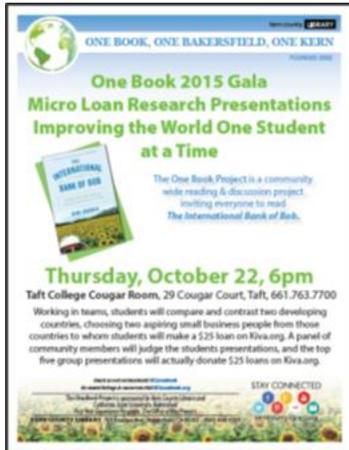


October 23, 2015

Instruction Update:



One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern Microloan Research Presentations Gala: Improving the World One Student at a Time

It is the best time of the year—time for One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern's Taft College event showcasing students from English 1000.

Danielle Kerr and Kamala Carlson have collaborated for the last three years on the One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern event, involving students and the Taft community. The last three years the project resulted in a symposium with a panel of community experts. This year, a new project is underway for the fall 2015. Students in several English 1000 classes are reading *The International Bank of Bob*, written by Bob Harris, which focuses on the phenomenon of microloans to people in developing

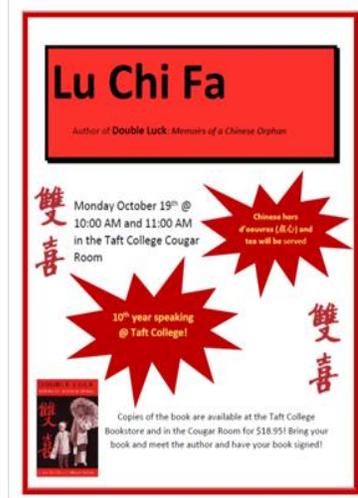
countries, which helps them finance small businesses—via Kiva loans. Carlson and Kerr's students are working in teams to present a research board that compares and contrasts two developing countries. Along with this, students also get to pick two people from kiva.org who they would like to make a \$25 loan to. Carlson and Kerr will invite members from the community, including Dr. Dena Maloney, Mr. Mark Williams, and several other current and former educators, to judge the students' research boards, which will culminate in the top five winners from their class and the top three winners from adjunct instructor Mark Olsen's class having the opportunity to make two \$25 loans on kiva.org, which is made possible by the Taft College Foundation.

The event was held on October 22, 2015 at 6 pm in the Cougar Room. Delicious international cuisine prepared by Taft College's own top chef Geoff Dunham was served.

Celebrating 10 Years with Author Lu Chi Fa: The Story Behind the Story

Summer 2005, Professor Carlson met Lu Chi Fa for the first time at his quaint restaurant, Coffee Pot, right off the Embarcadero in Morro Bay, California. That trip led to a true friendship, and his story was one that Carlson knew had to be shared.

It was shortly before Carlson's visit with Lu Chi Fa that a friend of Carlson's had gone to his restaurant, purchased and read his book, *Double Luck: Memoirs of a Chinese Orphan*, and excitedly shared the book with Carlson. That same summer, Carlson was hired as the Reading Professor at Taft College, and without a second thought, she had her first text selected. Lu Chi Fa's positive outlook on life, in spite of horrific circumstances, and his strong work ethic was one that she knew many students could not only learn from, but resonate with based on their personal experiences. Quickly, calls were made, questions were





asked, and forms were filled so that Lu Chi Fa could present his story to Carlson's Intermediate Reading 905 classes and the Taft College community.

Fall 2015 marks Lu Chi Fa's 10th year of inspiring students, staff, and faculty at Taft College with his incredible journey and narrative. If you haven't yet heard Lu Chi Fa's story or picked up a copy of his book at the Taft College bookstore, please consider celebrating Lu Chi Fa's decade-long commitment to education with Carlson's classes at one of the two speaking engagements, and buy your book during the event and have it personally autographed. This is an event you don't want to miss!

Field Trip to the George C. Page Museum

On Saturday October 2nd, Associate Professor James May and his geology students embarked on a day-long field excursion to the George C. Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits. The Page Museum is one in a series of museums located along the historic Miracle Mile neighborhood near metropolitan Los Angeles. The Page Museum is one of the most unique fossil localities in the world, which allows students to view what Los Angeles may have looked like approximately 11 to 40 thousand years ago in what geologists refer to as the Pleistocene Epoch. Visitors to the museum are treated to a number of unique fossils that have been excavated from the site for over a hundred years and include well-preserved skeletal remains of the extinct dire wolf, ground sloth, mammoth, short-faced bear, teratorns, and the California State fossil, *Smilodon fatalis*, which is the saber-toothed cat. What makes the fossils so unique at the La Brea Tar Pits is that entire skeletal remains of these animals have been entrapped and preserved in asphalt deposits with very little decomposition. Students were not only able to see what the animals in Los Angeles may have looked like during the last ice age, but also the unique preservation of these animals due to the geology of the area.



Club Connect: STEM Speaker Series



Pursuing a career in a STEM related field? Curious about what a day-in-the-life of a professional looks like? STEM students are invited to connect with professionals currently working in industry as they share valuable insight on what it means to have a career in the area of STEM and share tips that they wish they would have known as a student. The first meeting was held October 14th but many more have been scheduled for the fall semester. The next meeting is scheduled for October 28th from 12:10 to 1:00 p.m. in Library 311 and will feature Kevin Wagner, Gas

System Engineer with Chevron Oil Company and Brigham Young University Alumni. For more information, please contact Tori Furman, Career Development Counselor, at 763-7967.

Club Connect: Energy & Safety Speaker Series

Like the STEM Speaker Series, the Energy & Safety Speaker Series provides insight into the engineering and safety career world. The next meeting is scheduled for October 27th and will feature Gabe Garcia, Field Manager for the Bureau of Land Management and John Hodge, Assistant Field Manager. For more information, please contact Tori Furman, Career Development Counselor, at 763-7967.



Student Services Update:

Spring 2016 Enrollment Priorities:

Registration for spring 2016 is right around the corner, and priority registration will begin on Nov 11th, as shown below.

GROUP 1 **BEGINNING NOVEMBER 11TH OR THEREAFTER**
 Veterans, Foster Youth, CalWORKS, EOPS, and DSPS matriculated students in good standing with less than 100 degree applicable units.

GROUP 2 **BEGINNING NOVEMBER 16TH OR THEREAFTER**
 Students given priority after group 1 are in the following order. Students must be matriculated students in good standing with less than 100 degree applicable units.

- GROUP 2-1**
- Athletics
 - PTK
 - Staff
 - TRIO
 - ASB

- GROUP 2-2**
- Continuing/New matriculated

GROUP 3 **BEGINNING DECEMBER 2ND OR THEREAFTER**
 All remaining students who are not specified in the above groups are given priority after groups 1 and 2 in the following order:

- GROUP 3-1**
- Returning
 - Continuing-academic difficulty (continued progress probation and/or continued academic probation)
 - Continuing/New non-matriculated

- GROUP 3-2**
- Over 100 units (TC degree applicable units only)
 - High school

Fall Sports Update

Women’s Soccer is 1-0-1 in conference and 6-5-1 overall. The women won their conference opener against College of the Sequoias. Freshman from Bakersfield High School, Carla Salazar, scored two of the four goals, following her hat trick during the previous match, scoring three goals!





Men's Soccer is 1-1 in conference with an overall record of 9-4-1. The men have recently won their fourth straight match. The men are looking to carry on in the same fashion as prior years, and are led by returning athletes with remarkable experience along with energetic freshmen to complement their talents.

strong with a 5-1 conference record, volleyball team hosted Columbia Awareness Week. All proceeds from prize drawings will go to support cause. Congratulations to all teams exciting victories as they continue Cougars!



Women's Volleyball is looking and 11-9 overall record. The during Breast Cancer admission to the game and door awareness for this important on their successes thus far, and with conference matches! Go

ASB "Pretty in Pink" Competition



Pictured left are several of the male students that participated in the "Pretty in Pink" competition held Wednesday, October 21st. The annual event is sponsored by the ASB as part of the October Breast Cancer Awareness activities organized to bring focus to the disease and prevention. The contestants model and are judged on the amount of pink in their feminine fashions, how well they wear their getups, and how well they answer the questions posed by the judges. As always, a good time was had by all who attended!

Student Success and Support Program Plan:

The purpose of the Student Success and Support Program (SSSP) Plan is for the College to plan and document how SSSP services will be provided to credit students. The goal of the Student Success and Support Program is to increase student access and success by providing students with core SSSP services, including (1) orientation, (2) assessment and placement, and (3) counseling, advising, and other education planning services, and the support services necessary to assist them in achieving their educational goal and declared course of study. More specifically, colleges are to:

- Provide at least an abbreviated SEP to all entering students with a priority focus on students who enroll to earn degrees, career technical certificates, transfer preparation, or career advancement.
- Provide orientation, assessment and placement, and counseling, advising, and other education planning services to all first-time students.
- Provide students with any assistance needed to define their course of study and develop a comprehensive SEP by the end of the third term but no later than completion of 15 units.
- Provide follow-up services, especially to students identified as at-risk (students enrolled in basic skills courses, students who have not identified an education goal and course of study, or students on academic or progress probation).

The program plan is due Friday, October 30th, and is now required on an annual basis due to new SSSP requirements focusing funding on core services, changes related to priority enrollment, mandatory core services, and the significant increases in funding. As implementation and funding stabilizes, this requirement may be revisited. Further information can be found on the Chancellor's Office website at <http://extranet.cccco.edu/Divisions/StudentServices/Matriculation/Resources.aspx>

Administrative Services Update:



The new Student Center will be located where the existing T-Dorms are, providing direct access to the recently remodeled campus courtyard and Wildcat Way. Locating the Student Center at this site provides student access from campus as well as community street access from Wildcat Way. The location will allow the building to be used not only by the students of Taft College, but by the community of Taft as well. The Student Center will include a new kitchen, dining facility, student commons, and bookstore all under one roof.

Site work will be done adjacent to the new building which will tie into the existing campus courtyard to the west, the dorms to the south, and the street front to the east. Outdoor dining and lounge activities are being programmed in the site work to allow the building to have an open flow between interior and exterior space, and provide more square footage for student use.



Facilities Master Plan:

The 2015/16-2019/20 Facilities Master Plan, which covers the next phase of campus growth, was adopted by the Board of Trustees on September 9th. The plan was completed to meet the needs identified through the Educational Master Plan and in alignment with the College Strategic Plan. The plan is based on a series of assumptions and guiding principles to project facility needs well into the future. The next step will include planning to address the necessary resources identified in the plan.

Projects in Construction:

Site Utility at Alley/Student Center Infrastructure:

Other than a few issues being reviewed, this project is 90% complete.

Energy Technology & Engineering Center (ETEC) Modular /Site-work:

The contractor is completing the site work and all final utility connections. Concurrently the building manufacturer is working on completing the interior finishes. The furniture vendor and our IT department are scheduled to install towards the end of the month. The project is expected to be completed at the end of October, 2015. A ribbon cutting ceremony is being planned for November 19, 2015.

Projects in Working Drawings/Bidding:

Student Center:

The project has been approved by DSA and we are currently waiting for a professional to review the project before we go to bid. This project is expected to begin construction early 2016.

PG&E Electrical Service Upgrade:

We are currently finalizing the plans to bid out the PG&E electrical service upgrade project. This project will bring a new 4KV service onto campus in order to provide necessary power for the Student Center and future projects. We anticipate this project going to bid in November.

Scheduled Maintenance Projects:

Gym HVAC Repairs:

This project began last year; however, it had to be postponed due to a lack of funds. We are now beginning Phase 2 with AO working on the RFP/Bid package to replace two units on the gym roof.

Gym Interior Repairs Phase 2:

Bids are being finalized to install additional sound panels.

Projects at the State Pending Funding:

Vocational Center

This project is an approved Final Project Proposal (FPP) at the Chancellor’s Office and is next in the queue. The project is 19,878 of assignable square feet (ASF) and consists mostly of laboratories and some office space. This project will be considered for funding on the next statewide general obligation bond. The project is extremely competitive and should have a great chance at being funded.

Superintendent/President Update:

Congratulations to WKCCD Trustees:



Two of our five trustees were awarded with certificates from the Kern County School Board Association for five years of service at recent Board Meetings. Board President Billy White presented certificates to Trustee Dawn Cole (left) and Trustee Michael Long (right).



Accreditation Site Visit

An Accreditation Site Visit Team was on campus September 29-October 1 as part of the Taft College application for reaffirmation of accreditation. The team represented peers from 10 different campuses across the state, interviewing over 40 members of our staff and several members of the Board of Trustees. The team also held two Campus Forums where they heard from students, faculty and staff about the College and its commitment to educational quality and success. Members of the team visited the WESTEC facility as well as the Industrial Technology Education Center (ITEC) where the College holds its welding classes. It was a comprehensive visit which helped the team confirm what we noted in the Self Evaluation report submitted by the College in July 2015.

At the conclusion of the Site Visit, the team held an exit meeting on Thursday, October 1. Listed below are highlights of comments made at the Exit Meeting. **The written Team Report is only one component used by the Commission in making its determination of the College's accreditation status.** Here is a summary of the team's comments at the Exit Meeting:

Commendations

1. The integration of the Transition to Independent Living Program students into campus life in all areas.
2. The overall facilities planning, the outstanding maintenance of our grounds, and overall environment on campus.
3. The engagement with our students and access to the student services programs available to students. The genuine commitment to student success is very clear. Taft College clearly demonstrates a vibrant student life program.
4. The engagement of leadership across the campus as evidenced by our integrated planning throughout the campus, the changes to and attention paid to the Governance Council and its charter; our overall emphasis on institutional effectiveness.

Recommendations – Improving Institutional Effectiveness

1. Improve effectiveness of the college: Student Services, Learning Support, Administrative units – all departments need to participate in Program Review using outcomes assessment.
2. Increase effectiveness of the college: As Distance Education constitutes about 40% of all classes are delivered, we need to expand and diversify technology and workshops for Distance Ed faculty.
3. Increase effectiveness of the College - Develop and implement a Distance Education Plan which addresses student achievement. The team observed a gap in student achievement between courses delivered Face to Face vs. Online. We need to fully implement Administrative Procedure 4105, incorporate the Distance Ed plan into the College dialogue, the integrated planning process and involve the Governance Council.

Recommendations – Deficiencies in Meeting Standards

1. SLOS and Program Review. Fully integrate Course Level SLOs in to the Program Review process. We also need to incorporate Program Level SLOs (and departments) to the same degree that we incorporate Student Achievement data. We must utilize SLO data to assess effectiveness of financial and other resources for their impact. We must analyze what changes are being made in programs to demonstrate improvement.
2. Complete the ACCJC Substantive Change with regard to the discontinuance of the Auto Program and re-instatement of the Welding program in its new facility.

3. SLOs – Assess consistently and analyze the assessment data for all programs. Some programs are doing incredible work but others need to rise to that level.
4. SLOs – Broadly communicate to students by putting SLOs on all syllabi and all Course Outline of Records.

Congratulations to the campus community for its support of the accreditation process. The teamwork, cross-campus dialogue, and collaboration in assessing our practices against the accreditation standards was outstanding! The Accreditation Commission will be taking action on the Taft College re-accreditation at its January 2016 meeting.

West Kern Petroleum Summit

We set the bar with the 2015 West Kern Petroleum Summit which was held Friday, October 16th!

In a tough economic climate the Summit provided an uplifting message through the keynote address by T. Boone Pickens. His business-minded stories and welcoming sense of humor inspired our audience. Congressman Kevin McCarthy's candid discussion (pictured at right), which reflected upon his most recent career decision, reminded us all what it means to be part of a global picture and how right here at home having a strong and united community matters. Emcee Alex Trebek was the glue that kept the day together. From personal stories to his accepting enrollment forms for Taft College, Trebek was a hit. We ended the day encouraged and engaged by Alex Epstein, author of "The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels." Over 750 people attended the event.



Human Resources News:

Human Resources met with members of the Accreditation Team during their visit to Taft College to discuss and review implementation of the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Plan that was recently submitted to the Chancellor's Office.

The EEO Committee has reconvened again this semester. The committee is comprised of faculty, classified, administrators/managers, students and community members:

Faculty:

Dr. Michelle Oja
Dr. Sharyn Eveland

Classified:

Ms. Elizabeth McKnight
Ms. Velda Pena
Mr. Rodolfo Noriega

Administrator/Managers:

Mr. Fernando Lara
Ms. Susan Wells
Ms. Judy Wade

Student:

Riley Waite, ASB President

Community:

Dr. Loretta Garcia Lipscomb,
former Vice President of
Instruction

Recent trainings provided by HR to the EEO Committee via webinar included:

- EEO Laws and District Policies
- Best Practices and the Law on Selection Committees

Other professional development training offerings included:

- Recovering from Tragedies @ Your Site, Helping Staff and Students (All employees)
- ABCs of Sustaining Discipline (Management personnel)
- Affordable Care Act: Are You Prepared for The Cadillac Tax? (HR staff & bargaining unit presidents)

The Staff Recognition Committee recently met to discuss plans for staff events for the upcoming Thanksgiving and winter holidays. A save-the-date notice will be going out shortly regarding the Thanksgiving holiday event.

TC Athletics Christmas Tree Fundraiser:



This year TC Athletics is teaming up with Mike's Christmas Trees to provide the TC staff and Taft community an opportunity to pre-purchase Christmas trees as part of their ongoing effort to raise funds to support their teams. Noble firs, Douglas firs and wreaths are available for pre-sale (up until November 16) by contacting the staff in the Athletic Department at 763-7829. The trees will be available for pick up December 4 & 5.

Upcoming Dates to Remember!!

Date	Event	Location	Time
November 7	Hall of Fame Dinner	OT's Cookhouse	5:00 p.m.
November 19	Energy, Technology & Engineering Center Ribbon Cutting	ETEC Facility (Next to M&O on Ash St.)	11:00 a.m.
November 20	Staff Thanksgiving Celebration	TC Cafeteria	11:30 a.m.
December 11	Staff Holiday Luncheon	TC Cafeteria	11:30 a.m.
December 13	Fall Sports Banquet	OT's Cookhouse	12:00 noon
January 23	Triple Play Dinner	OT's Cookhouse	6:00 p.m.