

**Subject: From the President's Desk****Date:** Fri, 19 May 2006 10:32:42 -0700**From:** "Raul Rodriguez" <rrodriguez@deltacollege.edu>**To:** "Campus Wide Business" <campusbusiness@sjdccd.cc.ca.us>

Good morning. We're almost there! Although, I'm not sure where there is anymore. In the past, it seemed like there was a clear demarcation between the regular academic year and summer. Now it seems like things just keep rolling along as we have a growing summer session and many special activities that take place on campus during the summer. It is not the idyllic down time that it used to be. We seem to be gradually moving towards a year round operation and, for the most part, that is good news for our students. It just presents more of a logistical, planning, and operational challenge than what occurred in the past. Somehow, we make it work.

**Family Fun Day**

Today is our annual Family Fun Day at Delta. The centerpiece of this staff appreciation day is, of course, the softball games. Now that the games aren't being boycotted any longer (shades of major league baseball), we have a full complement of teams. However, on reflection, "teams" may be a misnomer for some of us as it might imply that we actually know how to play the game or are any good at it. I will be "playing" a few innings for the Administration Team. The last time I played, I was inadvertently tripped at home plate by the catcher for the other team and almost had a close encounter with the backstop. However, since that person is no longer working for the college (I swear I had nothing to do with her leaving!), I figured it might be safe to get back on the field again.

The other part of Family Fun Day is the barbecue and entertainment activities that take place later in the afternoon and into the evening. This year the special entertainment will be a hypnotist. For me, watching a hypnotist work live is kind of like watching a train wreck that you don't want to see but somehow compels you to watch.

Family Fun Day is a special celebration to say thank you to people for the hard work that they put in day in and day out here at Delta. It is also a way to have friendly competition between our constituent groups, to share some food, and to have a good time. This event wouldn't happen without the extraordinary efforts of Mario Vasquez and the Social Committee. They deserve a tremendous amount of applause for all that they do to make this day fun for everyone.

**Student Recognition**

The CalWORKS program recently held their first ever Student Success Celebration. The program recognized students who were graduating and/or transferring, students who completed an occupational/vocational certificate, and students whose GPA placed them on either the Dean's List or the President's List. Happily, there were many successful students and it was great to see them receiving their awards. Congratulations to CalWORKS Director **Tiffanie Panella** and to the CalWORKS staff (**Linda Barnes, Joyce Giovanetti, Selena Mendoza, Janet Pederson, Sokun Somsack, and Cynthia Stapleberg**) for the great work that they are doing.

The Academic Senate also had their semi-annual Student Recognition Ceremony last week. This event is one of my favorite events at the college as it is always a pleasure to see students being recognized by their teachers. There is always a good feeling generated by this event that serves as a reminder that there are many exceptional students at Delta. **Janice Takahashi** and the Academic Senate deserve many thanks for continuing the tradition of recognizing outstanding s

### **Governor's May Revise**

The budget proposed by the Governor is overwhelmingly beneficial to the community colleges. If the Legislature adopts the Governor's budget proposal, it will be the best budget, by far, for community colleges that we have ever seen in my recollection. When you add the May Revise additions to the additions previously proposed in January, it adds up to almost a one billion dollar increase for the community college system. This budget shows that the Governor is committed to supporting community colleges. He also supports the implementation of a new community college funding system and has earmarked funds in the budget to undertake that implementation. Let's all keep our fingers crossed that the Legislature accepts this budget as is and that they adopt it as quickly as possible!

### **Quick Notes**

I have been in touch with **Dr. Condon** and she assures me that she is doing everything possible to recover and come back to Delta as soon as she is able. She also wanted me to thank everyone who has sent her a card or flowers or other messages as she appreciates all of your kind thoughts and support. She is looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

As I indicated before, my plan was to search for a retired Vice President or President to come in and keep everything going until Della could return. Unfortunately, I was not able to find anyone in this region who was willing to come out of retirement. The list I had was very short as I would only consider people who I respected and knew something about. As a result, **Dr. Kathy Hart**, who has my respect and complete confidence, will continue to fill in for Dr. Condon as the Acting Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction until further notice. My only reason for looking outside in the first place was that I did not want to overburden Kathy by saddling her with two jobs. Her permanent position is also critical for the college and it is quite demanding. Fortunately, we are developing a plan that we think will take some of that burden off of Kathy. I am pleased to have Dr. Hart in this position as she is well known for her diplomacy, efficiency, and hard work. I look forward to working with her.

Our summer hours will be the same as they have been the last several summers. We will not be working a 4/10 schedule or a half day on Friday schedule. I expect all offices to be open as close to normal working hours as possible. I understand that some offices have to close early on occasion due to a shortage of staff. I don't have a problem with that as long as such closures are infrequent and not a regular occurrence.

Tomorrow I will be the keynote speaker at the Benerd School of Education Diploma and Hooding Ceremony at the University of the Pacific. That is assuming that the weather forecasts are wrong and there won't be any thunderstorms tomorrow as predicted. It is a great honor to be asked to speak and I would wager that it is the first time that a Delta President has been asked to speak at such an occasion. No rain! No rain! No rain...

You have probably viewed the messages from Roxanne about student athletes from both the men's and women's basketball teams receiving scholarship offers. One thing that I found out from **Coach Katz** that wasn't in Roxanne's message is the recruitment experience of **Carl Ross** by the State University of New York in Albany. As you know, Albany is the capital of New York. It turns out that the Governor of New York, George Pataki, became involved in recruiting Carl. Governor Pataki invited Carl to dine with him and they spent some personal time together. Needless to say, Carl was thrilled with the experience and impressed with the Governor. After that kind of full-court press, it would have been difficult for Carl to say no. He is going to Albany. Somehow, I just can't imagine our Governor doing the same thing for Sac State. They must not have any pressing issues in New York!

### **Kudos**

When we think of scholarship at a community college, we have a different conception than the traditional publish or perish type of scholarship that occurs at research universities. Scholarship at the community college level is more about keeping up with new developments and trends in one's discipline, staying involved in professional organizations, focusing on improving teaching practice, keeping curriculum up to date, and generally helping students to succeed. Although traditional academic scholarship is not a requirement of tenure or of continued advancement at a community college, many community college faculty do conduct research, write articles, and publish books. When community college faculty members achieve in this manner, it is important to recognize their accomplishments.

I am pleased to pass on the news that **Matt Wetstein** and his wife **Cindy** published an article in the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*. What is more, that article was selected as a finalist for the John McMenemy Prize, which is annually awarded to the authors of the most significant article published in that journal. Matt and Cindy will learn whether or not they received the award at the annual meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association. Let's wish them both a lot of luck in being selected for the prize.

Additionally, Cindy and Matt have completed a manuscript that is due to be published by the British Columbia Press around the end of the calendar year. Kudos to the Wetsteins on their splendid accomplishments!

Congratulations to **Coach Huiras** and the Delta College Swimming and Diving Team. I am floored by the number of members of our team who received All American status. They are **Robert Wimberely, Derrick Davis, Thomas Dietrich, K. C. Drake, Mike Kemether, Chris Olson, Chris Tunquist, Erik Weisz, and Christine Setness**.

Kudos as well to the awesome Lady Mustangs Softball Team and their Coach, **Pete Turner**, for going to the state tournament and for doing so well in that tournament.

Congrats to **Jane Dominick** for another successful Play and Screenwriting Showcase. This has turned out to be a great venue for aspiring writers here at Delta.

Last night I attended the Academic Scholarship Council Reception in Upper Danner. It was a wonderful event and it was hosted by Trustee **Anthony Bugarin**, who is the President of that Council. It's always great to see students receive monetary rewards for their hard work in the class room. The event would not have been a success without the support of **Dr. Charles Jennings**, **Janet Giffen**, and the members of the Academic Scholarship Council.

Last, but not least, congratulations to **Jovan Paunovic**, our current Student Trustee on being selected to be the Student Trustee for the 2006-2007 academic year. Jovan is an enthusiastic, bright, and capable young man who has put his distinctive mark on the Student Trustee position. I am sure he will represent the student well next year.