Just last month Las Positas College celebrated the dedication of the Barbara Franciso Mertes Center for the Arts, and already this beautiful new state-of-the-art facility is enriching the campus community. First, on October 22 and 23, the Theater Arts Department performed the Children’s Theater production *A Fractured Fairytale* in the Black Box Theater. The following week, the Orchestra took to the Main Stage Theater for its inaugural performance, featuring student solos on harp and on trumpet. Those exciting performances were followed by an all-day “Do It Yourself” Jazz Festival, an innovative event at which musicians could take part in impromptu jam sessions.

Then last week, as part of the College’s Veterans Day activities, the Main Stage Theater was the site of the Veterans First Program’s History Symposium on Pearl Harbor and the USS Arizona. This incredible event was presented to a standing-room-only crowd in the 500-seat Main Stage Theater, and provided the audience — made up of faculty, staff, administrators, hundreds of students, and community members from all walks of life — with a very unique opportunity. Those in attendance were able to hear first-hand from Louis A. Cotter, Lonnie D. Cook, and Clarendon Hetrick: former Navy servicemen, USS Arizona survivors, and remarkable American heroes.

This past weekend, the Main Stage Theater once again came to life with the Performing Arts Department’s Fall play, Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing*. Based on pre-sales, extra dates (Nov. 26, 27 & 28) have been added to the performance schedule. Then next month, on December 4, the Dance Department will take center stage for *The Grimm*, four fairytales choreographed by LPC students and faculty. In the weeks that follow, the Mertes Center for the Arts will be home to holiday concerts for the Choral group, Orchestra/Band Combo, Vocal Jazz & Combo, and Instrumental Jazz.

All of these activities represent just a sampling of the events taking place on campus, as well as the possibilities that lie ahead for this growing institution; they are also reflective of the role the College plays in the lives of students and the community — bringing people together to learn, create, and connect, and serving as the intellectual, cultural, and social center of the community.

**KUDOS: Student, Faculty & Staff Recognitions**

- Jadin Lee Forbes, Tessie Rabon, and Saundra Ashburn for being selected as the “What’s Right at LPC” recipients at the November Town Meeting
- Todd Steffan, Sylvia Rodriguez, Stuart McElderry, the Student Veterans Organization, and the IT team for their contributions to the History Symposium and Veterans Day events.
- The Student Services team and M&O for all of their hard work on the successful “Seniors Shifting Gears” event.
- The Academic Services team for their preparation for and coordination of the Accreditation Follow-Up Visit.
- Julie Thornburg & Andrea Alvarado, Teri Henson & Elena Cole, and Bill Chow for being nominated for the “What’s Right at LPC” award.
Global/Social Responsibility

’Tis The Season To Take Care Of Others

Many groups on campus are doing their part to support others during the upcoming holiday season. Last month, Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS) Honor Society held its annual “Keep Them Warm” Coat Drive, with donated items going to Shepherd’s Gate. Through December 10, AGS is conducting a holiday food drive to collect canned and boxed goods for those in need. That same day, CalWORKs will hold its annual Student Recognition Celebration. As part of the event, gift cards will be presented to the CalWORKs students and their families; as such, the Program is seeking donations to go toward helping these deserving members of the LPC campus community add a bit more enjoyment to a time of year that can often present challenges for those facing financial hardships.

Respect for Diversity

Education Goes International

In recognition of International Education Week (November 15 - 19), a joint initiative between the U.S. Departments of State and Education, Las Positas College will hold its 2nd Annual International Education Night on Thursday, November 18. Hosted by LPC’s International Student Program (ISP), the fun-filled night will feature international cuisine, cultural performances, and a student fashion show. International Education Week is geared toward promoting “programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences in the United States.”

Adapt to Change

LPC Alum Doing “Vine” In The Valley

Meredith Miles was one of the first students to enroll in the Viticulture and Winery Technology (VWT) Program at Las Positas College, and she is using the knowledge and expertise she gained in her chosen field. She has an AS Degree in Enology and works at Fenestra Winery as the Assistant Winemaker. Recently featured on the “Winemaker Wednesdays” segment of Livermore Patch, Meredith is a native of the Livermore Valley now making award-winning wines in her hometown area. She is an active alumna and remains connected to the College and VWT Program, taking on interns and giving tours to students. Meredith’s story is one of student success, and a shining example of how strong links between the institution, industry, and community can benefit students.

Make a Difference

Student Athletes Aim High & Score Big

Several of LPC’s athletics teams are hoping to have a post-season performance that’s on par with their regular season success. Going into their final conference game with a 15-4-1 record, the Women’s Soccer team is headed for the playoffs. This year the Lady Hawks have experienced victories both collectively and individually; Brenna Berry is the point leader (for goals and assists) among all players in the State! With an equally exciting season, the Men’s Cross-Country team has qualified for the State Finals. After some terrific times at the Nor-Cal Championships, the team will compete in the championship meet in Fresno on November 20.

Creative Thinking

Talk Hawks Still Soaring & Mass Communications Makes Its Mark

Following a great start to their season, the LPC Forensics Team continues to rise to the top. On November 5, the Talk Hawks took home 1st Place Community College Sweepstakes and earned seven individual honors at the Mustang Invitational Tournament held at Delta College. Similarly, the Mass Communications Program has seen its share of success. At the recent Associated Collegiate Press/College Media Advisers’ Annual Convention, student Brenda Cruz won Third Place Feature Story of the Year for her highly acclaimed piece, “Is Las Positas College ‘Lost Potential’?” Then, just days later at the 2010 Journalism Association of Community Colleges NorCal Conference, LPC earned 25 separate awards and recognitions. Kudos to all!

Lifelong Learning

Student Services Shifts Into High Gear

On November 3, LPC held its annual High School Senior & Parent Night: “Seniors Shifting Gears” in the P.E. Complex. More than 650 high school seniors and family members — the largest turnout in the history of this event — were in attendance to learn about Las Positas College and its outstanding academic programs and student support services. The evening began with attendees having an opportunity to visit info tables and speak directly with faculty and staff from different areas of the institution; the final portion of the program featured breakout groups focused on various disciplines and majors. “Shifting Gears” also included a session designed specifically for the Spanish-speaking community.