

# President's Report to the Governing Board May 15, 2007

## COLLEGE NOTEWORTHY NEWS

- **Enrollment Increases for Summer 2007**

The following is an analysis of the Summer 2007 enrollment compared with Summer 2006 enrollment as of the same day of registration.

|                     | <u>Summer 2007</u> | <u>Summer 2006</u> | <u>Difference</u> | <u>Percentage</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Date                | 05/10/2007         | 05/11/2006         |                   |                   |
| Students            | 890                | 765                | +125              | +16.3             |
| Continuing Students | 755                | 679                | +76               | +11.2             |
| Units               | 3,650.0            | 2,918.5            | +731.5            | +25.1             |

- **Economic and Workforce Development Program Grant Award**

The Regional Environmental Business Resource Assistance Center (REBRAC) was awarded \$205,000/year for 5 years, for a total of \$1,025,000, from the Economic Workforce Development Initiative at the State Chancellor's Office. Under the leadership of Vivian J. Bogue, REBRAC, will be expanding its efforts to include Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness Training, Renewable Energy Conservation Methods, GIS/GPS Spatial Technology Training and Environmental Health Safety Training in Spanish, to support the Community College System and Industries within Region X.

- **New Programs Receives State Approval**

A new Associate of Science degree and certificate of achievement have received state approval. The new degree and certificate program are in Business Data Management, bringing our total degree programs to 59, and our certificates of achievement to 66, respectively.

- **Grand Opening of Science and Technology Center**

On Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, Cuyamaca College officially opened the doors to its new \$25 million state-of-the-art Science and Technology Center, with a morning ribbon cutting and later that evening, drawing a standing-room-only audience for a community open house. Hundreds more high school teens toured the new facility on Friday in a joint effort between Cuyamaca College and the Grossmont Unified School District. Featuring wide-ranging activities, the formal Open House featured keynote speaker Dr. Risa Levitt Kohn, the Curator of the Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit at the San Diego Natural History Museum. Dr. Kohn's very popular topic was "The Science of the Dead Sea Scrolls." The most popular workshop of the evening was a Harry

Potter Potions session featuring the exciting world of chemistry, led by chemistry instructor Glenn Thurman, who came dressed in a wizard's costume. Mr. Thurman entertained the crowded audience with wonderful "magic" such as creating powdery snow and freezing a banana in a matter of moments until it became hard enough to hammer a nail into a board.

- **Parent Night Transfer Program**

During the grand opening of the Science and Technology Center, a parent information session was held for the parents of students who are going to be attending Cuyamaca College in the fall. Approximately 30 students and parents attended the information session which highlighted the many programs offered at Cuyamaca College. Instructors Cindy Morrin, Chuck Charter, Eric Preibisius, Kari Crawford, and Sandy Lyon participated in the event facilitated by Teresa McNeil, Interim Dean of Counseling & Matriculation.

- **"Starlights of the Southwest" Dinner Dance & Auction**

Over 320 people participated in the Cuyamaca College Foundation Annual Dinner Dance & Auction held Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at the San Diego Mission Valley Marriott. Maintaining the trend started over 5 years ago, the event once again broke another record by grossing over \$110,000!!! This year's event was notable not only because of amount of funds that were brought in, but it also marked two new initiatives. First is the publication of a Directory of Sponsors who support Cuyamaca College. This directly is the Foundation's effort to recognize, express appreciation to and encourage the public to support those companies that support Cuyamaca College. Secondly, the Dinner Dance introduced a very special location and effort on the part of Cuyamaca College – the Honor Court. The Honor Court was initially made possible by a very generous donation on behalf of George and Pat Anderson and will become the place at the college where Friends of Cuyamaca College will be honored.

We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's Dinner Dance and Auction when the College will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary! I am very happy to announce that the event will be held in the College's new Student Center.

- **Career Fair a Huge Success**

Cuyamaca College's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Fair was held May 1<sup>st</sup>. A record high 76 employers participated in this year's event. The Career Fair is an integral part of our students' educational experience at Cuyamaca College and allows students an opportunity to clarify their career goals and majors, as well as provide them a forum to meet directly with potential employers. In spite of the gloomy weather, the event provided approximately 500 students and community members a forum to connect and gather information on the current job market and opportunities available throughout the region.

- **Speech Team Finishes the Season with a Bang!**

The Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association held its annual Cool-Off Tournament at Palomar College. The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Team placed fifth in Community College Sweepstakes.

The following Cuyamaca College students brought home awards:

Vanessa Estrella - Finalist in Speech to Entertain

Jennifer Julius - 2nd place in Programmed Oral Interpretation, Finalist in Prose Interpretation

Brandon Sunderman - 2nd place in Speech to Entertain.

Also representing the team from Cuyamaca were Danielle Blind, Roudy St. Louis, Susan Terry, and Michael Thomas. Thanks go to our coaches for their hard work and dedication all semester - Nancy Jennings, Roxanne Tuscany, and Joel Castellaw.

- **Ornamental Horticulture Scholarship and Awards Banquet**

The 26<sup>th</sup> annual Ornamental Horticulture Scholarship and Awards Banquet was held on Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Handlery Hotel. Forty-eight scholarships totaling \$31,150 were awarded to 47 recipients. A record number of 150 individuals attended the event that also honored both Dr. Marsha Fralick, who has served as Ornamental Horticulture Counselor Liaison since the program's inception, and retiring adjunct instructor Don "Smitty" Smith.

- **Special Funded Programs Recognition Ceremony**

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, the Office of Special Funded Programs (including EOPS, CARE, DSP&S) held its annual Recognition Ceremony to honor the recipients of the many scholarships awarded by and through Cuyamaca College. Over \$42,000 in scholarships and book vouchers were awarded to 88 students. Congratulations to these student recipients and to the staff of Special Funded Programs for hosting such a wonderful event.

- **ESL Instructor Receives Award**

Congratulations to Alicia Muñoz, Instructor of English as a Second Language, for being awarded one of the "Grants for University Teachers" sponsored by Rotary International for Summer 2007. Alicia will be traveling to Uruguay during the summer to study how Portuguese and Spanish blend in the Brazil/Uruguay border region and compare it with the Mexico/USA border dynamics.

- **Engineering Faculty Participates in National Effort**

Dr. Duncan McGehee, Cuyamaca College Engineering faculty, is actively involved in a national effort called Project Lead the Way (PLTW), which endeavors to bring engineering education into high schools with the goal of informing young people about the fun and demands of engineering. Every summer, a 2-week intensive training session for high school teachers is held on the SDSU campus. Dr. McGehee serves as a high school teacher-trainer, helping to train teachers in digital electronics. For participating as a teacher-trainer, Dr. McGehee is sent to the Project Lead the Way Headquarters on the campus of the Rochester Institute of Technology once each spring, where he participates in workshops organizing, learning educational theory, and writing curriculum.

- **Cuyamaca College Connection 2007**

The College Connection, "Making College a Reality," a program reaching out to foster youth, was held on campus April 13<sup>th</sup>. Nearly forty foster youth participated in this event, which allowed them to experience a day in college. The students attended an orientation and were assisted by our Student Services staff in applying for admission and financial aid. Many of the foster youth will receive financial aid in the form of "Perri Dollars" to pay for their fees, supplies, and lunch. A panel of former foster youth who have succeeded in education also shared their experiences with the participants to help encourage them to pursue a college education.

- **ASGCC Elections**

Please join me in extending congratulations to Sam Farhan as the new President of the Associated Student Government of Cuyamaca College. Returning to the Executive Board is Trudie Hawley as the Executive Vice President; Chuck Taylor as the new Evening Vice President; and Almira Henson as the new ASGCC Executive Treasurer. In the post of Student Trustee, we welcome Audrey Causton to the Board of Trustees.

- **Cuyamaca Sports Update**

Tennis teams from Cuyamaca, Imperial Valley, San Diego City, San Diego Mesa and Southwestern College competed in the Pacific Coast Conference Championships held at Cuyamaca College on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Our Coyote Coach, Pam Farmer, served as the tournament director. The women's tennis team is currently tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> place this season with Southwestern College. The Coyote Men's Golf team has experienced recent victories over Orange Coast College and Riverside City College.

- **New Member of the Office of Instruction**

The Office of Instruction welcomes Christine Slagle as their new part-time Clerical Assistant, Senior. Ms. Slagle is a Cuyamaca College graduate who has worked in several departments here at the college including Counseling, Business Services and the Office of Instruction. Ms. Slagle will be performing a variety of complex and specialized duties including faculty hire letters, evaluations, and scheduling events and meetings.

- **Library Exhibit -- Mexican Cultural Heritage Day**

In conjunction with the Mexican Cultural Heritage celebration on May 10<sup>th</sup>, the Cuyamaca College library has various history, art, literature, biographies, culture, and other contemporary issues on Hispanic Americans books on display.

- **Auto Skills Day**

Nearly 100 students from eleven high schools from as far away as Ontario, CA, competed in the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Auto Skills Day on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. The event was hosted by the Automotive Technology Department at Cuyamaca College, and co-sponsored by the San Diego Chapter 24 of the Automotive Service Council. Coordinated by Mr. Jim Custeau, Coordinator of the Automotive Technology Department, students were challenged in both hands-on and written exams in a variety of automotive skill areas, such as electrical diagnosis, brakes, alignment and much, much more. Students were also given the opportunity to compete against each other as pit crew teams, being timed to see which team could dress and secure a driver and change the tires on an actual race car. The exciting event was supported by donations from a variety of corporate sponsors who supplied both money and products to help host the event and serve as prizes for students.

According to Mr. Mike Jordan, Automotive Instructor, Ramona High School, "our students who competed in the event will be going to Cuyamaca College. Many are already working in the Ford and GM dealerships affiliated with CC. Two of the three students who competed in the advanced competition will be attending the ASEP (GM) program. We are very thankful for the great relationship we have with Cuyamaca College. The faculty there has always helped us out in many, many ways - in technical assistance, high-tech equipment expertise and even allowing us to borrowed equipment. Also, we go to competitive events all over the nation and unless you finish in the top 3, you go home with nothing. But Cuyamaca College always has great prizes for everyone who attends. Cuyamaca College always comes up with the best prizes. Our students look forward to coming every year."

- **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the EconEd Foundation of San Diego**

The EconEd Foundation of San Diego celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Friday, April 20. The Foundation was originally established to help persuade individual school boards to require education in economics at the high school level. In 2006, the EconEd Foundation partnered with Cuyamaca College and together became the San Diego Center for Economic Education.

The San Diego Center for Economic Education, is currently affiliated with the California Council on Economic Education (CCEE) and the National Council on Economic Education (NCEE), and serves as the premier provider of economic programs for K-12 schools in San Diego County and surrounding areas. Congratulations to Tony Zambelli, who heads the Center for Economic Education and also serves on the Board of the EconEd Foundation.

## **COLLEGE UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Transfer Achievement Celebration**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Transfer Achievement Celebration will be held on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Student Services One-Stop Center. This event, beginning at 5:30 p.m. will celebrate the achievements of students who have been accepted by 4-year colleges or universities.

- **Spring Garden Festival**

Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> is the date for the very popular 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Garden Festival. An event that started as an open house for the Horticulture Program is now produced in conjunction with the Water Conservation Garden and the Heritage of Americans Museum, and has grown to be one of the largest events on campus, attracting nearly 6,000 people to the college campus! Each year more college programs and departments become involved in the event, including Child Development, American Sign Language, ASCC, Counseling and the High School and Community Relations Outreach program. The event provides an opportunity to recruit new students, showcase a part of what we do to the community, and to generally allow the community another reason to enjoy the beautiful campus of Cuyamaca College. All college departments are invited to take part in the Spring Garden Festival and showcase their department by having their own information table at the event. We look forward to seeing you at this event as well!

- **Financial Aid Department Open House**

The Financial Aid Department will host an open house on Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., and 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. This is an opportunity to meet and thank our colleagues in the Financial Aid Department, find out what they do and how they do it, and how we can all collaboratively contribute to the success of the students at Cuyamaca College.

- **Commencement**

Cuyamaca College's 29<sup>th</sup> annual commencement ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup> beginning at 5:30. It will be held on the upper athletic field. Approximately 486 students will be receiving their Associates degrees or Certificates. I hope everyone will be able to attend this very important celebration.

- **Grossmont-Cuyamaca District Forensics Team's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Speech Night**

On Wednesday, May 16, from 7:00-9:00 p.m., the GCCCD Forensics Teams will each perform their favorite events from this past season at the Heritage of the Americas Museum. You will hear speeches (impromptu and humorous) as well as short programs of literature (including prose and poetry). The performances will be entertaining, thought provoking and inspiring. I hope you will be able to come and enjoy the award-winning talents of our Forensics Teams.