

Construction News

There are three projects either in construction, in design, or currently under review by DSA.

The *Transition to Independent Living* project continues to move forward with an anticipated completion date of late first quarter, 2013.



The *Student Center* is currently in the Design Phase and the Design is overall 95% complete. Working drawings are in progress. The anticipated construction start date is summer of 2014 pending completion of the Dorm project.



Working drawings for the *Dorm Remodel* project are under review at DSA. Once approved by DSA, the dorm project is currently scheduled to begin in second quarter 2013 but is contingent upon completion of the TIL project.

Instructional Program Updates

Michelle A. Beasley, Associate Professor of Early Care, Education, and Family Studies, was notified in August that she had been selected as a grant reviewer from the Office of Head Start. Michelle had applied to be a grant reviewer last spring and had participated last summer in a three day training program in Washington DC. Of the 550 people who were selected to participate in the training, Michele was one of the lucky few to be selected to be a grant reviewer.



The OHS grants will be reviewed between mid-august to the second week of December. Grant reviewers must commit to participating on at least four review panels. The commitment consists of reviewing 6 grants in a one week period with six other reviewers. Michelle has indicated she is honored to be chosen and is very excited for this opportunity. She appreciates all the support and encouragement she received from Patti Bench and Sharyn Eveland.

2012 Counselor Advisor Brunch



The 2012 Taft College Counselor Advisor Brunch held on October 25, 2012 in the Cougar Room was a success! The focus of the brunch was discussing career options that exist in our community for non-university bound students (students with a high school diploma, certificate, or AS/AA degree). In attendance were 21 Counselors and Advisors from local institutions, as well as three local industry representatives, Larry Williams-VP of Workforce Staffing, Karen Vived-VP of HR & Risk Management for Sun World International, and Jacob Farewell- Production Engineer for Berry Petroleum, who made up the industry panel.

The brunch commenced with a 45 minute industry panel where representatives discussed the desired skills, both technical and soft, sought after in employees, as well as the variety of opportunities that exist within each of their companies/industries for high school and community college graduates. The importance of connecting educators and students with industry was emphasized. The partnerships that have been created will continue to be fostered and strengthened.

Tori Furman presented information on lucrative career options that do not require a four year degree, including some of the CTE options Taft College offers. She shared a variety of tools and resources that professionals can use to assist their students in the exploration, research, and planning steps of career development. Sam Aunai briefly shared program and certificate updates that have been made to the Energy Technology and Industrial Health & Safety programs on campus.



The brunch concluded with a round table discussing what Taft College can do to help high schools prepare their students for careers. Huge thanks go out to Larry Williams, Karen Vived, and Jacob Farewell for their support, as well as to Sheri Horn-Bunk for helping arrange the panel.

A spring 2013 Counselor Advisor Brunch is in the works, the focus of which will be the Taft College orientation, application, and registration process.

Administrative Services Update

Business Services has been busy coordinating with our auditors, who are expected to complete their work in November. Business Services also completed the State required annual 311(A) financial report. The Bookstore is gearing up for Spring 2012 book orders and is working closely with the Office of Instruction to ensure that everything is in order for the Spring term.

The Bookstore will be holding a holiday open house on December 1st 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.

Athletics

With the Fall sports seasons winding down Taft College athletic programs are positioned to advance to the playoffs. The Men's soccer team leads the way with a 13-0-4 record and is currently ranked number 2 in the state and in the top 10 nationally. Volleyball is on pace to finish another strong campaign while

currently posting a 19-7 record and a state ranking of 20th. The Women's soccer team currently has an 8-7-3 record and looks to finish strong for the playoffs.

Dedication of the Al Baldock Cougar Sports Center

On October 20th the campus held the dedication for the Al Baldock Cougar Sports Center. The dedication honored the many accomplishments of Al Baldock who, over the course of his 18 years at Taft College, achieved 15 Conference Championships, 6 Potato Bowl appearances, 2 National Championships, 4 State Championships, and was named All Time California State Coach of the Year six times. The event was well attended by dignitaries, family and friends, former football players, and Taft College staff.



Al Baldock had a lasting impact on his players – those young men who trained, competed, and triumphed under Al Baldock's exceptional coaching. Special thanks go to the folks who helped plan the Al Baldock dedication, and the leadership of Don Bandy, who oversaw the event and served as emcee. The crowd enjoyed a display of football memorabilia, film footage of Taft College games, and stories by those who worked closely with Al Baldock. The event was a fitting tribute to Al and the impact he had on his players, the college, and the community.

3rd Annual Cougar Rib-Eye Cookout



Following the dedication of the Al Baldock Cougar Sports Center, the Taft College Foundation held its 3rd Annual Cougar Rib-Eye Cookout. In honor of the 90th anniversary of the College, guests enjoyed the display of banners with historical photos of the college and its students. Many of those in attendance spotted themselves in the pictures. A special treat of the evening was the spontaneous tours of the labs in the Science Building, courtesy of Professor Craig Johnson!

During the event, Synagro presented the College with a \$25,000 check to support the STEM program. The Tumbleweed Café expertly grilled the Rib-Eye steaks, and entertainment was provided by Trout's Blackboard Playboys". This event took a lot of talented and creative people behind the scenes including the event committee (Jan Ashley, Shannon Jones, and Don Bandy. Dodie Mosby, Vicky Waugh, Sheri Horn-Bunk, Mahea Maui, Kent Miller, Bill Norris, Chef Geoff & the Cougar Café). A special thanks goes to the TIL students, ASB, Men's Soccer team, Men's Baseball Team, and Mike Capela and his team, who helped with the set up and tear down for the event, as well as serve dessert during the evening.



Staff Highlight: Joy Reynolds

Joy Reynolds is one of our adjunct instructors teaching Math 1050 at night. She has also taught Math 1060 for us in the past. Her fulltime position is teaching Math and Physics at Taft High. When asked why she chose to teach at Taft College, she replied, "I enjoy teaching at Taft College because it's a small campus with small classes where I can get to know my students. College students are generally better communicators which has helped me better understand student misconceptions and thought processes in the courses I teach at Taft High and at Taft College. I enjoy not having to worry about the same student behavior and discipline issues that I've faced in teaching 8th graders through seniors." Joy is married to our own David Reynolds. They live in Taft and love the short commute to work. She loves math word problems, the main reason she was drawn to Physics in college where she earned her B.S. and M.S. in Physics. In her spare time, she likes to garden, knit and sew. Her favorite place to go on the weekends is Pine Mountain Club.



Halloween Madness – Taft College Revisits the Roaring Twenties!

As part of the Halloween Celebrations, Taft College faculty and staff revisited 1922 and the roaring twenties in honor of the college's 90th Anniversary. The campus was overrun by flappers and mobsters in pin-striped suits! Students joined in wearing costumes ranging from the roaring twenties to zombies. The Associated Students sponsored games and a costume contest, while the residence halls hosted a door decorating contest and trick or treats for the community and students alike.



During the lunch hour, a group of talented students and

staff performed Michael Jackson's Thriller dance in the Quad – and later posted it on YouTube. You don't want to miss this so check out <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8p-Y1nDnYU&feature=plcp>.



Upcoming Events:

We will launch registration for spring 2013 classes beginning on November 19 for EOPS students; open registration will begin December 19th. Check the Taft College website for the entire registration schedule.

For those students wishing to transfer to four-year universities, Transfer Application Workshops will be held throughout November.

Election Day is November 6th - don't forget to vote! November is also a busy month with the Veteran's Day Holiday (November 12) and the Thanksgiving Break (November 22 and 23).