

Subject: From the President's Desk

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From: "Raul Rodriguez" <rrodriguez@deltacollege.edu>

To: "Campus Wide Business" <campusbusiness@sjdccd.cc.ca.us>

Good Tuesday everyone! Yesterday was an exciting day for the wrong reasons and it was a little more excitement than any of us need. If you have not heard about what happened, here is a copy of the press release that B.R. Brown sent out this morning.

Delta College Cancels Classes, Clears Campus

(Stockton, CA) – San Joaquin Delta College Campus Police responded to a report of a suspicious looking device that had been left unattended on campus in the evening hours, October 17. Classes were canceled as the officers directed faculty, administration and students to evacuate campus buildings because of the pending situation. While the campus was being cleared, the Stockton Police Department were notified and responded on the scene. Once the EOD unit surveyed the situation, they quickly rendered the object safe. Marc Bromme', Delta College's Chief of Campus Police said an investigation of the incident is underway. "Our first priority in situations such as this is the safety of everyone in the area."

Classes will resume according to schedule tomorrow morning, October 18, 2005. [End]

Let's hope that this was an isolated incident and that it will not be repeated. If nothing else, this incident will cause us to review our emergency and safety procedures and to examine how we can improve security in the library and other areas of campus.

Leave it to Clever Planetarium

I had the privilege of touring our planetarium last week. The reason for the tour was to learn about the plans that are in the works for its refurbishment. In doing the research on the planetarium, it was discovered that the planetarium is actually part of a stand alone building that is separate from either Shima or Cunningham. As a result, when Cunningham is demolished at some future point, we will be able to save the planetarium and keep it in its present location. This will save us the tremendous cost of building a new planetarium.

The remodeling of the planetarium will not be cheap, but it will be a fantastic facility when it is completed. Part of the refurbishment plan is to enhance the exhibit/museum aspects of the planetarium as well as to treat the planetarium as a theater (like Atherton, Tillie, etc.) in terms of its management. We are hoping to create a smaller, local version of the Chabot Space and Science Center, which is located in Oakland. We would still

hold Astronomy classes in this space, but a big part of the purpose of the planetarium would be to revive the community shows that were so popular. We hope to obtain at least 10 pre-packaged shows and then develop additional shows. The refurbishment will also involve an overhaul of our star projector. I'm not sure that all of the details have been worked out yet concerning the timeline for the refurbishment of the planetarium, but I hope that it can be done within the next year or two at the latest.

Delta Alum

It is always gratifying to hear stories about Delta alums who have gone off into the world and who are doing well. I recently received information about an artist, Paul Valadez, who is a former Delta student and Stagg High graduate. Paul now works from a studio located in South Texas. He has had a number of successful art exhibitions in various venues in Texas, in other states, and even internationally. In addition to his artwork, Paul is a full-time lecturer in art at the University of Texas, Pan American down in the Rio Grande Valley. I looked up Paul's work on the internet and a lot of his work emulates "old signage" from previous eras and contains commentary on themes of race and culture.

If you know of or hear of any other former Delta students who are similar success stories, I would love to hear about them.

Kudos

Many kudos to Chief Bromme and the Delta College Police Department for their professional and timely handling of the bomb scare that occurred yesterday on campus. Their swift and decisive action is exactly the type of response that is necessary in such a situation.

Kudos are also deserved by Theresa McRae, Lee Belarmino, Charles Jennings, Lincoln Lee, and other science faculty for their fine work in shaping a preliminary plan to bring back a wonderful campus facility, the Clever Planetarium, to its former prominence.

If I survive the board meeting tonight, I will be heading to Florida tomorrow along with Board President Rivera and Lee Belarmino to make a presentation on the Kuali Project at the EDUCAUSE conference. In my absence, Assistant Superintendent Condon will be in charge of the college.