



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

PRIOR ISSUES

OCTOBER 2008

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message

Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.
Celebrates The Heroic Efforts
Of The Admissions And Records

Fall Transfer Fair Draws
Hundreds of Students

Tune-In Tune-Up Puts
Rio Hondo College
in Community Service

Accreditation 2008

October Board Meeting

Elaine Gomez Shares
Personal and Professional
Story of Success with AOJ Classes

Please Encourage Students to
Meet the November 7 Deadline
for Fall Petitions

Summer Reading Program
Completes Second Season

New Wilderness Station Opportunity
for Fire Technology Program

October 2008 Medallion Awards

Rio Hondo College Launches New
One of A Kind Logistics Courses

Environmental Symposium Update

Rio Hondo College Library Receives
Grant from the Bank of the West

DSPS Open House

Student Clubs Compete for Prizes

Arts And Cultural Events

Are We Ready for The Big One ?



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

I wish to emphasize my most sincere thanks and appreciation to every one for your assistance and participation during the Accreditation Team's site visit, and for the many months so many have been engaged in the development of the Self Study. Kudos to the members of the Steering Committee and to our support staff who facilitated the team's requests. The teamwork was outstanding! It was a busy week indeed. Thank you for your diligence and attention to this important process. We are awaiting a copy of the draft report for our review.

We are sending reminders to students who have accumulated at least 40 units to meet with a counselor to see if they will be eligible to petition for a certificate or a degree. Notice the handsome "You've Earned It...Now Get that Degree" posters and flyers around campus. There are many good reasons students, even those who are planning to transfer, should obtain a degree or a certificate along the way. Bottom line, it helps our reputation, too. We are very close to being in the Top 100 of Associate Degree Producers on the list published each year by Community College Week.

Take a minute to appreciate the decorative talents and efforts of many offices around campus, where there are some scary Halloween haunts. Thanks to CSEA for sponsoring the competition and the 'treats.'

By this time, most everyone has had the opportunity to participate in the disaster preparedness training. Thanks to the Human Resources Department and Risk Management Consultant, Danté Jackson, for coordinating the effort, for creating a productive learning experience, and for helping us meet FEMA requirements.

It is timely to recognize heroic efforts of the Admissions and Records Staff, who helped hundreds of students who were lined up the evening of September 3, the last day to add classes for the fall semester. Students had many reasons for their last-minute approach, but each student needed the attention and caring help they received from the staff, each of whom worked tirelessly to accommodate the crowd. Special commendation to Coordinator Mary Becerril and the A & R crew for commitment to our students and superior customer service.

Mission Statement

"Rio Hondo College is a collaborative center of lifelong learning which provides innovative, challenging, and quality educational offerings for its diverse students and community."



Dr. Martinez congratulates A & R staff for outstanding customer service.

Fall Transfer Fair Draws Hundreds of Students

Students seeking information from college and university representatives at a one-stop opportunity for students to learn more during the Fall Transfer Fair in the Upper Quad. More than 40 four-year colleges, including University of California and CSU campuses, as well as private institutions staffed booths and provided information regarding transfer admission requirements, majors, financial aid and student life.



College Pride Day was included as part of the Transfer Fair. Faculty and staff were asked to wear their own university alma mater gear, tee-shirts, hats, and other logo wear was proudly worn by employees.

A new element in this event was a panel of UC campus representatives drew more than 50 students to the MESA center. Each UC campus had an opportunity discuss r programs and requirements. Students were engaged and asked questions.

Overall the event was quite successful. Not only was it one of the largest Transfer Fairs Rio Hondo College has had in years, it was also an opportunity for students to be aware of transfer opportunities and to “think transfer”.



Tune-In Tune-Up Puts Rio Hondo College in Community Service

Saturday October 4 dawned under cloudy skies that gave way to light showers. Nevertheless, 150 local motorists lined up to receive free emissions testing and if necessary, a coupon for emissions-related repairs.

The *Tune-In Tune-Up* event took place at Whittier Narrows Regional Park. It was a result of a \$282,000 grant, the work of Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis which established a partnership among her office, Rio Hondo College, East Los Angeles College and community organizations in the San Gabriel Valley. This partnership, coordinated by Rio Hondo College's Russell Castaneda-Calleros, was designed to provide a free roadside emissions test event, along with follow-up smog-related repairs to become state compliant as needed.

Congresswoman Solis, Rio Hondo College President Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., and other sponsor representatives were all on hand to greet participants. Everyone who attended received free refreshments and a chance to meet the Congresswoman and President Martinez.

Other *Tune-In Tune-Up* programs have been completed throughout California. On average, each *Tune-In Tune-Up* event annually removes 3,000 tons of carbon monoxide, 300 tons of hydrocarbons, and 150 tons of nitrogen oxide from the air. *Tune-In Tune-Up* 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. Another *Tune-In, Tune-Up* event is planned for the late Spring.



Congresswoman Hilda Solis presents a check to Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr. Ph.D. for the Tune In Tune Up Program.



Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr. Ph.D., Angela Acosta-Salazar, President of the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees, John Frala, one of the ATT professors and Congresswoman Hilda Solis join some of the ATT students.

Accreditation 2008

After a very full week of general forums, group and one-on-one meetings, the nine-member Accreditation Site Visit Team finished its draft report and faced the assembled Rio Hondo College community in the Wray Theatre.

A verbal Exit Report was delivered by Mr. Jerry Patton, President of the College of the Desert. He served as team chair. He reminded everyone that only the written final report is official.

We will anticipate receiving a draft copy of the team's report once it is sent to the Commission's office. At that time, we will have an opportunity to make factual corrections.

The Commission will review the report and issue a formal 'action letter' after its meeting January 2009.



October Board Meeting

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees met at the Senior Center at Parnell Park. This meeting, held in Area 5 represented by Trustee Garry Couso-Vasquez, began with a community mixer.



Community Mixer

After the Rio Hondo College Color Guard posted the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance and during Public Comment, community member Dianne Garcia shared her experience registering her son at the College. She thanked both Aracely Tamayo and Eva Menchaca for going above and beyond to make sure that her son could take the proper placement test and begin classes on time.



Rio Hondo College Color Guard

Angela Acosta-Salazar, President of the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the City of Whittier and the Parnell Park Senior Center for hosting the meeting. Trustee Garry Couso-Vasquez then presented commendations:

- **Ken Levine of La Serna High School** for his work on the Oasis Program. The program is an intervention effort to work with students that are struggling with their grades. Each of these students works with the Oasis teachers twice a day learning study skills and working with a junior or senior

continued on next page.

Elaine Gomez Shares Personal and Professional Story of Success with AOJ Classes

Elaine Gomez is a veritable student success story. She was 16 years old when she gave birth to the first of four children after growing up in some “not-so-good neighborhoods” in Los Angeles and Pico Rivera. Despite becoming a parent at such a young age, this Rio Hondo College graduate supports and cares for her four children as police officer for the City of Long Beach.

Officer Gomez returned to the Rio Hondo college campus last month to address instructor Bob Feliciano’s Administration of Justice classes as a recruiting officer for the Long Beach Police Department (LBPD). She and the officers from the LBPD made two presentations on that city’s academy, covering topics ranging from passing the academies written and physical fitness tests to wages, benefits and opportunities for promotions and special projects within the department.

What seemed to make the most impact with students, according to Rio Hondo professor Bob Feliciano, was Gomez’s personal connection to the college.

Even after her first child was born, Ms. Gomez graduated from Montebello High School and went straight to Rio Hondo College, where her goal was to become a probation officer.

It was there that she realized what she really wanted to do was to become a police officer. So, even though she was pregnant with her third child at the time, she pulled out her stroller, strapped in her two older children and rode the bus to Rio Hondo College where the children attended the college’s child care program while she attended class.

“It took me a while to graduate, like five or six years,” said Gomez, who earned an Associate Degree in Administration of Justice. “But I continued. I never quit. I think a lot of teen parents feel like their life is over. I was not going to become a statistic. And if I could do it, anyone can.”

Rio Hondo College is proud of the extraordinary students that graduate from the College and go on to live exemplary lives. One of the very best rewards for the College comes when such students come back to the College to inspire others.

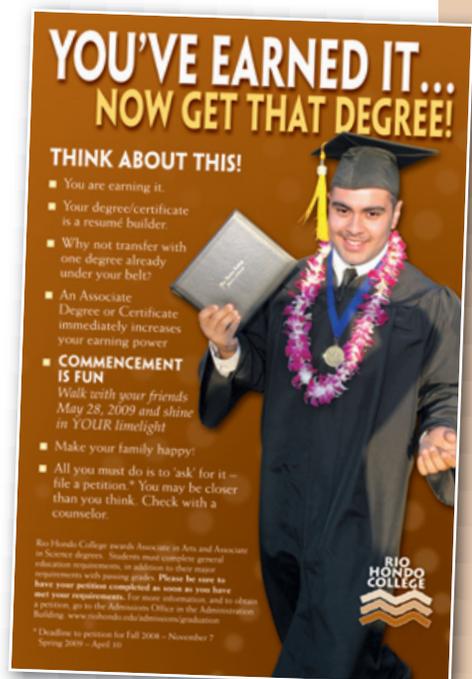


Whittier Daily News reporter Tracy Garcia interviews Elaine Gomez during a break between Gomez’s presentations to AOJ classes.

Please Encourage Students to Meet the November 7 Deadline for Fall Petitions

During the past few weeks, we posted large signs and flyers encouraging students to petition for a degree or a certificate. We began this “You Have Earned It” campaign because we noticed that many students, especially those who are transfer-bound, do not petition or receive a degree, even though they may have completed all the requirements. These students may not be aware they have the opportunity.

Everyone can help grow awareness of the importance of the associate degree and the November 7 deadline for petitions for degrees and certificates. The campaign slogan is “You’ve earned it, now get that degree”. Remember, in June we awarded 1,148 degrees – putting us very close to the 100th college on the “Top 100 Community College degree producers” list published each spring. With some encouragement, we can help our students learn about the benefits of a Rio Hondo degree and land on the prestigious “Top 100” list. Help spread the word!



YOU'VE EARNED IT... NOW GET THAT DEGREE!

THINK ABOUT THIS!

- You are earning it.
- Your degree/certificate is a resume builder.
- Why not transfer with one degree already under your belt?
- An Associate Degree or Certificate immediately increases your earning power.
- **COMMENCEMENT IS FUN**
Walk with your friends May 28, 2009 and shine in YOUR limelight.
- Make your family happy!
- All you must do is to 'ask' for it – file a petition. * You may be closer than you think. Check with a counselor.

Rio Hondo College awards Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees. Students must complete general education requirements, in addition to their major requirements with passing grades. Please be sure to have your petition completed as soon as you have met your requirements. For more information, and to obtain a petition, go to the Admissions Office in the Administration Building. www.rio.edu/rio admissions/graduation

* Deadline to petition for Fall 2008 - November 7
Spring 2009 - April 10

RIO HONDO COLLEGE

BOARD MEETING

continued from previous page

class mentor/tutor. There has been significant improvement in the grades and the test scores of the Oasis students. **Marty Galban of the La Serna High School Golf Team.** Mr. Galban was unable to attend, but Trustee Couso-Vasquez thanked him in his absence and donated several new golf club drivers to the La Serna Golf Team.



Trustee Garry Couso-Vasquez, Ken Levine, Angela Acosta-Salazar Board President, Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D.

- **Bernadette Ramirez of Crossroads Art and Culture.** Ms. Ramirez is the Founder and Director of the program, which is designed to offer children an alternative activity for afterschool. They are able to participate in all kinds of arts programs and it is supported by fundraising efforts and donations.



Trustee Garry Couso-Vasquez, Bernadette Ramirez, Angela Acosta-Salazar Board President, Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D.

- **Alan Nakken, President of the Coalition for a Better Whittier.** Mr. Nakken is currently retired and is the President of the Friendly Hills Property Owners Association. He is both the Founder and the President of the Coalition for a Better Whittier

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Summer Reading Program Completes Second Season

The Rio Hondo College Librarians have worked together to continue the Summer Reading Program (SRP) into its second year. This program is made possible by the Staff Development Small Group Project grant. Awards and prizes were generously donated by individuals and Whittier establishments including Starbucks on Norwalk/Beverly, Primarily Hair Salon, Little Old Bookshop, Panera Bread Whitwood and Carl's Jr.



The Summer Reading Program was initiated last year by librarians Stephanie Wells and Edna Ball with the help of librarians Debby Yashar and Judy Sevilla-Marzona, and staff member Tes Safavi. Their goal was to make the Summer Reading Program enjoyable, refreshing and rewarding for faculty and staff who would not ordinarily have time to read and/or review books for fun during the school year. It was also seen as a way to encourage the campus community to learn about recreational reading opportunities available in the College library and as a bridge between the Spring and Fall "Reading by the Rio" activities.

With the Staff Development grant, which was used for the bookend parties and for giveaway book bags, the program was patterned after UCSD's model. SRP 2008's theme was "Sail Away with Books" and was open from May 22-Aug. 22. The whole campus was again invited by e-mail. Stephanie also presented a SRP 2007 poster session at the All-Staff Retreat on April 25, 2008. Two random prize drawings were held over the summer to maintain interest in reading and reviewing books. This time 32 faculty and staff signed up but the number of reader reviews increased to 79. The first prize was again a pair of Lakers tickets, with many other prizes for each book reviewer. Everyone who attended the awards party on Sept. 18, 2008, was given a "Read" bookmark.

Watch for announcements in the Spring semester about the 2009 Summer Reading Program!

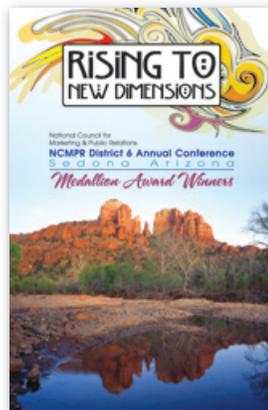
Watch for announcements in the Spring semester about the 2009 Summer Reading Program!

New Wilderness Station Opportunity for Fire Technology Program

A new agreement with the City of Monrovia will permit fire crew members from the Rio Hondo College Fire Technology Program to be based out of that city's Wilderness Station. The arrangement will make it possible for the City of Monrovia to benefit from the highly trained fire crews from the College in an important niche area of firefighting. In the last several years, wildland fire crews have played an instrumental role in battling the Ojai fire, San Diego fires and the fires that plagued Northern California.

This group of men and women are skilled in frontline firefighting. The City of Monrovia will be able to use trainees to practice compass training and shelter deployment year-round in the foothills that are so prone to fires. The Rio Hondo College Fire Academy is home based in the City of Santa Fe Springs.

Rio Hondo College firefighters, many of whom are hired by the United States Forest Service while still at the Academy, have been through strenuous testing and training to become certified. The recruits must be able to run three miles in 45 minutes with a 45-pound pack on their backs, complete vigorous classroom study, and demonstrate the application decision-making skills. The wilderness station will serve as their laboratory as they go through the program giving them real world experience and preparing them for what is ahead.



College Publications Win Regional Medallion Awards

Two Rio Hondo College publications, including the online *President's Update*, and the *2007 Annual Report*, earned Silver Medallion Awards in recent regional competition sponsored by District 6 of the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR). The region is comprised by Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Territory of Guam. Awards were presented at the organization's annual conference. NCMPR is affiliated with the American Association of Community Colleges and includes more than 1,600 community and junior colleges in its membership.

BOARD MEETING

continued from previous page



Trustee Garry Couso-Vasquez, Alan Nakkem, Angela Acosta-Salazar Board President, Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D.

Presentations were made to the Board of Trustees by Dr. Paul Parnell on the course offerings in the Whittier area, by Joe Santoro the Dean of Public Safety on the Wilderness Station and by Norayma Cabot, the Director of the Child Development Center on the self-assessment of the Child Development Center and the action plan to work on improvements.



Dr. Paul Parnell



Dean Joe Santoro



Child Development Center Director, Norayma Cabot

Following board action on the Consent Agenda and individual Action Items, Steve Masetti made an update presentation to the Board on the Building Programs.

Rio Hondo College Library Receives Grant from the Bank of the West



Adele Enright, Librarian, Judy Sevilla-Marzona, Librarian, Tony S. Wang, Senior VP Inland Valley Region, B of the W Monique Delatte, Librarian Fatima Jimenez-Alva, VP/Branch Manager Pico Rivera Office; Dr. Paul Parnell, RHC VP Academic Affairs; Dr. Loretta Canett-Bailes, Dean Student Learning Support/Library

Rio Hondo College Launches New One-of-A-Kind Logistics Courses

In response to the growing need for well-trained logistics and supply chain professionals, Rio Hondo College, in conjunction with six area community colleges and with support from the State of California, has joined forces to form the Logistics Training Consortium of Southern California (LTC). The result is new cutting-edge educational and training opportunities for students, and a new pipeline to develop employees for distribution and logistics industries.

The development of this program was initiated by Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., as a result of a review of the college's curriculum last year. He commissioned a survey of industry and the workforce in the Rio Hondo College service area to identify new career path opportunities for employment in the region and to better assist the region's employers recruit trained employees.

"A program like this is long overdue and a great opportunity for many," said Sylvia Myers, Senior Human Resources Representative for North American Supply Chain Operations and Ecolab. "The skill set this program will provide the successful graduate is invaluable. It is a real win-win situation for employer and employee."

This career certificate has attracted more than 25 students for the first two classes — Supply Chain Management and Logistics Management. The college will offer a series of classes leading to a Certificate of Skill Proficiency, allowing students to head out into this high demand job market.

"My employees have told me that by taking the course they understand the importance of conducting root cause analysis, they are learning how important it is to simplify our part numbering system and how the stock locator can make their job easier," said Arlene Collins, Chief Financial Officer for Rapid Rack, Inc.

New classes in the series will be offered at Rio Hondo College during the Spring Semester include: Logistics 105, Purchasing Management; and Logistics 110, Warehouse Management, in addition to Logistics 115, Inventory Management; and Logistics 101, Supply Chain Management.

These classes can also be delivered on site at employer facilities as well as customized to meet the specific needs of local business and industry. For additional information, prospective students or employers may visit www.riohondo.edu/tech/logistics or contact John Whitford at 562.463.7490

Both Dean Ron Christie and Eric Caesar have been instrumental in the launch of this program and the entire college community is very grateful.

Environmental Symposium Update

One year ago, Rio Hondo College hosted the *Educational Pathways to Green Jobs*, an Environmental Education Symposium. Much has happened in just a year. As a result of the input generated during the symposium, the Environmental Technology program established a new Advisory Committee. The committee met twice last year, in December and May, and made recommendations about curriculum, degrees and other academic issues.

The curriculum for the new program includes a Redesigned Environmental Technology Associate Degree and Certificate. These redesigned programs were approved by Rio Hondo's Curriculum committee and sent to the State Chancellor's office in May.

The new Degree and Certificate have five areas in which a student can specialize:

- 1) Waste Management
- 2) Environmental Health and Safety
- 3) Alternative and Efficient Energy Systems
- 4) Environmental Restoration and Land Use Planning
- 5) Water Resource Management

Four new courses have been developed and have been through the curriculum approval process. They include:

- ET 270 Wastewater Treatment 1
- ET 271 Wastewater Treatment 2
- ET 272 Advanced Wastewater Treatment
- ET 290 Internship/Cooperative Work Experience

Six of the existing Environmental Technology courses have been revised and the Environmental Biology Lab textbook has been revised to incorporate newly designed laboratory exercises.

These program enhancements result in a unique, cutting-edge program, with graduates who are highly sought by industry. Thanks to Dean Karen Koos and Professor Steve Katnik.

DSPS Open House



DSP&S Dean Antonio Flores demonstrates equipment designed to help students with special needs communicate with college community.



DSP&S Open House hostesses from left, Judith Rodman, Instructional Assistant; Adriana Cortez, former student and current intern; and Judy Marks, Learning Disabilities Specialist.

Student Clubs Compete for Prizes

Members of Rio Hondo College Student Clubs decorated display cases in the foyer of the Campus Inn during what has become an annual competition between the clubs. When the votes were in, winners of the cash prizes were:

- Veterans Club, \$300 - First Place
- Vocal Arts Alliance, \$200 - Second Place
- Nursing Club \$100 - Third Place.



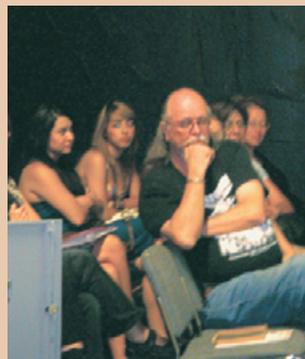
October Arts And Cultural Events At Rio Hondo College Offer Diversity In The Arts

The Rio Hondo College Division of the Arts & Cultural Program is dedicated to providing opportunities for its diverse student population to become contributors to a rapidly changing global arts community. What this means to the community is an ongoing abundance of rich, cultural events throughout the year. All events are FREE and open to public.

The Arts & Cultural Program offered two events at the end of October. From October 16 – 18 at the college's Black Box Theatre presented Student Original One Acts. Audiences enjoyed an evening of 10-minute plays performed, written and directed by theatre students.

Elsewhere on the campus from October 20 – November 26, at the Rio Hondo College Art Gallery presents *More Than a Feeling*, contemporary abstract paintings by Lester Monzon, Eric Sall, Kevin Wingate and others. Art Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and evenings Monday through Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. A reception and artist talk on the event was held on October 20 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

According to JoAnna Downey, Dean of Visual and Performing Arts, "The faculty and staff are committed to supporting arts education for transfer, economic development, and life long employment in an accessible and safe environment. We meet the needs of those wishing to create, consume, document, or analyze the arts."



On-going Events

MORE THAN A FEELING

October 20 thru November 26
RHC Art Gallery, *
More Than A Feeling Reception and Artist Talk: October 20
RHC Art Gallery, 7:00 – 8:30pm

Contemporary abstract paintings by Lester Monzon, Eric Sall, Kevin Wingate and others.

NOVEMBER 2008

AFRICAN ACROBATS

November 15
Wray Theatre, 3:00pm **

This group of incredible Acrobats, will marvel you with electrifying entertainment for the whole family. If you enjoyed the Chinese Acrobats last year, you won't want to miss this new and exciting group.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

November 20 thru 22
Wray Theatre, 8:00pm **

The Dance Program concert showcases faculty and student choreographic work. Esther Baker-Tarpage of the nationally recognized Baker & Tarpage Dance Project will serve as Guest Choreographer for a new work set on Rio Hondo dancers.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Rules of Three:

- We can live for 3 minutes without air;
- We can live for 3 hours without warmth;
- We can live for 3 days without water;
- We can live for 3 weeks without food.

THINGS TO KNOW

Emergency Response Team Responsibilities:

- Preserve Life
- Communicate and Document Incidents
- Fire Control and Hazard Control
- Flexibility During Incidents
- Apply Common Sense
- Be Prepared to Shelter in Place – Essentials Include Self Reliance for a period of 5 to 7 days.
- Water (store at least 1 gal person/day for 7 days) and items for purification
- Fire Extinguisher (know how to operate, have on-hand/stored)
- Light Urban Search and Rescue Training

First Aid and Life Saving Techniques Priorities

- Open and sustain open airway, then place victim on their left side
- Control bleeding by adding pressure to the open wound
- Manage shock (if person cannot follow simple commands) by placing their feet on a chair while they lay on the floor.

Have a Plan and Emergency Kits

- In your car
- In your office or workstation
- At home
- Have "REAL" First Aid Kits

Assessing Structural Damage

- Evacuate and do not return if the structure shows "ANY" signs of leaning;
- Evacuate and do not return if there are large cracks (at least 1/2" wide) from the floor to roofline
- Evacuate and do not re-enter if there is a structural collapse
- Do NOT store supplies in the garage. It is the weakest link in the structure
- Control utilities, turn off gas if suspected leak. Have a shut-off tool nearby.

Are We Ready for THE BIG ONE ?

College faculty, staff and administrators were informed, cajoled, and entertained by Emergency Preparedness trainer Wayne Bennett during a series of day-long seminars, known as SEMS/NIMS/ICS training. This training is part of the College's overall emergency management plan to be better prepared, and reinforces current activities and disaster drills that have taken place during the past year. In November, the College will participate in a statewide earthquake drill known as "The Great Southern California Shakeout."

Bennet's job was to ensure each participant learned the essentials of three disaster preparedness courses (ICS 100, 200, 700) required by both the State (Office of Emergency Services, OES) and Federal (Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA) governments. Employees were tested on the material and are now registered in the official database of state agency employees, who by law are subject to assignment as "disaster service workers" during an emergency. Staff unable to attend the seminars in person was given the opportunity to fulfill this very important requirement by taking each of the classes online, or on FLEX day January 30, 2009.

Bennett's core message was that everyone needs to be better prepared to take care of ourselves, our families, and our colleagues in time of emergency, and that we must make provisions to survive the anticipated 7.0 – 8.0 earthquake projected to hit our region. According to leading scientist such as Dr. Lucy Jones (Cal-Tech) and other leading authorities from the USGS, Southern California is long overdue for a major disaster, given the cyclical pattern of earthquakes along major fault lines.

In addition to the disaster preparedness training Bennett also provided instruction on basic survival techniques, including proper "Duck, Cover and Hold" procedures designed to help ride out earthquakes. He discussed some of the myths surrounding behavior during an earthquake (such as standing in doorways, which was once recommended with mission-adobe construction when the doorway was the strongest part of the building's construction, however that is no longer applicable. Seeking protection under the furniture/desk is always better, he said.) Another tip: anchor bookcases and other large pieces of furniture.

Check the information in the "Did You Know?" box for timely and lifesaving advice.

