

February 3, 2014

Student Services Updates:

At the completion of the second week of the spring 2014 term, overall enrollment was down 5.8% from that same point in time in spring 2013. However, enrollment of full time students taking 12 or more units was down only 2.6% while enrollment of students with 6.0 to 11.5 units was up 5% as compared to spring 2013. We anticipate that enrollment will climb as we add in enrollments through the partnership with WESTEC, and overall we expect to 2013-14 enrollment to remain consistent with 2012-13.

Unit Breakdown	2/1/2013	1/31/2014	Actual Difference	Percent Difference
0 Units	50	88	38	76.0%
0.5 - 5.5	1180	941	-239	-20.3%
6.0 - 11.5	858	901	43	5.0%
12.0 +	1154	1124	-30	-2.6%
Total	3242	3054	-188	-5.8%

Liberal Arts Social

The 1st annual spring social for faculty and students within the Liberal Arts Division was held on January 22nd. This event created an atmosphere where students support each other based on commonality and feel connected to their faculty and campus in a casual setting. While students and faculty mingled, all enjoyed a free lunch provided by Chef Geoff. The upcoming Arts Festival, current course schedules, and collaboration between counseling and the division seemed the popular chatter.



Women's Basketball Update

Our Women's Basketball team (with a current record of 7-14) includes four sophomore and four freshman players. Standout guards Ramonique Redding is averaging 16 points per game and Erica Evans is averaging 19 points per game. Freshman Emilee Davidson is playing strong defense averaging 1.38 Blocks per game. With 5 games remaining on the schedule, it is time to come out and show the team our support. The last 2 games are home games at Taft College – see page 6 for details.

Congratulations to Myisha Cutrona

On Wednesday, February 5th our own Myisha Cutrona, along with her youngest brother Jawaan Delaney, are being inducted into the Long Beach Wilson High School Hall of Fame. Both Myisha and Jawaan played soccer at Long Beach Wilson High. For three years, Myisha was the team captain and MVP. In

her junior and senior year, Myisha was the League defensive player of the year. Please join me in congratulating her on this achievement!

Instruction Updates:

Taft College Creative Writers

On Thursday, December 19th over 20 students in Taft College English classes read their work at the Black Gold Café and Deli in Taft. The writings included poems, stories and non-fiction work produced by students during the fall term. Kudos to Professor Geoff Dyer for his enthusiasm in supporting student work, and ensuring students the opportunity to share their talents with the community.



Author Lu Chi Fa at Taft College

In Professor Carlson's Intermediate Reading 905, students experienced an unforgettable day last fall as they listened to author Lu Chi Fa bring his book *Double Luck: Memoirs of a Chinese Orphan* to life. Lu Chi Fa has inspired and enlarged the worldview of students in Reading 905 for the past eight years as they absorb each page of his book and are riveted by his incredible, heart-wrenching story from

being an orphan at three to forging a pathway for achieving the America Dream. Forgiveness, freedom, choice, patriotism, culture, history, work ethic, education, values, and perseverance, a few of the themes in the book, reshape the way students view their lives and those around them, particularly after discussing *Double Luck* with Lu Chi Fa. Here, in the words of students, are ways in which Lu Chi Fa has piqued students' interest in Reading 905:

"I'm not much of a big reader, but having to read Double Luck and knowing that this is a true story made it so real, and I want to keep reading more..." (Synclaire Lucas).

"I was inspired by his story due to his events in his life that he had to overcome... It would take a lot of courage for me to do what he did. It puts a positive outlook on life for me..." (Scout Villanueva).

"There was so much I wish I could've asked him... I would've listened to his stories all day long if I could. I am now a fan for life" (Melissa Moore).

"It was emotional hearing his stories he shared with us. The way he inspired me is by wanting to do more in life" (Jose Barajas).

"I was very inspired by his life growing up and how he overcame it all. I also learned the difference between American and Chinese history" (Grace Vigstrom).

"He [Lu Chi Fa] also taught me to appreciate my country and not to take it for granted. Americans do not appreciate our country, but foreigners come to our country and love this country because it helped them make something of themselves. It gives them the American dream" (Rebecca Davila).

"I have learned to treat people differently and to see the world in a different way" (Socorro Vincent).

"I learned from him to not take my freedom for granted because he didn't have that much freedom; he taught me that America may be struggling, but we still are the best country because we have freedom to do what we believe and no one can stop us" (Zelina Garcia).

"I learned to never hold a grudge against anyone. He went through so much to get to where he is, and it was a blessing to meet him" (Midori Salazar).

QFS Sponsored Adjunct Workshop, fall 2013

Kamala Carlson and Jessica Grimes facilitated the third Adjunct Workshop for English and ESL faculty, sponsored by the Quest for Success (QFS) grant. Its purpose was to examine assignments and their alignment to CSLOs (Course Student Learning Outcomes). A peer review was conducted by Adjunct instructors which included syllabi, presentation of mini-lectures, and critiquing of curricula when measured by CSLOs. For the remainder of the fall semester, the adjunct faculty developed and aligned assignments, including grammar lessons and assessments, to CSLOs. This semester-length project culminated with participants submitting a portfolio of classroom-tested assignments.

Participants, reflecting on the evolution of their teaching, were effusive about the benefits of the workshop. **High school instructor and first year English adjunct Crystal Huddleston** noted, "At our second in-service, I had the opportunity to present a grammar lesson and listen to my colleagues share ideas. All of which helped me to focus on student learning more effectively. I was challenged to include grammar instruction in both English 1500 and 1600. ... As a result, I addressed these issues with my students overtly and saw their writing improve tremendously as they were encouraged to turn a more critical eye toward their individual words." **Second year English adjunct Tara Rojas** stated, "I enjoyed presenting my lesson in front of my peers. This gave me the opportunity to practice the lesson before delivering it to my students and to receive feedback and suggestions from my colleagues. As a result of that practice and feedback, I had a stellar lesson to present to my class. I was confident that I was targeting the Student Learning Outcome and that my lesson and quiz were at the appropriate level of rigor." **High School English instructor and long-time Taft College English adjunct Caroline Schoneweis** reflected similar sentiments: "What I learned from our adjunct workshop was that our job as teachers of grammar never ends, even in transfer-level courses, such as English 1500 and 1600. I plan to incorporate more grammar instruction into my English 1500 course in the future, while still keeping the focus on more advanced writing skills." **Laura Stockton, another high school English instructor and veteran Taft College adjunct**, concluded that "...the metacognitive portion of the final exam was a wonderful requirement. I think the more reflecting that they can do on their writing process and product, the better critical thinkers and writers they will become. I would like to see a third Saturday meeting added to future workshops if possible."

Taft College Professors Share their Passion with Rotary Club

Several of Taft College's faculty members have been featured speakers at the Taft Rotary Club. *Vince Maiocco* shared information on the Triple Play fundraiser held on January 11th featuring former major league baseball pitcher Dave Dravecky. *Dr. Greg Golling* entertained Rotarians with a presentation on his genetic research – helping our local Rotary Club understand the importance of research in this field. *Paul Blake* provided an overview of the new engineering degree program and sparked interest in potential guest speakers among the Rotarians in the audience. *Leigh Golling* shared information regarding a downtown Arts grant being developed in collaboration with the City of Taft and Imagination Laboratories, Inc., the 501(c)3 non-profit arts foundation Leigh and Greg co-founded in Taft. Cougar Softball Coach *Stephanie Walsh* provided a women's softball update to the Rotarians and introduced two local players to the Rotary Club.

Rotary is always looking for interesting guest speakers – if you have an interest, please contact the 2014-15 incoming Rotary President John Dodson!

New Stem Outreach Coordinator:

At its January meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the recommendation to hire Rachel Taylor as the new STEM Outreach Activities Coordinator.

Rachel Taylor holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from California Baptist University in Riverside, California. During her collegiate years, she worked as a teacher's assistant, lab technician, and tutor at California Baptist University. She later went on to work as a chemist at Argo Chemical, Inc., and petroleum analyst at G.T. Analytical Services, Inc. She has since realized her true passion combining both her love of education and science.



Rachel is enthusiastic and eager to collaborate with our STEM faculty as well as partner with our local schools to get students and our community excited about STEM. Rachel's office is located in S5B and she can be reached at x7912. Please stop by and welcome Rachel to Taft College!

Art Gallery Exhibits:

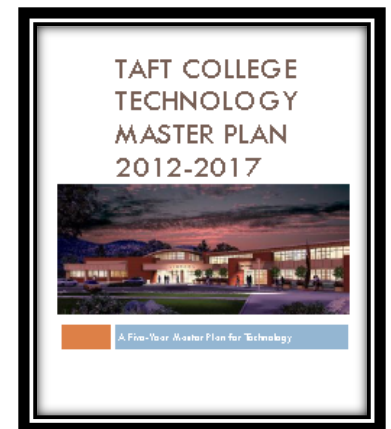


More than 500 local K-12 students and many Taft College students viewed the Northern Edge of the World exhibit at the Taft College Art Gallery. The next exhibit will be the work of students enrolled in Taft College art classes. The reception for those artists will be February 18th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. The public is welcome to view the diverse works created by these students and cast their ballot for the Best of Show Award.

Technology Updates:

One year after the adoption of the TC Technology Master Plan, the Banner system was upgraded with new equipment to provide students access to registration, payment plans and course offering without interruption or long waits. In the 2nd year of the plan we began the classroom equipment replacement project, installing new data projectors and computers during the recent winter break. As of the 2nd week of the spring semester, calls for assistance have been greatly reduced for our classrooms.

As a reminder, the IT online request system is available from the campus network and can be found on the IT webpage or at <http://tcsr.taftcollege.edu/>. To log on use your computer logon user id and password, if you need assistance quickly please contact IT at ext.7737.





Heidi Archibald is our new IT secretary and started at the end of the fall semester. She will assist you with printer supplies, review of work orders still pending, issues with copiers and accounting of charges. She came to us from Taft Correctional Institution after 15 years of service and experience with data entry, accounting, forms creation and development, and clerical assistance. Heidi and Derick Archibald plus family are local to the Taft community.

Information Technology office hours are Monday to Thursday 7:30 am to 7:00 pm and Friday 7:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Human Resources News:

SISC Dependent Eligibility Audit

Last month all full-time employees who have District health benefits received information about a dependent eligibility audit that is being performed by the accounting firm of Moss Adams. The objective of the audit is to ensure that SISC payments for health care services are only being made on behalf of eligible dependents. This helps SISC meet their obligation to keep the health care costs low.

The 1st phase of the audit addressed ineligible dependents and provided an amnesty period. Documents for this phase of the audit were sent out early in January. The 2nd phase of the audit addresses documentation of eligible dependents. The materials for this phase were expected to reach households beginning the week of January 20, 2014.

If full-time employees have questions regarding the dependent eligibility process, they may contact the SISC Dependent Eligibility Assistance Center at 1-855-508-7782 or email dependenteligibility@sischealth.com.

SISC Health Smarts Program

Tuesday, March 18th from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, SISC will be on-campus providing health screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol and blood glucose. Participants will receive one \$20 cash award.

Eligible participants:

- All District employees and retirees enrolled in an Anthem Blue Cross health plan
- Adult dependents (18 years or older) of all District employees and retirees enrolled in an Anthem Blue Cross health plan
- District employees (part-time)

Ineligible participants:

- Dependents under the age of 18
- Students of the District
- General public

If you have any questions, contact Human Resources at x7805. To schedule an appointment access the link: <http://www.sishealth.com>. Appointments fill up fast, so sign up today!

Foundation Update:

As a follow up to the West Kern Petroleum Summit, the Taft College Foundation has established a guest lecture series called the West Kern Petroleum Roundtable. These half-day events will encourage dialogue between the energy industry, academia and workforce professionals focused on relevant topics from expert key note speakers. The first Roundtable is scheduled for March 20th and will feature Omar Garcia, President, South Texas Energy and Economic Roundtable. The events are limited in attendance – contact Sheri Horn Bunk for more information at 763-7936.



As President of the South Texas Energy & Economic Roundtable (STEER), Omar Garcia facilitates communication, education and public advocacy surrounding the production of energy resources in South Texas. An experienced industry leader, Garcia is an expert on business opportunities associated with the Eagle Ford Shale.

Upcoming Events:

There are a lot of activities planned over the next month! Please check the College Calendar on the website for all the upcoming events. Here are some highlights in the month of February:

Women's Basketball – February Home Games

February 19 at 5:00 pm against West Hills College
February 22 at 5:00 pm against Fresno City College

Woman's Softball- February Home Games

February 7 at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm against West Hills College (Double Header)

Men's Baseball – February Home Games

February 6 at 1:00 pm against College of the Siskiyous
February 7 at 10:00 am against College of the Siskiyous
February 8 at 2:00 pm against Barstow College
February 20 at 2:00 pm against Merced College
February 25 at 2:00 pm against College of the Sequoias

Other Events (check the College Calendar for all events)

Educational Master Plan Committee – Planning Retreat (February 7)
Black History Month (February 3 – February 27)
STEM Transfer Specialist on Campus (February 6 and February 20)
Career Workshop with Department of Corrections (February 12)