheaded by Hollywood Campus's Ambassadors, the event gave students the chance to raise awareness, advocate for school spirit, and meet professional members from the county's business community: a good reason to wake up indeed. ●



Student Lia E. Young registers with her mom, left; Ambassador Gilbert Henry and student Anaïs Cepeda, right.



Dr. Jeremiah Grantham performs for City College Hollywood students; Student Ambassador Montovia Alexander sits to the right

Hollywood Talent Shines at Poetry Café

While students are at City College to fulfill career dreams, many have hidden talents that came to the fore during the Ambassador organized **Poetry Café** event. Held on two successive days, April 29 and April 30, the event allowed students, and some faculty, to display their facility with language and performance.

Highlights included student Ambassador **Montovia Alexander's** well-received Challenge the Summit speech, where he encouraged students to think beyond their dreams and current situations and to challenge themselves to "challenge the summit" by reaching towards the heights attained by role models such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and even current City College instructors. Student **Chiquita Moore** powerfully recited Lucille Clifton's famed "Wishes for Sons" in which the poet imagines her sons handling the physical experience of being women.

Instructors **Yaddyra Peralta** and **Dr. Jeremiah Grantham** were invited to share a poem and a song as students, faculty and staff gathered during class break over coffee, hot chocolate and pastries, demonstrating that learning, and careers, are enriched by the sweet flavoring of sharing and camaraderie. ●

Gainesville Campus News

We Have Ignition

As a new initiative to ignite students/graduates momentum in their employment preparation, The Career Services team: **Tom Valukevich**, **Brandon Labonte**, and **Glenda Shaw** presented 'Career Spark'. The two hour event, offered for students' convenience at multiple times, focused on preparing students with interviewing: skills, preparation and etiquette. Designed as part lecture and part mock interview the event was geared as a workshop to provide as much feedback as possible as they get geared up to present themselves to employers! ●



Brandon Labonte, Career Services Associate, and Maelys Galvez, June graduate, work on their mock interview while Sabrina Green, June graduate, and Jeff Henrick, March graduate, look on

Brilliant Work



Theresa Dobbins, Gainesville's Academic Assistant, receives the inaugural Supernova Award from Executive Director, Doug Goodwin

The Gainesville Campus introduces a new staff award: **The Supernova Award**. With the definition of a Supernova as 'producing an extremely luminous burst which often outshines an entire galaxy', the award is given to an employee "In recognition for their stellar performance". Recipient, and distinguished honor of our first award, goes to Ms. **Theresa Dobbins**, Academic Assistant. Congratulations Theresa! ●



The passion of changing lives

Changing Lives

At the Gainesville Campus, changing lives through education is something we are passionate about. Our Admissions team works hard right up to the last possible moment prior to the beginning of a term. Here is a peek at our Admissions team on the last possible day for students to register for classes, waiting for students to successfully pass their entrance requirements. ●



Student Ambassador Thomas Robertson assists a participant with a weight check during Gainesville Campus' Allied Health All Health Day



Gainesville's Ambassadors assist with the Allied Health Advisory Board Meeting and All Health Day. From left to right, Christine Seay, Tory Byrd, Mathew Arce, Laguana Veal, Yarelys Martinez and Emmatt Mosely (kneeling)

Student Ambassadors

Student Ambassadors are a huge part of the City College family. Here at the Gainesville campus, our ambassadors are always trying to take part in community and school activities. This term ambassadors from all of our programs helped our campus to successfully host several events. ●

This term ambassadors from all of our programs helped our campus to successfully host several events.



Gainesville Student Ambassadors, Pennye Lay and Tammy Jenkins, together with Teagan Crane, the daughter of a staff member, donating pull tabs to The Ronald McDonald House. The school, along with Teagan's contribution from home, collected over 28 pounds of pull tabs



Gainesville Campus enjoyed a successful Winter Career Fair, with attendance by employers such as CareerSource and TD Bank



Wal-Mart was one of the many local and national employers to attend Gainesville Campus' Winter Career Fair

Employers on Deck

UF Health/Shands Hospital, The Gainesville Police Dept., Florida Dept of Corrections, SIMED, Wal-Mart, Biotest, joined a dozen additional employers to attend the Gainesville Campus' Winter Career Fair on February 25, 2014.

Leading up to the event students/graduates were prepped as Career Services held various seminars on company research, interviewing etiquette, resume writing and finally completed the two week series with an actual staff modeled fashion show which demonstrated professional attire.

Over 120 students/graduates attended the Career Fair. (Several of whom walked into new positions over subsequent weeks!)

Paul Castellano, Corporate Director of Career Services, who was visiting the campus from the Home Office, offered his thoughts "I was very impressed by the students and graduates in attendance, they were all dressed for success, prepared and confident as they met with the various employers to discuss career opportunities. I was also very pleased to have great conversations with Gainesville's top employers in attendance to hear directly from them how much they appreciate and value City College graduates as employees in their organizations." ●

Visit the City College student web portal at myportal.citycollege.edu

Altamonte Springs Campus News

Surgical Technology Awards

The Surgical Technology Program would like to congratulate and recognize our students on their achievements for the Winter 2014 term. ●

Perfect Attendance:

- Stephanie Estael**
- Daiana Herrera**
- Jennifer Hunt**
- Anais Ravelo**

Outstanding Academic Achievement:

- Olivia Abdo**
- Yolande Kennedy-Clark**
- Crystalina Sanchez**
- Diane Santos**

President's List:

- Stephanie Estael**
- Daiana Herrera**
- Jennifer Hunt**
- Anais Ravelo**



Daniel R. Russo, Program Chair and Olivia Abdo



Beth Sautner; Executive Director, Stephanie Estael, Daiana Herrera, Daniel R. Russo; Program Chair and Anais Ravelo



Daniel R. Russo, Program Chair and Jennifer Hunt

► **Faculty Spotlight**

Altamonte Campus Welcomes New Staff Academic Staff

Please join us in welcoming **Joy Brastrom** as the new Director of Education at the Altamonte Campus of City College. Joy comes to City College with 21 years of experience in the academic world in a variety of roles. Some of her strengths include: leadership; grant writing; policy and procedure development, and departmental collaboration. She has a special place in her heart for domestic violence survivors and has worked as a shelter manager for a crisis organization. Joy is also an avid reader, and enjoys hiking and canoeing. She is the grandmother of nine children, with a tenth on the way. If you have not met Joy yet, do stop by her office...you just might get a surprise.



*Joy Brastrom, Director of Education
City College Altamonte Springs*

Please join us in welcoming Joy Bastron, the new Director of Education at the Altamonte Springs Campus of City College.

Please join us in welcoming **Julie Chase** as the new Business Chair at the Altamonte Campus of City College. Julie Chase has lived in Central Florida all her life. She is a graduate of Osceola High School, Indiana University, and DeVry University. Julie has a BA, MA, and an MBA and many years of teaching and business/accounting experience. Julie loves the NFL and MLB and is learning to play the piano. ●



*Julie Chase, Department Chair,
Business*

**Julie Chase joins City College Altamonte Springs
Campus, serving as the new Business Chair.**

► **Community Outreach**

City College Ambassadors

The Altamonte Springs Ambassadors welcomed some new members in May. Congratulations to:

- Johnny Calloway**
- John Collins**
- Kiera Collins**
- Holly Erickson**
- Majesty Nickerson**
- Diane Santos**

The ambassadors sponsored “**Movers for Moms**” and collected items for **Safe House of Seminole County** April 28- May 8th. These items were donated to the moms on Mother’s Day. ●



Student Appreciation Week

Altamonte campus tried something new for Student Appreciation this term. Students were invited to play in a whole host of games called “minute to win it.” These new silly and fun games such as how long you can hula hoop and how many dice you can stack invited the students to engage with each other and with faculty. The event was a huge success with students who couldn’t wait to see what new games would be introduced each day. Prizes were given out for each event and we discovered some quite competitive students on our campus! There was party music, dancing and food too. As per tradition, awards were also given at this time. Overall it was definitely a great time for everyone. ●



Student playing “Minute to Win it Hula Hoop Contest”



Student playing “Minute to Win it Dice Stacking Game”

**Find us on Facebook.
Visit the City College
social media link at
citycollege.edu/social**

Student Writer's Corner

Creating a positive electronic tattoo (online presence) is no longer an option when it comes to career management, it's a requirement. As part of the Professional Strategies course, Professor **Danny Huffman** requires students to develop three career empowering blogs. The unique value of being published offers benefits beyond the obvious while the level of confidence, self-esteem, and personal achievement stretches well outside classroom experiences. All submissions are edited and revised, proving persistence and professionalism.

Only the very best become eligible for publication; creating an even greater sense of accomplishment.

After initial approval, submissions are published at **CareerBreakOut**, wordpress.com and **WestOrlandoNews.com** – with a combined audience exceeding 70,000 unique viewers from across the globe! Students are encouraged to retain a hardcopy with url for their professional portfolio. This project has been well-received by the students and viewing public (as shown by the amount of comments).

To the right is an example of one of our CC Connection projects highlighting a students' work. Please visit the url to see the full site. <http://careerbreakout.wordpress.com/2014/05/12/hiring-seasoned-veterans-an-employers-advantage/> ●



Robin Cline, author of Hiring Seasoned Veterans' An Employers Advantage (essay on the right)

Hiring Seasoned Veteran's: An Employers Advantage

When it comes to seeking employment, those above the age of 50 bring far more than just experience, especially if they are Veterans. They bring traits such as leadership, problem solving skills, and a determination to get the job done right, the first time.

Seasoned Veterans understand the value of things that are vital to any unit, military or civilian, such as dependability, honesty, and integrity. Additionally, being seasoned gives them the added benefit of having the outlook and wisdom that only time and experience can give.

Leadership

On two separate occasions, while serving in the United States Air Force, I was promoted, as a Staff Sergeant, to the position of Non Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) of the Mid Shift Avionics Shop for the F-111 aircraft; once at Cannon Air Force Base, Clovis, New Mexico, and the other at Royal Air Force (RAF) Lakenheath, England. In this position, I oversaw the entire shop and all of its functions.

Lifetime civilian and military benefit: I encountered many types of situations requiring me to make major decisions, set schedules, assign duties, and coordinate with other shops in order to accomplish the mission.

During my tour at RAF Lakenheath, I coordinated remote support for our Deployed Avionics Shop at Tiaf, Saudi Arabia, during Operation Desert Storm. Here too, many challenges were faced and met during an actual war-time situation.

Problem Solving Skills

At RAF Lakenheath, our shop was located in an underground facility, with very limited floor space. During Operation Desert Storm, I developed, implemented, and supervised a suitable floor plan and change-over for the new incoming F-15 test equipment and crew while simultaneously removing the F-111 test equipment and crew; no small task, especially during an ongoing war.

Normal daily routines are one thing, but being in the military during war is something else again. Many times I saw the effects of the strain of the enormous pressures that the Airmen were under to fulfill the mission requirements, and how each reacted to it. Sometimes a quick response was required, sometimes filling in for them while they got a much-needed break. Being able to tell when discipline was needed and when it was not, solved many problems and eased the fears of getting into trouble for some minor thing.

Being seasoned presented than a "father figure" many of these young Airmen needed to feel. Resolving mental fatigue, through psychological empowerment, we increased morale. Taking advantage of direct and indirect influence, seasoned veterans helped our unit to achieve and maintain a Fully Mission Capable status and ultimately helped our military win the war.

Commitment

As a Non Commissioned Officer (NCO), one is not only a Supervisor, but a trainer, manager, scheduler, and counselor. In the Air Force, the normal duty day is 8 hours, but during an exercise, or even in wartime, you train like you fight: whatever it takes. The shifts could be from 8, 16, 24, or even 36 hours, whatever was required to accomplish the mission. Being seasoned, one understands commitment to goal attainment, this is our way.

Many times I slept at the shop because the job required that I be there around the clock. And many times I worked triple shifts so that some of the younger, less experienced troops could get food, catch a quick nap, or write a letter home; all things that greatly contributed to the overall success of the mission. Also, times like these presented the perfect opportunity to give additional training under circumstances and conditions that would otherwise be extremely difficult to reproduce, so the training was doubly valuable.

Employer's Value

For the seasoned Veterans 50 and above, everything begins with attitude. Being a Veteran means that a person has been both military and civilian. As such, the Vet has seen and experienced things most other people will never experience. There are however, some things that are just common to life, either military or civilian. Stress is a big factor in both kinds of life, and the Veteran has seen his or her share and knows first-hand how to handle it. By rule of thumb, first, take a deep breath, analyze the situation, choose the best course of action, and go for it! There is no "I" in the word "TEAM", and more often than not, it is a team effort that makes the difference.

Another factor is recognition. The Vet knows the importance of recognizing when a job is well done, and just how good it makes the junior person feel to be recognized for their performance. And lastly, morale. This is one factor that can make or break any team or civilian organization, and the Vet is all too aware of this.

Morale is the glue that holds a unit together, and the unit is only as strong as its morale. Find a unit with good morale, and you will find a good leader there as well. Veterans are not better than anyone else, but they do have more experience in more areas than most others, and they have also been tested under fire, so, hire a Vet! ●