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President's Message



Teresa Dreyfuss

For such a short month, February was packed with events. Our Student Life and Leadership staff have been busy helping students engage in a wide range of activities that enrich their campus life and provide opportunities to participate: Club Rush and Student Services Fair, the Black History Month series, and the Blood Drive have kept the campus busy and alive.

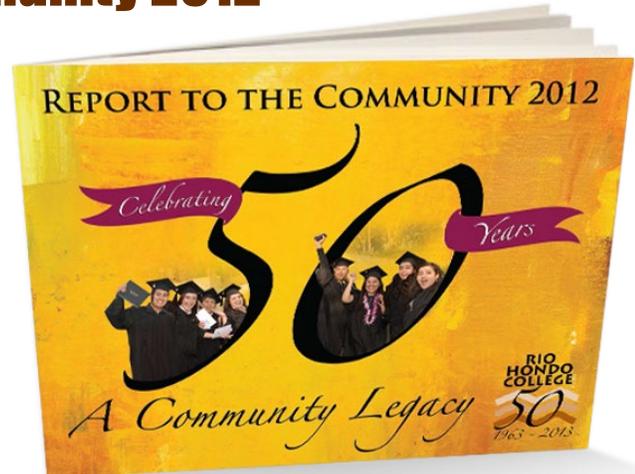
Our 2012 Report to the Community is now in the hands of our district's residents. Thanks to division and department staff for providing information about our accomplishments to help illustrate this document, one important way we communicate with our community. It is also an element in our accountability reporting of our fiscal condition. Copies are available from the Marketing Department if you would like to share with advisory committee members or others who may be interested.

Next month we will keep up the pace with even more events to commemorate our 50th Anniversary. On March 14, the Associated Students will host an all-day 'Birthday Bash' event which will feature an attempt to set a new Guinness Book of World Record for the number of signatures on a giant Birthday Card. They will also sponsor interactive games in the Lower Quad. The 50th Anniversary Task Force will stage a "time capsule" installation at 1 p.m. at the site of the new monument honoring Dr. Phil Putnam, the first college president, next to the electronic sign in the Mid Quad area. On March 21, Rio Hondo College will co-sponsor a DAGU Cultural Performance with Cerritos College and San Diego State University Confucius Institute. The free event will take place at 7 p.m. in the Cerritos College Student Center.

Invitations will soon be delivered for our grand 50th Anniversary Celebration to be held Friday, April 19, at the Industry Hills Expo Center in City of Industry. We will present Medallion Awards to those who have been recognized for exceptional service to Rio Hondo College, either as Fellows of the College or as recipients of the Distinguished Community Service Award. It will be an evening of fellowship and celebration, and is affordably priced at \$50 per person. I hope to greet members of our campus and college community there.

Report to the Community 2012

The 2012 Rio Hondo College Report to the Community has arrived on campus and in community mailboxes. The beautiful document, filled with current and vintage photos of the College, tells the Rio Hondo story for 2012, and helps commemorate the ongoing 50th anniversary celebration.



Board Update



During the meeting the board commended Maria Clavier and Maribel Garcia for their service on the Citizens Oversight Committee. The board thanked them for their time and dedication, and congratulated Maribel Garcia on her appointment as Superintendent, El Monte City School District.

Student Mental Health Grant



Dr. Dyrell Foster, dean of Student Affairs, provided information on the two-year Mental Health Grant from the California Mental Health Services Authority. The

College will use the \$245,516 grant to focus on prevention and early intervention strategies that address the mental health needs of students, faculty and staff. Funds will help to launch a student mental health web site that will include self-assessment tests. The College also plans to start an Active Minds student chapter that focuses on mental health advocacy and education. A campus-wide "You Matter" spring campaign will draw attention to the various initiatives.

Sabbatical Leave Report

Bill Korf of the Theater Department provided a lively presentation on his year-long study of a new theater form called devising. Devised Theater is collaborative creation of a new work where the creators are also performers in the work. Devising came to Rio Hondo's theater department last summer when students devised a play called "Tek-nal-eh-jee", based on the prompt "what do we lose when we use technology in our lives." Students gave a performance to illustrate.

Accreditation Update

Dr. Adam Wetsman, co-chair of the Accreditation Leadership Team, provided an update on the College accreditation process. He recommends that staff and faculty take "Accreditation Basics – An online workshop on the basic principles of accreditation." They can do so at the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior College web site www.accjc.org.

Club Rush and Student Services Fair

Rio Hondo students had a chance to check out campus clubs they might want to join at the Club Rush and Student Services Fair on Feb. 6 in the Mid Quad. Coordinated by Student Life and Leadership, students also had the opportunity to learn more about ways to participate in student government as well as the array of services that are available to them.

As students chatted with club and services reps and munched popcorn a DJ blasting tunes added to the festive ambience. Rio Hondo College has 32 campus clubs serving a wide array of student needs and interests.



Happy 50th Birthday Rio Hondo!

A campus-wide Celebration, complete with a giant birthday cake and the installation of a time capsule, will take place on Thursday, March 14 in the Mid Quad. Activities will take place throughout the day, with Associated Students of Rio Hondo College sponsoring interactive activities. The time capsule installation will take place at 1 p.m.

The Associated Students of Rio Hondo College will attempt to set a new Guinness Book of World Records by gathering more than 1,821 verified signatures on a giant birthday card.

A variety of items, from College artifacts to students' messages, will be sealed in the Rio Hondo Time Capsule, installed in the Dr. Phil Putnam memorial in the Mid Quad, for 25 years.

A special event, DAGU Cultural Performance, co-sponsored with Cerritos College and San Diego State University Confucius Institute, will take place March 21 at the Cerritos College Student Center at 7 p.m.



Black History Month Celebrated



RIO HONDO COLLEGE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS IN COLLABORATION WITH THE STUDENT LIFE & LEADERSHIP DEPARTMENT INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

KICK-OFF	PANEL DISCUSSION	FILM SCREENING
Date: Tuesday 2-12-13 Time: 12:30PM - 1:30PM Location: Middle Quad	Date: Wednesday 2-20-13 Time: 1:00PM - 2:00PM Location: Student Union SU-201	Date: Wednesday 2-27-13 Time: 1:00PM - 3:00 PM Location: Student Union SU-201
Join us in the Middle Quad as we kick off Black History Month with activities such as: • Cultural Information Tables • Entertainment • Student Appreciation Day (Free Food with \$)	"Rooted in the Past, Growing toward the Future" Join us as we present a panel of Rio Hondo College faculty and staff who will share personal artifacts related to the African American experience.	Associated Students will be screening the film, "THE GREAT DEBATERS". Stop by for FREE POPCORN and learn about Black History. "You Will Stand Up And Cheer!"



RIO HONDO
STUDENT LIFE & LEADERSHIP

For more information contact the Student Life & Leadership Office:
Location: SU-201 Phone: (562) 908-3427
www.riohondo.edu/student

Black History Month kicked off Feb. 12 in the Mid Quad with cultural information tables, entertainment and more.

A Feb. 20 panel discussion titled "Rooted in the Past, Growing toward the Future" featured faculty and staff who shared personal artifacts related to the African American experience.

The film "The Great Debaters" was screened on Feb. 27 in the Student Union. The 2008 drama follows a debate team from the historically black Wiley College who advance until they compete with Harvard.

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.

MESA/TRiO Student Support Services STEM Spring Retreat

On Saturday, Jan. 26, 80 participants in MESA/TRiO SSS STEM kicked off the spring semester with a retreat. The day began with a panel discussion that examined how a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) degree can aid in humanitarian and social justice efforts. Omar Dana, a fourth year engineering student from USC's Virterbi School of Engineering, showcased the organization Engineers Without Borders. The student chapter completed projects in Honduras that increased the quality of life for people in remote areas.



Dr. Steven Chambreau, from Chemists without Borders, explained the efforts of the organization to ensure safe drinking water. Finally Dr. Susan Kane from the USC Department of Cancer Biology shared latest in cancer research.

After lunch, the students split up into two groups. The future engineers were treated to a speed mentoring session with professionals from the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and graduate students from Caltech.

The second group met with Rio Hondo alumni who transferred to UCLA last fall. Three students, Jenice Martinez (Mathematics & Economics), Edgar Bocanegra (Mathematics) and Uriel Hernandez (Physics), shared their first quarter experience.

MESA student Roxana Del Toro said after the session, "We go through much struggle and often feel we are not good enough. This session inspired me. I learned that Rio Hondo and MESA prepares us well for transfer."

Program Director Dr. Gisela Spieler-Persad was encouraged too. "Having students come back and tell others that MESA/TRiO SSS STEM prepares them well, inspires us to keep doing what we are doing."



Save the Date! Rock'n Memories Dance Concert

The Rio Hondo Dance Program will celebrate 50 years of dance when it performs *Rock'n Memories* May 9-11 at 8 p.m. in the Wray Theater. The faculty and student choreographed concert is set to the music from 1963, including Top 100 hits like *Fingertips* by Stevie Wonder, *My Boyfriend's Back* by The Angels, *Heat Wave* by Martha and The Vandellas, *Be My Baby* by The Ronettes, *Take These Chains from My Heart* by Ray Charles, and *(You're The) Devil In Disguise* by Elvis Presley. Also included in the 50th Anniversary Dance Celebration is a medley of songs from the musical *Hair* performed by the full 60 member cast.



DAGU International Cultural Performance March 21



In partnership with the San Diego State University Confucius Institute, Rio Hondo College and Cerritos College will be hosting a Dagū international cultural performance on Thursday, March 21, at 7 p.m.

Traditional Chinese operatic storytelling and story-singing will be performed by nationally acclaimed artists in China, including actress/singer Yang Fengjie, actress/sihu player Wang Hongmin, three-stringed lute player Zheng Liwen and actor/lute player Xia Yan.

The program will include performances from traditional and cultural Chinese stories such as the war story ChangBan Po, the romantic fantasy Capturing SanLang and the comedy Tao Hwa Jian.

“These stories are very well-known in China,” said Rio Hondo Professor and Cerritos College Trustee Dr. Shin Liu. “The evening will be a great introduction to Chinese culture for anyone who is interested.”

Traditional tea and tea cookies will be served after the show.

The first 100 guests will be eligible to be entered into a free drawing to win one of a variety of food, tea, and other gift certificates and prizes.

Guests will also have an opportunity to meet the artists following the performance, with a donation requested. Signed photographs from the performers will be available as part of this special addition to the evening's festivities. All proceeds benefit future international and global awareness education programs at the colleges.

For more information contact the Cerritos College Media Relations Office at 562-653-7878 or Student Activities Office at 562-860-2451 ext.2475.

Assemblyman Ian Calderon Visits Rio Hondo College

On Friday, Feb. 22, the Honorable Assemblyman Ian Calderon made his first visit to Rio Hondo College. He was greeted on campus by Trustees Vicky Santana and Angela Acosta-Salazar, Interim Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss, Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Kenn Pierson, Government and Community Relations Director Russell Castaneda-Calleros and Student Trustee Lupe Pasillas. During his visit Assemblyman Calderon answered questions about Governor Brown's proposed budget and Proposition 39 funding opportunities. He also discussed the importance of restoring previous cuts made to categorical programs. While on campus, Assemblyman Calderon also met with students at an Inter-Club Council (ICC) meeting and the MESA Program. He spoke with them about the value of higher education and his advocacy for students.



Forensics Team Scores Big Again

Our forensics team scored big again in its continued series of tournaments, this time at the fourth-annual Golden Cowboy Swing Tournament on Feb. 8 – 10 at Glendale Community College and California State University, Los Angeles. Forensics students competed against some of the country's top forensics teams that included Western Kentucky University, University of Houston and Arizona State University. Highlights included:

- ▶ Feb. 8, Glendale Community College: Team Maddie Kiphen & Ovidio Sanchez took Bronze in Open (Senior) Parliamentary Debate.
- ▶ Feb. 9, Glendale Community College: Ovidio Sanchez placed fourth and Adrian Ramos placed fifth in Novice Impromptu. Maddie Kiphen took sixth place in Open/Senior Impromptu and fifth place in Open Parliamentary Debate.
- ▶ Feb 10, Cal State Los Angeles: Ovidio Sanchez placed first, Adrian Ramos placed second, and Yisella Mariscal placed third in Novice Impromptu. Jessica Ruvalcaba took first place in Novice Prose and Adrian Ramos first place in Dramatic Interpretation. Ovidio Sanchez placed first in his event category as well as placed first in each of his elimination rounds.



Rio Hondo forensics team members Maddie Kiphen and Ovidio Sanchez