A Celebration of Contributions, College & Community...

Tuesday, October 12, 2010 was an historical day in the life of Las Positas College, for a multitude of reasons: more than 300 members of our internal and external community came out for our LPC Open House and the dedication ceremony for the Barbara Fracisco Mertes Center for the Arts. Attendees were able to enjoy tours of the campus, performances by our students, exhibits on the College's facilities modernization projects, walking tours of the Center for the Arts, an engaging Chevron presentation on the Solar Energy Project (photovoltaics) -- and, of course, to recognize Dr. Mertes for her contributions to Las Positas College, the District, and the community. As a testament to the significance of the occasion, guests included elected officials, emeritus employees, colleagues from the District Office and Chabot College, community members and supporters of the College, and a host of LPC students, faculty, staff, and administrators.

The Center for the Arts — with its 500-seat main theater, 175-seat black box theater, 1,500-seat amphitheater, classrooms, and practice and rehearsal rooms — is a world-class facility that will enhance the ability of our students to grow, learn, and practice their art; it will allow Las Positas College to serve the educational needs of young artists in facility that equals or surpasses the finest academic and professional theaters in the country.

Just as with anything that happens at the institution, many people played a role in the planning, preparation, and execution of the arrangements for the Open House and Dedication Ceremony. Without their individual and collective efforts, the College would not have been able to open its doors to the community in such a well-coordinated and welcoming way. They went above and beyond to make the event a special day for Dr. Mertes, Las Positas College, the District, and the Tri-Valley. We look forward to many more exciting events and performances in the beautiful Mertes Center for the Arts!

Guy F. Lease, Ed.D.
Interim President

KUDOS: Student, Faculty & Staff Recognitions

- The Surgical Technology Program team for being selected as the “What’s Right at LPC” recipients at the October Town Meeting
- IT, M&O, Student Senate, Performing Arts personnel, Campus Safety, the Facilities Team, the Administrative Team, the Business Office, the LPC Foundation, and the Public Information Office for their contributions to the LPC Open House & Mertes Center for the Arts Dedication Ceremony
- Nan Ho and Beth Vitalis for their work coordinating the LNL/LPC Science and Engineering Seminar Series: Biology as a Team Sport
- LPC’s Soccer Hawks on the Women’s (9-3-1) and Men’s (5-3-4) Teams for their season success to date
- Mary Lauffer, Philip Manwell, Schenealle Green and Bob Kratochvil, for being nominated for the “What’s Right at LPC” Award this month

Much Ado About Nothing
Nov. 12, 13, 19 & 20 at 8:00 PM
Nov. 14 & 21 at 2:00 PM
Mertes Center for the Arts
Global/Social Responsibility

**SLOs Focus On Respect & Responsibility**

This year, in order to highlight a particular theme, the Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) Committee is encouraging faculty to develop course-level outcomes related to the core competency of “Respect and Responsibility.” These efforts began with a Flex Day workshop on September 30, during which faculty explored how to assess the five parts of this core competency: self, others, professionalism, and community. In addition, they were given an opportunity to develop rubrics to be used in their own courses, or by others at the institution. This engaging session was followed by a Town Meeting presentation to the campus community. The SLO Committee is looking to create a College portfolio that would be placed online and contain such things as student work related to “Respect and Responsibility.”

Respect for Diversity

**Campus Community Heats Hero Speak**

Earlier this month, at an event co-sponsored by the Student Veterans Organization, ASLPC, Black Student Union, Campus Change Network (CCN), and the LPC History Department, the College welcomed a true hero to campus for a special speaking engagement. Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson, one of the Tuskegee Airmen, told his story to a packed audience of students, faculty, staff, and administrators. He shared his experiences as a WWII soldier and POW, as well as some insights on life. Lt. Col. Jefferson has been awarded a Purple Heart and a Congressional Gold Medal, and his book “Red Tail Captured, Red Tail Free: The Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airman and POW,” captures the experience of many military servicemen and women.

Adapt to Change

**District Brings Budget Update To Campus**

Several weeks ago at Town Meeting, Vice Chancellor Legaspi provided the campus community with a presentation on the 2010-11 Adoption Budget, as well as the latest budget developments from the State. Mr. Legaspi outlined some of the differences between the budgets for 09-10 and 10-11, including changes in projected revenues and expenditures, increases in expenses for benefits and premiums, the “squeeze” to budgets for supplies and services, and an FTES analysis. He then opened the floor for questions, giving faculty and staff an opportunity to have a fiscally-focused discussion about the College and District-wide budgets — and to continue the ongoing dialogue that has been occurring at DBSG and LPC’s governance meetings.

Make a Difference

**LPC Holds Events With “Major” Impact On Student Success & Opportunity**

This month, Las Positas College put on two events aimed at giving students a glimpse of the many opportunities available to them on campus and beyond. At Transfer Day, students were able to get information on more than 35 four-year colleges and universities. Then a week later, at the 12th Annual Major Exploration Faire, students had a chance to speak with faculty and industry professionals about majors, fields of study, and career opportunities — on top of that, they were offered a free lunch for participating in the event. These are just a few of the ways LPC continues to put students — and their success — first, by placing a priority on the role of teaching and learning at the institution.

Creative Thinking

**Forensics Flying High**

In their second tournament of the year, the LPC Talk Hawks soared over their competition by taking home the titles of First Place Community College Sweepstakes and Second Place Individual Events Sweepstakes. The Forensics Team earned these honors at the Santa Rosa Invitational, against a host of qualified opponents. And, if that wasn’t exciting enough, every Talk Hawk who competed brought home an individual award! Just weeks earlier at the Golden Gate Season Opener, facing a field of competitors from 28 other colleges and universities, the Talk Hawks won the Third Place Community College Sweepstakes trophy. Congratulations to all for a job well done, and “break-a-leg” best wishes as they set their sights on the next competition!

Lifelong Learning

**“Cell”-Out Crowd for Science Seminar**

On October 4, the debut of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)/Las Positas College Science and Engineering Series — Theory to Practice: How Science Gets Done — was viewed by a standing room only crowd in the 204-seat large lecture hall. Two LLNL scientists, Dr. Kris Kulp, Ph.D. and Kuang Jen Wu, engaged the audience with a presentation on “Biology As A Team Sport” and talked about how they came to their careers in science. In addition to the expertise of the speakers, the event showcased the intelligence of our students who asked some very thought-provoking questions. There are three more seminar sessions planned for the year, and the College looks forward to its continued partnership with LLNL.