President’s Corner

As the end of the spring semester comes to a close many changes continue to take place. With enrollment reaching over 10,000 there’s no better time to expand our infrastructure and class offerings to accommodate the growth.

Los Angeles Mission College is committed to helping build better lives and serving the residents of the San Fernando Valley. We offer vocational, professional and career training courses to better prepare our students to fill the jobs in today’s economy.

I encourage you to stop by and visit our beautiful campus to learn more about the variety of programs and services we offer. At only $20 per unit education is affordable. Our faculty and staff look forward to providing you the opportunity for success! Visit our campus in person or log onto www.lamission.edu for more information.

I’m looking forward to celebrating with you the grand opening of the new Health, Fitness and Athletics Complex in the fall semester!

Building for the Future

Nursery Property-Hubbard Street

The main campus of Mission College is bound by El Cariso Park to the east and south and bound by residential neighborhoods on both the north and west. The only land that may be available to expand the college would be a commercially zoned parcel adjacent to the campus currently operating as a commercial nursery. Mission College is in the process of exploring the potential acquisition of this property located along the west side of Hubbard Street between Eldridge Ave and Lexicon. As new buildings are constructed, the available open space to locate temporary facilities has diminished. The primary utilization of this nursery property would be to provide temporary bungalow space (swing space) for departments and functions that are being displaced by the build-out of the current 2007 Master Plan.

The College would acquire property currently operating as a commercial nursery. This parcel is just over an acre and would be populated with temporary facilities, parking and attractive landscaping to provide much needed swing space. Several bungalows currently situated on the Main Campus would relocate to this nursery property and limited parking would also be provided. This will allow for the construction of a new Student Services and Administration Building at the northeast corner of the intersection of Eldridge Avenue and Pasha Street and the build out of a new plant facilities building adjacent to the parking structure. In the future, the college would house programs such as Community Extension on this site.

The initial phase of development will begin soon after the college has acquired the nursery property. It is expected to take approximately six months to build out any temporary swing space that could be accommodated on this site.
Karen Nichols has always had a passion for art. The former Los Angeles Mission College (LAMC) student (1981-83) is currently the Owner and Gallery Director of La Galeria Gitana located at 120 N. Maclay Ave., Suite E in the city of San Fernando.

Nichols began taking art classes with art instructor Lee Musgrave which at that time, were held in storefronts in San Fernando. She soon realized her passion so she decided to take additional classes to receive her associate's degree and moved on to get her bachelor's degree and teaching credential in art, and teaching art for 20 years at a local high school. Nichols credits classes taught by instructor Musgrave which she says, “set her on the right path.”

La Galeria Gitana, which opened last November, is the first gallery to open in an urban renew plan by San Fernando wherein Maclay Street will be developed as an art center, with galleries, studios, and affordable income property for younger people returning to this area after going to college. Future development plans include expanding this area into an art gallery district with restaurants, retail shops and entertainment.

In collaboration with Los Angeles Mission College, Nichols is planning on hosting an annual LAMC student art exhibition, which this year opens on July 18. The exhibit will run throughout the summer and close on September 12. This exhibition will allow art students the opportunity to gain real life experience in that once they are pre-selected by the art faculty and contacted with a letter of invitation to the Gallery to participate in the upcoming exhibition, students will need to contact the gallery and undergo a review of their work. As artists must do in real life. In addition, Nichols will teach students about the basics of how to submit artwork to a gallery as far as prepping pieces, wiring, framing, etc. Selected students will also get experience installing the exhibit and hosting a reception.

Karen and her husband currently reside in San Fernando. For current exhibits, please visit www.galeriagitana.com

Mission College Culinary Arts Students Receive Top Honors at Bistro Challenge

Los Angeles Mission College Culinary Arts students earned First Place in food competition at the Peachtree Bistro Challenge during the 108th Annual IFSEA Conference which took place on April 1-5, 2009 in Atlanta, Georgia.

After spending countless hours in the kitchen practicing their recipes and perfecting their culinary skills, four Los Angeles Mission College culinary arts students walked away with top honors at the Peachtree Bistro Challenge competition sponsored by the International Food Service Executive Association (IFSEA).

The culinary arts team, lead by LAMC culinary arts instructor and Executive Chef Rudy Garcia, have been working on preparing recipes with his students since December of last year in preparation for this competition.

The competition was as sizzling as the food as students from all over the United States honed their culinary skills on hot entrées, vegetables and desserts for the chance to prove themselves at one of the largest IFSEA annual cooking competition in the United States.

LAMC culinary arts students are already preparing for the upcoming Pork and Cornish Hen competition which will be held in August at the Barona Casino in San Diego, California. This competition is put on by the Chef Association of San Diego.

To learn more about the Culinary Arts Program at Los Angeles Mission College, call (818) 364-7849 or Department chair Dr. Eloise Cantrell (818) 364-7625 cantreef@lamission.edu or log onto www.lamission.edu/culinary
Western State Conference Champions

Los Angeles Mission College (LAMC) was host to a highly attended Education, Career & Job Fair held on March 26 in the Campus Center. The event was sponsored by the LAMC Outreach and Recruitment Office, Youth Speak Collective, Family Development Network, and the Northeast SFV WorkSource Center. The Career & Job Fair demonstrated Mission’s commitment to our students and the residents in the community who are eager to find jobs, retrain for a new career, or acquire new skills to advance in the workplace.

Approximately 400 attendees participated in the Career & Job Fair and attended presentations, workshops, an resume writing and career exploration. Presentations were offered in English and Spanish. This was a great opportunity for attendees to network, talk with employers, and obtain information about training for a new career,” said LAMC Outreach & Recruitment Coordinator Martha Perez. Over 45 employers were in attendance – some conducting on-the-spot interviews.

LAMC President Judith Valles received a donation of $900 from Sam’s Club. The donation will be used to promote higher education and provide scholarships to students on Senior Day '09.

SOFTBALL SHINES

The Women’s Softball team traveled to #1 ranked Cypress College for a chance to qualify for a spot in the State Finals to be held in Salinas.

The first game was played on Saturday, May 9. The ladies battled the Chargers through the regulation 7 innings to find the game tied 1-1 in extra innings. The Chargers were able to score a run to defeat Mission 2-1 in eight innings. The 11th ranked, Eagles let them know they were for real, and Cypress would have to play their best to eliminate them.

Sunday’s first game found Mission down 1-0 in the last inning with Cypress counting the outs until they advanced for the eighth straight year to the finals. The Eagles had different plans. With 2 outs and down by 2 runs, the Eagles rallied back in a spectacular finish to defeat Cypress 8-4, leaving them standing on the field and forcing a game 3. Amanda Gutierrez started the rally and key hits followed by Stephanie Boschue, Johanne Jemenez, Erio Lagos. Diane Ravago finished off the rally with a 2 out, 2 run triple as Mission left Cypress on the field in shock and in defeat.

Allyson Salas was phenomenal on the mound handling the pitching for the ladies.

The third and final game followed after a 20-minute break. Fighting through two emotional games, the Eagles and Pitcher Allyson Salas who pitched every inning in all three games for Mission, were defeated by Cypress 9-3 in the final contest, and were left one victory short of the State Final Championships.

Mission College gained great respect state-wide with the performance, conduct, and competitiveness of our Women’s Softball team. It was truly a great run, and a great season for the Eagles. Cypress fans and administration had great praise and respect for the never say die attitude our team exemplified.

Congratulations to coaches Sandra Durazo Lusk and David Lusk, and the entire softball team for a great season.

Students Head to Sacramento to Fight Education Budget Cuts

On Sunday March 15, a team of Los Angeles Mission College students left for the state Capitol in response to a recent proposal to slash billions in education funding statewide. On Monday morning, the team joined forces with thousands of UC, CSU, and community college students, faculty and staff to rally against budget cuts that could possibly result in an increase in tuition and fees. Protestors marched from West Sacramento to the capitol to let their voices be heard.

Students voiced their concerns about the impact it would have if a decision were made to increase tuition and discuss change to the budget as it relates to the future of obtaining a community college education.

“Many students prolong their education because of what it cost just to get an education,” said student Yaoska Abaunza. “For instance, text books and fees can cost twice as much as it cost to enroll in one class.”

“I feel passionately about education and it should be affordable. Raising tuition will greatly impact many students – especially those students who aren’t receiving any type of financial assistance,” said ASO President Blanca Garcia.

“Hopefully our voices were loud and clear.”

LAMC Education, Career & Job Fair Attracts Many from Community

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