

## IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message

Groundbreaking Ceremony for the New Student Services Complex and the Quad Renovation

Board Meeting

Student Trustee Attends Meeting with Senator Huff

Rio Hondo College and Dr. Shin Liu Receive Praise from Microsoft Director

Free 'Clean Up & Green Up' Auto Emissions & Repair Event Helped Improve Emissions for 130 Vehicles!

Annual 'Writes of Spring' Celebrates Written Word

New Intensive English-Language Academy Takes Form

El Día de los Niños/ El Día de los Libros Featured Renowned Origami Storyteller

EOP&S/CARE Host Open House

Career Center Hosts Career & Internship Day on April 21

Rio Hondo College Librarian Honored by Library Journal

Whittier Dignitaries Tour Rio Hondo College Facilities in April



## President's Message



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

The "Season of Celebrations" is rapidly approaching, as we prepare for Rio Hondo College's 47th Commencement. Thanks to everyone involved in the multiple events planned for our students to celebrate their success! We will be hosted by the Rio Hondo College Foundation May 13 at the Clarke Estate to honor our outstanding students and scholars. Please join us for that event.

Our 47th Annual Commencement ceremony will be May 27. My thanks to all involved in the planning and execution of this exciting evening, the highlight of our academic year. I also appreciate the efforts by faculty to sign up for their regalia by the deadline earlier this month. Everyone's efforts count to make this symbolic event especially meaningful for our graduates and their families.

Congratulations to the ASB on holding successful and enthusiastic "RiOlympics" events this past month. It is important for students to feel connected and to have an opportunity to display club spirit, and this series of activities did exactly that.

My appreciation is extended to the members of the South Whittier Educational Center Task Force for their work to develop and implement a 'starter' program at the new facility, which will be ready for occupancy on a reduced scale with the beginning of the fall semester. There will be a 'soft' opening in August, followed by an open house event later in the fall. We will have additional offerings as more classrooms come online in that facility in the next year. Members of our South Whittier Educational Center Advisory Committee are pleased to see so much progress on this new center, which was approved by the voters as part of our Measure "A" Facilities Bond plan.

*You're invited to the*

## Groundbreaking Ceremony for the New Student Services Complex and the Quad Renovation

**Wednesday, May 5, 2010 near the Wray Theatre at 11 a.m.  
Parking Available in Lot C**

*Please RSVP by Monday, May 3, 2010 to Sandy Sandello at (562) 463-7271 or [ssandello@riohondo.edu](mailto:ssandello@riohondo.edu)*



## Board Meeting

The April Board meeting was held at the Pico Park Community Center in Pico Rivera. The Community Mixer provided an opportunity for members of the public to meet and speak with Rio Hondo College Trustees. The Board Meeting followed the mixer.

Faculty for Advancement in Academic Rank were honored at the Board meeting with Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Paul Parnell, introducing them and the Board of Trustees providing each with a certificate, thanking them for their hard work and dedication to the College.



These following were honored:

### Professor

Sylvia Duran-Katnik . . . . . Financial Aid  
 Julie Huang . . . . . Business  
 Melissa Juarez . . . . . Social Science  
 Patricia Kepner . . . . . Social Science  
 Barbara Mikalson . . . . . Social Science  
 Jo Ann Springer . . . . . Communications  
 and Language  
 Jon Whitford . . . . . Business

### Associate Professor

Katherine Lopez . . . . . Health Science  
 Kendra Seiler . . . . . Health Science  
 Colin Young . . . . . Social Science

### Assistant Professor

Alyson Cartagena . . . Physical Education  
 Margaret Griffith . . . . Arts & Cultural  
 Mike Hinze . . . . . Physical Education

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## Student Trustee Attends Meeting with Senator Huff



Students from Pasadena City, Citrus and Rio Hondo Colleges recently met with California State Senator Bob Huff to discuss the Competitive Cal Grant Program, a program that provides large amounts of financial aid to California college students each year.

The meeting, which took place in March, was organized by Elaine Reodica from the Community College League of California in response to Governor Schwarzenegger's proposal to terminate the program due to the state budget crisis, a proposal that would potentially cut financial aid to thousands of California students.

During the meeting, which lasted approximately 30 minutes, students shared their own personal stories with the Senator and sought his support for the Cal Grant Program, which is up for a vote in May. Julio Flores, who serves as Student Trustee on the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees, attended the meeting as a representative of Rio Hondo College. Flores, like other students present at the meeting, shared his own experiences and concerns with the Senator. Flores also made a powerful statement to Senator Huff, saying that, with community college fees steadily increasing, it is the responsibility of the California State Legislature to make sure that as students are asked to pay more and more, they will not continue to be given less and less in the quality of services on their college campuses.

"Julio was very well-informed and well-prepared for the meeting and represented Rio Hondo College very professionally," said Russell Castaneda-Calleros, Rio Hondo College Director of Governmental and Community Relations. "I extend kudos to Trustee Flores and the other students for sharing their personal stories and for effectively representing students at Rio Hondo College."

At the end of the meeting, Senator Huff extended his thanks to the students for sharing their stories with him and promised to continue to advocate for the renewal of the Competitive Cal Grant Program.

## Rio Hondo College and Dr. Shin Liu Receive Praise from Microsoft Director

Akhtar Badshah, a globally recognized visionary of community outreach and social development and Senior Director of Global Community Affairs at Microsoft Corp., recently paid a visit to Rio Hondo College to commend Dr. Shin Liu and the College on its innovative participation in the Imagine Cup competition.

Fourteen students from Rio Hondo College's Computer Information Technology (CIT) department were selected as winners in the Microsoft Software Design National Competition in May 2009, known as the "Imagine Cup." Even more impressive is the fact that Rio Hondo College was the only community college to enter the competition in the Software Design Category at the national level and four of the 15 teams that went to the National Finals were from Rio Hondo College. These 14 students created innovative and creative projects that integrated the latest technologies under the directions of CIT professor Dr. Shin Liu. Dr. Badshah commented that these innovative student projects created by Rio Hondo College students had the positive impacts to the community and had contributed to the global work-force development.

Badshah met with Rio Hondo College Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Paul Parnell, on Tuesday, April 6 and the two discussed the success of Rio Hondo students in creating technology concepts that have great global applications. Among his responsibilities at Microsoft, Badshah manages the Microsoft Unlimited Potential Community Technology Skills Program (CTSP), a global initiative that is designed to help narrow the technology skills gap, aid global work-force development, and create social and economic opportunity by providing technology training through community technology centers.

"Mr. Badshah was very impressed by the technological programs we employ here at Rio Hondo College," said Dr. Parnell. "He commended Rio Hondo on its continued pursuit of technological advances that will benefit both its students and community."



## Board Meeting

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Board of Trustees Vice President, Maria Elena Martinez, provided a commendation to North Park Music Teacher, Ron Wakefield. She praised him for his efforts to teach his students an understanding and appreciation of music as well as highlighted some of their performances, which included performing at Disneyland and Carnegie Hall.



Board of Trustees Vice President, Maria Elena Martinez, provided a commendation to Retiring Superintendent of El Rancho School District Norbert Genis and to El Rancho High School Principal Sam Genis, for their dedication and effort to the communities they serve.



Associate Professor of Biology, Fran Cummings presented an overview of the Curriculum Process. She described the Curriculum Committee's processes.

Instructor of Reading, Marie Eckstrom and Dean of Institutional Research and Planning, Howard Kummerman gave a presentation to the Board of Trustees on the Program Review Process at the College. The presentation highlighted the Institutional Mission, the Planning Bodies involved in the process.

Director of Government & Community Relations, Russell Castaneda-Calleros,

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## Annual 'Writes of Spring' Celebrates Written Word

With featured performances by guest writers, faculty and students, **Writes of Spring: A Celebration of Writers and Writing** took place the last week in April. The annual two-day event featured readings of works by both students and guest speakers as well as a free screening of the new film *Dive!* and a Q & A session with the film's director, Jeremy Seifert.

Performances and presentations began each morning, and ended in the afternoon with a *River's Voice* Reading and pizza party. *River's Voice*, a journal of art and literature published at Rio Hondo College as a joint effort of the Communications and Languages Division, Arts and Cultural Programs Division, ASO, and ASB, features original work by students, faculty, staff, and alumni of Rio Hondo College in five genres: poetry, short story, memoir, one-act drama, and visual art.

This year's **Writes of Spring** featured the following artists: Poets Mariano Zaro and Tony Barnstone; Fiction Writers Aimee Bender and Frank Gaspar; Film Director Jeremy Seifert and Hip-Hop Artist Olmecca. All events were free and open to the public.



## Free 'Clean Up & Green Up' Auto Emissions & Repair Event Helped Improve Emissions for 130 Vehicles!

In an effort to further reduce pollutants and improve air quality, Rio Hondo College partnered with the Advanced Transportation Technology and Energy Initiative and East Los Angeles College to host "Clean Up & Green Up," an event that offered free smog checks on cars and repair vouchers earlier this month. When cars did not pass the smog test, they were diagnosed and if necessary, owners were given a coupon for emission-related repairs at a local certified smog shop.

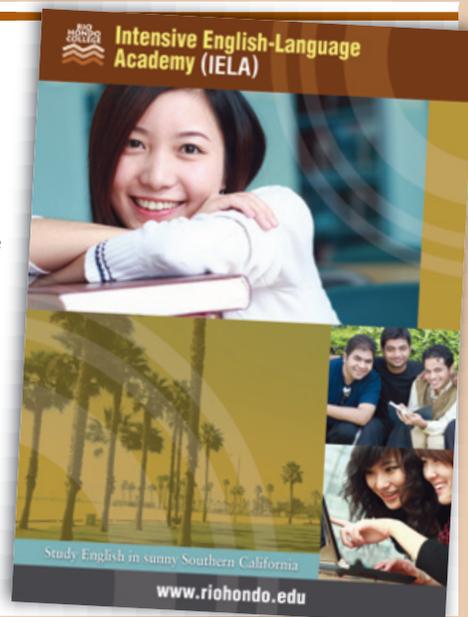
Funding for this program was made possible by the Office of former Congresswoman Hilda Solis. This program, called "Tune In & Tune Up," in the past has been held throughout California. In fact, on average each event annually removes 3,000 tons of carbon monoxide, 300 tons of hydrocarbons, and 150 tons of nitrogen oxide from the air. This event allowed Rio Hondo College students to partner with local repair shops to perform these tests, which enabled students to gain valuable hands-on experience that can lead to future employment while simultaneously improving air quality in Los Angeles County.

Held on Rio Hondo College's campus in Parking Lot A, the "Clean Up & Green Up" event tested nearly 130 cars, with more than 80 percent of them failing tests and more than 100 needing vouchers for repair. Congresswoman Judy Chu attended the event as well as Rio Hondo College Auto Tech faculty.

## New Intensive English-Language Academy Takes Form

Rio Hondo College launched a new Intensive English-Language Academy Program (IELA). IELA is a fee-based, non-credit, pre-collegiate program, coordinated through Continuing Education, which provides immersion-based, learner-centered English language instruction to students from diverse backgrounds who wish to improve their English skills in order to attend an American college.

The IELA materials include a brochure, FAQ sheet, and application materials. It is anticipated that the first cohort of international students in the IELA will begin instruction this coming fall.



## Board Meeting

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provided information on Appropriations. He gave background, identified the congressional offices with whom he has worked, and shared an update on the College's appropriations awards. From fiscal years 2006 to 2010 he reported that the college has been allocated a cumulative total of \$1.4 million in federal appropriations funds.

Student Trustee, Julio Flores, provided a commendation to Rio Hondo College student Marlene Chavez for her ability to advocate for students and work hard. He praised her efforts and congratulated her. A certificate from Assemblymember Tony Mendoza was also sent to honor her efforts.



## El Día de los Niños/ El Día de los Libros Featured Renowned Origami Storyteller

The Rio Hondo College Library invited students, faculty, staff and community members to attend its celebration of El Día de los Niños/El Día de los Libros on April 19 in the Learning Resource Center's Tree House.

The event featured nationally renowned origami storyteller, Christine Petrell Kallevig, who demonstrated her storigami style for the Child Development Center's children. She later spoke with Rio Hondo College students, educators and community members.



## EOP&S/CARE Hosts Open House

The Rio Hondo College EOP&S/C.A.R.E. Program, a comprehensive program committed to providing compassionate and innovative services to students facing economic and educational challenges, celebrated its 40th anniversary this month. As part of the celebration, EOP&S/C.A.R.E. hosted a festive Open House on Thursday, April 8.

The combination of two California State Funded Programs, EOP&S/C.A.R.E. provides useful services to Rio Hondo College students who have faced much adversity in their educational career, be it disability, financial hardship or otherwise. EOP&S, which stands for Extended Opportunities Programs and Services, aims to assist students who have been identified as economically and educationally disadvantaged. Eligible students are provided with a wide range of support services to foster success at Rio Hondo. C.A.R.E., which stands for Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education, assists students who are single parents who are pursuing an education. C.A.R.E. offers financial assistance for such students, as well as helpful services such as daycare and tutoring sessions.



## Career Center Hosts Career & Internship Day on April 21



**SAVE**  
the **DATE**

Rio Hondo College's  
CLASS OF 2010's  
COMMENCEMENT!

Thursday, May 27, 2010  
at 6 p.m.

6 27 2

## Rio Hondo College Librarian Honored by Library Journal

The Rio Hondo College Library proudly congratulates adjunct librarian Monique Delatte for being chosen by *Library Journal* as one of 2010's Movers and Shakers in the library world.

Selected in the category of Change Agents, Monique was cited for her success in teen programming and for obtaining a total of more than \$57,000 in grants over the last two years for both Rio Hondo College and La Puente Library, her full-time "home." With her nomination and selection, Monique joins a select group of librarians honored by Library Journal from several nations and all departments of the library world.

The \$35,500 total grant monies that Monique obtained from Verizon and Target for the Rio Hondo College Library went to several projects: an online, interactive information literacy tutorial, the development of new library instruction geared specifically to the Child Development classes, a new Story Time program in cooperation with the College's Child Development department and the Child Development Center/Lab School, and the recent "storigami" presentation by renowned storyteller Christine Petrell Kallevig. Funds were also used to purchase children's books, storytelling materials, as well as books supporting the Child Development curriculum on early childhood literacy for the Library.

See Monique's complete profile in <http://www.libraryjournal.com/MS2010Inductee/2140493463.html>.

This is the ninth year that the Movers and Shakers awards have been handed out by Library Journal, the oldest and most respected publication covering the library field. More than 100,000 library directors, administrators, and staff in public, academic, and special libraries subscribe to this monthly "bible" of the library world," now on its 133rd year of publication.



## Whittier Dignitaries Tour Rio Hondo College Facilities in April



*Whittier dignitaries were among the Foundation's guests for a tour of campus facilities. Guests included: Ruth B. Shannon, Bill Bell and Hubert Perry.*