

April 23, 2014

Student Services Updates

A **Celebration of Success** dinner will be held on April 25th at OT's Cookhouse. The event will focus on student, faculty and staff success with each division honoring a student who has achieved success at Taft College. Dr. Chuck Wall, 2006 Professor of the Year for the State of California and creation of the "random acts of kindness" movement, is the guest speaker.

Priority registration for summer and fall begins on Monday, May 5th, with open registration beginning May 13th. This is the first registration using the new point-based system which is designed to promote student success. Students are assigned their registration date/time based on point values for variables including number of units in progress or completed, academic standing, completion of an educational plan, and other factors.

2014 Student Scorecard Released by the State Chancellor's Office

On April 15 the State Chancellor's Office released the first annual update of the Student Success Scorecard that details student outcomes at all 112 colleges, with statewide improvements shown in remedial education completion rates and several other categories.



In a press release, the Chancellor's Office noted the following:

- *While gains have been made in key performance areas, the overall completion and transfer rate for the group of students who entered college in 2007-08 slipped slightly from the rate for the previous six-year cohort due to the fact that course offerings were slashed and transfer opportunities to in-state four-year institutions were constricted during the Great Recession.*
- *This year's Scorecard results document the damage done by years of rationing education in California. This was the largest group to enter our colleges, and just as they arrived at our doors they were hit with a recession that forced us to reduce credit classes by 20 percent. Students with goals of transferring competed for fewer seats at California State University and University of California. In fact, the only transfer activity that increased was for students who could afford to go out of state.*

Scorecard data for Taft College shows improvement over the prior year data for "College Prepared" students in the areas of Completion, Three Term Persistence, and 30 Unit Completion. Our data indicates a drop in these areas for students entering the college unprepared for transfer-level coursework. These data will inform our planning of student success strategies in 2014-15, and will be part of the conversation of the Taft College Governance Council Annual Retreat on April 25th.

To view the scorecard data for all community colleges, go to www.cccco.edu and click on the Student Scorecard icon.

Soroptimist Young Women of Achievement Awards

Each year, the Soroptimist Club of Taft selects several young women as part of the Club's Young Women of Achievement Award. This year, three Taft College students will be honored at the Soroptimist Luncheon on Tuesday, April 29th:

Flor Cortez, who is a member of the Women's Soccer Team and a student resident hall supervisor.

Amairani Lopez-Figueroa, who is Vice President of the Science Club, a member of Key Club/Kiwanis, and Phi Theta Kappa

Hadley Pittman, a Chevron STARS Student Advisor and a member of Phi Theta Kappa

Congratulations to these outstanding students for their achievements in the classroom and in the college community!

Instruction Updates

Progress Update on Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT)

SB 1440, the Student Transfer Achievement Act, established that by meeting course requirements within specified majors, students are eligible for transfer with junior standing into the California State University (CSU) system. Under this law, students get 1) guaranteed admission into the CSU system; and 2) priority consideration when applying to a particular program that is similar to the student's community college major. Since passage of the law, community colleges have been working hard to create Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) options for students.

Taft College now offers 10 ADT options with an eleventh option under development. This represents 100% achievement of the target initially established for our college, and outpaces the progress made in many other districts. This is remarkable and speaks to the commitment of our faculty to promote seamless transfer and degree completion for our students.

John Stotts Geology Collection Donated to Taft College

John Louis Stotts, a petroleum geologist for over 60 years and resident of Taft, passed away on January 28, 2014 at the age of 85. One of six boys in his family, John spent most of his career living and working in oil fields across the U.S., England, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Saudi Arabia, and Libya. John was a professional geologist and meticulously collected rock and mineral specimens.



On behalf of John's brother Robert, and all of his surviving family and friends, this collection was donated to the Taft College Physical Science Department. Through the work of Dr. Greg Golling, the members of John's family visited Taft College on March 28th to share in the opening of the collection, which had been sealed in crates, some for over 50 years.

The event included an examination of the interesting and beautiful rock and mineral samples while paying tribute to John Louis Stotts for his work and generous donation. The

Physical Science department is excited to incorporate John Stotts' collection into the academic program at Taft College, where it will be an integral part of our geology classes, and a lasting reminder of John Stotts' legacy as a geologist and friend of education.

STEM Trailer Enhancements



On Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at 10am to 1pm, the Taft College Mobile Learning Lab (STEM Trailer) will be outside the Cafeteria for faculty, staff and students to view and provide recommendations on elements that could be incorporated and/or improved to support student learning. A staff member from the Lewis Center will be present to demonstrate and explain the various features of the current unit.

Feedback surveys will be available for faculty, staff and students to provide input and recommendations on improvement and potential uses for the Mobile Learning Lab (STEM Trailer). Light refreshments will be provided – Drop by and be part of the re-design process!

A Sharp Piece of Awesome

Students of Taft College's Literary Magazine Club are putting the final touches on Issue Four of our student-published annual literary publication, *A Sharp Piece of Awesome*. As in the past, Taft College students have spent a year distributing the publication's call for submissions, editing the issue's content, contacting authors, and requesting sponsorships from local businesses to assist in the publication's funding. A release party, at which authors will read their work, is planned for 3:00 pm on May 17 at Dagny's Coffee in Bakersfield. Upon the issue's release, copies will be available for sale at Cougar Corner Bookstore and Ben's Books. For more information, contact Geoffrey Dyer at ext. 7724.



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 24 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 and the Athletic Department will present the *Al Baldock Memorial Athletic Golf Classic* on Friday, May 16, 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 shotgun-style play beginning at 12:00 pm. The dinner following the tournament is sponsored by the Taft College Alumni Association. Contact Darcy Bogle or Sheri Black for more information.

A *Community Clean Up Day* is being planned for Saturday, April 26 from 9:00 am - noon. The Clean Up project includes the City of Taft; Kern County 4th 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 in Ford's City. If you wish to participate, please meet at Westside Waste Management located at 27682 East Cedar Street in Taft.

Other News



Kanoe Bandy, Tony Thompson, Geoffrey Dyer, Darcy Bogle, Tim Maui, and Dena Maloney attended the Celebration of Scholar Athletes on April 2 to honor the 2012-2013



Scholar Teams and Athletes, one of which was former Taft College Volleyball player Onolina Taotofi. You may recall Onolina was one of two athletes selected for the prestigious Student Athlete Achievement Award. Onolina played volleyball at Taft College from 2011-2013 before transferring to Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri.

Classified Appreciation Week



In recognition of CSEA's Annual School Employees Week, Taft College hosted a Classified Appreciation Week celebration the week of April 7-11th. A committee composed of John Dodson, Debbie Hegeman, Ruben Arreola, Susan Wells, Susan Vaughan, Adrian Agundez, Geoff Dunham, and Velda Pena planned a variety of events including delivery of doughnuts on Monday and an Ice Cream Social on Friday. In conjunction with the celebrations, the Classified Staff were recognized for milestone years of service with pins, coffee mugs and certificates. For those serving



15 or more years to the District, a Service Recognition Luncheon was held on April 7th. The event included entertainment by the Taft High School Jazz Band. Each attendee received one raffle ticket for each year of their service to Taft College. Claudia Casagrande won the grand raffle prize of an IPAD Mini donated by the Taft College Foundation. Special thanks to the committee and team members involved in planning the luncheon and to the Foundation for their support of the Classified Appreciation week events.

Faculty Appreciation Week

The Associated Student Body is planning a Faculty Appreciation Week for May 5-9th. The ASB is being assisted by a committee including Bill Norris, Sheri Black, Sheri Horn Bunk, Darcy Bogle, Mark Williams, Robin Siegel, and Dena Maloney. The week will honor our talented faculty and will include delivery of pastries on Monday in honor of Cinco de Mayo, other special treats during the week. A luncheon on the patio near the Cougar Room will be held on Thursday along with a poster display in the Quad. The week

also includes recognition of service to the District and raffle prizes provided by the Foundation. Look for photos of all the celebratory events in the next newsletter!

Upcoming Events:

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| April 24 | TIL Wine & Food Festival at the Historic Fort |
| April 26 | Community Clean Up Day |
| April 26 | Rotary Health Fair at Buena Vista High School |
| May 2 | STEMvitational Event for High School Seniors |
| May 9 | End of Year Dinner at OTs |
| May 14 | WKCCD Board Meeting |
| May 15 | EOPS Luncheon |
| May 16 | Al Baldock Memorial Athletic Golf Classic |
| May 17-18 | Relay for Life at TUHS |
| May 23 | Taft College Scholarship Luncheon |
| May 23 | 2014 Taft College Graduation |
| May 24 | Dental Hygiene Graduation |
| June 27 | Transition to Independent Living Graduation |

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