The end of the spring semester is usually a joyful time for the college community. When students graduate from both the credit and non-credit programs at the ceremonies on June 4, it represents the culmination of their hard work as well as yours.

However, as the spring semester ends, there are dark fiscal clouds on the horizon throughout California. As a preliminary response to the state's initial proposal to significantly decrease community college budgets, the district began reducing the 2009-2010 fiscal year's tentative budget that is due to the Board of Trustees on June 22 by $10 million (SCC's share is $2.7M). And as the state's fiscal condition continued to worsen, RSCCD is now identifying an additional $12 million in reductions (SCC's share will be an additional $3M), for the district's adopted budget, which will go to the Board for approval in September.

As a college, we have already cut back on all non-personnel expenditures. Unfortunately, that leaves us with the difficult choice of recommending to the Board a reduction in force (layoffs). This action will occur at every district unit, including both colleges, continuing education centers, and the district operations center. The recommendation of personnel who will be impacted by these proposed reductions will go the Board of Trustees on June 22, along with the recommendation for approval of a tentative budget. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

We have accomplished a great deal over the past year, and have much to be proud of in the areas of student achievement, transfer rates, and new facilities such as the softball complex. In the fall, we can look forward to the opening of the science center, maintenance and operations building, and the celebration of SCC's 10-year anniversary.

Let's celebrate the college’s tenth annual commencement ceremony on June 4. I’ll see you there.

Thank you for your dedication to Santiago Canyon College.

Sincerely,

Juan Vázquez
Spring Athletic Highlights
Contributed by Josh Levy, sports information coordinator

MEN’S GOLF
The SCC men’s golf team finished third in the competitive Orange Empire Conference (OEC) with a 12-8 overall record led by the play of freshman Matt Parkovich. During the season, Parkovich was named the California Community College Athletic Association Male Athlete of the Month for March and he later earned OEC Player of the Year honors. He finished with the lowest average in the conference (71.58) and led SCC at the 2009 OEC Championships where he finished the 36-hole tournament with a 5-under-par 141 (69-72) to earn medalist honors. Freshman Connor Covington also earned a spot on the All-OEC Team as he finished with the 11th highest average in the conference (74.5).

TRACK AND FIELD
Some impressive records were set this season by the SCC track and field teams. On the men’s side, Anthony Privitelli set new SCC records in both the 100 and 200 meters and was a vital member of three record-setting performances by the college’s relay teams. The sophomore duo of Macee White and Sara Bartlett also helped set new SCC records for the women’s squad. White set a new record in the heptathlon event and helped establish new college marks as the anchor of the 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams. Bartlett led SCC in scoring in eight meets this season while setting a new college record in the 100 meter hurdles. She also ran leadoff as part of the record-setting relay teams.

SOFTBALL
Freshman shortstop Chloe Valenzuela was a leader on both offense and defense for the SCC softball team this season and was named to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association 2009 All-American Team for her efforts. Valenzuela was also named to the All-Southern California Team and First-Team All-Orange Empire Conference. She finished the season with an overall batting average of .414 while pounding out 46 hits and 21 RBI. She also added seven doubles and 13 stolen bases, all while striking out only three times.
Employees Celebrate 435 Years of Combined Service

Congratulations to all the employees honored at the Faculty and Staff recognition event on Wednesday, May 20. Faculty Excellence Award winners were Rick Adams (full-time) and Greg Sebourn (adjunct). Classified awards were given to Distinguished Classified Employee of the Year Wanda Wright, Part-time Classified Employee of the Year Lisa Hermen, and Spirit Award winner Zina Edwards.

The following employees received 10-year service award pins:

Victor Aguirre, Elizabeth Baez, Nancy Carri, Diana Casaras, Eduardo Cervantes, Chris Conway, Lani Daniels, Sheryl Martin, Nadine McKelvey, Teresa Sturrus, Alex Taber, Elizabeth Thomas, Vinh Tran, and Joyce Wagner.

Fifteen-year service award pins were presented to:

Lynn Au, Nena Baldizon-Rios, Juana Galvan, Kay Powell and Linda Miskovic.

Two employees, Alma Romo and Terry Tomlinson, were recognized for twenty years of service. Both received engraved Cross pens.

Twenty-five veterans Lynn Manzano and Stewart Myers received leather portfolios embossed with the SCC seal.

Kudos and News Briefs

To gain real-world experience in project management, some of Barry McCarthy’s (adjunct career education instructor) students used software to track a food drive they undertook as a class project. The group managed to collect nearly 3,500 pounds of food from donations solicited at Ralph’s and Albertson’s grocery stores as well as on campus. In addition, they received a donation of $1,000 to provide food for low-income residents.

Congratulations to all SCC employees who completed degrees and/or certificates during the past academic year. Below are a few of the most recent graduates.

Director of College Advancement and the Foundation Kari Caldwell completed her master of arts degree in management from the University of Redlands.

Margaret Bennett (career education, apprenticeship program) completes her certificate in paralegal studies from Santa Ana College this month. Margaret began taking classes pertaining to contracts and grants administration in 2006. However, after the first semester, she was hooked on the law and decided to pursue the paralegal studies certificate instead.

Elijah “EJ” Bagdonas (OEC ITS) graduates on June 4 with enough units for five associate degrees (in management, marketing, entrepreneurship, liberal arts and business management). Just over two years ago, EJ began taking classes as a way to maximize his salary by earning professional growth increments. He started by taking a few classes that interested him, mostly in the area of computers and business skills. By taking classes throughout the year (spring, fall, summer and intersession), he quickly earned the maximum professional growth funds allowed. Realizing that he had accumulated almost enough units for an associate degree, he started on his general education classes. Many of his business classes applied to several degree programs, so he took enough extra classes to earn degrees in five different subject areas.