

Subject: From the President's Desk

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

Good morning everyone! Last week ended up on a hectic note as Vice President Dunn and I were off campus for most of the day Friday looking at property up in the foothills for a prospective educational center and then meeting with some folks in Lodi on the same subject. There is nothing firm to report yet. It takes a tremendous amount of time and research to reach a final decision on such matters and I don't expect that we will wrap up these land purchases anytime soon. We are looking at any and every possibility that even comes close to our needs. That is all the more reason why we need to be diligent in our efforts and search for the best possible deal for the college.

Mystery Unraveled

An e-mail message went out across the campus earlier this week decrying the metal covers over a hole in the ground near the new CMAS (Microscopy) building. I can understand the satirical humor and the frustration with this situation, but the reality behind it is quite simple. It stems from a lack of funds to fix an unanticipated problem.

Let me explain. About ten years ago when the central plant was constructed, a heating and chiller loop was installed around the campus. There are approximately a dozen valves situated around the campus that are tied into this system and that help regulate the flow of water into the various buildings on campus for both heating and air conditioning. Normally, when these types of valves are installed they are placed within a concrete box for protection from the elements. When our valves were installed, they were buried directly in the soil. As you can imagine, being buried in the soil has accelerated the deterioration of these valves. When the CMAS building was constructed, these valves had to be dug up and repaired. We had hoped to pass on the cost of repairing these valves to the CMAS construction budget. Given the multiple problems in completing that building, such a charge to that budget was not possible.

Maintenance staff have estimated that it will cost from \$12,000 to \$15,000 to fix each one of the valve locations on campus for a total cost of \$144,000 to \$180,000. We have pursued scheduled maintenance funding, but we have not been successful in obtaining those funds. As a result, we have had to endure the unsightly metal covers over the hole near the CMAS building for quite some time. We will gladly take donations from any departmental or program budgets to fix this eyesore. However, I am not anticipating that such funds will be forthcoming so we will pursue other alternatives. Andy Dunn is planning to take this problem to the Facilities Planning Committee as a Quick Start project under Measure L funding. We will also try to squeeze some

maintenance funds out of the budget to fix the highly visible location near the CMAS building. I can't guarantee that we will be able to garner such funds due to the large amounts of money being gobbled up by the bat abatement project. Nonetheless, we will try to fix the unsightly "mystery" hole in the near future if at all possible.

Briefs

- The Employee Health Insurance Committee appears to have made a decision to recommend Central Valley Trust as our health benefits vendor. Of course, Central Valley Trust is our current vendor so this would not necessitate any major transition. However, we do not yet have the complete information on cost factors. Once that information is obtained (I believe we will receive that info the first week of May), we will be able to better determine what our options are in terms of the plans that we can offer to employees.
- We have added a new member to the Citizen's Oversight Committee for Measure L. One of the original members of the committee resigned and after interviewing four extremely capable candidates, we selected Jeff Thompson, the former principal of the Middle College High School, as the new At-Large Representative. Jeff is a person of integrity and strong character. He is a true professional and a man of many talents. For that reason, he was recently recruited and hired by the California Community Colleges Foundation as a Vice President. It is good to have Jeff still in the fold!
- The Bay Valley Conference Swimming Championships are being held at Delta this week. The meet started on Thursday and will finish on Saturday. If you enjoy competitive swimming, this is your opportunity to see the action up close. Trials begin at 10 am and the finals are held starting at 3 pm each day.
- We have had some recent problems with lighting in the Shima and Budd parking lots and along some of the surrounding pathways. Last night the lighting failed again as it has done several times during the last two weeks or so. The problem stems from a glitch in the new computer software system that automatically controls the lighting. Maintenance and the campus police have had to learn how to manually override the system when it fails. The better solution is to fix the software glitch and we are working diligently with the software company to solve this problem. We understand that this is a safety and liability issue and everyone is doing their best to make sure that this doesn't happen in the future.

- Last night the Academic Senate hosted the spring Student Recognition Ceremony in Danner Hall. I'm not sure of the exact count, but I believe that around 50 students were honored at this event. It is one of my favorite campus events because the energy surrounding this event is always palpable and positive. The upper Danner was packed with students and their families. Students were recognized from Applied Sciences and Technology, Communication Skills, Family, Consumer, and Health Sciences, Fine Arts, and Library Services. I greatly appreciate the efforts of the Academic Senate and everyone who contributed to making this event such a resounding success.

Kudos

Since I missed my deadline last week, there is a backlog of kudos that must be duly noted this week.

The latest issue of *Delta Winds* is out and I hope you pick up a copy and give it a read. There are some incredibly thought-provoking essays in this particular volume. Our students have unique insights and perspectives to share and they do it eloquently. Bill Agopsowicz and Robert Bini deserve kudos for their editorial skills as does Patrick Stapelberg for his graphic design work on the magazine. Although I could not attend (this is the hiring season and I was tied up with interviews all day), I understand that a number of the student writers who were published in this issue read their work yesterday in the Horton Gallery. I wish I could have been there as I am sure it was a wonderful event and a great experience for the students.

The annual California State Skills USA competition was held down in Riverside the week before last and Delta students distinguished themselves in the competition. The winners in the various categories were:

1. **Automated Manufacturing** – Gold Medal Team (1st place), Albert Terrazas, Timothy Bender, and Thomas Hystad
2. **Architectural Drafting Combo** – Gold Medal, Rachel Larson; Silver Medal, Cullen Riggs
3. **CA Technical CAD** – Gold Medal, Cedrick Bit

4. **Diesel Equipment Mechanics** – Gold Medal, Jon Marion; Silver Medal, Justin May
5. **Internetworking** – Gold Medal, Gabriel Nunez
6. **Technical Drafting Combo** – Silver Medal, Carlos Basulto; Bronze Medal, Mark Dennehy

The Automated Manufacturing Gold Medal team and two of the three individual gold medal winners will be competing in the National Skills USA Conference, which will be held in Kansas City, Missouri in June. Congratulations to the medal winners and to their four advisors: John Larson, Ken Pekarek, Scott Martin, and Sal Vargas, for a job well done!

Delta Music Instructor, Max Simoncic, recently had one of his compositions, *Petit Cirque*, recorded by the Kiev Philharmonic Orchestra. This recording of Max's composition was released as volume five of the "Masterworks of the New Era" series on the *ERMMedia* label in compact disc format. In case you are interested in purchasing a copy, it is being sold through *amazon.com*. If you've heard any of Max's compositions before, you know how incredibly talented he is and I'm sure this new recording is fabulous.

The California Association of Nurserymen awarded scholarships to five Delta Horticulture students. One of the students, Elizabeth Essig, was honored as the top community college Horticulture student in California. Congratulations to the scholarship winners and to Horticulture Instructor Mike Toscano.

Congratulations also are due to Lady Mustangs Carmen Setness and Christina Quitasol, who have received scholarships to play soccer at Texas Southern University in Houston.

Instructor of English, Jane Dominik, just completed the requirements for her Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England. The title of her dissertation was, "Image and Word: The Stages of Arthur Miller's Drama." Congratulations to Dr. Jane on being a newly minted member of the "three stripes" club!

