



Academic Accolades and Achievements

Las Positas College

MAY 2008

Vol. II, Issue 1

Division of Arts & Communication (A&C)

Dr. Philip Manwell, Dean

The Arts and Communication Division had a busy and exciting Fall and Spring:

- **The Performing Arts** area presented its Fall play – *The Diviners* – and Spring musical – *Iron Curtain* - to sell-out crowds as well as a wide variety of instrumental, vocal, and choral concerts, dance performances, and student directed one-act plays. In May, the college orchestra and concert band will offer the first of a series of LPC performances at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore. The Performing Arts students and faculty are once again supporting the **LPC Foundation’s Gala fundraiser through the “Best of the Best”** - an evening of excerpts from its many outstanding performances. The Summer play – Chekhov’s *The Cherry Orchard* – promises to delight audiences in outdoor performances.
- The Division was pleased to support the **Early Music Concert Series**, an outstanding three concert series of professional performances in an intimate and acoustically fine setting – the college Library.



The Fine Arts program (Art, Photography, Visual Communications and Interior Design) will present its 30th annual **Festival of the Arts** on campus and in a record number of venues in the community during the month of May – the

Livermore Library, the Alameda County ASPCA, Pleasanton’s Worthington Gallery, and the Bankhead Theater Gallery.

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Division of Business, Computers, & Applied Technology (BCAT)

Ms. Birgitte Ryslinge, Dean

Computer Network Technology is happy to report excellent job placement for past and current students. It seems that most, if not all, of the unemployed students have found work in their field of study (Computer Technology). A few others have scheduled promising interviews. Others have jobs waiting upon completion of their A+ certification. We credit the sustained efforts from our Career Center and our dynamic responsive CTE programs. Thanks to all of you for the motivation and ancillary skills you provide to our students.

Welding students have completed a new telescope support for the astronomy department and are working on a number of projects to support the Winery and Viticulture Program. Look in the MD Building for Art Welding students’ projects during the month of May. Welding students went on a field trip to sculptor Bruce Beasley’s studio in Oakland to tour his facility and to see the sculpture he was commissioned to build for the Beijing Olympics.

The Welding department is also gearing up for **Women in Technology Day**, May 21, to showcase welding as a potential job path for women to follow. The Welding Club will participate in the Rowell Ranch Rodeo Chili Cookoff on May 9th!



Instructor Scott Miner is now a member of the Arts Education Subcommittee as part of his duties as District 4 Alameda County Arts Commissioner; he also served on the 2008 ArtsFund Grant Selection Subcommittee as well. Scott will be attending the Great Teachers Seminar later this summer.

The LaPTechS Program has had a successful year taking on the responsibility of managing the LPC Absence Line. One of

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A&C, continued ...

Likewise, the Library and the 2400 building will be filled with wonderful student work. This year, pieces created by the **Art Welding Program** will be displayed. The Fine Arts were represented at this year's Foundation Gala, as well. Work by our talented QUEST art students will be displayed during the reception in the new Multidisciplinary Classroom Building.

- **The Visual Communications Program** continues to do amazing work designing "new looks" for an increasing number of small, non-profit businesses in the community and, just recently, was asked to design much of the visual presentation for the new Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (Bankhead Theater) in downtown Livermore and helped to create a whole new image for the Presbyterian Church in Pleasanton.
- **The VCOM Program**, as well as the **Integrated Learning Center**, was recognized this year with national awards for excellence.
- **The Mass Communications/Journalism Program** has really expanded its offerings and its visibility. *The Express* continues to publish a weekly college newspaper and Radio LPC continues to broaden and expand its streamed broadcasts – including replays of significant events held on our campus. The process of obtaining an **FM license** remains in progress and preliminary discussions are underway for the possible introduction of Television classes. New this year was the premiere edition of our **new magazine – Naked**.
- **The Speech and Forensics Program** will conclude its incredible award-winning season with a wonderful evening performance in May. This culminates a season of outstanding awards at numerous competitions including Gold Medals at the National Competition in Chicago. All this with brand new students!!!
- **The LPC ESL Program** – once again – hosted the Northern California CATESOL Conference in November. Jonathan Brickman chaired the event that brought several hundred ESL educators from all over Northern California to our campus. This year's keynoter was Michael Krasny.
- **The Foreign Language Department** is planning two travel study opportunities for our students – one to Spain and one to Italy for summer, 08. What an incredible opportunity for our students to put their language skills to work.
- The Division has **welcomed new full-time faculty members** Tina Inzerilla, Catherine Suarez, Justin Garoupa, and Janell Hampton (sabbatical replacement).

The A&C Division continues to **forge significant partnerships** with a number of community arts organizations – Shakespeare's Associates, The Livermore Opera, and the California Independent Film Festival, as well as on-going relationships with the Livermore and Pleasanton Public Libraries.



BCAT, continued ...

our mentors, **Punam Singh**, created an absence line database using MySQL; LaPTechS students then log absences onto this database and post class cancellations. This change means that LaPTechS post absences on classroom doors, and enables students to check the LPC website for class changes before they make the trip to the college.

Additionally, LaPTechS developed and implemented a **Mentor Training Program** for students. Anyone interested needed to submit a resume and be interviewed; a total of 8 students have participated. The goal of the program is to provide students with leadership, communication, diversity and job-seeking skills, and provide them with a hands-on culminating project to practice these skills. Everyone who completes the program receives a \$500 stipend, and the opportunity to obtain an internship position. This program has been very well received by students.

LaPTechS is currently working on building a database that will connect to the new **Entrepreneurial Business Center website**. The purpose of this project is to enable the Las Positas Business Department and Tri-Valley businesses to communicate with each other and plan economic development projects. The LaPTechS, **Student Computer Repair business** continues to grow and flourish. During this semester we repaired close to 100 computers!! While expanding their technical skills, students are gaining the customer service attributes valued by employers.



College Foundation Semester Program (CFS)... As a means of ensuring that students fully participate in the planning and implementation of LPC programs, CFS started an Internship Program. Two students were hired to help plan CFS events, maintain contact with fellow students once they leave the learning community, and recruit incoming high school students. Peer-to-peer communication is essential to the success of the CFS program, and student interns ensure the inclusion of this component. It is the intention of the program to expand the number of student interns and enable them to earn units for their participation.

Business Club - This academic year saw a revitalization of the Business Club. Many activities and accomplishments were ...

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Division of Social Sciences & Wellness (SS&W)

Ms. Marge Maloney, Interim Dean



Dean Marge Maloney Retires – Dean Maloney served at Chabot College for 9 years, and in the Fall of 2008 transferred to LPC as Interim Dean of SS&W. A retirement reception was held for her on May 15th. Enjoy your retirement Marge!

The Social Sciences and Wellness Division would like to congratulate **Ernie Jones** for receiving the Distinguished Teaching Award from the Academic Senate this year, and **John Ruys** for his selection as Teacher of the Year by a vote from the student body.

The Division is pleased to announce that the names of two **new full-time faculty members**, one in Health and one in Psychology, have been submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval.

The Anthropology program, under the able leadership of **Lauren Hasten**, has acquired a sizeable collection of fossils and artifacts to be used in the new Forensic Anthropology and Physical Anthropology courses that were added to the curriculum recently. These materials will greatly enhance the educational experience of students enrolled in Anthropology courses.

Early Childhood Development has developed a new Early Intervention Assistant Degree and Certificate Program to prepare teachers, instructional aides, and child care workers for working with children with special needs. The new program was approved by the Regional Occupational Deans on May 15 and, after acceptance by the Board of Trustees, will be forwarded to the State Chancellor's Office for final approval.

At the Las Positas College recognition ceremony on May 7, **Jackie Fitzgerald**, Coordinator of the Early Childhood Development program was honored for 10 years of full-time service to the College. Jackie served many years as an adjunct before becoming full-time. She has been instrumental in shaping and developing Early Childhood Development into the outstanding program that it is today. Thank you, Jackie!

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Division of Math, Science, Engineering & Public Safety (MSEPS)

Dr. Neal Ely, Dean

This April, the science and engineering faculty from the MSEPS Division hosted a **Science and Engineering Open House** for about 18 teachers from the following high schools: Livermore, Granada, Amador, West High School (Tracy), Valley Christian, and California. These teachers represent the areas of biology, chemistry, anatomy, physiology, earth science, physics, agriculture, integrated science, physical science, zoology, and health. In the words of our faculty hosts, "the event was a resounding success and FABULOUS, which included the excellent turnout."

The Open House had many activities packed into an early evening time frame, and included: Welcome and introductions, laboratory demonstrations (including microscopes, models, STAR, fast plants, spectrometers, flaming gummy bears (!!!), fuel cells, emission spectra, telescopes; laboratory, prep room, and student work area tours; walk-through a Physiology lab in progress; presentations on each of our departments; display of Allied Health program pathways; presentation from Barbara Morrissey from Counseling; dinner; informal conversations and Q&A for teachers; distribution of flyers, brochures, contact information for LPC faculty, LPC catalogs, class schedules, and LPC logo items; a raffle; and Foundation-sponsored honoraria.

Thank you to the Foundation for funding for this Open House and kudos to **Jill Carbone** for pulling this event together and to the many science and engineering faculty and staff who participated.

This Spring, the Division was busy **hiring three new tenure track faculty in Math**, and a **new tenure track faculty in Biology** who will focus on Anatomy and Physiology. **This Fall**, in the Math Department, we will be welcoming Ashley McHale (one of our adjuncts), Howard Blumenfeld, and Ruchira Majumdar. All hires are pending final approval by the Board of Trustees.

In other highlights, our **Allied Health programs** continue to develop and grow. The curriculum for our Surgical Technology program has been written and approved here and will be going off to Sacramento for approval by State the Chancellor's Office.



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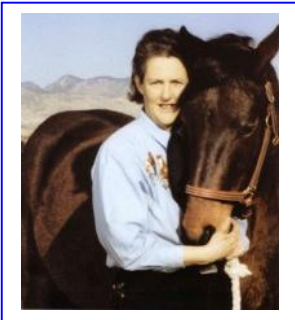


SS&W continued ...

History instructor, **TeriAnn Bengiveno**, organized a very successful program on the history of "Italian Farming in the Central Valley." There were 92 participants from the campus and community for this one day event which was held April 19th. The cities of Stockton, Modesto, Madera and Fresno presented panel discussions on the impact of Italian farming in their communities. The event concluded with a reception in the Multi Disciplinary Building for the panelists and the participants.

The Psychology Department held their annual awards ceremony on May 1, 2008. Five students were awarded "Outstanding Achievement in Psychology" scholarships, and four others received Psi Beta National Honor Society chapter awards.

As part of the annual "**Brain Awareness Week**", the Psychology department organized speaking events for the campus and community. **Dr. Temple Grandin** spoke to 750 students and community members on March 13, 2008.



Dr. Grandin is noted as the most accomplished and well-known adult with autism in the world. She is known world-wide for her work on the design of livestock handling facilities and is the best-selling author of several books

and producer of videos.

Mr. Kim Peek, the inspiration for the movie "Rain Man," was on campus the week of April 21 and met with students, staff and community members. He took a tour of campus meeting various staff members. One staff member commented that he took the time to learn her name and then touched her arm, looked into her face and said "I want you to remember every day what a valuable part of this institution you are." She said it was an awesome moment!

Quest News - The City of Pleasanton awarded the Quest program a **Certificate of Appreciation** for "Outstanding Service in 2007" at its ceremony on April 10, 2008 held at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Many thanks go to the dedicated Quest instructors and program assistant, **Gail Ehrhorn**, for their contributions to the Las Positas College Quest program.

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MSEPS, continued ...

Finally, the culmination of a lot of dreams and sweat were realized on May 12 when the College hosted a **dedication ceremony for our three acre Campus Hill Vineyard** located at the new entrance to the campus. The new vines, which encompass well over a dozen different varietals, should start to produce a useable crop in two to three more years.

Meanwhile, our first ever **Las Positas College Cellars Wine** will be bottled (but not made available for sale, sorry). This is a 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon made from grapes generously donated to the program by Concannon Vineyards from their estate, and produced by our VWT students under the guidance of David Everett, our instructor.

Being cognizant of the fiscally constrained environment we're in, we applied for, and successfully received **three Allied Health-related grants** this Spring to support that program.

First, there is an **Industry Driven Regional Collaborative (IDRC) grant** which we've partnered with Skyline College on and for which they are the lead. The focus on this grant is Surgical Technology. This is a two year grant beginning July 1 and going thru August 31, 2010. The total for this grant is about \$650K, and we get about \$160K directly. The bulk of the money allocated to us is to hire a full time Surgical Technology Faculty/Coordinator next Fall, with the person starting in January 2009. Of equal importance, this allows us to begin offering our Surgical Technology program starting in the summer of 2009 as we have advertised to the community. Skyline is funded under this grant to, among other things, provide help and support to us to get our program established and going. ValleyCare is our main industry partner with this.

Secondly, Las Positas College was awarded, directly, a **Job Development Incentive Training (JDIF) Fund grant**. This is a two-year grant for about \$580K total to provide workforce development opportunities related to the Allied Health areas we've begun to develop under our SB 70 grant. These areas include Surgical Technology and Administrative Medical Assistants. The focus of the JDIF is to train incumbent workers, welfare recipients/working poor, CalWorks folks and so forth. The goal is to address the shortage of allied health workers in the area while creating opportunities for entry-level placements and career progression for incumbent workers. Our main partners are again ValleyCare, but joining the "team" are the Tri-Valley Business Council, the Palo Alto Medical Group, Kaiser, and the ROP (Regional Occupational Program) among others. We will also be working with the WIB (Workforce Investment Board) and the One Stop.

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SS&W, Continued ...

Physical Education/Athletics - Congratulations to the **Women's and Men's Intercollegiate basketball teams** for making the playoffs this season! Coach **Tony Costello** led the Men's team to the playoffs for the first time. The new Women's Basketball Coach, **Tom Fletcher**, led the squad to the second round of the playoffs for the first time, as well.



Honors also go to the **Men's and Women's Cross Country Team** which was recognized by the State Athletic Conference for achieving the **highest Grade Point Average in the State** for the 2006-2007 academic year. Congratulations go to Coach and Athletic Director **Steve Navarro** for leading his team to both academic and athletic excellence.

The Academic Center for Excellence (ACE), a support center for student athletes founded by former Athletic Director, **Lisa Everett**, and supported by the **Las Positas Foundation**, completed its second semester of operation in Spring 2008. Student athletes had the opportunity to meet with **two new mentors** in the Center this semester: Gerry Shelley, former teacher, coach and administrator in the Pleasanton School District, and Robert Jenkins, former Los Angeles Raiders Player and Assistant Coach, have been available from 9:30 am-1:30 pm Monday through Thursday to advise athletes on how to achieve their academic goals.



MSEPS, Continued ...

Our third grant, which we share with Chabot, is an **allied health capacity building grant** from the State which focuses on facilities and equipment. This is a \$90+ thousand dollar grant that we received as a District for equipment, and LPC/MSEPS will get \$25K to buy equipment to help start up (and thus build capacity in) our Surgical Technology program.



BCAT, Continued ...

achieved this year including: 1) Election of new officers at the first meeting in the fall; 2) Sponsorship of a Resume Writing Workshop with about 20 attendees; 3) Participation in all Club Days; 4) Screening of "Trading Places" at lunch in the cafeteria with free cookies; 5) Conducting a fundraiser at Sweet Tomatoes restaurant in Pleasanton; 6) Volunteering as greeters and canteen workers at the Blood Drive on campus; 7) Participating in an on-line stock market game; and 8) Attendance at the Northern California FBLA conference at UC Berkeley.



Several future activities are in the planning stage, including a visit to a large corporation for a tour and talk about career opportunities, and a visit to either the U.S. Mint or Federal Reserve Bank in SF.

We bid a fond farewell to Dean Ryslingle as she leaves her position as Dean of BCAT Division to relocate to Oregon with her family. We wish you well Birgitte, and thank you heartily for your years of excellent service to the College!





Musings from the Vice President of Academic Services

Dr. J. Laurel Jones

Los Positas College has been working hard on many of the instructional initiatives inherent to a successful **Accreditation Self-Study**. Our Accreditation Steering Team will do the draft Self-Study review process over the summer so that our college campus can begin edits and collegial consultation in the fall.

Our SLO Committee has implemented both training and a template for development and evaluations for Student Learning Outcomes. The committee plans to deliver training in **program outcomes** next year.

The Program Review Process has been updated with completed goals and development of future goals and resource allocations. A **Program Review Database** will be developed over the summer for each Shared Governance Committee to consider information pertinent to the mission of the committee. This will close the loop regarding institutional planning and program review goals in both an efficient and meaningful way.

The Curriculum Committee has been working fast and furious this year. With the Title 5 changes mandated by the State, the committee has reviewed all of its low-unit certificates to meet the new standards. The campus has also reviewed its Liberal Arts degree for compliance with the new mandates for area of emphasis. At our last Curriculum meeting on May 14 it was noted that this wonderful group of faculty, staff and students had reviewed 208 course outlines, in addition to a great amount of work done for Title 5.

Our Basic Skills Initiative was completed by faculty and staff committed to the success of students. This group will be meeting in the summer to look at the pragmatic application of funds and responsibilities to the existing goals we have set for ourselves in the planning for under-prepared students.

The Tri-Valley Educational Collaborative held a conference for **Career Technical Partnerships** that brought together the college, the ROP (Regional Occupational Program) and all our feeder districts in a wonderful and informative session.

Our Staff Development Committee helped to fund over 50 conferences for staff this year. We also funded a superb "Teachers Teaching Teachers" series as well as funding faculty to attend the Great Teachers Conference this summer.

You can see by the wonderful things happening in each of the Divisions
we are working hard at meeting student needs.

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