Happy 2006! I hope that all of you had happy, healthy holidays.

The new year is a time of optimism, purpose and new beginnings. At Santiago Canyon College, there will be many opportunities for expansion of the educational options and services we provide to students.

After a period of flat enrollment growth, the robust spring intersession is a good sign. The hiring of 12 new faculty members for the fall (see sidebar for details) will allow us to offer more class sections and boost enrollment. Please make yourselves available for search committees if asked to serve.

The college foundation will spearhead a capital campaign to raise funds for a specific building (such as a performing arts center). As you know, rising costs have eroded the buying power of Measure E dollars, and funding isn’t available to complete all the buildings on our master plan. The capital campaign will reach out to the community—both externally and internally. I hope that you will all contribute generously to this important effort.

On the construction front, we’re looking forward to the grand opening of our new library building in the fall. In the summer most of the portable buildings will be relocated so that the mass site grading plan can be completed. This will create the pads where future facilities and sports fields will be located, including the science building, currently in the working drawing phase.

The Governor’s proposed education budget for fiscal year 2006-2007 allocates funds for career technical education and equalization of per-student community college funding. While the final budget will go through many revisions, we’re optimistic that additional funds will be available in the fall.

I look forward to an exciting year working with you to meet our common goals. Together, we’ll make it happen.

Sincerely,

Juan Vázquez, President

New faculty will be hired for fall 2006 in the following disciplines:

Exercise science/softball
Continuing education/ESL
Counseling • Astronomy/physics
Philosophy • Speech • Librarian
Biology • History • English • Math
Business administration

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Women’s Soccer Soars on and off the Field

In 2005, the women’s soccer team made history. Finishing with an overall record of 22-1-2, the Hawks clinched their first outright Orange Empire Conference (OEC) title in school history and finished the season ranked number eight in the nation, according to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Nine student-athletes were named to all-OEC teams, led by Kim Horn who was named most valuable player for the second consecutive season. Horn was also the first SCC athlete ever to be named an All-American.

Yet if you were to ask head coach Ian Woodhead about the success of this year’s team, he would quickly point to their performance in the classroom, not on the soccer field.

“Society measures the majority of people by their academic success and not their athletic success,” said Woodhead. This is a belief that has been emphasized by the entire coaching staff, resulting in an overall team grade-point average of 3.2.

One athlete coach Woodhead is most proud of is sophomore midfielder Nikki Alch, who currently holds a 3.5 GPA. He speaks about how Nikki struggled academically in high school, but has flourished while attending SCC.

“The gratification comes from seeing these young people blossom individually, thrive academically and be the best they can be athletically,” said Woodhead.

Woodhead, who recently was named OEC Coach of the Year for the second consecutive season, credits SCC faculty and administration for helping make the women’s soccer program so successful.

“Those things only happen because of the full support of the school,” said Woodhead. “Unless the program has the support of the school, it doesn’t succeed.”

Fall Fundraising Benefits Students

SCC students will benefit from a successful season of fall fundraising. Between the Chancellor’s Ball on October 14 and TGIF on November 19, about $66,000 was raised for student scholarships and programs.

“This year’s revenues will go a long way toward supporting our students and our college,” said President Vázquez. “Funds provide scholarships, assist with the purchase of textbooks, and support special college programs and activities. Thanks to everyone at SCC who helped to make these important events a success.”

Attendees at TGIF view silent auction items. The event raised over $15,000 for scholarships and student support programs.
Grant to Prevent High-Risk Drinking among Students

A two-year grant has been awarded to SCC and SAC that targets underage and binge drinking (defined as consuming 4-5 alcoholic beverages or more in a sitting) among 18- to 24-year-old students. Administered by the Orange County Health Care Agency, the grant requires an assessment of the current drinking and health habits of students. Once problem areas are identified, targeted educational strategies are developed and implemented. Results of assessment and prevention efforts will be evaluated by an outside agency.

Underage and binge drinking among students invites many avoidable risks, such as drunk driving, engaging in unsafe sexual behavior and other health issues. Problem drinkers are less likely to stay in school and complete their education.

“Because we don’t have on-campus housing, we’re not as aware of student drinking here,” said Beth Hoffman, coordinator of the SCC Health Center and grant co-director. “Students who may have drinking problems are engaging in these behaviors around our campuses in the communities where they live and work.”

In addition to SCC and SAC involvement, a community coalition is being formed to assist with grant activities. Current partners include Latino Health Access, Children and Family Futures, the Victim Witness Program, and the county’s Sexual Assault Response Team.

Over a five-week period starting in March, 500 SCC students will be chosen at random to complete the 30-minute health risk assessment tool. The survey results will provide a snapshot of overall student health, including drinking. All students who complete the survey will receive a gift certificate or other incentive for their participation.

“I hope that faculty will encourage participation by students who are selected,” Hoffman said. “The survey is important because it will address student drinking and health-related problems. With this information we can develop and implement educational strategies that will be custom-made for our students.”

For more information contact Beth Hoffman at extension 4776 or by e-mail at hoffman_beth@sccollege.edu.

Hawks Golf Tournament Dedicated to Fran Cummings

The Sixth Annual Hawks Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, April 28 at the Tustin Ranch Golf Club. This year’s tournament is dedicated to the memory of former SCC athletic director Fran Cummings, who lost her battle with cancer on May 30, 2005.

“Fran was the heart and soul of our Hawks Golf Tournament,” said Patti Cole, director of college advancement. “Because of her efforts we not only have an annual showcase event, but we have a scholarship program that has awarded $18,000 to student-athletes since its inception in 2001. This year we’ll remember Fran’s energy and spirit, the driving forces behind this event.”

Last year’s tournament raised a record $22,000 for student scholarships and the athletic program. “Our annual golf tournament is the primary source of funding for athletic scholarships at SCC,” said Cole. “We’ll continue the tradition by awarding scholarships to student-athletes in each of our eight college sports.”

This year’s tournament will feature golfing contests and prizes, along with a gift bag, raffle and silent auction. Dinner and the awards presentation will follow the tournament.

Reservations for foursomes are currently being accepted. For more information, contact the Foundation at extension 4790.

The Sixth Annual Hawks Golf Tournament on April 28 will be dedicated to the memory of former SCC Athletic Director Fran Cummings, who lost her battle with breast cancer on May 30, 2005.
This spring you don’t have to spend a lot of money to learn about the latest educational technology. You don’t even have to leave campus! Thanks to the SCC Technology Committee, it’s all coming to you on Thursday, February 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Join your faculty and classified colleagues for a free day of learning, exhibits and educational resources. One-, two- and three-hour workshops are scheduled for your convenience.

Technology Committee co-chair Dr. Cari Cannon and fellow members set out to present a flex day workshop, but were so successful in lining up speakers and support that their efforts led to a day-long conference. SCC faculty and staff will present sessions along with representatives of colleges, universities and private companies from throughout the state. More than 25 topics will be covered, including distance learning, internet security, online course design tools, digital photography, podcasting and much more.

“The sessions offered will appeal to a wide variety and level of users,” said Dr. Cannon. “The goal of the committee is improving technology for everyone to allow them to become more creative and innovative in their work.”

Technology Day will also feature lunch, refreshments sold by student clubs, a raffle and prizes including a Palm Pilot, USB flash disk, and more.

There’s no need to register for Technology Day. Look for a brochure in your mailbox soon, then come to the sessions you’d like to attend on February 2. Classified staff may need to obtain permission from their supervisors.

For more information contact Dr. Cannon via e-mail at cannon_cari@sccollege.edu.
And the Winner is...

The SCC bookstore has been voted as the friendliest office of the new year. Bookstore manager Bill Jeffery and his staff gladly support college programs and events, often donating items to be used as prizes and give-aways. Personnel are always courteous and helpful. Since his arrival at SCC, Jeffery has overseen many positive changes for students, including online textbook ordering.

If you’d like to nominate an SCC office or individual who provides excellent service (to students, faculty, staff or the external community), please send to librescu_annmarie@sccollege.edu.

Kudos and News Briefs

Senior custodian Victor Aguirre completed the first-ever Las Vegas Marathon on December 4 with a time of 3 hours, 46 minutes and 48 seconds. The event included Elvis impersonators and weddings performed at mile 5. In addition to being a full-time employee and part-time student at SCC, Victor runs 50-60 miles a week or more. His latest marathon was in Phoenix, Arizona on January 15. Congratulations, Victor!

Nearly 800 Orange Unified School district elementary students and their parents enjoyed the city’s first Community Science Night at SCC on November 4. Coordinated by Debbie Brooks (Geology), the evening featured interactive math and science experiments by teachers from OUSD and SCC. Children and their families were treated to goodie bags and a free dinner from In-N-Out. Congratulations to all the SCC faculty and staff who worked to make the evening such a success.

At the SCC holiday potluck on December 7, the Classified Hawks group raised over $1,800 for scholarships and activities.

Congratulations to Sharon Ehlers, who retired from the library after many years of service. Sharon was the first SCC library employee, arriving in 1984 to prepare for the opening of the new facility.

Dr. Jim Gates (Water Utility Science) wrote an article entitled, “Brain Drain” that appeared in the November issue of the Orange County Water Association publication Water Matters. Dr. Gates also participated in a water workforce task group held by the National American Water Works Association (AWWA) Human Resources committee to discuss the repercussions of large numbers of baby boomers retiring from the profession.

Moira Hahn (Art) celebrated her third solo or two-artist exhibition of 2005, held November 11-December 3 at Roq la Rue Gallery in Seattle. Moira’s paintings were also included in six group shows in 2005.

Student Services Vice President John Hernandez has been elected by the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) to serve a two-year term on the Executive Council as Director-Elect of the Core Council for Professional Development.

Nicholas Magalousis (Anthropology) and John West (Anthropology/Sociology) are the faculty advisors for the new Anthropological Society, open to interested students at both SCC and SAC. Founded in September 2005, the Society plans to sponsor educational trips to museums, guest speakers and other activities. The group’s first newsletter was published in December.

The Community Services program kicks off its spring offerings in February with 135 classes, including 30 new ones. The spring brochure is online at www.sccollege.edu/cs. SCC employees receive a 20 percent discount on all classes (excluding trips).

On Saturday, March 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the Career Education division will host Trig Star, a free event for local high school and community college students. Trig Star will introduce students and their parents to careers in the field of surveying. SCC has the only comprehensive community college surveying curriculum in Southern California.