



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

PRIOR ISSUES

MAY 2009

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message

May 2009 Board Meeting

Commencement
Rio Hondo Style, 2009!

Library Book Sale Great Success

Assemblymember Mike Eng Pays
a Visit to Rio Hondo College

Rio Hondo College Honors
Graduates and Transfer Students
At End-Of-Year Success Celebration

Classified Employee
Recognition Week

Rio Hondo Students Give It Their
All In Microsoft Competition!

Rio Hondo Police Academy
Graduate Saves the Dogs

Superintendent's Breakfast

Former Wrestling Coach
Inducted Into National Hall Of Fame

Technology Open House

Latina Leadership Network
Honors Students at
Annual Mother's Day Dinner

RHC Round-Up Luncheon
Honors Faculty

Writes Of Spring Festival



President's Message



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

As we conclude our college's 46th academic year, it is time to reflect upon our students' success as a measure of our progress as an institution. We have done well indeed! We continue to provide our communities with registered nurses, public safety workers, and a variety of technicians in many crucial career areas. Our transfer students help pave the way for others who are now in the transfer pipeline, too.

We are fortunate in that we have an annual commencement ceremony to symbolize sending yet another class of graduates on their way. I am so appreciative of everyone's efforts to be of service to our students.

As we look forward to our next academic year, we realize that we will be challenged in many ways, but especially with our fiscal resources. Fortunately, the college has a tradition of fiscal prudence, which means we can go forward with our Summer Session as planned. Preliminary enrollment numbers are quite high, indicating that demand remains strong.

Several important initiatives will continue through the summer months. I am pleased that members of our constituent groups are planning to meet during this time in order to help keep the Accreditation Report on timeline. We will also be working with a Cost-Savings Task Force to help identify opportunities to save money and to analyze options for meeting what will be severe budget cuts. I will be sending periodic messages about the budget as we receive information from Sacramento. We may also have opportunities for everyone to advocate for our cause with members of our state legislative delegation.

Nevertheless, I encourage everyone to take a few moments to enjoy the reflection of Commencement and all it embodies.



May 2009 Board Meeting

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting May 13, 2009 on the College campus.

The Board of Trustees commended Joe Santoro for the recent honor of RHC Police Academy receiving a POST Award. 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 Board of Trustees commended and recognized faculty retiring this year, including Voiza Arnold and Bruce Nelson.

The Board of Trustees commended Professor and President of Academic Senate, Beverly Reilly, for her service to the College.



A presentation was made by Norayma Cabot providing an update to the Board of Trustees on the Child Development Center.

A presentation was made by Khushroo Gheyara from Caldwell Flores Winters on RHC's General Obligation Bond Series B Sales.

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Commencement Rio Hondo Style, 2009!



BOARD MEETING

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The Board of Trustees recognized Rio Hondo College Counselor, Jennifer Fernandez, for leadership of the Faculty Association in 2008-2009.



Interim Dean of Institutional Research and Planning, Howard Kummerman, presented a progress report to the Board of Trustees on Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Planning of the College.

Associated Student Senate President, Ernesto Zumaya gave his end-of-the-year State of the Students Address, with his fellow student officers attending in support.



Library Book Sale Great Success

The Rio Hondo College Library recently treated the College community to three days of book sales in the Upper Quad.

All the books offered for sale had been selected previously from the Library's collections in the natural sciences, social sciences and the humanities, and were offered at bargain prices to students, faculty and staff.

The Library hosted the sale day, with all proceeds going to the purchase of additional new books. Two student organizations hosted the two other sale days, earmarking their earnings to support organization activities: Alpha Gamma Sigma on March 25 and the Honors Transfer Society in conjunction with the College's Earth Day celebrations on April 23.

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Assemblymember Mike Eng Pays a Visit to Rio Hondo College

Assemblymember, 49th District, Mike Eng visited RHC to learn about the wide variety of programs the college offers to the local community.

Assemblymember Eng attended a meeting with Dr. Martinez where he was briefed about current student enrollment, the State's budget impact on Rio Hondo, the college's award-winning GO RIO program, and AB 540 issues.

After the meeting with the President, the Assemblymember toured the campus and was given a Building Program update by Project Manager, Jim Sinsheimer.

Assemblymember Eng was especially pleased to see that RHC has worked diligently on two policy areas in which he has a special interest — the Regional Allied Health Training Occupational Center and RHC's extensive Environmental Science Program.

Assemblymember Eng made it a point to say how very impressed he was with the work being done on campus and he expressed his appreciation for how well RHC serves the community and continues to address the workforce needs of the region.



Dr. Martinez, Assemblymember Mike Eng, Russell Castaneda-Calleros and Jim Sinsheimer.

Rio Hondo College Honors Graduates and Transfer Students At End-Of-Year Success Celebration

As commencement day approached at RHC, a combined celebration among the College's Student Support Programs took place to honor more than 300 graduating and transferring students.

This was the first year the College hosted one evening to celebrate students receiving either their associate degrees, certificates and/or transferring to four-year universities, who were also involved in Student Support Programs. The night was co-sponsored by the following programs: CalWORKs, Disabled Students Program and Services (DSP&S), Extended Opportunity, Program and Services (EOP&S), the Honors Transfer Program, MESA, the Transfer Center and the TRIO Program.

The event included an awards ceremony, dinner and dancing for honored students and their families, as well as RHC staff and faculty.



Book Sale
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The book sales are part of the Library's preparation for its much-awaited move to the new Library and Learning Resources Center during late summer. The new building in the lower quad is expected to be completed in the summer.



Classified Employee Recognition Week

The Rio Hondo College community found several ways to recognize and honor our classified employees during Classified Employee Recognition Week, including a Resolution from the Board of Trustees noting the importance of the week and the work these vital employees perform all year long. The President's Office hosted an Ice Cream Social for the classified staff; the Faculty Association hosted an event as well. Congratulations to our Classified Employees!



Nancy Galban, Admissions and Records and Lisa Sandoval, CSEA RHC Chapter President, kick off Classified School Employee's Week celebrated May 17-23, 2009.



Erwin Figueroa, Printing Services, wears a button placed by Lisa Sandoval, CSEA RHC Chapter President, to kick off Classified School Employee's Week, May 17-23, 2009.

Rio Hondo Students Give It Their All In Microsoft Competition!

The Imagine Cup, an annual technology competition sponsored by Microsoft, brings together students from around the world to showcase their innovative technology creations that may help resolve some of the world's toughest challenges. The Imagine Cup encourages students to apply their innovation and creativity by using technology to make a difference in the world today.

This year the theme of the Imagine Cup centered on the United Nations Millennium Development Goals that outline some of the hardest challenges in the world today such as fighting hunger, poverty and eradicating AIDS, among others.

Students develop technology-based solutions to address the Imagine Cup theme, competing for cash prizes and career-boosting opportunities. Fifteen teams competed for top prizes and honors in the Imagine Cup 2009 U.S. Finals were held in Cambridge, Massachusetts from May 2 through 5, 2009 and these fifteen teams were narrowed down from thousands of students from across the country, representing over 180 teams from 125 schools.

The best 15 teams were selected from the top universities across the nation and one Community College from Southern California – Rio Hondo College. As if that wasn't enough, Rio Hondo College students represented four out of the 15 teams that made it to the finals and RHC was the first and the only community college to send multiple teams to the National Finals.

The competition was fierce and RHC students were up against some of the best teams from including: University of Alabama (made up of Ph.D. students), University of Colorado (including two Imagine Cup veterans), an MIT junior and three Wayne State University students made up another team as well as teams from Purdue, DePauw and Missouri State Universities and more.

Rio Hondo College Professor, Dr. Shin Liu; Business Division Dean, Ron Christie; and UC Irvine professor, Dr. Hadar Ziv, assisted the students with their projects and were the mentors of the teams. Parents of students Susan Miramontez, Sarah Brambila and Susan Cardona indicated that the leadership from these mentors guided the Rio Hondo team to present themselves and their projects with clarity, confidence, and intellect.

Students of the Imagine Cup competition have gained valuable experience and benefits that have both enriched and changed their lives. Cesar Flores said, "Though we didn't advance to the international finals, the whole experience was one of the greatest awards I could get." Eric Hong claimed that the Imagine Cup provided him with an eye-opening experience to work with a large cooperation like Microsoft.

Both Shannon Lin and Zachary Brambila believe the Imagine Cup allowed them to learn real life project experience beyond textbook theory and Miguel Lugo and James Kung feel that the valuable experience will have long lasting effects on their professional careers.

The students and parents of the Rio Hondo College Imagine Cup teams expressed their gratitude to Rio Hondo College and in particular want to thank Dr. Liu, Dean Ron Christie, and all the parent helpers who assisted the teams. They also want to thank Microsoft's representative, Sam Stokes, who met with the teams weekly, giving some of his time to work with the students and to give insight into what the competition would entail. In addition, Dr. Ziv from UC Irvine also gave his feedback on the students' presentation and took time out from his work day to meet with our hopeful students.

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Rio Hondo Police Academy Graduate Saves the Dogs

Bear Valley Police Officer and RHC Police Academy graduate Laura Hutchinson was on routine patrol when she noticed smoke from a nearby hillside. After radioing in an alarm, Hutchinson found flames consuming a modular hillside home that also housed German Shepherd rescue dogs. Owned and operated by Grace Konosky, the Tehachapi sanctuary housed 22 dogs.



Bear Valley Springs Police Officer, Laura Hutchinson along with Kern County Fire personnel, use a tarp and a wheel barrow to move one of the more severely injured animals to a nearby kennel area for safety.

It was Hutchinson's quick thinking that saved four of the dogs from certain death. After learning from Konosky that four dogs were still inside the burning modular, Hutchinson tried to enter the home to try to free the dogs. She was quickly driven back by the smoke.

Konosky then notified the officer that the dogs had access to the outside via a doggy door, so Hutchinson ran to the back and opened a fence that allowed the dogs to escape. These four dogs were the personal pets of Konosky, rescued from a kennel because they were deemed unsuitable for adoption. They suffered from smoke inhalation, singed fur and nose and paw burns.

"If it wasn't for her, the dogs would have been dead," Konosky said.

One of the singed German Shepherds had a severely burned nose and yet he refused to leave his home or the side of firefighters. After repeated attempts to get the animal to remain back at a safe distance, the dog was put on a leash by Officer Hutchinson, who then placed it in one of the empty kennel enclosures.

Hutchinson helped get the dogs to Tehachapi Veterinary Hospital, where two will remain for another couple of weeks, Konosky said.

MICROSOFT COMPETITION *continued from previous page*

Dr. Shin Liu thinks Rio Hondo College represents a fine example of what is right about our community college system. "Community colleges, like Rio Hondo, were intended to be a bridge from high school to the university. They were and still are a jewel that makes California different from other states. They are affordable and accessible to all students. Not all teenagers are ready to move away from home to attend college; not all working students can go straight to a university; and not all students who are uncertain of their majors can afford to explore various fields of study at the university," stated Dr. Liu.

Superintendent's Breakfast A Collaboration Between K-12 and Rio Hondo College

Twice each year Rio Hondo College hosts a gathering of area school Superintendents to discuss and confer with the college on collaborative issues regarding student success.

Each district superintendent and/or their representative was invited by Dr. Martinez to share updates on what challenges they are facing and give them an opportunity to share the highlights of this past school year.

Each representative responded, giving everyone at the table a chance to observe and discuss like issues and appreciate the challenges each district faces on a daily basis. Some districts face a disproportionate growth in special education needs while others are using data to help drive intervention activities. All are in the middle of making severe cuts, yet some reported improvements in test scores, despite the budget cuts.



Dr. Martinez added that a \$9 million deferral of general fund allocation would pose a cash flow challenge for Rio Hondo. The freeze on state bond building funds has delayed the Physical Education project.

Mr. Howard Kummerman and Dr. Paul Parnell gave a presentation related to Cal-PASS.

Environmental Science Program Update

RHC Dean Karen Koos discussed the impressive strides that the environmental science program has made in the last couple of years. The program now boasts an active advisory committee comprised of green businesses, utilities, elected officials, instructors, and alumni who are all committed to helping the environmental science program train students and retrain incumbent workers for green collar jobs.

Dean Koos stated that it is important to cultivate interest in green jobs and green careers among middle and high school students who may not think of these jobs at first, but may be pleasantly surprised at the wealth of opportunities that exist. Dean Koos added that school districts are welcome to send their operations/maintenance staff to be trained or retrained in the areas of environmental health and safety to be in compliance with training requirements.

Early College Academy/ GEAR-UP Update

RHC Vice President Henry Gee reported the Early College Academy has flourished at EMUHSD and offers 9th and 10th grade students the opportunity to take college courses and earn accumulate college credits while they are still in high school. Vice President Gee also shared that the GEAR-UP partnership between Rio Hondo College, Madrid Middle School and Mountain View High School is preparing to enter its fourth year of operation. The GEAR-UP program has been instrumental in achieving student success and can be replicated in other school districts if additional GEAR UP grant funds are pursued and secured.

Upcoming Events

Vice President Gee also reminded everyone that Rio Hondo hosts three College Information Days (CID) for each high-school district during the Spring semester of each academic year. Dr. Martinez invited everyone to join the next meeting set for Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 7:30 a.m.

Former Wrestling Coach Inducted Into National Hall Of Fame

Ken Bos, former Rio Hondo College wrestling coach, received a Lifetime Service Award from the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. His name will be placed permanently on a plaque within the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Mr. Bos and eight others were honored at the Hall of Fame Honors Banquet, held May 30, 2009 at the Sun & Sail Club II in Lake Forest, CA.

Former Rio Hondo Coach Ken Bos has an extensive resume. He was a three-year Letterman at Artesian High School, a two-year Letterman at Cerritos College. A two-time Conference Champion and three-time All American at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo and worked as a coach for two years at Santa Barbara High School before coming to coach at Rio Hondo College.

Under his direction and leadership he led the Rio Hondo College wrestling team to eight Conference Championships, three Regional Championships, two State Championships and he coached 34 JC All-Americans. Additionally, he was an NCAA Div. I official and served on the National Wrestling Coaches Association Executive Board. He was a three-time president of the California Community College Wrestling Coaches Association and also was the Wrestling Tournament Competition Director for the 1984 Olympic Games.

In addition to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Coach Bos was inducted into the NCAA Division II Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1998 and the California Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2001.



Media Credit: David Munoz

Technology Open House

Each year the RHC Career Technical Education department hosts a Technology Open House for junior and senior students from area high schools with whom the college has partnered. These students are brought by bus and given a free lunch (paid for by grants received by the CTE department) followed by an informative meeting with a counselor regarding the registration process for RHC. Students leave this meeting with applications in hand before they are taken on a tour and allowed to participate in hands-on workshops.

The Technical Ed Open House was held in early May and was attended by more than 100 students from six of the area high schools. These students were given the opportunity to learn about the process of transitioning into the Automotive Technology Program, the Drafting/CADD/GIS programs as well as the newly created Environment Technology Green Program (which includes wind, solar and other natural power sources).

Students were treated to hands-on demonstrations in each of the three departments' high-quality, state-of-the-art training and equipment. John Frala, one of the many instructors in the Career Technical Education Department, stated that the event went exceptionally well and the students were excited to learn about all of the new job opportunities waiting for them after college. As a bonus, twenty-one \$1000 scholarship applications were given to students who are in need of financial aid. For the past several years students coming into the transportation sector have had the opportunity to apply for the New Car Dealer Association scholarship. More than 17 of these applications have been returned and department personnel are hoping that first time college students receive the scholarships to support their education in these tough economic times.



Latina Leadership Network Honors Students at Annual Mother's Day Dinner

More than 150 students and their families as well as Rio Hondo College staff and community members attended the Latina Leadership Network's annual Mother's Day Dinner. The event was held at the Pico Rivera Senior Center.

The Latina Leadership Network's local chapter at RHC works to promote leadership skills and provide scholarships to students. The Mother's Day Dinner is the largest event the organization hosts annually and is made possible thanks to staff donating their own time and effort toward its coordination.

A total of seven scholarships of \$200 each were awarded to RHC students who had maintained solid grade-point-averages, who were ready to transfer and who were actively-involved in their communities.

The following students received scholarships:

- Marina Armendariz
- Jennifer Marquis
- Brenda Catarino
- Rosemarie Palacios
- Iliana Garcia
- Jose Zumaya
- Tony Garcia



RHC Round-Up Luncheon Honors Faculty

Co-sponsored by the President's Office and the Faculty Association, the end-of-the-year luncheon, themed "Rio Round-Up," was held to honor this year's retirees as well as acknowledge faculty for their years of service and for those who received tenure.

Retirements

- Voiza Arnold 1986-2009
- Bruce Nelson 1970-2009

35 years

- Dale Harvey

30 years

- Henry Saucedo

25 years

- Jim Chandler

20 years

- Patrick McConnell
- Stephanie Wells
- Jan LaTurno

10 years

- Patricia Kepner
- Nilza Rivera
- Ryan Bronkar
- Edward Ibarra
- Jannine Livingston
- Aimee Mindes
- Chris Bowen
- Michelle Pilati Corselli
- JoAnn Springer
- Shin Liu

Tenure

- Frank Accardo
- Eugene Blackmun
- Ada Brown
- Alfred Forrest
- Edward Gonzalez
- Rebecca Green
- Theodore Preston
- Kendra Seiler
- Jodi Senk

Writes Of Spring Festival

The Writes of Spring is Rio Hondo College's annual two-day celebration of writers and writing, featuring performances by guest authors, students, and faculty. Now in its ninth year, the festival is funded by the Auxiliary Services Organization and hosted by the Division of Communications and Languages.

Each year, the Writes of Spring committee endeavors to assemble a program of talented professional authors for the purpose of promoting the value of writing to the Rio Hondo campus community. Guest speakers at past festivals have included influential authors Daniel Cano, Montserrat Fontes, Josefina Lopez, and Helena Maria Viramontes.

The 2009 event was held at the Wray Theater on April 29 and 30.

Celebrated columnist Gustavo Arellano captivated a standing-room only crowd, while the 300+ seat Wray Theater was filled to capacity for readings by award-winning investigative reporter Sam Quinones and local novelist Reyna Grande.

For many of our students, this festival is their first experience attending a literary reading. The response has been overwhelmingly positive and attendance figures continue to increase at every festival.

In addition to professional guest authors, another popular event is the River's Voice showcase. Celebrating its 10th anniversary this month, River's Voice, Rio Hondo College's prestigious arts and literary journal, provides students, faculty, and staff a forum to publish their original creative work.

The project grew out of an event called Celebration of the Arts, a collaborative endeavor of the Communications and Languages Division and the Performing and Visual Arts Division. This event spurred the idea to sponsor a student creative writing contest, which led to a discussion of creating a vehicle for promoting student writing. Thus began the process of developing the first volume of River's Voice: A Journal of Art and Literature in the spring of 2000.

Producing each volume requires the efforts of four full-time faculty editors and one student editor. While the process is both time and labor intensive, faculty and student participation have grown with each successive year. This beautiful journal is presented annually to the Board of Directors and copies are available for purchase from the Communications Division.

All student literary submissions are entered into a creative writing contest in one of four genres—fiction, poetry, memoir, and one-act drama. During the Writes of Spring festival, student authors have the opportunity to read their prize-winning work at two River's Voice readings, while also enjoying the prestige of sharing the bill at an event that includes professional writers.

The 2009 River's Voice Creative Writing Contest Winners

Memoir

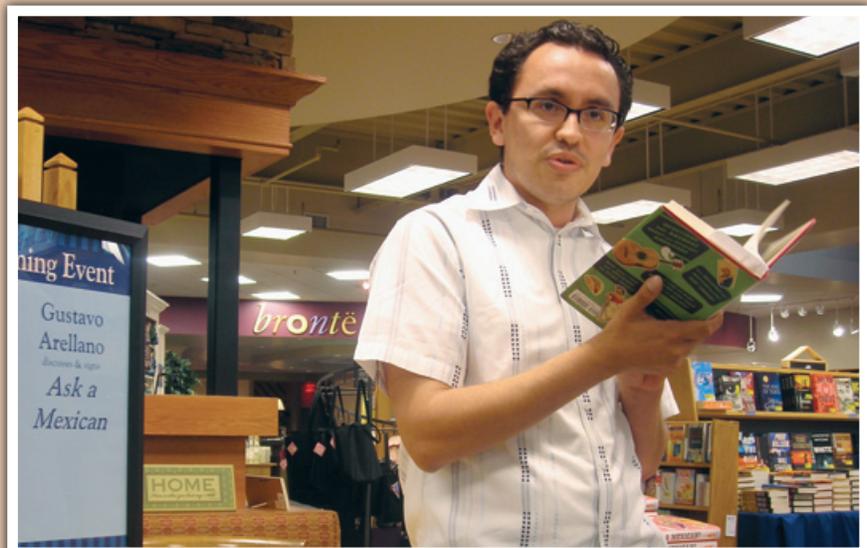
- 1st Prize
"Tenshi" by Skylar Carroll
- 2nd Prize
"Where a Kid Can Be a Kid" by Carlos Avilez
- 3rd Prize
"Make Believe" by Tim Aguilar

Short Story

- 1st Prize
"Scarecrow" by Dane Rivera
- 2nd Prize
"Miracle on 4th and Chicago" by Tim Aguilar
- 3rd Prize
"Never a Changing Day" by Salomon Baeza

Poetry

- 1st Prize
"Disease" by Samantha Lauren Bartz
- 2nd Prize
"Black Diamonds" by Dennis McGonagle
- 3rd Prize
"Shooting Jesus" by Michael A. Rodriguez



Columnist Gustavo Arellano addressed Rio students in the Wray Theatre during his Writes of Spring presentation.