April has been a busy month for everyone, with special events, performances, \textit{Writes of Spring}, a major career fair, the Fair Housing events, and many reports of student accomplishments in dance and forensics. Please see stories in this issue of \textit{UPDATE} for details.

"A Taste of Rio" was a resounding success. The Rio Hondo College Foundation, its programs and scholarships, were the beneficiaries of this fun fund-raising event that showcased the beautiful new campus ambience. The mid-quad area was the focus of the event, encircled by 20 food and wine vendor stations. Patrons enjoyed the opportunity to sample delicious food and unique wines while participating in drawings for creative baskets full of intriguing and interesting items. A live auction board generated spirited bidding for travel, a tool chest extravaganza, a shooting range experience and an evening at SkyRose Chapel.

My thanks to our planning committee, to Howard Kummerman for his skillful role as announcer/auctioneer, and to John Ramirez for orchestrating the perfect setting. Please see the sidebar list of volunteers who made it all possible.

We are pleased to prepare for the next class of Rio Hondo Police Academy Cadets, who will begin training in the extended format configuration June 6. The Division of Public Safety has worked diligently to meet POST requirements in order to resume Basic Academy operations within the new Police Academy structure at Rio Hondo College, under the direction of Academy Director Lanny Brown. Authority to begin the Extended Academy on June 6 is an important step as we renew credibility for the integrity of our Police Academy operations, with special focus on test security. We look forward to our continuing collaboration with POST and with regional law enforcement agencies who will ultimately employ our graduates.

We will plan to formally celebrate the grand opening of the new Administration of Justice building June 14. Please plan to join us for that eagerly-awaited event.

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**Faculty Advance Academic Rank**

Twenty Rio Hondo College faculty members who advanced in academic rank for the 2012-2013 academic year were recognized at the April Board of Trustees meeting. The Board of Trustees roundly congratulated the members for their dedication to excellence in teaching.
Board of Trustees
The Board of Trustees honored two deserving academic colleagues at its April 11 board meeting. English and Literature Professor Mary Ann Pacheco received the Fellow of the College award for her outstanding contributions and progress to the development of Rio Hondo College. Political Science Professor Owen Newcomer received the 2012 Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to the community. Congratulations to both honorees.

FACULTY ADVANCE ACADEMIC RANK
Twenty Rio Hondo College faculty members who advanced in academic rank for the 2012-2013 academic year were recognized at the April Board of Trustees meeting:

Professor
Jeannette Duarte, Communications and Language
Troy Flores-Olson, Counseling and Student Development
Alfred E. Forrest, Student Health Services
Matthew Koutoulis, Physical Science

Associate Professor
Sharon Bell, Communications and Languages
Eugene Blackmun, Business
Scott Dixon, Behavioral and Social Science
Margaret Griffith, Arts and Cultural Programs
Patricia Luna, Health Science and Nursing
Matthew Pitassi, Mathematics
Jodi Senk, Physical Education
Jennifer Tanaka-Hoshijo, Physical Education
Irma Valdivia, Behavioral and Social Sciences

Assistant Professor
Lisette Acevedo, Communications and Languages
Katherine Brandt, Health Science and Nursing
Brian Brutlag, Behavioral and Social Sciences
Sergio Guzman, Counseling and Student Development
Jorge Huinquez, Counseling and Student Development
Daniel Osman, Communications and Languages
Dorali Pichardo Diaz, Counseling and Student Development

Final Community Educational Forum is May 17
Rio Hondo College is nearing the end of its 2012 Community Educational Forum Sessions. Four sessions were successfully held in March and April, drawing strong audiences interested in learning more about Rio Hondo College and the new State guidelines to promote student success.

A final Forum will take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 17, at California High School, 9800 S. Mills Ave., Whittier, Ca, 90604. Don’t miss your chance to provide valuable feedback to help guide the future direction of the College. Your voice matters in this important community process.

Taste of Rio Kicks off 50th Anniversary Celebration
Rio Hondo officially began its 50th Anniversary Celebration on April 20 with “A Taste of Rio,” a festive evening of food and beverage tasting that benefited students and College programs.

“On behalf of the Rio Hondo College Foundation, I would like to express our collective appreciation for so much support for this important event, from our community and local restaurants and businesses,” says Dr. Ted Martinez Jr. “Not only are we raising essential funding resources for our students and programs, we are launching the college’s 50th anniversary year and celebrating our new physical environment, thanks again to our community for providing Measure A facilities bonds to revitalize our aging campus. Rio Hondo College is truly blessed to have such longstanding and heartfelt endorsements from the community we serve.”

RIO HONDO COLLEGE THANKS ITS GENEROUS SPONSORS:

Cognoscente Level
Del Terra

Connoisseur Level
Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Rund & Romo
Supervisor Don Knabe
Southwest Airlines

Aficionado Level
Lansford & Gonzales, LLP
Bank of the West
California Community Foundation
De La Rosa & Co.
Follett Higher Education Group

Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital
Kaiser Permanente
The Solis Group
Whittier Hospital Medical Center

Appreciator Level
West Edge Architects
Liebert Cassidy and Whitmore
Keenan and Associates
Quatro Design Group
Strata Information Group, Inc.
Wells Fargo/Coldwell Banker Alliance Realty
PMSM

IOS
Union Bank Caldwell, Flore and Winters

Taster Level
Whittier Mailing Service
Athens Services
LA CADA
Rose Hills
Olivarez, Gallagher & Padilla, P.C.
Gilbeaut, Mahan & Briscoe
Neal Welland
Dr. Alfred Forrest
Simply the Best Promotions
Rio Hondo College Dean and Student Recognized at JACC Conference

Melissa Cano, lifestyles editor of El Paisano newspaper, was elected student president of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC) at the association’s recent conference in Burbank. Conference highlights also included El Paisano staff Vanessa Arellano, Shu-Ling Yee, and Marco Lopez winning Spring 2012 Editor Recognition awards and Kenn Pierson, Rio Hondo dean of Communications and Languages, receiving the 2012 First Amendment Award “for recognition of extraordinary administrative support for a journalism program.”

Puppets are Aplenty at a National Day of Puppetry

The artistry of puppetry came alive for fans of all ages when Rio Hondo College hosted A National Day of Puppetry on Saturday, April 28. Puppeteers and related artists from Los Angeles, Orange County, and San Diego performed and presented puppet-making classes throughout the day at various locations on campus. The event was presented by the Los Angeles Guild of Puppetry, the Orange County Puppetry Guild, and the International Puppet Museum.

Attendees enjoyed a variety of styles of puppet performances as well as puppet-making classes, workshops and displays.

Performers included Bob Baker’s Marionettes, Moodoo Puppets, Luce Puppet Company, and Douglas Seymore Marionettes, among others.

Write of Spring Festival Celebrates Authors, Poets, and Film

Rio Hondo College celebrated writers and writing with its 2012 Writes of Spring Festival on April 25 and 26. The annual two-day event featured readings and performances by guest writers, students, and faculty. The program also included a student film showcase and students reading their prize-winning works from River’s Voice, the college’s Journal of Art and Literature.

Guest authors included Alurista, Alex Espinoza, Darnella Ford, Dr. Shirley Impellizzeri, and Marisela Norte, and acting teacher Howard Fine.

Original films by Rio Hondo students were presented at the River Deep Student Film Festival taking place on both days in the Wray Theater.

Rio Hondo College Resumes Police Academy Basic Course

The California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) has notified Rio Hondo College that it has been authorized to resume its Police Academy Basic Course in an ‘extended’ (weekend and evenings) format beginning June 6. The program will include three modules over an 11-month period.

“This is the good news we have been anticipating as a result of our Public Safety Division administrators’ diligent work with POST officials to align the Academy program in accordance with POST oversight,” says Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr. “We also appreciate the continuing interest and support of our regional advisory committee composed of members of the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs’ Association.”

Police Academy officials will notify students who have already applied and been processed for the program regarding the start date and orientation. Information regarding future Basic Academy classes will be posted on the Public Safety Division web site, which will also include information about the application process.

The Rio Hondo Police Academy has been in existence since the college opened in the early 1960s. Its Administration of Justice program is one of the largest college-based programs in California, and trains police officers for some 40 jurisdictions.
Chinese Delegation Visits College to Learn About Automotive Industry

Chinese government officers from the National and State Department of Commerce and Marketing came to Rio Hondo College to learn about the American automotive industry and understand rules and regulations around used cars, smog checks, and marketing related to pre-owned cars. The delegation included:

- Mr. Lingyu Kong, associate counselor (CEO) of the National Department of Commerce of the People's Republic of China
- Mr. Nanping Gong, consultant of the National Department of Finance of the People’s Republic of China
- Ms. Yan Liu, consultant, Department of Market System Development, Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China
- Mr. Ya Liu, deputy division director, Department of Market System Development, Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China
- Mr. Yuanbo Yu, vice chairman, China Automobile Dealers Association
- Mr. Zhenzhong Li, general manager, Beijing Municipal Old Motor Vehicle Market Co., Ltd.
- Mr. Guoliang Hou, associate consultant, Department of Commerce of Shanxi Province
- Mr. Abudula Abudureyimu, deputy division director, Market System Development Division of Department of Commerce of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region
- Mr. Wen Feng, deputy division director, Market System Development Division of Department of Commerce of Heilongjiang Province
- Mr. Ruoyu Shen, senior staff member, Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce
- Mr. Jianmin Liu, deputy director general, Luoyang Municipal Commerce Bureau of Henan Province
- Mr. Xingheng Hu, board chairman, Hengyang Municipal Jiuding Old Motor Vehicle Market Co., Ltd.
- Mr. Ning Ren, division director, Department of Commerce of Shanxi Province

Prestigious American Dance Festival Invites Rio Hondo Dancers

Rio Hondo dance students Vanessa Heffernan, Tiffany Ramirez, and Daniela Velazquez were accepted into the American Dance Festival, which stands among the most prominent dance festivals in the country. The dancers auditioned at the 2012 West Region American College Dance Festival in Modesto, and were accepted to the internationally famous six-week summer program at Duke University in North Carolina, where dancers from around the world come to train and to create.

Hispanic Outlook Data

Rio Hondo College earned recognition from The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education, earning “Top 50” rankings in three categories.

The national publication's annual “Top 50 Community Colleges” issue ranked Rio Hondo College in the top 50 for Community Colleges by Hispanic Full-Time Enrollment (25th), Community Colleges by Hispanic Faculty (22nd), and Community Colleges for Hispanics Awarding Associate Degrees (25th).

The report notes that about 39 percent of the College's full-time faculty members are Hispanic. Currently, approximately 72 percent of Rio Hondo College students identify themselves as Hispanic.

For 22 years, The Hispanic Outlook has covered higher education, spotlighting topics relevant to institutions and Hispanic student populations.

Rio Hondo Hosts Fair Housing Day

Students explored issues involving fair housing at a special campus event on April 18 hosted by Rio Hondo College and sponsored by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Department of Fair Employment and Housing, Los Angeles Housing Rights Center, and Fair Housing Council of Orange County.

The event featured a Career and Internship Fair where attendees could meet with reps from the Office of Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity; California Department of Fair Employment & Housing; Fair Housing Council of Orange County; and the Housing Rights Center, among others.
Forensics Team Scores Silver and Bronze at National Tournament

Three Rio Hondo students represented the College at the 78th annual Phi Rho Pi National Speech and Debate Tournament in Schaumburg, IL, where more than 500 community college students from across the nation competed in eleven Individual Event (I.E.) categories. Rio Hondo students competed in Parliamentary Debate, Extemporaneous Speaking, Impromptu Speaking, Dramatic Interpretation, Prose Interpretation, Dramatic Duo Interpretation, and After Dinner Speaking.

Rio Hondo wins included:

■ Vanessa Cazares became a Silver National Champion in Prose Interpretation, the tournament’s largest I.E. event.

■ Cazares and Christian Sanchez-Bartz became Bronze National Champions when they advanced to the semi-final round in Dramatic Duo Interpretation—the first time in a decade that Rio Hondo Forensics Team members have advanced to a semi-final round in an oral interpretation event.

■ Shawn Plascencia narrowly missed breaking into the Bronze semi-final round in After Dinner Speaking, just one point shy of the necessary score to advance. All three students were ranked number one by judges in several of their preliminary rounds.

“We are incredibly proud of our students,” says Forensics Coordinator Libby Curiel. “Their leadership has ignited a new era for Rio Hondo Speech and Debate.” Coaching staff also includes Adam Gonzales and Steve Rohr.

Phi Beta Lambda Goes to State Business Leadership Conference

Rio Hondo Phi Beta Lambda members went to the State Business Leadership Conference held in Los Angeles on March 30 and 31. Phi Beta Lambda is the collegiate chapter of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), a nonprofit student organization committed to preparing students for success in business leadership.

Students from around the state competed in business and career prep competitive events, participate in informative and interactive leadership and personal development workshops, and network with fellow FBLA-PBL members and leaders from across the state.

Rio Hondo PBL members competed against PBL members from schools such as UC Berkley, UCLA, USC, UC Santa Barbara, UC San Diego, US Riverside, Claremont McKenna, Cerritos College, Diablo College, and other state colleges and universities.

RIO HONDO COLLEGE COMPETITORS WON MEDALS IN SEVERAL AREAS:

Individual Competitions:
Second place, Contemporary Sports Issues: Sean Armstrong
Fifth place, Public Speaking: Michelle Barkley

Team Competitions:
Second place, Accounting Analysis and Decision Making: Eric Leon, Wayne Thai, and Paola Rodriguez
Third place, Hospitality Management: Alberto Aguilar, Nadina Gallegos, and Paola Rodriguez
Fifth place, Business Decision Making: Nadina Gallegos, Joshua Eshe, and Griselda Aguirre

The following members were also recognized for their outstanding achievements and leadership:
Wayne Thai - Nominated for the Who’s Who Award for strong leadership as chapter president.
Nadina Gallegos - Nominated for March Member of the Month Award