



PRESIDENT'S N E W S L E T T E R

Dr. Adriana D. Barrera

SHARING IDEAS...THE KEY TO IMPROVEMENT

A year ago when we were reviewing the Mission College governance structure, faculty and staff had an opportunity to comment on the effectiveness of the standing committees. Of the eight committees in existence then, only the Staff Development committee has remained intact without a change in its purpose or way of doing business. Much of the credit for the work of this committee goes to David Jordan, who masterfully keeps the focus of the committee on the needs of staff.



I have come to depend on the Staff Development committee to provide training opportunities for both classified staff and faculty. In addition to offering specific skills training (such as word processing or navigating the Internet), the committee is responsible for scheduling speakers and for disseminating information about professional conferences and seminars.

I have noticed that although a number of conferences are advertised each year, our staff prefer to attend those held in Southern California. Recognizing that our institutional funds for travel are limited, I nevertheless have been surprised to learn of the difficulty in generating interest in conferences sponsored by national educational organizations, particularly those held out of state.

Last summer several of us traveled to Denver to attend the Assessment Conference sponsored by the American Association of Higher Education. We learned how other institutions have developed processes for improving their own effectiveness. We returned with valuable materials and a knowledge that our own evolving governance system is similar to others, yet customized to meet our own institutional needs.

More recently, I attended the annual conference of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The conference brought together educators from throughout the nation whose goal is to improve opportunities for students of Hispanic, or Latino, descent. Sessions focused on recruitment and retention of students who are often unprepared for college work and who have not had a tradition of higher education within their families. Several sessions explored professional development opportunities available to participants ... opportunities not just of personal benefit to them but to their institutions and students as well.

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MISSION STUDENTS BRING HOME THE MEDALS

Mission College's culinary competition team swept through the recent Community College Culinary Symposium held at Los Angeles Trade Tech, capturing 22 bronze medals. Students competed in both the hot foods and cold foods contests.

In all, 24 Mission College students competed. They were: Matthew Anderson; Hugo Avila; Luis Castillo; Miguel Cordova; Ivan Coso; Darrel Fluman; Brenda Gutierrez; and Katteryn Hernandez.

Also, Diana Jarquin; Eleanor Kaplan; Jamahal Law; Sandy Lowe; Aviana Medina; Adrian Neria; Jeff Paradise; and Jesus C. Quintero.

Also, Ana Reyes; Kimberly Reyes; Niraporn Taengsirilak; Lyndon Talbott; Marie Valenzuela; Sylvia Volonte; Olga Volquartz; and Armando Williams.

Mission College will offer a culinary competition class for advanced students during the Winter inter-session, which begins on Jan. 2.



Veterans honored

A clear, beautiful day welcomed visitors when Mission College hosted its annual Veterans Day ceremony earlier this month. Flag-waving members of the audience paid tribute to the nation and to the victims and heroes of the September 11 terrorist attacks. Private First Class Robert Campos Acebo (above) drew cheers while telling of his experiences at Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge.



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MISSION COLLEGE

LOS ANGELES MISSION COLLEGE

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GRAPHICS: GEORGE HODGSON

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focus on MISSION PEOPLE

English instructor **Vickie Oddino** put together a team of nearly 70 people to march in this year's "Walk for a Cure," sponsored by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The team, which included 12 Mission College students from ASO and the Math Club, raised more than \$10,000 for diabetes research. Student **Monika Meza** raised the most money for the Mission College team.

Speech communications instructor **Marjorie Long** recently spoke to the Sunland-Tujunga Business and Professional Women's organization about the "Techniques of Gender Communication." The program was designed to help participants unlock the secrets of communicating with men and women.

Ralph Kacy, SFP Specialist, will have his artwork displayed along with other Chicano/Latino artists at Glendale Community College. The exhibit, entitled "Eye-Speak," appears in collaboration with a similar exhibition of work by African American artists on display at Los Angeles Southwest College. According to Kacy, this dual "tapestry of expression" represents a collaborative recording and rendering of the

community's artistic voices represented visually. The artists painted, drew, wrote and sewed their work onto 150-foot-long canvas rolls. Canvases are on display at each campus through Dec. 14. A reception earlier this month helped kick off the exhibition.

Former student **Arturo Luna**, now attending Johnson and Wales University in North Miami, Florida, writes to say he is doing well at the school specializing in culinary arts. Luna says Mission College prepared him well for his present studies and that he plans to apply his knowledge and skills to running his family's Pacoima restaurant.

Geri Shapiro reports a highly successful Job Fair on November 14, with employers from about two dozen companies and agencies visiting the campus to recruit students for part-time and full-time positions. Much information was exchanged and both students and employers alike were enthusiastic, Shapiro said.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued from front page)

One workshop yielded interesting insights. It was a session sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in which six young professionals described their experiences as summer interns with the department. Each told of the many opportunities available for specially funded programs for colleges and universities, particularly those serving Latino students.

During the closing town hall session, participants debated the use of assessment instruments in making admissions decisions. Kurt Landgraf, president and chief executive officer of the Educational Testing Service, described separate conversations he had had with a college president and that college's admissions director. The president derided the efficacy of the SAT as a tool for determining admissions while the admissions director indicated that SAT scores were her chief criteria for awarding admissions. With 800 openings, the director simply granted admission to the 800 applicants with the highest SAT's...regardless of the difference between the 800th and 801st ranked applicants. This discussion does not affect admissions decisions at Mission College, but the debate stimulated my thoughts. We are indeed fortunate to be in a position to assist the 801st ranked student: not only to enter college but to continue his or her education beyond our doors.

I cite these insights as examples of the valuable information available at professional conferences, be they regional or national. From these gatherings can come ideas that sooner or later develop into programs or services for our students. I encourage you to explore professional development opportunities for yourselves, to meet other educators in your field, and to bring back ideas that may benefit our students and improve our institution.

calendar of UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event
11/28	LAMC Citizens' Oversight Committee (Prop.A) meeting, 5:30 p.m., CC4
11/28	"Non-Violence and Direct Action," 7 p.m., Inst. 2019
11/29	Excellence in Workforce awards, L.A. Trade Tech 11:30 a.m.
12/7	District Citizens' Oversight Committee for Prop.A, Board Room, LACCD offices, 10 a.m.
12/13	Classes end
12/14-20	Final exams
12/22-5	Winter holidays, Campus closed
12/29	Fall semester ends
12/28-1/1/02	New Year's holiday, Campus closed