

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 morning everyone! I am off this morning to a meeting of the San Joaquin Partnership Economic Development Committee, but I wanted to send this out early before I left campus. You can peruse it while you savor your morning coffee!

Hurricane Katrina Activities Update

This past Wednesday I had the great pleasure of meeting one of the three students who have relocated to Delta College from the Gulf Coast disaster area. The young man I met is named Charles Toliver and he is a most engaging, polite, and articulate person. He was living in New Orleans and was able to escape to Baton Rouge before the full force of the hurricane hit. His first-person account of what happened is fascinating, especially when compared to the varied accounts that we receive through the media.

You may have already heard that Charles drove to California with his sister and her husband. His sister is pregnant and will be delivering a baby boy in the near future. Catherine Mooney, Ena Hull and their staffs have organized a baby shower for her to be held in Danner Hall today at 4 p.m. The baby shower is open to the whole campus.

Art Holton informed me that one of his Music students, Ruben Wegner, was called up with a California National Guard unit and is now serving in New Orleans to help with the rescues and cleanup. Ruben is one of 713 California National Guard members who have been assigned to the relief effort. Let's hope Ruben has a safe and fruitful experience.

The concert for the hurricane relief effort that I mentioned in my last message is rapidly taking shape. We have decided to call it *Delta to Delta*. The lineup features a Dixieland Jazz Band, three local gospel choirs, and the main act will be Mumbo Gumbo, a Cajun zydeco band. We are going to charge \$15 admission and 75% of the proceeds will go directly to the hurricane relief and 25% will be allocated for Gulf Coast students who need assistance in relocation to California. Any proceeds that might be left in the latter fund will be used to create an emergency loan fund for Delta students. The date of the concert is Sunday, October 2 at 3 p.m. in the Atherton Auditorium. I hope that many of you will attend and support this great cause.

Middle College High School

Without a doubt, one of the signature programs at Delta College has to be our partnership with Lodi Unified School District in the Middle College High School (MCHS) program. This program is an example of how students who don't fit into a certain academic environment (in this case a traditional high school environment) can prosper when put into an alternative environment. The MCHS at Delta not only met all of the statewide

AYP category goals, it also distinguished itself by achieving the highest API score of any high school in San Joaquin County and one of the very highest in the entire state. The overall score of 843 represented a 51 point improvement over 2004 – the greatest increase of any high school in the county - and was 88 points higher than the second highest ranked high school, Millennium Charter High School in Tracy.

From time to time I hear various people complain about the MCHS students being on campus. I am always mystified and a little miffed when I hear such comments because they are usually based on inaccurate perceptions. There have been incidents when high school age students misbehave on campus. However, these incidents rarely, if ever, involve students from the MCHS. Those students are supervised closely and as the last paragraph indicates, they are high achievers academically who are too busy to get into much mischief. What people need to realize is that we have hundreds of high school age students at Delta who are not affiliated in any way with the MCHS. These are the students who have caused problems at times. Just because a student is 16 or 17 years old, don't assume that they are MCHS students as there are more unaffiliated students on campus than students affiliated with the MCHS program at Delta.

I am extremely proud of our Middle College High School students and their impressive academic accomplishments. I was fortunate to have attended the first MCHS graduation ceremony two years ago as well as the second ceremony this past June. There are some amazing students in this program and I have no doubt that they will continue to shine long after they have left the MCHS and Delta College.

Congratulations to Sherry Balian who was selected this summer to be the new principal of the MCHS. Welcome to Delta, Sherry! All of the MCHS teachers do wonderful work and I thank them for their efforts. I also need to thank Dr. Kathy Hart and the other Delta instructors who serve as members of the Early College Advisory Committee, which is chaired by MCHS teacher Michael Hall. They all put in extra hours on behalf of the MCHS.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for the evening of October 6th as our new speech instructor, Anna Johnson, is organizing a speech night in Atherton Auditorium. The event will run from 7 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. Anna has invited a number of talented and interesting speakers from the community. I don't yet have the lineup of speakers, but I'm sure that will be announced shortly.

I guess it ain't easy being retired as our own Richard Rios, who taught here at Delta for 35 years and retired at the end of the last academic year, will be back on September 22nd. He will be doing a one person show called *"It ain't easy being Mexican."* Richard's performance will combine poetry and music. There is no admission charge and the performance will start at 11 a.m. in the Atherton Auditorium and it will last approximately one hour. There will be a reception in the Horton Art Gallery immediately following the performance.

There is a new student club on campus called Caudillos Fuerza Unida. This club is organizing and sponsoring a whole slew of activities today in honor of the 16 de Septiembre, which is Mexico's Independence Day. The celebration begins with a welcome at 9 a.m. and will continue through much of the day with music and activities (games, piñatas, food, etc.), including the coronation of a queen, that culminate in a dance for the students in the evening. I believe that this new club is working in cooperation with the other Latino Clubs on

campus in sponsoring this event.

Kudos

- It is exciting to see the response of the Social Science Division to the newly mandated Constitution Day. In case you missed it, here is the schedule of activities:

Centuries in the Making: The Long Winding Road to the U.S. Constitution

presented by History Faculty

Wesley Swanson, Ph.D. and Ted Kallman, Ph.D.

Tuesday, September 20

2:00 - 4:00

South Forum (107)

Criminal Due Process Rights

presented by Administration of Justice Faculty and Campus Police Chief

Jeff Hislop and Marc Bromme

Wednesday, September 21

12:30 - 1:30

South Forum (107)

Korematsu vs. U.S. (Japanese Internment Case)

presented by Economics and Political Science Faculty

Nelson Nagai and Matt Wetstein, Ph.D.

Thursday, September 22

1:00 - 2:30

North Forum (103)

Thanks to all of the presenters and to the Social Sciences Division faculty for organizing such a rich variety of activities.

- Congratulations to Trustees Bugarin, Burke, Serna, and Simas who all enjoyed recent birthdays!

Have a great weekend!