

Subject: From the President's Desk

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

Good afternoon to all. It has been a while since my last message as I have been involved in way too many activities lately, but it has been both challenging and fun, nonetheless. This edition will partly be a catch-up message as several items that I want to comment upon have already passed, such as...

Halloween

The results (and accompanying photos) of the Halloween Contest were already communicated across campus by others. Still, I wanted to reiterate those results and add my own perspective to them.

There was a great Halloween spirit exhibited across the campus in the offices that I visited (although Tamara Ribble of AmeriCorps took the “spirits” part a little too literally) and by our students (some of the costumes that I saw in the quad were entirely too risqué from my “fuddy duddy” perspective). In selecting an office with the best decorations and Halloween spirit, there was no question that Financial Aid was the winner this year. It was dark and creepy in there and both Valerie and I were given a fright! I do want to clarify that the rumor going around campus that the Financial Aid folks startled me to the point that I “scream like a teenage girl in a slasher movie” is not entirely accurate (that’s my story and I’m sticking to it)! I hope that Financial Aid enjoyed their pizza lunch, which I could not attend because of the County Board of Supervisors meeting (the less said about that, the better) that I had to attend on the same day.

The individual costume contest also had two clear winners. The first winner was Armando Nunez of Financial Aid. His impersonation of “Jack” from Jack-in-the-Box fast food fame was hilarious. I followed him around for a while as he strolled around campus and the reaction to his costume from students was just as funny. The second winners were actually a male and female duo of two joined (as in Siamese twins), but (seemingly) asexual aliens. This fascinating costume was the brainchild of Vince Castillo from the Bookstore who was joined by student worker Joy Avanzado. There were many other worthy and creative costumes and for those who didn’t win, there is always next year!

Surgical Splatter

The San Joaquin Medical Society invited me to participate in their community intern program this year. I accepted their offer and this week participated in several activities. First, I shadowed Dr. Jeffrey Ing, a local ophthalmologist. Dr. Ing has an incredible rapport with his patients and in the few hours I spent with him, he showed me a wide variety of optical maladies and conditions. All of the patients were quite accommodating and allowed me to view their eyes through the various instruments. I saw examples of glaucoma, cataracts, a retina which had been detached and then reattached through emergency surgery, and many other conditions whose names I can’t remember. I learned a lot and intend to go back to observe Dr. Ing perform optical surgery. He is the only local physician to do corneal transplants. I doubt that I will be able to see one of those

operations, but I'm sure I will see something interesting.

The next day, Wednesday of this week, I reported to Dameron Hospital at 7:30 am to observe a hip transplant operation. Dr. Victor Macko, who is an orthopedic surgeon, kindly allowed me to watch him perform a hip replacement operation and then a knee replacement surgery. Luckily, I am not the type of person who gets queasy at the sight of blood, bone, tissue, or other internal body parts. One of the things I learned is that it can be hazardous to be an innocent bystander in an operating room. I was close enough to the action that I even got splattered with blood during one part of the hip replacement surgery. I was fortunate that they had given me eye protection or the blood would have gone right in my eye and other parts of my face. Despite that inadvertent baptism, I found Dr. Macko to be a skilled surgeon and if I was facing the prospect of such an operation I would want him or someone like him to be handling the operation.

I think it is wonderful that the San Joaquin Medical Society has a program like this to help other members of the community to understand the different aspects of medical practice and to provide an opportunity to experience medical procedures from a firsthand observation point. I also learned that Dr. Macko started his journey to medical school at a community college (Moorpark College) and that one of the nurses who assisted in the operation had attended two community colleges, one of which was Delta. It just underlines again how many successful professionals probably would not be where they are if it wasn't for a community college.

Christmas Holiday

Many people have been calling my office and asking about when the campus will be closed during the holidays. For everyone other than faculty, the college will be open on December 28 and 29 during the week after Christmas. The days that we are closed are listed on the college calendar. We are following the same rule of thumb that we did last year. That is, if your office provides direct services to students (e.g., Admissions & Records, Financial Aid, etc.), then it should be open to provide those services during the holidays. However, that does not mean that everyone needs to be there. The volume will undoubtedly be much less during that time and it is up to the individual manager to determine the appropriate level of staffing. If your office does not provide direct services to students, then those offices have the option of closing on those two days after Christmas, but if an office is closed, the time off would have to be taken as vacation days and not as college-sanctioned time off. I hope this explanation clarifies the issue.

Veterans Day

As you all know, tomorrow is Veterans Day and the college will be closed in honor of all of our veterans of the Armed Services. Rather than share with you a quote or a poem or some other tribute to our many veterans, I thought it might be more concrete to include some data concerning the condition of our veterans. The percentage living in poverty (although low it is still difficult to think of any veteran, or any other person for that matter, living in poverty) and the high percentage who are disabled are both items that we should all be concerned about. I hope that you will dedicate a few moments tomorrow to reflect on those items.

The U.S. Veteran Population, 2000

Census

Period of service	Number in 2000	Percentage of all veterans	Median age	Percentage women	Percentage employed	Percentage in poverty in 1999	Percentage disabled
All veterans, 18 years and over	26,403,703	100.0%	57.4%	6.0%	54.7%	5.6%	29.1%
Aug. 1990 or later (including Gulf War)	3,024,503	11.5	33.3	15.7	81.4	6.2	16.3
Sept. 1980 to July 1990	3,806,602	14.4	38.8	13.0	82.7	5.5	18.2
May 1975 to Aug. 1980	2,775,492	10.5	45.5	9.9	78.0	5.6	22.7
Vietnam era (Aug. 1964 to April 1975)	8,380,356	31.7	53.2	3.2	75.4	5.1	24.8
Feb. 1955 to July 1964	4,355,323	16.5	62.8	2.4	51.4	4.9	29.4
Korean War (June 1950 to Jan. 1955)	4,045,521	15.3	70.1	2.2	24.6	4.5	33.6
World War II (Sept. 1940 to July 1947)	5,719,898	21.7	76.7	4.2	11.6	4.8	45.2
Some other time	323,785	1.2	74.3	4.5	16.1	6.6	46.4

NOTE: The figures do not add up to 100 percent because veterans may have served in more than one time period.

Source: The U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3 and special tabulations.

Kudos

I received a letter from the County Office of Education thanking the college for helping to sponsor the Fine Arts Seminar Day that was held at Atherton Auditorium. Over 1,100 students from local schools attended the event. There were a number of performances and presentations, but they especially singled out our own Jennifer Barrows for her presentation on art history and appreciation. Congratulations to Jennifer for contributing to such an excellent community event!

Although it is not done yet, I want to recognize the Information Services Department for planning and implementing the massive task of converting from social security numbers to identification numbers. It is amazing how well it is going so far and how little disruption has occurred to our operations during the early stages of this conversion. I have no doubt that this conversion will be completed successfully.

Have a wonderful holiday weekend and if you are looking for something to do, there is a great volleyball match on Friday night, a football game on Saturday, and the basketball teams are getting underway at tournaments this weekend as well.
