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President's Message



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

Our Spring semester is underway with more students than ever! Our thanks to everyone for helping our students register, purchase books, meet with counselors, and accomplish the tasks necessary to begin their studies anew. "The devil is in the details" it is often said, and our dedicated faculty and staff help our students with the many details involved in their educational journey.

Kudos to Gus Gonzalez and to his security team who fulfilled our promise to make vehicular and pedestrian travel on campus as smooth as possible. All roads were OPEN the first day of classes, no small feat considering the extent of construction-related disruption necessitated by our facilities upgrades. Thanks also to our construction management team for helping us meet our deadline.

Everyone and every stakeholder group has been informed of our Accreditation status. We received the official notice from the Accrediting Commission that we have been placed on 'warning' by the Commission. While this is not the best rating we might have earned, it is certainly the least severe of the possible sanctions. We will have a report due in mid-October. Our students are pro-

ected, their units will continue to transfer and they continue to be eligible for financial aid. Our website includes every bit of information we have received to date, and is updated periodically. There is an "Accreditation Update" link on the main page for more information.

Another measure of our institution's performance is the bond rating given by Standard and Poor, and Moody's, organizations who determine a confidence level for investors who purchase the bonds we sell to finance the construction authorized by Measure A. The better the rating, the less interest we must pay the investors. Thanks to the strong reputation of Rio Hondo College and our ability to demonstrate our credit-worthy fiscal management, we earned an AA rating, the highest possible. Thanks to Vice President Dreyfuss and her skillful management of our finances and our strong reserve position, Rio Hondo College bonds will be eagerly sought by investors.

Our 2008 Annual Report is posted on the website. Please check it out under "About RHC" for facts, figures, and examples of the outstanding work our campus does as we enable student success. This year there are 'factoids' about the college's performance in a multitude of arenas included throughout the 16-page publication, which highlights the college's accomplishments as well as providing a report from the Citizens Oversight Committee for Measure A. I encourage you to take a close look.

GOT QUESTIONS ABOUT ACCREDITATION? VISIT

<http://www.riohondo.edu/accreditation/>

Child Development Center Hosts Art Show

The Child Development Center hosted an Art Show on February 19 to highlight works of art created by each of the children attending the center. The children used several media including water colors, black and white paint, oil pastels, clay and even photography. Their work was beautifully displayed in frames donated by members of the campus community. It was a great show and a good time was had by all.



Board Meeting Highlights

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees held the regular meeting February 18th in the City of El Monte. This is the first in a series of community meetings that will take place in each of the Trustee areas throughout the year. The event began with a mixer giving community members an opportunity to meet and speak with members of the Board as well as staff and administrators.



The meeting began with the Presentation of Colors by the Rio Hondo College Color Guard. A presentation was given by the Solis Group on the Project Labor Agreement and the use of local workers for construction projects including the Learning Resource Center, the Central Plant and Infrastructure Project and the Applied Technology Renovations. They also reported that apprentice opportunities were also made available.

Mike Muñoz, the Director of Educational Partnerships presented an update on the GEAR-UP program. GEAR-UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a federally funded program designed to significantly increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. The Rio Hondo College GEAR-UP: I'm Going to College Program provides academic services and activities to students at Madrid Middle School and Mountain View High School in El Monte.

Mike described key services offered through the program, which include: After-School Tutoring, Educational field trips, Academic/Pre-College counseling, Summer Enrichment Program, Financial Aid workshops, Parent education workshops, Professional Development, Postsecondary workshops, Technology enhancement, Scholarship assistance and College Tuition assistance. The program has been very

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College Celebrates Black History Month

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." The tradition as it evolved through the 20th Century serves as an important reminder of the contributions of African-Americans to this country. There are several significant events that have occurred in February. W. E. B. DuBois, important civil rights leader and co-founder of the NAACP, was born February 23, 1868; the 15th Amendment was passed, granting blacks the right to vote on February 3, 1870; the first black U.S. senator, Hiram R. Revels (1822-1901), took his oath of office February 25, 1870; The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded by a group of concerned black and white citizens in New York City February 12, 1909; In what would become a civil-rights movement milestone, a group of black Greensboro, N.C., college students began a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter on February 1, 1960; and Malcolm X, the militant leader who promoted Black Nationalism, was shot to death by three Black Muslims on February 21, 1965.

Throughout this past month, the ASB Senate along with Rio Hondo College administrators, faculty, and staff held several events to celebrate Black History Month, including films that reflected the rich history of African-Americans in this country. The films were separated into four categories, Education, Arts, Athletics and Activists. For Education Week the film selected was *The Great Debaters*, for Arts Week audiences saw *Ray*, for Athletics Week it was *Remember the Titans* with Denzel Washington and finally for Activist Week it was *Rosewood*. All of the films were shown in the Campus from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Each film was shown on two days of the featured week so that the greatest amount of students could attend.

Finally Student Appreciation Night was held in Celebration of Black History Month in the Upper Quad on February 24. The month was observed with events, but also with reflection on our changing world and the election of the first African-American President of the United States.



WASA Breakfast Honors Betty Putnam

The Whittier Area School Administrators hosted the *Annual Community Services Awards Breakfast* February 16 at Pico Park Community Center. Each of the participating school districts nominates an award winner. Rio Hondo College's nominee was Santa Fe Springs Mayor-Pro Tem Betty Putnam for *2009 Community Service Award*.

Ms. Putnam is a tireless advocate for children and has brought that energy and passion to Rio Hondo College. Ms. Putnam was the catalyst that began the *"I'm Going To College"* program at Rio Hondo. She raised funds from local businesses to host *"I'm Going To College"* nights where parents and children could come to learn about the program and receive very exciting gifts.

Ms. Putnam worked for the Little Lake School District for 31 years beginning in 1960. She became a teacher at Pad-dison Elementary School in 1971 until she retired in 1991. She also served as a member of the Little Lake School District Board for six years. In addition to serving as Mayor-Pro Tem for the City of Santa Fe Springs, she has served on the Santa Fe Springs City Council since 1997. Rio Hondo College has benefited from her insight and energy and many youth have gone on to college thanks to her tireless efforts and commitment.

The breakfast was well attended with representatives from the South Whittier School District, Los Nietos School District, Little Lake School District, Whittier City School District, Whittier College, El Rancho Unified School District, East Whittier School District, Whittier Union High School District and Tri-Cities ROP. Rio Hondo College congratulates and thanks Ms. Betty Putnam.



BOARD MEETING

continued from previous page

successful and has just been awarded funding for a seventh year.

Board President André Quintero thanked the community for its continued support and recognized the College's educational partners in El Monte. Commendations were presented to Kathy Furnald, Superintendent of the El Monte Union High School District; Nick Salerno, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services at El Monte Union High School District; Sandra Stevens, Principal of Mountain View High School; Margina Berg, Career Guidance Coordinator at Mountain View High School and Arroyo High School; Gloria Diaz, Interim Superintendent of the Mountain View School District; Dr. Peter Knapik, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Staff Development at Mountain View School District; Bonnie Tanaka, Principal of Madrid Middle School; Seryna Huynh, Dean of Instruction at Madrid Middle School and Scott Hinman, Assistant Principal at Madrid Middle School.



Erick Hansen, Principal of Clemison Elementary received special recognition from the Board for showing the initiative to request Rio Hondo College classes be taught at his school site. The College is now offering classes at Clemison and it is a productive working relationship.

Vice President for Finance and Business, Teresa Dreyfuss reviewed the Bond projects Expenditure Summary with the Board. Steve Massetti presented an update on the *Building Access and Excellence* building program and introduced the new Program Manager Jim Sinsheimer who comes to Rio Hondo College from URS.

The Board Meeting was adjourned in honor of Mountain View School District Superintendent John Stoddard who recently passed away. Mr. Stoddard spent 36 years of his career in education and 12 of those years in the Mountain View School District. He will be missed.

South Whittier Educational Center Groundbreaking

Rio Hondo College, in conjunction with the Los Angeles Sheriffs Department, celebrated the groundbreaking for the South Whittier Educational Center at Sheriffs Training and Regional Service (STARS) Center February 25. As a part of the Measure A Bond which was passed by voters in 2004, the South Whittier Educational Center will consist of three new classrooms, two restrooms, and an exterior courtyard.

Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. served as master of ceremonies while both Sheriff Lee Baca and Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe spoke of the importance of the project to the South Whittier and Santa Fe Springs areas. Adjacent to the Wallace Annenberg Youth Center, Rio Hondo College will be able to use this new space for classes as well as two classrooms in the STARS Center and possibly rooms in the Youth Center as well.

The location of the new center will be in the current parking lot facing Telegraph Road. The building was designed by Quatro Design Group who will serve as the architects on the project and the Rio Hondo College Program Management Team will be the construction managers for this \$3,000,000 project

The ceremony was well attended with more than 50 guests. Representatives from (elected present) were in attendance. Guests were treated to light refreshments and the excitement about the new building was in the air. Construction is estimated to be completed by Spring of 2010.



Jim Sinsheimer the New Program Manager



Jim Sinsheimer comes to Rio Hondo College from the URS Corporation main offices in Los Angeles. Jim is a senior design and construction management executive with more than 35 years of project management experience for public and private sector projects. He has managed and implemented building programs with budgets ranging up to \$600 million. Mr. Sinsheimer's project experience includes large residential projects, hotels, office buildings, schools, community college and large scale mixed use developments.

He is knowledgeable in the various project delivery methodologies including design/build, design/assist, Construction Manager at risk and traditional design/bid/build practices. Highlights of these projects include the Disney's Grand Californian Resort, California Department of Transportation District 7 Headquarters, The Century Condominium tower and The Grand Avenue Project. Mr. Sinsheimer uses his expertise in budgeting, scheduling, project/program management, contract negotiation and administration, design and engineering management, LEED certification and construction management to lead design and construction teams to complete projects efficiently and cost effectively. Mr. Sinsheimer is a Licensed Architect continuously certified since 1975 and a LEED® Accredited Professional.

Welcome to Rio Hondo College!

Former Student Diego Martinez Continues to Excel



Diego Martinez is an outstanding example of a scholar-athlete who took his total education very seriously, evidenced by his 3.93 grade point average. He was on the Honors list all

four semesters at Rio Hondo and would volunteer time at the on campus tutoring center helping other students. Diego was a two-time Academic All-American in wrestling (2006, 2007). He was nominated in 2008 for the Jet Propulsion Lab Undergraduate Scholars (JPLUS) program by the Rio Hondo College math and science faculty in recognition of his outstanding academic accomplishments and his potential to make original contributions to his field of study.

Once again, Diego has been recognized for his exceptional talents, and has just received the 2008 Pepsi Scholar Male Student-Athlete of the Year by the California Community College Athletic Association/Commission on Athletics (CCCAA/COA).

The Pepsi Scholar Athlete Award is the highest student achievement honor awarded annually by the CCCAA. The winners, along with the rest of the annual honor roll, are selected by the CCCAA Awards Committee from nominations made by community colleges throughout California.

Candidates for the Pepsi Scholar Athlete Award must carry a minimum GPA of 3.5 and must also show outstanding leadership as an athlete, student, or in other college and community activities, as well as have participated in two seasons of sport at a California community college. Each year only one male and one female student are selected for this honor.

Rio Hondo College is very proud of Diego's achievements and extends him hearty congratulations.

Police Academy Wins First Place for Organizational Excellence



Chief Dave Singer of the Whittier Police Department and Chairman of the 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 POST Excellence in Training Award is presented annually to individuals and organizations to recognize their

outstanding achievements and contributions in law enforcement training. The award encourages and fosters innovation, quality, and effectiveness. Yearly nominations are made in three categories: Individual Achievement, Lifetime Achievement, and Organizational Achievement.

Congratulations to the men and women of the Rio Hondo College Police Academy for a job well done!

Arts Update for February

The Rio Hondo College Arts and Cultural Program Department has scheduled a lively performance month in February. There truly was something for everyone this month, including a very special evening with Christopher Knight, Art Critic for the Los Angeles Times. There were family-friendly performances like the Chinese Acrobats and the all-female Mariachi Reyna De Los Angeles. The month closed with a very impressive Student Film Festival.



On February 5 at the Black Box, attendees enjoyed a unique opportunity to meet and hear from Christopher Knight, Art Critic for the Los Angeles Times, and on February 24 at 7:30 p.m. RHC faculty members, Jannine Livingston and Linda Brown presented a duo piano recital.



On February 6 Rio Hondo College students performed an American College Theater Festival (ACTF) Performance Showcase at the Wray Theatre. The short scenes and monologues performed by students were nominated for the Irene Ryan Awards.

On February 7 the Chinese Acrobats amazed and entertained their audience with a fantastic and colorful program. Also at the Wray Theatre patrons enjoyed the enriching program with facts about the Chinese culture and customs.

On February 18 at the Wray Theatre audiences enjoyed the magic of an evening of music with America's First All Female Mariachi Band. Mariachi Reyna De Los Angeles captivated the crowd with their vivacious spirit and their heart stirring performances.

On February 25 and 26 theatre goers enjoyed a special treat with the highly-anticipated Student Film Festival. The films shown were produced by RHC students. These student films were in production throughout the year and the finished product was very impressive.

Students Invited to PTK All-California Academic Team

Rio Hondo College students Seamus Hayes and Jessica Lemon have been named to the 2009 Phi Theta Kappa (International Honor Society Of The Two-Year Colleges) All-California Academic Team, a state-wide competition co-sponsored by the Community College League of California and Phi Theta Kappa.

Seamus and Jessica have been invited to attend a luncheon in Sacramento on March 23 at the Sacramento Convention Center where the state's top community college students will be formally recognized for their academic achievements, community service, and for the example set for their fellow students. Congratulations!



33rd Annual ACEDD-GIS Contest

More than 200 high-school students, representing 15 local high schools will compete at Rio Hondo's 33rd Annual Drafting/Computer Aided Drafting & Design/Geographic Information Systems Contest on March 4, 5, and 6.

The annual contest, coordinated through the national and international award winning ACEDD-GIS Program (Architecture / Civil / Engineering Design Drafting and GIS), is well known among regional high school drafting and design teachers. It regularly attracts high-school students with top-notch skills in drafting, Computer Aided Drafting & Design (CADD) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Students may compete in one of the following contests: Basic Mechanical Drafting, Advanced Mechanical Drafting, Basic Architectural Drawing, Advanced Architectural Drawing, Mechanical CADD, Architectural CADD or Basic GIS.

The more than 400 Rio Hondo students currently enrolled in the program receive a thorough education on industry standards while developing professional skills required to enter the design industry, using such leading edge visual technologies like Rapid Prototyping or 3D Printing, 3D computer modeling and animation, and G.I.S.

Thanks to the generous contributions of numerous book and software publishing companies, local drafting supply vendors and the Rotary Club of Whittier, over 70 students will receive prizes such as advanced CAD software, electronic computer devices, drafting tables with a chair and lamp, drafting tools and textbooks. In all, more than \$30,000 worth of prizes will be distributed at the awards ceremony.

The award ceremony is scheduled for Friday, March 6 at 1:30 p.m. in the Campus Inn. There, the winners receive handsome plaques to memorialize their achievement, as well as merchandise prizes. Thanks to the ongoing commitment of Jay Sunyogh and his dedicated faculty partners of Gary Halvorson, Ed Gonzalez and Warren Roberts who are coordinating this year's event during Jay's sabbatical leave.

Faculty and Staff Featured in Library Display

Each semester the Rio Hondo College library has displays reflecting different themes. For example, there was a pictorial display on the history of the college during the accreditation visit. For the Spring semester Edna Ball, the librarian responsible for the displays, decided to feature "Our Fabulous Faculty, Our Super Staff."

Edna requested information from faculty and staff to share some of their personal expertise, such as accomplishments, collections, and/or talents. Ms. Ball believes that the display is an important way for the campus community to get to know each other better.



- **Monique Delatte:** photography award winner - photos
- **Karen Bourgaize:** her own designs of counted cross-stitch (to be installed tomorrow)
- **Martha Carreon:** professional belly dancer, photos and costume
- **William Enright:** backyard model railroader - photo and model caboose
- **Gerald Lorenzetti:** poem
- **Jay Sunyogh:** education and leadership awards
- **Teresa Buell:** perfume bottle collection
- **Leah Griffith:** hand crafted quilt
- **Susan Herney:** spoon collection
- **Edna Ball:** Scrabble tournament trophies
- **Gloria Reyes Luera:** CSEA Unsung Hero award
- **Ray Williams:** hand crafted wooden jewelry box
- **Alyson Cartagena:** professional dancer - photo
- **Vern Padgett:** photos and info about solar panels on his home
- **Marian Lassiter:** celebrity photographer
- **Robin Babou:** huge led Zeppelin fan has photos with Robert Plant and Jimmy Page

Students Win Scholarships for Study Abroad

Rio Hondo College is a member of Community Colleges for International Education (CCIE), a non-profit educational consortium of Community Colleges formed in 1985, and dedicated to the ideal of increasing international understanding through education.

In December, Rio Hondo College announced that CCIE had two scholarship opportunities available for students studying abroad. Just this month, Katie O'Brien, the Study Abroad Coordinator announced that Rio Hondo College student Francisco Rios was awarded a \$1200 CCIE scholarship. Francisco is now studying abroad in Salamanca, Spain, as one of one of only five California Community College students to receive an award this semester.

Francisco, along with two other Rio Hondo students studying abroad this Spring, Vanessa Martinez and Daniela Zuniga, have also been awarded Study Abroad Scholarships from the Rio Hondo Faculty Association. We wish them all safe travels and an exciting educational experience.

Rio Hondo College Hosts the Whittier Area American Association of University Women Conference to Encourage Young Women to Study Math and Science

