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March 2010



COMMUNITY CONNECTION



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- [Mt. SAC Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Foundation](#)
- [Alumni](#)

President's Message



I recently welcomed faculty back to campus with the message that it is both a challenging and exciting time for Mt. SAC.

As with other schools and colleges across the state, the budget picture is gloomy. As the economy worsens, demand for programs and services at Mt. SAC is higher than ever.

The state budget is broken, and that impacts us significantly. At Mt. SAC, we are doing all we can to face the challenge head on, which includes optimizing efficiencies and implementing cost-saving measures. We have already taken significant steps to mitigate the impact of state funding cuts, including reducing class offerings,

freezing or eliminating vacant positions, cutting part-time faculty, and using our reserves to backfill. We have also reached out to our staff and faculty to ask them for suggestions on how we can best weather this storm together.

When it comes to years of declining revenue and difficult decisions, the first casualty is students -- and that's unfortunate.

However, in spite of these challenges, Mt. SAC continues with its winning ways, and our students continue to excel.

Working with our community, as well as our faculty and staff, we will do what it takes to ensure Mt. SAC remains the "college of champions."

Dr. John S. Nixon
President & CEO

News and Announcements

Spring Enrollment Down, Number of Full-Time Students Up



Students returned to campus Feb. 23 and as expected, classrooms and parking lots were packed!

While spring credit enrollment overall has dropped nearly 9%, the number of full-time students has increased more than 14%, which means slightly fewer students are taking more units this spring.

"Through careful planning, we needed to reduce our classes offerings due to cutbacks in funding from the state," said Student

Services Vice President **Audrey Yamagata-Noji**. "We know that those reductions hurt students, but we've had to face the fiscal reality."

As part of its enrollment management strategy, Mt. SAC also offered 3.5% fewer credit classes this semester compared to spring 2009 for a total of 2,894 active credit classes. For the spring, the college had to cut 154 classes.

"After the start of the semester, we added some high-demand classes in English, math, and general education, and those classes filled immediately," Yamagata-Noji said.

Across the state, enrollment at community colleges has varied greatly this spring. While every college has experienced high demand for classes due to the economy and cutbacks at Cal State universities, enrollment figures range from an 11% drop at nearby Citrus College to a 19% increase at Barstow College. Statewide, enrollment is down an average of .7%.

Mountie Teams Earn State and National Honors



Mt. SAC is celebrating state and national honors for its **Football** and **Men's Soccer** teams, marking the first time in Mountie athletics history that two teams have earned national titles in the same academic year.

The Football Team beat San Mateo for the California Community College Athletic Association State Championship in early December. The team was then ranked #1 nationally by community college football media outlets, JC Gridwire and JC Gridiron. The Soccer Team captured its first state title against Taft College and was subsequently ranked #1 nationally.

Congratulations to Head Women's Cross Country Coach **Doug Todd**, who was named the 2009 State Women's Cross Country Coach of the Year by his peers.

The **Men's** and **Women's Basketball** teams recently advanced to the Southern Regional Finals. While the men's team lost, the women's team defeated Los Angeles Trade Tech, advancing to the

California State Championship tournament. Go Mounties!

Mt. SAC Awarded \$2.2-Million Federal Grant

Mt. SAC and its partners, Rio Hondo and Chaffey colleges, were recently awarded \$2.24 million by the U.S. Department of Labor to develop and implement an industry recognized certificate in building automation and energy management.

The three-year grant, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, funds community colleges, community organizations, and state workforce agencies to provide training in health care and other high-growth industries. Nearly 1,500 applications were submitted to the Department of Labor, and 55 were funded.

"This is a big deal for us," said **Darrow Soares**, Mt. SAC's acting associate dean of Career and Technical Education. "We're really pleased knowing the quality of the competition."

By developing existing programs at the three community colleges, the federal money will go farther. Funding will go toward modifying the curriculum and labs of the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration program at Mt. San Antonio College, the Electronics program at Rio Hondo, and the Industrial Motors program at Chaffey College.

Mt. SAC Is a Homecoming for New VP

After serving three years as executive director for human resources and labor relations at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo, **Annette Loria** sees coming to Mt. SAC as a type of homecoming.



"Coming back to where you started is sometimes the best place to be," said Loria, who relocated back to the area last month to assume her duties as human resources vice president.

Before working at Cuesta College, Loria served as the director of classified personnel at Ontario-Montclair School District for 17 years.

Loria grew up in Upland and earned her bachelor's degree and MBA at Cal Poly Pomona.

She acknowledges she comes to the Walnut campus at a challenging time.

"It feels good to be here even during these extraordinarily difficult economic times when the college must make tough decisions that could impact employees, services and programs," Loria said.

The focus, she said, needs to be on Mt. SAC's students, who represent perhaps the greatest resource for the future the college has.

Mt. SAC is among the largest of California's 112 community colleges, with an employee base of about 2,700 part- and full-time instructional, management and classified employees, serving 65,000 credit and noncredit students annually.

"Ca\$h for College" Event Draws Hundreds

Hundreds of high school students and their parents turned out for Mt. SAC's annual "Ca\$h for College" event last month to obtain one-on-one assistance in completing financial aid forms.

The event, one of several held countywide in February, provided help for college-bound students to complete and file the complex Federal Student Aid and Cal Grant financial aid forms for the 2008-09 academic year. The event also helped students maximize their financial aid prospects by meeting the early financial aid deadlines.

The event was open to all area high school seniors, regardless of the college they plan on attending.



Susan Jones, director of Mt. SAC's Financial Aid program, said that while California community colleges remain a bargain at \$26 a unit, students still need help with living expenses, gasoline and books.

Assemblymember Edward Hernandez (D-West Covina) and **Assemblymember Norma Torres** (D-Pomona) co-sponsored the event. Representatives from the office of **Assemblymember Curt Hagman** (R-Chino) also attended.

Students returned to campus Feb. 23 to begin the spring semester. Before the first day of classes, 4,650 students received more than \$5.5 million in financial aid. A total of 21,806 students have received Board of Governors fee waivers already in 2009-10, eclipsing the mark of 15,893 BOG waivers all of the 2008-09 academic year.

Black History Month Celebrated



More than 200 students, family members, and community members participated in the 5th Annual Black College Summit on Jan. 30.

Co-sponsored by Mt. SAC's Career and Transfer Center, Mt. SAC's Associated Students, and the San Gabriel Valley Section of the National Council of Negro Women, the summit provided high school and college students with the opportunity to explore the benefits of transferring to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

The summit featured workshops and presentations to provide a forum for students and their families to connect with college alumni and admissions staff. Students from a total of 44 different colleges and K-12 schools throughout the southland attended the summit.

Eleven HBCUs, including Howard University, Morehouse College, and Grambling State, participated in the event along with 18 Cal State University, UC, and private colleges.

Mt. SAC Relays to Run April 15-17

Many of the world's best track and field athletes will kick off their 2010 season at this year's Mt. SAC Relays to be held April 15-17 at Mt. SAC's stadium.

In all, more than 13,600 athletes -- including Youth Days participants -- will compete, representing the best youth, high school, university and elite competitors from various parts of the world.

The 52nd Relays begins with the Youth Days portion of the meet on April 2 and April 3. Community colleges compete April 10, and the high school invitational is set for April 16 and April 17. The distance carnival runs April 16 with the Puma Collegiate Classic scheduled over three days, April 15-17. The event culminates with the International Day of Champions (featuring elite-class competition) on Saturday, April 17.

Tickets are \$10 for April 10, \$10 for April 15, \$1 for April 16, and \$20 for April 17. For tickets, call the Performing Box Office at (909) 468-4050 or visit online at www.4tix.org

Bet You'll Have a Good Time at Mountie

Carlo Night

The Mt. SAC Foundation and the Classified Senate cordially invite you to the sixth annual Mountie Carlo Night, benefiting scholarships and campus projects.

This fun event is set for March 26 at the beautiful Diamond Bar Center from 6 to 10 p.m. The night features casino-style gaming, dinner, entertainment, dancing, and door prizes. Want to take a chance at craps or blackjack? Mountie Carlo Night is just the time to do it!

General admission is \$45 and includes dinner, \$200 "fun money" and a no-host bar. VIP tickets are \$80 and includes dinner, \$400 "fun money" food served to the table, guaranteed seating, goodie bag, two bar drinks and more!

For more information, please contact Lisa Chong at (909) 594-5611, ext. 5707 or e-mail lisa.chong@mtsac.edu.

Enjoy the Performing Arts at Mt. SAC!

Mark your calendars and be sure to experience exceptional performances and exhibits by Mt. SAC students, faculty and professional artists.

The 2009-10 Performing Arts Center season is now underway. For event and ticket information, visit <http://performingarts.mtsac.edu> or www.4tix.org.

Coming up:



12th Annual Puttin' on the Hits

Celebrity lip sync show sponsored by the Mt. SAC Faculty Association. Proceeds from the performances benefit student scholarships.

March 12, 7:30 p.m.

March 13, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Craig Deines (art exhibit)

March 11 - April 8
Free
Mt. SAC Art Gallery

Ninth Annual Spring Thing (variety)
March 27, 8 p.m.
Sophia B. Clarke Theater

Music Department Student Showcase
April 17, 8 p.m.
Feddersen Music Recital Hall

Tartuffe: Born Again (theater)
April 16 and 17, 8 p.m.
April 23 and 24, 8 0.m.
Sophia B. Clarke Theater

Spring Wind Ensemble Concert (music)
May 16, 4 p.m.
Sophia B. Clarke Theater



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