If you haven’t already noticed, we have new digital media TVs located in the Learning Resource Center and the Student Lounge. We will display upcoming and pertinent information for the students and faculty here at Fortis. Check them out for pictures of your fellow students and faculty and any upcoming important events!

**HVAC&R PROGRAM**
-- by Richard McFarland, former HVAC&R Program director

The HVACR program has been improved with a new curriculum! We are installing new banners to bring an enhanced visual recognition of the program. HVACR is gaining ground! Please pass the word out for the Best HVACR program in the Columbus area!

**Farewell from Mr. Lowell P. Ford**

It has been a pleasure working with you and having your support as I directed the H.V.A.C.&R. Program and now pass the torch on to others. I will miss working with you,

but I am called to a new adventure in my life. Again, thank you for all you do and keep up the good work supporting the students.

God bless you.

Lowell P. Ford

(Mr. Ford with HVAC&R students at the farewell luncheon)

**FINANCIAL AID**
-- Deidre Vance, Director of Financial Aid

**2015-16 FAFSA Renewal**
The time has come where every student must complete the 2015-16 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to continue to receive financial assistance for their educational pursuit. The 2015-16 Financial Aid Award Year runs from 7/1/15 – 6/30/16. You must complete
your FAFSA early so that you will have funding in place on July 1, 2015. The DEADLINE for submission is MARCH 1, 2015. After this date, we cannot guarantee that your funding will be in place on July 1, 2015.

We will be holding a raffle during the week of March 9 – 13, 2015 for any student who has completed their FAFSA by March 1. Stop by the Financial Aid Office to get a raffle ticket to be entered into the drawing. The winner will receive a FORTIS SPIRIT GIFT BASKET. Just bring in your confirmation page, (printed or email) to the financial aid office to verify that you have completed your FAFSA and your name will be entered into the drawing.

You can complete the FAFSA even if you have not filed taxes for 2014. Simply use your W-2s to get your 2014 Wages to enter on the FAFSA. PLEASE DON’T DELAY. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov Fortis College School Code: 010319

2014 Tuition Statements
The 2014 Tuition Statements were mailed out to all eligible students in the month of January. If you are still in need of your statement you can access and print your 2014 1098T online at www.1098T.com. If you have general questions regarding the Tuition Statements, or other federal Education Benefits, contact TCRS, Tax Credit Reporting Services 1098T Hotline: 1-877-467-3821. For more specific tax filing questions and advice, please contact a qualified tax professional. You may also refer to IRS Publications 970, TAX BENEFITS FOR EDUCATION. You can find the printed version at your local library or download the forms and publications at www.IRS.gov.

FEDERAL WORK STUDY POSITIONS AVAILABLE
We have several work study positions available on campus as well as off-campus. Eligibility is established through your financial aid package. If you are interested in applying, please come to the financial aid office and fill out an application. Time is running out. We have funding through the Federal Government to use by the end of the Award Year. If you need extra money to get you through school, please consider Work Study. The positions available include:

- The Business Office $9.00 per hour
- Nursing Lab Assistant $9.00 per hour (nursing student preferred)
- The Financial Aid Office $9.00 per hour
- Off Campus: Columbus Metropolitan Library Various Campuses – Homework Help Center $15.00 per hour

We need to fill these positions as soon as possible.

FINANCIAL AID TRIVIA
Test your financial aid knowledge. Can you answer the following questions correctly? The answers are provided at the end of the newsletter
1. What does FAFSA stand for?
2. What is the official name of the loans given to students to pay for college?
3. True or False: Every student who applies for financial aid receives a Federal Pell Grant?

(Answers are available at the end of this newsletter)

**CAREER SERVICES CORNER**
-- Marlene Teed, Director of Career Services
-- Alisa Handmaker, Career Services Advisor

January was National Thank You month. Career Services decided to use this as a way to say thank you to our students. Students were thanked for being so great to work with and then asked to think of someone they would like to thank that has made a difference to them while at Fortis. Students filled out “links” for the Thank You Chain. Here are some of the things students said:

- “Thank you to all my classmates for sticking by my side through all of this.”
- “Thank you to the entire admissions dept.!! Your support and encouragement means so much!”
- “I’d like to thank my daughter for giving me the motivation to return to school and further my education.”
- “Thank you for making my dream comes true.”

The Thank You Chain 2015

Not only did the students find people to thank but so did the faculty and staff. It was an amazing event! Career Services looks forward to hosting the event next January!

We are here to help! MTeed@FortisCollege.edu / AHandmaker@FortisCollege.edu / 614-882-2551

A word of Thanks!

Rad Tech students participating in the Thank You Chain
A new product has been added to the LIRN (Library & Information Resource Network) database network called Proquest Research Companion. This is not a database to search for information. Instead, it is a self-learning tutorial for students to learn to find/evaluate information and write your papers.

There are three sections in this tutorial. Each includes short video learning modules for students to learn the topics:

1. **Find Information**
   01. Where do I start?
   02. How do I choose a topic?
   03. Where do I find information

2. **Evaluate Information**
   04. How do I evaluate sources?
   05. What counts as evidence?

3. **Use Information**
   06. How do I write a thesis statement?
   07. How do I organize my argument?
   08. How do I avoid plagiarism and find my own voice?
   09. What do I look for when I revise?

If you can’t finish the whole tutorial and need to stop during the process, you can create an account and track your process through the learning modules.

And, don’t forget, you can download the APA template from any computer in the labs or LRC or from the LRC website at
The Student Success Center’s purpose is to offer academic coaching in study skills (e.g., note-taking techniques), as well as to connect you to instructors who provide academic coaching in your courses’ subject matters. Students have been telling me that the Center’s services are helping them to succeed academically at Fortis Columbus! For example, a student in Fortis Columbus’s Practical Nursing Program told me that the Center helped her improve her overall course grade in one of her Nursing courses in Fall 2014. She had less than a 78% in Week 3 of this 12-week course. In Week 3, this course’s instructor referred her to the Center for help with study skills and test-taking strategies. I then coached this student in these areas in one 50-minute meeting in the Center.

After that meeting, this student improved her overall course grade by 15% by the end of this course, which was enough of an increase to enable her to pass this course. This student told me that there were two things I taught her in the Center that were particularly helpful in enabling her to improve so much in this course: 1) the Cornell method of note-taking, and 2) time management strategies. It only took one 50-minute meeting in the Center to help this student, and it might take you only one or two meetings in the Center for you to improve your academic performance!

Please feel free to contact the Center for academic coaching services (Contact Dr. Scott Mullins at smullins@fortiscollege.edu or 614-882-2551 ext. 5224). Also, in each of your courses, your instructor will refer you to the Center if he/she believes you might benefit from additional academic coaching outside of his/her own personal efforts.

The Center is located on the 2nd floor next to the West Entrance elevators.

In addition, academic coaching in dosage calculations and/or mathematics is available at the Center on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4 pm to 6 pm! In addition, academic coaching in dosage calculations and/or mathematics is available at the Center on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4 pm to 6 pm!

**IT TRICKS & TIPS**

Ever feel your Firefox is running slow? There are two ways to fix it.
1. Remove the cache
   a. Click on the Menu (upper right corner) and select Options
   b. Click on Advanced, then Network
   c. In the section of Cached Web Content, click Clear Now. It may take awhile to clear cach. When it is done, click OK.

2. Refresh Firefox
   a. Click on the Menu (upper right corner) and click on the question mark (?) on the bottom of the menu.
   b. Click on Trouble Shooting Information
c. Click on **Refresh Firefox**

Firefox will clean up the junk files. You will not lose your personal data such as Bookmarks. You may see a folder on your desktop after the refresh is done. You can move the folder to your trash can.

**MEET THE NEW PEOPLE**

- **New Faculty**
  - Bradley Higgins, HVAC Program Director
    Brad Higgins is Director of the HVACR Program here at Fortis College. He has been in the HVACR community as a technician and educator for the past 20 years; including owning his own HVAC company and running a consulting business teaching sales and service to other companies. Author of 4 books and working on his fifth, he came to education with the intent on maintaining the honor of the industry, and a goal of building the premier HVACR training program in the United States.

- **Other New Faculty**
  - Ke, Yonghong, Nursing faculty, full time

- **New Staff**
  - **Deniesha Newby, Financial Aid Officer**
    Fortis Columbus Family would like to take the opportunity to announce that Deniesha Newby has accepted the position of Financial Aid Officer in the financial aid department effective January 5, 2015. We are getting off to a great start in financial aid. Deniesha brings 14 years of financial aid experience to Fortis coming from Ohio State University’s College of Medicine. Her responsibilities included updating awards, financial counseling and conducting presentations to students in financial awareness. She was also the program coordinator in the Office of Student Life. Her responsibilities included assisting with special events, new student orientation and commencements. She earned her Bachelor’s degree from Ohio State University majoring in Family Resource Management and recently completed her Masters Degree in Public Administration from the Keller School of Management, DeVry University, August, 2014. Let us all welcome Deniesha to the family and let her know how glad we are to have her on our team.

- **Nikki Pappas, Hybrid/Student Success Coordinator**
  Nikki has a passion for student success. She recently comes to us from the Developmental Education department at Columbus State Community College where she had been a Reading/Writing instructor since 1999. She has also worked at the high school and middle school levels but truly enjoys working with adult learners.
A native of Ohio, Nikki loves Columbus and enjoying all the wonderful dining and culture this city has to offer. If you are looking for something fun to do in Columbus, she will have an idea for you. When Nikki is not working, she tries to get her teenage daughters, Zoe (16) and Phoebe (13), to spend time with her. She also enjoys travel, concerts, and movies with her partner, John.

**Natalie Anderson, Secretary**

My name is Natalie Anderson and I’m excited to be starting with Fortis College!

Previously, I was in Pharmaceutical Sales for 8 years before I decided to stay home with my children for 6 years.

I’ve been married to my husband Joe, for 11 years and we have 3 children, Davis 8 and twins, Beckett & Lane who are almost 6.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Spring Career Fair**
  Career Services will host the Spring Career Fair on **Thursday, April 9, 2015 from 10 am to 1 pm** at the large room on 1st floor of the building. Many employers will participate and meet with students. **Breakfast** will be provided to employers and participating students!!!!

- **Alumni Association Meeting**
  The 1st Alumni Association of Fortis College – Columbus will be on **Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 6 pm**. Detail of the event is coming!! Stay tuned!!

**Answers to financial aid trivia:**

1. Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
2. Federal Direct Stafford Loans
3. False. Pell Grant eligibility is determined by the EFC (expected family contribution) Index.

**DON’T FORGET TO LAUGH!!!**