More than 1,000 students receiving their associate degrees were hailed for persevering through many hours of rigorous study, as they donned graduation regalia under bright skies during Rio Hondo’s 46th annual Commencement.

The familiar strains of Elgar’s Pomp and Circumstance greeted the class of 2009 as they entered Rio Hondo College’s Soccer Field to the capacity crowd of family and friends who were on hand to share in the celebration, held May 28th.

The beautiful day turned into an even more spectacular evening as friends and guests were greeted by Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., who introduced platform dignitaries and noted his pride at seeing so many students following their dreams. Faculty members and staff were recognized for their important roles in preparing the students for success. Board of Trustees President, André Quintero, congratulated students for their hard work and honored them for their dedication. RHC Vice President of Student Services Henry Gee then provided inspiring stories of four graduates who persevered to reach their goals: Edgar Cortes, Stephanie Heckel, Marcos Martinez and Carolina Ortiz were each hailed for moving past barriers and making education a priority to ensure their futures are bright.

In a poignant moment, valedictorian Mike Benitez gave a heartwarming speech and received rousing applause as he spoke of approaching life with passion and perseverance. Doyle Campbell, Assistant Los Angeles Sheriff (Retired) drew upon his past to provide sage advice for graduates. “What you learn will never be wasted,” he said, noting that life should be lived to the fullest, with lifelong learning, living, and loving as goals.

Finally, with anticipation in the air, each graduate’s name was announced and the audience cheered as each proudly walked across the stage, adjusting their academic tassels, and raising their diplomas in celebration of the achievement.

For many students, RHC is the first step on the path to four-year universities like USC, UCLA, UC Berkeley, or Cal State Long Beach. But that path can be clearer and smoother for students who work with the RHC Transfer Center.

Most four-year colleges and universities require applications from community college transfer students as much as one year in advance, a reality about which some may not be aware. For that reason, RHC’s Transfer Center is working overtime to ensure students are optimizing the services and benefits it provides. 

THE TRANSFER CENTER

- Offers counseling and expert advice to students on the application process for the college of his/her choice;
- Sets up University Representative Appointments on a regular basis, giving students the opportunity to meet with university officials where they can receive detailed information on their preferred schools;
- Leads Students to Four-Year Universities

While the evening wound down, the campus personnel, staff volunteers and custodial crews watched as their many hours of planning and execution made everything ‘just right’ for the big day.

Transfer Center Leads Students to Four-Year Universities

continued on page 2
Campbell never gave up on his hope to become healthy again. In fact, he was able to walk out of the hospital and eventually return back to work and stay healthy.

A humble person, he waited until the last minute to share his graduation news with his family and friends. He was overjoyed to see that they were all present to support him. Congratulations, Edgar! We are so proud of you.

Holds Transfer Workshops: providing detailed information on the process and what RHC students can expect from the university.

Takes students to tour and stay in several universities throughout the year, free of charge.

Rio Hondo College’s class of 2009 included many amazing graduates. These four stories illustrate the perseverance of Rio Hondo College students.

EDGAR CORTES has been described by those who know him best as an ´exemplary person who has no problem overcoming any obstacle that gets in the way of his goals.´ Graduating with a 3.5 grade-point average today, Edgar has worked hard to apply himself in pursing his interest in Information Systems. In fact, despite math being his least favorite subject, Edgar made it his goal to succeed and earned ´A´ grades in all his math classes.

STEPHANIE HEECKL is one determined young woman. In addition to overcoming a learning disability, she participated in more than eight theatrical performances since she’s been enrolled at Rio Hondo and the 89th liver transplant recipient at the University of California, Los Angeles. He shared with students about the worst night of his life - and how at one point, his illness left him thinking he might never walk out of the hospital. Campbell never gave up on his hope to become healthy again. In fact, he was able to walk out of the hospital and eventually return back to work and stay healthy.

CAROLINA ORTIZ came to this country less than five years ago in search of educational opportunities. She found them at Rio Hondo College. Graduating today, she has earned a 4.0 grade-point average, was a student in the Honors Program, overcame language barriers and has dedicated much of her time to helping others. While here, she tutored ESL students and even organized a lunch to honor military reservists before they deployed to Iraq. Carolina wants to continue her education and hopes to work toward earning a master’s degree in design and technical theatre. Congratulations, Carolina, we wish you the best.

Many students regularly use the Transfer Center. In fact, thousands of RHC students have transferred to colleges and universities across the country after meeting the necessary requirements, including all University of California campuses, all California State Universities, private colleges and many more.

For more information on RHC’s Transfer Center or to schedule an appointment with a counselor, call (562) 463-4619.

The Transfer Center HELPS YOU Connect!
Honors Graduates and Transfer Students Lauded At End-Of-Year Celebration

New in 2009 was a combined celebration among the College’s Student Support Programs to honor more than 300 graduating and transferring students. At this inaugural event, the college hosted an evening to remember celebrating students who have received either their associate degrees, certificates, and/or are transferring to four-year universities and who were also involved in Student Support Programs.

The evening included an awards ceremony that celebrated the success of these honored students, a delicious dinner and dancing for students and their families as well as RHC staff and faculty.

The event was co-sponsored by the following programs: CalWORKs, Disabled Students Program and Services (DSP&S), Extended Opportunity, Program and Services (EOP&S), the Honors Transfer Program, MESA, the Transfer Center, and the TRIO Program.

Facilities Update

 rio Hondo College has been engaged in a major modernization and facilities construction program. In early 2004, the administration developed a master plan to define the goals, budget and schedule of the improvements to be made. An environmental impact report and accompanying studies were prepared and approved by the Board of Trustees.

Later in 2004, the community expressed its support for the improvement program by voting overwhelmingly for Bond Measure ‘A’ to provide $245 million in facilities funds – money that is separate from the general fund and can only be used on construction-related expenses.

The District was also able to obtain approval for $100 million from the State, providing a total construction budget of $345 million.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

■ PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
One of the more popular projects was the construction of a bridge connecting Parking Lot A with the campus at the Applied Technology Building courtyard. Its completion improved mobility, allowing faculty and students to cross above Circle Drive in a safe manner.

■ SANTA FE SPRINGS REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER
Phase I and II of the Santa Fe Springs Regional Public Safety Training Center renovation have also been completed, providing an on-campus regional facility with state-of-the-art training opportunities for firefighting students.

■ OTHER
Other completed projects include a new maintenance building, replacement of building panels on a number of walls, new outdoor furniture, and remediation of the Applied Technology portable buildings.

CURRENT CONSTRUCTION

■ APPLIED TECHNOLOGY CENTER
The Applied Technology Center (ATC) is one of the larger projects still being modernized. The existing 40,000 square foot facility is being renovated and expanded to meet the curriculum requirements for training tomorrow’s automobile technicians. New equipment is being installed, including dynamometers, vertical lifts, welding and painting machinery, and engine performance diagnostic units.

The completed facility will also provide the ability to train students in alternative fuel technologies such as hybrids, electric, and future hydrogen-powered vehicles. Construction is proceeding in multiple phases so as not to interrupt the program’s course schedule.

Do you know?

■ 46 – number of years RHC has been serving the community
■ 55 – number of associate degree options available to students
■ 40 – number of certificates offered to students
■ 25 – number of NEW classes, degrees and certificate programs available in Fall 2009
■ $110,000 - dollar amount of scholarships awarded in 2008
■ 16 - number of intercollegiate sports programs
■ Roadrunner – the Official college mascot

Measure “A” Capital Improvements Program Schedule

continued on page 4
Three major projects are currently in the design phase: the new PE Building, the new Student Services and Union Complex and the rehabilitation of the entire Central Quad.

**Physical Education Building**

The Physical Education (PE) Building will replace the existing exercise facilities with a new 41,000 square-foot building that will include an area for weight training, team rooms, a new locker facility, and audio productions. The building features energy-efficient glazing, a green resource center with a complete media studio for broadcasting student video, teleconferencing lounge and faculty offices. It also features a multi-media reading labs and a rooftop garden on the second floor. Located on the former campus' signature structure.

**Central Quad Plaza**

The third project is the major rehabilitation of the entire Central Quad plaza and landscaping area. The current bridge connecting the upper and lower quads will be demolished and replaced by a series of stepping plazas connected with stairs, ramps and hush landscaping to provide a more open, access-friendly space connecting all of the central campus buildings. This project is being designed in close coordination with the new Student Services/Union complex and will result in a radically changed contemporary image for Rio Hondo College.

**Santa Fe Springs Regional Public Safety Training Center**

As part of the building program, off-campus facilities are being developed to bring the college to the neighboring communities.

One of these projects is the Santa Fe Springs Regional Public Safety Training Center. A firefighter training center jointly used by the college. City of Santa Fe Springs Fire Department, and other Southern California fire departments. The first two phases consisted of renovations to the existing administration classroom facilities.

Phase III is now underway to construct a series of training ‘pods’ including an oil drum, cracker tower, tank truck and a railroad tank car. Of special note is the Confined Space Training Facility to train rescue operations in underground tunnels, vaults and wells. Construction of Phase III began this month and will be completed for use by the fall semester.

**South Whittier Education Center**

In South Whittier, construction has begun on a three-classroom building on the site of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department facilities off Telegraph Road. The project, with funding identified in 2007, is a collaborative effort supported by Los Angeles County Supervisors Don Knabe, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, and several community organizations interested in increasing access to education for South Whittier residents.

This facility, which has been a priority of the Board and administration, will be used to offer a variety of teaching programs to the community, providing convenient and relevant RHC programs to local residents of all ages, as well as promoting an atmosphere of lifelong learning.

**El Monte Education Center**

Rio Hondo College is working with the city of El Monte to identify and procure a site that will be used as an educational center, making RHC courses more accessible to El Monte residents.

This project is also a priority for the Board and administration. Despite the current budget crisis being felt in California, which has unraveled a funding collaboration that had been established with the local city, the college continues to find creative options to develop a comprehensive program in El Monte.

In the meantime, until a new site has been identified, the College is holding classes at El Monte High School and in other available facilities in the area.

“...it is absolutely critical that we do everything possible to ensure students throughout our community are able to access Rio Hondo classes,” said RHC Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. “We have found creative ways to develop seamless instructional opportunities for El Monte residents. But ultimately we will develop an RHC-specific facility to promote stability and continuity.”
**Administration of Justice**

**Groundbreaking for Eagerly-Anticipated Building**

The College held a groundbreaking ceremony for its Administration of Justice (AOJ) Building in March. The new, 37,000 square-foot, three-story AOJ facility will include classroom and administrative space to house the Police Academy as well as classrooms for other programs within the Division of Public Safety and for general College use. This dramatic metal and glass building near the main entrance of the College will feature innovative and efficient designs and will also include physical activity spaces for the cadets.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Construction related to the Rio Hondo College Building Access and Excellence building program is underway!

During construction, the College will issue campus maps on a regular basis which show roads and areas temporarily closed, as well as updated tram routes/ stops. This campus map is for the period of August 22, 2009 through September 20, 2009. Please consider these changes when planning your route to the campus and your parking plans. Directional signs will be placed around the campus to ensure safe circulation. The Campus Tram will not be stopping at Lots H from February, 2009 through April, 2010. Updates can be obtained on the web at www.riohondocollege.info

**Building Codes**

Classroom numbers are abbreviated as follows:

A: Administration
AG: Art Gallery
AJ: Administration of Justice
B: Business
Campus Store/CWOMA: Student Activities/Community
C: Campus Center
Child Development Center
CP: Career and Technical Center
Central Plant
CT: Counseling/Support Services
C: Community Services/RH PMT/
CR: Creative Arts Center
D: Dining Room
Education Services
E: Engineering-
Foundation/Health Science
F: Fitness Center
Foundation/Science
G: Government
G: Black Box Theatre
H: Library
H: Child Development Center
H: Learning Resource Center
I: Music
J: Maintenance
K: Observatory
L: Information Parking Booth
M: Media
N: Math
O: Media
P: Physical Activity
Q: Student Activities/Community
R: Science/Media
S: Student Activities/Community
T: Technology
U: Theater
V: Parking Lot
W: Workman Mill Road
X: Workman Mill Road
Y: Workman Mill Road
Z: Workman Mill Road

**Tram Stops**

- **Lot 2**
- Lot 4 & Tram Way
- Lot A Pedestrian Bridge
- South Rd. (across from PE)

**Science Building**

- Roads and areas closed for construction
- Portion of South Drive Road Closed
- August 22, 2009 – September 20, 2009

**Current tram route**

- 2-way road
- 1-way road

**Free Parking in Student Lots**

- Only August 22, 2009 to September 6, 2009

**Continuous Campus Tram Service**

- Monday-Thursday
- 6:30 AM - 10:30 PM
- Friday
- 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM

**Revised: 07/06/2009**

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**Revised: 07/06/2009**
NEW Classes, Degrees and Certificates for Fall 2009

Rio Hondo Expands Online Course Options

Rio Hondo College students have several new degrees, certificates, and courses from which to select this fall. Many of the new offerings are designed to help transferring students also qualify for a degree or certificate in their field before they transfer — an important benefit. Studies show that students who receive a two-year degree, even if they eventually go on to receive a bachelor’s degree, will earn more money over their lifetime.

Other new programs and classes are intended to expand a series of career and technical courses into certificate programs, and yet others help students position themselves for jobs in the rapidly growing green technology fields. Here is the list of new degrees and certificates that will be available to students beginning in Fall 2009:

- General Studies Associate of Arts degree with four areas of emphasis:
  - Arts & Human Expression
  - Science & Mathematics
  - Social Behavior & Self-Development
  - Social Science
- Alternative Energy Technology Certificate of Skill Proficiency
- Nurse Assistant Pre-Certification Training Course Career Certificate
- Certified Nurse Assistant Acute Care Career Certificate
- Home Health Aide Career Certificate
- Forensic Identification Career Certificate
- Pre-School Teacher Certificate of Achievement

NEW CLASSES AT RHC INCLUDE:
- World Building For Game Development
- Introduction to Landscape Design and Maintenance
- Introduction to Landscape Architecture & Design
- Introduction to Alternative Energy Technology
- Photovoltaic Systems Design and Installation
- Advanced Wastewater Treatment, in Environmental Technology
- Exploring Authors
- Postcolonial Literature
- Women and Literature
- Digital Photography
- Music in Film
- Introduction to Governmental and Not-For-Profit Accounting
- Intermediate Accounting I
- Transportation Management
- Contract Management
- Computerized Logistics
- Virtual Media
- 3D Animation and Simulation
- Virtual Media 3D
- Rendering and Compositing
- Contract Management
- Virtual Media
- 3D Animation and Simulation
- Virtual Media 3D
- Rendering and Composting

Hot Careers for Today’s Economy

The country’s economic crisis is hitting many local residents hard through job loss and salary reductions. During these challenging times, RHC is here to provide the training needed to get new jobs or advance in current career paths.

Check out the list of some of the hot majors available to you at RHC:

- Automotive Technology
- Alternative Fuels
- Heavy Equipment Maintenance
- Advanced Transportation Technology & Energy Center
- Electronics (Renewable/ Green Energy)
- Geographic Information Systems
- Fire and Police Academies
- Logistics Management
- Nursing

Don’t see your future listed here? Visit www.riohondo.edu to explore all the career opportunities that are waiting for you at RHC!

Rio Hondo Expands Online Course Options

To time to make the trek to the Rio Hondo College? Don’t let that stop you. Nine additional courses have been approved for Distance Education, also known as online instruction or Virtual College. These were previously existing courses that can now also be offered online, which increases RHC’s ability to reach students who are unable to access the college campus. For more information, visit www.online.riohondo.edu.

VIRTUAL COLLEGE — IS IT FOR YOU?

- Access is available 24/7 via the Internet
- The course content is the same as the on campus version of the course
- No regular class meetings
- All work is submitted via the Internet
- Online courses follow the same semester calendar, registration process and registration cost as on-campus courses.
- You communicate with your instructor and classmates via email and/or through online discussions

Find out more at www.riohondo.edu/esomevine/index.htm

ONLINE SERVICES

At Rio Hondo College you can even apply for scholarships, schedule meetings with your counselor and register for college all at the click of a button. Get all the help you need at www.riohondo.edu/admissions/online_reg_info.html

Sammy Castillo Assumes ASB President Post for 2009-2010

For new Associated Student Body (ASB) President Sammy Castillo, this year is all about positive change. While serving as president, he plans to increase participation in RHC’s recycling program and further increase awareness among students of the resources available to them.

Castillo, a graduate of Arroyo High School in El Monte, came to RHC two years ago following high school graduation, he had been working full-time, but one day realized he wanted more from his life than what his current job was offering. He is now majoring in Business Administration, with an emphasis in Information Systems.

“I didn’t want that job for the rest of my life,” he said. “I needed to take school seriously and utilize the resources Rio had for me.”

And that’s exactly what Castillo did. After enrolling, he joined various clubs, including the Vocal Arts Alliance Club and ASB.

“We really opened my eyes to what I could do here,” he said. “I really think RHC gave me a smoother transition after high school than a four-year university could. I had a chance to develop more. My experience here showed me that if I wanted to grow, I could grow.”

Castillo said in his new position, he also hopes to focus on the current economic crisis, see how it is impacting RHC, and help provide student feedback as budget plans are developed.

Castillo plans to attend California State University, Fullerton, after he earns his associate degree this spring. He said he hopes one day to open his own business in computer repairs.

Classes, Degrees and Certificates for Fall 2009

NEW Classes, Degrees and Certificates for Fall 2009

Rio Hondo Expands Online Course Options

Hot Careers for Today’s Economy

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Here's a brief introduction to some Rio Hondo College faculty members.

ADA BROWN, M.F.A.
PAINTING AND DRAWING
Ada Brown is currently an assistant professor of painting & drawing at Rio Hondo College and has been teaching courses in beginning, intermediate, and advanced Freehand Drawing, as well as Life Drawing and painting at RHC for five years. Born in New York City, Brown began her art education at the High School of Art and Design and attended Sarah Lawrence College of the City University of New York. She attended the Sarah Lawrence College School of the Arts summer program, in Lacoste, France and earned her master’s of fine arts degree in painting and sculpture from the University of Houston.

“I really enjoy working with the students at Rio Hondo College, they are talented and want to learn,” said Brown. “Here we teach the skills to begin a student in a career where smart and talented people are always needed. Teaching is my vocation – it’s my call.”

TED PRESTON, PH.D. PHILOSOPHY
He teaches business law, marketing and management courses. Prior to RHC, he taught at Santa Ana College, Santiago Canyon College, Cerritos College, and Long Beach City College.

“I love Rio Hondo and believe the students here have a passion for learning and many are striving to make a difference in the world and get ahead,” stated Blackmun. “I champion their efforts and I hope I can, in some small way, help them with their educational journey.”

GENE BLACKMUN III, M.B.A.
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
Gene Blackmun III, Assistant Professor of Business Management, is entering his fourth year of teaching at Rio Hondo College. He received his master’s degree in business management from Cal State University, Fullerton. He teaches business law, marketing and management courses.

“I champion their efforts and I hope I can, in some small way, help them with their educational journey”

REBECCA GREEN, M.A. SOCIOLOGY
Rebecca Green graduated from Cal State University, Dominguez Hills with a master’s of arts degree in sociology. She has just completed her fourth year of full-time teaching at Rio Hondo College.

“Teaching is my vocation – it’s my calling. I am energized by it, I’m challenged by it and I’m humbled by it. I love the feeling of driving up the hill each morning - I am fortunate to work at Rio Hondo College.”

TEO PRESTON, PH.D., PHILosophy
Dr. Preston has been teaching Philosophy since 1999. He received his bachelor’s degree in philosophy and psychology from Claremont McKenna College, his master’s degree in philosophy from CSU Long Beach and went on to earn his Ph.D in philosophy from UC Riverside.

“Teaching is my vocation – it’s my calling. I love the feeling of driving up the hill each morning - I am fortunate to work at Rio Hondo College.”

Renowned Wrestling Coach Named to Hall of Fame

Ken Bos, former Rio Hondo College wrestling coach, was selected to receive a Lifetime Service Award from the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in May. His name was permanently placed on a plaque at the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Coach Bos, 70, said he was honored by this recognition, has an extensive resume. He was a three-year Letterman at Artesia High School, a two-year Letterman at Cerritos College, a two-time Conference Champion and three-time All-American at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He also worked as a coach for two years at Santa Barbara High School before coming to coach at Rio Hondo College. Coach Bos retired from Rio Hondo College five years ago.

Under his direction and leadership he led the Rio Hondo College wrestling team to eight Conference Championships, three Regional Championships, two State Championships and he coached 34 JC All-Americans. Additionally, he was an NCAA Division I official and served on the National Wrestling Coaches Association Executive Board. He also was a three-time president of the California Community College Wrestling Coaches Association and was the Wrestling Tournament Competition Director for the 1981 Olympic Games.

In addition to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Coach Bos was inducted into the NCAA Division II Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1998 and the California Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2001.
Rio Hondo College Students Give It Their All in Microsoft Competition

Fourteen Rio Hondo College students stunned the multinational world by reaching the final round of the US Imagine Cup competition held in Cambridge, Massachusetts in May. There were 180 teams representing 125 schools from around the world. Rio Hondo College was the only community college from Southern California to compete. RHC students represented four out of the 15 teams that made it to the national finals.

The competition was fierce and RHC students were up against some of the best teams including University of Alabama (made up of Ph.D. students), University of Colorado (including two Imagine Cup veterans), an MIT junior and three Wayne State University students made up another team as well as five California institutions. RHC students were up against some of the best teams including University of Alabama (made up of Ph.D. students), University of Colorado (including two Imagine Cup veterans), an MIT junior and three Wayne State University students.

The Imagine Cup is an annual technology competition, sponsored by Microsoft, which brings together students from around the world to showcase their innovative technology creations that may help resolve some of the world’s toughest challenges. The competition, including costs of travel for the event, was completely underwritten by Microsoft.

Dr. Shin Liu, Professor of Computer Science and Computer Information Technology at Rio Hondo College thinks RHC represents a fine example of what is right about our community college system. “Community colleges, like Rio Hondo, were intended to be a bridge from high school to the university. They were and still are a jewel that makes California different from other states. They are affordable and accessible to all students,” stated Dr. Liu.

Rio Hondo College Sets the Standard for Green Technology Training

A new ‘green’ industries provide the promise of increased employment opportunities in today’s changing economy, the RHC Board of Trustees has supported and encouraged the development of new classes in the area of environmental technology and other ‘green’ industries that are on the rise.

Economists nationwide note that the new global economy will be based on ‘green’ technology. However, these new industries can only thrive with a well-trained workforce in place to implement this new standard. RHC is determined to set the pace when it comes to the training, certification and transfer programs to support these new technologies.

“President Obama is investing millions of dollars in green technology to kick-start the economy by creating thousands of new jobs,” said Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. “We want our students to be first in line to get those jobs. Our specialized, high-tech courses will give our students a head start.”

Environmental technology refers to the skills and knowledge that allow a person to work in the environmental field in compliance with governmental regulations and at the same time protect human health and the environment.

**Associate Degree**

The Environmental Technology Associate of Science Degree Program is a two-year program designed to prepare students to either enter the work force at the technician level or transfer into a bachelor’s degree program. Areas of specialization include Waste Management, Land Use Planning & Environmental Restoration, Environmental Health & Safety, Water & Waste Water Management, and Alternative & Efficient Energy Systems.

**Certificate Program**

The Environmental Technology Certificate is designed to either prepare students to enter the field or upgrade people who are already working in the field with technician-level skills. The Certificate of Achievement in Environmental Technology requires 30 units in coursework, including classes such as Hazardous Waste Generation/Reduction/Treatment, Safety & Emergency Response, and Environmental Biology.

**Community Service Programs**

Rio Hondo College has also developed a set of courses through the community service division, designed for those who want to refresh their skills for work purposes, or for those who are non-professionals who want to know how to properly handle situations that may include hazardous materials. These courses include DOT Hazmat Training, OSHA Construction Industry Training, and First-Responder Awareness.

Visit www.riohondo.edu/mathsci/environmental_tech/to view a more detailed list of available classes and information.