

## Commencement Brief Talk – May 28, 2011

Hi, I'm Sharon Gach from the Classified Senate. On behalf of the Classified Staff members of the College, I congratulate you on all your accomplishments.

The Classified Staff are the non-instructor-folks who work at the desks, the library, in all the labs ... and lots of behind the scenes areas.... And I'm sure people here have asked a question of Jadin, Tessie or Sandra in Bldg. 100. That's us – folks who helped you and wanted you to succeed all along.

I remember when I was a college student – a mere 35 years ago -- and needed the help of these types of staff members ... there was Hazel in the Library -- her glasses dangled from her pearl chain and she took tea at 3:15 every day, ... and I remember Jim the dorm custodian who cleaned all kinds of horrible messes – and I know now how much I appreciated them **even back then.**

So now, ***I am privileged*** (after 8 other types of institutions) to be someone who helps students – of all ages – which is the beauty of the community college system. I started as an 18 year old at an ivy-covered, four-year campus, but I finished my college degree – *a mere 12 years later* – at Diablo Valley College. For the record: My instructors at 3 different community colleges were as good, or **better**, than the instructors at the 3 private colleges I attended.

You may notice from our speeches that many of us have been ruminating on our college experiences this week, which has led to comparisons of student life at LPC...

and it dawned on me that I have learned a few things from you all, as well.

- I've learned that many students these days have multiple tattoos which I cannot ***figure out***, compared to many students *35 years ago* WHO HAD multiple frizzy hairdo's which I could ***figure out***.

*[Serious here]:*

- What I've really learned though is that as I've worked in various places over the years, I've noticed that people naturally seek to keep on learning – *and that IS what humans do* – we're curious, want to do new things, and we want to fix things. And community college is a place we can do this – all during our lives.

From serving on the scholarship committee I know that some graduates have come to this day with *flying colors*, some with 'just plain colors', and others of us, myself included, have plodded along until we get near the general vicinity of our goal!

I've also learned that we are all very tired this time of year and my current favorite quote speaks to this:

“Many of the great achievements of the world were accomplished by tired and discouraged people ... who just kept on working.”

And because quote-finder.com does not list the author of this quote, I get to learn something new this summer: To ask our reference librarians how to find this author!

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL – YOU DESERVE A GREAT DAY OF CELEBRATION AND THEN...

KEEP ON WORKING TOWARD YOUR NEXT GOALS!

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It is now my pleasure to introduce our ASLPC Speaker, Vice President Takeo Hiraki. As you have heard, he is a scholar and scholastic award winner, including being named to the All California Academic First Team, which means he is among the Top 30 Comm. College Scholars in the State!

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