LOOKING FORWARD:
New Year, New Opportunities

Halfway through the academic year, we as a Mt. SAC family have much to celebrate: our outstanding educational programs, our rich student support services, and the phenomenal results that all of you have achieved. But this month, we can also celebrate a new semester and a new year filled with opportunity and challenge.

It’s no secret that Mt. SAC has one of the finest reputations of any community college in the state. That distinction has been hard-earned and well deserved, as we can point to the many success stories and awards won by faculty, staff and our students that attest to the caliber of education we provide year after year.

Our commitment to student learning outcomes—evident through the recent accreditation process in the fall—is another reminder of Mt. SAC’s commitment to an ever-evolving process to provide the best programs, the best learning environment, and the best educational experience for students. Yet with all the accolades the College receives, faculty and staff are constantly striving to improve and, if necessary, overhaul campus programs and services.

In the new year, Mt. SAC will continue to face uncertain funding challenges as the California Legislature and the Governor struggle to reduce an $8-billion state budget deficit. We and the entire community college sector are being careful not to overreact to initial budget proposals, as they are exactly that at this juncture.

A number of counter-proposals and alternate plans will be considered as the Legislature tries to carve a path to financial stability. All proposals will have pluses and minuses, but be assured that we will work aggressively with the Chancellor’s Office and our supporters in the Legislature to protect our interests and oppose any plan that threatens our stability and our ability to serve students and our community.

(See "President’s Message" on page 5)

Hall, Haggerty, Baca Lead Board of Trustees in ’05

At its annual organization meeting on Dec. 15, the Mt. SAC Board of Trustees elected Dr. David K. Hall, Judy Chen Haggerty and Dr. Manuel Baca to lead the board as President, Vice President and Clerk respectively. They will serve a one-year term.

The election marks the third time Hall is presiding over the board, having served as President in 1997 and 2001. Professionally, he is Senior Vice President of Hitchcock Automotive Resources in the City of Industry, one of the nation’s largest privately owned retail automotive groups.

Chen Haggerty is Managing Director/Attorney for the law offices of Chen & Haggerty and is also a real estate broker.

Baca is a past President of the Mt. SAC board and currently serves as Interim Dean of Business, Art and Applied Technology at Rio Hondo College in Whittier.

The other members of the board are Fred Chyr (immediate past President), Rosanne Bader, and Jean Christophe Le (Student Trustee).
25 New Faculty Members to Be Hired

Mt. SAC is now hiring 25 new faculty members in what is one of the biggest faculty hiring years in the past decade. Twenty-three of the new faculty members will replace professors who have retired or resigned over the past two years.

“This effort underscores our commitment to teaching excellence and quality education for our students,” said Vice President of Instruction John Nixon. “We’re looking for faculty to join our stellar team who are fully committed to these values as well as to our students, student learning outcomes and to the institution itself.”

Department chairs, division deans and the Academic Senate were involved in the ranking process to determine which faculty positions would be filled, Nixon said. The positions encompass the College’s seven academic divisions as well as Learning Resources, Student Services, Basic Skills & Special Programs, and Disabled Students Programs & Services.

More specifically, faculty appointments are being sought in biology, anatomy/physiology, physical education (dance, aquatics, soccer), political science, reading, psychology, nutrition, mathematics, history, art/ceramics, nursing, astronomy, aeronautics, electronics, fashion design, and counseling. To help facilitate the recruitment process, Mt. SAC participated in the California Community College Registry Job Fair at the LAX Marriott.

Leslie Kerr Is New Director of Development

Mt. SAC welcomes Leslie Kerr as the new Director of Development. She is working with the Foundation board and volunteers to expand fund-raising efforts in support of the College’s special needs not covered by budget resources.

Kerr comes to Mt. SAC from the University of La Verne, where she was Director of Development for ULV’s College of Business and Public Management. Previously she was the Associate Director of the Harris Institute of Global Legal Studies at Washington University’s School of Law in St. Louis.

Kerr has worked as a development officer for 10 years and has broad experience in special events, grant writing, annual campaigns, and alumni affairs.

A community college alumna, Kerr earned an M.A. in education at National University, a B.A. in journalism from Cal State L.A., and an associate’s degree at Los Angeles Valley College.
When “Mr. Rogers” Meets “The Wizard”

Choral professor Bruce Rogers sits courtside in chance meeting with UCLA legend John Wooden.

By Mike Taylor

To many Mt. SAC music students, Choral Director and Professor Bruce Rogers is a mentor, a source of inspiration, and even for some, a “legend.” So to whom has Rogers looked for inspiration?

One might assume it’s a figure from the melodic world of music. But it’s actually a legend from the High Court of College Basketball, none other than the “Wizard of Westwood” himself, former UCLA head coach John Wooden.

“For years, I wished I could meet John Wooden and tell him how much he’s inspired me,” said Rogers, whose wish came true—quite by chance—a couple of months ago. Actually a friend, who had won a “Breakfast with John Wooden” prize at a silent auction, brought Rogers along as a surprise.

One would imagine that Rogers and Wooden have little in common, but such is not the case. A huge college basketball fan, Rogers met Wooden, 94, at VIP’s, the very Encino restaurant where Wooden has breakfast every morning—sitting at the same table, served by the same waitress. A place where the customers greet the revered Wiz with a friendly “Hey Coach!”

“I grew up playing basketball in high school, and I’ve always been fascinated by how coaches work and how they get into their players’ heads,” said Rogers, who studied Wooden’s approach to coaching and teaching through his books.

“So much of what he believes in as a coach, I believe in as a music teacher,” he said. “Essentially, I treat my vocal groups as a team, which effectively would make me a coach of sorts.”

In 40 years of coaching, Wooden amassed an unsurpassed record of 905-205, 10 NCAA championships—including seven consecutive championships—the most appearances (16) in the Final Four, and a record 88 consecutive victories. He was selected “Man of the Year” by The Sporting News and Sports Illustrated, named ESPN’s “Coach of the 20th Century,” and in 2003 received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, one of the nation’s highest honors.

“We talked about all sorts of things,” Rogers reminisces fondly. “I found him to be thoughtful, perceptive and witty.”

Yet with all of Wooden’s accomplishments and honors, what matters most to him may come as a surprise.

“He said that his greatest personal achievement was receiving the scholastic award when he graduated from Purdue, and his greatest achievement as an educator was that every single student he ever coached graduated from college,” Rogers says. “I can relate to that desire.”

After breakfast, Rogers was invited back to the coach’s house, where the conversations continued until it was time for him to head back to Mt. SAC to teach a music class. He received an open invitation to come back and visit the Wizard. So ended a memorable day in the life of Mt. SAC’s “Wizard of Walnut,” who likewise has amassed an impressive record of international accomplishments as Director of the award-winning Mt. SAC Chamber Singers and jazz vocal group, Singcopation.

Upon reflection, Rogers notes, “It’s not often that we get to thank the people who have inspired us. I’m grateful and humbled to have been able to do just that with such an extraordinary mentor, who I now consider a friend.”
President O’Hearn Welcomes Faculty and Staff at Spring Opening Meeting

Issues and challenges addressed, including enrollment management strategies

President/CEO Christopher C. O’Hearn welcomed faculty and other employees back from a restful Winter break and to a new year and a new semester at the Spring Opening Meeting on Jan. 19.

O’Hearn noted several achievements and challenges the College has faced over the past year and the fall semester. He also offered a prospective overview of what lies ahead, including ongoing fiscal challenges stemming from the state budget crunch. Perhaps the most well-received news of the day was the announcement to hire 25 new faculty members, including counselors, for the ’05 Fall semester. That recruitment process is currently under way (see page 2).

Vice President of Student Services Dr. Audrey Yamagata-Noji presented a student enrollment update, noting that enrollment overall is slightly below that for Spring ’04 (by about 1.24%), which was 5.42% below Spring ’03 enrollment.

She outlined major strategies that are being implemented to boost full-time student enrollment, since it is linked to the College’s state funding allocation. The strategies include the launch of online registration (which was used by 30% of students this semester), extended business hours to accommodate registrants, extended high school and community outreach and increased media and marketing efforts to promote Mt. SAC’s programs and the availability of financial aid.

Yamagata-Noji also outlined the new campuswide enrollment management initiative on behalf of Vice President Dr. John Nixon, who could not attend the meeting. The initiative examines all factors and programs that affect and influence student enrollment. An action plan has been produced, outlining specific tasks and timelines for the assigned coordinator of each plan element.

The Opening Meeting audience also heard presentations by Safety, Health Benefits and Risk Management Director Karen Saldana (campus emergency plan), Dean of Instructional Services Dr. Virginia Burley (formation of Institutional Effectiveness Committee), Dr. Terri Smith Long (Faculty Association update), Academic Senate President Phil Maynard (need for faculty hiring panel volunteers), and Philosophy Professor Sushma Hall (her sabbatical research project).
Whatever the outcome, I have all the faith and confidence that we will pull together as a united team and employ the discipline necessary to manage our resources responsibly as we have done historically during tough times.

Meanwhile, I look forward to all of the typical year-end events that occur on our campus this semester, including our world-famous Relays and sports championships, the arts performances and competitions, the debate season, as well as the awards ceremonies, culminating in commencement.

I wish all of you a productive and extraordinary new year!

Christopher C. O’Hearn, Ph.D.
President/CEO
Construction on the new Science Lab Complex is in full gear. The tall construction crane is a visible sign to the community that great things are building on the Mt. SAC campus. The facility is targeted for completion next year.

Ten little piggies nearly didn’t go to market, so to speak. Their debut into the world would have been spoiled were it not for the quick response and extra effort of maintenance staff who restored power to Mt. SAC’s swine unit during the recent rain storms.

“Most likely the pigs would have died had our maintenance crew and electricians not come to the rescue,” said Mt. SAC Assistant Farm Manager Randy Storm.

The piglets’ mother began to give birth after a power outage blackened the eastern portion of campus. The cold temperatures of a lingering January storm jeopardized the fate of the litter.

“They need to be kept at at least 98 degrees for the first few days,” Storm said.

That’s when Maintenance Director Kent Smith was called. He arranged for a portable generator to be set up to power several heat lamps to keep the newborns warm.

“The crew had a big headache already with the storm and the blackout,” said Storm. “You can’t thank people too much when they go the extra mile.”

Today, one might say that the newborns are in hog heaven!
A.S. Holiday Tea with special guest, Santa

SAC BOOK RAC's Holiday Tea

Administration’s Holiday Tea

Learning Technology Center’s Holiday Tea
Marketing Campaign Promotes Mt. SAC and Enrollment

Mt. SAC has launched a multimedia advertising effort to support the College’s ongoing enrollment enhancement strategy. Throughout December, the College rolled out a series of display ads promoting the theme, “Spring Into Mt. SAC . . . we’ll help pay for it!,” on MTA and Foothill Transit buses that serve the entire San Gabriel Valley. An animated variation of this ad was displayed on the screens of select AMC and Krikorian theaters within district boundaries and San Bernardino County to capture the surge in holiday movie attendance.

Throughout the first week of January, a series of three, 60-second radio spots promoting Spring registration and financial aid were aired throughout Southern California over KNX Newsradio during peak and off-peak commuting times.

To build on this momentum, Mt. SAC has launched a series of half-page ads that will run monthly through April in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune, Whittier Daily News, Pasadena Star-News and the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin. The ads promote the theme of “Value” and highlight the economic, instructional, and student support value that Mt. SAC offers students. The display ads will feature actual students, alumni and faculty.

“These marketing efforts are designed to heighten public awareness and support the ongoing recruitment and outreach efforts of Student Services and the Instruction organization,” said Marketing Director Clarence Brown.

“The goal here is to boost enrollment by promoting Mt. SAC as the best place to come to prepare yourself for gainful employment in the competitive marketplace, whether through an academic or vocational path. Our brand tagline, ‘Preparing you for the real world!’ delivers the promise that a Mt. SAC education can empower anyone to meet his or her educational and career goals.”

2005 Calendar/Annual Report to the Community Now Available

Mt. SAC has issued its 2005 Calendar & Annual Report to the Community.

The 85-page datebook features the 2005 calendar in a compact, week-at-a-glance spiral booklet with color photos highlighting different aspects of campus life.

The Annual Report section includes a message from President/CEO Christopher C. O’Hearn, celebrating Mt. SAC’s successes and accomplishments over the past year as well as financial highlights. The report section also features the activities and fund-raising efforts of the Mt. SAC Foundation.

Limited copies of the unique datebook are also available at administrative and academic offices across campus as well as the Marketing & Public Information Office in Administrative Building (4), Room 127, ext. 5420.
**JANUARY**

26, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. —Cancer Awareness Information Day information booth, sponsored by Student Health Services, on Miracle Mile.

**FEBRUARY**

4, 5, 11 & 12, 8 p.m. —Shakespeare’s The Tempest, Mt. SAC Theater production, at the Clarke Theater.

5 —Skills USA Regional Competition, technology students compete in various vocational skills events, at Cal State L.A.

11, 6 p.m. —“Mountie Carlo Night,” Mt. SAC alumni reunion with casino-style games, music, dinner and dancing, at the Shilo Hilltop Suites in Pomona (see details below).

12, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. —“Cash for College,” a financial aid information and application workshop, at Social Sciences Lecture Hall (Bldg. 26).

18 & 21 —Campus closed in observance of President’s Day.

23 thru April 21 —Artist and master painter Patrick Merrill, Art Gallery exhibit. Opening reception Feb. 23, 5:30 p.m.

25 & 26, 8 p.m. —Backhaus Dance Company, at Clarke Theater.

For performing arts event tickets, call ext. 2050.

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**See you all for a “dice-y” evening at Mountie Carlo Night!**

All Mountie alumni, faculty, staff and friends of Mt. SAC are invited to an all-class-reunion “Mountie Carlo Night” event, beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 11 at the Shilo Hilltop Suites in Pomona.

Sponsored by the Mt. SAC Alumni Association, the event will feature casino-type games, music, dancing, dinner and a silent auction. Admission is $35.

You will receive chips to use at the casino tables to win chance tickets for prizes. Musical classics from the past six decades will be played—representing the nearly 60 years that Mt. SAC has been serving students. Alumni will be able to reunite with their classmates at specialty areas designated by class years.

To purchase tickets, call the Mt. SAC Foundation Office at ext. 5443.

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**Mt. SAC Puts on the Hits**

Where can you see stars such as Britney Spears, the Beach Boys, Frank Sinatra, and Kiss on the same stage? The answer is the Faculty Association’s scholarship fundraiser Puttin’ on the Hits to be held Friday and Saturday, March 4 and 5, 8 p.m., in Clarke Theater. A special matinee performance is set for Saturday at 4 p.m.

More Mt. SAC professors, managers, staff, and students are needed to impersonate famous celebrities and lip sync in this fun-filled program. Call Joan Scholars at ext. 4610 if you’re ready to become a star!

For tickets, call the Mt. SAC Performing Arts Box Office at ext. 2050.
Senate Award Nominations Sought

The Academic Senate is soliciting nominations for the Outstanding Manager, Faculty Member, and Classified Employee of the Year honors.

Nomination forms are available through the Academic Senate now through March 11. Nominees will be asked to supply three letters of consideration from faculty. The winners will be honored at the College’s end of the year meeting in May. For more information, call the Academic Senate Office at ext. 5436.

Students of Distinction Nominations Due Jan. 28

Want to recognize a truly extraordinary student in an extraordinary way? Nominate her or him to be among Mt. SAC’s 2005 Students of Distinction.

The award honors students for exceptional service provided to the College as well as for academic and personal achievement. You have until Jan. 28 to submit your nomination forms, which are available in the Student Life Office, Building 9C, Room 1.

GEE WHIZ?!

1. Ranking of Mt. SAC’s Honors Program—the largest among California community colleges.
2. The number of Mountie football alumni who played on opposing sides in this year’s Rose Bowl national championship matchup between USC and Oklahoma.
3. National ranking of Mt. SAC math students at the annual National Math Competition for two-year colleges.
4. Number of new campus facilities opening this year.
5. Percentage of increase in number of students who benefited from Cal Grant awards last year.
6. Dollar amount in industry-donated scholarships received by agriculture students in 2004.
7. Amount of federal aid recently received to refurbish the Mt. SAC Planetarium, thanks to the efforts of Rep. David Dreier (R-Glendora) and other congressional friends of Mt. SAC.

Mt. SAC Helps Tsunami Victims

Accounting Club students collected donations to help relief efforts for victims of the recent Asian tsunami. The campaign, sponsored by the Mt. SAC Society of Accountants and American Red Cross, is one of several tsunami relief efforts on campus to be organized by The Associated Students and other student clubs.

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Published by the Marketing & Public Information Office for employees of Mt. San Antonio College, like...

Please direct comments and story suggestions to the Editor at ext. 5334.

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