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President's Message



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

We are eagerly looking forward to an active and productive semester as we finish up the 48th academic year in Rio Hondo College history. Graduation day, May 26, will be here before we know it.

Construction progress continues with the landscaping of the area outside the LRC, and the first-time availability of most of the new Lower Quad area for student use. Next month, we will be taking the Upper Quad out of service in order to facilitate the renovations there. We anticipate that the noise will continue and everyone will learn new routes, again, for traversing campus. The results will surely be spectacular.

Thanks to the planning committee, FLEX day provided much information on campus and classroom emergency procedures, including evacuation of disabled students and personnel in case of emergency. We are pleased to welcome new managers,

full-time faculty, and nine classified staff to our ranks.

The State of California economy and budget continue to challenge us. As a reminder, we must all be exceptionally frugal as we remember to save money in order to save classes and jobs. Vice President Dreyfuss continues to manage our resources to help us maintain our goal of keeping enrollment opportunities stable.

We are taking brief "State of Rio Hondo College" presentations to our communities in a biennial series of meetings with local governmental entities, school district boards, business and civic groups. These opportunities help keep our external stakeholders current with regard to issues, partnerships, and selected accomplishments. We anticipate that the presentations will continue through the spring semester. Please let me know if you are aware of a community or professional group that might be an appropriate venue.



Rio Hondo College Hosts Regional High-school Counselor Breakfast



High school counselors from the District's feeder high schools participated in the Rio Hondo College Regional High School Counselor Breakfast on January 21. The breakfast highlighted basic skills, career technical programs, the Transfer Center as well as the extracurricular activities offered through Student Activities.

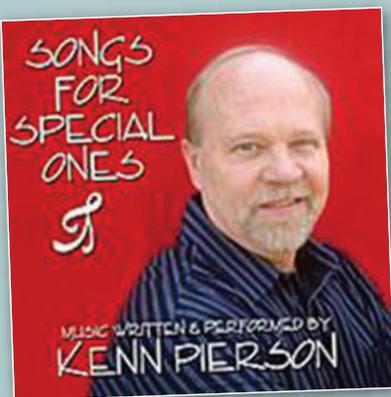
Board Meeting

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting Jan. 12 on the College campus.

- Government & Community Relations Director, Russell Castaneda Calleros provided an update to the Board of Trustees regarding the College's Government and Community Relations Department. He shared information on the department's 2010 accomplishments, highlighted the solid relationships Rio Hondo College has with its local, state and federal representatives as well as provided information on the department's vision for the future and more.
- Director of Facilities, Gus Gonzalez provided an update to the Board of Trustees on the College's Emergency Preparation Plan, which would be used if a disaster (i.e. natural disaster, disease outbreak, hazardous material spill, act of terrorism, etc.) occurred on campus.

Dean Launches Musical CD

Rio Hondo College Dean of Communication and Language, Dr. Kenn Pierson recently recorded CD of his piano pieces, which is available for sale online at www.cdbaby.com, iTunes, Rhapsody, Napster as well as other music sites. The CD is described as a "collection of tone poems for the piano driven by meditative melodies and dedicated to the people who inspired them."



Second Series of Free Workshops to Help Local Business Become 'GREENER'

Rio Hondo College is continuing with its GREEN PROGRAM (Giving Rio Hondo Environmental Education to our Neighbors) with a second series of workshops that will continue through June. Organized by Rio Hondo College professors, students and graduates of the Environmental Science Program, the GREEN PROGRAM is designed to offer free educational workshops, seminars, "train the trainer" sessions, certifications and evaluations to local businesses.



The workshops provided by Rio Hondo College's GREEN PROGRAM aim to help local businesses save hundreds of dollars in State Required Training and Certifications, Environmental, Health and Safety Evaluations, Energy Use and Waste Disposal Costs and Federal, State, and Regional Non-Compliance Fees. In addition, local businesses that complete the GREEN PROGRAM workshops will receive College certificates to post for clients and regulatory agencies to see. Participants completing the entire series will also receive a program certificate from the College.

Cynthia Quentin, Environmental & Safety Supervisor at Trojan Battery Company in Santa Fe Springs, participated in the program's first workshop series last year and found it beneficial.

"The Green Program helped us move along with getting our key team members trained in specific Environmental Health and Safety Programs," said Quentin. "It is very impressive that all the trainers are experts in their field with many of them having prior employment with the state agencies."

All upcoming sessions will be held at the **South Whittier Educational Center, 14307 E. Telegraph Rd., in Whittier**. Upcoming workshops include:

Workshop: Energy Efficiency & Sustainability

Instructed by David Lindy, Joe Rasmussen and Dan Duran
Friday, February 4, 2011, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Train the Trainer: Energy Efficiency & Sustainability

Friday, March 4, 2011, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The GREEN PROGRAM is funded by the Small Business Administration. To learn more about other upcoming workshops, please contact (562) 463-7501 and visit www.riohondo.edu/mathsci/environmental_tech/green-program/.

Campus Security Enhanced with Activation of Emergency Notification System Blue Light Emergency Phone Network Comes Next.

As part of the Rio Hondo College ongoing commitment to provide safe learning environments for students, employees and the public, the Board of Trustees awarded a \$287,700 contract to begin construction and installation of Blue Light Emergency Phones across campus. Another security feature, a new electronic emergency notification system, has been activated with a field test. A follow-up test is scheduled for the beginning of the Spring 2011 semester.

The installation of the 30 Blue Light Phone towers and three in-building units will take place during the spring semester. The towers will be located in campus parking lots while the new in-building units will be in areas such as the new Student Services, Student Union and Physical Education buildings which are currently under construction.

The new system will be operable 24 hours-a-day and is solar-powered, making it a fiscally- and environmentally-responsible addition to the campus.

The College has also just inaugurated an electronic emergency notification system, which is connected to the new AccessRIO student record system. This system has the capacity to send emergency notifications via personalized voice message, e-mail and/or text messages. The service is designed to reach thousands of recipients in minutes and will better ensure safety and communication in times of campus closure or other emergencies. One field test has already taken place; a second is planned for early in the spring semester.

FLEX Day Offers Opportunity for Professional Development, Essential Info

Rio Hondo College's Staff Development Committee organizes FLEX Day events for faculty at the beginning of each new semester. Classified staff also has the opportunity to participate if possible. Breakout sessions related to staff, student and instructional improvement.

The agenda for this year's FLEX Day, held January 28, included welcome and introductions by Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Marie Eckstrom, Academic Senate President; Adam Wetsman, RCHFA President and Sandra Rivera, CSEA President. Information was also presented regarding campus news, classroom emergency procedures, emergency evacuation procedures as well as updates on the budget and AccessRIO's portal launch.

Joe Harlan Named New Dean of PE and Athletic Director



Joe Harlan grew up in Phoenix, Arizona, where he had a passion for athletics for as long as he can remember. His career experience reflects that. He worked at the University of

Wisconsin for seven years as an instructor and head coach for Women's Track & Field and Cross Country and for three years as its Athletic Director. He also worked at Clark College in Washington for four years, where he coached and also served as its Athletic Director. Joe earned his master's of science in human performance from the University of Montana, his bachelor's of science in physical education from the University of Central Missouri and his associate degree from Phoenix Community College in Arizona.

Joe said he is very excited about his new position with Rio Hondo College. He said, "I really am enjoying Rio Hondo College so far, and I am looking forward to working with all of the students and Rio Hondo staff to make this an even greater place to be!"

Student Services Announces New Friday Hours

Beginning this semester, Student Services offices will close at 12 noon on Fridays in order to take care of 'back office' business and catch up on paperwork backlogs. This practice will be evaluated in mid-April to determine if it is to be extended for the next academic year.

However, there will be coverage to assist students with urgent business during the hours that each office normally operates, even on Friday afternoons. Rachel Garcia in Room A 101 will maintain a list of staff or faculty member who is 'on call' to assist students who walk in with an urgent issue on Friday afternoon. Non-urgent calls should be directed to the specific department voice mail, which will be reviewed in the time stated on each department's voice mail. In addition, counselors or staff members may assist students on a Friday afternoon by having them schedule an appointment in advance.



To assist students with issues that may develop early in the semester, Student Services will hold Saturday hours as follows on February 5 and February 12:

Convenient Saturday Extended Office Hours		
Department	February 5	February 12
Admissions	9am – noon	9am – noon
Assessment*	8:30 am	Closed
Bookstore	7:45am – 2pm	7:45am – 2pm
Cashier	9am – 1pm	9am – 1pm
Counseling	9am – 1pm	9am – 1pm
Financial Aid	9am – 1pm	9am – 1pm
Library	9am-1pm	9am-1pm
Math/Science Center	9am-4pm	9am-4pm

* Assessment tests WILL start on time. Seats are limited, so please arrive early. Additional information can be found at <http://www.riohondo.edu/admissions/assessment/>

Rio Hondo Welcomes Whittier College Class

A class of Whittier College students interested in higher education administration attended a seminar-type presentation to learn more about community colleges. Vice Presidents Teresa Dreyfuss, Henry Gee and Dr. Paul Parnell joined Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., for the presentation and a campus tour.



Rio Hondo College Welcomes New Faces to Spring Semester

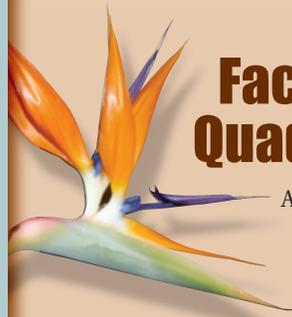
New full-time faculty and new classified positions will help kick-off the start of the Spring semester.

Full-time (replacement) Faculty Positions

- **Alan Archumbault** - Mathematics
- **Michelle Bean** - English
- **Libby Curiel** – Speech and Forensics
- **Marius Dornean** – Heavy Equipment Maintenance
- **Kerry Farmer** – Theatre Technology
- **Juan Fernandez** - English
- **Moises Mata** – English as a Second Language
- **Tyler Okamoto**- English as a Second Language
- **Mariano Zaro** – Spanish

Classified Positions

- **Glendon Ruby** – Grounds Maintenance Worker – Facilities Services
- **Wesley Chew** – Theatre Technician - Arts & Cultural
- **Daniel Ruiz** – Educational Advisor – Math/Sciences
- **Annel Medina** – Research Specialist – Institutional Research
- **Rosemarie Bustamante** – Clerk Typist III - Arts & Cultural
- **William Fox** – Senior Tool Room Attendant - Career Technical Education
- **Carlos Monteros** – Audio – Visual Repair Multimedia Support Technician – Information Technology Ser.
- **Mirella Rodriguez** – Clerk Typist II – South Whittier Educational Center
- **Jesus Arroyo** – Electrician – Facilities Services



Facilities Project Update: Quad Renovation Well Underway

A major new phase of campus construction is ready to begin soon with the long-awaited Quad Renovation. The \$3-million project is estimated for completion in September.

During this time, the College is working to ensure that construction impacts are minimized to the greatest possible degree, and that pedestrian traffic is routed around construction sites. Although the college community will continue to experience noise of heavy equipment and detours, thought is being given to maintaining as many sentimental elements of the existing quad as possible.

For example, there is a tropical tree that once stood in the midst of the grassy area that has been excavated to make room for the new Student Services Complex. Easily described as “the little tree that could,” the tree was originally planted south of the Science Building by Wesley Thompson, a member of the original biology faculty, who Wesley Thompson, who brought the seed back from Hawaii. The little seedling, which grew and thrived, has been growing on campus for many years. During construction projects of the past and present day, staff has worked to help the tree survive. It is now located in a planter area between the Bookstore and the Administration Building.



While the Upper Quad is undergoing construction, the hardscape area outside the new LRC has been embellished with 400 new plants, making it ready to accommodate campus events and activities for students during the spring semester.

Construction Contract Value:
\$3,040,000

Landscape Architect:
Melendrez

General Contractor:
KPRS

Landscape Contractor:
Valley Crest Landscaping Company

Concrete Paving and Walls:
Performance Concrete Company

