

IN THIS ISSUE

- President's Message
- 50th Commencement Ceremony
- Board Update
- Teresa Dreyfuss Named Superintendent/President
- All Staff Luncheon May 16
- Writes of Spring Literary Festival
- Men's Baseball Team Advances to Playoffs
- Grand Opening For New El Monte Educational Center
- Women's Soccer Program Celebrates Accomplishments
- Journalism Students Win State Honors
- Leadership Academy III Graduation May 3
- Forensic Student Wins Gold at National Tourney
- 2013 Jet Propulsion Lab Undergraduate Scholar Awarded
- Students Conduct Simulated Accident Response
- 50 Years of Dance – Rock'n Memories

President's Message



Teresa Dreyfuss

Our 50th anniversary year of events has been a terrific way to acknowledge our institution's milestones and to celebrate Rio Hondo College's impact on our students, our community, and ourselves. I would like to commend those who worked so diligently to help plan and orchestrate the events, especially our 50th Commencement Ceremony held May 23. The new 'jumbotron' feature made it possible for our guests to have a great view of everyone crossing the stage to receive a diploma; and to see the presenters clearly from every seat in the audience!

As we bring another academic year to a close, I would like to acknowledge outstanding commitments to student success. Our end-of-year celebrations were filled with joy and hope. There were so many students receiving so many awards at many events in their honor. Thanks to everyone for efforts to honor student success in so many ways.

Summer sessions will soon be here! I am pleased we are bringing more robust opportunities for students to enroll and continue their studies. We have been fortunate to have maintained summer sessions throughout the challenges of the budget crisis these past few years. It is important to acknowledge everyone's participation in order to achieve budget savings necessary to safeguard our class offerings.

Although we will not know our exact financial situation until we have the 'close' of the 2012-2013 fiscal year, I have learned that the State now has a budget surplus for the first time in several years. It is my hope that we will receive additional funding to help backfill the money we are 'owed' as a result of 'deferrals' these past few years, which has made our cash flow quite a challenge. I anticipate that we will know more when the Governor signs the budget.

For those of you who will be away for the summer months, I wish you happy vacations and a time to restore and refresh. I also wish to thank everyone who will be here during the summer sessions for helping our students, and serving the public on a year-round basis.

50th Commencement Ceremony

Rio Hondo College celebrated the 50th Annual Commencement Thursday, May 23, on the Rio Hondo College Soccer Field. The class of 2013 includes more than 1,000 graduates, with appropriately 600 participating in the ceremony.



Board Update



Nick Salerno, superintendent of the El Monte Union High School District, was presented with the annual Distinguished Service Award for his support of Rio Hondo College. The leader of the more than 10,000-student district has been an integral community partner and has developed an important relationship with the College that is opening up many more opportunities for El Monte students to continue their education at Rio Hondo.

The Board of Trustees recognized the Rio Hondo College Forensics Speech and Debate team for their outstanding performance this year. Among their accomplishments, students took home gold and bronze awards at the Phi Rho Pi College National Championship Tournament in Woodland Hills in April. Students also earned many top honors at several tournaments throughout 2012-13. Congratulations to the entire team and to their coaches.

Dennise Clark, a Rio Hondo athletic counselor, was commended for her work to coordinate the third annual Leadership Academy Cohort, a program that brings together a diverse group of employees from all levels and departments across campus. The goal is to create connections between individuals who might not otherwise meet and promote leadership skills and growth. This is the second year that Clark has led the program.

Four retiring employees were honored for their many years of dedicated service to Rio Hondo College. Martha Carreon, a professor of humanities began her career at Rio Hondo College in 1974. Dr. Robert Itatani, the College's clinical psychologist and professor, joined the College in 1975. John G. Marshall, is retiring after a 22-year career as a Rio Hondo professor of English. Mercedes Martinez was hired as a professor of accounting in 1997 and has been with the College for 16 years.

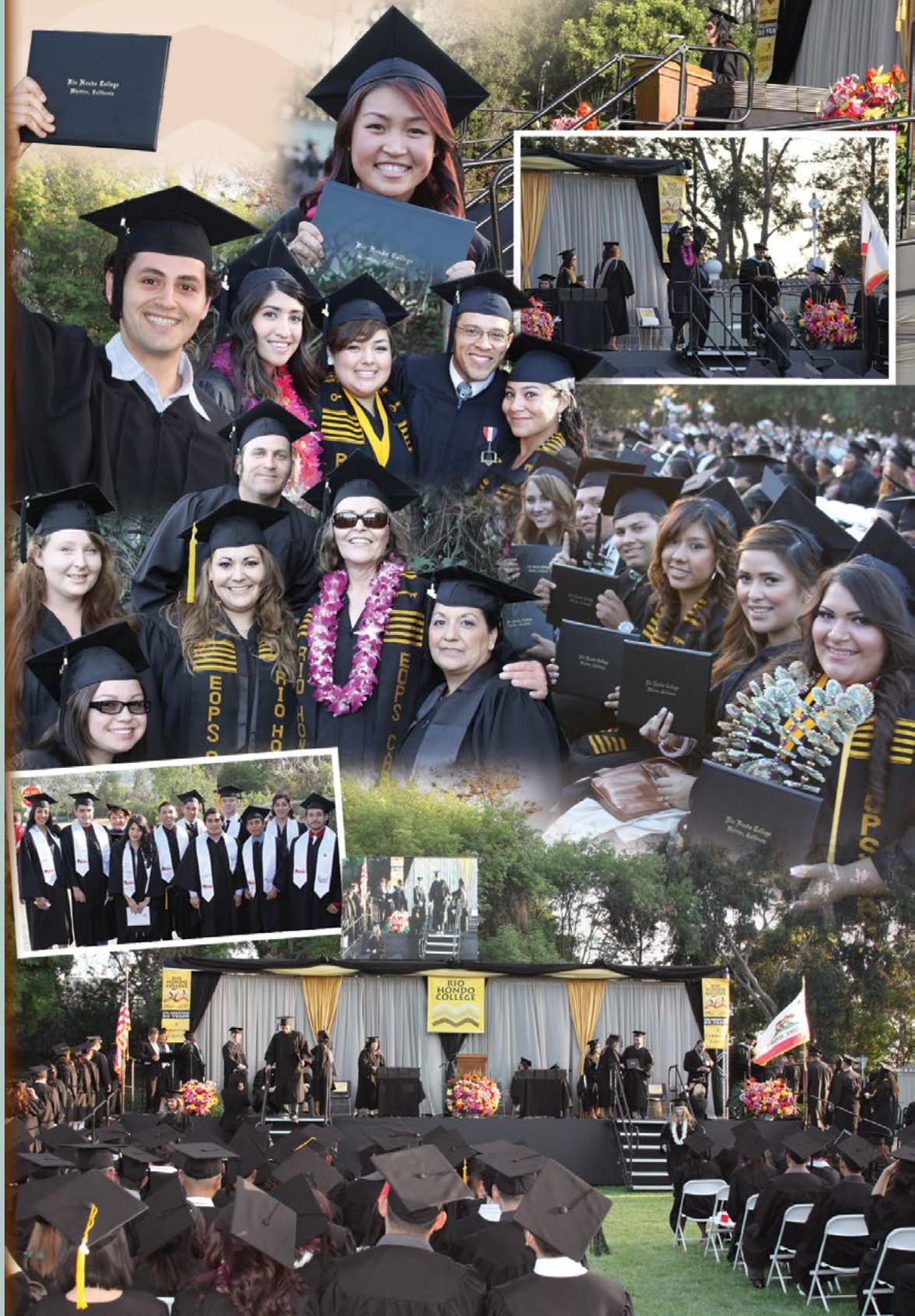


The Board of Trustees recognized three individuals for their commitment and service in leadership positions: Irina Barajas, president of Rio Hondo Associated

50th Commencement Ceremony (continued)

This year's commencement speaker was Leroy D. Baca, Los Angeles County sheriff. Biology professor and long-time environmental activist Ray Williams was honored *in absentia* (he is recovering from surgery) as Fellow of the College. His comments were presented by Board President Madeline Shapiro.

This year's Commencement Ceremony was held in front of an updated backdrop, including a Jumbotron to make it easier for attendees to view the ceremony.



Board Update (continued)

Students, Lupe Pasillas, student trustee, and Colin Young, president of the Rio Hondo Faculty Association.

Adele Enright, Rio Hondo librarian, presented a sabbatical report on the importance of preserving the college's rich history by maintaining its historical archives. Over the span of one year, Enright performed extensive research and visited several archivists at colleges and libraries, including at the Nixon Library in Yorba Linda. She presented the Board of Trustees with recommendations to provide more accessible archival services to students, including digitizing Rio Hondo College's photos, historical documents and visual/audio tapes and hiring a part-time archivist.



In a presentation about CalWORKS, Christine Aldrich, the program's coordinator/counselor reinforced how CalWORKS resources are

making a huge impact in the lives of students. About 250 Rio Hondo students are serviced through the welfare to work program, which offers many opportunities to support their educational and career endeavors and help them become self-sufficient. The program provides services such as vocational training, legal aid referrals, employment search assistance and help to develop educational plans and establish career goals.



Dr. Michael Munoz, associate dean of Student Services, made a presentation on the positive changes and improvements being made in the College's Student Life & Leadership program, which is guided by four core values: student success and degree completion, cultural diversity, leadership development, and social responsibility. This year the department is hosting more cultural heritage celebrations for students and also coordinated a student tour of five Northern California university campuses. In addition, student leaders organized a clothing exchange program to assist students with children under 5 years old. Associated Students has also updated its constitutional by-laws and revised its organizational structure.

Teresa Dreyfuss Named Superintendent/President

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees recently announced the appointment of Teresa Dreyfuss as Superintendent/President, effective July 1. Dreyfuss is the current Interim Superintendent/President, who has been serving since June 30, 2012, upon the retirement of Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. Since coming to Rio Hondo College in 1987, she has also served as Vice President of Finance and Business, Chief Financial Officer, Controller/Business Manager, Business Manager, and Senior Accountant.

"I am honored to have been chosen by our Board of Trustees," said Dreyfuss. "I wish to thank those members of our broad-based committee, which included representatives of all stakeholder groups, for their efforts in this important process."

Dreyfuss noted that her goals during her time as Superintendent/ President include: building on the structure established to prepare for the next Self-Study for Reaffirmation of Accreditation set for October 2014; plan and implement the recommendations of the Student Success Task Force; complete the highly successful building program funded by voters in 2004 with the passage of "Measure A"; enhance the Rio Hondo College Foundation resources; and maintain good labor relations with the faculty and classified staff.

Dreyfuss has an MBA from the University of La Verne and a BA from the University of Chinese Culture. She has worked as a part-time instructor at both Rio Hondo and Los Angeles City College, teaching accounting and business classes for 10 years. She has also worked at Riverside Community College District as Director of Business.

"I look forward to serving as the ninth Superintendent/President of Rio Hondo College and would like to acknowledge the leadership of those who have helped create such a vibrant and valued institution," continued Dreyfuss.

All Staff Luncheon May 16

On Thursday, May 16, Rio Hondo College celebrated the approaching close of the 2012-2013 year with an all-staff luncheon sponsored by the RHC Faculty Association and the President's Office.

The event featured remarks from Colin Young, RHCFA President. Performers from the Dance Rehearsal and Performance (DANC 152) with the Rio Hondo Dance Collective under the direction of Alyson Cartagena entertained. Attendees also enjoyed a screening of the "Faces of Rio" video.

The event provided the opportunity to acknowledge faculty members reaching several career milestones, including 10-year honors, Tenure and Retirement.



Colin Young, Martha Carreon and Kathy Pudelko.

10 Year Honorees

Sylvia Duran-Katnik – Veterans Service Center

Kathleen Hannah – Health Science & Nursing

2012-13 Tenured Faculty

David Dawson – Arts & Cultural Programs

Alonso Garcia – Communications & Languages

Karen Gottlieb – Health Science & Nursing

Dianne Holcomb – Transfer Center

Faculty Retirement

Mercedes Martinez – Business

1997-2013 16 years

John Marshall – Communications & Languages

1991-2013 22 years

Dewayne Highfill – Mathematics & Sciences

1977-2012 35 1/2 years

Bob Itatani – Psychological Services

1977-2013 36 years

Martha Carreon – Behavioral & Social Sciences

1975-2013 38 years



Dr. Robert Itatani, Psychologist and Martha Carreon, Humanities Faculty retiring this year.

Writes of Spring Literary Festival

The Writes of Spring is Rio Hondo College's annual two-day celebration of writers and writing, featuring performances by guest authors, students, and faculty. Now in its 13th year, the festival is sponsored by the Auxiliary Services Organization and took place on April 24 & 25 in Wray Theater.

Each year, the Writes of Spring committee endeavors to assemble a program of talented professional authors for the purpose of promoting the value of writing to the Rio Hondo campus community. Guest speakers at this year's festival included influential authors Mariano Zaro, Aaron White, Mellissa Martinez and Julian Bradley. In addition, representatives from Parson's Nose Production and About Productions read from various original pieces they have created and performed.

For many of our students, this festival is their first experience attending a literary reading. The response has been overwhelmingly positive and attendance figures continue to increase at every festival.

In addition to professional guest authors, another popular event is the River's Voice showcase. River's Voice, Rio Hondo College's prestigious arts and literary journal, provides students, faculty, and staff a forum to publish their original creative work.

During the Writes of Spring festival, student authors have the opportunity to read their prize-winning work at two River's Voice readings, while also enjoying the prestige of sharing the bill at an event that includes professional writers. In addition, a River's Voice film screening was enjoyed by all.

Event organizers included Tom Callinan, Jim Matthis, Celeste Candida, Marie Eckstrom, Alonso Garcia and Daniel Osman.

Men's Baseball Team Advances to Playoffs

Congrats to the Roadrunners for qualifying for the 2013 playoffs. We are very proud of your efforts and look forward to cheering you on next season!



Grand Opening For New El Monte Educational Center

The College hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday, May 2 to celebrate the grand opening of the El Monte Educational Center, a satellite campus built to serve the El Monte and South El Monte communities.

The new state-of-the-art campus features four classrooms, a computer study room with computer stations, an open courtyard and parking.

In early April, Rio Hondo College offered the inaugural general educational curriculum schedule to students in the community. More than 200 students took advantage of 10 initial class offerings, citing convenience of location as a major factor in choosing to attend the center. According to Dr. Kenn Pierson, Vice President, Academic Affairs, the center will accommodate approximately 15 classes for the Fall 2013 semester.

Construction of the center began in December 2011 and the project's total cost was \$3.8 million.

"This center will positively impact our community in many ways," Nick Salerno, superintendent for the El Monte Union High School District, said. "This great location will not only serve not only our youth, but also our adult learners. It can address the needs of our cities by offering work training programs to get residents working again."

The transformation of Rio Hondo into a thoroughly modernized campus, including these two new satellite educational centers, equipped for 21st Century teaching and learning was made possible through Measure A Bond funds endorsed by voters in 2004.

Rio Hondo College opened the first educational satellite center in South Whittier in 2010.



Women's Soccer Program Celebrates Accomplishments

On Wednesday, May 8, the women's soccer program celebrated nine members who will be transferring this fall with a signing party. The Women's Soccer program has now transferred over 87 percent of their sophomore athletes to universities and professional programs since 2008 - ranking the program among the top in the state.

This accomplishment is one of many highlights the program enjoyed this year, including national recognition from the second largest soccer organization in the USA with an NSCAA Scholar-Athlete All-American, a Foothill Conference Player of the Year award, Rio Hondo Female Student-Athlete of the Year award, a nine game unbeaten streak and second place finish in Conference and nine student-athletes receiving over a 3.0 GPA this fall.

Congratulations to the entire women's soccer program!



Journalism Students Win State Honors

El Paisano adviser John Francis and eleven student writers and editors attended the Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC) conference in Sacramento April 12-14. Robert Sanchez won first place in on-the-spot editorial cartoon and Sean Armstrong received an honorable mention for on-the-spot opinion writing.

Leadership Academy III Graduation May 3



On Friday, May 3, Interim Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss addressed the graduates of the 2012-13 Rio Hondo College Leadership Academy (RHCLA) at their Commencement Ceremony. President Dreyfuss joined RHCLA Faculty Coordinator Dennyse Clark in providing congratulatory remarks to the 12 graduates, who were members of Cohort 3 of the RHCLA.

Thanking the graduates for all of the time and effort invested in the academy, President Dreyfuss also recognized their hard work on their Campus Improvement Project. President Dreyfuss offered her gratitude to Dennyse Clark, graduate of 2010-11 RHCLA Cohort 1 for her two years of service as an outstanding faculty coordinator. After her remarks, President Dreyfuss awarded each graduate with special recognition certificates that were provided by local, state, and federal government officials who represent the Rio Hondo College service area.

Forensics Student Wins Gold at National Tourney

The Forensics Speech and Debate team brought home one gold and two bronze medals after competing in the *Phi Rho Pi National Tournament*. Hosted by Los Angeles Valley College April 16-20 at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills, the national competition drew more than 60 college teams and 400 students. Phi Rho Pi is the National Forensic Association for Two Year Colleges.

Months of vigorous preparation paid off for gold medalist Steven Villescas, 20, who competed against students from all over the country in Prose Interpretation. Vanessa Cazares, 24, earned **Bronze Speaker in Prose Interpretation** and another **Bronze Speaker in Dramatic Interpretation**.

Rio Hondo College was represented by 10 students, three coaches and two judges, the most ever from the forensics program to attend the national competition.

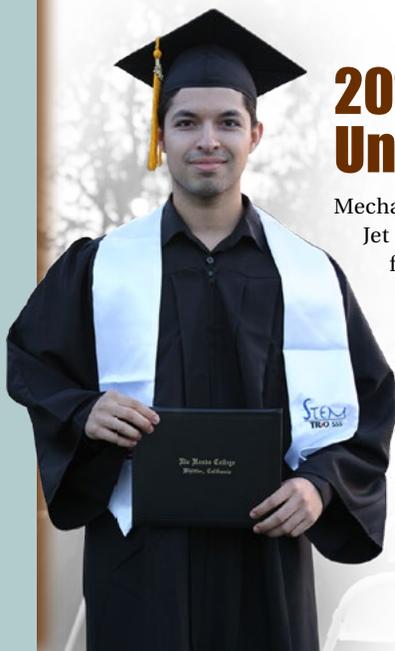
Cazares is excited about the growth in the forensics speech and debate program. "This tournament is extremely competitive," she said, "but I know that our team is progressing. We're getting better and better every year."

Program Coordinator Libby Curiel leads the team along with coaches Grant Tovmasian and Steve Rohr. Speech faculty Gilbert Puga and Adam Gonzalez also assist.



2013 Jet Propulsion Lab Undergraduate Scholar Awarded

Mechanical Engineering student Jesus Lizarraras has been named as the 2013 Jet Propulsion Lab Undergraduate Scholar. Jesus was nominated by the faculty of the Math & Science Division, not only for being academically outstanding, but also because Jesus has the ability to make original contributions to his chosen field of study. Being a JPLUS student, Jesus will enter a training program that helps students become aware of and take advantage of undergraduate research opportunities at JPL and Cal Tech. He will be acknowledged at a ceremony at the Jet Propulsion Lab on June 7. Congratulations to Jesus, Dr. Vann Priest, and the Math and Science Division!



Students Conduct Simulated Accident Response

On Friday, May 10, 40 graduating RN students, seven Fire Academy students and 14 EMT students participated in the first Interprofessional Scenario drill held on campus. During this drill, the fire academy used the Jaws of Life on a small pick-up truck to remove “victims” from the vehicle that was involved in a simulated accident that also hit two pedestrians “victims”.

The EMT students triaged the “victims” and treated them at the scene, then transported them to the Simulated Emergency Room in our “Roadrunner General Hospital” located on the fourth floor of the L tower. The EMT students gave reports to the RN students about the injuries of their “victims.” At that point the Nursing faculty acted as the physicians giving orders to the nursing students to treat the “victims.”

After the drill all parties involved, including the EMT and Fire Academy faculty, met to debrief the events of the day. Students remarked about the coordination between professionals and how much they learned from this activity. They said it is one thing to talk about doing these activities and quite different in actually doing them.



50 Years of Dance – Rock’n Memories

From May 9-11, the Rio Hondo College Dance Program celebrated 50 years of dance with the Rock’n Memories performance at the Wray Theater.

Choreographed by both faculty and students, the concert was set to popular dance music from 1963, the year Rio Hondo College was founded. These songs include Top 100 hits like “Fingertips” by Stevie Wonder, “My Boyfriend’s Back” by the Angels, “Heat Wave” by Martha and the Vandellas, “Be My Baby” by the Ronettes, “Take These Chains from My Heart” by Ray Charles and “(You’re The) Devil in Disguise” by Elvis Presley.

In addition, the full 60 member cast performed a medley of songs from the musical *Hair* to celebrate the special anniversary of the College.

