



FROM THE PRESIDENT

OXNARD COLLEGE

January 25, 2016

Happy New Year!

Before we proceed headlong into 2016, let us stop for a moment and reflect on all the accomplishments from last fall that make Oxnard College such a supportive, engaged community of learners and educators. A disclaimer is in order, however. I know that in any list like this, no matter how thorough, an event, person, or accomplishment will be inevitably overlooked, so apologies are extended in advance.

- In campus life,
 - Oxnard College was named by Community College Week as one of the top 100 institutions in the country in Latino students receiving associate degrees among all disciplines.
 - Our Condor Spirit Days have been a success, for the partnership with the Oxnard College Foundation has resulted in our Wednesdays seeing a campus alive with blue and green OC shirts.
 - “Condor Spirit Citations” were awarded to three individuals nominated by their peers for truly living the mission of Oxnard College: Chris Horrock (Philosophy); Linda Faasua (Financial Aid), and Jeff Hiben (Automotive Technology).
 - Linda Callaway was selected by her peers as the recipient of the Classified Senate’s “Classy Classified” Award for her steadfast commitment to students and to Oxnard College.
 - Associated Student Government elected a new president, Mario Ramirez, who is firmly committed to providing effective leadership for and representation of our student body.
 - The Latino Thought Makers series continued with three excellent programs offered in the fall.
 - Our own Literature, Arts, and Lecture Series had another successful semester, with an exciting roster of presentations planned for the spring (see separate story).
 - Israel Lopez, OC student and armed services veteran, coordinated a powerful Veterans’ Day observance on our campus.
 - Oxnard College hosted over 600 area high school students for the 10th Annual Youth Conference.
 - After winning their fourth straight conference title, the Oxnard College men’s soccer team brought statewide recognition to the College in securing the men’s state soccer championship. As a result of their efforts, Ross Greaney was selected as the National Soccer Coaches Association Coach of the Year, Lalo Garcia was named the National Soccer Coaches Association Player of the Year, and Gustavo Navarro was announced as the Western State Conference Player of the Year.
- In student success initiatives,
 - The OMEGA Initiative, established by Dr. Luis Gonzalez to provide support for male students, achieved its goal of being fully-enrolled with 60 participants.



Every Wednesday – SHOW YOUR CONDOR SPIRIT – Sport Your “Condor wear”!

- The STEM grant continued its introduction of successful programs with the pilot implementation of a first-year experience for new students and an Industry Mentor program for STEM students.
- Our BIT program (Behavioral Intervention Team) refined its services under the leadership of Dr. Oscar Cobian in order to provide necessary support and intervention for students with possible behavioral issues.
- The Guardian Scholars Foster Youth Center was opened to provide support services and advocacy for foster youth who are OC students.
- In administrative support and services,
 - We welcomed a new Dean of Institutional Effectiveness—Dr. Cynthia Herrera—who will be responsible for leading our initiatives in data integrity and continuous improvement.
 - The Library upgraded and increased its access to E-books available for students and faculty.
 - Oxnard College was awarded a \$3.5 million Title V grant from the Department of Education.
 - We successfully hosted the State Chancellor’s Circle luncheon, bringing guests from around the state to our campus and allowing us to unabashedly show off our facilities, our students, our programs, and our enthusiasm for Oxnard College.
 - We made significant headway in improving campus safety: the presentation of several personal safety workshops (thanks to Mike Ketaily from Fire Tech); the development by our fire academy cadets of emergency procedures unique to every campus building; the procurement of individual security devices (with more on the way, so that every full-time employee will have one); the securing of additional funding from the District to pay for physical upgrades to facilities; and the drafting of an emergency preparedness manual that is being used as a model for the District.
- In the realm of academics,
 - A new Global Studies program was launched.
 - The initial year of the Transitional Studies initiative got under way.
 - Oxnard College art students had the “real world” experience of displaying their work in a museum. The “Dia de los Muertos” exhibition was the result of the partnership forged between the Museum of Ventura County and our art faculty (Kindah Brennan and Christine Morla). A special feature of the evening was the performance of Scott Wolf, our new music faculty.
 - Robert Cabral (Business faculty) was named to the CTE Leadership Committee of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, serving as the C-ID CTWE Director for the current school year.
 - OC faculty Arion Melidonis (Anthropology), Teresa Bonham (English), and Robert Cabral (Business) participated in the Project ALAS initiative as Cross-Institutional Faculty Fellows in this grant, partnering with faculty from other institutions to focus on student success.
 - Important student events occurred, providing students the opportunity to expand their opportunities for learning in programs as diverse as the 27th Annual GeoChallenge, the STEAM Open House, and the OC Speech Tournament.
- In our plant operations,
 - Water savings in excess of 24 million gallons were reported.
 - The Condor Hall modernization project was fully underway (and is currently ahead of schedule).
 - Our new Dental Hygiene facility moved forward, with a planned “soft” occupancy for later this spring.

- The new OC marquee adds color and some flair to the campus...along with providing an excellent venue to advertise the College and its programs.
- Art students designed and created a beautiful mural that now graces the North Hall 7 wall facing the culinary gardens.
- Thanks to a positive partnership with the Oxnard College Foundation, a gift of \$1 million has been pledged to support the necessary renovations to create a general-purpose biology/chemistry laboratory.

Quite a roster of accomplishments, don't you think? I look forward to working in partnership with each of you this spring as we continue in this same trajectory, working to achieve the tenets of our mission to provide a "learning-centered institution that embraces academic excellence by providing multiple pathways to student success."

Institutional Growth = New Positions = New Opportunities for Student Success

As the result of your efforts to increase enrollment and serve our students, Oxnard College has been able to increase its employee ranks in the vital areas of faculty and student support services.

Listed below is an overview to date of new positions which fall into one of three categories: (1) the positions are filled (either as new positions or as a re-establishment of positions previously eliminated); (2) a search process is currently underway; or (3) final approval be received at the January 19 meeting of the Board of Trustees. Not included in this list are new hires that are the result of existing vacancies.

In an upcoming newsletter, we will introduce the new employees to campus who have joined us as a result of your efforts.

New Positions That Have Been Filled:

- Tutorial Services Specialist
- Custodians (2)
- Plumber
- Carpenter
- Instructional Lab Technician: Automotive
- Dean of Institutional Effectiveness
- Library Assistants (2)

New Positions for which the Search is Currently Underway:

- Assistant Dean for Student Success
- Administrative Assistant: Institutional Effectiveness

New Positions Approved at the January 19 Board of Trustees Meeting:

- Grant Director: Title V Grant
- Library Assistant
- Counselor (SSSP)
- Counselor (EOPS)

- Counselor (Student Equity)
- Financial Aid Specialist
- Marketing Specialist
- Faculty positions:
 - Addiction Counseling
 - Automotive Technology
 - Sociology
 - Communication Studies
 - Math
 - (A sixth new position in English was already approved.)

VCCCD Board of Trustees Meeting Update



At the January 19 meeting of the VCCCD Board of Trustees, our Men's soccer team was recognized for their accomplishments, both collectively and individually. Pictured with the team, from left to right roughly in the back

row, are Jonas Crawford, OC Director of Athletics; Ken Sherwood, OC Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Learning; Carolyn Inouye, Dean of Math, Science, Health, Physical Education and Athletics; Trustee Steve Blum; Trustee Art Hernandez; Trustee and Board Chair Larry Kennedy; Trustee Dianne McKay; Chancellor Bernard Luskin; Student Trustee Ilse Maymes and Trustee Bernardo Perez. On behalf of the entire OC community, we extend our thanks to the Board for the support they have shown our team throughout the entire season.

Other actions from the Board meeting...

- The Board voted to approve the purchase, at a cost of \$7.5 million, of new District headquarters in Camarillo, thus providing a more central location for all three colleges.
- Oxnard College's two applicants for sabbaticals—Della Newlow and Alex Lynch—were approved for the 2016-2017 year.

Our proposal for a new program—Proficiency Award in Emergency Medical Responder—was approved.

Advance Notice: This Spring's Literature, Arts, and Lecture Series

Shelly Savren, coordinator of OC's Literature, Arts, and Lecture Series, has again coordinated an outstanding series of events for the campus and the community. Each event is at 1:00 p.m., and faculty are encouraged to bring their classes where appropriate.

❖ February 24, 2016

Frederick Douglass and the Starry Road to Freedom

In celebration of African American History Month, professional actor, **Darius Wallace**, will perform his one-man play about Frederick Douglass, a man born into slavery, who became an abolitionist, statesman and a reformer, as well as a firm believer in the equality of all people.

❖ March 2, 2016

Treasures of Spain ~ Song, Dance, and Guitar

Flamenco dancer **Wendy Castellanos**, mezzo-soprano **Janelle De Stefano**, and guitarist **Scott Wolf** will perform a series of flamenco-inspired Spanish songs and will discuss how the themes, dances and the musical language of flamenco has influenced Spain's classical composers.

❖ March 9, 2016

Independent Publishing of Fiction, Memoir and Poetry

In celebration of International Women's Day, editor and poet **Kate Gale** of Red Hen Press will discuss writing and publishing and how to find a direction from being a writer to being a published writer, followed by a short reading of her own poems, then a Q & A.

❖ March 16, 2016

Why Practice Yoga?

Yoga teacher and long-time practitioner **Nisahna Engel** will present a PowerPoint that will acquaint the audience with yoga's origins, which include more than just postures, and will introduce yoga's eight-fold path and a simple secret for recharging the body and brain.

❖ March 30, 2016

Roll Deep: Poems of Journey & Home

Award-winning Poet and Professor **Major Jackson** will read from his new collection, *Roll Deep*, and from previous books, *Holding Company*, *Hoops* and *Leaving Saturn* (National Book Critics Award Circle finalist) – all of which return to his African American roots – followed by a book signing.

❖ **April 6, 2016**

The Chicano Messenger of Hip Hop and Spoken Word

Hip-Hop performance artist **Paul S. Flores** will perform monologues and spoken word from his original words including, “Brown Dreams” “You’re Gonna Cry” and *Placas: The Most Dangerous Tattoo*, that explore the intersection of urban culture, Hip-Hop and transnational identity.

❖ **April 13, 2016**

Sephardic Music of the Eastern Mediterranean

Flor de Kanela, will perform traditional Sephardic music, including ballads, love songs, life-cycle and religious melodies from the Middle East, Greece, Turkey, North Africa and the Balkans, featuring vocals accompanied by the riqq, oud, nautilauta, darbuka, def, clarinet, violin and cello.

❖ **April 20, 2016**

Rock-bottom Remedies: Poems for Dire Circumstances

In celebration of National Poetry Month, poet **Marsha de la O** will read from her award-winning collection *Antidote for Night* (BOA Editions) and discuss poetry as an antidote in an age of mass-produced entertainment, followed by a Q &A and book signing.

❖ **April 27, 2016**

Auschwitz: One Survivor’s Story

In commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day, survivor **Renee Firestone** will share her story of imprisonment at age 20 in the infamous concentration camp during the last two years of WWII, the loss of her entire family and her path to and beyond liberation.

❖ **May 4, 2016**

Life Through the Lens of the Elizabethans

Sigma Kappa Delta English Honors Society students, under the leadership of OC Professor Anthony Rodrigues, will analyze Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*, about a war hero in the Elizabethan Era– from his battles with glory and greed, to his fatal attempt to execute such desires.

Congratulations Classified Employee of the Year Nominees



The District has recently announced the nominees for the 2016 VCCCD Classified Employee of the Year award. The nominees are as follows:

- **Karla Banks** - Executive Assistant, Oxnard College
- **Laura Galvan** - Executive Assistant, District Administrative Center
- **Kerry Mehle** - Graphic Communications Technician, Moorpark College
- **Peder Nielsen** - PE/Athletic Equipment Manager, Ventura College

Congratulations to these four individuals, who represent the best of the classified service, and who have achieved the respect and commendation of their peers! The Board of Trustees will honor the nominees at their February meeting, at which time the Board will also be asked to announce and endorse the 2016 VCCCD Classified Employee of the Year. The VCCCD award winner's name will be forwarded to the California Community Colleges Board of Governors for consideration as the statewide 2016 California Community Colleges Classified Employee of the Year. This award honors California Community College classified employees demonstrating the highest level of commitment to the mission of community colleges, professional ethics and standards, service to the institution through participation in professional and/or community activities, and service as a leader beyond the local institution.