Message from the President

As we approach the end of 2007, I’m proud of all that we’ve accomplished in the past year. Thanks to our collective efforts, we’ve enjoyed increases in enrollment and robust growth in college programs. Some additional highlights of the year include:

- the inaugural season of the women’s softball team
- the men’s soccer team qualifying for the regional playoffs
- the women’s soccer team defending its state championship
- through a partnership with the Orangewood Children’s Foundation, the college became an official Guardian Scholars site, serving former foster youth through scholarships and mentoring
- the Orange Education Center (OEC) initiated an Associated Student Government organization for non-credit students
- the college received a naturalization services grant to promote citizenship as well as a $2.1 million grant to assist the children of migrant workers in obtaining their college education
- the college participated in the Year of the Library celebration throughout 2007 with partners the City of Orange Public Library and Chapman University’s Leatherby Libraries
- the continuing education high school diploma program graduated a record 120 students
- And too many others to mention!

One of the things that I’m most proud of is how we’ve worked together on emergency preparedness at both the main campus and the OEC. During the past year, regular meetings have been held for building captains and the college safety committee. We’ve had emergency drills, managers went through a “tabletop” emergency scenario, and employees in key college areas began completing a series of certification workshops held by ASCIP, the district insurance provider.

All our planning and preparation efforts were evident when the college was evacuated for the first time in its history on Thursday, October 25. Following conferences with college managers and district colleagues, I made the decision to close the main campus due to air quality issues from the Santiago Fire.

Once the decision was made, the college community was notified via e-mail, door-to-door announcements, and telephone (for those who were not on campus). The college web site banner was activated with an emergency message, as was the electronic marquee on Chapman Avenue. Signs were posted quickly on campus, and public safety officers were stationed at exits to direct traffic and ensure that everyone was evacuated safely.

Local newspapers, TV and radio were informed of the closure by the college public affairs office.

In 2008, we’re going to maintain regular emergency preparedness meetings and drills, and add an important additional resource. RSCCD is one of three California community college districts selected to participate in the AlertU pilot program. This web-based text messaging system allows participants to be notified instantly of college incidents as well as any essential actions to be taken. The program is free to colleges and will complement our existing methods of emergency communication. More information will be provided in the near future about AlertU.

Together, we’ve accomplished a great deal over the past year. Enjoy your well-deserved break! I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Juan Vázquez
Hawks Soar to Victory
Contributed by Josh Levy, sports information coordinator

The Santiago Canyon College athletic department experienced continued success during the 2007 fall semester. Below are some season highlights:

WOMEN’S SOCCER
The women’s soccer team finished the 2007 season with a 26-1 record and were state finalists in the California Community College Soccer Championships. Head Coach Ian Woodhead guided the team to its fourth consecutive Orange Empire Conference (OEC) title and was named the conference Coach of the Year for the fourth time. Sophomore forward Sarah Califf was named Most Valuable Player in the OEC as she led the Hawks to a perfect 16-0 conference record.

MEN’S SOCCER
The men’s soccer team qualified for the playoffs for the first time in the history of the program under first-year Head Coach Wade Fraser. The Hawks defeated Southwestern College in the first round of regional playoffs before losing an overtime game to top-seeded Mt. San Antonio in round two. SCC finished with a terrific overall record of 14-5-4, led by freshman Carlos Chavez, who was named the conference’s Most Valuable Player.

WOMEN’S GOLF
The women’s golf team clinched its first-ever OEC championship as the team finished with a 25-2 conference record. Sophomore Courtney Solomonson earned OEC Player of the Year honors while Head Coach Tom Shine was named the OEC Coach of the Year. The Hawks also qualified to play in the Southern California Regional Championships where their third place finish was the highest in the history of the program. Sophomore Esther Lee advanced to the California State Championships for the second consecutive season, where she earned All-State honors for her third place finish. Lee was the first SCC women’s golfer ever to be named to an All-State team.

WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY
As team captain of the women’s cross country team, sophomore Alicia Ayala ran by example. In the team’s first race of the season, Ayala led wire-to-wire to win the individual title at the Riverside Invitational with a time of 13:25. Later in the season, she placed fourth at the conference championships to earn First-Team All-Conference honors. Ayala also earned a trip to the California Cross Country Championships in Fresno where she finished in 37th place out of 189 competitors.
Rose Garden Planned to Beautify Strenger Plaza

When Bookstore manager and 2007 Hawk Spirit of Excellence award winner Bill Jeffery sees a need, he takes action. After giving to the college in many ways during his five years here, he hit upon the idea of a memorial rose garden in Strenger Plaza. Not only will it serve to beautify the area, it will be a living gift to the college.

The Strenger Plaza rose garden will transform the existing planter, which currently holds some sparse shrubbery and a small tree. “The college community is invited to donate gifts of any size for their own personal remembrance,” Bill said. “I give as a way to serve the college and honor my parents’ memory.”

Donations raised will go toward the purchase of patented rose plants (which are guaranteed to grow) as well as irrigation and lighting. Once the planting and refurbishment are completed, the college will not incur any additional maintenance fees.

Bill hopes that the landscaper can begin work during the month of December so that roses will be in bloom in time for commencement. “Strenger Plaza will one day be the center of campus,” Bill said. “The memorial rose garden will make it more attractive and enjoyable for students and community visitors.”

If you’re interested in contributing toward the Strenger Plaza rose garden, please make checks payable to the SCC Foundation (indicate “roses” on the memo line). Contributions are tax deductible.

For questions regarding the rose garden, contact Bill Jeffery (jeffery_bill@sccollege.edu, extension 4736) or the foundation office (extension 4790).
And the Winner is…

The staff who work in A-201 have been selected as fall 2007’s friendliest office. They include:

Raul Gonzalez Del Rio
Ann Kelly
Lynn Manzano
Julie Restivo
Tiffany Tatro
Annie Van Loon-Kupfrian
Melody Vaught
Terry WIlksen

You can walk into A-201 with a question and always receive a professional and cheerful response. Staff members take the time to make faculty, staff, students and community visitors feel welcome. They are creative and come up with ideas to incorporate fun and camaraderie into the workplace (for example, Tiffany Tatro started the SCC summer bowling league). A great sense of team spirit is fostered and displayed, whether the group is celebrating Halloween by dressing as gothic fairies or throwing a birthday party with a personal theme.

Congratulations to the staff of A-201!

College’s Newest Dean Provides Leadership for Division

SCC has a new division, affectionately known by the acronym LFPAC (pronounced “laugh pack”). The division is headed by Dean John Weispfenning, and includes the library, fine and performing arts, and communication. The library had not been part of the division structure, while the other programs were formerly part of arts, humanities and social sciences.

“This fourth academic division, approved by the college council and faculty senate, was planned for several years,” said Vice President of Academic Affairs Mary Halvorson. “It made sense to group these disciplines together, and helped to divide workload more evenly.”

In addition to overseeing academic departments and library program expansion, the division has assumed responsibility for some college-wide initiatives, including staff development and faculty flex activities. When the planned performing arts center is completed, the facility will provide a much-needed auditorium and specialized space for fine and performing arts programs that will enrich both the college and the community.

“The new division combines the library with academic departments that have a strong tradition of creativity and performance,” John said. “By bringing these programs and services together, we can strengthen our connections to the communities in our district.”

John came to SCC from Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio, where he served as the associate dean for academic affairs. In that capacity, he oversaw the college library and worked closely with the art, music, theater and dance, and communication departments. He holds a bachelor of science degree in mass communication, a master of science in speech communication, and a Ph.D. in communication.

“I’ve been very impressed with the quality and dedication of the faculty, staff, and students at SCC since I arrived in August,” John said. “SCC is truly a gem in the California community college system.”
Just Who Are These Classified Hawks?

Contributed by Amy Styffe and Julie Peeken, 2007-2008 Classified Hawks Leaders

Talk to any worker here at SCC and chances are they’ll tell you it’s the classified employees who keep our college soaring. Classified employees are the facilitators, working behind the scenes to make what happens in the classroom go as smoothly as possible. And we’re busy outside the classroom as well. Did you get a paycheck last month? Well, you can thank a whole slew of classified folk for making that happen!

Thanks to President Vázquez, any and all interested classified employees may participate in the President’s Classified Hawks Advisory Group. We meet each month with the president to advise and provide feedback on matters impacting classified staff as well as the college as a whole.

In addition, the Classified Hawks provide scholarships to several deserving employees each year, and support SCC student scholarships through such programs as Buy the Book, TGIF and the Annual SCC Golf Tournament. (Yes, that’s why we have so many fundraisers!)

Participation in the Classified Hawks is strictly voluntary and is very rewarding. It’s a great way to stay “in the loop” about issues facing the college and the district. We meet the first Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m., generally in room E-107. We hope to see you there at our first meeting of the year in February.

If you have questions, you can call us at extension 4883. And the next time you get an e-mail asking you to buy a raffle ticket for a parking space, be generous. The classified employee you support may be the one who processes YOUR paycheck!

Friends of the Library Form New Book Discussion Group

Do you love to read? Want to meet with fellow SCC employees to discuss books? Then make plans to join the Friends of the Library Book Discussion Group in 2008! There’s no cost, except for the price of the books that will be read, which can be purchased at the bookstore.

The first book to be discussed is The Zookeeper’s Wife by Diane Ackerman. Discussions will be lead by one of the SCC librarians who are experienced book group leaders.

The first meeting will be on Tuesday, February 26, 2:00–3:00 p.m. in library room 115. If you’re interested in joining or would like more information, please contact the library at extension 5000.

Trahan’s Tips

The holidays are here! Below are some precautions that you can take at work and in your home to make sure this season is a safe one:

- Choose decorations that are fire-proof or fire-resistant.
- All holiday lighting should have a testing lab seal of approval (and should never be used on metallic trees).
- Natural materials, including trees, wreaths and greens, are prohibited in public buildings unless they’ve been sprayed with an approved fire-proofing material.
- Don’t use candles in your office. At home, never leave a candle unattended.
- Decorations shouldn’t obstruct exits, exit signs, emergency lights or corridors.
- During the holidays and throughout the year, be conscious of clutter in your office space. Make sure to keep exits and passageways clear.
- Remove holiday packages, valuables and personal items from your car or lock in the trunk where they can’t be seen.
- Always lock your car and office doors when unattended.
- Never use a barbeque grill indoors.
- Barbeque grills must not be used within 15 feet of a building where there is a door, window, vent, or other way for smoke or flames to enter.
- Don’t use a grill within 15 feet of combustible materials or within 50 feet of flammable storage areas.

Happy holidays! Watch for more safety tips in 2008.

Lt. Devon Trahan
Kudos and News Briefs

The TGIF annual fall fundraiser raised more than $12,000 to benefit student scholarships and other support programs. “This annual college event brought together SCC community partners, faculty, and staff for a memorable evening of raising funds for student programs and scholarships,” said Kari Caldwell, director of college advancement. “We are fortunate to be a part of such a caring and generous community.”

Adrienne Burton and Lynn Au (financial aid) attended the Federal Student Access Conference held November 26-29 in San Diego. The conference focused on new regulations for existing federal grants and included workshops on financial aid topics. Syed Rizvi (financial aid) attended the 2007 Chief Student Services Officers/Chief Instructional Officers (CSSO/CIO) Leadership Institute in Irvine, November 28-30. Nominations were solicited from all 111 California community colleges and 26 participants were selected to participate. Syed was nominated by Vice President John Hernandez. The intensive training program provided an opportunity for participants to share ideas, engage in critical discourse, and learn from each other while preparing to meet challenges facing the profession.

From November 29 through December 8, Art Department Chair Moira Hahn joined 17 other invited artists from around the globe (with backgrounds in graphic design, graffiti, illustration, and traditional painting) to participate in “Wild Things,” a benefit auction. Proceeds will go to Friends of the Earth Melbourne, an environmental protection and activism group in Melbourne, Australia.

Congratulations to Angel Hernandez, new student services coordinator in the high school and community outreach department. Angel served as interim coordinator since September. He joined SCC in August 2006. Angel holds a master's degree in education (counseling and personnel services) from the University of Maryland, College Park and a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from Cal Poly Pomona.

Child Development Center Director Nancy Carri attended the Orange County Child Care Inclusion Workshop for Directors of Child Care Programs on December 5 and 6.

From December 5-10, Moira Hahn’s work was displayed by Roq La Rue Gallery of Seattle.

On December 13, Nanci Carri attended the California Child Development Administrators Association meeting in Riverside for a panel discussion about the recent California fires and emergency preparedness.

Art department faculty member Natasha Shoro’s solo exhibition at the Soka University’s Founders Hall Art Gallery in Aliso Viejo continues through the month of December.

Moira Hahn will be a guest of honor at “The Fur East,” an annual international anthropomorphic art convention in San Jose from January 24-28.

Dr. Melinda Womack (communication) has been selected to serve as a member of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) site visit team that will conduct an evaluation for TransPacific Hawaii College from March 3-6.