Part of the job of an interim college president is to prepare the campus community for its transition to a new president. In the next two issues of the Navigator, I will offer some thoughts that, hopefully, will help to ease the transition. Obviously, such transitions are unsettling as things are inevitably going to change. New presidents have new ideas, new ways of doing things, new ambitions for the institution, and new directives from the Board of Trustees. So, it is impossible to ease all anxieties. However, I can offer some comforting words to the campus community.

First, the process of searching for a new president has gone well. I used to be in the executive search business and was the consultant for several successful presidential searches, so I am in a position to assure all of you that the process has been a good one – sound and in accord with best practices. I am told the pool of applicants was excellent both in terms of size and caliber.

Second, the Board of Trustees, which is the hiring authority for a new president, is very sensitive to the expectations and hopes of the campus community. They surely do not want to seat a president whose style and agenda are incompatible with or offensive to the employees. The Search Committee took to heart the feedback received from their meetings with faculty, staff, and administration earlier in the process. And, yes, the committee knows you don’t want a micromanager.

Third, there are plans for an adequate overlapping period between the new president and me to assure that the insights I have gained from the president’s chair can be passed on to the successful candidate.

Fourth, the Board of Trustees has no hidden agenda to do away with something or completely re-engineer something. This is not to say that things will be business as usual because change is inevitable. However, some of the typical paranoia
Peer Mentor Profile: Nathan Judge

Nathan “Nate” Judge is a senior majoring in Human Services and has been a part of the peer mentoring program since its inception last August 2012. Nate peer mentors in Multicultural Diversity, Introduction to Human Services, and added Counseling Strategies to his subject list this semester. Nate is known for his humor, wit, and fun personality, but he also is a serious, no-nonsense student. Nate is reliable and conscientious and is a strong support for his students. He establishes a positive rapport and provides consistent assistance. In Nate’s spare time and when waiting for students in the Library Periodicals Room, he proves to be an avid reader and enjoys novels and series. Nate is a real “people person” and will thrive in a career working with and helping others. We will miss him when he graduates and so will his students!

Senior Spotlight: More on Nate

When Nathan Judge thinks back to his first year at Beacon College he describes himself as shy. Before long Nate began to feel comfortable, and he started taking on more leadership roles at the College. As a sophomore, Nate became an Orientation leader; as a junior, he became a residential assistant; and this year as a senior, Nate continues with an ever-expanding RA role.

Since Nate is a people person, his future plans include working as a residential assistant at a residential high school or college. Nate also would not mind working with older people or with people with disabilities. We wish him success!

Lighting the Way: Showcasing Beacon Student Artwork

Appleton Creative is hosting a gallery show for our Beacon College students on February 28th from 6 to 8 PM at Appleton Creative’s office in downtown Orlando. Our students’ artwork will be displayed. Hors d’oeuvres and beverages will be served. This should be a great outreach event and fundraiser for scholarships for the new Art Major as select art is available for purchase. Proceeds will go to the College.

Many donors for this event have already been established, but we could always use more! A big thank you to Appleton Creative, Jerome Brouhard from Maggie’s Attic, Norm Rinnee from Norm’s Palette, Wendy Meli from Wendy Lynne’s Creations, and Joel Bore from Bjoely Event Services!
Profiles in Campus Life
Contributed by Kelly Hickmon, Assistant Director of Campus Life

NATE JUDGE
RESIDENT ASSISTANT

Hometown: Winnetka, IL
Favorite superhero: Superman!
In one word: reliable
Favorite comfort food: Spaghetti
Currently reading: "just finished The Hunger Games and The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo triologies"
Most amazing vacation: visiting my brother in Barcelona, Spain
Bestie: EB Newlon
Guilty pleasure: nothing I want to admit

"As an RA, I have developed skills that I would not have developed otherwise."

Nate is a senior in his fourth semester serving Beacon as a Resident Assistant. After graduating with his BA in Human Services this May, Nate aspires to work with the elderly or with students with learning disabilities. Nate applied for the RA position in the hopes of developing his own leadership skills and having opportunities to help others. And he has. As an RA, Nate has also made new discoveries about himself. Learning to be more assertive forced him out of his comfort zone, but doing so has raised his self-confidence. Way to go, Nate!
Topher Hobson to Oversee Student Activities
Contributed by Sonya Lawrence, Administrative Assistant, Student Services

Christopher “Topher” Hobson joins the Student Services team at Beacon College serving as the new Coordinator of Residence Life and Activities. Topher earned a Master of Arts in College Student Development from Appalachian State University as well as a Master of Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary. His experience includes spending three years at Presbyterian College working in Residence Life as well as working at Hannam University in Korea where he was employed as an instructor and participated in the Korean Studies Summer Program. Topher has the unique ability to read and write in Koine Greek and has some language skill in Hebrew and Korean. In his spare time, he also enjoys cooking and playing Xbox. We are extremely excited to have Topher on board as he brings a great new perspective to Beacon College. Welcome Topher!

Gamma Beta Phi Honors Society
Contributed by Dr. Kirk Stowe, Assistant Professor of Biology

With the starting of the 2012-2013 academic year, new vitality has been infused into the Beacon College Chapter of the Gamma Beta Phi Honors Society. Beacon College encourages this new enthusiasm surrounding the Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society, a nationally recognized honors and community service society. Our President (Angel Scipio), Vice President (Heather Reed), and Faculty Advisor (Dr. Kirk A. Stowe) welcome the 2012-2013 inductees: Bill Baldwin, Jason Barnard, Robbie Barnett, Andrea Cornick, Brett Daly, Mel Elmounous, Peyton Forster, Jennie Friedman, Beth Gould, Brian Kaminski, Tyler Kornmehl, Aimee Kryzwicki, Allison Lau, Antonio Myers, Mark Shepard, Michelle Underwood, Hannah Walk, Matt Whitlock, and Rachel Yellon. All of us are looking forward to a year of academic achievement and community service activities to help others in the Leesburg community. Our first community service project was collecting non-perishable food items to help feed families in our community over the holidays. One of our service activities this month is helping the Leesburg Rotary Club clean up their adopted highway. (Peyton, Aimee, and Rachel are pictured on the right doing just that!) Our members have suggested many ideas for service projects, and we are in the process of planning future events to establish a relationship with the Leesburg community, Gamma Beta Phi, and Beacon College.
Graduate Success Story: Blair Perlman

Contributed by Kelly Rogers, Job Transition Coach and Career Development Instructor

I began working with now Beacon graduate, Blair Perlman, in the fall of 2011. At that time, she was working on a major in Human Services with a minor in Psychology and Business and recognized her need to develop employment skills. Blair and I began the process by meeting to discuss her interests, current resume, and internship options. In the fall of 2011, Blair was placed at the Leesburg Public Library for an internship in the Youth Services department. Her duties there included ensuring that the children’s area was attractive and orderly, shelving items, making posters, preparing crafts for activities, assisting staff during youth programs, and presenting Story Time, Toddler Time, and other youth programs. Unfortunately, this was not a good fit for Blair. So, I met with Blair and her mother shortly thereafter to discuss further options. Because of her strong desire to develop some basic foundational job skills, we decided to place Blair in two other places for the spring of 2012: The Chopping Block (Beacon College’s own restaurant) and the Boys & Girls Club. At The Chopping Block, Blair worked two afternoons per week cleaning, organizing, and doing dishes. At the Boys & Girls Club, she assisted staff in supervising the children, clean-up, and organization two afternoons per week. Initially, Blair struggled in both places. However, with close supervision and ongoing evaluation, she improved greatly by the end of the 2012 spring semester. She took it upon herself to arrange a continuation of her internship at The Chopping Block through the summer semester and was invited back to The Boys & Girls Club for the fall 2012 semester. In the fall, Blair took on three days of internship at The Boys & Girls Club and arranged her own schedule with their director, Michelle Purl. Additionally, though Blair lacked transportation, she took the initiative to ensure she had a way to her internship on each workday as well as a way home. Though times at The Boys & Girls Club became stressful due to a shortness of staff, Blair remained dedicated and continued to fulfill her internship responsibilities on a weekly basis. Additionally, though not a requirement for Blair’s minor, she voluntarily audited the Career Development class during the fall semester in order to further develop and enhance her employment skills. By the end of the fall 2012 semester, Blair received a “glowing” reference letter from Michelle Purl, Director of The Boys & Girls Club. Upon her return home to Nanuet, New York, Blair accepted a position as an Assistant Pre-school Teacher at Children’s Corner. She began her full-time position there on January 28, 2013, and is very excited about the possibility of advancement. Congratulations, Blair! You are a true success story!

Recent Research in Academic Affairs

Contributed by Shelly Chandler, VP of Academic Affairs

Recently Dutch researchers claimed that a new font called Dyslexie (shown inside the box) enables people with reading disorders to read easier. They report that the font makes it more difficult for people with dyslexia and reading disorders to rotate, swap, and mirror letters and numbers. We put their font to the test and conducted research with 52 of our students who reported having either dyslexia or other reading disorders. However, despite the beliefs of these 17-21 million people, there is no evidence that accidents are more likely to happen on Friday the 13th. On the contrary, some studies have shown that actually fewer accidents happen on Friday the 13th. A recent report completed by a Dutch insurance company showed that there were fewer incidents of fires and theft on Fridays that fell on the 13th than on any other Fridays in the same year. It is highly probable that this reduction in accidents owes itself to the fear of Friday the 13th itself. If people are more cautious on Friday the 13th, then there are likely to be fewer accidents. The group of 52 students was asked to read two passages, one in Dyslexie font and one in New Time Roman font, and then select the font that was easier to read. Our statistical analysis revealed that there was not a statistically significant difference between the two fonts. Some of the students commented that the Dyslexie font hurt their eyes.
Brenda Meli, Director of Admissions, Chelsea Eubank, Director of Recruitment and Advancement, and Dr. Michelle DuRoss, Assistant Professor of History traveled to Washington D.C. for the 57th Presidential Inauguration. Ms. Meli and Dr. DuRoss attended “Sunshine and Stars,” Florida’s Inaugural Ball on Saturday night before joining with Ms. Eubank the next day for the All-American Ball, honoring America’s military. They joined Scott Wilbur, alumnus of 2009, who is currently working with students who have disabilities for Montgomery County in Virginia on Monday for the presidential inaugural parade. The Disability Constituent Coordinator for the 57th Presidential Inaugural Committee contacted Ms. Meli as a representative of Beacon College to attend these events. The relationship between this committee member and Beacon College began as a result of the 4.0 Partnership that was established with AAPD during the Spring 2012 term.

The group took their seats near the intersection of 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue in the morning to await the 2:30 parade. They waited in anticipation after the procession began since their perch was near the end of the parade route. The hours of waiting passed quickly thanks to massive loudspeakers that allowed them to hear the inaugural ceremony, followed by a repetitive loop of music that encouraged discussions on a variety of topics – from the chilly 20 degree viewing area to public policy and learning disabilities. The group also noted the snipers on rooftops, along with the security lines of police officers and military personnel. The Army, standing guard along 15th Street, provided the group with glimpses of the orderly military formations giving way to chatting and laughing in the hours before the parade arrived. The presence of law and order was to ensure the peaceful transfer of power, which has characterized America since its founding. The 2013 inaugural ceremony and parade combined the new with the old. President Obama’s address specifically noted his support for gay rights, a first for a U.S. president in the inaugural address. His taking the oath on two bibles – Abraham Lincoln’s and Martin Luther King, Jr.’s – highlights the historic continuity, yet changes in America’s quest for equality.
Announcing the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Grand Opening of Beacon Hall!

After years of planning and months of construction, Beacon Hall, the new classroom and office building, will be dedicated on Friday, March 1st at 10:30 a.m. President Hutchinson recently announced to faculty and staff that the state of the art building, designed to provide a positive atmosphere for students with learning disabilities, is ahead of schedule and under budget. The Board of Trustees, representatives from the City of Leesburg, Lake County, the Chamber of Commerce, students, faculty and staff will be present to celebrate the opening of the College’s first academic building designed with student needs in mind. Tours and refreshments will be available, and a good time is guaranteed for all!

Beacon College Expands Social Media Presence

Beacon College has created the position of Content Manager, with the goal of establishing a unified message across all forms of written communication related to the College. The College recognizes the critical need to have an online presence, especially by utilizing social media. Oversight is necessary to ensure that there is a consistent and professional social media voice to accurately represent Beacon College and its mission. With the upcoming launch of the new Web site, this was deemed the perfect time to implement this new staff position.

Beacon College has selected Gretchen Dreimiller as the College's first Content Manager. Previously, Gretchen was the administrative assistant to Dr. Chandler, and while she is sad to leave that role, she is excited to take on this new position. Gretchen holds both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in English and considers herself a strong writer, editor, and proofreader. She is also currently attending USF, working toward a Master’s in Library and Information Science. Her new position as Content Manager corresponds nicely with her studies in both the fields of English and Information Science. In fact, one of her classes this semester is entitled “Social Media and the Information Professional,” and she hopes to learn new skills and techniques to apply here at Beacon College.

An official Beacon College Twitter account has been established for use by the entire campus. Updates, announcements, and/or pictures that would be appropriate for Twitter and of interest to anyone in the Beacon College community should be sent to Gretchen. Timeliness, however, is critical when utilizing Twitter; if it happened yesterday, it’s already old news! Therefore, everyone is encouraged to follow beacon_college on Twitter, especially since there is a good chance you will be mentioned at some point, whether you are on it or not!

A blog for Beacon College was created a couple of years ago, but it has not been utilized to its fullest potential. To change that, faculty, staff, and students will be called upon to write stories/articles, so that Beacon will have a dynamic, interesting, and evolving blog that reflects the most recent happenings throughout the campus.

Because this is a new position, Gretchen expects to collaborate with each department to strategize and plan so that each individual department’s vision is met when using social media and the College’s Web site. With that in mind, she looks forward to successful collaborations that will benefit the entire Beacon College community, and we look forward to her development of the Beacon “voice!”
Personnel Changes: Academic Affairs

The spring semester has brought some changes and additions in personnel in Academic Affairs. Joining our faculty is a new full-time instructor, Simon Vaz. Mr. Vaz joins the Department of Business and Technology where he is teaching business and hospitality classes. Mr. Vaz has 16 years teaching at the college level in the areas of business, culinary arts, hospitality management, restaurant management, and travel and tourism. Prior to coming to Beacon College, he taught at The Art Institute of Tampa.

Mike Fallon is an adjunct instructor in the Department of Business and Technology. Mike works for Webster University as their Community Relations Coordinator. He has a M.A. in Marketing and a M.A. in Management and Leadership. (Unfortunately, he alluded being captured on film to be pictured here!)

Linda Lucas, Ph.D., is an adjunct instructor in the Human Services & Psychology Department who owns her own private practice, Associates for Clinical Assessment and Psychotherapy, in The Villages.

Tom Walsh is an adjunct instructor in the Human Services & Psychology Department who also teaches at Saint Leo University.

Gloria Brewer has moved from being Outreach Coordinator to a full-time Learning Specialist in the Center for Student Success.

Elizabeth Moore is now working full-time as the library administrative assistant.

Carrie Santaw replaces Gretchen Dreimiller (who moved to the IT Department) as Administrative Assistant. Carrie moved to Florida from Vermont four months ago. While in Vermont, Carrie worked at Ethan Allen for 15 years. Carrie is currently finishing up her B.A. in Business Administration from Johnson State College.

We are very excited about the impressive team we have in Academic Affairs!

December A.A. Degrees Awarded

Informal presentations were made by Dr. Rick Perrone, Chair of Human Services and Psychology, to Mel Elmonus (pictured left) and Allison Lau (on the right) who each completed their Associate of Arts degrees after the December semester. Both Mel and Allison are staying at Beacon College to finish their Bachelor of Arts degrees, but they needed their diplomas for their summer employment. Congratulations to Mel and Allison!
Sunshine and Sweet Tea Days

Contributed by Stephanie Knight, Assistant Director of Admissions

On February 2nd, the Admissions Team was excited to host its third (of four) “Sunshine & Sweet Tea Saturday” open house events! More than 40 prospective students and families attended the event. In addition to the deluxe tour (facilitated by our wonderful Student Ambassadors: Mel Elmonus, Katie McNamara, Shaheed Nu’man, and Heather Reed), attendees were offered:

1. Ample time to visit with faculty, staff, and financial aid;
2. The opportunity to participate in a mock (mathematics) class and sample our assistive technology in the Writing Center; and
3. A chance to engage in a fun student-centered activity down at the apartments (bungee jumping).

Special talks were given to the parents by Scott Wilbur (2009 Alumni, Beacon College), Shelly Chandler, Lucretia Gabriel (Math Lab), Caroline Le (Writing Center), and Andrew Marvin. Chef Aud and his team prepared fabulous Florida treats and, of course, refreshing sweet teas!

Special thank you to the following department representatives: Russ Bellamy, Bob Bridgeman, Shelly Chandler, Jamie Fleming, Kelly Hickmon, Toni Johnson, Steve McDaniels, Sandy Novak, Kelly Rogers, Shawna Wells-Booth, Topher Hobson (who manned the student activity at the apartments) and Scott Hughes (A/V at the event). You represented the Beacon College community to a “tea!”

The Sunshine & Sweet Tea Saturdays are half-day programs designed especially for high school and college students and their parents during the early stages of the college selection process. Future events are planned for the following Saturdays: March 23, 2013, October 5, 2013, and November 2, 2013.

If you’d like more details on the events, or would like to participate, please contact Stephanie Knight or Cathy Lutes in the Admissions Office.
Successful Launch of the Math Lab

Contributed by Lucretia Gabriel, Mathematics Instructor

The Beacon College Math Lab had a successful first semester this past fall. By the time students left campus for the Winter Break, the Math Lab was visited 454 times with an average of one hour for each visit. This was a great beginning for the Math Lab!

Last semester the Math Lab had two Peer Mentors, Jennie Friedman and Rashad Joiner. This semester Jennie is serving as a TA for MAT 1901: General Education Math Section 1 class providing much needed assistance. She also helps out in the Math Lab on Fridays from 2 to 3 PM. Rashad is in the Math Lab on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 to 3 PM this semester. In addition, the Math Lab has two new Peer Mentors this semester. Allison Lau, who successfully completed the College Algebra course last semester, is assisting in the Math Lab on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 to 4 PM. She has also started a Math Study Group to help students prepare for Chapter Tests in General Education Math that will meet as needed from 6 to 7 PM. Katie McNamara successfully completed the Mathematics Strategies course and provides assistance in the Math Lab from 4 to 5 PM Tuesdays through Thursdays. These Peer Mentors are extremely valuable to student success in the mathematics courses at Beacon College.

Thanks to the expertise and foresight of Scott Hughes, IT Director at Beacon College, the Math Lab was the first classroom to have a Polyvision Eno interactive whiteboard. After receiving training on how to use the Polyvision Board, Ms. Lucretia Gabriel, Beacon College’s math instructor, conducted in December an in-service training on its use for her colleagues. She is thrilled that the Polyvision Eno board has helped to make teaching mathematics more dynamic and interactive. Mathematics classes at Beacon College also continue to be personalized and semi-self-paced.

The Math Lab continues to be the home for the “guess the number of pieces of candy in the container and win the candy and the container contest” this semester. The winners so far this month have been Michele Patestides, Tyler Kornmehl, and Andrew Gilbert. Ms. Patestides won a beautifully decorated apothecary jar filled with Hershey candies donated by Dr. Chandler and decorated by her husband. There were 137 candies in the container and she guessed 112. Tyler Kornmehl won 307 Skittles in a water/snack bottle with his guess of 249. Last week, Andrew Gilbert (pictured left) had the closest guess yet and won 55 Crystal Light hard candies in a Coca Cola glass with his guess of 56.

With the start of the new semester, in addition to mathematics classes, the Math Lab is also being used to teach PSY 2925: Statistics and Research Design by Russell Bauer. The required program has been installed on some of the Math Lab computers, as well as some students’ personal computers. Welcome to Mr. Bauer and his students.

Thanks to the administration, faculty, learning specialists, staff (especially Chuck Lewis and Matthew Miceli in IT), and the students, the Beacon College Math Lab is thriving and growing.

Be sure to stop by the Math Lab if you haven’t done so yet. Even if you don’t need help with math, you can help yourself to a piece of candy and cast your guess for this week’s contest of Gummy Bears in a different Coca Cola glass.

Happy New Year from the Math Lab!
As Beacon College continues to grow its enrollment of students and increase the hiring of additional faculty and staff, there will always be a need to develop the processes and policies that best support students and overall organizational effectiveness.

Recently, Stephanie Knight, Andrew Marvin and Cathy Lutes from Admissions, Kelly Hickmon from Housing, Debra Allen from Student Health, Shawna Wells-Booth from Financial Aid, Cindy Eckhart from the Business Office, Megan Van Lew from Orientation, Dave Brown as the Registrar, and Rob Rogers and Sonya Lawrence from Student Services have come together for two reasons: 1) to better understand each other’s department role and 2) to improve the enrollment process. “We are learning from each other while solving important enrollment issues that affect students’ ability to attend Beacon College,” stated Shawna Wells-Booth, Director of Financial Aid. “In my department I must comply with state and federal regulations which protect our college and will insure a student’s ability to fund their education. I’ve realized that the Student Health Office requires all students to submit health related documents before enrolling because of state and federal regulations as well.” Debra Allen, Assistant Director of Student Health Services, says that “the health of everyone at our college could be affected if there was an outbreak due to someone not having the required immunization.”

Other issues we are looking to improve include communication with students regarding their housing requests and financial obligations before they even arrive for orientation. Students who desire to enroll at Beacon College have many “homework assignments” to turn in to each of our departments before they even begin their first class. Our departments are committed to providing the students (and their families) support to complete their “assignments” during the enrollment process so they are well prepared to begin the next steps in their educational journey.

As we continue to improve the dynamics of working together as a team, it is evident that there is a strong willingness to support one another, which is at the core of what Beacon College is all about as an institution.

The Beacon College Board of Trustees held its winter meeting on January 24, 25, and 26, 2013. It was a long and very productive meeting. Much of the work was devoted to the presidential search. The large pool of applicants had to be reduced to a smaller group of candidates that would be called for first-round interviews. In addition, the Board and President’s Council participated in a day-long retreat to explore the formation of an institute that would help to advance the mission of the College. The retreat was led by Dr. Ellen Chaffee, a Senior Fellow of the Association of Governing Boards and former president of Mayville State and Valley City State Universities in North Dakota. At a later time, the substance of this retreat will be shared with the campus community. Suffice it to say that it was a most successful retreat and one that should have a significant positive impact on the College as it moves into the future. A final key decision concerns the so-called “Herlong property” near the Beacon Village Apartments. The Board took the next step in acquiring this property and, if all contingencies are satisfactorily met, the College will purchase this property. Exactly how it will be used remains uncertain at this point. The decision to move forward rests on the strategic value of the property to the College. The Board was also regaled by Dr. Rick Perrone who shared with the Trustees some of his approaches to teaching students with learning disabilities and ADHD. The Board was impressed. (“Attaboy, Dr. Perrone!”)
What’s Happening in the Library?

Many of you have likely walked through or past the library and witnessed the huge piles of books stacked in the windows and on book carts. For those of you who are not aware of our plans, I’d like share them with you now. We intend to shift the majority of the “weeded” book collection toward the back of the library, creating a bright and open space in the front. This takes advantage of the fabulous floor-to-ceiling windows that we have in the front, which have been previously blocked by the shelving. The idea is to create a lounge/seating area near the windows where students may read and/or congregate together. This space will contain comfortable seating and tables. The computers that are currently outside of the reference room will then be moved inside that room and more computers will be added. The book shelves and table located in the reference room will be moved to another area. Large tables will be placed in the space outside the reference room for collaborative projects and group work. This space will be divided from the front lounge area by the remaining book shelves that do not fit in the back of the library.

What the process involved:
Initially, the de-selection process involved removing any books that had not been checked out during the past three years with the exception of newer materials. The list that was compiled contained over 20,000 volumes! As Elizabeth and I began pulling the books, we realized that this was not the best approach; there were many great classics on the list of books “to go” that we felt needed to stay in our collection. We decided on a new method of physically looking at each and every book and making a decision as to what should be removed. Our de-selection criteria was based on many factors including the subject matter, the age and condition of the book, how many copies we own, whether newer editions were available, and whether the information provided by the book was still relevant.

Once the books were selected for removal, we then had to remove the books from our catalog. We used our Mandarin Library Automation System to remove each book, one-by-one. This was a very time-consuming process that we could not have done without the help of our students. Our fabulous work-study students, as well as Laykin Braddock and Dahri Lanes, spent many hours deleting, moving, and stacking over 4,400 books and 380 VHS tapes. We have also placed over 1,000 books in storage.

Now that the weeding project is just about finished, we must shift the entire collection towards the back of the library to free up space in the front area. This has been quite a work-out and a dusty one at that!

What’s been removed from the collection?
What we have removed from our collection is dated Psychology, Technology, Marketing, and Humanities books, as well as other miscellaneous books that no longer hold current information. In addition, we have removed some duplicate copies of already owned books. Most VHS materials have been removed, but we will be burning DVD copies for those materials that are currently being used. We have not deleted any Art, Literature, History, or Anthropology books. We have, however, removed a few of these to place in storage based on their value and age.

We encourage you all to stop by and see the “new” library that will be finished in just a few weeks!
This brief note should serve as the last update on the construction of Beacon Hall. As of this writing, the building is nearing completion. Evergreen Construction is shooting for a Certificate of Occupancy on February 15. The Grand Opening will be at 10:30 AM on Friday, March 1, 2013. There will be some brief presentations, a ribbon cutting, tours, and refreshments. The furniture is scheduled for delivery beginning February 18. Move-in to the new facility will take place following the Grand Opening and is under the direction of Kim Baggett. Arguably, this is one of the nicest buildings in Leesburg, and it has set the bar high for future new construction on campus. It will undoubtedly be a point of pride for Beacon College.

A Presidential Note

(continued from page one)

that pops up during transitions is quite unnecessary. For example, shortly after I arrived, rumors reached my desk that I was going to eliminate the Center for Student Success and the Counseling Center. Nothing could have been further from the truth, as I think the record shows. So, relax a bit.

Fifth, this is a time of celebration. The next president will lead the College on to new and greater things. It is a time of new beginnings, a time of hope, and a time of joy.

Within the next two weeks, you will have had a chance to meet the finalists, provide input on your impressions, and in a short time thereafter, the new president will be named. So, please enjoy this time in the life of the College. God willing, presidential change won’t happen often in your career so let yourself get caught up in the moment.
Beacon Adds Another Transportation Option

Beacon College has a new vehicle to better serve students, staff, and faculty for travel to internship sites, recruiting events, and other College-related business destinations. The six passenger Mazda5 (pictured left) is both economical and versatile. Please contact Dennis Wyatt, Transportation Coordinator, to schedule its use.

Aud Tannarong: President’s Council Award Winner

Chef Aud Tannarong was Beacon’s President’s Council Award winner for December (pictured with President John Hutchinson). Aud’s culinary experience has elevated a fine dining experience at the College to one of excellence. His first-rate ability to manage a staff of employees and students has resulted in a responsive, efficient, and “tasty” final product at the Chopping Block and other campus events.

At a recent “Gala Auction Dinner” served to President and Mrs. Hutchinson, Senator Alan Hays, Lake County Commissioner Leslie Campione, and Lake County School Board member Bill Mathias and his wife Mindy (who hosted the event at their home), Aud volunteered his time and skills. The food was incredibly delicious and highlighted Aud’s exceptional eye for presentation. His skill as a Chef was in full exhibit as the meal just kept getting better with each course. His expertise along with the fine work of his staff made for a delightful evening. The event received wonderful reviews from all who attended and positioned Beacon very favorably in the minds of some very important and influential people in the region.

Aud is not only efficient, effective, and a true artist, he is also very humble and self-effacing. The college community truly benefits from having someone with such skill and dedication, not only to their profession, but also to their expansion of the influence and knowledge of the College. Congratulations Chef on a job well done!
Every month, the Writing Center enjoys inviting professors to lunch to gain insight into how we can best assist them and their students. This month, Mr. Simon Vaz, a new professor teaching Business/Hospitality courses, joined Mrs. Klussmann and the Peer Writing Center Consultants Jennie Friedman and Chase Richards in the Chopping Block. Below are their reflections on our wonderful lunch.

“Mrs. Klussmann, Chase Richards, and I had the opportunity to eat lunch with Mr. Vaz on January 24, 2013 as part of the Peer Writing Center Consultant program. Mr. Vaz worked and lived in many places before coming to Beacon College. While he is originally from Jamaica, Mr. Vaz was a professor at the Art Institute in New York and Florida. Perhaps the most surprising fact to me was that he commutes every day from Tampa to teach at Beacon.

When Mr. Vaz grades his students’ papers, he is not looking for the standard or by-the-book answer; he wants original thoughts from his students. One of his biggest pet peeves is when students copy and paste everything into their papers. He prefers APA format and does not require an abstract. If you are lucky enough to have him for a teacher, know that he likes to move around the classroom and engage his students rather than sitting down and giving a lecture. To me, Mr. Vaz has a genuine desire to teach, and he wants his students to be successful above all else.”

— Jennie Friedman

“Today was both my first student/faculty lunch, and the first student/faculty lunch for Mr. Vaz. This was a great time to get to know a new faculty member at our school. Taking the time to do this can be very beneficial to our small community and it’s something I probably wouldn’t have gotten around to on my own.

I learned a great deal about Mr. Vaz, such as where he comes from and why he chose to come to Beacon. Mr. Vaz was born in Jamaica, but has lived in the States for a while working at the Art Institute. He is now at Beacon College to teach Business and Hospitality courses. The lunch with him was to learn what the Writing Center could do for him and show some of our hospitality here at the school. I believe we achieved that.”

— Chase Richards

Also, in January the Writing Center launched its series of Writing Center Workshops. The workshops cover topics such as Marvelous, Mouthwatering MLA; APA, al dente; Reading Scholarly Journal Articles with Sizzle; and Succulent Synthesis Curried across the Curriculum. The Writing Center staff looks forward to accommodating faculty requests. The workshops can be expanded or condensed to fit any time frame and can be reserved for presentation in either the classroom or in the Writing Center.

Would you like to make a Writing Center Workshop reservation or need a Writing Center Workshops menu? Please contact Kristin at 352-638-9749 or at kklussmann@beaconcollege.edu.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Writing Center!
The Leesburg Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Leesburg Presents: The 90-DAY CHALLENGE

Contributed by Debra D. Allen, RN, MSN
Assistant Director of Student Health Services

This is a wellness challenge made up of local businesses who believe “A Healthy Business is a Healthy Community.” Beacon College has been asked to participate in this event. The kick-off is planned for Tuesday, February 19, 2013 with a motivational lecture, an initial weigh-in, and body composition testing. The Challenge will run through May 14, 2013. Prizes will be awarded throughout the competition with grand prize announcements taking place on May 23, 2013.

Four teams will represent Beacon College this year; two faculty/staff and two student teams. Please congratulate the following individuals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty/Staff Team #1</th>
<th>Faculty/Staff Team #2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kim Baggett</td>
<td>Cindy Eckhart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shelly Chandler</td>
<td>Topher Hobson</td>
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<td>Antoinette Johnson</td>
<td>Maria Marcano-Ramirez</td>
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<td>Andrew Marvin</td>
<td>Megan Van Lew</td>
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<td>Thomas Walsh</td>
<td>Shawna Wells-Booth</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Team #1</th>
<th>Student Team #2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Shia Byers</td>
<td>Roberto Alvarenga</td>
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<td>Mel Elmonus</td>
<td>Andrea Cornick</td>
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<td>Peyton Forster</td>
<td>Austin Harrison</td>
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<td>Rashad Joiner</td>
<td>Heather Reed</td>
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<td>Eric Koffler</td>
<td>Kaela Surface</td>
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Go teams Beacon!!!
Beacon Karate Club Enjoys Special Guest Visit

On Tuesday evenings at 7 PM, Beacon students enjoy a two-hour class that teaches self-defense techniques and body conditioning. Students learn the basics of martial arts and defense against an attacker. The second half of class is dedicated to learning the traditional Okinawan style of Karate consisting of Kata (forms), drills, kicking, and advanced technique. Uechi-ryu builds mental focus, core strength and strong stances with a large emphasis on fundamentals. Karate students are ranked according to written criteria, tested regularly, and awarded belts for promotions.

Andrea Cornick, Rashad Joiner, Juan Diaz, Tyler Kornmehl, and Jason Bernard achieved their white belts through strong class attendance and by fulfilling their required material. As part of their recognition, each received a scholarship to attend the 2013 Martial Art WinterFest at the International Uechi-ryu Karate Federation (IUKF) to train under Sensei George G. Mattson.

Sensei George E. Mattson has been a prominent World leader of Uechi-Ryu Karate for many years. He is credited for popularizing Uechi-Ryu in the United States of America. He was the first American taught Uechi-Ryu Karate in Okinawa and the first American to receive a Black Belt Certificate. As an author he wrote the first textbook on Uechi-Ryu Karate “The Way of Karate.” The year 2008 marked his 50th anniversary of teaching Uechi-ryu throughout the United States of America.

Mattson is currently president of the International Uechi-Ryu Karate Federation (IUKF), consisting of over 200 schools and thousands of students worldwide. Author of three published books, he is currently working on his much anticipated fourth publication. He is web administrator for one of the most popular websites on karate on the Internet today (as stated by Black Belt Magazine): www.uechi-ryu.com. He hosts and organizes the George E. Mattson Summerfest and other clinics and seminars.

Class Instructor Timothy Dando is a Certified Uechi-ryu Instructor and holds a Sandan ranking under 10th Degree Master George E. Mattson.

Congratulations to each deshi!
Are You a Student without Health Insurance?

Contributed by Debra D. Allen, RN, MSN
Assistant Director of Student Health Services

Having a comprehensive health insurance plan is one of those things in life where you never really understand its importance until you need it. Health care in the United States is very expensive; if you're ill or injured, not having health insurance can place an incredible strain on you, ruin you financially, and even force you into bankruptcy. Next time you go to the pharmacy to fill a prescription and you're told you have a $5, $10 or $15 co-pay, take a minute and ask what the cost for a month supply of your medication would be without insurance coverage. Many of you would be very surprised! Often, young adults don’t think they are vulnerable to serious health problems or conditions; therefore securing health insurance is not at the top of their priority list.

“When you have it, you take it for granted,” a 22 year old student remarked about insurance coverage. “I had amazing insurance where I paid $15 for a prescription, and I never thought twice about it. And then, when I didn’t have it, I didn’t think it would be a problem. I was going to get around to getting it but neither of my parents or I did anything about it.”

After a parent was laid off from her job her daughter, a college student, found herself without insurance. She was seen in the Student Health Office for a “sinus infection” and was found to have an elevated pulse and was later diagnosed with Hyperthyroidism. Obtaining insurance became more of a priority to her; however her insurance would not cover the cost of treatment for her Hyperthyroidism for at least a year because her Thyroid problem was a pre-existing condition, diagnosed before she secured the health insurance. She made the decision to withdraw from college as her condition worsened.

According to the United States Government Accountability Office, 20% of college students aged 18 through 23 (1.7 million) were uninsured in 2006. The number of uninsured 18-24 year olds continued to increase through 2010 due to the decline in our economy and the rise in unemployment. A GALLUP poll conducted in the first three quarters of 2011 indicated “about one in four (24.2%) 18-25-year-olds reported being uninsured in the second quarter of this year (2011), down from 28% in the third quarter of 2010.” A decline in the number of uninsured young adults is attributed to health care reform laws that went into effect in 2010. Health care reform has improved the number of uninsured college students but the problem persists.

Many young adults, including some Beacon students, are discovering through experience the importance of maintaining health insurance. To those of our students who are uninsured – you’re not alone. Most four year colleges and universities are requiring all students to maintain and show proof that they have health insurance. Many require students to buy into student health plans offered through the college or university regardless if you have coverage under a parent’s plan or have a plan independent of your parents. Reasons cited for this requirement: verification that all students are insured, student retention, a healthy college community, student safety, decreased cost burdens to local hospitals.

If you are uninsured, visit the Student Health Office located in the Student Center, Room 7 or contact me via phone 352-638-9701 or email dallen@beaconcollege.edu. I have information and web addresses I can share with you regarding Student Health Insurance Plans through the American College Student Association. Some sites will educate you on how to find student health insurance and what you need to know when shopping for a comprehensive health insurance plan.
The Exercise Equivalent of Your Favorite Snack

*Contributed by Steven McDaniels, Assistant Director of Life Coaching*

If your goal is to lose weight, consider what it would take to burn off your favorite snack. Everyone’s body reacts differently, but here is some general guidelines. For example, let’s take a look at a 20oz Cinnamon Latte which is about 400 calories; it will take you about 50 minutes of jogging just to burn that off! A regular 9oz portion of French fries is about 600 calories or about one and a half hours of bicycling while a 3oz chocolate chip cookie is about 400 calories or an hour and a half of brisk walking. A final example is a 40oz slice of banana bread; 500 calories is an hour and 15 minutes of swimming laps! Therefore, snacks must either be placed into your daily calorie limit through portion control or burned off through exercise. Alternatively, foods such as grapes, apples, or low fat yogurt aren’t as visually appealing but are great substitutes and can still serve to satisfy the craving to snack. Try it out, and good luck!

What will you do with 400 calories?

Take the Wellness Challenge: Participate!

*Contributed by Kim Baggett, HR Director*

Greetings from your HR Office. February marks the beginning of our Spring Wellness Challenge. **Our Spring 2013 Wellness Challenge begins on Monday, February 11th.** This time we are doing something a little different. This year’s challenge will be based on participation. Every time you attend a wellness event on campus, be sure to sign in because you will receive a point for your attendance. For those of you who go to a gym off campus, just pick up an activity sheet and have someone at the gym sign it, and you will get your point! Going to your doctor for your wellness exam? Bring in the receipt from the doctor’s office, and you will receive five points! The person with the most participation points will win the Challenge and a $600 vacation voucher! Be sure to sign in or get your activity sheet signed so that you can receive all of your points. The contest will run for 14 weeks, so you will have plenty of time to get as many points as possible. The winner will be announced at the end of the semester party on May 31st. This is a great time to renew those New Year’s Resolutions or get your fitness goals into gear. Remember, we have lots of wellness activities on campus that you can attend. Just remember to document your wellness activities, so that you get your points. Good luck!!!

Bob’s Joke Corner

“A healthy dose of humor from the Doctor”

*Contributed by Dr. Bob Bridgeman, VP for Student Services*

**MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Polygram Records, Warner Brothers and Keebler are joining forces. 
New company will be called Poly-Warner-Cracker.

“At Beacon College, we like to end on a positive note!”