

**Subject: From the President's Desk****Date:** Fri, 20 May 2005 12:57:54 -0700**From:** "Raul Rodriguez" <rrodriguez@deltacollege.edu>**To:** "Campus Wide Business" <campusbusiness@sjdccd.cc.ca.us>

Good morning. We are almost there! Commencement is a week away and another academic year is about to conclude. This is just about my favorite time of the year as it is full of pride in the achievements of our students and full of hope for their bright futures. This is the time of year, with all of the celebrations and closing events going on, that it reminds us all why we became educators or chose to work in an educational environment. It is a huge payoff when I see our students walk down that aisle and joyfully receive their degrees and certificates.

**Strategic Planning**

This is also the time of year when the administrative team is busily planning out our goals and objectives for the next academic year and taking stock of what was accomplished in this past year. Typically, we present that information to the Board at their annual retreat in July. We are writing our plans a little bit differently this year in that the objectives we are developing are intended to further our efforts to accomplish the goals that came out of the strategic planning process. All of the four goals that were developed through the strategic planning process are tied directly or indirectly to student access, student success, and student learning outcomes.

Additionally, we all set individual goals and objectives. One of the goals I have set for myself is to get more involved in governmental relations next year. Because I have been so focused on other issues, I haven't given sufficient attention to cultivating strong relationships with our local legislators. There are many issues that we need to lobby for, not the least of which is equalization and other necessities in our state budget. There are also certain funding opportunities that only our federal legislative representatives can assist us with and we need to build stronger bonds with them so that they will be motivated to see that Delta gets its share of such funding.

**Retirees Recognition Ceremony**

Last night we had a wonderful reception at Brookside Country Club for six faculty who are retiring this year (there are six other employees who are retiring who couldn't make it to the event). The six retirees who we honored last night were Booker Guyton, Sr., Jan Mullen, Richard Rios, Ken Stone, Linda Stoner, and Jeff Wentworth. Each person had an opportunity to say a few words and the stories and thoughts they shared with us were both touching and memorable. I know that in their own way, each one of our retirees has given their best to our students and they will all be sorely missed.

I wanted to thank my assistant, Valerie Stewart-Green, for the great job she did in organizing the retiree reception. It was one of those events that went pretty much without a hitch thanks to her efforts.

**Delta Family Fun Day**

Today is the annual campus softball tournament and associated festivities replete with Elvis impersonator this year. I hope that many of you will be able to attend and cheer on your favorite softball team (if you don't have a favorite then cheer for the administration team as we need all the help and encouragement we can get). We should all give a big "thank you" to Mario Vasquez for his tireless efforts in putting this whole event together. Events don't just happen of their own accord and it always takes a tremendous amount of behind the scenes work to make any event work. Mario has taken on that challenge each year regardless of the obstacles.

### **Classified Barbecue**

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the Classified Barbecue that was held on Wednesday afternoon. I heard a rumor that it was not as well attended as in the past. The reason given was that some managers did not allow their classified staff the time off to attend the event. I have learned over the years not to take rumors at face value or to react strongly to them. Unless you have more than one perspective, you are usually lacking some vital information that may change how you feel about the situation. As a result, I'm not going to jump to conclusions that such a scenario actually occurred or to what extent it might have occurred. If some managers did not allow their staff to attend this event, then I would be disappointed and encourage them in the future to allow such attendance. At the same time, if a manager did so, I can only imagine that they probably had a very good reason for doing so (e.g., office coverage or deadlines to keep, etc.). So, the upshot is that I always want to encourage managers to be flexible in allowing staff to attend these occasional staff functions. However, I also have confidence in their ability to judge a situation and make the best decision for their area of responsibility.

### **Kudos**

- Max Simonic is not content just to have his compositions recorded; they are also being performed all over the world. His composition, *Petite Cirque*, has recently been performed in Cleveland, Ohio and in Lyons, France. It is scheduled to be performed in the near future at Lincoln Center in New York. Recently, Max also had another of his compositions performed in Helsinki, Finland. Our students are incredibly lucky to have an instructor of Max's experience and renown. Congratulations to Max on his recent successes!
- Phi Delta Kappa bestowed their Distinguished Teacher award on Delta's Florence Quilantang from the Business Division last evening. Florence certainly deserves this award and it is probably long overdue. Congratulations Florence!
- Thanks to Jane Dominik, two new events were held on campus recently. The first was a Play and Screenwriting Showcase where students read excerpts from plays or scripts that they had written. The second was a reception for English majors. Both of these events were successful and we hope they become annual traditions.
- At the UOP graduation ceremony, former Delta College EOPS student Norris Cooper was honored as the first recipient of the Outstanding Student Leadership Award. If you know Norris, you know that UOP couldn't have selected a better student leader than Norris Cooper. He is a young man who has incredible passion for his

community and his list of accomplishments is truly impressive.

- In closing, I have to say a few words about the recent production of Man of La Mancha that was put on by the Drama department. The last time I saw Man of La Mancha was several decades ago (I was still in high school so it was a looong time ago). I saw the Delta production on the last afternoon. It was a packed house and it was an excellent performance. I thoroughly enjoyed (as did the entire audience) and it was so good I didn't want it to end. Many thanks to Director Harvey Jordan for putting together an exceptional production. I know that Harvey had a lot of help as this was a collaborative venture between the entire Drama department and the Music department. Let's hope they collaborate over and over like this n the future! Bravo!