Board Report

OCTOBER 18, 2011

LLNL/LPC Seminar Showcases Science, Collaboration & Commitment to Lifelong Learning

There was a great deal of excitement surrounding the much-anticipated second season of the LLNL/LPC Seminar Series, and the first session lived up to the expectations and success of the 2010-11 lectures. A team of scientists from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) delivered a presentation on “Restoring Sight to the Blind: Bringing Hope Through Technology” to an audience of approximately 350 people in the Main Stage Theater of the Mertes Center for the Arts.

Together with his five colleagues, Dr. Sat Pannu — Section Leader for the Center for Micro- and Nano-Technology at LLNL and an LPC alum — presented how they bring together different aspects of science, medicine, and engineering to develop an artificial retina in an effort to restore sight to the blind.

Dr. Pannu shared with the students in attendance that, after earning his Ph.D., he returned to Las Positas College to take classes in Chemistry, Biology, and Anatomy to broaden his knowledge and better interact with the wide array of experts involved on the project. This enabled him to understand and speak the language of all the diverse elements of the project that needed to be integrated for a successful outcome.

The LLNL/LPC Seminars are designed to be interdisciplinary in nature and focus on how science is applied to solve problems “from theory to practice,” providing scientists and engineers a forum to share a broad range of basic and applied research with LPC faculty, students, and the larger College community. The next installment — “Microbes Gone Wild: The Race to Diagnose Pathogens” — will be held on Thursday, November 3, in the MDB Lecture Hall.

KUDOS: Student, Faculty & Staff Recognitions

What’s Right at LPC ~ Congratulations to our peer-nominated faculty and staff who exemplify “Hawk Pride” and put Students First: Debbie Fields, Heike Gecox, Martin Nash, and Stephanie Tyler; all of the Librarians (full-time and part-time) and staff in the Learning Resource Center; Elizabeth Hopkins, Cheryl Warren, Tina Inzerilla, and Angela Amaya; Connie Hildebrand, Mario Orozco, Sean Day, Jared Howard, Catherine Suarez, Gilberto Victoria, Elizabeth Abril, Melissa Tallierico, Karen Kit, and the ASLPC volunteers.

Scott Miner for receiving the “San Francisco Section Educator” Award presented by the President of the American Welding Society

The Cross Country Team for their 4th Place finish at the Lou Vasquez Invitational

Kudos: Las Positas College Students, Faculty, Staff Recognition
Global/Social Responsibility

Club Offers Opportunity For Advocacy & Empowerment With Clothesline Project

The Health Club is bringing awareness to sexual assault issues by hosting The Clothesline Project at LPC. This program has been “bearing witness to violence against women for 20 years,” and has been replicated all across the country; it made its debut at LPC last Spring, and is now back for another run. It is designed to provide “an opportunity of empowerment for survivors of sexual violence, a forum for advocacy against sexual violence, and a means to honor victims of sexual violence.” Over the course of its four days at the College, members of the campus community can make shirts to demonstrate advocacy, share stories of survival, and acknowledge the issue’s impact on society.

Respect for Diversity

Psych Plans Event To Inform & Inspire

This Friday, the Psychology Department and Psi Beta Honor Society/Psychology Club is hosting an event entitled “Increasing Mental Health Awareness & Literacy.” Kicking things off will be renowned motivational speaker and mental health advocate, Jeff Bell, to talk openly about his personal experiences with Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder. Following that there will be a presentation on Let’s Erase the Stigma (LETS), a national organization focused on “developing education programs, mentoring opportunities and research designed to empower youth to change the perception of mental illness.”

Adapt to Change

Seniors Shifting Gears

Next month, LPC will hold its annual High School Senior & Parent Night: “Seniors Shifting Gears.” The evening will begin by giving attendees an opportunity to visit info tables and speak directly with faculty and staff from different areas of the institution; the final portion of the program will feature breakout groups focused on various disciplines and majors. Last year, more than 650 high school seniors and family members attended “Shifting Gears” — the largest audience in the history of this event — and the Student Services team hopes to have another capacity crowd on hand this year to learn about Las Positas College, its outstanding programs, and its stellar support services.

Make a Difference

Designing A Day To Honor Veterans

With Veterans Day just around the corner, LPC is once again preparing to honor those who served. Plans are underway for the College’s fourth annual event — “Honoring Veterans Day” — being developed through collaborative efforts between several programs on campus. The program, scheduled for November 10, will feature a group of World War II heroes: members of the Tuskegee Airmen and Maggie Gee, Air Force Service Pilot and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient. In addition, there will be a series of displays showcasing items loaned from student veterans, as well as those shared by LPC employees.

Creative Thinking

Talk Hawks Take Top Honors AGAIN!

For the fourth consecutive year, the LPC Forensics Team has won the First Place Sweepstakes Team Award for community colleges at the Santa Rosa Invitational Speech Tournament. In addition, the Talk Hawks finished second overall — out of the 18 colleges and universities that competed — and boasted the Top Speaker of the tournament, as LPC student Salim Razawi earned four individual honors. Just weeks earlier, the team traveled to SFSU for two tournaments (in as many days) and returned with a total of 11 awards. Way to go, Hawks!

Lifelong Learning

Concentrating On Capacity Building

On November 4, members of the campus community — including faculty, staff, and administrators — will travel to Modesto Junior College to take part in ACCJC’s Regional Workshop on “Capacity Building for Educational Excellence through Program Review and Integrated Institutional Planning.” The session aims to promote dialogue around continuous improvement processes, provide examples of effective collection and use of data, and present best practices related to program-level and institutional planning. The LPC attendees hope to gain new insights to enhance the efforts to integrate planning and evaluate effectiveness.