

LAS POSITAS COLLEGE

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

WINTER ISSUE 2009



LAS POSITAS
COLLEGE

OVER THE PAST YEAR, LAS POSITAS COLLEGE (LPC) HAS MADE STRIDES IN BRINGING "OUR STORY" TO THE COMMUNITY.

We've explored new ways of communicating that, at LPC, our students will find a college experience that exceeds their expectations.



At the same time, a different storyline debuted as part of the prime-time television line up: "Community" is a new comedy series set in a fictional institution, at which a diverse cast of characters forms a study group and learns about life—both inside and out of the classroom. I haven't had an opportunity to watch the show myself, but I know that its addition to the airwaves caused a bit of a stir at community colleges across the country. There were concerns that this caricature would negatively depict community colleges—particularly at a time when the access and academic opportunities they provide are needed more than ever. Despite that pop culture portrayal, what I know for sure is that Las Positas College is an institution that takes pride in delivering a comprehensive, holistic college experience for our students.

So, perhaps I'll tune in to catch an episode of "Community" this season. Or, instead—to get a sense of true community and to see firsthand what a community college really is—I need look no further than our own classrooms, where teaching and learning happen every day; our Theater, where performances unleash the imagination; our Quad, where student life activities energize, educate, and engage the campus; or our athletic facilities, where strengths—both physical and intellectual—are developed. I invite you to get a glimpse of the Las Positas College experience from the articles featured in this issue of the newsletter, and even hear directly from one of our students about her "LPC Story."

Be well,

DeRionne P. Pollard, Ph.D.

LPC STUDENTS AT A GLANCE

Anyone setting foot on the Las Positas College (LPC) campus this Fall couldn't help but notice the numbers of students in the classrooms, on the Quad, and in the parking lots.

This semester the headcount reached more than 9,300 students, up from just over 7,900 in Fall 2008. Approximately 60% of the current students are part-time and 40% attend full-time, a figure that is higher than the statewide average. LPC students are also younger, on average, with about 40% between the ages of 18–21. In addition, there are nearly 300 veterans taking classes at the College; of those, more than 100 served in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)/Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

In order to support students through the various processes at the start of the academic year, a "Welcome Center" was established as a single, service-based point of contact. During the first two weeks of the semester, the Welcome Center served record numbers of students, with representatives from Admissions & Records, Counseling, and Financial Aid in one location to answer questions and troubleshoot issues. It's no surprise that, with the struggling economy, the College has larger numbers of students—currently more than 2,200—receiving financial assistance.

By serving diverse students with excellence and providing them with services that meet their needs, Las Positas College actualizes its Vision of giving students experiences that "build their capacity, speak to their potential, and transform their lives." Perhaps the most compelling evidence of this is hearing students describe a college experience that does exactly that—just as recent alumna Meghan Ott did in an unsolicited letter to Dr. Pollard:

President Pollard,

My name is Meghan Ott and I recently transferred from Las Positas to San Jose State. I am writing to let you know of my wonderful experience with Las Positas. I had always known I was receiving a good education at LPC. I had fantastic instructors who honestly cared about the success of their students. I felt the resources provided for all students were truly helpful. I was able to get answers when I sought them almost right away. My education and experience at Las Positas was one I knew I would always appreciate and remember as I stepped off campus for the final time last spring.

It was not until I stepped foot back on to a college campus, a new college campus, that I would come to find how important my time at Las Positas was. As a transfer student I feel something that most new students at any level of education often do not feel their first week on a new campus. I feel prepared. As I sit in University level lectures I am not intimidated. It is very clear to me now that Las Positas instructors both expect and demand the very best from their students. Now, more than ever, I appreciate the hard work I did in every one of my classes. I have a new found respect for the staff of Las Positas College.

It is often said to community college students that they are receiving the same education as those students who went straight to a four year college. As a community college student it's very difficult to see things that way. I also find it hard to believe that the above statement is always accurate. However, I do believe that Las Positas holds high standards for its establishment and succeeds in reaching those standards, even exceeds them.

Thank you for the education I received. Thank you for preparing me to be everything I possibly might become. Thank you for showing me my potential.

Keep doing what you're doing Las Positas!

Meghan Ott

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TRI-VALLEY ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER

Since 1998, Las Positas College has provided leadership in the operations of a very unique employment and training program called the Tri-Valley One-Stop Career Center. The overall purpose of the One-Stop Career Center is to provide resources and services in support of employers and all job, education, and training seekers. Located at the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District office in Pleasanton, the One-Stop welcomes employers and job seekers from Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, and San Ramon.

The One-Stop Career Center is comprised of partner organizations, including Las Positas College, the Department of Rehabilitation, the Employment Development Department, the Alameda County Workforce Investment

Board, local cities and other community based agencies. The benefit of the partnerships is to leverage federal and local resources to provide a more comprehensive and less duplicative program. Examples of the resources and services available to the College's students and the Tri-Valley community include:

- job search assistance and referrals
- resume development
- computers with internet access, Microsoft Office, and career development software
- telephones and fax machines
- resource library of job search videos and books
- numerous job search workshops (i.e., resume writing and video-taped mock interview sessions)
- job fairs

The Tri-Valley One-Stop Career Center has additional support services for those who qualify under specific requirements of the Workforce Investment Act, which may include:

- case management services
- paid training
- transportation assistance
- book fees
- mental health services
- testing fees

On average the Tri-Valley One-Stop Career Center serves over 100 customers per day. The staff also provides numerous services in the local community, such as going on-site at various locations to work with employers engaged in large lay-offs. They also provide workshops at local libraries and deliver presentations at area high schools.



For more information on the Tri-Valley One-Stop Career Center, please visit www.trivalleyonestop.com or call 925-485-5262.

ONLINE LEARNING KEEPS GROWING AND GROWING

If records are meant to be broken, then the continued growth of online learning at Las Positas College (LPC) must sound like...well, a broken record.

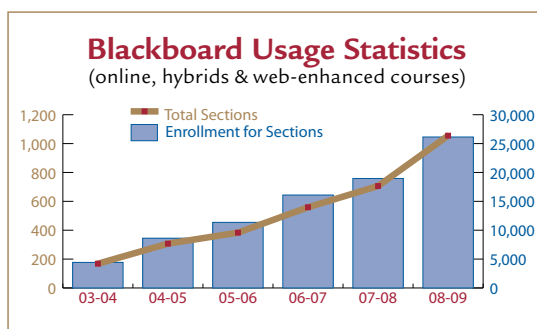
Since the debut of online learning at the College in 1999, each year has seen an increase in the number of sections that are either fully online, partly online or enhanced with online content.

In Fall 2009 alone, LPC offered 81 online sections, 24 hybrids and 449 web-enhanced sections. Furthermore, this semester 157 instructors are using Blackboard, the College online learning and course management system.

What's driving this increase? Student demand, that's for sure. Not only do online classes fill up very quickly, but instructors often report that students in face-to-face classes tell them that they want resources, such as handouts and presentations, posted to the web for easy access.

Faculty also recognize the educational benefits of students learning online—an environment in which many students feel comfortable.

“The level of work in my class was very high,” said Jeremiah Bodnar, who taught Humanities online for the first time this past summer. “I have my students write a lot of papers,



and most of them—not just in terms of thought content, but also research, grammar, citations—were at least as high quality as my regular on-ground class.

“The availability of the course being online helped, and I think the students also benefitted from the resources being online. I posted video presentations of my lectures, so the students were able to pause a lecture and go back over it. They really digested the content of the lectures.”

While online learning—particularly online courses—is certainly not for every student, many are appreciative of the opportunity it provides.

“I LOVE online courses,” wrote one student in a recent survey. “I was able to complete my AA degree primarily through online courses. I am now using online courses to complete core requirements for transfer to the University of San Francisco Applied Economics program.”

STUDENT LIFE IS ALIVE AND WELL AT LPC

In the last few years, the growth of student life at Las Positas College (LPC) has been incredible, and speaks to the institution's commitment to providing a full "college experience" for students. There are almost 30 active student clubs that sponsor numerous educational, cultural, service, and social events. LPC clubs have held activities such as a Native American Pow Wow; a bone marrow donor drive; concerts; toy, coat, and food drives; guest speakers; and film showings, just to name a few.

In addition, the College holds two RUSH Wednesdays each semester. Clubs set up tables in the Quad to talk about their activities, and music and food are provided for students. These student organizations have seen growth in their memberships, and more and more students seem interested in extra-curricular activities.

The members of the Associated Students of Las Positas College (ASLPC), the student body government, are active and effective leaders. There are seven officers, nearly 20 senators, and one student who serves on the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Board as a Student Trustee. The ASLPC represents students on College committees, and at the local, state and federal levels. The members of the ASLPC gain valuable leadership experience, which benefits them as they continue their education and as they move into their professional lives.

This vibrant student life, and the opportunities it affords students, demonstrates how Las Positas College is dedicated to offering a wide array of learning experiences, both inside and out of the classroom.



Alex Blue casts his ballot in the ASLPC special election.

CLUB DAY—SEPTEMBER 16, 2009



Photos by Luisa Nino

Student Trustee, Anthony Leanos (left) and ASLPC Senator, Janneice Hines (right) pose with an LPC student (center).



Daniel Nenni, Helen Nguyen, Mario Jaramillo in front of the Public Safety Club's fire engine.

JOIN US AT THESE LPC EVENTS!

December

- 1-4 **La Semana Cubana**
Cuban Culture Week
- Holiday Concerts**
- 2 **Music Department Recital** 12:30 pm
- 2 **Orchestra & Band Concert** 7:30 pm*
- 8 **Chamber & Concert Choirs** 8:00 pm*
- 11 **Vocal Jazz & Combos Concert** 8:00 pm
- 12 **Instrumental Jazz Concert** 8:00 pm
- 3 **High School Senior & Parent Night**
"Seniors Switching Gears" 7:00 pm
- 4 **Speech Tournament** 1:00-5:00 pm
- 4 **2nd Annual Student Film Festival** 7:00 pm
- 4, 5 **Dance Performance** 8:00 pm
- Men's Basketball**
- 5 **vs. San Joaquin Delta College** 3:00 pm
- 17 **vs. San Jose City College** 7:00 pm
- Women's Basketball**
- 8 **vs. Cabrillo College** 5:30 pm
- 11 **CalWORKs/CARE Student Recognition**
Holiday Celebration
- 14-19 **Finals Week**
- 21-31 **Winter Recess**

January

- 1-18 **Winter Recess**
- Women's Basketball**
- 6 **vs. Skyline College** 5:30 pm
- 16 **vs. Chabot College** 3:00 pm
- 23 **vs. San Mateo College** 5:00 pm
- Men's Basketball**
- 6 **vs. Skyline College** 7:30 pm
- 16 **vs. Chabot College** 5:00 pm
- 23 **vs. Ohlone College** 3:00 pm
- TBD **Health Sciences Summit**
- 19 **Spring Semester Classes Begin**

February

- Men's Basketball**
- 3 **vs. City College of San Francisco** 5:30 pm
- 13 **vs. Foothill College** 5:00 pm
- 20 **vs. Cañada College** 3:00 pm
- Women's Basketball**
- 3 **vs. City College of San Francisco** 7:30 pm
- 13 **vs. Foothill College** 3:00 pm
- 5 **Forensics Parliamentary Debate**
Tournament
- 6 **Talk Hawk Invitational Speech**
Tournament
- 10 **RUSH Wednesday**
ASLPC Club Day
- 11 **Presidential Advisory Council**
Quarterly Meeting
- 27 **Early Music Concert Series** 7:30 pm
Featuring Judy Linsenberg

* These events will not be held on the Las Positas College campus. Please check the LPC website for locations.

Meeting the Needs of Our Community—*Thank You Voters!*

LPC ATHLETICS AND NEW FACILITIES

Las Positas College (LPC) offers a wide variety of sports experiences to meet the needs and interests of its students. There is a competitive Intercollegiate Athletics program, a Club Sports program, and Intramural teams. Also offered is an extensive Physical Education program, with fun and diverse course offerings.

The Intercollegiate Athletics program currently includes teams in Men's and Women's Basketball, Men's and Women's Soccer, and Men's and Women's Cross-Country Running.

In March 2004, the residents of the Tri-Valley approved a local

bond which provided \$498 million dollars to the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District for capital improvements. A portion of that funding was used to construct the now completed Aquatics Center and Soccer Field. Over the next 2-10 years, LPC will expand the Intercollegiate Athletics program to include such sports as Men's and Women's Swimming/Diving, Men's Baseball, Women's Softball and Volleyball.

The construction of the new sports facilities—along with the expansion of class offerings—will greatly enhance the Las Positas College Athletics Program, which is designed to provide a total educational experience for each scholar-athlete.

SCHOLAR-ATHLETE SUCCESS



The Las Positas College Athletic Department is proud to announce that seven members of the 2008-09 Men's Basketball team moved on to continue their education at 4-year universities. Five of the seven players will be on scholarship, both academic and athletic. The Hawks, in their 3rd year of existence, had an overall record of 21-9 and at one time were ranked as high as #3 in the entire State.

Evan Sanzo-Davis, a freshman out of Bishop O'Dowd, received a full scholarship to play at Seattle University. Sanzo-Davis played sparingly last year as a freshman, but worked very hard to become the first Division I basketball signee in school history. He maintained a 3.8 Grade Point Average (GPA) at LPC and will have three years of eligibility at Seattle.

Chris Hansen, a sophomore from Arroyo High School, received a scholarship to Newman University, a Division II school in Wichita, Kansas. Hansen was a member

of Las Positas' inaugural team in 2006-2007 and started most of that season. A back injury kept him out of the 2007-2008 campaign, but he came back to start many of the games last year.

Jeff Ford, a guard out of Hayward High, will continue his playing career at Notre Dame de Namur University, a Division II school that competes in the Pac West Conference. Ford, a two-year starter at LPC, averaged 10.4 points per game and was named to the All-Conference Team in 2008. He was also MVP of the 2007 Chabot College Classic Tournament.

Xavier Lewis, from Mt. Eden High, will join Ford at Notre Dame de Namur. Lewis was a part-time starter, but was most effective as "6th man". After sitting out his first year in 2006-07, Lewis made the transition from a post to a forward.

Sophomore **Willie Richardson** became the first LPC Men's Basketball player to sign a letter-of-intent with a four-year school by committing to play at Kentucky Wesleyan College next season.

Richardson, a 6'3" guard from New Orleans, was a first-team All-Coast Conference North Division selection—the first time an LPC player has earned that distinction. He

averaged 14.8 points and 5.7 rebounds per game and shot 51 percent from the floor for the season.

Two other Hawks transferring to the 4-year level are **Erik Biczkow** (Livermore High School) and **Bryan Kelly** (Granada High School). Both were positive contributors to last year's team success. Biczkow earned a 3.9 GPA at Las Positas College and will study engineering at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Kelly will major in Administration of Justice at California State University, Chico. He leaves LPC with a 3.7 GPA.

Las Positas College—its coaches, faculty and staff—are proud to have been part of these students' lives, and support them in achieving their academic and athletic goals. We wish them continued success!

WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK

Please contact Kirti Reddy
Community Development Liaison

Tel: 925-424-1006

LPCpresidentsinfo@laspositascollege.edu

CHABOT-LAS POSITAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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VALUES STATEMENT

Las Positas College thrives as a teaching and learning community committed to integrity and excellence. To nourish this environment and the communities served, we:

- promote and celebrate lifelong learning;
- anticipate and meet the needs of the ever-changing workplace;
- demonstrate social and environmental responsibility;
- promote tolerance and mutual respect in a diverse community;
- foster a climate of discovery and creativity;
- hold firm to the belief that each of us makes an astonishing difference.



LAS POSITAS
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