



The President's Monthly Report to the Board of Trustees, Campus, and Community | August 2014

Thank you, VP Noble



LPC's Vice President for Academic Services Janice Noble, Ph.D., has announced her retirement.

A farewell reception will be held on campus from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on September 5th. Please check the website for the event location, to be announced. "It has been a great pleasure working with such a talented and principled person," said LPC President Barry A. Russell, Ph.D. "I know that you will join me in congratulating Dr. Noble on her career and retirement. She will be greatly missed."

"My experiences at Las Positas College will remain the highlight of my professional career," Dr. Noble said. In addition to her role as a vice president, Dr. Noble served the college as Interim President last fall. She came to LPC in 2008 as a Dean of Academic Services.

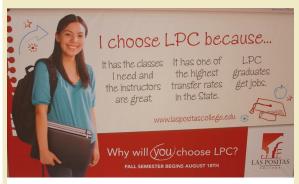
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"Believe you can and you're halfway there."

-Theodore Roosevelt

Welcome to the New Academic Year!



Getting the Word Out to Our Community

Why do nearly 9,000 students choose LPC each year? A few of the many reasons appear on our banner in Pleasanton's Stoneridge Mall announcing the new semester.

LPC welcomes new and returning students, staff, and faculty to the 2014-15 academic year. As always, LPC's commitment to student success drives all we do here at the college. Students arriving on campus will find many services, events, and programs to help them reach their academic goals. Everything students need for priority registration is housed in the new Student Services and Administration Building. Following are some special events to help students jumpstart their new year.

Welcome Davs

The Associated Students of LPC (ASLPC) is sponsoring welcome events in the Quad during the first two days of classes: from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Monday, August 18th, and from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 19th. Students can learn about ASPLC and clubs, get help finding their classrooms, and meet new friends

Online Learning and Blackboard Orientations

More and more students are taking advantage of LPC's increased offerings of online and hybrid courses—providing convenience and flexibility to fit students' busy schedules. To prepare for success, students enrolled in fall 2014 online and hybrid courses are welcome to attend an on-campus or a live, virtual orientation to Online Learning and Blackboard, the online course management system. These orientations, which are not course-specific, are held in Room 2410 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. on August 12th and from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on August 13th, and online from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on August 18th.

LPC's Paramedics Achieve 100 Percent Pass Rate

It's official. The test scores are in and the results couldn't be better. LPC's first Paramedics Training Program graduates achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the licensing examination of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. And, three graduates already have jobs. "Congratulations to all the students and kudos to all the faculty for their excellent leadership," said President Russell. LPC offers one of the few programs in California using the latest, state-of-the-art National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards curriculum. "We have patterned our program after the most progressive and most successful medical and nursing schools," said Paramedic and Emergency Medical Technicians Program Director Sebastian Wong.

Meet New Administrators, Faculty, Counselors

LAS POSITAS COLLEGE

President Russell, left, welcomes LPC's new Dean of Academic Services for Arts, Letters, and Social Science Don Miller, Ph.D.

Respected LPC Leaders Named to New Positions

Two newly-appointed administrators have served LPC with such enduring dedication and in so many critical roles that it would be impossible to enumerate all of their many contributions here.

Longtime Counselor and Instructor Barbara Morrissey, who has been serving as Interim Dean for Student Services, has been appointed to the position permanently. Ms. Morrissey has held many key roles throughout her 24-year tenure with LPC and was on our original accreditation team. She has extensive experience successfully serving diverse student populations and has worked closely with many community organizations and school districts.

Scott Miner has been named as the new Director of Student Life. He has served LPC as a Welding Instructor since 2006, and will continue in this role as well. Mr. Miner is known for providing outstanding instruction, serving on many committees, welding art for the campus, engaging in extensive community service, and establishing strong relationships with area business and industry.

Welcome to LPC, Dean Don Miller

Don Miller, Ph.D., has been named as LPC's new Dean of Academic Services for Arts, Letters, and Social Science (ALSS). Dr. Miller brings to LPC a wealth of knowledge and experience as an administrator and educator at four- and two-year institutions.

Originally from the Bay Area, he returns after several years in Minnesota at the University of St. Thomas, where he served as the Department Chair for Classical and Modern Languages and Associate Professor of Spanish. He also worked with outside agencies and the community to develop and implement service-learning projects and language programs, was instrumental in building the International Students Program, and designed and led study-abroad programs.

Dr. Miller holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish with a minor in International Relations and a master's degree and doctorate in Spanish from Brigham Young University and the University of Virginia, respectively. He has directed student plays, published articles, and written a book, A Society on Stage: Essays on Spanish Golden Age Drama.

New Faculty Join Academic Services



LPC is pleased to introduce five new full-time faculty members. They are, from left: Michal Shuldman, Ph.D., Biology/Botany; Marsha Vernoga, Nutrition and Health; Paul Sapsford, Kinesiology; Kali Davis, Librarian; and Julia McGurk, English as a Second Language.

New Counselors Join Student Services



Meet LPC's new full-time counselors. From left are Gabriela Discua, Rafael Valle, Michelle Zapata, and Jill Oliveira.

Bravo! LPC's Honor Society Wins Many Awards and Accolades in Banner Year

During the 2013-14 academic year, LPC's Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS) Honor Society chapter had an outstanding year. In fact, it might rank up there as one of the most remarkable years in the history of the chapter.

LPC Is the Only California Community College to Have Five Students Win AGS Scholarships in the Same Year—and We Did It Twice: 2014 and 2004



This past year, LPC nominated five students for statewide AGS scholarships and all five were presented with awards at the spring state convention. This is only the second time in AGS history that five students from the same community college have all won AGS State Scholarships in the same year. The other time was 2004—when all five students were also from LPC.

Following are this past year's award winners, above, from left to right. Jesse Bowens received the Robert Mantovani Academic, Service, and Leadership Award, AGS' highest combined award. Ms. Bowens is the recipient of eight other scholarships, including the Sandia National Laboratories and Livermore Chamber of Commerce College Student of the Year Award and the Silver Team Award for the Phi Theta Kappa California Community College Academic Team. She is transferring to UC Berkeley this fall. Monica Quinlan received the Virginia Coffey Academic Award, AGS' highest Academic Award. Cherry-Ronaele Bogue was presented with the Ed Walsh Service Award. Ameyalli Yerena and Umayr Sufi received the Charles Bell Service Award, AGS' highest service award. Only three Charles Bell Service Awards were given this year and two went to LPC students.

Alumnus Returns to Campus as Keynote Speaker for AGS Conference



Courtesy of Randy Taylor

Christian Blanco

LPC alumnus and former AGS member Christian Blanco was the keynote speaker at the fall AGS Northern Regional Conference, held at LPC. Mr. Blanco, the 2008 LPC covaledictorian, is now a Ph.D. candidate at UCLA after earning two B.A. degrees, one in Mathematics and the other in Environmental Economics and Policy at the University of California, Berkeley in 2010.

Honor Society and Advisor Recognized for Service

In April, AGS Advisor Randy Taylor and his wife, Kate, were invited to the Abode Services Volunteer Appreciation Reception. There, Mr. Taylor and the LPC AGS chapter were recognized with a Community Partner Award for their efforts on behalf of the



Randy Taylor

Abode Services Livermore site, whose mission is to end homelessness. The award recognized their volunteerism and dedicated service benefiting the citizens of our community and Alameda County. Mr. Taylor and AGS also received Certificates of Recognition from the California State Legislature. The LPC campus community contributed to the many charity drives AGS organized for Abode Services.

Mr. Taylor's other accolades include the most prestigious award presented by the California Mathematics Council of Community Colleges: the Distinguished Service Award, in honor of his many years of service to the mathematics community in California.

LPC Student Elected as AGS Trustee

At the fall AGS conference, LPC's AGS President Ameyalli Yerena was elected as AGS Student Trustee from the North, becoming the first LPC student to hold this position.



Ameyalli Yerena

She also served as the conference Master of Ceremonies.

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

August	
12	Online Learning Student Orientation, 1-2:30 PM, RM 241
13	Online Learning Student Orientation, 5:30-7 PM, RM 241
14	Convocation, LPC: Continental Breakfast, 7:30 AM, P.E.
	Complex Promenade; Chancellor's Program, 9 AM, Gym
15	College Day: Welcome, 9 AM, RM 2420; Lunch and
	Awards, 11:30 AM, Cafeteria; Meetings, 1 PM
18	Instruction Begins for Fall Semester
	ASLPC Welcome, 8:30 AM-1 PM, Quad
	Online Learning Student Orientation, 5:30-7 PM, online
19	ASLPC Welcome, 8:30-11 AM, Quad
September	
1	Labor Day Holiday
2, 3	Club Rush, 11 AM-2 PM, Quad
29	Transfer Day, Quad

Please visit the Athletics website for schedules. *Go, Hawks!*

Las Positas Connection is published by the Office of the President. Issues are posted online at laspositascollege.edu/ president. Mary Lauffer, Editor

Community Connections

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- ◆ President Russell has joined the Advisory Board of the Livermore Valley Opera, which will open its season on September 27th with Verdi's *Rigoletto*. For information, please visit the website at livermorevalleyopera.com.
- ◆ Director of Student Life and Welding Instructor Scott Miner has been honored once again by the City of Pleasanton for Outstanding Service in appreciation for welding repairs he made at the Pleasanton Senior Center.
- ◆ LPC was featured in the July issue of the *Business Connection*, a bi-monthly publication of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, of which LPC is a longtime member. To view the article and see a photo of some of our Pleasanton graduates, please visit the website at pleasanton.org/business-connection.



Horticulture Instructor Tom Fuller (left) visits with Kelly Abad, Executive Assistant to the President, on LPC's new bench donated by the Horticulture Club.

Buena Vista Horticulture Club Plants Bench in Perfect Spot

Thanks to the Horticulture Club, folks have a new place on campus for a quiet respite or a visit with friends. Led by Horticulture Instructor Tom Fuller, members of the club have installed a bench in a shady spot with a view of the golden hills and vineyard beyond. The bench is constructed from recycled wood, which Mr. Fuller donated and refinished.

The bench can be found on LPC's drought-tolerant California Native Nature Trail near the Mertes Center, just north of the Loop Road. Using proceeds from its popular plant sales, the club plans to add herbaceous California native plants to the trail this fall.

