

May 21, 2015

## ***Instruction Update:***

### ***Quest for Success Math Success Story***

Rounding out the semester with the last Faculty Inquiry Group (FIG), Quest for Success Math Coordinator and Math Professor Ruby Payne presented "QFS Math Success Story" in which she chronicled impressive results for Math 230/Math 240 accelerated courses over six semesters: students maintained a cumulative average of 87.36% for passing the course; additionally, 87.36% of 81 students served have completed the course. In this sequence, students can complete their math requirements within one academic year, including summer school. When asked about what accounts for the success of this cohort approach, Professor Payne pointed to the Successful Student profile where counseling registers students who need a refresher in foundational math and requires a contract indicating a commitment to work hard and remain self-disciplined. Additionally, she credits the success for the hybrid course to the curriculum that allows students to retest quizzes and tests in the enhanced version of MyMathLab so that students gain mastery over concepts, a best practice that has yielded excellent results to date. Professor Payne envisions that institutionalizing this program will continue to benefit this student population who excel with the collaborative efforts of counseling, tutoring, outreach, and tracking outcomes.

The QFS\*  
Faculty Inquiry  
Group  
Presents  
Ruby Payne  
April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
"QFS Math Success Story"  
Professional Development Center  
(PDC-Library)  
12:10-1:00 p.m.  
\*Quest for Success Group  
Feel free to bring your own lunch!

### ***From Our Studios to You: TC Art Department Faculty Exhibit***



Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, is the last day to enjoy the current range of different media and styles of art in the faculty exhibit. Works by Anna Dimayuga and Jon Elsdon, professional graphic designer, are being shown to the gallery visitors digitally via the screen which was a TC Foundation Award. Anna's clients have included Disney Studios and Jon's works are videos he has produced for his clients. The other works include some striking photographs of Australia by Gary Graupman and excellent drawings by Nano Rubio, Erin Kaczowski, and Suzanne Acosta. There is one silkscreen print by Deb Rodenhauer which nicely complements her two representation acrylic paintings. Sonja Swenson, Art Gallery Coordinator, says, "I am pleased that we have such a wide range of media and styles in this year's exhibit." On May 4<sup>th</sup> Brian Jean (pictured above) treated Art Gallery visitors with his guitar stylings and Leigh Golling entertained as well with a dramatic reading.

### ***STEM Maker Fair Event***

On May 16-17, 2015, Paul Blake and Rachel Belden traveled to San Mateo, CA to visit MakerFaire 2015. MakerFaire is a gathering of tinkerers, inventors, and makers participating in the greatest show and tell

on earth. People from all over the world come to show what they have created using STEM. Throughout the event, information and inspiration for the coming years of the Taft College STEM Program was gleaned and discovered. The ideas from others will greatly influence and grow Taft College STEM and the Engineering Program.

### ***Acclaimed Poet Visits TC***



On Thursday, April 30, poet Joseph Lease gave a reading of his work and answered questions in the Cougar Room. Joseph Lease has published three collections of poetry, appeared in anthologies, and been printed in *The New York Times*. Students of the creative writing course have been reading his latest collection, *Testify*, which is available at the Cougar Corner Bookstore. The event was well attended and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to meet the author.

### ***Student Literary Events***

**Creative Writing Class Reading** — The annual Creative Writing Class readings were held Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, at Black Gold Cafe, located at 508 Center St. in Taft. Students of the creative writing classes read selections of their original poems, short stories, and memoirs. As always, this was an exciting event which provided students the opportunity to gain experience reading their work to the public. Students also presented their original collections.

***A Sharp Piece of Awesome Release Party*** was held Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, at Dagny's Coffee, located at 1600 20th St. in Bakersfield. Authors published in issue five of our annual student-edited literary publication *A Sharp Piece of Awesome* read their works to celebrate and launch the release of the issue. Copies are available for ten dollars. During such a busy and exciting time of year, this event also provides opportunities for our students to express themselves and gain recognition for their literary achievements.

Camille McGee (pictured right) is a graduating TC English major and scholarship recipient who is transferring to CSUB to achieve a Bachelor's Degree in English and pursue a career in education. Camille and ten other readers read to a packed house at the release party.



### ***HAZWOPER Simulation***



On May 12<sup>th</sup>, the HAZWOPER (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response) class at Taft College performed a hazardous spill scenario. The simulation took place adjacent to the gym. The students involved in this particular group decided to use chlorine as their hazardous substance. The students were required to design their own scenario and then implement the safety procedures associated with a spill for their particular situation. The steps they were required to address were: assessment of the risks; determining the proper PPE using their Emergency Response Guidebook; stopping the source; confining the spill; cleaning up the spill; decontamination procedures; and reporting procedures. The students were required to perform all tasks as if they were in a real-life situation. There were a few minor mistakes, but overall the scenarios were a huge success.

### ***ECE Diversity Visits Museum of Tolerance***



Every year Professor of Early Childhood Education Becky Roth plans a field trip for the ECE 1601 Diversity class to the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles as a culminating activity to a semester filled with discussions on the importance of establishing anti-bias classrooms and a respect for diversity. This was the 12th year! As usual, the invitation was extended to all her students which always makes for a well-rounded group! After the tour the group visited

the LA Farmers Market for food, and a time for discussion to process and decompress. It is truly a life changing experience! The group has been fortunate to meet and listen to survivors the last four years while at the museum. And, as depicted in the photo, this year was no different. Included are students from several ECE courses, Psychology courses and Professor Roth with a Holocaust survivor. The trip to the museum is amazing and students and staff are so fortunate to be able to experience it!

### ***Energy Technology & Industrial Health & Safety Reflection Dinner***

Taft College hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Energy Technology & Industrial Health & Safety Reflection Dinner on Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Six industry partners representing AERA Energy; Linn Energy; PCL; Baker Hughes; EIU; Total-Western; and Chevron, along with Taft College faculty and administration, came together to recognize and celebrate the success of the 16 IES and ET Spring 2015 graduates. Those in attendance had the pleasure of hearing from Dr. Mark Evans, who detailed the CSUB Applied Technologies Program, which is a great option for any student who has earned a degree in a CTE program of study. Graduating students were awarded with a Taft College leather planner and had the opportunity to reflect on their experience during the program, giving thanks to the faculty, staff, administrators, and industry partners who have made their success possible.



### ***Student Services Update:***

#### ***Spring Sports Banquet***



The 2014/15 Springs Sports Banquet was held Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at OT's Cookhouse. Following are the highlights of the individual and team accomplishments. **The women's basketball team** completed the season with an overall record of 8 and 18 and a conference record of 2 and 10. Kennedy Kunce, who played center/post for the Cougars, was named to the 2nd Team All Central Valley Conference. Kennedy has signed with Adrian College in Michigan.



She scored 34 points in one game that broke a record at the tournament. She averaged 15 points and eight rebounds per game and was recognized as second in the conference in scoring points. Kennedy is graduating with an A.A. in Communications and plans to earn her B.A. in Math and Teacher Education. Cougar point guard, Angie Banks, signed with Pacific Union College, a Division II school in Napa Valley, CA. She will be graduating with an A.S. in Psychology and plans to pursue a B.A. in Psychology as well.

**The Taft College baseball team** finished the 2015 season as the 15<sup>th</sup> highest ranked RPI team in Northern California, with a 21-15 overall record and a 13-11 CVC record. Congratulations to all the baseball award winners at the Taft College Spring Sports Banquet who were chosen by their teammates: Kevin Rocha - Most Inspirational Cougar; Juan Cruz - Most Improved Cougar; Robby Brewster and Eric Evans - Most Outstanding Pitchers; and Keith Tatum - Most Valuable Player. Several players were also selected for the 2015 Taft College Baseball All CVC Team: Fabian Gutierrez (2nd Team IF); Eric Evans (2nd Team Reliever); Keith Tatum (1st Team DH); Chris Hopballe (2nd Team Utility); and Kade Erickson (2nd Team OF). Congratulations on a great year!



### ***Celebration of Success Dinner***



Once again, Taft College honored students, faculty, and staff through a **Celebration of Success Recognition Dinner**. It was held May 8<sup>th</sup> at OT's Cookhouse. Annually, each program or division is asked to nominate students to be honored. In turn, the chosen student nominates one faculty or staff member that has impacted his/her education at TC. A successful student can be anyone who has shown personal educational achievement by overcoming an adversity and/or a student who goes above and beyond what is required (Pictured at left is Adam Hightower, Professor Jessica Grimes and Professor Kamala Carlson). One successful student was honored from each of the following

programs: Athletics, CalWORKs, Career, Counseling, DSP&S, EOP&S, Financial Aid, MAPP, STEM, Student Activities, Transfer, TRIO, and Veterans. Two successful students were honored from each of the following divisions: Applied Technology, Learning Support Division, Liberal Arts/English, Math & Science, and Social & Behavioral Sciences. A special thank you and honor was extended to selected advisory board members, community partners, and employees for their continued contributions and support to Taft College.

### ***2015/16 ASB Board Elections***

The Associated Student Body held their annual elections for officers on April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to the following 2015/16 officers: President – Riley Waite; Vice President – Alicia Hulzar; Secretary/Treasurer – Arielle Stoyanow; Activity Coordinator – Maria Guerrero; Interclub Commissioner – Alexander Victoria; and Student Trustee – Madeline Griffith.

## ***EOPS/CalWORKS Luncheon***



Along with members of the Board of Trustees and community partners in attendance, the annual CalWORKS and EOPS Luncheon “Celebrating Excellence” was held May 14<sup>th</sup> at OT’s Cookhouse where 8 CalWORKS students and 47 EOPS students were recognized for completing their respective programs and graduating from Taft College. At the luncheon Dr. Jennifer Altenhofel was honored with the Outstanding Faculty Award and Nicole Avina received the Most Supportive Staff Award. Kassidy Rubio received the Outstanding EOPS Graduate honor and the Outstanding CARE/CalWORKS Graduate honor went to Mirtha Andrade. Guest speaker Rebecca Murillo, Associate Director of Administration of the University of La Verne, shared her moving and uplifting story of success as a young single mother who received support through the EOPS Program at Ventura College.

## ***NSLS Induction Ceremony***



The Taft College Sigma Alpha Pi Chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success held their first annual induction ceremony Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. The NSLS was organized to “create a community where like-minded, success-oriented individuals could come together to learn from and support each other . . . people who want to create lasting positive change within themselves and with others,” stated Myisha Cutrona co-advisor. Eight faculty and staff members were recognized as Honorary Inductees. Club Honors included students Arielle Stoyanow and Riley Waite, and Highest Club Honors were awarded to Sara Jewell and Adam Hightower. Fourteen students were recognized for achieving a 3.3 (or higher) grade point average (gpa) as Presidential Inductees and nine were recognized as Inductees with gpa’s of 2.5 – 3.2. Congratulations to all!

## ***Graduation Activities***

The 89<sup>th</sup> Taft College commencement ceremony will be held Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., at Taft High School's Martin Memorial Stadium. This year the success of over 250 students who have earned an Associate Degree or Certificate will be celebrated. Based on candidacy for graduation applications received by the College, more than 500 degrees and certificates have been earned in 2014/15 – more than twice the number of awards ten years ago!

Four students have earned the College's Highest Achievement Award. Jaron Deacon, who has earned an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts with an emphasis in Math and Science, will address the class of 2015 during the ceremony. He, along with Brynn Eenigenburg (Associate Degree in Business Administration) and Autuanette Garza (Associate Degree in Liberal Arts with an Emphasis in Communications) earned a perfect 4.0. Dana Gradowitz is also being recognized with a Highest Achievement Award by earning a 3.96 GPA in the Career Technical Education curricula (Court Reporting and Criminal Justice Administration). All four students will receive a plaque in recognition of their academic achievement. In addition, three retiring faculty members will be honored with plaques for their Emeritus status – Professor Craig Johnson, Professor Harold Pease and Professor Sonja Swenson.

The College will host its annual Scholarship Luncheon on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, as well. Beginning at 11:30 a.m. at OT's Cookhouse, 44 different scholarships totaling \$60,275 will be awarded to 62 Taft College graduates. In addition, the College has awarded 89 graduating seniors from Taft and Maricopa High Schools with Merit Awards totaling \$53,400.00.

The Taft College Dental Hygiene Program will hold a separate celebration luncheon for its graduates on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Seventeen students have successfully earned an Associate Degree in Dental Hygiene and will be qualified to take the Dental Hygiene Board certifying exams later this summer.

## ***Administrative Services Update:***

### ***Long Term Debt Refunding***

**General Obligation Bond Refunding:** On April 16, the College refinanced approximately \$24 million of General Obligation Bonds. The bonds were originally issued in 2005 and 2006. The refinancing will save District taxpayers approximately \$2.6 million between now and the final payment in 2031. The original bonds had an average interest rate of 4.7%. The new interest rate is 3%, which is ½ percent lower than the estimate provided to the Board on March 11.

Approximately \$5 million of the refinancing will be complete in August while the remaining bonds will be refinanced on April 30. The August date allows the College to comply with federal tax law as the 2005 bonds require an August delivery date. The 2007 bonds were not refinanced, but will be refinanced when debt service savings justify a refinancing.

**Certificate of Participation Refunding:** On April 28, the College refinanced approximately \$26.7 million of Certificates of Participation (COPs) that were issued in 2008. The refinancing will save the College approximately \$6.1 million between now and the final payment in 2035. The College will save approximately \$300,000 per year, which is in line with the estimates provided to the Board on March 11 and April 8, 2015. The original interest rate on the COPs was 5.4%. The new interest rate is 3.5%. The College can prepay the COPs on or after November 1, 2020 without penalty.

### ***Accreditation Update:***

The Self-Evaluation document, better known as the Self-Study, is nearly complete. The document reflects the work of many folks across the campus. The Self-Study was posted for comments for a two week period and feedback was provided at the May 20<sup>th</sup> Academic Senate meeting. Final editing and formatting will be completed in June.

### ***Human Resources News:***

#### **New Classified Employees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Position Title</b>
Krista Saylor	Bookstore	Part-time Bookstore Clerk

#### **Congratulations to the following Soon-to-Be Retirees!**

Craig Johnson	Professor of Life Sciences	35 Years @ TC!
Sonja Swenson	Professor of Art and Humanities	26 Years @ TC!
Harold Pease	Professor of Social Science	32 Years @ TC!
Dan Elissague	Part-time Testing Technician	13 Years @ TC!

#### **Upcoming Dates to Remember:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
May 22	Scholarship Luncheon	OT's Cookhouse 11:30 a.m.
May 22	Commencement Ceremony	TUHS Stadium 7:00 p.m.
May 23	Dental Hygiene Graduation Ceremony	OT's Cookhouse 10:00 a.m.
May 25	Memorial Day Holiday	All Day!
May 28	TIL Employer's Luncheon	Cougar Room 11:30 a.m.
June 8	Summer Session Begins	Various
June 10	WKCCD Board Meeting	Cougar Room 6:00 p.m.
June 30	TIL Graduation	TUHS Auditorium 9:00 a.m.