Say "back to school" and images flood the mind.

As a lifelong educator, the phrase for me has always been linked to thoughts of change, hope and renewal. At Mission College, we are about to begin a landmark year in the college’s history, a year that will bring many changes to our campus.

Much of what will occur at Mission College during 2001-02 has to do with on-going construction, facilities planning and, of course, Proposition A. While all of these relate to campus expansion, there are important distinctions that I would like to address.

**Campus Construction**

Construction of the Collaborative Studies Building is right on target for a Spring semester opening. The building will add 10 new classrooms and faculty offices to the campus. It is important to note that is not Proposition A-related, but rather a state-funded project.

At the other end of the campus, work is underway on our first Prop. A project, the expansion of the student services wing of the Instructional Building. While both students and staff may be inconvenienced at times by the construction taking place, the rewards will be great (see accompanying story).

**Facilities Master Plan**

We have identified several construction projects to be carried out with Prop. A funds. But we must first go through a careful planning process to insure that expansion takes place according to a schedule that provides for college efficiency, safety and preserves the beauty of our campus. For this, we need professional help. I am pleased to announce that, in consultation with College Council and facilities staff, we have selected the firm of Gensler and Associates to be our master planner. In the coming months, Gensler representatives will work with us to develop a master plan for facilities – the blueprint for our future construction efforts.

Later this year, we will hire a project manager to actually take charge of our Prop. A building projects.

(continues on back)
Reserving a campus room

The Plant Facilities unit reminds you that in order to reserve a room or area of the campus for a meeting or special event, you must fill out a “facilities use request” form. You should submit your form at least two weeks before the event. Plant facilities staff can assist with your audio/visual, culinary, custodial, signage and parking needs. The request forms are available in the Plant Facilities office.

Mission College welcomes new faculty members Donna Ayers, librarian, who comes to Mission from the Beverly Hills Unified School District and Glendale Community College; Michael James Climo, ESL, from West Los Angeles College; Erwin F. Lopez, addiction studies, from Cal State University, Northridge, and Mission College (part-time); Deborah Paules, art, from CSUN; Said Pazirandeh, physical science, from Alex Pilibos Armenian School, Mission College and College of the Canyons (part-time); and Lilamani de Silva, child development, LAMC (part-time).

John Cantley has been appointed Title III director; after holding the position on an interim basis. The primary intent of the Title III grant is to support faculty development of online materials that support instruction and student learning.

Mission College has said farewell to Connie Reyes, administrative analyst, who has accepted a position with the district. In the central office, Reyes will participate in the development of the business processes for the district-wide systems modernization project.

Congratulations go out to Julie Ruelas, director of programs, child development; Vioma Bernal, director of the Welfare to Work program; Guadalupe Jara, director of the Citizenship Center; and Eloise Cantrell, dean of academic affairs, vocational education. Working separately, they have helped secure for Mission College various grants – announced this summer – totaling more than $1.2 million.

Georgia Estrada has been named director of the college’s Veterans and International Student Services office, after serving as interim head of the unit since last April.

Professor Sandi Lampert, Department Chair of Professional Studies, made a presentation this summer before the Educational Symposium of the American Culinary Federation. Lampert discussed SCANS Competencies (Secretary’s Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills) at the organization’s national conference in Las Vegas.