



PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

## BIG GAINS IN FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM

Talk about improvement.

Last year at the start of school, the Financial Aid Office had handed out checks to less than 70 students. This year, the number climbed – soared would be more appropriate – to 460.

Last year, it took nearly six weeks for students to get a response to their applications from the U.S. Department of Education. This year, the wait was trimmed to about two weeks.

Financial aid manager Anafe Robinson (in photo) said several changes were key to the improvement. Her staff undertook a lot of training, streamlined the financial aid process and added two people. But the biggest change was the decision to have financial aid staff review each application after a student had initially filled it out.

“Our staff caught so many omissions and errors in the original paperwork,” said Robinson. “By helping the student correct them, we eliminated lots of delays.”

In the past, the incomplete applications would have gone forward, only to be sent back for corrections.

The Financial Aid Office takes applications year-round. Last year, it disbursed \$2.2 million to about 1,100 Pell Grant recipients. This year, Robinson said, the figure will easily climb above \$3 million.



Dr. Adriana D. Barrera

### MISSION COLLEGE STAFF GETS THE JOB DONE

As I walked around the campus during the first weeks of the new semester, I was delighted to see so many of our classes full, or at near capacity.

We won't have an official enrollment count until the conclusion of our student census this week, but the preliminary numbers available to me as this column went to press are encouraging. They show our headcount running about seven percent higher than at a comparable period last year. In fact, surveys across the state seem to indicate an upward trend in enrollment at most community colleges. I believe this indicates that many people are discovering – or re-discovering – the value of two-year institutions as a way to improve their lives, educationally and vocationally.

The job of enrolling and processing new and continuing students is a monumental task in any year, let alone one in which we've seen significant gains. I would like to extend praise and appreciation to several people who did extraordinary work in the weeks prior to, and immediately following, the start of school.

Thanks go out to admissions office staff of Angela Merrill, Amy Chan, Ida Thrift, Luz Nuñez, Michelle Augustine, Robyn Fridlund and Rosalie Torres. Equally busy were Anafe Robinson and her financial aid staff: Mary Lou Mendoza, Blanca Oviedo, Martha Perez, Toan Nguyen and Marisol Velasquez. Their work has dramatically improved the service we provide to

our financial aid recipients (see accompanying story).

Also, EOP&S staff members Bonnie Sherman, Ludi Villegas and Marcella Lozano counseled, interviewed and helped process more than 900 students, including 400 who are new to the program. The counseling staff provided assessments and academic counseling to approximately 1,600 students during registration. Thanks go to Gwen Walker, Aaron Schrier, Enrique Gonzalez, Suzanne Ritcheson, Joanne Kalter-Flink, Clive Gordon and Sonia Soto-Bair.



We put responsibility for educating our students in the hands of our excellent instructors. But the individuals I've just mentioned have played a major role in helping to fill our classrooms.

Shifting gears a bit, I want to invite each of you to attend my informal “Conversations with the President” sessions. I find these give-and-take meetings extremely useful in providing me with your insights about Mission College life. By the same token, several of the faculty and staff who have taken part have expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to bring their concerns directly to me. Please look in your mailbox for an announcement of the next session...and please attend!



LOS ANGELES  
MISSION COLLEGE

## LOS ANGELES MISSION COLLEGE

### COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION

DR. ADRIANA D. BARRERA, PRESIDENT  
BILL FARMER, VICE PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
SHARI BORCHETTA, VICE PRESIDENT, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES  
CARLOS NAVA, VICE PRESIDENT, STUDENT SERVICES

### LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SYLVIA SCOTT-HAYES, PRESIDENT  
WARREN T. FURUTANI, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
MONA FIELD, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
KELLY G. CANDAELE  
GEORGIA L. MERCER  
NANCY PEARLMAN  
MICHAEL D. WAXMAN  
MARIA C. GRUNWALD, STUDENT TRUSTEE

### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

DR. MARK DRUMMOND, CHANCELLOR  
PETER J. LANDSBERGER, SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR  
DR. MARY E. LEE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FACILITIES PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
CAMILLE A. GOULET, GENERAL COUNSEL

GRAPHICS: GEORGE HODGSON  
PHOTOGRAPHY: TERRY CARTER

## calendar of UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event
9/30	Grand Opening, One Stop Career Center, 5 p.m. 11623 Glenoaks Blvd., Pacoima
10/3	LACCD Board of Trustees meeting, 3:30 p.m. Downtown Los Angeles
10/4	Faculty Senate meeting, CC5, 1:30 p.m.
10/12	Honor Students Award Ceremony, Quad, 4 p.m.
10/17	Music on the Quad, noon
10/17	LACCD Board of Trustees meeting, 3:30 p.m. Downtown Los Angeles
10/24	LAMC Citizens' Oversight Committee (Prop. A) meeting, 5:30 p.m.

## focus on MISSION PEOPLE

Former student **Eddie Martinez** has contacted Mission College to let friends and instructors know he's well. Martinez, a student at Parsons School of Design in New York, was in the city during this month's terrorist attacks and could not return to his dorm. "The city has been turned upside down...but I don't regret moving to New York," wrote Martinez, who has been active in volunteer efforts.

Mission College welcomes two new full-time instructors whose names were not included in last month's "President's Newsletter." They are **Lucy Griesbach**, multimedia education, who was a teaching assistant at Pomona and Scripps colleges; and **Alexander Nikolaychuk**, math, who has served as an adjunct professor at various colleges, including Valley and College of the Canyons. Brief bios and photos of the eight new full-time Mission College instructors can be found on the "News and Events" page of the college Web site. Visit at: [www.lamission.cc.ca.us/news](http://www.lamission.cc.ca.us/news)

Mission College's loss is Valley's gain. **Kristine Panosyan**, a student services aide and assistant at Mission for five years, has started her duties as program coordinator of an \$850,000 welfare-to-work grant awarded to Valley College by the City of Los Angeles. Panosyan qualified for the promotion after recently earning her Master's degree from California State University, Los Angeles. In the new position, she will try to place more than 100 aid recipients in jobs.

**Lynda Roose** is enjoying newfound freedom, after retiring from Mission College last month. Roose worked the last 12 1/2 years as a senior office assistant in the campus police and sheriff's department units. "I love my job and I've been very happy here, but it's time to retire," she said. Roose plans to take art classes, spend more time with family, do some local traveling and "...just relax."

ASO President **Jose Oliva** recently joined community college students from throughout the state at a summer institute sponsored by the California Alliance for Minority Participation (CAMP) at UC, Irvine. The goal of CAMP is to increase the number of underrepresented students in the sciences by providing them with a four-year university experience. The institute featured classes, workshops, presentations and assignments. Oliva described the experience as "memorable."



Former ASO president **Monika Meza** has been named the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship awarded by the Coca Cola Foundation.



Submit your employee/student recognition items and calendar events via email or campus mail to **Eduardo Pardo**, public relations. For more campus news, visit "News and Events" at [www.lamission.cc.ca.us/news](http://www.lamission.cc.ca.us/news)

## MASTER PLANNERS BEGIN WORK

Marty Borko and Chuck Seeger may not be familiar names to the Mission College family – but they soon will be.

The two are planners with Gensler and Associates, the architectural firm just engaged to help LAMC develop a master plan for all future Proposition A and other construction projects at the college.

Borko and Seeger have held initial meetings with administrators and are now collecting the information necessary to move the planning process forward.

"We've started our work – we're diving into detail," said Borko.

"Detail" will cover a lot of ground – figuratively and literally speaking – including:

- A review of all previous college planning studies, such as the "needs assessment" prepared for Proposition A;
- An analysis of the physical plant, existing blueprints, base maps, aerial views, campus layout, utilities and present construction;
- A study of campus peak-hour times, traffic patterns and how facilities are used to accommodate the present educational program.

As part of the process, the Gensler representatives will meet with faculty, staff, students and other campus groups, as well as with members of the community, for their input.

Safe to say, Borko, Seeger and the Gensler team will not be strangers to the campus for long.