In the last few weeks Las Positas College has opened its doors for several exciting events, welcoming the community and colleagues to campus in the process. Our Forensics Team played host to its first tournament, the “Talk Hawk Invitational.” Approximately 100 students representing 12 colleges — including Chabot, Solano, Columbia, Diablo Valley, Modesto, Ohlone, and University of the Pacific — participated in the two-day competition. However, this debate contest found the home team enjoying a different kind of accomplishment: the Talks Hawks didn’t enter the tournament so they could assist their instructors and help ensure the success of the event.

On January 31, LPC once again was home to the Regional High School Science Bowl. Cheered on by their parents and teachers, students on 25 teams — representing 11 local high schools — competed in the day-long event, put on in conjunction with Sandia National Laboratories. Winners go on to compete in the National Science Bowl, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. This weekend, we’ll be treated to an encore when we host the Middle School Science Bowl.

Two weeks ago, the College had the honor of hosting an event for State Chancellor Jack Scott. The reception, co-sponsored by Chancellor Kinnamon and Assemblymember Mary Hayashi, afforded us an opportunity to welcome Chancellor Scott to our District, introduce him to many of the people and programs that make LPC a premier institution, and take him on a tour of our beautiful, growing campus.

All of these events were tremendously successful thanks to the hard work of faculty, staff, students, and administrators from all areas of the College. I believe that everyone is “meant to shine,” and that the same holds true for this institution; and each and every time Las Positas College shines bright, it is a direct result of the energy, passion, and dedication of the people who bring it to life.

DeRionne P. Pollard, Ph.D.
President
Global/Social Responsibility

**LPC To Explore Sustainability With Strategic Horizon Network**

Next week, a team of administrators, faculty, and staff from Las Positas College will participate in its second session with the Strategic Horizon Network to explore strategies related to sustainability. The Strategic Horizon Network (SHN), which the College joined in November, works to assist participating institutions “move beyond conventional approaches to management and leadership by committing to new ways of doing business in five areas: 1) analysis and creation of opportunity, 2) assessment and reporting of value, 3) enhancement of strategic management capability, 4) change design and management, and 5) leader development throughout the institution.

This colloquium will focus on managing tangible resources through sustainable efforts, and members of the LPC team will give a presentation about the “green” principles and practices adopted and embraced by our campus community. Other SHN institutions — including Rio Salado, Owens, and Northern Essex — will also present their best practices. Through dialogue, site visits, and panel discussions, participants will explore the environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainability and their impact on higher education and business.

Respect for Diversity

**Campus Change Network Unveils Spring Season of Speaker Series**

This Spring, the Campus Change Network (CCN) will provide Speaker Series attendees with a “rich and diverse palette of offerings for both campus and community engagement.” First up on February 19 will be Dust Storm, a one-man play — written by Rick Foster and starring Zachary Drake — about Japanese internment, told through the eyes of a Berkeley teenager. This special performance is co-sponsored by the LPC Foundation and English Department.

The lineup for the rest of the semester looks to be just as powerful and thought provoking as this first presentation. In honor of African American History Month, CCN hosts “An Evening with Ishmael Reed” later this month; to celebrate Women’s “HerStory” Month in March, we’ll welcome writer, teacher, and healer Vicki Noble to explore “Female Shamanism & Women’s Roles in the Healing Arts”; and in April, CCN will sponsor the College’s first Italian Film Festival, a week-long salute to the contributions of Italian art, film, and culture.

Adapt to Change

**Staff Development Has New Tool For Creativity & Communication**

Each month our Staff Development Committee reviews and approves faculty and staff proposals to attend various conferences providing opportunities for professional development. Typically, upon return from their respective conference, the attendee would submit a written summary as a way of documenting the experience and acquired knowledge that could be of benefit to the College. Now the Committee is employing an innovative software, Camtasia Studio, to capture the same information in what will hopefully prove to be a more useful, interactive, and dynamic method.

Camtasia Studio is a screen-capture video program that enables the user to record a presentation and include video and sound. This software gives the Committee another model by which it shares conference information, and would allow the College to better archive and access professional development resources to be used by other groups in the future.
Make a Difference

*Art Exhibit Shows A Lot Of “Heart”*

Through the end of this month, Las Positas College has the privilege of playing host to The Bay Area Heart Gallery exhibit. This very special display, located in the Multi-Disciplinary Building (2400), features photographs of young people living in foster care, as well as adoptive families and their children.

The Bay Area Heart Gallery, a collaboration of four public and private member agencies, aims to find permanent homes and lifelong relationships for children and youth in foster care. Its goals are threefold: 1) to educate the community about the needs for adoption and permanency of children and youth in foster care, 2) to recruit adoptive families for older children, youth, and sibling groups, and 3) to recruit adoptive and foster parents from throughout the Bay Area.

Thank you to Anne Loyola, Instructional Specialist for our Foster & Kinship Care Education and Independent Living Program, for bringing this unique exhibit to the campus community, and giving us an opportunity to see how The Bay Area Heart Gallery is making an astonishing difference for foster kids.

Creative Thinking

*Performing Arts Prepares For Another Stellar Season*

Spring has sprung at Las Positas College, and so has the new Performing Arts schedule for this term. The new season kicks off next month with One-Act Plays on March 4 and 6. Then on March 27, the curtain goes up on *Working* — the Spring Musical based on the book by Studs Terkel — which chronicles a day in the life of 26 average American workers.

Performances run Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays through April 19.

The day after *Working* celebrates opening night, our LPC Orchestra performs with the Livermore-Amador Symphony at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

*Buy Concert Series Tickets “Early” And Often.*

On February 28, the fourth year of the Early Music Concert Series begins with the sounds of Ciaramella, a 15th-century inspired wind band. For 2009, the Early Music focus is The Renaissance, and each performance begins with a pre-concert talk and ends with a reception featuring that night’s guest musicians.

Lifelong Learning

*Accreditation Process Is Anything But “Standard” for LPC*

Last week, Las Positas College closed out its final campus-wide review of the Accreditation Self-Study draft. This serves as a milestone in the nearly two-year process that has been marked by innovative and dedicated efforts on behalf of many members of the College community. Led by Vice President Jones, Faculty Accreditation Chair Maureen O’Herin, Self-Study Editor Mike Sato, “Document Czar” Jeff Sperry, Dr. Amber Machamer, and the 8 Standard Chairs, faculty, staff, and administrators addressed planning agendas, researched College and District policies and processes, and identified supporting evidence.

Using Wiki to manage information, the College was able to better organize documents, facilitate and increase access to materials, and streamline the method by which the campus community participated and gave input.

We have just learned that the Accreditation Site Visit team will be at LPC October 19-22, and we look forward to sharing our Self-Study draft with the Board of Trustees in advance of that visit.
Facilities Update

Central Utility Plant
Southland Industries mobilized and commenced work on the utility loop in April, 2008. The utility loop was completed August 29, 2008, 6 weeks ahead of schedule. The Design Build Contractor, Southland Industries, has finalized detailed design for the Central Plant. The project was submitted to DSA for access review in November 2008, to allow time for final review and comments from the M&O Team. DSA approval is expected by February 2009. Southland will remobilize and site-work will commence this week; construction of the Central Utility Plant structure will begin directly upon DSA approval.

Maintenance & Operations Facility
Presently the construction of Carports A & B is complete. Maintenance & Operations shops and storage facilities were relocated to the new site in early December, allowing construction to commence on the District-wide Information Technology Building. The M&O office building supplier has defaulted on their contract and their surety has taken over responsibility to deliver this building. The schedule to finish the M&O office building is under negotiation with the surety, Liberty Mutual/Guardian Group. The Shop Building rough in for electrical, plumbing, and HVAC are underway, as is the Mezzanine. Paving for the entire site is expected to be complete (weather permitting) by mid-February 2009.

P.E. Phase III (Outside Loop Road)
Document submittal to DSA for permit review took place September 29, 2008. DSA has issued comments on fire/life safety; structural and access comments have not yet been issued. Upon issuance of all comments the A/E team will respond and resubmit to DSA for final approval. Final approval is expected March 2009, based upon feedback from DSA. P.E. Phase III will be bid with three options, as the budget for the complete project as designed is inadequate.

Dedication Date
The final geotechnical report is in process. Upon issuance of all comments the A/E team will respond and resubmit to DSA for final approval. Final approval is expected by March 2009, based upon feedback from DSA. P.E. Phase III will be bid with three options, as the budget for the complete project as designed is inadequate.

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