For 25 years, LSCC’s Associate degree in Nursing program has provided a major impact on our surrounding community, and has enjoyed being an accredited member of SACS. It was recently announced, after months of intensive review and preparation for the site visit last February, that LSCC also was awarded accreditation by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission.

The NLNAC is recognized as the accrediting body for all types of nursing education programs by the United States Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Benefits of being an accredited member of NLN include recognition that our program has been evaluated and will be periodically re-evaluated by a qualified, independent group of respected and competent peers who validate that the program meets appropriate postsecondary purposes in a satisfactory manner.

Application for accreditation is voluntary, and the overall well-being of LSCC, including its resources, faculty, administration and governing board is considered during evaluation. The nursing program director and faculty presented evidence of meeting/exceeding achievement of standards and criteria for educational quality (mission and administrative capacity, faculty and staff, students, curriculum, resources, and outcomes).

The NLNAC achievement indicates to the public and to the educational community that LSCC’s program has clear and appropriate educational objectives essential to the preparation of safe beginning practitioners of nursing.

“We are proud of our program and our students’ success,” adds Dr. Maggie Wacker, Nursing director (front row, 2nd from left), “and we will continue to comply with NLNAC’s established standards and criteria in the context of current practice and anticipated future directions.

Nursing faculty and staff celebrated the recognition of their hard work and quality academic programs.

Message from the President  Dr. Charles Mojock

Greetings and happy New Year! We hope you enjoy our newsletter filled with the latest activities of your community college.

We are preparing to start our new semester of classes with a full house of students and are gearing up for spring activities such as baseball and softball. Why not enjoy the beautiful weather and take in a Lakers game? Athletic schedules and much more are available on our newly revamped website.

I am so proud of the accomplishments of our team of faculty and staff here at LSCC, especially in light of the ongoing budget challenges over the last three years, even as we serve record numbers of students on all of our campuses. We are truly committed to our slogan of offering “A Great Education Close to Home!”
What is accreditation and why is it so important? Accreditation assures the quality and integrity of higher education institutions and programs, and helps improve both through rigorous internal/external review processes to evaluate the school against a set of standards. When awarded by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the institution has (1) a mission appropriate to higher education, (2) resources, programs, and services sufficient to accomplish and sustain its mission, (3) clearly specified educational objectives consistent with its mission and appropriate to the degrees it offers, and is (4) successful in assessing its achievement of these objectives and demonstrating improvements. Accreditation is a statement of LSCC’s commitment to integrity and its capacity to provide effective programs and services based on SACSCOC standards.

On October 26, a Visiting Team of administrators and faculty from community colleges outside of Florida and a SACS staff member arrived at LSCC for a three-day review of LSCC and its programs.

The Team toured the campuses’ facilities and interviewed a sampling of everyone from trustees to students. Its goal was to ensure that stakeholders were well informed about the purpose of accreditation.

Following a very rigorous process, LSCC received what is called an Exit Report from the SACSCOC Visiting Team. The best way to sum it up is to quote SAC Team member Dr. Marcy Stoll, “That must be the sound of champagne corks popping! This is an outstanding report!”

There are 81 Compliance Requirements or Standards to be met; LSCC got a thumbs up on 80 of 81 of them! (And, that one is very common and fixable.) The SACS Commission will take formal action on our reaffirmation at its meeting in June 2011.

LSCC President Charles Mojock commented, “I can’t say enough to thank our LSCC faculty and staff for its hard work and dedication. The Visiting Team was effusive in its praise for the professional responses it received.”

National and State Recognitions

Dr. Charles Mojock was the Florida Economic Development Council’s Robert L McLaughlin Volunteer of the Year. English Instructor and PTK Honor Society Advisor Jacklyn Pierce was selected as one of 25 national PTK Faculty Scholars.

Sybil Brown (photos, l-r), just completed her reign as 2009’s FACC Professor of the Year. Linda Karp, Student Life coordinator/SGA advisor, was singled out to receive the Bob Graham Distinguished Service Award for her work with the state’s Student Government Association. Mike Matulia, earned NACDA’s Southeast U.S. Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year Award.

Dr. Gary Sligh (below), dean of General Education and Transfer Programs, is shown with some of his fans, Marion Kane (l-r), Julie Sligh and Jane Scott, at the November Florida Association of Community Colleges Convention, during his successful campaign for its 2011 President-Elect.
Should Lake-Sumter Community College become a four-year college? If so, what degrees do our communities need? How would such a change affect the college’s mission? 

by LSCC President Charles Mojock

One year ago, over 30 distinguished leaders attended the inaugural meeting of the New Vision Council, whose members would advise the college on its future direction. As college president, I felt the community should be the driving force in making such momentous decisions. Since that time, the Council has met monthly to grapple with the issues. The first round of the process came to a conclusion on June 24, 2010, with the Council’s recommendations being forwarded to the District Board of Trustees.

At the outset, the community leaders, representing all segments including business, health care, government, education and others, expressed great confidence in LSCC’s ability to provide quality four-year degrees. To some, it seemed a “no-brainer” – many students want to or have to remain close to home to pursue their college education—so why not? As the Council became immersed in the issues; however, it came to understand that there was much more to the change than just a new name. It learned that while the Legislature rewrote the law to authorize all 28 community colleges (now the Florida College System—FCS) to offer selected four-year degrees, the weak economy had dried up funding for program start-up costs and increased student enrollments. The Council discovered that while two-thirds of LSCC’s students are in the university transfer Associate of Arts degree program, the legislation limits FCS colleges to offering only workforce-related degrees that only a fraction of these students pursue. And, it came to better appreciate our partnership with the University of Central Florida and its DirectConnect to UCF programs that guarantee admission to participating LSCC students.

Confronted with these sobering realities, the Council realized that if LSCC were to transition to four-year degree programs, the approach must be strategic, deliberative and collaborative. It concluded that for LSCC to change its mission in isolation would be a mistake.

At the end of its deliberations, I proposed to the Council a new model for LSCC’s future role—the Partnership-Integrated Model (PIM) that addresses the community’s felt need and desire for greater access here at home to bachelor’s degree programs, while avoiding costly duplication in this time of scarce resources.

The PIM calls for adding four-year degrees provided they are financially feasible, responsive to employers and educationally sound. It also calls for expanding the 2+2 program with UCF, creating a 3+1, and improving the transition of students and alignment of curricular offerings with Lake Tech at the same time.

The New Vision Council unanimously endorsed the concept as one of great value to our community. Its final recommendations expressed the members’ wishes to continue to work with the college on achieving the vision. Its formal recommendations were sent to LSCC’s District Board of Trustees, where it once again was unanimously approved.

The concept is three-fold: (1) implement four-year degrees when feasible, but begin the planning now, (2) implement the Partnership-Integrated Model, and (3) permit the New Vision Council to assist in a number of areas, including researching emerging technology needs, as well as supporting public relations, fundraising, branding and lobbying efforts.

During the December New Vision Council meeting, Sumter County Economic Development Council, Inc. President James Wade announced that the organization is contributing a $25,000 grant to LSCC to facilitate a labor market study profiling workforce needs. Such research will not only show the type of workplace education needed by current employers, but also forecast future business and industry developments. New three and/or four-year degree curriculums then could be customized to fit these needs, and perhaps attract new commerce because of the enhanced quality of workforce resources.
The South Lake Campus SGA knows how to throw a great party! This was its October “Hakuna Matata” (no worries) bash.

LSCC’s Symphonic Band’s fall concerts were centered around clever themes developed by Director and Conductor David Christensen.

Student artist Kate Hall’s (right, l-r) design for the Fine Arts Center’s new mural themed “Art, Music, and Theatre” was selected by Prof. Peter Arcaro and Asst. Prof. Kelly Cornell.

Fall 2010 Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Inductees

Deana Leigh Adams, Michael Drew Essen,
Trudy Lynn Anderson, Sophia Marie Farkas,
Martha Ruby Birch, Lily Jade Flick,
Nathan Andrew Blake, Nicole Lynn Gamble,
Rebekah Mariah Bray, Spencer McKamey Green,
Juston Alan Brooks, Kathryn Nichole McClung,
Layna C. Capestany, Eric Michael Meals,
Mary Katherine Cecil, Samantha Danielle Oem,
Morgan Rebecca Cothern, Courtney Noél Ponds,
Gregory Eugene Cullen, Stephanie Watson Greene,
David Paul DeMinck, Courtney Danielle Guincho,
Kimberly ‘KC’ Watkins Hornsby, Kristen Michelle Matus,
Taylor Morgan Kelley, Lainey M. Leonard,
Jamie Lee LaBud, Alyssa Katelyn Ladd,
Erin Shiloh Hunniecutt, Charlotte Etwinda Lautzenhiser,
Taylor Morgan Kelley, Jmary DeLaine Lobsiger,
Kathryn Nichole McClung, Hannah Elisabeth Maxwell,
Eric Michael Meals, Alaina Marie Potter,
Samantha Danielle Oem, Julie Marie Richmond,
Spencer McKamey Green, Joshua Allen Santos,
Mary Katherine Cecil, Christine Maree Shiflett,
Morgan Rebecca Cothern, Caitlyn Jalease Slimick,
Gregory Eugene Cullen, James Patrick Smith,
David Paul DeMinck, Carina Eunice Supnet,
Juston Alan Brooks, Gerald Vernon Sweat,
Layna C. Capestany, Brittany Nicole Thompson,
Mary Katherine Cecil, Rajiv Thomas Varghese,
Morgan Rebecca Cothern, Jenni Marie Watt,
Gregory Eugene Cullen, Ashely Lauren Weisman,
David Paul DeMinck, Breanne Noele Williamson,
Juston Alan Brooks, and Nathan Scott Wilson.
Each year, hundreds of students and parents attend LSCC’s College Night. The October 4th event was no different, with colleges and universities from throughout the U.S. participating in hopes of recruiting area high school students.

Staff and faculty, such as advisors Dr. Bill Kennedy and Scott Pennington (front, l-r), Instructor/Dept. Chair Rebecca Nathanson (back, l-r) and Workforce Services-Tech Prep Manager Betty Downey, were on hand to taut LSCC’s many academic programs and services, as well as provide general information for anyone considering an advanced education.

High School Guidance Counselors’ Breakfast
Asst. Director of Career Development Ommy Pearson (right, l-r), Sr. Manager of Dual Enrollment Jessica Hagy and Dean of Career and Technical Programs Mary Jo Rager were some of the LSCC staff showing their appreciation to Lake and Sumter County high school guidance counselors on December 1st.

Student athletes and Athletic Director Mike Matulia (center) posed with the Fall Sports Leadership Program’s guest speaker former FSU quarterback Casey Weldon. LSCC Lakers compete in women’s volleyball and softball and men’s baseball. Athletic department fundraisers, such as the Sports Leadership Programs and annual Golf Classic, benefit LSCC’s Athletic Scholarship Fund.

First LSCC Lakers Home Games
Baseball - Jan. 30, 1 p.m. and Softball - Feb. 1, 2 p.m.
Nature Trail Named in Honor of Its Advocate

Biology Professor Pete Kehde (right) wasn’t content to teach the subject only from a book. He had an idea for a more hands-on concept, and the perfect outdoor lab was on LSCC’s Leesburg Campus. The north-side wooded area provided a living resource to study Florida flora and fauna.

The now retired Kehde (a 39-year LSCC veteran) macheted a path through the wilderness.... Well, it was through his effort that the state legislature allocated a special appropriation for the Nature Trail’s construction, culminating in its March 1990 dedication.

Former LSCC President Carl Andersen referred to the Nature Trail as “Pete’s Preserve” during the namesake’s retirement party last year, and the seed was planted. President Charles Mojock suggested the title become official and the Board agreed it was a fitting tribute. On November 3, 2010, friends and colleagues gathered for the very appropriate renaming ceremony. For two decades of freezes, hurricanes and pine beetles, the Trail has endured. Now, through the hard work of LSCC’s Facilities department, Pete’s Preserve has been enhanced into a natural hiatus, and because of Professor Kehde’s initiative, it will be a teaching and learning asset for years to come.

LSCC TV produced and aired a forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters on the Florida Constitutional Amendment 8 prior to the November elections. Moderated by Lake Sentinel Editor Jerry Fallstrom, the panel included county school superintendents Dr. Susan Moxley (Lake) and Richard Shirley (Sumter) versus county teachers union representatives Ron Meyer (Lake) and Anne Foote-Collins (Sumter). Watch LSCC TV on Bright House’s Ch. 199, Comcast’s Ch. 13 and Florida Cable’s Ch. 4.

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebratory Activities

CommUNITY Breakfast
January 7, 7:15-9 a.m.
Leesburg Community Center

5K Run For Your Dream
January 8, 7:30-9:30 a.m.
LSCC Leesburg Campus Track

Ecumenical Service
January 9, 6-8 p.m.
Mt. Ararat Metro. Baptist Church
East Main St., Leesburg

Awards & Recognition Ceremony
January 14, 6-7:45 p.m.
LSCC Convocation Center, Leesburg

Parade/March
January 15, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Downtown Leesburg

Holiday Festivities
January 17, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Genesis Center, W. Main St., Leesburg

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