

May 1, 2013

## Construction News:



The Transition to Independent Living project is in its final stage as punch lists are being completed and furniture deliveries are scheduled to be completed this month. The Ash Street and Wildcat Way dorm modernization project is at the Department of State Architects for final review and should be ready in the next couple of months to assemble the bid packages. The Student Center project is in final stages of design. This project will include Student areas as well as food and bookstore services.

## Student Services Updates:

Summer and Fall enrollments are very strong as compared to this point in time last year. There is continued, strong demand for access to classes in both the Summer term, and for Fall 2013. As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, total enrollment for Summer 2013 is up 17% over Summer 2012. For Fall 2013, total enrollment is up 26.9% as compared to Fall 2012. As we progress through the registration period, we may see changes to these trends but we are off to a great start for the Summer and Fall terms.

Petitions for graduation are also up this year. For Summer, Fall and Spring combined, 377 students have petitioned to graduate along with 203 petitions for certificates. 2013 Commencement will begin at 7:00 pm on May 24<sup>th</sup> in the Taft High School stadium. Graduation rehearsal begins at 5:40 pm. For more information, contact Debbie Hegeman at ext. 7727.

The Taft College 9th Annual Scholarship Luncheon will be held at OT's Cookhouse on Friday May 24, 2013. The luncheon will begin at 11:30am and last until approximately 1:00pm. This year we will be awarding 49 different scholarships for a total dollar amount of \$ 41,350.

## Associated Student Body Plans Faculty Appreciation Week!

Taft College Faculty Appreciation Week begins May 6<sup>th</sup>. The ASB Faculty Association Week Planning Committee (right) has planned a variety of daily activities to express its appreciation to the faculty:



- Monday:** Donuts will be in different locations at 7:30 am.
- Tuesday:** Student talent performance in the Quad at 12:30 pm.
- Wednesday:** BBQ'd chicken and carne asada, rice, beans, and FRESH corn tortillas in the Cougar Room – *RSVPs are required in order to plan for the food.* Email Myisha Cutrona at [mcutrona@taftcollege.edu](mailto:mcutrona@taftcollege.edu) to make your reservation. Your attendance enters you into a drawing for a mini IPAD donated by the Taft College Foundation!
- Thursday:** Mini raffle prizes at 12:30 pm.
- Friday:** Department Thank You posters will be distributed throughout the campus.

## Instructional Program Updates:

### Third Issue of TC Literary Magazine

Students of Taft College's Literary Magazine Club are putting the final touches on Issue Three of our student-published annual literary publication, *A Sharp Piece of Awesome*. Taft College students have spent a year distributing the publication's call for submissions, editing the issue's content, contacting authors, and requesting sponsorships from local businesses to assist in the publication's funding. This year's issue promises to be monumental in that the students have dealt with new challenges to create a magazine with the potential for greater distribution and wider readership. Working with Dr. David Layne, the club was able to secure an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) from the Library of Congress. This identifier will be invaluable in distributing, selling, and archiving all issues of *A Sharp Piece of Awesome*. The students



also secured permission from New Directions Publishing Corporation, one of America's most notable and long-lived poetry presses, to include in the issue a poem by Robert Duncan, who became an important member of the San Francisco Renaissance and Beat communities after attending school in Kern County. Alongside Duncan are thirty-four writers of what the student editors considered to be the best of over two hundred submissions made to the magazine. Among these are published, well-respected poets Julia Bloch and James Meetze, student authors finding their work in print for the first time, as well as Taft College English faculty members Bill Devine and Danielle Harris. Two release parties, at which authors will read their work, are planned: May 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm, at Black Gold Coffee House & Deli in Taft; and May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm, at Russo's Books at The Marketplace in Bakersfield. Upon the issue's release, copies will be available for sale at Cougar Corner Bookstore, Ben's Books, and Russo's Books. The 2012 issue, featuring Dr. Chris Chung-Wee, is currently for sale at these locations. Proceeds from sales go toward funding subsequent issues.

### Camp to Campus Screening at TC

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, Taft College hosted a screening of the documentary *Camp to Campus*, created by faculty at CSUB and funded by a grant from Cal Humanities. Taft College faculty, staff, Bill Norris, and Myisha Cutrona collaborated with CSUB to coordinate and promote the screening. The film features interviews with university graduates from migrant labor camps who are the first in their families to attain higher education. The screening, open to the public, was attended by Taft College students, faculty, and staff, as well as students from Buena Vista High School. Students were encouraged to compete in an essay contest about the film for scholarships to CSUB. Dr. Aaron Hegde of CSUB and Geoffrey Dyer facilitated the screening and brief discussion afterward. During the discussion, more than one student shared how their personal barriers to attending and completing college were similar to those of interview subjects in the film.



## Spring 2013 Phi Theta Kappa Induction

The Beta Lambda Zeta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa held its Spring induction ceremony on April 23, 2013. PTK Advisor Wendy Berry noted that 26 new members were inducted, with about 70 individuals attending the program. New officers for 2013-14 are Jose Barrera (President), Kelsie Burrows (Vice President), Marina Johnson (Treasurer), and Kiah Hepner (Secretary). Interim Vice President Patti Bench was the keynote speaker at the Induction.



In April, through the support of the Taft College Foundation, nine members of the Beta Lambda Zeta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa attended the National Phi Theta Kappa Convention in San Jose. This past semester, 471 Taft College students were eligible for Phi Theta Kappa based on their G.P.A. and number of units completed. PTK develops leadership and enhances student success.

Left: Shelly Gill (graduating Secretary) Jose Barrera (past Vice President, new President) and Bezait Anbesse (graduating Treasurer) enjoy a moment of fun at the PTK Spring 2013 Induction Event.

Right: Interim Vice President of Instruction Patti Bench congratulates Jose Barrera, 2013-14 PTK President.



## Other News

### Taft Community Clean Up Day:

A *Community Clean Up Day* was held on Saturday, April 27 to help clean up Wood Street in South Taft. The Clean Up Day was sponsored by the City of Taft, Kern County 4<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District Supervisor David Couch, the Taft Chamber of Commerce, Taft College; and Westside Waste Management. Twenty-eight Taft College employees and students participated in the Clean Up by picking up trash, cutting back weeds and loading large items into disposal trucks. Taft College was well represented in this important community project. Special thanks to Kanoe Bandy and Myisha Cutrona for coordinating participation by Associated Student Body and student athletes. A big thank you also to Mike Capela, James Bendzick and Sergio Gomez for helping out with the weed abatement.



Left: Student Athletes and ASB representatives help Keep Kern Clean

### **Welcome to Mark Williams, Vice President of Instruction**

Mark Williams joins Taft College as the new Vice President of Instruction. He comes to us from Umpqua Community College in Oregon where he served as the Dean of Career and Technical Education. Prior to his administrative work he taught for many years in both transfer and CTE programs in Oregon and New Mexico (where he is originally from). He is also a former bookstore owner, and worked professionally as a computer programmer. His first official day with us was last Monday April 29<sup>th</sup>. He says that he is very happy to be here and appreciates the warm welcome that he has received! Please take a moment to stop by his office to say hello, and we will also be hosting a welcome gathering for him on Tuesday May 14 at 3:00 pm in the Cougar Room. Join us for cookies, lemonade and camaraderie as we welcome Mark to Taft College!



### **Upcoming Events:**

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| May 1    | TC & CSUB Co-Sponsoring a Small Business Webinar, “The Business Plan” |
| May 2    | ASB Carnival Day  |
| May 2    | Goodwill Clothing Donation Drive                                      |
| May 3    | ASB Karaoke Taco Friday   |
| May 4    | ASB Spring Trip   |
| May 6-10 | ASB Faculty Appreciation Week   |
| May 8    | WKCCD Board Meeting   |
| May 11   | Sharp Piece of Awesome Release Party – Black Gold Café                |
| May 14   | Welcome for Mark Williams   |
| May 16   | EOPS Luncheon – by invitation   |
| May 17   | End of Year Dinner  |
| May 18   | Sharp Piece of Awesome Release Party – Russo Books at The Marketplace |
| May 24   | TC Scholarship Luncheon   |
| May 24   | 2013 TC Graduation  |
| May 25   | Dental Hygiene Graduation   |
| May 30   | TIL Employers Appreciation Luncheon                                   |

**Event Details available at:** <http://www.taftcollege.edu/calendar/month.php>