The semester is off to a great start, with enrollment up by four percent. As usual at SCC, we’re looking forward to another busy spring semester.

The 2-acre plot of land that will become the Coastkeeper Garden at SCC is undergoing preparation for planting in the coming months. This wonderful project will be an outdoor classroom for our students as well as a resource that the local community can use to learn more about water conservation. For those who are interested, volunteers are needed now to help prepare the site. A tree planting event, with 100 trees donated by the Irvine Ranch Water District, is being planned for later this year.

We’re anticipating a spring groundbreaking for the new math and science complex, which will provide the classrooms and lab space that our students need. You’ll be hearing more about this project soon.

Our newest athletic team, women’s softball, practices in Hart Park and kicked off their first season of competition in the Orange Empire Conference on January 19. And in other sports news, a celebration in the A/B Quad is planned on March 20 for the state championship-winning women’s soccer team.

We look forward to continued favorable news about the Governor’s proposed budget, which includes an increase in community college funding as well as additional monies for career technical vocational education. As is always the case with the state budget, a lot can change. However, the initial budget proposal is better than in many past years and is a sign of the Governor’s continued support for California community colleges.

I hope to see many of you at Tustin Ranch Golf Club for the Seventh Annual Hawks Golf Tournament on Friday, April 27. This is a major fundraiser for our athletics programs and student-athletes, so please lend your support.

Sincerely,

Juan Vázquez
New Softball Team Rounds the Bases in Inaugural Season
Contributed by Josh Levy, sports information coordinator

Led by Coach Lisa Field, the SCC women's softball team began its first-ever season of competition in January. The Hawks are part of the highly competitive Orange Empire Conference (OEC).

Coach Field is excited for the team's future as she starts to lay the foundation for a winning tradition in her first season. “Every coach's dream is to start from scratch and mold a program the way you want it,” said Field. “We have a great group of energetic girls and the college has been so supportive of the coaching staff, the players and everything we are trying to accomplish.”

Softball is the ninth program to join the SCC athletic department. Existing teams include men’s and women’s soccer, golf, cross country and track and field.

Interim Athletic Director Larry Mercadante is glad to have softball join the SCC athletic family. “This is a major sport in Orange County and in my opinion, the team is playing in the best softball conference in California,” said Mercadante. “We've got great expectations and are looking forward to this season's competition.”

The Hawks will play their home games at Hart Park in the City of Orange this season while the SCC softball complex on campus is completed. The team will compete on its brand new field starting in 2008.

While playing home games off-campus may not be the ideal situation, Coach Field is grateful for the opportunity to play at Hart Park and feels the team will be better for it in the long run. “The City of Orange has been very flexible in trying to accommodate our games,” stated Field. “Playing our home games off-campus this first season will only make us appreciate our new field at SCC that much more.”
Later this spring, the college will break ground on the 60,000 square foot math and science complex. Two separate buildings with connecting walkways, the total cost of the project is estimated to be approximately $31 million dollars. Of this amount, state funds will pay for about $9 million, and the remaining cost will come from Measure E funds.

Business, math and science faculty and administrators have been involved in providing input into the buildings’ design and use. Plans were approved by the Department of State Architects in October 2006, and contractors’ bids are due on March 13, 2007. If all goes as expected, construction will begin this spring with completion in late 2008.

Plans for the two-story, two-building complex include twelve science labs, seven classrooms, eighteen offices, and storage areas. One of the classrooms will be a large lecture hall similar to D-101.

What People are Saying...

“When the new science building opens, SCC will be able to offer two brand new courses, microbiology and organic chemistry, in specially designed labs.”
-- Dean of Business, Math and Sciences Dr. Sandra Mayo

“The construction of the science building is a very important step in the growth of SCC as a comprehensive college. When completed, students will benefit from an astronomical observatory.”
-- Associate Professor of Astronomy Morrie Barembaum

“The new science building will forever change the face of SCC. By offering organic chemistry, some of our students will have a chance to finish their science degrees here.”
-- Assistant Professor of Chemistry Dr. Nahla El-Said

“Everyone in the biology department is ecstatic that the long-awaited groundbreaking for the new science building is just around the corner. We are looking forward to expanding our program and providing our students with better facilities to enrich their knowledge and understanding.”
-- Professor of Biology and Department Co-Chair Charleen Powers

“The math department is looking forward to having additional classrooms dedicated to mathematics. Too often, current scheduling decisions are based on the availability of rooms. We welcome the opportunity to expand our program and meet the needs of students. It’s also fun to watch the campus grow!”
-- Professor of Mathematics and Department Co-Chair Dr. Joyce Wagner

Chancellor's Ball Funds Help Students Succeed

At the Board of Trustees meeting on Monday, January 22, board members joined Chancellor Eddie Hernandez in presenting the proceeds from the 2006 Chancellor’s Ball to the Santiago Canyon College and Santa Ana College Foundations. Each college received $50,523 in general proceeds and $10,537 in “Buy the Book” funding.

“Scholarships and book awards are very important to our students,” said President Juan Vázquez. “Often a scholarship can mean the difference between a student continuing or dropping out of school. ‘Buy the Book’ and general proceeds from the 2006 Chancellor’s Ball will provide up to 100 scholarships and 52 book awards to students during the 2007/2008 academic year.”
Need Help Keeping New Year's Resolutions?

Among the many New Year’s resolutions made each year, health and fitness are usually in the top ten. If you want to start exercising and/or quit smoking, SCC offers programs and services that can help you meet your goals. The fitness center provides a convenient and affordable alternative to a health club membership, and free smoking cessation classes are held on campus and at the Orange Education Center (OEC).

GET IN GEAR

At just $20 per year for faculty and staff, the SCC Fitness Center can help you lose weight and save money too. It’s a convenient way to fit exercise into your schedule. New equipment was purchased for the fall 2006 semester, including thirteen Life Fitness and Cybex circuit training machines for a full-body workout. Additional equipment includes a chest press and multi-hip, rotary torso, assisted pull-up/dip, and multiple abdominal machines. Cardio equipment includes eleven stationary bikes, four treadmills, two elliptical machines, and a stair stepper.

“The fitness center provides a great opportunity for employees to exercise before or after work or during lunch breaks for a minimal cost,” said Head Women’s Soccer Coach Ian Woodhead. “There’s no drive to get there or prohibitive enrollment fees. It’s a great opportunity for anyone who wants to get in shape for the summer.”

The fitness center is staffed by exercise science, health and athletic department faculty members who can help you set up a personalized program to meet your fitness goals. Showers and locker rooms are available. The fitness center is located in U-203 and the locker room is in U-204 (in the portables near the athletic fields). Hours are Monday through Saturday (7:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. M-F; 4:00-8:00 p.m. M-Th, and 7:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Sat.). Contact fitness center coordinator Lisa Hermen at extension 4911 for additional information.

KICK THE HABIT

In partnership with Saint Joseph Hospital, free five-week smoking cessation classes are being offered at the OEC. The classes combine nicotine replacement and behavioral techniques to help participants become successful non-smokers. Upcoming sessions begin in April. For more information, contact Laura Menendez, continuing education health and science instructor, at (714) 222-2381, or Pam Matten, R.N., St. Joseph’s Hospital Lung Program Coordinator at (714) 771-8254.

Free smoking cessation classes are also forming at SCC, funded by the Orange County OnTrack Tobacco Cessation grant. For more information contact Beth Hoffman, health and wellness center coordinator, at extension 4776.
And the Winner is...

The SCC Athletic Department is the friendliest office of the spring semester. Faculty and staff are always courteous and maintain winning attitudes. The department has produced many stellar sports teams for the young college, and expectations are always high. But staff members exhibit grace under pressure, projecting a positive outlook in their interactions with others.

Department faculty and staff have excelled in fielding winning sports teams, despite having minimal athletic facilities. They go the extra mile to get the job done (such as holding practices at off-campus locations), and are always willing to work cooperatively with other departments as needed. Their excellent customer service skills extend beyond college employees to the many individuals and community organizations using campus facilities, including the fitness center and soccer fields.

Congratulations to everyone in the athletic department!
Student Drinking Report: The Glass is Half Full

In a spring 2006 health assessment taken by 500 SCC students, nearly sixty percent of those surveyed reported that they’d never smoked a cigarette or used marijuana. Over twenty percent reported that they’d never used alcohol. Yet when asked to estimate use among their peers, they believed that 88 to 96 percent of their fellow SCC students had used these substances.

To combat this “everyone’s doing it” mentality, the SCC Health and Wellness Center will conduct a social marketing campaign throughout the spring semester. Paid for by a grant from the County of Orange Health Care Agency through funds received from the Tobacco Settlement Revenues, the goal of the campaign is to increase awareness of these misperceptions and educate students about the dangers of underage and binge (also called heavy-episodic) drinking.

“We will approach this as an opportunity for improvement, using as our model a program identified by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for addressing high-risk alcohol use among 18- to 24-year olds,” said Beth Hoffman, health and wellness center coordinator and co-director of the drinking prevention grant. “Social marketing messages will be created that focus specifically on the health data obtained from our students.”

Research has shown that peer pressure plays a large role in whether students drink, smoke, or use illegal drugs. Peers can also be part of the solution, through education programs that have proven to be an effective way to reach young people about the health and lifestyle decisions they make.

Facilitated by Hoffman and supported by Student Program Specialist Cristy Chen, SCC’s first peer health education program kicked off in February with training for interested students. Those who complete training and fulfill a one-semester commitment will have the opportunity to help educate fellow students during alcohol awareness events. Peer health educators will also receive incentives for their participation.

“Our survey results show that most SCC students drink responsibly,” Hoffman said. “But 20 percent of male and 10 percent of female students reported that they engage in heavy-episodic drinking, which jeopardizes their health, safety, and ability to complete their academic goals. It’s the binge and under-age drinkers who are the target of our efforts.”

For more information about the drinking prevention grant or to obtain resource information, please contact Beth Hoffman at hoffman_beth@sccollege.edu or by calling extension 4773.

Kudos and News Briefs

While visiting Cambodia in January, Melody Vaught (academic affairs) toured Resource Development International-Cambodia, an organization dedicated to helping the country’s rural poor. Among its endeavors, RDI works to help develop self-sustaining, home-based businesses such as making soap and ceramics, animal husbandry and bee keeping. Upon returning home, Melody contacted retired SAC employee Morris Ostrofsky, a bee-keeping expert, who will offer his expertise via e-mail to RDI’s director.

Nick Magalouis (anthropology) invited the Archaeological Institute of America to hold its April lecture at SCC. The topic of the April 15 lecture is “Before Aphrodite: The Island of Kythera and the Minoans in the Aegean.” The 2:00 p.m. lecture in D-101 will be given by Professor Cyprian Broodbank of University College London and is open to everyone (free for students and AIA members).

Nick’s contribution of a chapter about Mission San Juan Capistrano to the May 2005 publication “Archaeology Without Limits” was mentioned in the Summer-Fall 2006 Southwestern Mission Research Center, Inc. newsletter.

ESL instructor Tamara Rivera, who works at the Orange Education Center, runs marathons to help save lives. Since 1993, Tamara has been involved with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s Team-In-Training program. She has run several full and half-marathons and has raised $9,000 to help find a cure for leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma and Hodgkin’s disease. Tamara is currently training for the Mayor’s Midnight Sun Marathon in Anchorage, Alaska, to be held in June 2007. She also serves as a team mentor for first-time runners with Team-In-Training.