Auditorium gets a new look, upgrades

In FALL 2008, APCSS made significant changes in the appearance and functionality of the auditorium and six of the Center’s eight seminar rooms in order to highlight the use of relevant technology and enhance APCSS’s collaborative learning experience.

One of the most notable changes occurred in the auditorium where workers removed the large, steel-reinforced concrete stage which, when coupled with the removal of one row of theater seating, opened up the front area for future use as a secondary plenary venue for up to 40 people.

In the six seminar rooms, sound-dampening wall covering in six seminar rooms were installed along with a raised flooring in two seminar rooms. The flooring, which allows cabling to be run throughout each room without creating tripping or other safety hazards, makes the rooms vastly more configurable and capable of supporting future college requirements.

APCSS also upgraded electronic equipment and systems in the auditorium, the Center Conference Room, the Executive Conference Room and all eight seminar rooms. In the auditorium, the two primary rear-firing projectors were replaced with two synchronized projectors capable of creating one, seamless and overlapping multi-media presentation across the existing double-wide screen.

The seminar rooms received major technological facelifts in 2008. The Information Service Department oversaw Education Technology/Information Technology upgrades which included 94-inch SMART® interactive whiteboard with ceiling-mounted projectors; wall-mounted and/or portable 52-inch LCD monitors; 15-inch SMART® technology-based interactive displays (AKA Symposium®); and wireless switching of up to 16 input devices into up to six displays. With the electronic suite in full operation, seminar leaders can use a wireless tablet to pick and choose what they want up on any of three large displays in their room, choosing from one of their own computers, a Symposium®, a document camera or one of 13 Fellows’ computers to drive the lesson/discussion. The two seminar rooms in the Center’s modular building each received a 77-inch portable SMART® interactive whiteboard with an integrated projector.

Future initiatives include configuring the Dean’s Conference Room as a full-up seminar room and the installation of an auditorium sound system will support its use as for round-table/conference events.

New roof project for Wing “B”

In January, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District awarded a contract to replace roofs on APCSS’ auditorium wing, or Wing “B,” and the restroom building and installation of a solar water heating system for the restroom building and new air conditioning equipment. Both roofs can support future installation of photovoltaic systems for power generation.

The new roofing will resolve ongoing water infiltration problems and will be compatible with the prevailing Fort De-Russy architectural theme.
APCSSLink online with more than 1,200 members

A new portal network to support current courses, alumni and interaction between the Regional Centers was officially opened for business in July 2008. Eight months later, more than 1,200 alumni, faculty, staff and key stakeholders have accounts on the system and that number is growing each day.

ASC09-1 is the first class to use APCSSLink for course readings, discussions, and other postings.

In addition to signing up new Fellows as they attend courses, many alumni including those from APCSS’ earliest classes are now members.

Training is offered to all Fellows while here and a Mobile Training Team was established to help train alumni in the region.

An upgrade to the system will be released this spring. The new system will include features such as chat, internal email, and video teleconferencing capabilities.

Future use of the system may include distance learning as APCSS faculty are able to develop online courses.

APCSS establishes Facebook, RSS feeds

APCSS now has its own page on Facebook. Fans and Friends include a mix of international graduate students, alumni, other Regional Center representatives, U.S. PACOM staff, Center of Excellence staff, regional subject matter experts, APCSS staff and former APCSS staff. We are also using Facebook to stay connected to other regional think tanks. The site is especially useful to alumni in those countries where it’s difficult to access APCSSLink.

RSS news feeds

Populating our various portals is now more efficient thanks to a newly-established APCSS News RSS feed. The feed, available for subscription, helps populate articles on our various websites and portals and also allows for reader feedback.

According to Clif Johnons, traveling in and of itself is often complex, especially with so many changes in the travel industry in today’s environment. Compound this with the additional complexities of traveling overseas and add to that all the federal and Department of Defense regulations associated with travel, you can see how traveling can easily become an even greater challenge.

The Travel Office was established to ensure we take quality care of all our travelers, and that we stay within and meet all established travel regulations and guidelines. In essence, we are the Travel Agency for our staff travelers, as well as the hundreds of funded Fellows attending our courses annually.

Aloha from the recently established Travel Office. The Center established this office to consolidate all travel under one arena of travel experts to best take care of our staff travelers, as well as the hundreds of funded Fellows attending our courses annually.

We have already made great strides to improving and enhancing our travel processes. DoD and USPACOM have implemented some rather strict training requirements for individuals traveling overseas, which we have already implemented internally. The Travel Office has also improved communications with travelers to keep everyone advised of travelers and status of their pending trips.

We stand ready to take care of the travelers so they can better focus on their mission.
Visitors

APCSS was honored with a visit by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah on Nov. 25, 2008. He was welcomed by Dean Lee Endress and received a Center overview from Deputy Dean Dave Shanahan. During a tour of the Center His Majesty also stopped to take a photo with some of the Fellows currently attending courses here.

Paul McHale, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Security Affairs, is greeted by APCSS Director Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Ed Smith on August 6, 2008. Mr. McHale attended a roundtable at APCSS and was briefed on new APCSS initiatives including the Comprehensive Crisis Management Course, Trends Analysis Program, Asia Pacific Collaborative Security Consortium (APCSC), and international outreach workshops. Mr. McHale’s last visit to APCSS was in June 2006, when he inquired about APCSS involvement in “internationalizing” homeland defense.

Constance Lau, president and CEO, Hawaiian Electric Industries Inc., tours APCSS with Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Ed Smith. She is the newest member of the APCSS Foundation.

APCSS was visited by the China Association for International Friendly Contact (CAIFC) led by Hon. Xu Jialu, former Vice Chairman of National People’s Congress of China and CAIFC Senior Advisor, and 11 other delegates as well as three representatives from China’s Consul General’s Office in Los Angeles.

Peter Haymond, Deputy Chief of Mission to U.S. Embassy in Laos

Mr. Joseph Donavan Jr., U.S. Consul to Hong Kong

Mr. Bruce Kleiner, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy in Papua New Guinea
The second half of 2008 was witness many personnel changes as faculty and staff joined, departed, or were reassigned within the Center. The faculty was boosted with the arrival of Drs. Rollie Lal, James Campbell, William Wieninger, Ms. Jessica Ear Adler and Army Lt. Col. Mathew Schwab. Talented research intern, Dianna Hummel moved on. However, added good fortune appeared in the form of a new baby boy for Kerry and Justin Nakivell.

In Admissions, Camisha Hill signed in while Marine Lt. Col Michael Mollohan signed on for a temporary assignment with United Nations forces.

The Alumni Office acquired two new road warriors with the arrivals of Air Force Maj. Roderick Santulan and Army Maj. Stewart Taylor. Tonya Imus moved on and Cathy Moszkowicz was promoted and took her place. In the busy Conference section, Devonn Wood left us, but newcomers Iris Bertelmann and Terry Slattery are quickly learning the routine.

The Personnel Office itself was not spared its share of activity, losing long-time employee Pedro Gutierrez while another long-time employee Roberta Garrett returned. Sheryl Burgmann departed and Sharlyn Fahl not only departed...but also returned.

The Travel Office saw the departure of Patricia Burdett and the arrival of Raelyn Brett and a new chief, Clifton Johnson. In the Information Services office, another long-timer, the chief of Information Services, Thomas Thorton, retired, Jerome Sajulan became the security chief and Carol Oshiro was promoted.

Air Force Col. Michael Smith is filling the newly created role of Deputy Dean, Admissions and Operations. Gabe Morris temporarily departed as the RIO consultant as it became APCSSLink. Truman Leung came aboard in November until Gabe’s return in March. A few days after starting, Truman and his wife also became proud parents of a baby boy. Glenn Takemoto signed up a business consultant overseeing the details of our military construction project.

After an extended tour at APCSS, Air Force Tech. Sgt. Petree Buford from the Facilities Branch, was reassigned to the mainland. Tech. Sgt. Amanda Wakefield is now in that position. We also had to bid a fond farewell to Bette Uyeda, our comptroller.

Michael Marshall is the newest member of the Trends Analysis Program. Tami Rosado rejoined the library staff after finishing a tour in Japan.

In the front office, Maj. Rich Berry departed and Lt. Col “Fred” Frederick is leaving for temporary duty in Qatar.
In September and October, APCSS’ Trends Analysis Program (TAP) spent time on the road showcasing on-going initiatives and engaging regional audiences in exploring potential areas for collaboration. Interactions included humanitarian assistance and disaster management-focused discussions in Bangkok with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and Thailand’s Department of Disaster Preparation and Mitigation.

In Singapore, TAP Chief Lt. Col. Bryan Greenstein, and Pacific Disaster Center colleague, Peter Covin, presented an overview of current efforts to develop the Disaster Resiliency Visualization and Assessment Tool (DRVAT), a web-based application for assessing disaster resiliency in Asia-Pacific nations, to an international audience of geospatial information systems professionals during the GIS Defence Asia 2008 Conference.

DRVAT will be openly available on-line to interested parties via the APCSC website. Greenstein also attended the International Risk Assessment and Horizon Scanning Symposium in Singapore which brought together international experts in the field of strategic futures and complex systems analysis to discuss the latest methodologies and concepts for the detection of faint signals which might point to impending strategic shocks.

TAP also participated in the U.S. Resilience Summit, hosted by Global Health Initiatives’ Director Michael McDonald, which focused on exploring new strategies for building society-based, bottom-up capacity for better disaster preparedness and response. During the two-day event in Washington, D.C., various agency, NGO/IO, and private sector representatives, as well as APCSS-TAP and PDC participated in a scenario-based table-top exercise driven by a DRVAT-based disaster risk assessment of Vietnam and Cambodia. Summit findings are intended for presentation to the President’s transition team.

TAP continues to network with potential collaborative partners on a wide range of initiatives associated with comprehensive security and disaster management.