

Construction News

The Facilities Master Plan for 2112-2017 is nearly complete and has been reviewed by the Governance Council. It will be reviewed by the West Kern Community College District Board of Trustees at its December 13, 2012 meeting. A draft copy is now available on the Taft College Intranet under *Facilities* or you can contact Debbie Hegeman at 7727.



Consistent progress is being made on the Transition to Independent Living project with about a 70 percent completion as of 11-27-12. We are currently planning on beginning work in December on Phase 3 of the parking lot project in order to complete work by January 22, 2013 prior to the start of the spring term. The entire TIL project is still scheduled to be complete in the first quarter of 2013.

Planning continues for Dorm renovations and a new student center. The Dorm project drawings are currently at the State for review. This project is scheduled to start by mid-2013. The student center project design is nearly complete and will be ready for state review in the near future.



Board of Trustees News

Kal Vaughn was honored for his five years of service on the West Kern Community College District Board of Trustees and received a certificate of appreciation from the Kern County Board of Education. Board President Billy White presented the certificate to Kal at the October 11th meeting.



Billy White and Kal Vaughn were re-elected to the West Kern Community College District Board of Trustees on November 6, 2012. Both ran unopposed for the Board. At the Board of Trustees meeting on November 13, Billy and Kal were sworn in for their four year terms. We thank Billy and Kal for their dedicated service to the District and congratulate them on continued success.



Spring Registration is Here!

Registration for Spring 2013 started in mid-November as priority groups began early registration. As of November 27th, 363 students have enrolled for the Spring 2013 term. Registration for continuing matriculation students begins December 3. Returning/former students and new student registration begins December 12th. Open registration begins on December 19th.

Instructional Program Updates

QFS Sponsored Adjunct Workshop, Fall 2012: Kamala Carlson and Jessica Grimes facilitated the second Adjunct Workshop for English and ESL faculty, sponsored by the Quest for Success (QFS) grant. Its purpose was to conduct a mini-study on strengthening continuity within the English and ESL Basic Skills sequence. Adjunct instructors were guided through the process of aligning course SLOs with writing prompts while applying teaching strategies to provoke students' critical thinking. This semester-length project culminated with participants submitting a portfolio of assignments that were classroom tested.

Participants, reflecting on the evolution of their teaching, were effusive about the benefits of the workshop. ESL instructor Vickie La Clare noted, "As a new instructor, I had big holes in my understanding of the progression of classes, the expectations for each and where ESL 600/700 fit into that. The workshop assignments were practical and useful immediately." English instructor Tanna Rozar stated, "I have already found myself referring back to it to review curriculum guidelines or to just look at example assignments. It was actually fun to try and come up with interesting topics and find good readings for the students." Danielle Harris, English instructor notes that "Everything that I now do in my classes blossomed from the seeds of discussion and ideas shared during the workshops." Sounds like the workshop was a huge success!

Dyer at Bard: In early November, Professor Geoffrey Dyer visited Bard College's Delano campus to speak with their Master of Arts in Teaching students. Dyer delivered a lecture on the poet Robert Duncan, a Bakersfield native associated with the San Francisco Renaissance and Black Mountain School Poets, and one of Dyer's special interests. After lecturing on Duncan and analyzing Duncan's work, Dyer coached the graduate students through a guided writing exercise. The students and their professor, Julia Bloch, have submitted their work to the Taft College student-edited literary publication, *A Sharp Piece of Awesome*.

News from the Art Department

The Taft College Art Gallery is proudly displaying the work of two Taft College alumni, Jim Campbell and Larry Jason. Both attended Taft College in the mid-60s. Jim also played basketball for Taft College. Larry Jason is still a resident of Taft. The exhibit runs through December 14th.

Taft College adjunct art faculty member Nano Rubio was the winner of the first annual More Family Foundation (MFF) grant. His work, entitled "Get Lucid," impressed the MFF grant team. Nano will not only be awarded a solo project room show at Mark Moore Gallery (Culver City, CA), but he will also receive \$1,000 in funding. According to the grant organizers, "After reviewing numerous submissions and 5790 projects nominated exhibition artists, Rubio's paintings stood out as an incredible display of innovation and process-oriented practice." We are so proud of Nano and congratulate him on this achievement!



Bookstore Open House

Here is a reminder that the Taft College Bookstore will be holding a holiday open house on December 11th from 4 pm – 8 pm. Bring your shopping list as complimentary gift wrapping will be

offered by the Bookstore! In addition, donations for gift wrapping are being accepted for the Keali'i Pearl Memorial Scholarship fund.

Foundation Update

Chevron recently announced that the Taft College Foundation will receive \$125,000 as part of their corporate Economic Workforce Development Grant Program. Taft College will allocate funds to develop a Workforce Development Workshop Series, Workforce Development Plan, and culminate with a West Kern Energy Symposium. Chevron will make a formal announcement of the award at their Camino Media Headquarters on January 29, 2013.



Athletics Update

The women's Volleyball team (22-8 overall) finished a strong campaign losing on the road in the playoffs to Gavilan in a tough 5 set loss. Women's soccer (9-9-3) lost a tough hard fought contest on the road to Santa Rosa 1-0 to end a strong season. Men's soccer ranked # 1 in the state and # 3 in the nation, advancing to the State semi-finals at Mt. San Antonio. After giving it their all, the team lost at 2-1 match against Mt. San Antonio on Friday November 30. We are proud of all our Fall sports teams for playing with heart and showing their immense Cougar Pride! The following players have been recognized by the Central Valley Conference:

Men's Soccer:

Most Valuable Player of the year: Edgar Plascencia #16
Co- Offensive player of the year: Ramiro Barraza #12
Co- Midfielder of the year: Roberto Mariscal #10
Defender of the year: Edgar Contreras #4
Keeper of the year: Robert Gonzalez
Coach of the year: Angelo Cutrona

1st Team All CVC Conference

Trevon Demison
Gerardo Gonzalez
Juan Carlos Gonzalez
Andy Reyes
Julio Lopez

2nd Team All CVC Conference

Andres Iniguez
Jose Gonzalez
Ivan Sanchez

Women's Soccer:

Co-Offensive MVP Central Valley Conference: Joanna Espinoza

1st Team All CVC Conference

Brittany Hernandez
Kathy Lopez
Alexis Gonzales

2nd Team All CVC Conference

Selina Molina
Daisy Guitron
Mandy Lopez

Volleyball:

1st Team All CVC

Chanel Cantere
Sina Mauga

2nd Team All CVC

Rachel Kapesi
Tiffany Mapusaga
Onolina Taotofi

Honorable Mention

Madison Lawley
Tyra Williams

Staff Highlight: Sue Brown



Sue Brown is Senior Secretary in Counseling and has been working at Taft College for 12-1/2 years. Sue sits at the front desk nearest the entrance to the main building. Sue is one of the reasons students feel Taft College is a friendly and helpful place.

Sue was born and raised in Taft, attended St. Mary's Grammar School, and graduated from TUHS. She began her working career at Chevron Oil and was self-employed as a bookkeeper for over 30 years before joining her "TC family." Sue is married and has 5 children, 8 grandchildren (with a set of twins and a new baby boy that was recently added to the group), and 3 great-grandchildren. Her hobbies include working crossword puzzles, gardening and fishing. Sue is very active in the Taft Sportsmen's Club holding the office of treasurer. She also helps out her 96 year old mother. She enjoys any time that she can spend with her family. Her favorite spots to visit are June Lake and Pismo Beach.

Sue enjoys helping students and the interaction with all students that she comes in contact with either in person or talking with on the phone. It gives her great pleasure to help people.

Upcoming Events and Announcements

- ❖ The ASB is sponsoring a door decorating contest from December 3rd to December 13th. Staff members are joining in the fun as well by decorating office doors. Winners will be announced on December 13th.
- ❖ The ASB is working with the College Bookstore and the Taft Chamber to participate in the Taft Christmas parade Monday December the 3rd. The STEM Program is also participating in the parade with the STEM Mobil Lab scheduled to drive down Center Street. It is great to see such community involvement and support for the Taft Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade.
- ❖ Phi Theta Kappa is sponsoring a fundraiser for holiday portraits. The various packages available can be found on the Taft College activities calendar on the website. PTK is also conducting its Induction Ceremony on Tuesday, December 4th in the Cougar Room. Forty-eight students are being inducted into PTK – a wonderful accomplishment for these students and a proud moment for Taft College.
- ❖ There will be a Staff Holiday Potluck Luncheon at 11:30 am on December 14th in the Cafeteria. Please join your colleagues for some holiday cheer and entertainment! Contact Judy Wade in Human Resources if you need more information.