Message from the President

In March we broke ground on the science building, which we anticipate will be ready for the fall 2009 semester. Anyone who attended will remember Morrie Barembaum’s on-stage gift to Steve Kawa—a space helmet.

April’s annual TrigStar event brought over 200 local high school students to SCC for a trigonometry competition and land surveyors challenge. Later that month, the Hawks Golf Tournament, held at Tustin Ranch Golf Club, netted $20,000 to benefit athletic scholarships and foundation support programs.

It’s December, a milestone that marks the end of the year and brings us to the eve of the next one. As the semester draws to a close, our thoughts turn to the holidays and spending time with family and friends. Before you go on your winter break (and despite the dismal economic news) I wanted to share my pride in our SCC family and all that we’ve achieved during the past calendar year.

Continued on next page...
Each year in May we recognize dedicated employees for their years of service and also celebrate SCC employees who have been selected by their peers as the year’s best. This year’s distinguished faculty and staff included Maureen Roe, Lothar Vallot, Dawn Thurston, Al Huerta, Pilar Lucero de Gutierrez, and Raye Sanchez.

A couple of events in June were truly highlights of the year for me. The June 6 commencement ceremony represents the culmination of everything that we do to serve students and recognizes their years of hard work. Watching our graduates beaming as they walk across the commencement stage in front of their proud families and friends reminds us why we choose to work in the deeply rewarding field of higher education.

On June 28 the continuing education citizenship offices from both SCC and SAC held a joint celebration for residents who had gone through the program to become naturalized citizens during the previous year. Seeing the joy on the faces of the new citizens was so moving that many in the room were getting a bit emotional. I hope this new tradition is one we can continue for many years to come.

August marked the beginning of the fall semester and our annual all-college meeting. Do you remember the budget video produced by the team of Mary Halvorson and Dr. Ron Kessler? If you weren’t in attendance, I’ll bet you heard about this hilarious “mockumentary” from your colleagues.

The fall semester is always a busy time, and this year was no exception. In November Dr. Cari Cannon was honored at the Disneyland Hotel as the top Orange County Community College Teacher of the Year by Schools First Federal Credit Union. We celebrated the planting of the first trees at the Coastkeeper Garden at SCC.

Our latest event was the annual TGIF celebration that raised $7,000 for student scholarships and support programs.

This look back at another stellar year barely scratches the surface of all that we’ve accomplished, and doesn’t include the success of athletic teams, the Model United Nations, Forensics and a multitude of other student activities.

As we end another year together and prepare to begin a well-deserved break, I wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Juan Vázquez

Juan Vázquez
Fall Athletic Highlights

Contributed by Josh Levy, sports information coordinator

Below are some highlights from the Santiago Canyon College athletic department during the 2008 fall season.

Women’s Soccer

The women’s soccer team finished the 2008 season with an 18-2-5 record and as co-champions of the Orange Empire Conference (OEC). The Hawks advanced to the third round of the Southern California Regional Playoffs led by sophomore Katie Marshall who was named the conference’s Most Valuable Player. Freshman Amanda Hardeman and sophomores Caroline Hanna, Kelsey Morgan and Jenna Scarborough were named to the All-OEC First-Team, while sophomores Tatiana Dos Santos and Nina Yanes and freshmen Crystal Mena and Monique Silva were named Second-Team All-OEC.

Women’s Golf

The women’s golf team finished second in the Orange Empire Conference with a 39-9 record. The Hawks also qualified to play in the Southern California Regional Finals at the Desert Dunes Golf Club in Desert Hot Springs. Sophomore Jessica Ko led the way for SCC as she earned a qualifying spot in the 2008 California Community College Women’s Golf State Championships held at the Olivas Links Golf Course in Ventura. Ko finished the event with a two-day total score of 154 to finish in second place individually and earn All-State honors. Ko and fellow sophomore Kelli Linza joined freshmen Rachel Holborn and Katie Robinson on the All-OEC First-Team.

Building a Tradition

The grand opening of the SCC Softball Complex will take place on Wednesday, January 28 on the softball field at 2:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. The softball facilities feature a state-of-the-art team room, enclosed and lighted batting cages, storage rooms and a top-of-the-line netting system. The complex is also among the first in Southern California to incorporate artificial FieldTurf. After the ceremony, the Hawks will take on San Diego City College in their first game of the season in a non-conference contest beginning at 3:00 p.m. For more information, call extension 4816 or visit sccollege.edu/athletics.
Alcohol Prevention Program Continues

Health and Wellness Center Coordinator Beth Hoffman, Clinical Psychologist Dr. Melissa Campitelli-Smith, and Health Educator Cristy Chen are mid-way through the third year of activities for SCC’s High Risk Alcohol Prevention Grant. The grant activities focus on reducing underage and binge drinking in SCC’s 18-24-year-old student population.

Heavy episodic drinking has many unintended consequences, including driving under the influence, alcohol poisoning, and physical or sexual assault. Surveying students about their level of alcohol use and then providing them with data about their peers’ use has been shown to reduce dangerous consumption.

Grant programming provided for students this year includes:

- Choosing and subscribing to the online interactive assessment tool known as e-CHUG (Electronic Check Up to Go). Taking this confidential survey provides students with feedback and personalized health information that’s compared to SCC, national, and international student health data. It also provides each student with personalized information on the money they’ve spent on alcohol, calories consumed and family risk for alcoholism. E-CHUG is designed to motivate students to reduce their alcohol consumption so that they can make safer, wiser choices.
- Engaging faculty and demonstrating the importance of e-CHUG by providing over 20 classroom presentations. More than 500 SCC students have taken the e-CHUG survey during the fall semester.
- Sharing the e-CHUG data with the campus community at the quarterly Student Health Advisory Council (SHAC) meetings, which are open to all faculty, staff, and administrators. The team will be presenting their plan for program sustainability at the final SHAC meeting of the academic year in May 2009.
- Training Peer Health Educators (student volunteers) for health promotion events and activities on campus and in the county for high risk alcohol prevention. Five students participated in the program this fall.

Activities will continue in the spring semester. “We are looking at conducting a pre- and post test e-CHUG assessment with a small group of students in the spring,” said Beth Hoffman. “We want to see if the tool is effective in reducing the heavy episodic use of alcohol.”

Grant funding is provided by the County of Orange Health Care Agency, Alcohol and Drug Education and Prevention Team (ADEPT).
Outreach and community services staff in A-212 have been selected as the friendliest office for fall 2008. When you enter the office in A-212, you’re greeted with a smile. Community services staff always have time for those who come in to their office with questions or to sign up for classes. They welcome ideas for new classes that may appeal to college employees and the community. Outreach is among the busiest offices at SCC, yet staff members are always willing to assist with college events, both on and off campus. The team represents SCC and provides a positive image throughout the community as they promote education and job training.

Congratulations!

Staff members in A-212 have been selected as the friendliest office for the fall semester. Pictured are (from left to right): Angel Hernandez, Eduardo Cervantes, Brenda Hohnstein, Donna Siloti, Patricia Godinez, Dianne Hurtado, and Lacy Hedenberg.

Long-term faculty member Beverly Pirtle passed away from complications of cancer on September 25. Bev served as chair of the career education department and also chaired the Curriculum and Instruction Council. She was active in accreditation activities, including the initial report that led to SCC's independent accreditation in 2000.

Bev began working at the district’s Garden Grove campus in 1988 as a part-time instructor of travel and tourism, following a 20-year career as a flight attendant for TWA. She arrived at the Orange campus (as SCC was formerly known) in 1992 and continued teaching while serving as a contract education specialist. She became a full-time faculty member and department chair in 1997.

During her first decade at SCC, Bev weathered many changes as the college grew. Throughout her tenure, she kept her trademark sense of humor and honest, straight-forward manner of working with students and colleagues.

Even before Bev’s 20 years of service, the Pirtle family had a long history with the district. Bev attended SAC and her father, Arlin Pirtle, taught golf and automotive classes there for 31 years, from 1949–1980.

Contributed by Alice Ho, librarian

In February, SCC’s website will receive a makeover to correspond with migration to the new content management platform, Microsoft SharePoint. The new platform provides enhanced security features, the ability to create RSS feeds and a full-screen edit box that will make it easier to update web pages.

Since October, Web Task Force members, led by Don Busché and ITS staff member Anh Dinh, have been planning for the migration and look of the new home page. The task force is comprised of faculty, administrators, classified staff and a student representative. The new home page, created by Graphic Designer Eric Harsen and Anh Dinh, includes a streamlined layout for easy navigation as well as success stories to add human interest and highlight SCC programs.

The design is compliant with the Web Content Accessibilities Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0.

Contents for internal pages will be migrated to the new SharePoint templates in late December. In January, the task force will review converted content and identify any discrepancies. The migrated website is scheduled to go live during Flex Week (February 2–6). Three hands-on training sessions for web authors to learn new editing tools will be provided during Flex Week by Don Busché. For employees who are on campus in January and would like to receive training on the new website/editing tools, sessions will be held on Wednesday, January 28 from 9:00–11:00 a.m. and Thursday, January 29 from 1:00–3:00 p.m. To sign up for a training session, please contact Don at busche_don@sccollege.edu.

In Memoriam

And the Winner is…
Smoke-Free Campus is Coming

Beginning in March 2009, the SCC campus will become a smoke-free zone. Smoking will be allowed only in designated parking lots (1–6). As a first step toward informing students about the change, an announcement and updated college map were included in the spring 2009 class schedule. During the first four weeks of the spring semester, an educational campaign will be conducted to notify the entire campus community.

The change to the college smoking policy comes as a result of resolutions favoring a smoke-free campus that were passed in spring 2008 by the Academic Senate, Associated Student Government, and President's Classified Hawks Advisory Group. At the request of President Vázquez, a Smoke-Free Task Force made up of faculty, classified staff, administrators, and students has met regularly to plan for implementation of the policy during the spring semester.

Kudos and News Briefs

SCC cosmetology contract provider Hair California Beauty Academy participates in the First Presbyterian Church of Orange's “Holiday Hope” event. Students help the homeless by cutting hair, serving food and donating gently used clothing during the holidays.

A research article by Assistant Professor of Life Sciences Dr. Denise Foley (with co-author/research collaborator A. Prakash) was cited as part of a new rule put forward by the Food and Drug Administration, contained in an issue of the Federal Register. This U.S. government newspaper is printed daily and includes updated rules, proposed rules and notices. Denise's article about improving the safety and shelf life of food originally appeared in Irradiation of Food and Packaging—Recent Developments, a publication of the American Chemical Society.

Art Department Chair Moira Hahn has had a busy year. Her work has been included in several major group exhibitions, including shows at the Laguna Art Museum, Santa Monica College, and Comic-Con International in San Diego. She was a guest of honor at the Furcon (anthropomorphic art) convention in San Jose, and is preparing for five (solo, two and three artist) shows coming up on the West Coast in 2009. They include the Koplin Del Rio Gallery in Culver City during the month of January, the Pacific Asia Museum in Pasadena in February, and at The Shooting Gallery in San Francisco in September.

During the fall semester, Nooshan Shekarabi, assistant professor of political science, founded the first political science club for students. She serves as the co-advisor along with Assistant Professor of Philosophy Dr. John Hernandez.

In addition to workshops, during the fall semester 100 students participated in the November 15 SLI Leadership Day conference. Starting in the spring of 2009, SLI will partner with the career center to offer students help with writing well-polished résumés, learning effective interview skills, and understanding what employers and businesses are looking for when they are hiring.

If you are interested in learning more about the Student Leadership Institute or becoming a workshop facilitator, please contact the office of student life and leadership at extension 4917.

Institute Builds Leadership Skills

Contributed by Justin Lee, student activities specialist

In only its third year of existence at SCC, the Student Leadership Institute (SLI) has continued to grow and appeal to students. One of the main reasons is the involvement of faculty and staff who teach the workshops designed to enhance student leadership awareness and skills. Topics include introduction to leadership, communication styles, teamwork and collaboration, ethical decision making, public speaking, and more.

Faculty, staff, and administrators who teach in the program include: Yuri Betancourt, Song Le Graham, Dr. Melissa Campitelli-Smith, Justin Lee, K.J. Saterfield, Robert Waldren, Robert Olmos, Marcelo Pimentel, Narges Rabii, Nooshan Shekarabi, Jose Plaza, Loretta Jordan, Michael DeCarbo, and Dr. John Hernandez.

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Dr. Melinda Womack, professor and chair of the communication department, has published the third edition of her public speaking text, Communicate with Me! Public Communication as Enlarged Conversation.