As the academic year comes to a close, there is no shortage of opportunities to highlight all of the accomplishments that have occurred since last July. With an abundance of activities in May, it is hereby declared the “Month of Student Success” at Las Positas College!

Even with that grand title, May isn’t quite big enough to fit all of the festivities: some of the celebrations — such as the EOPS Awards and Festival of the Arts Awards & Gala Reception — find their way onto the calendar in April. Then, beginning with the End-of-the-Year Recognitions at the Board of Trustees meeting, the College kicks off the month-long showcase of student successes in academics, arts, athletics, and advocacy. At the Board Meeting, students shared their stories of triumph both inside and outside the classroom and talked about their own “LPC experience” — all told through students’ voices.

That annual salute to our students is followed by countless opportunities for the campus community to gather and show support for the many others who have excelled in almost every possible area of the institution: academic achievements, theatrical talents, scholar-athletes with accolades, literary honors, civic engagement, musical mastery, fabulous forensics, amazing artistry, access and inclusion initiatives, and the list goes on and on…

This festive season — to reflect on and rejoice in a year in the life of our students — culminates with faculty, staff, administrators, family members, and fellow students coming together for Commencement. The graduates, and their many successes, take center stage as they step forward to receive their degrees and certificates — showing the College community all of the ways they have and will continue to shine and make an astonishing difference in the next chapter of their own story.
Global/Social Responsibility

On The “Road” To Wellness...

Several weeks ago, Las Positas College kicked off the countdown to the summer season with an event focused on safe behaviors, smart decisions, and wellness. Sponsored by the Bacchus & Gamma Health Club and the Student Health & Wellness Center — and funded by a grant from the LPC Foundation — the “Road Trip to a Safe Summer Break” featured the Clothesline Project; Ending the Silence of Sexual Assault, the Livermore Police Department and M.A.D.D Car, Dermatologist Dr. Hank Fung’s “ABCDs of Skin Cancer and Prevention,” and a panel of the Health Center’s team talking about “Drugs, Alcohol, and How to Stay Safe.”

The aim of the event was to provide students with the tools and information to make “good decisions about not drinking and driving, using designated drivers, bring awareness to sexual assault, avoiding risky and dangerous situations, and staying safe in the sun.” Here’s to a safe Summer 2010!

Respect for Diversity

Poetry Prize For LPC Student

Pay a visit to the Library of Congress website, and you’ll find posted a poem written by Las Positas College student, Julia Stahl. Entered in the Community College Poetry Competition, Julia’s poem was selected as part of the “Poetry for the Mind’s Joy” anthology.

This project brings notable, national recognition to Julia’s literary talents and highlights the caliber of creativity present on community college campuses across the country. Below is an excerpt from Julia’s winning poem, “Gringa”:

Soy gringa
Sin historia, sin cultura, sin, um, identity
No hablo very good

Where are my roots?
My skin is white and my words are white
Though Mexico thrums in my veins

The full text of the poem is available online at: http://www.loc.gov/poetry/mindsjoy/winners/poem48.html.

Adapt to Change

Constituency Leaders Look To Continue Collaboration In New Academic Year

This year, constituency and governance groups collaborated and came to consensus on a wide array of topics — from Accreditation to the budget to “common ground.” They moved forward on a mutual agreement process, saw significant strides in strategic planning, and carved out a “common tool” to use in Program Review. With work on many issues and initiatives — such as the ACCJC Follow-Up Report and budget challenges — carrying over into 2010 - 11, these joint efforts will be more important than ever.

Kudos to ASLPC President Masi Quorayshi, Academic Senate President Sarah Thompson, and Classified Senate President Natasha Lang for their leadership — and congratulations to the newly elected officers who will look to continue their collaborative and communicative approach.
Make a Difference

*Presidential Advisory Council Wraps Up Second Year Of Service And Support*

After two years in existence, the LPC Presidential Advisory Council is still going strong and enjoying active participation from its members. The group consists of leaders representing local government, educational partners, Tri-Valley businesses, and the faith community; its charge involves providing input on a broad scale — sharing critical insights and perspectives as to emerging trends and needs within the Tri-Valley — that can be supported by the mission of the College.

At its two most recent meetings — including one last week on campus — the Advisory Council assessed its efforts and identified areas of success, as well as ways to further contribute to advancing the awareness and image of the College in the community. There are very clear and concrete examples of the positive impact of the Presidential Advisory Council: they developed the concept behind LPC’s Community Leadership Day and served as “ambassadors” at the event; and they had a significant role in the College’s strategic planning process and at Visioning Day.

Creative Thinking

*LPC Opens Its Doors To Host “Open Campus” Press Event*

Last week, Las Positas College welcomed to its campus elected officials, business and technology leaders, and community partners as Congressman John Garamendi unveiled a bill that would pave the way for establishing a technology transfer center between Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories. The “Livermore Valley Open Campus” would facilitate the transition and sharing of new technology between the public and private sectors.

The Congressman was joined in his support for the project by the leadership of LLNL and Sandia, officials from all three Tri-Valley cities, industry experts, and Chancellor Kinna-mon. All of the press conference speakers acknowledged the tremendous opportunity the Open Campus presents for the entire region — setting the stage for innovation not unlike the “dot-com” explosion in Silicon Valley — and the significant role that Las Positas College will play, as the project strengthens the Labs’ collaboration with higher education and creates jobs for an educated and skilled work force.

Lifelong Learning

*10-20-30 Celebrates Decades of Dedication*

On May 5, LPC paid tribute to long-time employees at the annual 10-20-30 Ceremony. This celebration provides the campus community with an opportunity to recognize faculty, staff, and administrators for their exceptional service to students and contributions to the College and District.

In addition, faculty and staff acknowledged their colleagues with the Outstanding Classified Award (Classified Senate) and the Outstanding Service Award Distinguished Teaching Award, and 10+1 Honors (Academic Senate); Dr. Pollard also selected this month’s recipient of the “What’s Right at LPC” Award and welcomed the District ITS staff to the campus.

Congratulations to the 10-20-30 honorees for 2009 - 2010:

10 Years: Saundra Ashburn, Cindy Balero, Toby Bielawski, Steve Gunderson, Terry Johnson, Jennifer Ortiz

20 Years: Alexandra Crosetti and Dianne Duffy

30 Years: Cindy Ahre
Central Utility Plant
The building has been completed, with the punch list 99% done. Training (for personnel) has also taken place. The building received substantial completion and was turned over to the campus in November 2009.

Maintenance & Operations Facility
Construction has been completed and the facility is now occupied by the M&O staff.

P.E. Phase III (Outside Loop Road)
Work on the underground and electrical utilities is continuing, along with the backfill of trenches. The building pad, curb, gutter, and fencing are being laid out.

Parking Lot H & Photovoltaic System
The parking lot was completed for the Fall 2008 semester and is in use. All of the shade structures and solar equipment has been completed and is now functional. The display monitor is available for viewing in the Multi-Disciplinary Building.

Student Services & Administration Building
60% design documents were submitted in March. This project is participating in the new DSA Collaborative Process. Submittal to DSA scheduled for July.

Multi-Disciplinary Building & PE Complex
Work on these projects has been completed.

Fire Alarm System Upgrade
This project is complete.

Campus Boulevard Phase I-III
Design has stopped to coordinate with the design concepts for the Student Services & Administration Building.

Science Building Phase II
Project submitted to DSA in May 2010. Work separated into two phases, Site work and the remainder of the building.

College Center for the Arts
The exterior siding, stucco, and windows are 100% complete. The interior of the building is 99% complete in segment “B,” which includes the facility offices and rehearsal rooms. The Black Box Theater and the Main Auditorium infrastructure elements are continuing to be the focus of the last push to complete the building interior. The seats are now in the Main Auditorium and the stage floor is being installed; the systems are in start-up mode and are being commissioned. The grass is now planted in the Amphitheater and will be maintained by the contractor for the next few months. The total project is 98% complete.

Child Development Center
Exterior plaster complete on all buildings. Installation of sheetrock continues in building B and has started in building C. Rough grading for the OLEs has begun.

Collier Creek
Storm Water Outfall
Storm Drain and Retaining wall installation is complete. Backfill at retaining is complete.

Aquatics Center & Soccer Field
The complex has been completed and is being used for classes.

District-wide Information Technology Building
The building is complete and received substantial completion in December 2009. Work on the punch list is 99% complete. IT staff have moved in to the new facility.

KUDOS: Student, Faculty & Staff Recognitions
- Fredda Cassidy, selected as the “What’s Right at LPC” recipient at the May Town Meeting in May
- The LPC Talk Hawks for being ranked third at the California Community College Forensics Association’s State Championship Tournament, receiving 7 “State Champion” award honors
- Chris Beamon, Arpi Nakashian, Justine Whitfield, Jim McGuirk, Scott Ault, and Kelly Tran for sharing their own “LPC story at the Board of Trustees’ End of the Year Recognitions
- Ted Kaye, Dana Richards, and the LPC Foundation Board of Directors for another successful gala showcasing the “Best of the Best” at Las Positas College and in the Tri-Valley
- Richard Dry and the “IT Team” — Steve Gunderson, Sherman Lindsey, Ethan Castor, Mike Furuyama, Andres DeLa Cruz, and Haywood Beaird — for being nominated for the “What’s Right at LPC” Award this month
- Layne Jensen, IT, M&O, Campus Safety, and the Library faculty and staff for their exceptional work arranging Congressman Garamendi’s press event