

June 1, 2013

Construction News:



You may have noticed furniture deliveries for the Independent Living Center this past 2 weeks. The final punch list items are being corrected and we expect to take receipt of the building any day now. A building dedication ceremony is being planned for mid-October. We will also schedule tours for the campus community in August prior to the start of the Fall term.

The Department of State Architects has returned the Ash Street and Wildcat Way dorm modernization projects and we will be preparing bid information in June. These projects will commence later this summer.

Student Services Updates:

Summer classes begin on June 10th, with headcount enrollment up 27.7% over Summer 2012. Like many California Community Colleges, our summer offering is more robust than that offered over the past few years. We are offering 26 more sections this summer than last summer.

Fall enrollments continue to show strong demand as compared to this point in time last year. As of May 30th, total headcount enrollment for Fall 2013 is up 21.2 % over Fall 2012.

205 students participated in the 2013 Commencement Ceremony held on Friday, May 24th. To see photos, go to the Taft College Website and click on Graduation pictures. Many thanks to Brian Jean for taking photos at the graduation and at the Annual Scholarship Luncheon at OT's Cookhouse!



Dental Hygiene Graduation

The Dental Hygiene celebrated its graduation on Saturday, May 25th at OT's Cookhouse. Proud family members, faculty, and staff were in attendance to congratulate the graduates and wish them success. Numerous awards were given to members of the graduating class at the celebration.

TIL Program Profiled in Think College Publication

The Transition to Independent Living Program was one of five programs profiled in the UMASS publication entitled "Profiles and Promising Practices in Higher Education for Students with Intellectual Disabilities". The Think College staff visited the five post-secondary programs to share important data

and highlight promising practices in the field of higher education programs for students with intellectual disabilities. The full monograph can be accessed at www.thinkcollege.net/publications/program-profiles.

Instructional Program Updates:

Taft College English and ESL faculty were well represented at the 23rd Annual Building Bridges Conference on “Taking Risks and Going Green” in all of the sessions—poster, breakout, and panel.

(Below) Danielle Harris and Tanna Rozar’s poster session entitled “Best Practices in the Classroom”



correlated research-based curriculum to Student Learning Outcomes. The poster board focused on how instructors can embrace controversy in writing assignments through essay prompts, research, meta-cognitive activities, and student examples. Throughout the presentation, Harris and Rozar stressed the importance of embracing controversial essay topics, using meta-cognitive reading and writing strategies, analyzing real student essays, and using non-traditional texts in the classroom. Both instructors are confident that these types of assignments and materials

keep students engaged. Consequently, thought-provoking discussion ensued. Moreover, presenting at the conference allowed Harris and Rozar to reevaluate their pedagogy and explain the rationale behind their composition pedagogy.

(Right) Kamala Carlson and Jessica Grimes’s poster session “Reusable Resources: GCs and IMALS” illustrated how their content-specific pocket textbooks—*Grammar Cards* and *Increasing Meta-cognitive Active Learning Strategies*—provide concise, reusable templates that model skills used across the disciplines. Carlson and Grimes accompanied these templates with real student work from basic skills reading and English courses to illustrate how the aggregation of skills transfer to collegiate-level courses.



(Left) Joseph Polizzotto’s breakout presentation “Assistive Technology and the English Classroom” featured a bevy of user-friendly technology for faculty to augment student comprehension and skills. Polizzotto shared research showing how struggling readers and writers benefit from

Assistive Technology (AT) in their English and ESL classes. The presentation also highlighted some free AT applications, such as the *Read and Write* Google Chrome extension for Google Docs, the *Balabolka* text reader, and the *Etype!* word predictor tools.

Kamala Carlson was part of the panel discussion on “College Readiness,” which included chairs from Bakersfield College, Porterville College, and California State University, Bakersfield. Carlson shared the SLOs in the pre-collegiate to transfer level English sequence. Additionally, real student essays were presented to illustrate the level of preparedness and rigor expected in each course.

Gary Graupman has served on the planning committee for the Building Bridges Conference for 12 years. This year, he secured a donation of \$1,000 from Taft College, acquired TC paraphernalia from Sheri Black, provided candy for the Candy Bar—a table of sweets to keep everyone energized, and took photographs to help archive the proceedings. He also supplied digital versions of the photos to the conference web master to be put online, which can be viewed on www.buildingbridgesconference.blogspot.com.



Tanna Rozar, Danielle Harris, and Vickie LaClare at the Building Bridges Conference (left)

Vickie LaClare, an ESL adjunct, attended Building Bridges for the first time and appreciated the chance to interact with Taft colleagues as well as representatives from other colleges. Most practical gleanings: all the Taft posters and sessions as well as Jacinto Gardea's session on Holistic Grammar.

Gary Coker and Vanessa Cross made attending Building Bridges possible by substituting for the attendees. Instruction in each class continued seamlessly as Coker and Cross taught course content according to the lesson plan of each instructor.

Other News

June 10	First Day of Summer School
June 28	TIL Graduation
August 15	Last Day of Summer School
August 19 – 23	Fall In Service
August 26	First Day of the Fall Semester