

April 1, 2013

## **Construction News:**



While the Transition to Independent Living facility wraps up construction this month, you may have noticed the completion of the traffic circle landscaping and monument sign at the campus entrance. Inside the TIL building, construction is proceeding with the installation of flooring, painting and cabinetry. Plans are still in place to hold a TIL Open House in May so that the campus community can tour the new building before the summer. A Ribbon Cutting and Dedication Ceremony will be held in the fall.

## **Student Services Developments:**

**SB1456 Student Success Act of 2012:** SB1456 was signed by Governor Brown on September 27, 2012. SB 1456 is the first step to begin implementation of Student Success Task Force recommendations 2.2 (mandated services), 3.2 (BOG Fee Waiver conditions), and 8.2 (Student Support Initiative). This bill provides a policy framework that targets funding to the core matriculation services of orientation, assessment, counseling and advising, and development of education plans. The bill re-names the Matriculation Program as the Student Success and Support Program. The Chancellor's Office [has convened] five primary ad hoc workgroups comprised of key system stakeholders to develop proposals and implement the provisions of SB 1456. Updates on the status of recommendations and the progress being made can be found on the Chancellor's Office website.

## **Instructional Program Updates:**

**Priority registration** for summer and fall begins April 8<sup>th</sup>, with open registration beginning May 13<sup>th</sup>. The 2013 summer schedule includes a total of 108 courses, 28 additional classes over last year's summer schedule. Additions include geology, GED in Spanish, Philosophy, and many additional general education courses that will keep students moving forward with their educational plans. The fall schedule is also coming together nicely and should expand access with approximately 20 additional courses being added. Those additions will be in the areas of Business, English, Philosophy, Biology, Health, Mathematics, Criminal Justice Administration, Psychology, and Energy and Safety Training courses.

**The Math/Science Division** at Taft College provides a strong academic curriculum in support of students pursuing local certificate and associate degree programs along with the curriculum needed to transfer on to four year universities. A wide variety of courses in Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Dental Hygiene, Earth Science, Geography, Geology, Health Education, Mathematics, Physical Education, Physical Science, Physics and Statistics are offered by highly trained and respected fulltime professors and adjuncts in their respective fields.



Every member of the Math/Science Division considers the success of our students to be the top priority. Utilization of technology and innovation are the key to those successes.

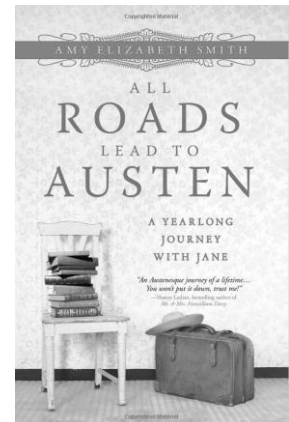
An example of technology being used in the classroom is the development of the statistics application called TC-Stats, developed by Professor Brian Jean. TC-Stats is a powerful data analysis application designed specifically for the iPad and is proving to be very popular with students. Proceeds from the sales of TC-Stats go to help support STEM scholarships.



Professors Craig Johnson and Wendy Berry are currently using 'Anatomy in Clay' models for their Anatomy classes. These models consist of small, plastic Human skeletons that serve as a framework for students to build-up anatomical features (muscles, nerves, organs, etc.) using clay.

Greg Golling, Division Chair and Professor of Biology, recently spent a few days in the Roosevelt Library for their science themed book fair. He presented animal skulls, mutant fruit flies (including some with eyes where wings should be) and glowing bacteria. He also engaged with the students about whether he was a 'mad scientist' or merely just grumpy.

**Author Visit:** Through the collaborative sponsorship of Dr. Loretta Garcia Lipscomb, the Taft College Book Club, and the Taft College Bookstore, Dr. Amy Smith, author of *All Roads Lead to Austen*, enchanted Taft College staff and students with an insightful discussion about her yearlong journey to Central America and South America. Smith evoked the spirit of her journey by embracing bilingualism in her delivery as she seamlessly answered questions in Spanish and English and read portions of her book. Using Jane Austen novels, chiefly *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and *Emma*, Smith recalled how these organic book clubs crossed socioeconomic levels and borders and become the basis for meaningful cross-cultural dialog and exchange. Taft College attendees noted the experience was a “rousing success” (Linda West) partly because it was “personable and intriguing” (Patti Bench) and because she “cast a spell” (David Layne) over the group. Events, such as these, highlight the premium that Taft College places on raising students’ social and cultural awareness by introducing them to high-quality authors who reinforce the wonder and magic of reading.



**Court Reporting Program:** In the fall of 2007, Taft College began a process to establish a new court reporting school in the public school system. At the time, there were only 7 public schools and 8 private schools offering court reporting in the state. Any school that applies to the state to offer court reporting must first be given provisional recognition for a specific amount of time. To gain provisional recognition, the college must go through a thorough, rigorous organizational process including the creation of community college-level academic courses in order to be allowed to offer court reporting. In order to gain full recognition, the school must provide evidence of at least one person who successfully attends and completes the entire course of study established by the board for that new school. That person must be issued a certificate to practice shorthand reporting.



On February 27, 2013, a Taft College at WESTEC court reporting program student, Alyson Duclos, became that person. She completed the full course of study in a little over 3 years and earned a Certificate in Court Reporting from Taft College. Following receipt of her license, Alyson has been working as a Certified Shorthand Reporter (CSR) in the Kern County area reporting hearings and depositions on a steady basis. In early March of 2013, based on Alyson's academic accomplishments, an application was made to the California Court Reporters Board for full recognition as a certified court reporting school. On Friday, March 29, 2013, at the Court Reporters Board meeting held in Los Angeles, a motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to grant full recognition to the Taft College at WESTEC court reporting program. This is a major milestone for a new court reporting program. Based on the fact that there is a

nationwide shortage of certified shorthand reporters, this type of affordable career training is vital, especially at the local area.

#### ***Human Resources Updates:***

The Human Resources department wants to remind you that the popular SISC Health Smarts Program, a FREE health screening event will take place on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

All full and part-time District employees may participate regardless of enrollment in District health benefits. District employees' legal dependent(s) (at least 18 years of age) enrolled District health benefits and District retirees enrolled in District health benefits may also participate.

Please go to [www.sishealth.com](http://www.sishealth.com) for more information and to schedule an appointment. You may also contact the Human Resources department at 763-7805 for more information.

#### ***Event Updates:***

The Transition to Independent Living Program, in partnership with the Taft Fort Preservation Society, will hold its annual *Wine and Food Festival* on Thursday, April 18 from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the Historic Fort. Wine and micro-brews, along with delicious hors d'oeuvres courtesy of Chef Geoff Dunham, will be served at the event. Tickets are available through the TIL Program.

The Taft College Foundation will present the *Al Baldock Memorial Athletic Golf Classic* on Friday, April 19 at the Buena Vista Golf Course. Sponsored by AP Architects, the golf tournament raises funds for the Taft College athletic programs. Registration begins at 11:00 am with the shotgun-style play beginning at 12:30 pm. The dinner following the tournament is sponsored by the Taft College Alumni Association. Contact Brock McMurray or Sheri Black for more information.

A *Community Clean Up Day* is being planned for Saturday, April 27 starting at 7:30 am. The Clean Up project includes the City of Taft; Kern County 4<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District Supervisor David Couch; Taft Chamber of Commerce; Taft College; and Westside Waste Management. Volunteers will be given tools and instructions prior to commencing clean up along Wood Avenue in Taft. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Dr. Dena Maloney at ext. 7710.



### **Other News:**

Several members of the Taft College staff attended the Celebration of Scholar Athletes Luncheon last Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, in Sacramento, to honor the 2011-2012 Scholar Teams and Athletes, one of which was former baseball student athlete, Jay Huggins. The luncheon was also attended by Jay's parents, Mel and Patricia Huggins.

Along with Jay were 18 other student athletes from around the state. This is quite an accomplishment since there are nearly 27,000 student athletes who participate in California

Community College athletics. In order for Jay to qualify for this award, the candidate must have participated in at least 2 seasons of sport, excelled academically, and shown citizenship characteristics. Jay will be returning to New Mexico Highlands University in New Mexico. His immediate goal is to graduate with a Bachelor in Science Degree in Chemistry. He would like to attend Medical School and eventually become a doctor. Congratulations Jay!

### **Phi Theta Kappa Positively Impacts Taft College Students:**

Tonya Pantalion is the 2012-13 President of Beta Lambda Zeta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. Tonya is in her second year of study at Taft College. She is both a student and a mother of three children but still manages to hold a GA of 3.8! Tonya's educational goal is to complete a degree in Allied Health and transfer into the registered nursing program at CSUB. Her long term goal is to be a registered nurse in the emergency and trauma department at a local hospital.



Tonya is enthusiastic about the role of Phi Theta Kappa, which she states has had a huge impact on her life. "Through Phi Theta Kappa I have learned the importance of leadership, fellowship, service and scholarship which are the hallmarks of Phi Theta Kappa," states Tonya. "This opportunity has made me a better person, a more confident public speaker, and I have also learned the personal satisfaction of giving back to your community through service. I truly believe that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity and I am thankful to be a member of Phi Theta Kappa."

### **Staff Highlights:**



Which classified employee has worked for Taft College the longest? Well, currently that person is **Linda Silveira**. Linda came to Taft College library through a work program in 1978 and began working fulltime in 1983. She has worked for TC for a total of 35 years! When asked what she likes most about working at the library, she beams when she says, "helping students with their needs." She has witnessed the College going from a very small library seeing 3 to 4 students a day to what it is now, with some days 20 to 30 students or more. She feels Taft College is a "great place to work" with everyone here being an extended family. When you see Linda, congratulate her on being the classified employee who has been here the longest.

***Upcoming Events:***

April 7	ASB Multicultural Week
April 10	TC Hosting Taft Chamber Sit 'n Sip
April 10	ASB Cuisines of the Nation Lunch Fundraiser
April 10	WKCCD Board Meeting
April 16	Rolling Chariots Wheelchair Basketball
April 17	TC & CSUB Co-Sponsoring a Small Business Webinar, "Managing Risks in Small Businesses"
April 18	TIL Wine & Food Festival at the Historic Fort
April 19	Al Baldock Memorial Athletic Golf Classic
April 20	Rotary Health Fair
April 21	ASB Alcohol Awareness Week
April 28	ASB Spring Fling Week
May 1	TC & CSUB Co-Sponsoring a Small Business Webinar, "The Business Plan"
May 2	ASB Carnival Day
May 3	ASB Karaoke Taco Friday
May 4	ASB Spring Trip
May 8	WKCCD Board Meeting
May 17	End of Year Dinner
May 24	TC Scholarship Luncheon
May 24	2013 TC Graduation

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