As the academic year comes to a close, we find ourselves looking back with pride on all that we’ve accomplished over the past year. When we gather at Strenger Plaza on June 6 for the annual commencement exercise, we get to see the culmination of the year’s work. As we celebrate the success of another graduating class, know that all of you play a vitally important role in serving those students who walk across the platform to the applause of their family and friends. Whether you greeted students at the admissions and records counter, maintained the buildings in which they learned, or taught them in the classroom, it is our combined efforts that ensure their success.

SCC is raising the bar among Southern California institutions of higher education. For the second time in three years, an SCC faculty member was selected by the Orange County Department of Education as the top community college teacher. Congratulations to Dr. Cari Cannon, who joins Marcelo Pimentel in receiving this prestigious award. You make us proud to be your colleagues.

Each year SCC students compete throughout California and across the nation in athletic and academic activities. Our sports teams continue to perform well in the competitive Orange Empire Conference, and SCC students bested representatives from four-year universities in events such as forensics, business communication and the Model United Nations.

Many new facilities and enhancements were made to the campus over the past year. The netting is being added to the new softball field, which will be ready for play in the next spring softball season. The structural steel skeleton that supports the science building is rapidly taking shape. Construction begins in June for a small maintenance and operations building, which will be the hub of our college’s infrastructure. There is now attractive landscaping around the entire perimeter of the campus, including the letters SCC spelled in flowers under the electronic marquee on Chapman Avenue.

The end of one academic year also marks the beginning of another. Looking ahead, we expect another lean budget year. The Governor’s “May Revise” of his proposed 2008-2009 budget spared California community college funding to some extent. At the present time, there are no plans to raise student fees in the fall, which is great news. Stay tuned for more information, which we’ll provide as it becomes available. Rest assured that no matter what the next year may bring, we’ll get through it together, as we have in the past.

Thanks for all you do for SCC, and have a great summer.

Sincerely,

Juan Vázquez
The Santiago Canyon College athletic department experienced continued success during the spring 2008 semester. Below are some season highlights:

**Eighth Annual Hawks Golf Tourney Raises $20,000**

The Eighth Annual Hawks Golf Tournament held at the Tustin Ranch Golf Club was a complete success, with net proceeds totaling over $20,000 to benefit the foundation, athletic department and scholarships. During the dinner festivities, nine student-athletes received scholarships in recognition of their athletic and academic achievements over the past season. Recipients included Nicole Ava (softball), Alicia Ayala (women’s cross country), Jennifer Faith (women’s soccer), Austin Glenn (men’s golf), Carson Hedrick (men’s track and field), Esther Lee (women’s golf), Alyssa Matheson (women’s soccer), Lisa Pinuelas (softball) and Courtney Solomonson (women’s golf).

Mark your calendars now for the Ninth Annual Hawks Golf Tournament scheduled for Friday, April 17, 2009 at Tustin Ranch Golf Club.

In other golf news, sophomore student Gavin Foster shot a 36-hole total of 138 to earn co-medalist honors at the 2008 Orange Empire Conference (OEC) Men’s Golf Championships, and he was also named to the All-OEC team. Congratulations to Coach Tom Shine on this achievement.

**Four SCC Softball Players Earn Conference Honors**

Four members of the SCC softball team were named to the 2008 All-OEC Fastpitch Softball Team for their play this season. Sophomore catcher Charte Land was named First-Team All-OEC, while freshman Courtney Nejman and sophomores Nicole Ava and Chanel Hogue made the All-OEC Second-Team.

After winning 12 games in the team’s 2007 inaugural season, Head Coach Lisa Field guided the Hawks to a 26-19 overall record in 2008. Next season, the team will play on the recently completed softball field.

**Track and Field Athletes Set New Records**

Track and field team members set six new school records during the 2008 season. Freshman Sara Bartlett broke records in the 100-meter hurdles (17.86 seconds) and in the triple jump (with a leap of 33 feet, 5.25 inches). Freshman Macee White also set a record for the women’s team in the high jump with a mark of 4 feet, 11 inches.

Records set by the men’s squad this season included freshman David Ferreira in the 3,000-meter steeplechase (9:57.42), freshman Geoff Kemberling in the shot put (35’10”) and the 4x400 meter relay team consisting of Ferreira, Carson Hedrick, Sam Morales and Hector Figueroa who ran to a time of 3:33.03. Congratulations to Head Coach Shawn Cummins and assistant coaches.
Cari Cannon Named One of Orange County’s Teachers of the Year

On May 13, Dr. Cari Cannon learned that she’d been selected by the Orange County Department of Education as the community college Teacher of the Year. Here’s what was going through her mind when a delegation of about 15 people entered her classroom around noon that day...

“I was dumbstruck! As a teacher you rarely receive immediate feedback—students may smile and laugh during a lecture, but you don’t know if you are making a real, or lasting difference in their lives. This award is like getting 10 years of positive feedback tossed at you all at once.”

Cari has worked at SCC since 1998, and is a professor of psychology and co-chair of the behavioral sciences department. She is the past vice president of the academic senate, serves on the college's technology committee and advises the student Psychology Club and Psi Beta, the psychology student honor society. Cari is also the author of the tongue-in-cheek book published in 2006 entitled How to Flunk Out of a Community College: 101 Surefire Strategies That Guarantee Failure. She donated much of her book royalties to a scholarship for deserving psychology students.

Cari is the second SCC faculty member in three years to receive the county's top community college teacher award. Associate Professor of Philosophy Marcelo Pimentel was selected for the honor in 2005.
And the Winner is…

Career education division administrative support staff members Julie Peeken and Amy Styffe have been selected as spring 2008’s friendliest office at SCC.

Julie and Amy led the President’s Classified Hawks Advisory Group to a successful year in 2007-2008. They provide exceptional service to the many students, fellow employees and members of the community who visit or call their office in U-83. Despite the pressure of a busy workload, they maintain their sense of humor and professional attitude while meeting numerous deadlines. Their commitment to the success of their division and the college is evident in everything they do.

Congratulations Julie and Amy!

Textbook Task Force Works to Lower Student Costs

Contributed by Dean of Library, Fine and Performing Arts, and Communication Dr. John Weispfenning

Finding ways to make textbooks more affordable for students is the goal of the District Textbook Task Force. For many SCC students, textbooks are the single largest cost of attending college. While tuition for a three unit course is $60, textbooks for the same course often may cost twice as much.

Librarian Lana Wong, Hawk Bookstore Manager Bill Jeffery, and Dean John Weispfenning represent SCC on the task force. The group has reported its progress to the SCC Academic Senate and distributed a flyer to all faculty titled, “You Have the Power.” Faculty can help to lower textbook costs by:

• Asking vendors for the textbook “price-to-bookstore” in writing
• Negotiating the price the vendor will charge
• Placing textbooks on reserve in the library
• Selecting textbooks on time so the bookstore can purchase as many used books as possible
• Choosing “bundled” materials only when needed

The task force is working to pilot a textbook rental program at SCC that would allow students to rent books for designated classes for about one-third the cost of buying new textbooks. In addition, members of the task force have participated in the textbook summits sponsored by the Chancellor’s Office of the California Community Colleges.

RSCCD has also joined the Open Educational Resource consortium, a group that is exploring ways of developing and distributing educational materials at low cost.

Block Scheduling Begins in Fall

Beginning in the fall semester of 2008, students will be able to select their classes more easily and efficiently. That’s because of the new block scheduling format, which ensures that class times don’t overlap.

“We’re changing to block scheduling in response to student needs,” said Vice President of Academic Affairs Mary Halvorson. “With the new schedule beginning at 7:00 a.m., it should also ease parking congestion.”

Class times that overlap is a common problem on the 16-week compressed calendar. Mary worked with faculty members, including Craig Nance (math), who developed a scheduling grid showing when three-, four- and five-hour classes would begin and end. A faculty work group will be convened in the fall to evaluate the success of the implementation.

In addition to adopting the block scheduling format, other methods are being used to accommodate the expected increase in enrollment this fall. The combination of a weak economy and fee increases at both the University of California and California State University systems will bring more students to SCC—without additional classrooms or parking to serve them.

“We’re offering more weekend and online classes,” Mary said. “In addition, hybrid classes that combine traditional teaching with online learning are growing in popularity. Faculty members are utilizing technology to deliver instruction in new ways.”
SC Celebrates Faculty Writers

Contributed by Librarian Leah Freidenrich

In late April, students and staff gathered to hear members of the SCC faculty, all published authors, read from their work and discuss the writing process. Faculty writers included in the event were: Assistant Professor of English Lynette Beers, Assistant Professor of English Corinna Evett, Associate Professor of Biology Bob Houska, Assistant Professor of History Stephen Reed, Assistant Professor of Political Science Nooshan Shekarabi, and Professor of Anthropology and Sociology Dr. John West.

Nooshan Shekarabi began the reading with a section on contemporary politics from her textbook, American Government. For her next project, Nooshan is working on a book of poetry.

Next, Bob Houska read from his text entitled, Human Anatomy and Physiology. Steve Reed followed with an article about his student days in Spain when it was still under the regime of Francisco Franco. “In 1969, long before ‘Francisco Franco is still dead’ became a running punch line on ‘Saturday Night Live,’ I left for Spain to study at the University of Madrid...”

The audience was transported to Japan when Lynette Beers read from her fictional short story, “Weeping Japanese.” Corinna Evett read from her literary analysis of Shakespeare’s play “Anthony and Cleopatra.” Corinna is a Shakespeare fan, evidenced by her membership in the Shakespearean Society and by her recent pilgrimage to London to visit the Globe Theatre and Stratford Upon Avon.

Dr. John West concluded the readings with a portion of his autobiography, There are Always Blue Skies...Over the Dark Clouds: “… the very nature of life ensures that we can expect to encounter problems throughout our journeys. That’s the bad news. The counterbalance to that inevitability and the good news is the assurance that life offers us a full measure of wondrous gifts as well.”

After the readings there was a question and answer period. The audience was interested to know where and when faculty members write and how they found publishers for their work. Those in attendance, students and faculty alike, were inspired by the works read and the process of writing described by each of the panelists.

These faculty publications and others are on display in the SCC Library and available for check out. Bravo to all of SCC’s faculty writers!

Trahan’s Tips

Thanks to everyone’s hard work over the past year, SCC is significantly more prepared to respond in case of emergency. Some of our accomplishments in the area of emergency preparedness include:

• Evacuation drills have been held each semester (during day and evening hours) at both SCC and the OEC
• Building captains have met on a quarterly basis
• The safety committee (made up of faculty, staff, classified and administrative representatives) has met every two months

We first got an inkling that studying under a dictatorship was going to be different when on the first day of classes we noted that police and soldiers were stationed between all the buildings.” Steve is currently working on a book comparing four revolutions (U.S., Spanish, Mexican and Haitian).

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We’ve made great strides over the past year, and I look forward to continuing this important work in 2008-2009. Have a great summer.

Lt. Devon Trahan
Last spring, A-201 staff members Tiffany Tatro, Raul Gonzalez Del Rio and Ann Kelly came up with the idea of having a bowling league. This summer, it’s back by popular demand. Four-person teams are forming now, and no previous bowling experience is required. League play will be held at Concourse Bowling in Anaheim for eight weeks (June 16 through August 4), on Monday nights from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Last year, about 30 people participated in the league. SCC administrators President Juan Vázquez, Vice Presidents Dr. John Hernandez and Steve Kawa, and Bookstore Manager Bill Jeffery stopped by to watch the exciting action.

“The summer bowling league is a great way to meet your fellow employees, win cash and prizes and have fun,” said Tiffany. “If you want to join but can’t commit to the entire eight weeks, we’re always in need of substitute players.”

Three games are played each Monday night, and scoring is weighted based on a handicap system so that every team has a chance to win. Last year’s league champions were The Punishers, made up primarily of bookstore employees.

For more information, contact Tiffany Tatro at tatro_tiffany@sccollege.edu or extension 4991. The cost to participate in the bowling league is $14 per person each week, which pays for facility rentals, league fees, awards, cash prizes, and pizza party.

Kudos and News Briefs

Articulation Officer Joanne Benschop was elected to serve a two-year term as the regional representative to the statewide California Intersegmental Articulation Council. The position represents Region 8 community colleges by bringing articulation concerns to University of California, California State University and independent university partners.

Ethel Jordan (continuing education) completed the yearlong Academy for Leadership Training and Development program offered through the Maricopa Community College District in Mesa, Arizona. The program is sponsored by Maricopa’s Chair Academy, an internationally recognized organization focused on designing and conducting world-class leadership for post-secondary institutions.

When Nick Magalousis (anthropology and archaeology) attended the ribbon-cutting for the Katie Wheeler Library in Irvine earlier this spring, he had the satisfaction of knowing that SCC students played a part in it. From 1999-2002 they joined with SAC, University of California at Irvine, and California State University, Fullerton students in excavating the site of the old Irvine family home that would become the library.

SCC faculty, staff and administrators are inspired to continue their own paths of lifelong learning. Congratulations to all who began or completed academic degree or certificate programs during the year. The list below represents a few college employees who provided information about their academic accomplishments:

- Amy Cuneo (math), Ph.D., instructional design in education, Capella University
- Anne Hauscarrigue (math), Ph.D., math education, Claremont Graduate University
- Laney Pryor (math), Ph.D., math education, Claremont Graduate University
- Rosemary Toyanou (continuing education), M.S., educational counseling, University of La Verne

The work of faculty member Moira Hahn (art) will be included in a summer exhibition entitled “In the Land of Retinal Delights: The Juxtapoz School” at the Laguna Art Museum. The exhibition opens June 21.

Nooshan Shekarabi (political science) will attend a global conference on women’s rights in Madrid, Spain, in July. Inspired by her planned trip, she enrolled in a Spanish class during the spring semester.