



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

PRIOR ISSUES

APRIL 2009

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message

Student Media Preferences Revealed

Board Meeting in Pico Rivera

President's Gala Honors
Community Stalwart Hubert Perry

Rio Hondo Police Academy
Honored by POST Award
for Excellence in Training

Athletic Update

Strategic Planning Moves to
the Next Level

Rio Hondo College Seeks Volunteers
for New Guide to Speakers
and Media Resources

Rio Hondo College Theatre
and Art Celebrates Spring

College Information Days
Bring New Faces to Campus

Rio Hondo Students
Create Magic and History

Social Science Division Hosts
Forum to Help Community Find Jobs
During Tough Economic Times

AccessRio Update



President's Message



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

Our strategic planning activities are taking shape! The College Leadership Retreat provided the opportunity to review Area Plan and Program Review recommendations, to learn more about and revise as appropriate our Key Performance Indicators, and to update our institutional goals and objectives for 2009-2010. We also reviewed recommendations for resource allocation and analyzed their fit to institutional planning. Special thanks to the nearly 80 members of our campus community for taking a day to focus on this important project and to help us move forward with our planning process.

Earlier this month constituency group representatives came together for a conversation about our governance and communications processes. We shared ideas and strategies to help stakeholder groups insure that their constituencies are in the loop and receive information necessary for their decision-making. As a result of this activity, we agreed to have a similar meeting once each semester to review and update our practices.

The 'season of events' is rapidly approaching. You may recall that last fall we established a web-based Special Events Calendar. Please be reminded that it is important for all events, even those scheduled at off-campus sites, to be included in the calendar. Please make sure that Eva Cabral knows that you have a 'special event' so she can include the actual times of the event in the calendar.

It is just a short time until we come together to celebrate Commencement May 28, and there is much to be done to help our students make it a successful end of semester.

Thanks to everyone for all you do to help in a multitude of ways.

Student Media Preferences Revealed

Last fall, more than 400 Rio Hondo College students volunteered to participate in an online survey to help us learn more about the ways they prefer for us to communicate with them, and to help us make smart communications decisions. As a reward for participating, student Yvonne Chih was selected in a random drawing and received an iPod.

In addition, our 400-plus students were part of more than 47,700 two-year college students drawn from the total United States population of more than 300 million students. The survey has a confidence interval of .45, or +/- < 1 percent.

Students answered more than 230 questions about media consumption habits, as well as specific information on their favorite shows, channels and events. In addition, Rio Hondo College students responded to customized questions that enabled us to learn more about their decision to attend RHC, how they prefer to receive information from us, their primary reason for choosing RHC, and to select statements best describing RHC (brand statements).



Of special interest to our Marketing and Communications Department are the responses to questions regarding social networking sites, telling us more about who is on what sites, and how often. We also have new data on website preferences that will help us refine our efforts.

This new information will help us integrate our marketing and other communications strategies with new technologies. Stay tuned!

Board Meeting in Pico Rivera

The April Board meeting was held at the North Park Middle School on April 8. The Community Mixer began at 5:15 p.m. with members of the public having the chance to speak with Rio Hondo College Trustees. The Board Meeting began at 6 p.m.

- The Board of Trustees presented the Pico Rivera City Council a Certificate of Recognition for their commitment and educational partnership with the College.



- Joe Duardo and Jake Alarid presented to Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr. an American G.I. Forum Commendation for his work and assistance with Veteran programs at the College.



- Karen Koos, Dean of Mathematics and Sciences and Steve Katnik, Professor of Biology, presented an Environmental Program update and the new course offerings that have been recently developed.



continued on next page.

President's Gala Honors Community Stalwart Hubert Perry

On behalf of the entire Rio Hondo College family, I want to thank everyone who attended this year's College Foundation's President's Gala, which is designed to raise money for the important and timely issues that face the college. This year's gala was held April 18 at the Pacific Palms Conference Resort in Industry Hills, with the theme "Casino Rio... a Turning Point in Healthcare Education."

We honored Hubert C. Perry by presenting him with the inaugural Rio Hondo College President's Award, which recognizes an individual's outstanding work in a given field and a significant contribution to the community. Perry, a long-time Whittier resident, served as the Chair of the Presbyterian Inter-community Hospital (PIH) for 15 years in addition to serving as Treasurer and Trustee. His contributions helped transform PIH from a community hospital to a state-of-the-art regional medical center. He received a BA from Whittier College and a M.B.A. from Stanford University. He is a generous contributor to PIH and to the entire Whittier community.

"The Gala's theme promotes the College's major initiative to expand its Health Science Division and to integrate technology into the curriculum. Hubert helped build PIH into a first-rate regional hospital and now Rio Hondo's efforts will insure that it will be staffed with highly-trained nurses and other allied healthcare specialists," said Foundation Board President Rich Casford, also noting the Regional Health Occupational Training Center being planned as an example of how the College is taking an aggressive approach to meeting the community's healthcare needs. "This Gala was a fun way to honor Hubert and to build support for our health science educational program."

"Rio Hondo College is pleased to recognize the vast accomplishments and important contributions of Hubert Perry, to healthcare and to the quality of life in our community" said André Quintero, President of the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees. "Hubert Perry is the epitome of community service and an icon in the development of healthcare resources. It is most fitting that he was the first recipient of this new award recognizing commitment to excellence."



Rio Hondo Police Academy Honored by POST Award for Excellence in Training

Earlier this year Chief Dave Singer from the Whittier Police Department and Chairman of our Police Academy Advisory Board, nominated the Rio Hondo College Police Academy for the 2008 California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Award for Excellence in Training in the Organizational Achievement category. After a review of nominations for this award from police academies throughout California, **the California POST Commission awarded Rio Hondo College the First Place Award in the Organizational Excellence Category.**

The annual POST Excellence in Training awards recognize excellence, innovation, and impact upon law enforcement training in three categories - Individual Achievement, Lifetime Achievement, and Organizational Achievement. This year there were 26 excellent nominations submitted for consideration by the POST Advisory Committee.



The Rio Hondo College Police Academy is known throughout the region as one of the most effective and complete regional training centers in Southern California. Training provided includes the basic academy training, advanced officer courses, and many other POST-certified courses that serve the needs of the region. The Academy is recognized for continually offering up-to-date, contemporary training because of its continuous collaboration with numerous police departments and public safety agencies.

The Academy serves law enforcement agencies throughout Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties. It has an excellent reputation and history of providing effective training programs and has the facilities to support their programs. Specifically, the Rio Hondo Training Center has secured Homeland Security funding to develop facilities in order to be a regional presenter of terrorism training.

"I would like to congratulate the men and women of the Rio Hondo College Police Academy for a job well done," said Joseph A. Santoro, Dean of Public Safety. "I am very proud of their hard work, can-do attitude and the dedication to duty they show on a daily basis. Their commitment to training the current and next generation of law enforcement professionals is very much appreciated and second to none."

BOARD MEETING

continued from previous page

- Mike Slavich and Ed Gonzales from the Architecture, Civil Engineering, Engineering, Design, Drafting and GIS (ACEDD-GIS) program at Rio Hondo College presented the new curriculum offerings and the partnerships that have been made both internally and externally to enhance the program.



- Classified employee, Nedra Root, Information Technology, who is retiring was recognized for her years of service with RHC.
- Jim Sinsheimer, Program Manager for the Rio Hondo College Program Management Team, provided an up-to-the-minute update on the progress of the ongoing construction on campus.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Rio Hondo College's Commencement is set for **Thursday, May 28, 2009.**



Athletic Update



Sophomore Conquers Injury to Break Record

The men's swim team just finished their season and while they did not qualify to go to the State Championships, one sophomore broke a standing Rio Hondo College record in the 100 yard Breast Stroke.

After suffering a devastating injury earlier this season, Jesus Mora bounced back and finished at 1:06.54. He not only broke his own personal record, but broke the long standing record of 1:06.89 held by Gary Bredkenridge from 1972.

Coach Mike Hinze proudly stated that Jesus has been a model student athlete who works hard and has a great attitude. Jesus will graduate with a technical degree in Architecture and Drafting in May.

Retired Teacher Voted 'Most Valuable Player of the Year' in Tennis

Norma Pesqueira is not your average retiree. The former grade-school teacher attends classes at Rio Hondo College and more importantly, she has recently been named Foothill Conference's Most Valuable Player of the Year. (The Football Conference is made up of five colleges.)



On April 18, during the end of the season conference tournament held at Victor Valley College, this 63-year-old friendly, athletic retiree was surprised with the MVP award. Coach Karen Unger veered from the normal process of selection and nominated Norma.

At the time, Norma, who plays number 6 singles and number 3 doubles, was up against four No.1 players, who were also nominated for their strong play and winning records. However, when the coaches gathered together to vote on the MVP utilizing criteria such as leadership, inspiration, sportsmanship, dependability and match record - Norma came out ahead of the rest.

One of the oldest players to compete on Rio Hondo College's Tennis Team, Norma joined the team last year as an extra player and as such wasn't given many opportunities to play. That didn't stop her from attending every practice and every tournament. This year, Coach Unger decided it was time to give Norma her due. Now it seems she has a new second career ahead of her.

Coach Unger stated that Norma is well loved by both players and coaches alike and has become something of a mother figure to many of the players. The coach is so impressed with Norma that she has selected her to play in the prestigious 109th Ojai Tournament, which is traditionally reserved for No. 1 and No. 2 singles and doubles teams.

"We have some tough matches ahead of us," said Unger, "but I know that Norma and all our girls will give it their all!"

Strategic Planning Moves to the Next Level

Table groups worked to update and revise goals and objectives. Representatives reported recommendations to representatives of campus constituencies.



Rio Hondo College Seeks Volunteers for New Guide to Speakers and Media Resources

Rio Hondo College is preparing a list of subject experts from our College who would serve as volunteer resources for speaking engagements on behalf of the College, or for interviews with the media.

When you volunteer, your name and your area of expertise will be listed in the Rio Hondo College Guide to Speakers and Media Resources. This booklet will be distributed to service organizations and to the media. You may choose to volunteer as either a speaker or as a media resource, or as both.

Arrangements for speaking engagements will be coordinated with Russell Castaneda-Calleros, Director of Community and Governmental Relations. Arrangements for media interviews will be coordinated by Susan Herney, Director of Marketing and Communications.

Please complete a form linked to this story to indicate your interest in this project. Forms were also distributed in Flex Day packets. Please do not include any topics that might be considered 'sales'.

If you would like assistance identifying topics or presentation titles, please contact Susan Herney, ext. 3145 or sherney@riohondo.edu.

Flex Credit is available for community presentations

College Information Days Bring New Faces to Campus

College Information Days began this year on March 13 with a visit from El Monte Union High-School District's schools, which brought nearly 300 students to Rio Hondo College's campus. College Information Days are designed to increase awareness among soon-to-be graduates from neighboring high schools of the importance and value of a post-secondary education.

In addition to El Monte Union High-School's visit, students from Whittier Union High-School District, El Rancho Unified School District and Montebello Unified School District will be partici-

continued on next page.

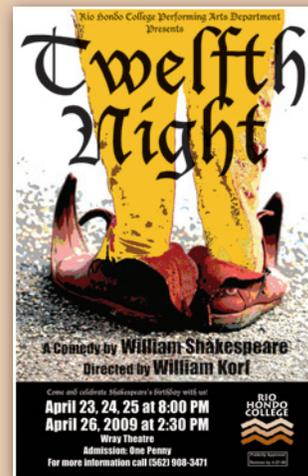
Rio Hondo College Theatre and Art Celebrates Spring

What better way to welcome springtime than enjoying a Sunday matinee or an evening literary festival?

The Philosopher's Garden, the Eric Beltz "Artist in Residence" show opened at the RHC Art Gallery in mid-March and will continue until May 1. This amazing Southern California artist's work has been seen in New York, Houston and the UK among other places around the world. Mr. Beltz spoke as part of RHC's Lecture Series on April 16.

The end of the month was full of cultural experiences. Rio Hondo College (RHC) students performed Shakespeare's comedy about mistaken identity and passion, *Twelfth Night*, at the Wray Theatre. The event was a great success, with wonderful performances by all participating students.

Finally, the RHC Communications Department sponsored their annual literary festival, *Writes of Spring* also held at the Wray Theatre. Two days of poetry, film, readings and surprise guests, both excited and entertained guests.



COMING IN MAY

May 7-9 – **Rio Hondo Dance Collective**
An evening of dance works including hip-hop, ballet, contemporary, and world dance. **Wray Theatre, 8 p.m.** Reservations are recommended for this event.

May 11 – **Student Showcase**
Selected students will perform their musical works prior to the Student Award Ceremony. **Wray Theatre, 5 p.m.**

May 11 - July 31 – **Student Art Show**
Selected students will showcase their art in a variety of media, juried by RHC Visual Arts Faculty. **RHC Art Gallery, Reception on May 11, 7 – 8 p.m.**

May 12 – **Six Strings/One Voice**
Faculty Recital featuring Frank Accardo, guitarist,

and Gwendolyn Wyatt, soprano, as they present works of Master Composers adapted for guitar and soprano. **Wray Theatre, 7:30 p.m.**

May 16 – **Choral Concert, Music for a May Night**
Semester end celebration featuring a wide variety of choral music. Performed by Rio Hondo Vocal Arts Ensembles. **First Friends Church in Whittier, 7:30 p.m.**

May 19 – **Workman Mill Industrial Orchestra** of Rio Hondo College. **Wray Theater, 7:30 p.m.**

May 22-23 – **One Act Festival**
RHC theatre students will direct and perform a series of one-act plays. **Black Box Theatre, 8 p.m.**

Rio Hondo Technology Students Create Magic and History

The Imagine Cup, the world's premier student technology competition sponsored by Microsoft encourages young people to apply their imagination, their passion and their creativity to technology innovations that can make a difference in the world – today.

Microsoft's Imagine Cup, now in its seventh year has grown to be a global competition focused on finding solutions to real world issues.

Open to students from around the world, the Imagine Cup is a serious challenge that draws serious talent, and the competition is intense. The contest spans a year, beginning with local, regional and online contests whose winners go on to attend the global finals set to be held this year in Cairo.

Fourteen students from Rio Hondo College's Computer Information Technology (CIT) department have been selected as winners in the State Finals and beat both University of California Irvine and Los Angeles (UCLA). Even more impressive is the fact that RHC is the only community college to enter this competition in the Software Design Category at the national level and four of the 15 teams that will go onto the National Finals are from RHC.

To compete for the National Final Software Design, these 14 students created innovative and creative projects that integrate the latest technologies under the direction of CIT professor Dr. Shin Liu and the encouragement and leadership of the dean of RHC's Business Division, Ron Christie. The projects were programmed on AT&T's HPC Fuze mobile phones in "C#" utilizing software provided by Microsoft.

After the state finals were held Dr. Hadar Ziv Ph.D., Researcher (Info. and Computer Science) and Instructor (UCI Extension), was so impressed he came onboard to act as mentor throughout the remainder of the competition.

continued on next page.

COLLEGE INFORMATION DAYS continued from previous page

participating in College Information Days throughout the month.

After students were welcomed to the campus, they watched a lively skit depicting college life, took a tour of programs and services and enjoyed lunch before they departed. All participating students were also given bilingual information to take home to share with their families on the different educational opportunities available to them after high school.



Social Science Division Hosts Forum to Help Community Find Jobs During Tough Economic Times

As part of its efforts to reach out to students and the community it serves, Rio Hondo College's Social Science Division hosted an economic forum called, "How to Find Employment During a Recession." The forum was designed to help attendees learn which jobs to look for during the current economic times, as well as provided an opportunity for students and members of the community to ask questions on these positions and their application processes.

The forum was open to the public and hosted by faculty members from Rio Hondo College's Economics Department. This forum was one of a series of forums hosted by the Social Science Division as part of its goal to provide information and outreach that is enriching and helpful to both the students and community of Rio Hondo College.

RIO HONDO STUDENTS CREATE MAGIC AND HISTORY *continued from previous page*

Dr. Ziv made the following statement about this very talented group of students, "The students working on Imagine Cup projects from Rio Hondo College have demonstrated both technical and non-technical skills ...they have shown strong motivation and drive to succeed, good communication and management skills, and willingness to continuously improve and be mentored and incorporate others' feedback."

His feedback was mirrored by Sam Stokes, Microsoft Academic Developer Evangelist, "These students have the ability to morph into teams that seem to be something that reflects the nature of teamwork and friendship that is instilled into the culture of Rio Hondo."

The winners will travel to Cambridge, MA, courtesy of Microsoft, where they will compete from May 2 to May 5, 2009 for the top Imagine Cup award; a trip to Cairo and \$8,000 cash, to be divided equally among each member of the team, or alternatively a Microsoft-sponsored \$16,000 (USD) NCIA e-team grant.

Rio Hondo College's four teams and their members are:

Sons of Liberty: Zachary Brambila, Ruben Miramontez, Miguel Lugo, and Oscar Padilla

Team Rio Hondo: Cesar Flores, Ya-She Lin, Eric Hong, and Chin-Wei Hsu

SoCal SURF: Ivan Thai, James Kung, Wil Cardona, and Jared Lodico

WeLearn Foundation: Marcellus Benton and Shawn Valenzula

AccessRio Update

AccessRio is on the verge of implementation, increasing access for students and providing greater connectivity for RHC employees. In October 2009, the Banner System will be ready to accept Student Applications and Registration for Winter Intercession 2010.

Over the last 18 months, the staff has learned how to use the system, while also doing much of the set-up work. Working alongside software consultants, nearly all of the Human Resources information containing personnel and employment records has been moved to the Banner System. The Human Resources system will be in production on July 1, 2009. This will allow for new hires to be recorded in Banner in time for the new school year.

The Student Services and Academic Affairs portion of the system is also nearing completion. The course catalog for 2009/10 is being entered into the Banner system and the Spring 2010 class schedule will be developed in Banner. Staff is in the final stages of moving approximately 480,000 student records and 1.5 million transcript entries to the system.

Over the next six months, the system will be tested through a series of Mock Registrations, wherein groups of staff will use mock data to run through the system and ensure they receive the desired results. This process will ensure the system is set to RHC's specifications and unique needs.

The goal is for staff and faculty to be fully trained and utilizing the system, with software up and ready for student use in October 2009. For additional information, contact project manager, David Bell at (562) 463-3749 or djbell@riohondo.edu. Staff, faculty and managers are welcome to visit the project Website at <http://accessrio.riohondo.edu>. Access requires a valid Rio Hondo email account.

