President's Newsletter  
August 29, 2002 | No. 1

New Developments, Great Beginnings

Even during the summer, a lot happens around here – especially in the new Proposition A era. Let me outline recent highlights and summarize some of the challenges I believe will define this school year.

Proposition A
This month, our staff moved back into the expanded wing of the Instructional and Student Services Building. I’m extremely proud that our college is the first in the district to complete a Proposition A construction project. We will mark this accomplishment with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 9.

One of the wonderful things about completion of the wing is that it gives us back the Campus Center commons, and a space adequate to host large events. Accordingly, we’ve invited the district Board of Trustees to hold its Oct. 9 meeting in Campus Center prior to our ribbon cutting.

In recent months, many of you have contributed your recommendations for our facilities master plan. As you may know, the “arroyo” plan has been the overwhelming choice of staff as the ultimate design we would like to see for Mission College. Much of the coming year will be spent in collecting data for an environmental impact report (EIR) on the proposal, a necessary step in the building process. It is our hope – and I emphasize the word – that the process will go smoothly enough to obtain Board of Trustees approval of the EIR by late next spring. Allowing for this timetable, we hope to begin construction on our next Prop. A project during summer 2003. The project itself will be determined by the fact-finding involved in the EIR process and other planning considerations. At the present time, however, it appears most likely that our next project will be the construction of a multi-level parking lot.

Key Staff Changes
Last May I wrote that it would be difficult to replace Carlos Nava. Happily, the best person for the job – and an extremely qualified one – was in our midst: Jose Luis Ramirez. Jose Luis plunged into the job on July 1 and I’m pleased to report that the office of vice president for student affairs is in good hands. Meantime, our administrative services office has been strengthened with the addition of Dr. Richard O. Arvizu as associate vice president. Dr. Arvizu will assist Shari Borchetta in carrying out the responsibilities of the office, which have increased significantly with the passage of Prop. A and the overall growth of the college.

The Foundation
Last spring, our scholarship award to students was the highest ever: $23,000. We want to keep that momentum this year. It is my intention to work closely with our Foundation to find ways of raising and matching scholarship money. Our first major event will be a fundraiser on the evening of October 5 – a dinner under the stars by our fountain. You will be receiving more information about this event in the coming weeks.

These are truly exciting times at Mission College. We are building – literally and figuratively – on a campus that has served the northeast San Fernando Valley well for 27 years but which remains a work in progress. I look forward to another year of partnering with you in this effort.

Two New Administrators in Place

A longtime educator and a business administrator with a background in engineering will fill two key posts at Mission College.

Jose Luis Ramirez, who has spent most of his career with the college, has made a smooth transition into the position of vice president for student services. Ramirez served as associate dean under Carlos Nava, who retired in June.

Ramirez oversees a number of departments that provide crucial services to students, including financial aid, admissions and records, programs for disabled students, child care and health services, and student government. He also oversees EOPS/CARE, and the veterans and international students unit.

Also taking the reins of a new assignment is Dr. Richard O. Arvizu, who has been appointed associate vice president for administrative services. He comes to Mission College...
The college’s student services staff is back in the building they left 20 months ago, but the place is nothing like it used to be.

More than 3,000 square feet of space have been added to the wing now occupied by the admissions, counseling, EOP&S and financial aid staff. In addition, the 5,000-square-foot office space that existed prior to expansion has been completely remodeled.

The $1.3 million expansion is the first construction project completed in the district with funds from the voter-approved Proposition A.

Highlights of the expansion include:
• Sixteen enclosed offices for counselors and administrators;
• Two vaults for student records, a Career Center, and a conference room;
• Fourteen counter stations divided among admissions, counseling, EOP&S and financial aid to serve students;
• A prominent, centrally located Information Desk;
• Twenty-five work stations for employees.

In all, nearly 60 employees are now housed in the student services center, whose prominent features also include large glass windows and doors, a skylight, and the 42-foot-tall Clock Tower that adorns the front of the building.

Soon to be installed are 12 computer kiosks through which students will be able to access a large amount of information. At a touch, the state-of-the-art computers will provide student records, information about financial aid and classes, and can be used to make counseling appointments.
SPORTS BACK ON SCHEDULE AT MISSION COLLEGE

Get out the pom-poms and rally caps. After a five-year hiatus, athletic competition returns to Mission College with a pair of soccer games on September 3.

The men’s soccer team will be matched against East Los Angeles College in a 4 p.m. contest at Birmingham High School. The women’s team, meanwhile, will be on the road, playing Santa Monica College in a 4 p.m. match. (See schedule of September games, boxes.)

The men’s team plays five non-conference games and takes part in the Oxnard College Tournament before beginning a 14-game conference season on September 27. The women’s team will play a seven-game inter-divisional schedule before beginning divisional play, also on September 27. Both teams will compete in the Western State Conference.

Because Mission College does not have an athletic field, the men’s soccer team will play its “home” games at Birmingham High School. The women’s team will play its home games at San Fernando High School.

“I’m very excited about the return of athletics to Los Angeles Mission College,” said John Klitsner, athletic director. “We have two quality coaches who have worked hard to field the best soccer teams possible.”

E.B. Madha is head coach of the men’s team. Shannon Higgins coaches the women’s team.

“I hope that everyone comes out to support our teams,” said Dr. Adriana Barrera, college president.

Due to a budget shortfall, Mission College was forced to end its athletics program in 1997. Mission College will field teams in men’s baseball and women’s softball in the spring.

For the complete men’s and women’s soccer schedules, visit www.lamission.edu/athletics.

WOMEN’S SOCCER SCHEDULE

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MEN’S SOCCER SCHEDULE

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FAST START TO YEAR FOR

The Associated Student Organization under the leadership of ASO President Baltazar Martinez and advisor Robert Crossley has a busy September planned.

In addition to assisting staff with start of fall semester tasks, the ASO is planning a commemorative ceremony to mark the anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

“We want to pay homage to the people who lost their lives on that day,” said Crossley, adding that the noontime event on the Quad will include a moment of silence.

ASO’s good works don’t stop there. The student group is also busy supporting fundraising efforts on behalf of juvenile diabetes research through a golf tournament on September 9 and heart research through the American Heart Walk on September 19. ASO is holding its own fundraiser by selling tickets to a Los Angeles Galaxy soccer match on September 14.

For information about any of these events, contact Crossley at ext. 7820.

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College following a long career as an engineer and systems program director with the Department of Defense. More recently, he served as Executive Dean, College Services, with Rio Hondo Community College.

Dr. Adriana Barrera, who appointed the two administrators, had high praise for both.

"Jose Luis Ramirez is extremely qualified to oversee all student services," she said. "In his career here, he has been a supervisor, director or advisor to many of the units that are now under his administration."

Of Arvizu, Dr. Barrera said, "By training and education, he is both an engineer and business administrator. We feel very lucky to have an administrator with expertise in so many areas."

Arvizu will report directly to Shari Borchetta, Vice President for Administrative Services. That unit is responsible for fiscal operations, budget, human resources, facilities management (including new construction and renovation), campus security, and college services such as phone systems, mail and reprographics.

Ramirez holds a Master's degree in counseling from the University of La Verne, a Bachelor's degree in Spanish and Chicano Studies from California State University, Northridge, and state credentials in community college counseling, teaching, bilingual education and pupil services.

Arvizu holds a Doctorate in business administration from United States International University in San Diego; Master's degrees from the University of Southern California (public administration) and California State University, Dominguez Hills (administration); a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from San Jose State University; and a Program Management diploma from Defense Systems Management College at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Learn more about the two administrators at www.lamission.edu/news.

**Administrators (continued from page 1)**

**focus on MISSION PEOPLE**

Two fulltime members have been added to the faculty — but they’re not newcomers.

**Dr. Maria Bates** taught English at Mission College part-time this past semester and now becomes a full-time instructor. She brings a wealth of classroom experience, having also taught at Santa Monica, Moorpark and Ventura colleges and at UCLA and UC Berkeley as a graduate instructor; served as a curriculum consultant on distance education; and worked as a high school teacher earlier in her career. She holds a Ph.D. in English Literature and a Bachelor’s degree in English, both from UC Berkeley.

**Michong Park** has been appointed full-time matriculation counselor, after serving in the position part-time. Park came to Mission College in 2000 as an hourly counselor before being named the part-time matriculation counselor. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and a Master's degree in Educational Psychology and Counseling, with a specialization in career counseling. Both degrees are from CSUN.

Brothers Baltazar and Jose Martinez took a group of more than 20 “at risk” teenagers to Camp Woodleaf in the Sierras for a week of mountain activities, discussions and workshops. Baltazar (ASO President) and Jose helped raise the $6,000 needed to make the week possible. Most of the money came in donations from the City of San Fernando and individuals. But a significant share came from the selling of tamales that the Martinez family cooked.

A team of five Mission College culinary students took the third place medal in the recent American Culinary Federation Youth Team competition. The event in Las Vegas featured top teams from around the nation. Mission College competitors included Matthew Anderson, Stephen Gillanders, Theresa Moses, Adria Macias and Mary Ann Shenouda.

Mission culinary students earn third place in national competition held in Las Vegas.