

## IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message

Board Meeting

El Monte Union High School District  
Receives Golden Bell Award for  
College Readiness Project with RHC

Student Art Sale

Generosity Abounds  
This Holiday Season

Rio Hondo College Foundation  
Honors Second Group  
of Osher Scholars

Faculty Association "All Staff"  
End of Year Luncheon

In Memoriam:  
Herbert M. Sussman

Performing Arts Students  
Successfully Debut the  
"Project Eranos Presents  
Songscales!"

Rebecca Green Appointed  
to Interim Dean



## President's Message



*Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.*

We are celebrating the retirements of five long-term employees in several venues. Congratulations and "Thank You" to Dr. Judith Henderson, Gail Chabran, Barbara Keith, Christine Sutow, and Mary Walker, whose 145 years of combined years of service over four decades have enriched the Rio Hondo College community and students' lives.

It's always nice to receive large checks! Sylvia Southerland, representing Southern California Edison, presented a second check for \$100,000 to our Foundation Scholarship Endowment for the support of students training for "Green Jobs". This is the second such contribution from SCE, and when matched by the Osher Scholarship funds, will increase the specific endowment to \$300,000. We were eligible to receive these funds only because the college Environmental Technology Program was re-vamped and re-energized two years ago, following an area training needs survey

and Environmental Summit we sponsored to gauge the need for development of new curricula to reflect the times. Thanks to Dean Karen Koos and Professor Steve Katnik, three new degrees and areas of specialization within the Environmental Technology Program show what focus on curriculum and degree development can achieve. Congratulations!

It's hard to believe we are now at the half-way mark for our 2010-2011 academic year, the 48th in Rio Hondo College history. It is has been a busy and productive semester. I would like to express my appreciation to our constituent leadership for their collective energy in helping forge a new approach to collaboration and communication.

During this special season of the year, I send my heartfelt wishes to you and yours for splendid holidays and a peaceful winter break. See you in the New Year!



*President's Holiday  
Open House*

## Board Meeting

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting, Wednesday, December 8, 2010.

The second group of students receiving the Osher Scholarships for 2010-2011 were honored. The Osher Scholarship Initiative is a collaborative effort between the Rio Hondo College Foundation and the Bernard Osher Foundation. See full story on page 3.

The following faculty and staff were given a special recognition upon their retirement and agreed they have all had "a very rewarding career" at Rio Hondo and made "wonderful memories":

- **Dr. Judith Henderson**, Dean of Behavior and Social Sciences
- **Gail Chabran**, Professor of English
- **Christine Sutow**, Professor of Psychology
- **Mary Walker**, Library/Online System Technician
- **Barbara Keith**, Professor, Public Safety

All of them have made significant contributions to Rio Hondo College and will be deeply missed.



Dr. Judith Henderson



Christine Sutow



Mary Walker

## El Monte Union High School District Receives Golden Bell Award for College Readiness Project with RHC

The El Monte Union High School District (EMUHSD) received the Golden Bell Award on Dec. 5 for their school readiness program created in partnership with Rio Hondo College and UC Irvine. The *Plan and Deliver: Using Transcript Evaluation Services (TES) to Increase College Admissions* Program helps determine students' progress towards meeting admission requirements of California public universities.

Sponsored by the California School Boards Association, the Golden Bell Awards Program promotes excellence in education by recognizing outstanding initiatives in school districts and county offices of education statewide.

EMUHSD is one of the first districts in California using the TES program, a statewide initiative of the University of California's Office of the President, designed to improve college readiness for "first-in-family" students by optimizing course selections, and providing a customized integrated approach to help students, their families and counselors to work together in effectively planning for college readiness and success.



"We are very honored by the support we have received from both Rio Hondo College and UC Irvine to promote the success and college readiness of our students. I could not have asked for better partners," said Nick Salerno, Superintendent, EMUHSD. "This service has had a dramatic effect on 'first-in-their-families' students who are now ready to meet the challenges of higher education."

Rio Hondo College is offering all EMUHSD graduates one-time priority registration beginning in the fall semester 2011. Additionally, as part of the recently established El Monte Union Pledge Compact (a partnership between Rio Hondo College, EMUHSD and UC Irvine), UC Irvine has pledged that every EMUHSD student who is successfully designated as "UC Eligible in the Local Context" (those students in the top four percent of their high-school class), will be offered admission to UCI. Further, all Rio Hondo students who successfully complete UCI Transfer Admission Guarantee requirements are offered "fast track" admission to UCI.

"The Office of Educational Partnerships at Rio Hondo College is proud to have supported the implementation of TES through the evaluation and dissemination of over 10,000 analyzed student transcripts and individual student reports based on university entrance requirements," said Mike Munoz, Ed.D., Associate Dean of Students Services, Rio Hondo College. "By putting these individual reports in the hands of students and their families we are ensuring that all EMUHSD students are aware of college entrance requirements and are able to monitor their own individual progress towards meeting those requirements."

## End of Year Student Art Sale



## BOARD MEETING

*continued from previous page*

Southern California Edison presented a second \$100,000 donation toward the Rio Hondo College Green Jobs Grant. This donation will be put into the Osher Scholarship sub-account "Green Jobs" and be matched with \$50,000 of Osher dollars.



These funds will provide scholarships for students who demonstrate financial need and who are studying green jobs-related careers such as but not limited to: Alternative Energy Technology, Water Resources, Green Building Technology, Waste Management, Environmental Health and Safety, Land Use Planning and Environmental Restoration, and Advanced Transportation Technologies (Alternative Fuels).

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees presented its new governing board officers with Maria Elena Martinez being appointed as the new board president, Norma Edith García now elected as vice president and Madeline Shapiro now serving as clerk. Congratulations to all of you!

## Generosity Abounds This Holiday Season

Students, faculty and staff continued with their long-standing traditions of contributing to the community this Holiday Season by hosting a number of holiday programs and activities throughout campus including: Thanksgiving "Baskets of Hope", "Navidad en Baja," and the EOPS Adopt-a-Child Program.

The Associated Student Body Senate hosted their annual Thanksgiving "Baskets of Hope" to help students in need by providing baskets that included a gift certificate for a turkey and all the trimmings for a complete Thanksgiving meal.

*continued on next page.*

## Rio Hondo College Foundation Honors Second Group of Osher Scholars

Congratulations to the 15 students selected to receive the second round of scholarships funded by the Osher Scholarship Initiative for 2010-2011. The Osher Scholarships, which totaled \$14,000, are a collaborative effort between the Rio Hondo College Foundation and the Bernard Osher Foundation.

The Bernard Osher Foundation, which acts as the financial vehicle for these scholarships, was established in 1977 and seeks to improve quality of life through support of higher education and the arts.

The Rio Hondo College Foundation works to raise money through private donations for Rio Hondo College. The Osher Foundation then matches their earnings and donates to the College. The interest from that donation is then awarded to RHC students as scholarships.

"The Osher Scholarship Initiative program presents an exciting opportunity for Rio Hondo College to help a number of our students, especially during these difficult times," said Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President. "This year's recipients are so very deserving and we hope this scholarship money helps them further their educational goals."

The Osher Scholarship is a year-long scholarship with one payment presented in the fall and, as long as the student remains eligible, a second award in the spring. And while the Osher Scholarship is donated and paid for by the Osher Foundation, the funding is matched by other foundation fundraising effort. It is the Rio Hondo College Foundation that facilitates the process and selection of recipients. The Osher Scholarship is awarded on the basis of merit and focuses primarily on re-entry students.

Below are the names of some of the Osher Scholars for 2010-2011 that received awards ranging from \$500-\$1,000:

- Marina Armendariz
- Valerie Atilano
- Eric Jason Bruckner
- Mayra Cota
- Sandra Degroes
- Iliana Garcia
- Yadira Gudino
- Perseus Penelope Laurent
- Melissa Lazo
- Anna Martinez
- Thomas Pan
- Claudia Salazar
- Joaquin Tirado
- Sameh William Yacoub



## Faculty Association "All Staff" End of Year Luncheon

Members of the campus community came together for the annual RHCFA end-of-year luncheon, to celebrate the coming holiday season and to honor retirees. The photographs show participants hard at work on a holiday 'quiz'. Thanks to Martha Carreon, event chair, Jill Pfeifer and Alyson Cartagena for organizing the entertainment by the RHC Dance Collective students, and to Sylvia Viramontes for production of the flyer and program.



**GENEROSITY ABOUNDS**  
*continued from previous page*

The Extended Opportunity Program & Services (EOP&S) and Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) have successfully sponsored the Adopt-a-Child Program for nine consecutive years. And this year was no exception. There were 84 children adopted this year, with faculty member Angela Rhodes once again displaying her generosity by adopting a total of 33 children.

The Adopt-a-Child Program helps low-income students, who are also single parents, provide gifts for their children on Christmas. The program held its annual Holiday event on Dec. 16 in the Campus Inn. Students enjoyed a delicious lunch, had the opportunity to hear from former CARE students who have transferred, and received gifts for their children.

Navidad en Baja is another cherished Holiday giving tradition on campus. The College faculty, staff and students have contributed to the Navidad en Baja organization for several years by sponsoring gift boxes for children in need living in Baja California, Mexico and the Central Valley in California.

Travel restrictions in recent years have made it difficult to travel to Mexico, so recently gift boxes have been re-routed to towns in the Central Valley only, including Lamont, Arvin and Weedpatch, as well as The Oralingua School for the Hearing Impaired and a regional hospital's children's ward.

"I am proud of our faculty, staff and students, who make it a top priority to give back to the community, even in spite of their own circumstances and busy schedules during this time of year," said Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President.

## Performing Arts Students Successfully Debut the "Project Eranos Presents Songscapes!"

Rio Hondo's Performing Arts students held their last performance for the fall semester on Dec. 3 at Lydia Jackson Elementary School. The program, designed to bring arts and music education to young children at local elementary schools, has been so successful that it has been expanded through the spring semester.



## Rebecca Green Appointed to Interim Dean

Rebecca Green was recently appointed to the position of Interim Dean of Behavioral and Social Sciences. Rebecca, who earned a masters degree in Liberal Studies from California State University, Dominguez Hills and a bachelors degree in Sociology from California State University, Long Beach, has served as assistant professor of Sociology at Rio Hondo for the past five years. She currently participates in the SanFACC (the San Gabriel/Foothill Association of Community Colleges) mentoring program.

"I am thrilled to be appointed to the position of Interim Dean of Behavioral and Social Sciences. We are a cohesive and energetic Division and I look forward to a productive spring semester," said Green.

Congratulations, Rebecca!



## IN MEMORIAM

**Herbert M. Sussman**  
*Superintendent/President*  
*Rio Hondo College*  
*1982-1990*

