

key dates...

Please visit our website for more details about the latest news and event information.



Photo by Jared Howard



Las Positas Connection

The President's Monthly Report to the Board of Trustees, Campus & Community | August 2013

August	A display celebrating the arts at LPC can be seen through August at the Livermore Library Civic Center Branch. Kudos to LPC's Livermore Cultural Arts Committee representative Janet Brehe who created the display.
21	U.S. Congressman Eric Swalwell will hold a Town Meeting, 6 - 8 PM, Mertes Center.
30	First events of the season for Soccer and Cross-Country. Please visit the Athletics website for details.
September	
2	Labor Day Holiday
4	Extreme Entrepreneurship Tour, 11 AM - 3 PM, Mertes Center, free, open to the public.
17	Open House & Ribbon Cutting, 3 - 6 PM. Please see page 1 and the website for details.

Las Positas Connection is published by the Office of the President. Mary Lauffer, Editor



Las Positas College Invites the Community

**Open House & Ribbon Cutting
September 17th
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

*Please join us to
celebrate the new:*

**Student Services &
Administration Building (SSA)**

Science Building

Campus Boulevard

Event Schedule:

**Campus Tours, 3:00 – 5:00
p.m., begin at SSA North Terrace**

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony,
5:00 – 5:30 p.m., near Campus
Boulevard Fountain**

**Refreshments, 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.,
SSA North Terrace**

These important capital improvements were funded by Measure B, passed in 2004 by voters in our service district. Thank you, voters, for your investment in your community college.



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Welcome to the New Academic Year

*More classes, more students, more facilities—
Thanks to Support from Our Community*

As the Las Positas College community prepares for the 2013-14 academic year, the one constant has been change—change for the better. Thanks to voter approval of Proposition 30, the college can begin restoration of classes, kicking off the year by offering more classes to more students. And, thanks to Measure B, the college is serving students in new and renovated facilities that support quality education and sustainability. Students have been registering for classes in the new Silver LEED* certified Student Services & Administration Building and faculty have been planning experiments for students in the new science building housing state-of-the-art labs. All of this positive change supports the college mission of providing outstanding educational opportunities to our community.

**Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design*

Convocation Awards Honor Excellence



Photo by Mary Lauffer

Each August, Chabot-Las Positas Community College District employees gather together at Convocation to plan for the new academic year, enjoy fellowship, share ideas, and honor exceptional contributions and achievement. At this year's convocation on August 15th, six Las Positas College staff and faculty were recognized with prestigious awards. Thanks to Chabot College for hosting the event. Photo, from left: Interim President Lease, Chancellor Jackson, and Board of Trustee Member Isobel F. Dvorsky welcome attendees at Convocation.

The Reed Buffington Award

Biology Instructor Karen Pihl, Ph.D., a founding faculty member who has taught thousands of students over her 35-year career at Las Positas College, is this year's recipient of The Reed Buffington Award for excellence in teaching, considered the highest faculty honor in the district and named in honor of Chabot College's founding president. Thunderous applause and a standing ovation followed the announcement by new Faculty Senate President Thomas Orf, Ph.D. "Over the years, her students have cited her as a major influence in their lives years after they have left Las Positas College," Dr. Orf said. Dr. Pihl guided the biology program from its inception to its current status as one of the largest programs in the college whose graduates have transferred to many four-year colleges and universities.

Chancellor Awards

Chancellor Jannett N. Jackson, Ph.D., recognized three members of the Las Positas College staff and faculty with 2013 Chancellor Awards for their outstanding service to the district. The recipients, who are nominated by their colleagues, are Counselor and Instructor Christina Lee, Speech Instructor Tim Heisler, and Veterans First Coordinator Todd Steffan.

Donald R. Milanese Award

This year, the Donald R. Milanese Award for Educational Integrity and Excellence is shared by two individuals: Financial Aid Officer Andi Schreiber and Dean of Enrollment Services Sylvia Rodriguez. The award recognizes employees who consistently demonstrate "the utmost integrity, consummate professionalism, unfailing commitment to students, and unwavering dedication to educational excellence." The award was established in honor of Vice President Emeritus of Academic Services Donald R. Milanese, a founding team member of the college.



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Chabot-Las Positas Community College District



Chancellor Jackson Tours Campus

Las Positas College staff, faculty, and administrators put out the welcome mat on August 7th for a visit from the District's new Chancellor Jannett N. Jackson, Ph.D. Interim President Lease guided the Chancellor on a campus tour where she met employees and enjoyed an overview of the college's 147-acre campus. Following are just two of the day's many highlights and key news reported by college staff.



Photo by Mary Lauffer

Child Development Center News: *Baby & Me* at LPC Classes

Baby & Me classes bring children together with parents or grandparents to explore and play in a learning and nurturing environment. Certified Infant/Toddler Specialist and LPC Instructor Margie Costello-Chevis teaches the classes which begin September 10th. For more information, please visit the Community Education website at laspositascollege.edu/communityed. The LPC Child Development Center is a premier, state-of-the-art college and community resource offering preschool and toddler programs and a learning laboratory modeling best practices for LPC's Early Childhood Development Department, serving more than 500 students each semester. In photo, from left: Interim President Lease and Child Development Center Director Corinna Calica welcome Chancellor Jackson to the center.

International Student Program News: 2013 Orientation

The International Student Program's New Student Orientation August 7-9 welcomed 34 students from 15 different countries. In the photo, right, Admissions Specialist Sean Day (left) and Coordinator Cindy Balero (right) introduce Chancellor Jackson (center) to the new students. Ms. Balero said that 135 international students are expected to attend LPC this year. "International students enrich our campus by promoting a greater exchange of ideas through diverse perspectives in their classes and exposing our local students to a global outlook which helps to prepare them for our increasingly interconnected world," Ms. Balero said. "At the same time, we expose our international students, as future leaders of the world, to our country, values, and way of life, which they then take back and share with their country. We believe that by creating these bonds and mutual understanding, we are helping to make a better, more peaceful world."



Photo by Mary Lauffer



Sept. 4th Event Supports Entrepreneurship for Students and Our Community

High-energy, nationally acclaimed tour inspires success in any career

The Business and Marketing Department will host the nationally acclaimed, high-energy Extreme Entrepreneurship Tour from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, September 4th, in the Mertes Center for the Arts. While the tour is geared toward college students, members of the community are welcome. The event is free; parking is \$2. Early online registration is strongly recommended and available at <http://extremetour.org/laspositas>. Participants may attend all or part of the event. Through keynote speakers, panel discussion, workshops,

and networking, the tour seeks to energize and inform individuals about building an entrepreneurial mindset to support success in any career. Emphasis is on defining a life vision and getting started on goals, even with limited resources. A major event objective is for every attendee to have an abbreviated Life Plan to take home. This plan will provide tactical steps to keep individuals focused on their ultimate vision for success. Event speakers are some of America's most successful young entrepreneurs, including moderator EJ

Carrion, a best-selling author who has spoken to tens of thousands of students in more than 20 states, all before his 23rd birthday. Scheduled panelists are area entrepreneurs including: Peter Gardner, social entrepreneur, venture capitalist, and founder and CEO of StartGrid; and Doug Allen and Dave Haberman, founders of Pleasanton-based KlabLab, app creators, and musicians and educators who use modern music to support learning. For more information about the event, please visit the college website.

New Faculty Bring Passion, Experience to the Classroom



Vice President of Academic Services Janice Noble, Ph.D. (far right) recently introduced five new faculty members to the college community. With pleasure, we introduce them here. In the photo, from left, are Titian Lish, Mark Grooms, Jennie Graham, James Ott, and Ann Hight, Ph.D.

Jennie Graham, Mathematics

Ms. Graham has been a part time faculty member at LPC since January 2007. She has also taught Math at San Joaquin Delta College, Diablo Valley College, and California State University, East Bay. She holds a Master's of Science in Applied Mathematics from CSUEB and her Bachelor's in Applied Mathematics from UC Davis and is a community college graduate from DVC.

Mark Grooms, Business

Mr. Grooms moved to Northern California from Lakewood where he taught at several community colleges in Orange County including Orange Coast College, Santa Ana College, and Fullerton College. Prior to teaching Business, Mr. Grooms worked as a manager and won honors for his work. He holds a Master's in Business Administration from the University of California, Irvine, a Bachelor's in Business from Indiana

University, and a Project Management Professional certification from the Project Management Institute; he has studied abroad in Budapest, Hungary.

Ann Hight, Science

Dr. Hight was a tenured Associate Professor at California State University, Sacramento in the Biological Sciences Department from 1994 to 2001 and also has taught at California State University, East Bay; Pueblo Community College in Colorado; and Consumnes River College. She has also co-authored Instructional Anatomy and Physiology videotapes and provided academic content review for two text books. She has been a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Cardiovascular Medicine at University of California, Davis. Dr. Hight earned her Ph.D. in Systemic Physiology from UC Davis, a Master's degree in Biological Sciences from San Jose State, and her Bachelor's degree in Biology from UC San Diego.

Titian Lish, Theater

Ms. Lish was awarded the Performing Arts Educator of the Year by the City of Tracy and Teacher of the Year by Tracy Unified School District where she has taught drama at the Tracy High School Performing Arts Magnet since 2005. She

has managed the annual district drama festival and works with the San Francisco Mime Troupe teaching at-risk youth. Ms. Lish earned a Master of Arts in Drama and a Bachelor of Arts in Drama and Performance from San Francisco State University; she attended the British Academy of Dramatic Arts in Oxford, England and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York.

James Ott, English

Mr. Ott is a well-known teacher, writer, banking CEO, newspaper columnist, television host, Poet Laureate, and civic leader. He has been awarded the Las Positas College Friend of the College Award, the Mayor's Award in Pleasanton, and the Pleasanton Community of Character Award in May 2013. He is a past Chair of the LPC Foundation Board. He has been a part-time faculty member at LPC since 1997 and taught at other institutions including San Jose State University. Mr. Ott is currently in a doctoral program at Saint Mary's College. He earned his Master of Arts degree in English and Bachelor of Arts in English from San Jose State University and is a community college graduate from West Valley College.

Photo by Mary Lauffer

Photo courtesy of Chabot College



Gene Wellman

Chabot Gladiator VIP Tours Hawk's Nest

Gene Wellman, former coach and athletics director of LPC's sister college, Chabot, was an honored guest on campus earlier this month, and even sported an LPC cap, making him a Hawk for the day. Board of Trustee Member Carlo Vecchiarelli and Dean of Behavioral Sciences, Business and Athletics Dyan Miller gave Mr. Wellman his first tour of LPC's state-of-the-art Physical Education

Complex which includes a gymnasium, an all-weather turf soccer field, an all-weather track and multi-use field, and an aquatic center. Mr. Wellman was Chabot's first baseball coach and the director of athletics for many years. Last year, Chabot dedicated its baseball field in his name, honoring his outstanding service and contributions to the college.