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President's Message



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

We have much for which to be grateful! The Accreditation Follow-up visit from the two-person WASC/AACJC team went very well. When we receive the draft copy of the team's report it will be posted on the website. We are hopeful that our full reaffirmation of accreditation will soon be restored. Please do thank the ART members for their commitment and diligence to organizing a thorough and professional response to the recommendations.

Kudos to the Staff Development sub-committee working to lay the groundwork for a Leadership Academy, and thanks to members of the campus community who participated in the focus group sessions to glean input as to the purpose and design of such an academy.

Congratulations to the Wrestling Team for landing the state championship again, for the fourth year running, and to the Men's Soccer team for their play-off berth in the championships. We hosted the first play off game November 24.

We are pleased to report that students are embracing the new AccessRIO registration system to such a degree that as of the 20th day of activity, headcount registration was up over the same period for Spring 2009 by a whopping 49 percent! Thanks to those who are assisting students in the registration system, and to everyone who worked so hard for so long to participate in the development of the AccessRIO system.

Our National Holiday of Thanksgiving approaches while we endeavor to meet student needs and to keep the doors to success open. Our campus has been tested these past months, as we will continue to be in the future. Nevertheless, it is also timely to express gratitude for the continuing commitment our extended family demonstrates every day. The Rio Hondo College community is special! I wish you all a safe and restful Thanksgiving holiday.

Around Rio Hondo's College Campus in November!

Photos of students in Rio Hondo College's TV 135 class shooting their projects on campus as well as two students working professionally on Style Network's new show "MOB: Mother of the Bride," which is scheduled to air in January 2010.



Board of Trustees Meeting

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting Nov. 11, 2009 on the College campus. Because of the Veterans Day Holiday, the College was not able to secure a community facility. The 'community' reception and mixer were held in the foyer outside the Board Room.

The College Color Guard presented the Colors. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by ICC Representative Brent Sanchez of the Rio Hondo College Veterans Club.



The Board of Trustees presented a commendation to La Serna High School Principal, Drew Passalacqua, after his school site was named a "California Distinguished School" this year. They recognized Tim Keeler from California High School for his outstanding teaching and coaching contributions.

The Board of Trustees provided a commendation to the Whittier Chamber of Commerce for its excellent job representing local businesses within the community and support of Rio Hondo College.

Rio Hondo College also presented Andre Quintero and Garry Couso-Vasquez plaques of appreciation for their dedication and service to the Board of Trustees during their terms. Each received commendations and recognition from area elected officials as well.



College Deans Flying High!

Dr. Judith Henderson, Dean of Social Science, Humanities and Philosophy, and Joe Santoro, Dean of Public Safety have each recently been honored through their personal connection with flight. Here are their stories.



Judi Henderson

Judi, as she is called, was invited to be a Key Influence Rider with the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels, flying in the Hornet as a passenger. Next time, they may well give her the throttle!

"Are you ready to fly?"

"Absolutely!"

Hey, nobody is ready for this! Flying with the Blue Angels!

We were in an F/A 18 Hornet, taxiing slowly (for it) down a runway at Miramar Marine Corps Air Station in San Diego, when Lt. Ben Walborn explained that when we got cleared for takeoff some things needed to happen. (Things had been explained in a briefing earlier. The briefing made all things more terrifying to me.)

The first thing after clearance was that I was to arm my ejection seat. (Getting the flavor of terrifying?) I could hear all of the traffic chatter, including the Miramar tower telling Ben where other aircraft were, and informing the others that an F/A 18 is cleared, and will be coming FAST! But at that point, we were sitting on the runway, I was looking out the clear canopy, being careful (really, really careful) not to touch anything (especially the yellow and black marked levers) as instructed. It was much quieter than I expected.

We started to go. Ben had said that when we got to about 250 mph, he would ask me this question, "Are you ready to fly?" And that he hoped that my answer would be, "Yes!" Because then, he promised, he would engage the afterburners, and it would get interesting. I armed the ejection seat—no time, fortunately, to think about actually getting ejected—because we were at 250 mph and very close to the ground. Flying by the air station at eye level, with a real sensation of speed. I was thinking, OK, this is really fun, not so scary, when he asked his question. And I responded, "Absolutely." And the air station was gone. We went straight up, to about 50,000 feet. Then we rolled and I was looking at all of San Diego and lots of surrounding territory through nothing but glass.

We flew a parabola to experience weightlessness. You might think it isn't much of an experience,

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Joe Santoro

Rio Hondo College's Dean of Public Safety, Joe Santoro, has a first-person connection with flight, thanks to his experiences with ultralight aircraft in law enforcement. He was invited to make a presentation on that topic at the Smithsonian Institution, Air and Space Museum, Steven F. Udvar Center near Washington D.C.

In the early 1980s Santoro was a Police Lieutenant with the Monterey Park Police Department. He started the ultralight aircraft patrol program there after seeing a 12 year-old boy flying one on a TV program. The TV program sparked a six-month research effort on ultralights and a four-year experiment on the use of ultralights in law enforcement.

The experiment marked the first use of an ultralight aircraft by a law enforcement agency in the world. The ultralight was used to provide air support for officers on the ground during crimes in progress, traffic control, neighborhood watch meetings and crime suppression in the City of Monterey Park California from 1982 to 1986. The program was designed to function much like the current use of helicopters in law enforcement. At that time the program was a very innovative and exciting concept that generated interest from around the world.

"I cannot express how much I admired my fellow pilots and the officers who volunteered to participate in the program"

During the four years of the program, officers pursued criminals and used the ultralight for air support during the 1984 Olympic Field Hockey event that was held at East Los Angeles College in Monterey Park. Ultimately, Santoro had to ground the program in 1986 because of engine problems and the loss of insurance.

Santoro would later go on to become Dean of Rio Hondo's Police Academy and many of the aircraft used during the four year program, such as the American Aerolights Double Eagle, Double Eagle 2

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Roadrunner Athletic Highlights

Men's Soccer Dominates Conference, Wins Title

Under the guidance of Head Coach Orlando Brenes, the Rio Hondo College Men's Soccer team recently was named Foothill Conference Champions for the eighth consecutive year. This week, the Roadrunners will host the 2nd round playoff game on Roadrunner Field against the winner of #9 Santa Barbara and #8 College of the Canyons.

Congratulations Roadrunners on your No. 1 ranking and successful season!

Women's Soccer Takes the Conference MVP Award

Alex Marin of the Lady Roadrunners earned the Foothill Conference Most Valued Player (MVP) as the team had many conference honors, including **MVP:** Alex Marin

1st Team: Tasha Campbell, Emily Lujan, Lauren Weitman

2nd Team: Melissa Avalos, Madison Maher, Megan Taylor

Honorable Mention: Breanne Cundiff, Liliana Torres, Kimberly Giron

Fourth Consecutive Title for Wrestling

Congratulations to the Wrestling team and Head Coach Mike Tellez for their fourth consecutive Western State Conference Title. The team defeated Cuesta College for the title 33-17. All Conference first team went to Matt Orona, Jesse Cruz, Nick Inclan and Anthony Gonzalez.

'Baskets of Hope' Aim to Help Those in Need

The Thanksgiving holiday is one normally filled with good food, family and friends. For too many families, this year's tough economic times make it especially difficult.

That's why Rio Hondo College Associated Student Body Senate has once again handed out Baskets of Hope to help those in need better enjoy the holiday. A total of 14 students were nominated by Rio Hondo College faculty and staff on campus to receive the baskets. The baskets include everything needed to make a Thanksgiving dinner.

"The idea behind this program is to help out those students who are really struggling financially and emotionally at this time of year," said Cathy Butler, Rio Hondo College Director of Student Activities.

Judi Henderson *continued from previous page*

strapped into the plane in a 12-point harness, but it is amazing. As is the experience of the plane plummeting toward the ocean.

Lt. Ben Walborn explained, while we were doing maneuvers, that what makes the F/A 18 such an effective fighting aircraft is how slow it can go (everyone always focuses on its speed). He said, "We're going to stand it on its tail now." We slowed way down, perhaps to less than 100 mph. Speed, altitude, all kinds of information shows on computer screens, but I was getting too nervous by the plane shaking to be reading them! I said, "Ben, I don't think you plane likes this!" He said, "Let's see how fast we can go in 30 seconds." In 30 seconds, we were getting up to the sound-barrier breaking speed of 700 mph.

This was an amazing experience! I am very honored to have been able to represent community college education, and Rio Hondo Community College, partners with the U. S. Navy in exposing young people to wonderful opportunities.

Joe Santoro *continued from previous page*

and the Ultraflight Lazier SS are now displayed at the Smithsonian Institution Air and Space Museum, Stephen F. Udvar-Hazy Center.

Santoro says he still believes the ultralight program, as a concept, was good; however, to make the use of ultralights in law enforcement viable, there needs to be an ultralight with a fuselage and engine that are strong enough for daily operations.

In his presentation, Santoro touched on many of his experiences dealing with ultralights and their potential in law enforcement. Said Santoro, "There are many wonderful stories of the challenges we faced during research, flight training, experimenting with different types of equipment, maintaining flight operations and catching criminals. I cannot express how much I admired my fellow pilots and the officers who volunteered to participate in the program for their courage, dedication to duty and the 'can do' attitude they demonstrated during the four years the program was being developed and implemented."

Cyber Securities Workshop Provides Useful Information for Students, Staff and Local Community



As one of the many ways it serves both its students and surrounding communities, Rio Hondo College recently hosted a Cyber Securities Workshop.

The Workshop, presented by Texas A&M University, educated participants on cyber threats to business, education and home Internet users, and presented hardware, software and user policy solutions for reducing such risks. Topics included current cyber threats, network and firewall configuration recommendations, post-intrusion responses, suggested user policies,

wireless network vulnerabilities and other subjects related to cyber security.

The workshop was attended by approximately 42 people, comprised of Rio Hondo faculty, staff and students, as well as local business owners and workers. Those in attendance were met by members of the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) who discussed today's threats to and vulnerabilities of network infrastructure. TEEX members also helped implement the VTECH (Virtual Tools for Expanding the Cyber Horizon) program at Rio Hondo College. The program promises to add value and enrich the cyber security instructional program.

TEEX presenters educated participants on the threats facing all entities with Web-facing networks and described the vulnerabilities that can be mitigated with proper configuration of network firewall devices, particularly in the business environment. The VTECH project develops modules, scenarios and exercises based on typical business information security requirements that Rio Hondo College instructors can incorporate into their network engineering programs. Based on those security requirements presented by the assigned exercises, students can design and implement firewall configurations on real equipment located in the Virtual Network Engineering Laboratory at Texas A&M University.

The Cyber Security Workshop was welcomed by the participants who left with an enhanced knowledge of cyber threats and solutions. Another Cyber Security Workshop is in the works and is likely to occur in March or April of 2010.



Gonzalez Appointed as Director of Facilities Services

Rio Hondo College congratulates Gus Gonzalez on his recent appointment to Director of Facilities Services. Formerly serving as the College's Interim Director of Facilities since April 2008, Gonzalez started working at Rio Hondo in 2001 where he served as Manager of Construction and Maintenance Projects.



At Rio Hondo College, Gonzalez has been instrumental in the construction of the Child Care Center, Science Building Remodel, ADA Compliance, Administration Building Remodel, Technology Building Remodel, Portable Building Placement, Swimming Pool Renovation, Police Academy/Fire Training Facility and Learning Resource Center.

Prior to working at Rio Hondo College, Gonzalez worked at Villanueva Arnoni Architects in Costa Mesa, Jimenez & Associates Architects in Redondo Beach and Barrio Planners in Los Angeles. He earned his bachelor's of arts in Architecture Design from Cal Poly Pomona.

Congratulations, Gus!

CSEA Holiday Boutique



The Second Annual CSEA Holiday Boutique was held on November 13, 2009.

Campus Forum Provides Update on AccessRIO and Building Program

On Nov.10, 2009, a Campus Forum featured John Bryant and Judy Peason providing an update on the launch of the AccessRIO Registration System and Program Manager Jim Sinsheimer, and Director of Facilities Gus Gonzalez, provided a Building Program Update.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Overview of results of initial registration using AccessRIO system which indicate that students are embracing the new system. Registration numbers to date for Spring 2010 far outpace those at comparative dates for Spring 2009.
- Review of upcoming projects scheduled for construction, including the Administration of Justice, Mass Grading, Student Services, Student Union Building, Central Quad Renovation, PE Complex Project and the Lower Parking Terrace Stairs.
- Review of projects currently in design, including the Parking Study, Blue Light Emergency Phone System, Integrated Campus Energy Management System, Integrated Campus Fire Alarm System and a Campus Wide Wayfinding and Signage Program.

