Nothing Succeeds Likes Student Success

Spring term may only be half-way over, but this semester is already chock-full of student success stories worth celebrating. With academic accolades, distinguished debaters, brilliant business-minds, and meritorious mass communications, LPC students are demonstrating many avenues of achievement.

Following their statewide awards on the All-California Academic Team at the PTK Awards Luncheon, Takeo Hiraki and Christina Teslich attended the Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS) State Convention where they were further recognized for their academic accomplishments; fellow AGS member Dina Ra was also among the students honored at the annual event.

In keeping with their tradition of rising to the top, the LPC Forensics Team continues to rack up both individual and team awards. Several weeks ago they attended the California Community College Forensics Association's State Championship Tournament, where they won Second Place Sweepstakes in the Limited Entry Division — making them the number one Northern California team among the small and large school divisions. In addition to their team success, the Talk Hawks took home nine individual awards.

Recently the Business Club brought home a host of its own awards. The students attended the California PBL State Leadership Conference where they placed 17 times — including three first place finishes. On top of that, the nine-person team won the first annual “Sweepstakes Award” as the top competitor among all participating community colleges.

Several students in the Honors Transfer Program learned that they’ve been accepted to present their research next month at the Honors Symposium hosted by Stanford University. Nicole Naramura, a Health major working with Christina Teslich, will present "Facebook: Beyond Social Networking"; Ethan Aines and Mena Tajrishi will present a project they did last semester in which they recreated a nineteenth-century process that is a precursor of modern photography. Their proposals were among the 80 chosen from almost 200 submissions for the Symposium.

To round out the recognitions, the staff of the LPC Express earned 24 awards at the Journalism of Community Colleges State Convention. Julian Lim, Editor-in-Chief of both the Express and Naked Magazine, won an impressive eight individual awards; on behalf of his colleagues he also accepted the General Excellence Award — Editor-in-Chief of the student newspaper and magazine. A few weeks earlier, Julian and staff from the Express — Kellie Knezovich, Ryan Brisco, Lawrence Witkowski, and Andre Principe — participated in a Q&A segment on the Bay Area show "7live."

Congratulations to all of these outstanding students for their amazing accomplishments, and for bringing such shining stories of success to Las Positas College!

KUDOS: Student, Faculty & Staff Recognitions

- Rich Butler for being selected as the “What’s Right at LPC” recipient at the April Town Meeting
- The newly elected 2011-12 ASLPC Officers: Amir Salehzadeh, President; Jacob Eun Park, Vice President; Alaina Schofield, Director of Legislation; Breanna Krumins, Director of Communications; Sarah Harris, Director of Events; Christina Aboud, ICC Chair; and Daniel Nenni, Student Trustee
- Catherine Suarez and Dr. Teri Ann Bengiveno for their work coordinating LPC’s 3rd Annual Italian Film Festival
- Frankie Alexander, Sue Bustamante, Jason Craighead, Catherine Eagan, and Dana Richards for being nominated for the “What’s Right at LPC” award this month
Global/Social Responsibility

Clothesline Project’s Symbolic Shirts
After the highly successful “Sex Signals” educational performance last month, BAC-CHUS & GAMMA Health Club continued the efforts to bring awareness to issues around sexual assault by hosting The Clothesline Project at Las Positas College. The Clothesline Project, a program that has been “bearing witness to violence against women for 20 years,” began in Cape Cod and has been replicated all across the country. It is designed to provide “an opportunity of empowerment for survivors of sexual violence, a forum for advocacy against sexual violence, and a means to honor victims of sexual violence.” Over the course of its three days at LPC, members of the campus community made shirts to demonstrate their advocacy, share stories of survival, and acknowledge the issue’s impact on society.

Respect for Diversity

CCN Is At The “CORE” Of Equity Efforts
LPC’s Campus Change Network (CCN) is providing members of the campus community with an opportunity for professional development and capacity building. As part of its 2009 Annual Plan, CCN set out to “provide learning opportunities to increase individuals’ capacity to catalyze achievement of equity outcomes.” To achieve that goal, the group will sponsor a team to attend the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE). Then, upon their return, the attendees will design an activity, event or project that furthers the College’s goals in equity and diversity. In years past, members of CCN have attended and even presented at NCORE, which is widely recognized as the “leading and most comprehensive national forum on issues of race and ethnicity in higher education.”

Adapt to Change

Health Center Educates And Empowers To Keep Campus Smoke-Free
Recently the LPC Student Health and Wellness Center took time to educate the College community about pending legislation that could impact the health, wellness, and safety of those on campus. AB 795 proposes that California Community Colleges, the University of California, and the California State University be allowed to “adopt and enforce rules regulating tobacco sale and use on any of their respective campuses to mitigate exposure to secondhand smoke” on their respective campuses. The passage of this bill would further reinforce LPC’s “smoke-free campus” policy, which limits smoking to the parking lots, and expand the College and Health Center commitment to providing a safe and healthy environment for students, staff, faculty, and visitors to campus.

Make a Difference

Citius, Altius, Fortius...Jocundius: LPC’s First Annual Olympic Games
Las Positas College held its first annual Inter-Constituency Olympics last Friday, giving the athletes an opportunity to show off their sportsmanship and skills to compete “higher, stronger, faster,” and merrier. The event, designed to be a morale booster for the campus community and a fundraiser for a new program supporting transfer students, demonstrated school spirit, good will, fun, and a bit of healthy competition. Four teams — students, staff, faculty, and administrators — took part in contests that included dodgeball, geometry, charades, volleyball, hula hoops, tug-of-war, and Pictionary. Kudos to everyone who worked so hard to organize the festivities, and congratulations to the administrators for their gold-medal-winning victory!

Creative Thinking

Reception Rings In Arts Celebration
Marking its inaugural debut in the Mersey Center for the Arts (MCA), the Spring Arts Festival got underway with a gala reception on April 6. Now in its 33rd year, this annual celebration of student creativity features work from artists in Welding, Fine Arts, Photography, Interior Design, and Visual Communications. Exhibits will be on display through April 29 in the Center for the Arts, Multi-Disciplinary Building, and the Library. The awards will be presented to the winners at a reception in the MCA on April 28.

Lifelong Learning

LPC & LLNL Link For Last Lecture
After an incredibly successful season, the LLNL/LPC seminar series — ““Theory to Practice: How Science Gets Done” — came to a close with the fourth and final lecture earlier this month. Presented by LLNL Engineer John Chang, Ph.D., this last installment, entitled Trauma Diagnosis, focused on the ways “physicists, biologists, and engineers merge efforts to develop new medical devices.” Advancements in technology and partnerships among scientists have led to medical developments with wide-ranging impacts and broad possibilities for practical application. Similarly, the partnership between LPC and LLNL has been a fruitful one: the presenters have engaged and educated audiences and the College has had yet another opportunity to welcome the community to campus.