



LOS ANGELES
MISSION
COLLEGE

PRESIDENT'S
NEWSLETTER

COPING WITH THE DEFICIT

It's the problem on everyone's mind: the state budget shortfall and its effect on Mission College. It's certainly on *my* mind.

If you've been on campus during the winter session, you may have attended one of the meetings I have hosted on the budget. Or you received a memo from me outlining where we stand in the face of a \$34 billion budget deficit. But because so many of our instructors are just now returning to campus, I want to take this opportunity to give you an overview of our present situation.

Though negotiations continue in Sacramento, our best information from Chancellor Mark Drummond is that the Los Angeles Community College District must plan on making mid-year cuts of at least \$17 million. The district and districtwide programs will bear about half the burden of these cuts; the nine colleges, the other half. At Mission College, this translates into cuts of about \$630,000.

Last week, I sent to all staff a memo (January 31, 2003) outlining our strategy for achieving these cuts: in effect, a 15% reduction in non-salary line items. The rationale for this strategy is given in the memo. In essence, the memo states that our review of spending to date makes the 15% cut a viable, though painful, strategy while preserving our essential academic program, continuing most student services, and saving jobs. Simply put, there is no way to cut \$630,000 at mid-year *without* pain. Certainly, our

DR. ADRIANA D. BARRERA



students are inconvenienced by the section reductions we made in the winter and spring sessions; of course, our programs suffer by the freeze on hiring and purchasing, and restrictions on overtime. But once we've made these belt-tightening moves, we can expect to see a spring semester that essentially offers our students the breadth, if not an abundance of choices, of the academic program they need to complete their goals. And we preserve the vital workforce that propels that program.

I am not prepared to discuss the outlook for 2003-04 at this time. The budget picture is ever changing, and we hope to convince the Legislature to ease the disproportionate burden for cuts placed on community colleges. Hopefully, these talks will result in some relief for us. But I would be lax if I did not caution you that the state deficit is so severe, it is likely to impact us for some time to come. As new information becomes available, I will continue to communicate with you through memos or meetings.

Let me conclude by relating some of the things I am hearing from you, especially from long-time members of the staff. With perfect calm they tell me, "We've been through this before – twice! We'll make it." Or, "We've always been lean here at Mission, so we can handle this." It brings great comfort to me to see this team spirit and willingness to share the pain. I agree. *We will* make it.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES NEAR

Instructors can play a key role in helping qualified students win one of the many scholarships offered by Mission College, Financial Aid Director Anafe Robinson said.

With the application deadline nearing, Robinson is urging instructors to encourage talented students to apply for one or more of the approximate 40 scholarships offered by the college. Deadline for most college scholarships is March 15. For the prestigious *Aspire a Más* scholarship the deadline is even closer: March 7.

Last year, Mission College awarded more than \$23,000 in scholarships to students, including 10 'Aspire' scholarships of \$1,000 each. Robinson said the college hopes to match or exceed that amount this year.

(continued on back)



PLAY BALL!

The men's baseball and women's softball seasons are underway, with the Eagles returning to the diamond for the first time since 1997. The women's conference season begins on February 11, with the men starting conference play on February 20. In image, Maria Castillo represents the women's team, while Miguel Gonzalez serves it up for the men.

For more about the teams and complete men's and women's schedules, visit www.lamission.edu/news



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calendar of
UPCOMING
EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
2/10	Spring Semester begins POWER 106 visit - noon - Quad
2/10-11	Welcome Days - 9 am-3pm & 5-9 pm - CC Main
2/13	LAMC Foundation meeting - 8 am - CC 4
2/13	* Author Gabrielle Pina discusses novel, "Bliss" - 7 pm - CC Main
2/14-17	Presidents' Day Holiday - College closed
2/18	Involvement Fair - KROQ Street Team visit - 11am-2 pm - Quad
2/20	College Council - 1 pm - CC 1
2/22	* Formal Ball sponsored by "Ladies First and Il Hype Dance, Drill and Gospel Team" - 6-11 pm - CC Main
2/26	* Book Discussion: "Krik? Krak!" - 12:30 pm - CC 4
2/27	* National Council of Negro Women presents Black History Forum - 6-8:30 pm - CC Main
Every Wed.	* Taste of Soul Food - noon - Inst. 1007 * A Black History Month event!

focus on
MISSION PEOPLE



Friends and co-workers gathered recently to bid good luck and farewell to **Blanca Oviedo**. A financial aid technician at Mission College for seven years, Oviedo has

moved on to Pierce College, where she now works as a financial aid supervisor. Oviedo's supervisor at Mission, Financial Aid Director **Anafe Robinson**, said Oviedo will be greatly missed.

A memorial service will be held for **Dr. Jayne Thomas** at Brentwood Presbyterian Church, 12000 San Vicente Boulevard, Los Angeles, on February 16 at 2 p.m. Dr. Thomas passed away on December 23, 2002, after suffering a ruptured aneurysm last May. The rupture caused her to lapse into a coma from which she never recovered. Dr. Thomas joined Mission College as a part-time instructor in 1990. She joined the LAMC faculty on a permanent basis in 1999, eventually serving as vice chair of the psychology department. The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to a scholarship fund established at UCLA. Donations may be sent to UCLA College of Letters and Science, Attn: Teresa Davis, 1332 Murphy Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1413.

Professional Department chair **Sandi Lampert** earned a second place medal in her age group during the third annual Walk of Ages 5K walk/run, helping to raise \$3,000 for the L.A. Jewish Home for Aging in the process.



Instructor **Gerald Scheib** was selected to serve as a judge in the Coca Cola Company's *Art of Harmony* student competition. Scheib served on the panel that judged the

works of high school students from Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties. The soft drink company awarded nearly \$12,000 in bonds and cash scholarships to winning students. Scheib, who retired from Mission College in 2001, continues to teach classes as an adjunct instructor.

Correcting an item from our last issue...Seven students have won scholarships of \$400 and \$300 for excellence in culinary arts and academic achievement. The International Food Service Executive Association awarded the scholarships to **Cathye Ryan, Gwendolyn Bailey, Naomi Riley, Tricia Robins, Keith Lewis, MaryAnn Shenouda, and Melody Thomas.**

SCHOLARSHIP (continued from front)

"We know that students are so busy, sometimes they let deadlines slip," said Robinson. "Instructors can help by frequently reminding them of the upcoming deadlines, encouraging them to turn-in their applications and writing recommendations."

CompuCredit Corporation of Atlanta offers the Aspire scholarship. Applicants must be carrying at least 12 units, have a GPA of 3.0 or higher and show financial need.

Martha Perez, an Aspire winner last year and now a financial aid technician, used her scholarship to buy a much-needed computer – an invaluable asset when she enters CSUN.

"I can research information on-line, type reports, take classes on-line, and do assignments that require a computer at home," she said.

Aspire a Más application forms and the college Scholarship Bulletin, containing information and requirements about LAMC scholarships, are available in the Financial Aid Office.

Additional information is available at www.lamission.edu/financialaid



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