Students Shine and Bring Home the Gold

Recently students in two of our programs have earned a host of awards as they participated in regional competitions and performed at the highest level. At the end of September, our internationally-recognized Forensics Team, the Talk Hawks, took part in their first tournament of the year. They walked away with First Place honors for the Community College Sweepstakes trophy and finished in Fourth Place behind Arizona State University, CSU Long Beach, and University of the Pacific. The Hawks also took home fourteen individual awards.

Just two weeks later Forensics was at it again, capturing First Place at the 2008 Santa Rosa Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament and topping every other school in the competition. Once again the Talk Hawks had a fantastic showing, winning seventeen awards in the twenty events they entered.

That same weekend, our Mass Communications students were busy winning twenty awards of their own at the NorCal Journalism Association of Community Colleges Convention held at San Jose State University. In addition to the many individual honors earned, the students’ collective work was recognized for General Excellence in two categories: Tabloid and Online.

Congratulations to all of the students for their accomplishments, and for demonstrating the academic excellence that Las Positas is known for. A special thank you is extended to their instructors for all of their work to prepare the teams and position them for such success.

KUDOS: Student, Faculty & Staff Recognitions

- Nancy Wright and Andrea Alvarado for leading the efforts to plan another successful Major Exploration Faire
- Dr. Neal Ely, Teri Donat, and Rita Carson for their work to organize and oversee plans for our first Allied Health Field Day.
- Nicole Huber, Cheryl Rothman, Martha Konrad, Dean Rodriguez, and Vice President Jones for their role in publishing another exciting and informative edition of our class schedule.
- Cindy Balero and Sean Day for the dedication, support, and enthusiasm they display in their work with our International Students Program.
- The Psychology Club for publishing their informative and well-designed newsletter, “Brain Break.”

Values Statement

Las Positas College thrives as a teaching and learning community committed to integrity and excellence. To nourish this environment and the communities served, we:

◊ promote and celebrate lifelong learning ◊ anticipate and meet the needs of the ever-changing workplace ◊
◊ demonstrate social and environmental responsibility ◊ promote tolerance and mutual respect in a diverse community ◊
◊ foster a climate of discovery and creativity ◊ hold firm to the belief that each of us makes an astonishing difference ◊
Global Responsibility

International Students Program Sees Continued Success
At the beginning of the semester, our staff in the International Students Program (ISP) held a three-day orientation for 41 new ISP students. These students, representing 24 different countries (Korea, Brazil, China, India, Vietnam, Australia, Ecuador, Ghana, Honduras, Hungary, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mali, Pakistan, the Philippines, Serbia, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom, and Venezuela), were welcomed by the administration — including Chancellor Kinnimon and President Pollard — and received outstanding support and guidance from the ISP staff and other representatives in Student Services. With a record number of international students enrolled at the College, ISP has seen a great deal of growth — due in no small part to the efforts of dedicated staff and collaboration with other programs, such as ESL. Each month, the ISP staff — Cindy Balero and Sean Day — publish a newsletter to keep the students well-informed of campus happenings, important deadlines and processes, and community events.

Accreditation Updates & Advances
The College continues to move forward with preparation for its Accreditation Site Visit next Fall. The four Standard teams have done an extraordinary job, and the drafts of each of their sections of the Self-Study was posted on our Accreditation “Wiki” site online for the campus community to review and submit comments. Following this next round of reviews, the Accreditation Steering Committee (Maureen O’Herin, Dr. Amber Machamer, and Vice President Jones) and Self-Study Editor, (Mike Sato) will examine the comments and begin work on the third draft of the document. This new and innovative approach has incorporated available technology to streamline the process and broaden opportunities for faculty and staff participation. As this work goes on, the administration is identifying the specific dates in October 2009 when the Accreditation Site Team will visit the campus.

Respect for Diversity

CCN Speaker Series Has People Talking — and Listening
On Friday, October 10, the Campus Change Network (CCN) hosted the second session of its Speaker Series. The event included a viewing of “For the Bible Tells Me So”, a documentary about the impact of religion upon the GLBT community, followed by a discussion led by film contributor Reverend Steven Kindle. The large audience was comprised of members of the external and internal community, and the group engaged in open and honest dialogue. Next month, the Speaker Series will focus on immigration policy and reform. On November 14, CCN presents “Underground AMERICA: Narratives of Undocumented Lives.” Peter Orner, Editor of Underground AMERICA, will lead the discussion and share the oral histories of men and women living without legal status in the United States.

Adapt to Change

Accreditation Updates & Advances
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Make a Difference

Allied Health Field Day
With nearly 200 students in attendance, our first-ever Allied Health Field Day was a resounding success. These young men and women, from high schools in Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin, received tours of various College facilities and learned about many of our programs, including Science, Health and Human Services, EMT, and Surgical Technology. The event was designed to introduce high school students to careers in the field of Allied Health, the certificates and transfer programs we offer, and the College itself. Feedback from the attendees, including teachers and counselors accompanying the students, was very positive. Congratulations to everyone who contributed to the success of the day, including faculty and staff who planned the event, Campus Safety, the Student Health Center, and our Student Ambassadors.

Creative Thinking

The Show Must Go On — Onstage and Online...
It seems wherever you look, students are putting on showstopping performances at Las Positas College. The Performing Arts Department will kick off the theater season with two on-campus presentations of Flashback!, its touring children’s theater show, on October 24 and 25. Throughout the month, the show goes on the road to schools in Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin. Then in November, the season continues with performances of Shakespeare in Hollywood in our Little Theater.
Meanwhile, our online performers with Radio Las Positas are taking their show worldwide. This semester, broadcasts have been heard by more than 1200 listeners from almost 40 countries, from Australia and Austria to Taiwan and the United Kingdom. Kudos to these creative Mass Communications students for bringing the Las Positas experience to the international community!

Lifelong Learning

10th Annual Major Faire is Another “Major” Success
Last Wednesday, the College held its Tenth Annual Major Exploration Faire. This year the Faire was appropriately themed, ‘Olympic Opportunities’. The event provided students with many such ‘Opportunities’, as they visit info booths, meet with faculty and professionals, and learn about different majors and career options. Representatives included instructors from many four-year institutions in the region, as well as staff from the fields of health care and public safety, to name a few. There was also a free barbeque lunch generously provided by the ASLPC for students in attendance. Nancy Wright, who coordinated the event along with her counseling colleague Andrea Alvarado, captured the spirit of the Faire when she said, “We want to broaden students’ horizons by helping them connect with a variety of people.” The level of participation and energy at the Major Faire was incredible, even topping the turn out at last year’s event.
Central Utility Plant
Finalization of the detailed design for the Central Utility Plant with the submittal for permit review is scheduled for the first week of November, 2008. The contractor completed the utility loop on August 29, 2008, 6 weeks ahead of schedule.

Maintenance & Operations Facility
The Maintenance & Operations Facility began construction on August, 2008. The site grading is complete. Presently the underground utilities and spread footings for the Carports A and B, Fuel Depot, and Shop building are underway. Upon completion of the milestone of finishing the partial hardscape in November, 2008, Carport A and temporary pad, the existing Maintenance & Operations shops and storage facilities will be relocated to the new site allowing construction to commence on the District-wide Information Technology Building.

P.E. Phase III (Outside Loop Road)
The user-group met with the Design Team to provide their comments on the 90% construction documents. Document submittal to DSA for permit review took place September 29, 2008. Permit approval is expected late October 2008. The project will be bid with three options to assure the project can proceed to construction within the available budget.

Solar PV System/Parking Lot H
The shade structures and solar panels, wiring, and components have been submitted to DSA; approval is pending. The parking lot was completed for use in the Fall Semester 2008. Shade structures and solar equipment are planned for installation in parking lots “E” are also part of this contract. The installations will be sequenced to allow at least one half of each parking lot to remain in use at all times during the shade structures and solar equipment installations will be sequenced to allow at least one half of each parking lot to remain in use at all times during the shade structures and solar equipment installations. Solar panels and related equipment, including shade structures for both parking lots “E” and “H” are scheduled for final completion by May 2009.

Student Services & Central Administration
This project was put on hold in the Schematic Design phase due to the difficulty gaining consensus around the configuration of the building. The project design will restart pending the selection of the design delivery method. Specifically Design Build or the traditional A/E design and construct. The delivery method decision and procurement planning is expected to begin in the coming months culminating in the selection of a Design/Build team or Architect to restart the design of the project.

Multi-Disciplinary & Physical Education Buildings
This project is complete. Rework of stucco system and areas of the roof is required, and will be performed by the contractor. Design of the remedial work is underway and will be issued to the contractor for completion by Summer 2009.