



FROM THE PRESIDENT

OXNARD COLLEGE

March 14, 2016

Members of the OC Community: Our “From the President” newsletter wants to be as representative as possible in sharing the good news and accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff. As the semester draws to a close, there will be a lot of spring events that deserve to be highlighted. Please don’t hesitate to send pictures and a narrative to Karla for inclusion in upcoming issues.

Current Research – “Latino Males: Improving College Access and Degree Completion”

Authors of the policy brief “Latino Males: Improving College Access and Degree Completion” (2012), Victor Saenz (University of Texas at Austin) and Luis Ponjuan (University of Florida), maintain that the degree-completion gaps in Latino males is widening compared to that of their Latina counterparts, and the reasons for this discrepancy are complex. Writing in the spring 2012 issue of “Perspectivas,” a publication sponsored by the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE), the Educational Testing Service (ETS), and the Center for Research and Policy in Education of the University of Texas (UTSA), the authors outline key findings from their research and offer suggestions on how institutions like Oxnard College can consider how we provide student and academic support for Latino male students (the full policy brief is available [here](#)).

According to the authors, their research has “provided important new evidence about the current status of educational practices and support structures for Latino males in secondary and postsecondary institutions,” and they identified four emerging themes about the complex cultural and personal challenges facing Latino males.

1. *Misguided perceptions of masculinity*: “We find that Latino males tend to believe that ‘real men’ do not voice expressions of fear, do not ask for help, and maintain a façade of confidence even when they are deeply fearful of the consequences of their actions . . . These perceptions of masculinity, moreover, may be undermining their opportunities for engagement both in and out of the classroom.”
2. *Complex influence of peers and family*: “Peers play a complex role for Latino males, sometimes abetting misguided notions of what it means to be masculine. Students reported that some peers encouraged them to join the workforce as opposed to studying or channeling their energy into educational endeavors. Yet Latino males who indicated that they had positive peer support were likely to have stronger aspirations for attending and succeeding in college.” As for the influence of family, “Latino males feel supported and motivated to attend college and live better financial lives than their parents. On the other hand, family financial hardships often influence Latino males to work instead of going to college.”
3. *Low community awareness*: “Of great concern is that high school and college administrators are having few conversations relating specifically to Latino male student success.” The authors believe that faculty “may be an untapped resource for . . . encouraging initiatives for Latino male success at the classroom level.”
4. *Program outreach and partnerships*: The authors’ research concludes that “outreach to Latino families by post-secondary institutions is critically important to create a welcoming and nurturing environment in colleges and universities.” Further, “intentional mentoring opportunities were deemed to be a critical avenue for Latino male academic success.”

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

Drs. Saenz and Ponjuan make the following recommendations to address concerns about Latino male success in college:

- Develop long-term institutional policies “to focus on establishing sustainable commitments to Latino males’ academic success.”
- “Academic program development that is intentionally focused on Latino males would be helpful to offer support for retaining these students, as well as guiding and monitoring their academic progress.”
- “Institutions should provide more meaningful opportunities for student life programming targeting Latino male students, especially for students who are first generation.”
- “Communication among colleges and universities, families, local communities, and non-profit organizations are critical to foster access, degree completion and employment opportunities.”

The outcomes of this research and its attendant recommendations resonate with what we strive to accomplish every day in working with our students. We see already our efforts to address the particular challenges of Latino male students through such programs as the OMEGA Initiative. Please consider the salient points of this research as you daily work with our Latino male students, and I encourage you to share any ideas or thoughts you have—with me or with your immediate supervisor—as to how we can continue to help not only Latino male students, but all our students achieve their academic goals.

James M. Diminof

Engineering/Math/Physics (EMP) Club Hosts Pi Day



Ken Sherwood, Vice President of Academic Affairs takes a pie to the face for the EMP Club fundraiser.

If you stopped by the EMP Club’s Pi Day on Monday, March 14, several members of our campus community proudly took a “pie in the face” (or two, or three...) to support the EMP Club. However, you may not be aware of the significance of this year’s Pi Day. According to ABC News, it is “a once-in-a-century occurrence.”

The authors note that “March 14 -- or 3/14 -- celebrates the mathematical constant of pi. Pi represents the ratio of circumference of a circle divided by its diameter. While it is often abbreviated as 3.14, pi has an infinite number of digits beyond the decimal point, starting with 3.141592653.



Darlene Ina takes aim and successfully plasters Dr. Jim Limbaugh, OC President.

“Last year's Pi Day was one to celebrate since it was 3/14/15, perfectly matching the first numbers past the decimal point of pi. Last year, hardcore math fans even started celebrating the day at exactly 9:26 a.m. and 53 seconds. There's a big reason to celebrate this year, too: math enthusiasts are calling 3/14 ‘Rounded Pi Day.’ When rounding pi to the ten-thousandth (that's four numbers past the decimal point), it comes out to 3.1416, matching . . . March 14, 2016.”

By the way, March 14 was also Albert Einstein's 137th birthday.

OC to Host the Clothesline Project



(photo from Golden West College, Huntington Beach, CA)

On April 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the College Quad, Oxnard College will sponsor the Clothesline Project, coordinated by our Student Health Center.

According to the website of the National Network of the Clothesline Project (CLP), it is “a program started on Cape Cod, MA, in 1990 to address the issue of violence against women. It is a vehicle for women affected by violence to express their emotions by decorating a shirt. They then hang the shirt on a clothesline to be viewed by others as testimony to the problem of violence against women. With the support of many, it has since spread world-wide.”

Locally, the Project will provide the opportunity to “Let persons tell their story in their own unique way, using words and/or artwork to decorate their

shirts. The shirts will then be hung on the clothesline. This very action serves many purposes. It acts as an educational tool for those who come to view the Clothesline; it becomes a healing tool for anyone who makes a shirt. By hanging the shirt on the line, survivors, friends and family can literally turn their back on some of that pain of their experience and walk away. Finally, it allows those who are still suffering in silence to understand that they are not alone.”

The Student Health Center is still in need of donations of used, plain T-shirts for the event. If you are able to donate, please send/give them to Deanna McFadden at the Student Health Center.

OC's Championship Soccer Team Continues to Receive Recognition from the Community



On Tuesday, March 15, the County Board of Supervisors presented the Oxnard College Mens' Soccer Team with a Resolution honoring them as the CCCAA 2015 State Champions.

Several members of the team are pictured here with County Supervisor John Zaragoza.

Congratulations on Achieving Tenure, Letty Mojica



Letty Mojica, Counselor, was granted tenure at the March 8 meeting of the VCCCD Board of Trustees. Congratulations, Letty, and thank you for your continued contributions to the success of our students!

Upcoming Associated Student Government Activities Highlighting Women's History

Thursday, March 17, 5:30-8 p.m., in the Student Lounge. ASG will provide a screening of the film, "One Woman, One Vote" chronicling the challenges and successes of the women's suffrage movement. Refreshments will be provided.

Oxnard College's Women's Appreciation Event
 Recognizing Extraordinary Women Within Our Community in Honor of Women's History Month
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2016, BETWEEN 11:30 AM AND 2 PM, ON THE TURF BETWEEN THE LIBRARY AND STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING OF OXNARD COLLEGE
 Please join us in commemorating the contributions of women within our local community at this event featuring guest speakers **Mayor Pro Tem, Carmen Ramirez**, Lighthouse For Women & Children representative, **Joann Porras**, and Associated Student Government Advisor, **Gabriela Rodriguez**.
 -Refreshments, raffles, and much more will be included!

Wednesday, March 30, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., in the quad between the LLRC and Student Services. This event will feature comments by Oxnard Mayor Pro Tem Carmen Ramirez, Lighthouse for Women and Children representative Joann Porras, and ASG Advisor Gabriela Rodriguez.

One Woman, One Vote: American Experience Film Viewing in Honor of Women's History Month
THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016, BETWEEN 5:30 PM AND 8 PM IN THE STUDENT LOUNGE OF OXNARD COLLEGE
 Join the Associated Student Government of Oxnard College for a viewing of this inspirational film about the women's suffrage movement. From the fighting, alliances, and betrayals women endured, to when women won the right to vote with the passing of the 19th Amendment in 1920.
 Refreshments will be provided.

Upcoming Events

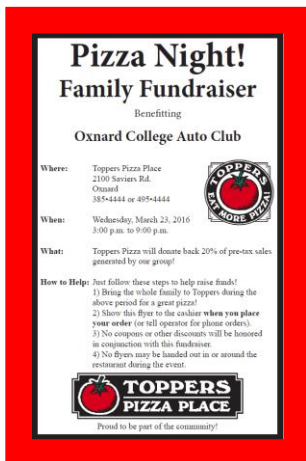
❖ March 16, 2016

OC LA&L Series: “Why Practice Yoga?”

On March 16, 1:00 PM in the Oxnard College Performing Arts Auditorium, 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 23, 2016

Auto Club Fundraiser



OC Auto Club is holding a Pizza Night Family Fundraiser on Wednesday, March 23 at Topper’s Pizza, 2100 Oxnard Boulevard in Oxnard. Toppers will donate 20% of the pre-tax sales generated by this fundraiser to the Auto Club.

March 30, 2016

OC LA&L Series: “Roll Deep: Poems of Journey & Home”

On March 30, 1:00 PM in the Oxnard College Performing Arts Auditorium, 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 2, 2016

“Dreaming of You” – Soñando Contigo

Oxnard College will be co-sponsoring this benefit concert with Susan Curtis Denham Memorial Scholarship Fund which will feature Las Divas Latinas Michelle Pina and Kat Monzon who will pay tribute to the music of Selena and other recording superstars. The event will take place on Saturday, April 2, 2016, at 7:00 PM in the Oxnard College Performing Arts Auditorium. The net proceeds will benefit the Oxnard College Foundation – Susan Curtis Denham Scholarship Fund which has provided 65 Dental Hygiene scholarships since its inception in 2005. Cost: \$40-VIP, \$30-General Admission (Student Discount \$10 OFF). To order tickets, please contact Alan Curtis at (805) 432-5942 or via email at alanandmary075@roadrunner.com.



❖ April 5, 2016

“No More” – A Sexual Assault Awareness Event

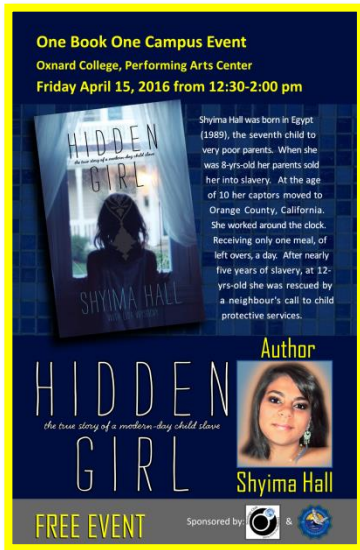


In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Oxnard College is hosting its first annual “NO MORE” event. Our student guests, Health Center and Oxnard College Campus Police will be talking about the impacts of sexual assault, and how to get involved in order to end rape. At the end of the conference, any funds raised will be donated to the Joyful Heart Foundation. A check will be sent to Mariska Hargitay A.K.A Olivia Benson in Law & Order SVU, founder and CEO of Joyful Heart Foundation. Please stand in solidarity to say: NO MORE!

- ❖ **April 13, 2016**
SAVE THE DATE – Oxnard College’s 40th Anniversary Celebration
 Planning is underway for Oxnard College’s 40th Anniversary Celebration to take place on April 13, 2016, from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the Condor Café. More details to follow soon. Mark your calendars!



- ❖ **April 15, 2016**
One Book, One Campus featuring Shyima Hall author of “Hidden Girl”



Author Shyima Hall will be speaking about her book “Hidden Girl: A True Story of a Modern-Day Child Slave” at the Oxnard College Performing Arts Auditorium on Friday, April 15, 2016, from 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM. This is a FREE event. All are welcome!

Due to Spring Break, “From the President” will not be published next week (March 21-25, 2016)