

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message

Introducing New Library and
Student Learning Support Dean

September 2009
Board Meeting

Station Fire Named Largest Fire
in Los Angeles County History

New Citizens Oversight Committee
Members Appointed

Former Rio Hondo College Student
Awarded Medal of Valor

Ribbon Cutting Held to Unveil
State-of-the-Art ICS Vehicle

FLEX Day Report

Transfer Center Holds Fair

Rio Hondo Makes Top Ranks
in National Poll

Save the Date

Family-Friendly Events Begin
with Ten West Performance

Club Rush Gives Students
the Opportunity to Get Involved
with Campus Life

Students Talent Showcased
With Unveiling of Mural



President's Message



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

This is a very busy time in our semester here at Rio Hondo College. Kudos to the ASB for hosting a vigorous Club Rush, and to the Transfer Center for showcasing opportunities through the Fall Transfer Fair. Everyone is working hard to help provide students with meaningful and productive college experiences.

We are preparing to introduce the new Student Information System, Access-RIO, next month. When we 'go live' with this new registration system, students will experience the benefits of many months of preparation by an army of staff, many of whom have worked tirelessly in its launch. For example, more than two million student records have already been migrated from the old system to the new. Watch for posters and flyers to learn more. Included is a new application system, CCCApply, to be introduced at the same time, as well an important electronic service for degree and enrollment verification. Everyone will save time, no more lines, students will be able to search the schedule for open classes and will be able to access wait lists for full classes.

Another benefit of the new system is the Campus Facilities and Events Scheduling component, which enables us to make optimum use of our facilities resources and to maintain the College Events Calendar, which is posted on the website. During this especially busy time of the year, it is important to work with Facilities Scheduling staff to make sure your activity or event is included on the calendar, even if it is to be held off-campus. Members of the Board of Trustees reference the Calendar, too. Please also remember to complete separate AV and electronic work orders if you have set up needs for your events.

Don't forget that the 'open enrollment' period for employee benefit plans is now in effect and closes October 9. My thanks to Human Resources staff members for their assistance in helping our employees make the most of district-provided benefits.

We're in the home stretch with the Accreditation Response report. Thanks to everyone who has worked so diligently to write, edit, document and review the College's collective response to the recommendations we received earlier this year. The report is due October 15 and we will have a visit by two of the team members on November 5 to review our documents supporting our response to the Accreditation team's recommendations.

We live in unsettling times, with fiscal uncertainty a reflection of the State's continuing budget crisis. I appreciate the 'can do' spirit of our campus community and willingness to work together to make sure our students receive the best learning and support opportunities we have to offer, even with reduced circumstances.



Introducing New Library and Student Learning Support Dean New Library and Student Learning Support Dean

Rio Hondo College would like to welcome Kats Gustafson to its campus. Gustafson was recently selected to be the College's new Library and Student Learning Support Dean. She brings much experience to Rio Hondo College as she worked as the Learning & Technology Resources Dean, Learning Resources Associate Dean, and Instructional & Technology Associate Dean for Grossmont College. She was first hired at Grossmont in 1993 as the Bibliographic Librarian. Gustafson also worked as a reference librarian for Jackson County Libraries in Oregon and was Head Documents Librarian at the Hawaii State Library from 1991-1992.

Welcome, Kats!

September 2009 Board Meeting

The September Board meeting was held at Richard L. Graves Middle School. The Community Mixer provided an opportunity for members of the public to meet and speak with Rio Hondo College Trustees. The Board Meeting followed the mixer.

Board of Trustees Member Gary Mendez commended the Santa Fe Springs City Council, City Manager Fred Latham and its Principal Planner Wayne Morrell for their dedicated efforts serving the Santa Fe Springs community.



Board of Trustees Member Gary Mendez also commended members of the Santa Fe Springs Fire Department for their hard work and effort in fighting this summer's most devastating fires.



Board of Trustees Member Gary Mendez also invited Rio Hondo College veterans to be commended for their courage in helping to protect our local communities and nation.



continued on next page.

Station Fire Named Largest Fire in Los Angeles County History

Rio Hondo Wildland Fire Academy Members Fight Station and Morris Fires

As the number of areas impacted by the recent wildfires grows, so does the recognized need for firefighters trained specifically to battle blazes in challenging terrain, often driven by severe winds and scorching heat. As the "Station" fire moved throughout the San Gabriel Valley and the "Morris" fire burned throughout the Pipe Mountains and Glendora, Rio Hondo College Wildland Fire Academy's 18-member specialty unit went into action.

Working 16-hour days in triple-digit heat, the crew, first did mop-up duty at the Morris Fire and then moved to the Station Fire.

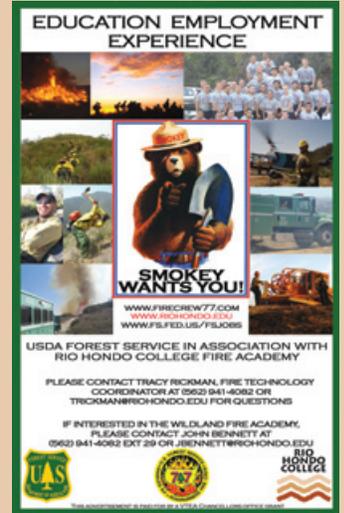
"It was really rough out there," said crew leader Gabriel Flores.

The Academy is one of the largest fire academies in California, specializing in wild-fire fighting techniques that help train future wild land fire fighters. There are approximately 52 students involved in the program. In a partnership with the Angeles National Forest, the Wildland Fire Academy offers a work study/internship program that allows students to gain hands-on experience fighting local wild land fires. It is through this internship program that Rio Hondo College's students have been on the lines helping combat the recent wild fires.

All crew members must complete a 300-hour Wildland Fire Academy at Rio Hondo College. Chief Tracy Rickman and Captain John Bennett are crew coordinators and are responsible for the administration and training side of our crew. Rio Hondo maintains a MOU that allows the college to train and then certify 50 people as part of the roadrunner crew that must be available within a six-hour notice to respond for up to 21 days to fight fire anywhere in the continental United States.

"Our Wildland Firefighters are a very rare and special group of courageous people who work under the most extreme circumstances to protect the life and property of our citizens," said Rio Hondo College Public Safety Dean Joe Santoro. "We are very proud of them and the awesome dedication to duty they show on a daily basis."

Thank you - Roadrunners Fire Crew 77!



New Citizens Oversight Committee Members Appointed

Now in its fifth year of existence, the Rio Hondo College Citizens Oversight Committee (COC), designated with the task of overseeing expenditures of general obligation bond revenues according to the project list, has recently added three newly-appointed members. **Frances Carbajal**, **Frank Quintero** and **Tom Guzman** were recently appointed by the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees.

Since its inception in 2004, the COC has had membership changes, as each member serves only for two or three years. With the latest appointments, the Rio Hondo College's COC includes the following members:

- Michelle Yanez-Jimenez (Chair)
- Bob Archuleta
- Gustavo Camacho
- Frances Carbajal
- Juanita Gonzales
- Robert Lawe
- John Lopez
- Frank Quintero
- Steven Valdes
- Joseph Vu
- Tom Guzman (Student Representative)

In accordance with state law, the COC, made up entirely of local residents who serve for two- or three-year-terms, functions to ensure that Measure A bond monies are used only for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or replacement of college facilities. They also ensure that no bond monies are used for employee salaries or unrelated college expenses. The members of this committee are appointed by the Rio Hondo Board of Trustees.

BOARD MEETING

continued from previous page

Accreditation Response Team Co-Chairs Katie O'Brien and JoAnna Downey gave a presentation update to the Board of Trustees on the Accreditation Response Team and its progress to date.



Former RHC Student Awarded Medal of Valor

Deputy Jose M. Nanquil, a 20-year veteran of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and alumnus of Rio Hondo College, was recently awarded the Medal of Valor – the highest honor a member of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) can receive. Nanquil, 43, was awarded the medal for, as the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) put it, "displaying great bravery in the face of immediate life-threatening danger, with complete disregard for his own personal safety."

Nanquil, who joined the department in 1989, was honored with six other sheriff deputies for saving the lives of three people during a hostage drama in Brea, California in 2007. All were honored at the Annual Medal of Valor and Meritorious Conduct Awards Ceremony and Luncheon, held at the Quiet Cannon Restaurant in Montebello.

Nanquil, a native of the Philippines, came to the United States at age 13. He finished high school in Rosemead and went on to study at Rio Hondo College, UCLA, and DeVry University –where he always majored in criminal justice.

Congratulations Deputy Nanquil!

Ribbon Cutting Held to Unveil State-of-the-Art ICS Vehicle

The Rio Hondo College Department of Public Safety unveiled its new Mobile Incident Command System (ICS) Simulator Vehicle, which was designed to benefit local communities as they train and prepare for emergency service at a ribbon-cutting ceremony earlier this month.

The ceremony included speakers and tours of the new ICS Vehicle. Speakers included, The Honorable Grace Napolitano (D-CA), Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President, Rio Hondo College, Garry Couso-Vasquez, Member of the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees, Paul Parnell, Ph.D., Vice President of Academic Affairs and Joseph Santoro, Dean of Public Safety.

With this state-of-the-art technology, instructors bring real-life emergency situations to life via computer simulations and graphics. With the new ICS Simulator Vehicle, instructors are able to challenge their trainees virtually taking them through a variety of emergency situations.

This new equipment will also be used to train federal, State and municipal agencies on how best to respond to natural disasters, transportation accidents, acts of terrorism, security threats and other emergencies. The unveiling of the ICS Simulator Vehicle is only the first step toward reaching the College's ultimate objective of establishing a Homeland Security Training Program.

Both Congresswoman Grace Napolitano (D-CA) and Congressman Gary Miller (R-CA) worked to secure funding for the ICS vehicle, which was made possible through grants and by the District.



FLEX Day Report

This most recent FLEX Day schedule was in a new, expanded format to allow more opportunity for information and presentation of issues important college-wide. The balance of the available schedule was allotted to breakout sessions covering a multitude of topics, and to department meetings as has been past practice.

Evaluation summaries were provided by 179 respondents, including 117 full-time faculty, 48 part-time faculty, 10 staff and 4 managers. Regarding the new, expanded format on institutional issues, more than two-thirds (68.8 percent) agreed that the session provided valuable or useful information "I can use." According to Staff Development Coordinator Katie O'Brien, "The district sought to create a set aside time before the beginning of the school year to communicate with and/or provide training to all faculty regarding important institutional issues. As this was the 1st year of the expanded format, we'll be using feedback from the FLEX Day evaluations to make this time as valuable as possible to the campus community in future years."

Transfer Center Holds Fair

Most four-year colleges and universities require applications from community college transfer students as much as one year in advance, a reality about which many people may be unaware.

To help increase awareness among students of various transfer requirements, Rio Hondo College's Transfer Center hosted its 2009 Fall Transfer Fair in an effort to ensure students have the information they need to have a smooth transfer process to the college or university of their choice.

The Transfer Fair, which was held in the Upper Quad, included representatives from colleges and universities available to provide information to students on the transfer process as well as answer any questions students may have. Representatives of UC and CSU campuses held panel discussions later in the day to provide additional information and campus-specific guidance.

Rio Hondo Makes Top Ranks in National Poll

For many students, attending a college or university that has high-quality programs is very important. At Rio Hondo College, they get just that. Recently, Rio Hondo College was included in prestigious rankings published by *Community College Week*. The College was included in six lists of the 2008 "Top 100 Associate Degree Producers in America" lists, including two second place bids among multiple discipline based categories.

Each year Community College Week, in association with the U.S. Department of Education, releases its list of the Top 100 "Associate Degree Producers in America." The list, which contains multiple categories, highlights colleges that have awarded the most associate degrees among two- and four-year colleges.

Among the 27 separate lists, eight were based on ethnicity and 19 were based on discipline. Rio Hondo College was included in six lists: **Total Minority, Hispanic, Asian American, Criminal Justice, Family & Consumer Sciences/Human Sciences and Security & Protective Services.**

Placing 17th on the Hispanic list and 69th on the Asian American list, with 520 and 108 associate degrees respectively, placed Rio Hondo College's minority students earning 650 associate degrees total, which gave them 41st place on the "Total Minority List" of the top associate degree producers.

In regard to the discipline based lists, Rio Hondo College was included in three. Producing 91 associate degrees, an improvement from its 86 produced last year, earned Rio Hondo College the 19th spot on the Criminal Justice list, tied only with Harrisburg Area Community College in Pennsylvania.

Rio Hondo also finished second on two lists. In the Family & Consumer Sciences/Human Sciences discipline, Rio Hondo College finished only behind San Joaquin Delta College. Handing out 73 associate degrees in the discipline (eight more degrees from the previous year) earned the College the second spot on that list.

The final list Rio Hondo College was on was the list of Top Associate Degree Producers in Security & Protective Services. A discipline which Rio Hondo excels in, the Security & Protective Services list ranked Rio Hondo as the second associate degree producer in the nation. With 162 degrees earned this year, Rio Hondo College finished only behind Ohio Institute of Photography & Technology for that category.

SAVE THE DATE!

Join Us In Celebrating the New Learning Resource Center!

WHAT:

Grand Opening and Ribbon-Cutting Event for new Learning Resource Center

WHEN:

Thursday, Oct. 15, 2009, 11 a.m.

WHERE:

Learning Resource Center Entrance

To attend and to reserve your place for refreshments, please RSVP with Sandy Sandello in the President's Office by calling ext. 7271.



Family-Friendly Events Begin with Ten West Performance

Rio Hondo College kicked off its first of many Family-Friendly Events of the season Saturday, September 19 with the Division of Arts and Cultural Programs' presentation of *"The Understudies,"* a performance by the Los Angeles based comedy duo Ten West. The event, which was designed to provide quality entertainment for the whole family, was held in the Wray Theatre.



Ten West, described as a two-man clown troupe featuring commedia dell'arte, vaudeville, and high energy fun, is made up of comedians Stephen Simon and Jon Monastero under the direction of Bryan Coffee. Their performance, entitled *"The Understudies,"* was a success as an estimated 300 people, made up of Rio Hondo students, faculty and their families, crowded Wray Theatre and enjoyed the performance of Ten West's comedy.

Looking forward, Rio Hondo has many more Family-Friendly Events planned. All events are appropriate for the entire family and all events are free and open to the public. For more information, please call the Cultural Events Hotline at (562) 908-3492.

Club Rush Gives Students the Opportunity to Get Involved with Campus Life

A major part of college for any student is the "campus life" experience. At Rio Hondo College, there are many student clubs available to help students get involved on campus and add fun to their academic years here.

The Student Services Fair/Club Rush was held Sept. 16 and 17 in the Upper Quad. These events provided new or returning students with the opportunity to learn more about the clubs on campus and how they can participate. The following clubs participated in Club Rush to recruit new members this year:

- Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS)
- American Society of Engineers and Architects (ASEA)
- Art Guild
- Artists Creating Theater (ACT)
- BBQ Club
- Catholic Newman
- Creative Writing Club
- Drug Awareness Wellness Network (DAWN)
- Gay Straight Alliance (GSA)
- Honors Transfer Society (HTS)
- Math, Engineering and Science Achievement Club (MESA)
- MEChA
- Musicians for Cultural Unity (MCU)
- Navigators
- Nursing Club
- Parents in College (PIC)
- Students Without Borders (SWB)
- Tennis Club
- Tri Omega
- Veterans Club
- Vocal Arts Alliance

Students Talent Showcased With Unveiling of Mural

After countless hours expended during two semesters working to complete a mural for Howard's Appliance Service Center, Rio Hondo College students and their Art and Design Instructor Ron Reeder, unveiled the finished product at a small ceremony at the company's service distribution center Pico Rivera.

The mural, themed "Moving Through Time," takes viewers on a journey as it revisits the history of Howard's Appliance Service Center through its present day.

"We are proud of our students and staff who worked on this commissioned project," said Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President of Rio Hondo College. "The project was coordinated by members of our talented art faculty, led by instructor Ron Reeder. The opportunity to experience this application of commercial art is invaluable for our students."

Howard's CEO and others praised the efforts of Rio Hondo College art students as "wonderfully skilled and professional."

