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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

We are now in the home stretch of this very busy semester! There are exciting developments all around as we move through the academic calendar. Our students will likely feel some anxiety as final exams approach, and I would like to ask everyone to be extra helpful to assist whenever, and wherever possible. An extra smile, a reassuring 'hello' along with a warm response will go far to make their path down the final weeks less stressful.

Kudos to the Veterans Service Center and to the Veterans Club for an outstanding grand opening for the new center, and for a lively Comedy Club fundraiser. Congratulations also to the club for winning the ASB Interclub Council's display case competition for the second year!

The statewide "Great Shakeout" earthquake disaster drill gave us all an opportunity to practice "Duck, Cover and Hold" and to test our BERBEE communication system. We have all learned much in the past weeks, and thanks to the NEMS/SEMS training we now have a greatly heightened awareness of the importance of ongoing emergency preparedness.

Stay tuned for upcoming presentations on the designs for the Quad. Comments and suggestions have been incorporated into a new iteration of the design, which includes student gathering areas on both levels of the landscape, which will be connected by a green belt.

Please accept my gratitude for your individual and collective roles in making Rio Hondo College such a superior institution. Even in these difficult economic times, there is much for which we are thankful. Please enjoy a safe and relaxing Thanksgiving Holiday with family and friends.

Vision Statement

Rio Hondo College strives to be an exemplary California community college, meeting the learning needs of its changing and growing population and developing a state of the art campus to serve future generations.

Mission Statement

"Rio Hondo College is a collaborative center of lifelong learning which provides innovative, challenging, and quality educational offerings for its diverse students and community." (Revised and adopted by Governing Board December 13, 2005.)

Values Statement

As a teaching/learning community, we come together and strive to meet the needs, aspirations, and goals of our changing student population and communities. Since what we value forms the core of who and what we are, the college community—trustees, faculty and staff—recognizes the importance of openly and candidly expressing the college's values. Rio Hondo College values the following:

1. Quality teaching and learning
2. Student access and success
3. Diversity and Equity
4. Fiscal Responsibility - Rio Hondo College recognizes the importance of maintaining a fiscally sound, efficient, and effective college operation. It uses its resources-human, facilities, and financial-to the optimum benefit of its students, community, and staff.



November Board Meeting

Prior to the November 12 meeting the Board of Trustees and the faculty and staff had an opportunity to celebrate with the Women's Cross Country team and the Men's Soccer team, both are 2008 Foothill Conference Champions. The meeting began with commendations for both teams, during which certificates were presented to team members and recognition from Rory Natividad, Dean of Physical Education, Angela Acosta-Salazar, President of the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees and Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President of Rio Hondo College.



Angela Acosta-Salazar, Men's Soccer team, Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.



Angela Acosta-Salazar, Women's Cross Country team, Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

There were two presentations to the Board: Dianne Martinez provided an update about the Transfer Center. She shared with the board that the College is working to increase the articulation agreements that it has with other institutions so that students can take transferable classes that are accepted by four-year institutions. Ms. Martinez has also secured a Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) with University of California, Davis. This means if a student follows a course that is outlined by the Transfer Center in agreement with the University of California institution, they are guaranteed admission to that institution. Rio Hondo College now has TAG agreements with seven of the University of California campuses. Ms. Martinez is also stepping up her community outreach by working with outreach staff to let high school students know the excellent transfer possibilities at Rio Hondo College.

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Rio Hondo College Brings the Harvest to the Community

This November is the 5th Annual Battle of the Clubs Canned Food Drive. Campus clubs compete to see how many cans of food they can collect for charity giving. Cans and nonperishable items were assembled in the Student Activities Office throughout the month. All the food will be donated to the Community Food Bank in Whittier, which serves the poor and homeless in Whittier, Santa Fe Springs, and Pico Rivera. The last day to turn in cans is Monday, Dec. 1st by 3:00 pm.

The Rio Hondo College Chapter of the Latina Leadership Network (LLN) is selling 250 pies/gift certificates for Marie Callender's or COSTCO pies just in time for the holidays. Proceeds from the sale benefit the LLN Scholarship Fund which awards scholarships to deserving Rio Hondo College students.

The Rio Hondo College CSEA held a holiday sale in the Board Room on November 14, 2008. The sale featured selected vendors with items including: Tupperware, Partylite, Cookie Lee, Bedding and Jewelry. Members of CSEA baked goods for an old fashioned bake sale that kept shoppers well fed during the sale. All of the proceeds from the event will go for CSEA activities and scholarships.

CSEA Boutique Ushers Holiday Season



Jewelry, cosmetics, clothing, toys, Tupperware, catalogue items and lots of baked goodies were on sale November 14 were all part of the CSEA Holiday Boutique fundraiser. There were lots of raffle prizes.

College Library Receives Verizon Grant

The library at Rio Hondo College received a generous grant from the Verizon Foundation. Verizon's \$12,500 contribution through the Rio Hondo College Foundation will fund an online library literacy tutorial: **Project Rio Hondo: An e-Learning Tutorial.**

Project Rio Hondo will teach students how to identify and use the learning resources available in the Library, including books, magazines, journals, newspapers, and databases. The Project will also complement classes by providing convenient round-the-clock electronic access to information about how to conduct research and complete reports and essays.



BOARD MEETING

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Dianne Martinez



Katie O'Brien

The second presentation was made by Katie O'Brien about the "Caught in the Act" Staff Development program that began last year. To date there have been a total of 40 honorees. Of those honored, 5 are confidential staff, 4 are managers, 10 are faculty and 21 are classified staff. This represents 22 departments campus-wide. The purpose of the program is to recognize the good work that is being done on the campus. Anyone can nominate someone else when they see them going above and beyond in the service to College. Dr. Martinez plays a key role in the program making sure that he is at every presentation to let the recipients know why they are being honored because he believes in recognizing good works by college staff.

The Board of Trustees resolved to support AB 540 stating that "Rio Hondo College has set a goal of promoting student success for all students, regardless of their status, state of origin, or background."

Steve Massetti, Program Manager for the construction program on campus, reported to the board that all projects are continuing to progress, and by this Spring the board will be able to tour the LRC in its final stages of construction. A grand opening is planned for next Fall.



Steve Massetti

The New Veterans Services Center Opens



It was fitting that on Veterans Day, November 11, 2008, the new Veterans Services Center Office (VSO) hosted an open house to showcase their new operation. The event drew more than 100 attendees. Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. welcomed guests to the event and Vice President of Student Services, Henry Gee spoke about the inception and program concept. Dan Rubalcava, Dean of Student Support Services spoke about the direction of the program and the accomplishments up to this point.

Sylvia Duran-Katnik is a Veterans Advisor and Arely Rodarte is the Certifying official, both are available throughout the day at the VSO

for Rio Hondo College veterans to find information and to assist with any questions regarding veterans' educational benefits at Rio Hondo College. The VSO also provides emergency loan services and other benefits for veterans, including tutoring at no cost. The program has just begun, but a newsletter has already gone out to the community to share the wonderful work that they are doing.

The VSO is planning to expand services to include informational seminars on financial aid, how to select classes, making a transfer plan and handling the physical and academic issues of veterans. The VSO is open and has already provided much needed services to Rio Hondo College students. For more information on the program contact the VSO at 562-463-3362 or visit them in the Campus Inn.



Nursing Grads Ace Licensing Exams For Both Registered and Vocational Nurses

Our nursing grads are acing state licensing exams, making them eligible to enter the health care workforce and help alleviate nursing shortages. Dean Connie Austin announced that the Board of Registered Nursing reported that over 94% of Rio Hondo College students who attempted the National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse (NCLEX) between July 1, 2008 and September 30, 2008 passed the exam. Simultaneously, the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nursing reports that more than 93% of the nursing graduates from Rio Hondo College passed the licensing exam.

In sheer numbers, California currently has more than 275,000 RNs with active licenses. According to the state Economic Development Department (EDD), California faces an additional shortfall of more than 109,600 registered nurses (RNs) by 2010. An additional 25,400 licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) will also be needed by 2010. Rio Hondo College is answering the desperate need with well-educated and well-trained nurses that are ready to work.

Rio Hondo College health care professionals are taking jobs in our community and regional medical centers in the San Gabriel Valley as well as the region at large. The College's health care partners include Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital Whittier, White Memorial Medical Center, Whittier Hospital Medical Center, Beverly Hospital, College Hospital, Kaiser Bellflower, Kaiser Baldwin Park, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, Downey Regional Medical Center, Citrus Valley Health Partners-Queen of the Valley Campus, City of Hope Medical Center, Kindred of West Covina, Anaheim Health Care Center and Methodist Hospital of Southern California. Many of these newly licensed practical nurses will be working in these facilities to serve our community.



Veterans Club Turkey Shoot

Although it did not involve turkeys, the Veterans Club's "Turkey Shoot" gave staff an opportunity to take aim and fire at a paper target, with assistance from the Administration of Justice Firing Range staff. Best shots were John Parra, Counseling, first place; Martin A. Venegas, student, second place; and Carlo C. Sgroi, staff, third place.

The following are the drawing winners:
 Renee Tellez, T-Shirt
 Pasqual Romero, T-Shirt
 Lauren Silva, T-Shirt and Cap
 Ron Frescas, Bundt Cake Pan
 Arely Rodarte, Pumpkin Pie
 Tim Vallejo, Pumpkin Pie
 Marise Katnik, Flat Rack Roasting Pan
 Laura Carreon, Flat Rack Roasting Pan
 Stephanie Heckel, Leather I-pod "cover"
 Belia Garcia, Frozen Turkey
 Lori Ruiz, Frozen Turkey
 Gary Duran, Sears Tool Case

Area Superintendents Get Rio Update

Once each semester, regional school district superintendents and their associates are invited to breakfast at Rio Hondo College to learn more about the latest programs and activities. The November 19 session featured several timely topics, including presentations on CAL-PASS (an integrated data sharing program designed to help school districts better articulate curriculum); a presentation on off-site RHC offerings; and an update on educational partnerships and the Early College Academy.

Board President Angela Acosta-Salazar and Superintendent/President Martinez welcomed the group, which included superintendents from Los Nietos, Valle Lindo, South Whittier, Whittier City School District, Mountain View and El Monte districts. Presenters included Dr. Paul Parnell, Howard Kummerman, Henry Gee and Russell Castaneda-Calleros. Presentations were followed by a tour led by Dr. Martinez.

Röbertô Chavez, Rio Hondo College Alumnus, Becomes Award-Winning Photographer

Rio Hondo College Alumnus, J. Röbertô Chavez is the recipient of five Honorable Mentions at the International Photography awards (IPA) 6th Annual Lucie Awards for his entry titled "Wyatt." He has also been invited to be a part of the permanent panel of members of The Art Society of Long Beach.

J. Röbertô came to Rio Hondo College in 2001 to pursue his goal of becoming a photographer. He studied under Chris Acuna-Hansen, a member of the Visual Arts faculty, and then joined *El Paisano* and *La Cima* magazine. There he and Wendy Carrera worked as editors in chief in 2003 advised by John Francis. Another very important person in Röbertô's success at Rio Hondo College was Julius Thomas, his counselor in the Transfer Center Program.



"Rio Hondo College is a very special place for me," said Chavez. "It was a pivotal time—John Francis, Chris Acuna-Hansen and Julius Thomas were so supportive of my achievements at school, dreams and goals that I had."

In 2003, both Röbertô and Wendy received more than 14 awards for the newspaper and the magazine at the JACC competition in Sacramento and were named students of the year among other awards and scholarships. One of those scholarships was from the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, which enabled Röbertô to travel to New York and tour the *New York Times* and other media outlets. Röbertô, with the strong support of John Francis, applied to Art Center College of Design and earned his BFA in Photography.

"If someone had told me back then about me living and working in Europe, particularly Paris, France, I would have laughed, but at Rio Hondo I was encouraged me to follow my dreams," said Chavez. "It was a very influential time in my development both as a person and as artist."

Röbertô has been exhibiting his work both in Europe and the United States and winning awards throughout the world for his work. Rio Hondo College is very proud of his accomplishments and pleased to be a part of his educational foundation in the arts.

State Community College Conference Opportunity for Rio Students to Shine

As one of four host districts for this month's Community College League of California annual conference, Rio Hondo students were afforded an opportunity to help entertain the conferees. A small music combo performed during the Gala Reception Friday evening, November 21, and theatre arts students performed excerpts from the radio plays at the closing luncheon Saturday. Kudos to Dean JoAnna Downey, performing arts faculty and Rio Hondo College students for their part in the student showcase.



Dr. Martinez with music students Nicholas Smith (on piano) and Susanna Hernandez (on guitar).



After performing an excerpt from one of the 10-minute Radio Plays they will perform in December, Rio Hondo College Theatre students are congratulated by Board President Angela Acosta-Salazar at the CCLC conference.

College Practices Drill in "Shakeout"

On November 13, thousands of Rio Hondo College students, instructors and staff, as well as pre-school students at the Child Development Center, huddled beneath tables and desks during the "Duck, Cover and Hold" exercise that was part of a statewide disaster drill. The scenario was a major earthquake. In addition to testing the campus BERBEE announcement system, the drill was an opportunity to practice our response to emergency and to remember how important it is to be prepared. Thanks to Risk Management Coordinator Dante Jackson and others for their efforts to help Rio Hondo College improve its emergency preparedness.



Dr. Gwen Wyatt Receives L.A. Treasures Award



The California Traditional Music Society (CTMS) and the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) announced the winners of the "Elaine Weissman L.A. Treasures Awards" recipients for November 2008. Dr. Gwen Wyatt, a member of the Rio Hondo College Music Faculty, has been named as one of the winners for her work on chorale performances of African-American Spirituals.

This program supports folk and traditional performing and visual artists with \$1,000 in funds for two public performances, workshops or exhibits - one planned by the award recipient, another chosen by DCA and CTMS. The Awards are named after Elaine Weissman, founder of CTMS and great promoter and supporter of folk and traditional arts, who passed away in 2005.

Rio Hondo College is proud to have such exceptional faculty who are recognized not only on the Rio Hondo College campus but also throughout the community. Congratulations Dr. Wyatt.

Famous African Acrobats Amaze Audience

The Wray Theatre came alive November 15 with the amazing performances of the famous African Acrobats, another in the college's lineup of free "Family Friendly" performances sponsored by the college's Cultural Events department. This talented group included Kenyan Acrobats whose skills electrified audience members of all ages.

The African Acrobats are comprised of several groups of well-organized and talented 6-8 member individual groups who perform together. Their repertoire included feats such as gymnastics, rope jumping, juggling acts, Limbo, balancing, contortionist and human pyramid building. They have performed around the world and across North America.

Watching our performers in action, the audience marveled at the blend between African traditional acrobats and western-style arts and circus skill that they have acquired and perfected over the years and which are done in a purely African way. The show was filled with high energy acts, geared to entertain, fast paced to keep the audience on their feet and full of acrobatic ingenuity.



Roadrunners Post Impressive Seasons Orlando Brenes Named "Coach of the Year"

November has been a great month for Roadrunner teams. Both the Men's and Women's' Cross Country Student-Athletes advanced to State Finals in Fresno! Men placed 7th and Women placed 13th at the Southern California Finals.

The Men's Soccer team are the Foothill Conference Champions and continue their strong conference play after beating Chaffey 3-1. The team has moved onto the State Playoffs. Head Coach Orlando Brenes was named Coach of the Year, and Alan Ponce was selected as Conference MVP. Four players were selected for all conference first team, and four others named as all conference second team members.

The Men's Basketball opened the season with a win over East Los Angeles College.



Evenings of Dance

"Evenings of Dance" by the Rio Hondo College dance department included *Works in Progress* to showcase the choreographic work of both faculty and students. Performances were held on both Thursday, November 20, 2008 and Friday, November 21, 2008 at 8 p.m. and were open to the public. The College was very pleased and proud to have Rio Hondo College dance students performing the work of Guest Choreographer Esther Baker-Tarpage, of the nationally recognized Baker and Tarpage Dance Project, in its West Coast debut.

The magical evening provided an opportunity for audience members to see the cutting edge work that is being done by the dance department. The Rio Hondo College dance faculty and students have been recognized for excellence by American College Dance Festival Association's Southwest Region and has alumni at the University of Oregon, Chapman University and California State University, Long Beach.

