



FROM THE PRESIDENT

OXNARD COLLEGE

December 14, 2015

This issue of "From the President..." will be the last installment for the semester. We truly hope that you are finding this publication encouraging, enlightening and informative. Look for our issues to resume in the Spring 2016 semester! Happy Holidays!

We are the **CHAMPIONS!**



Oxnard College Men's Soccer Wins the CCCAA State Championship Over Evergreen Valley College, 2-1.

The accolades continue for the Condors. Eduardo Garcia, goalkeeper, was named first-team NSCAA All-American. Ross Greaney, coach, was selected as NSCAA regional Coach of the Year and is one of four nominees for the NSCAA national Coach of the Year award, which will be announced December 16. In the NSCAA final national poll, Oxnard College placed second – the highest finish in school history.

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



These pictures say it all: Our team, bringing home the first state championship of any Oxnard College sport, with family, friends, and alumni.



Culinary Club Creates Special Canned Food Tree for Food Share



Genneah Figuerora, CRM chef (also known as "Chef G"), reports on a very special activity undertaken by OC's Culinary Club.

Early in the semester, the OC Culinary Club members decided to participate in Food Share's Canned Food Tree Collection at the Collection in Oxnard. After a unanimous vote, the club donated over \$600 in canned food to the less fortunate members of Ventura County.

On Saturday, December 5, the OC team gathered to assemble our tree. Led by club officers Josh Arce, Maritza Castillo, Carolina Espinoza and Kim Sanchez, the team of a dozen students meticulously assembled our 5-6ft tree. In addition to the cans that they donated, members adorned their masterpiece with spatulas, kitchen towels and an apron that families could later enjoy with their holiday meals. Adding a very personal touch, each member present also signed a bamboo kitchen spoon with their names and blessings in their hearts.

I cannot tell you how proud I am of the men and women I have the privilege of calling our students. It has also reminded me of just how special our community, called Oxnard College, is. The continued generosity and support the students give is truly an inspiration.

Staid, Stodgy English Faculty? Not at OC!

Our roving reporter captured Letters Department faculty members Gaylene McPherson, Anthony Rodríguez and Jim Merrill in full-on boogie mode during their Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. "Three-Minute Dance Party." What they might lack in rhythm and flexibility is certainly made up for in zest and spirit. When asked her plans for the New Year, the hullabaloo organizer, Gaylene, replied, "We're gonna boogie-oogie-oogie 'til we just can't boogie no more." Well put, professor.



Oxnard College Fire Academy Graduation



Oxnard College is proud of the members of Battalion 44 of the Fire Academy, who received their certificates at their graduation ceremony December 7.

OC Faculty Member Wins “Santa to the Sea” Half-Marathon

Congratulations to Aaron Sharp, Oxnard College’s Cross Country Coach, and 1st Place winner in Men’s 5K at the *Santa to the Sea* half-marathon held on December 13, 2015, in Oxnard.



Oxnard College extends its sincere appreciation to the *Santa to the Sea* organization for its continued support of Oxnard College through its scholarship contributions.



Holiday Giving Tree – Many Thanks to All Who Participated

A heartfelt “Thank You” is extended to all those managers, faculty and staff who participated in our Holiday Giving Tree. Your generosity will benefit 70 children from student parents in our EOPS, Financial Aid and Child Care Center programs.

Accreditation Report Writing Continues

Accreditation report writing continues to move forward in a productive manner. Initial drafts of the four standards have been submitted and writing teams are currently working on collecting the appropriate evidence to support the narrative for each standard. The next major step in the process of developing our Self Evaluation Report is to submit our initial draft to our editor, Dr. Carole Bogue who will review the report to identify errors and deficiencies and to edit the report to ensure a consistent narrative. The many writing teams have done an excellent job of producing this initial narrative and have thus provided the essential foundation for a quality Self Evaluation.

Everyone is encouraged to read the existing narrative and send questions and recommendations to our Accreditation Co-Chairs, Ken Sherwood and Linda Kama’ila. The narrative can be found in SharePoint at <https://vccdventura.sharepoint.com/sites/Oxnard/Pages/Default.aspx>

Update on Project ALAS

In the fall of 2014, Oxnard College, Moorpark College, and Ventura College entered into a partnership with California State University-Channel Islands under the auspices of a five-year, \$3.25 million Strengthening Hispanic-Serving Institutions grant. Entitled Project ALAS (**A**ligning **L**earning and **A**cademic **S**uccess), the partnerships are focused on increasing student enrollment, transfer and graduation rates in the county – particularly among underserved students.

Three members of OC’s faculty—Mr. Robert Cabral, Dr. Arion , and Teresa—were selected to be Cross-Institutional Faculty Fellows in this grant, partnering with faculty from other institutions to focus on student success. As a result, our faculty has been instrumental in the creation and presentation of three innovative projects.

➤ A Focus on Entrepreneurship

Robert Cabral, Professor of Business at Oxnard College, and Josepha Baca, Professor of Business at Moorpark College, partnered on a cross-institutional content alignment project to create a pathway to align curriculum, shared teaching, and learning innovations to improve student success and course articulation. Its particular focus was the alignment of the Entrepreneurship option in the CSUCI B.S. for Business. The project outcomes of their work included:

- Opportunities for VCCCD faculty to share best practice curriculum and teaching resources as it relates to Entrepreneurship;
- Creation of common course content, objectives, and learning outcomes;
- Development of pathways linked directly to CSUCI Entrepreneurship outcomes; and
- Creation of best practices to align future courses between VCCCD and CSUCI faculty.

In addition to the project outcomes, both Josepha and Robert are engaged in developing Entrepreneurship course descriptors that align to CSU outcomes and competencies as well as discussing options for model curriculum with other Community Colleges in the system. Lastly, they are linking Entrepreneurship curriculum with local high schools via the VC Innovates pathway.

➤ **The Regional Agora Initiative**

First started at Oxnard College by Arion Melidonis, Ken Sherwood, Chris Horrock, Gloria Guevara and student David Canizalez, the Agora (in ancient Greece, “congregation” or “gathering place”) brings members of the college community together to discuss relevant social issues in a collaborative setting. Agora has been meeting regularly at Oxnard College since 2014 and has hosted discussions on topics ranging from inequality to climate change.

As part of Project ALAS and in his role as a Project Fellow, Arion brought the Agora concept to a broader audience, culminating in the first regional Agora meeting, held at CSUCI in early November. The ALAS project has adapted the Agora model to help build connections between faculty and students at CSUCI and the local community colleges with the ultimate goal of increasing transfer success.

At this regional summit, the Agora topic was water. Oxnard College was represented by students David Canizalez, Daniel Rasnow, Jillien Keim Mallot, Juan Ruiz, Narda Diaz and Arion Melidonis. According to Arion, “The Oxnard students did a brilliant job of representing Oxnard College at the meeting. They were given the opportunity to meet CSUCI faculty and students and were also given a tour of the campus.” The regional Agora group looks forward to future collaborations between our local campuses including future Agoras and shared research projects.

➤ **The Reading Celebration**

Teresa Bonham, another of the Fellows from Oxnard College, notes that “one of the objectives of the project is to engage our students in the college experience. My group of fellows decided the best way to encourage our students to participate in the college experience is through The Reading Celebration at CSUCI.” Her goals were to recruit key faculty on our campuses to participate in the event and to adopt the book in their classes, create assignment ideas, provide a web-based platform for cross-campus feedback, and organize a culminating experience. This year’s book selection was Karen Joy Fowler’s novel, *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*.

Teresa adopted the book in her English 96 class, as did Kari Tudman, Gaylene McPherson, and Tom Stough. They began reading the novel during the second week of instruction.



Teresa Bonham and her students at CSUCI for the author reading.

Teresa infused the novel in her lessons and guided her students through the complexities of the novel. “The most rewarding aspect of the project,” according to Teresa, “was the fieldtrip to CSUCI for the culminating experience to attend a reading by the author, Karen Joy Fowler” which approximately forty Oxnard College students attended.

Child Development Center (CDC) Open House

The Oxnard College Child Development Center (CDC) had its open house last Thursday evening, November 19th. The turnout was good with about 50 family members, children, and staff in attendance.

Thank you to all who supported the CDC by purchasing items at the Book Fair or ordered Poinsettias. Don't forget that enrollment is open for Spring 2016!



Oxnard College Appears in the City Parade



On Saturday, December 5, 2015, representatives from Oxnard College's management, faculty, staff and students participated in the City of Oxnard's annual Christmas Parade. The Oxnard College Parade Float was created by members of our Automotive Technology program – *A special thanks to Jeff Hiben, Anthony Diaz-Brown, and the OC Associated Student Government (ASG).*

President's Holiday Reception



See You All Next Year!