



The new Mori Hosseini College of Hospitality Management on International Speedway Boulevard has become the "face" of Daytona Beach College.

David Tucker

# 'A dream come true'

Mori Hosseini College of Hospitality Management is the grand new home for DBC's hospitality, culinary programs and Southeast Museum of Photography

By Susan L. Wright

**T**he Mori Hosseini College of Hospitality Management, named in honor of business leader and area philanthropist Mori Hosseini, officially will open Nov. 3 when the public is invited to tour the \$26 million building on the campus of Daytona Beach College (formerly Daytona Beach Community College).

The new home for both the Southeast Museum of Photography and DBC's Hospitality Management and Culinary Management programs is a 62,500 square foot showplace, set on the northwest entrance to the campus on International Speedway Boulevard.

G. Michael Harris, director of DBC's culinary and hospitality management programs calls the center "a dream come true." "It is a living, breathing laboratory for students to prepare for successful careers in hospitality, culinary and event planning management," Harris says.

When the fall semester started in August, students moved right into the state-of-the-art classrooms and to use the space designed as a hands-on training center with actual hotel-style rooms, front office and concierge service area, sales, marketing and reservation spaces, and three high-tech kitchens.

DBC's student-run Café 101, which serves meals cooked by the culinary program participants, is part of the learning experi-



Kevin Miller is the director of the college's Southeast Museum of Photography, now housed in the new Mori Hosseini College of Hospitality Management.



Chef Jeff Conklin gives his culinary students a tour of the new kitchen facilities in the Mori Hosseini College of Hospitality Management.

not that much smaller in its previous home. But the museum has more than doubled in total size with additional "backspace," according to Miller.

"I think we've always had a very dramatic, modern and refreshing gallery space. But the rest of the facility, the storage, office and other space was very inadequate," he explains. "I've always likened it to an opera house without any back of stage. Our mission was really impeded."

The new space includes a resource and reference library that Miller says is probably six times larger than the previous space, increased the storage area for the museum's permanent collection and added space for a cinema/theater, areas for children's activities and additional space for staff.

A graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, he has been a generous contributor to his alma mater and other educational institutions and is a major financial contributor to the center which bears his name. ■

ence. The move to the new facility means a larger, better-equipped restaurant. Harris says the new café will seat up to 125 diners – more than double the capacity the 60-seat original. The café is open to the public for lunch Monday-Friday. A coffee bar and bakery also will be staffed and operated by students when the café is open.

The culinary program itself is expanding, he says, with 220 students currently registered, up from the 80 enrolled in January. Harris says the plan is for the program to continue to grow to 300-350 by next year and eventually accommodate 750-1,000 students.

The Culinary, Hospitality and Special Event Management program offers both A.A.S. (Associate in Applied Sciences) and B.A.S. (Bachelor in Applied Sciences) degrees.

The Southeast Museum of Photography, DBC's nationally-renowned cultural attraction, will be the center's other occupant.

Kevin Miller, executive director of the museum, is looking forward to the day the museum actually opens in its new digs in the Mori Hosseini College of Hospitality Management.

The public may not notice a dramatic increase in the gallery space, which Miller allows was