First Winter Intersession Makes the Grade

Mt. SAC’s first-ever winter intersession started with enrollment on a slight upturn as the credit headcount totaled 11,592 on the first day of classes. In comparison with the College’s last single-session term (summer 2004), credit enrollment is up by approximately 1%.

“If we can at least equal the enrollment of one of the summer sessions with the new winter intersession, we are doing well,” said Instruction VP John Nixon. “So our enrollment numbers look favorable.”

Student Services VP Audrey Yamagata-Noji noted that the “primary focus for winter intersession courses was the enrollment of continuing students. New students to Mt. SAC are encouraged to enroll in the full spring semester.”

For the six-week intersession, Mt. SAC is offering 524 course sections, which will help students achieve their academic goals in less time. In addition, the compressed, six-week intersession is also a benefit to students who are making up classes and to those taking class sequences in a series.

The new six-week winter intersession is an element of Mt. SAC’s new compressed calendar, launched this academic year. It consists of a 16-week fall semester, a 6-week winter intersession, a 16-week spring semester, and a 6-week summer intersession. The winter session began on Jan. 8 and runs through Feb. 18. The spring semester begins Feb. 26 and ends with the College’s 61st Commencement on June 15.

Bader Heads Mt. SAC Board

At its annual organizational meeting in December, the Mt. SAC Board of Trustees elected Rosanne Bader as President, Dr. Manuel Baca as Vice President, and Fred Chyr as Clerk for a one-year term.

Bader was elected to the Board in 2003 after serving a 10-month appointment as a Trustee in 2001. Recently, she was appointed to the California Community College Trustees Board, which makes recommendations about education policy issues pending before the state Board of Governors and the California Legislature.

Bader is a retired school administrator with 32 years of experience in education. She remains active as board Vice President of the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center’s Foundation and as a member of the Pomona Rotary Club Board of Directors. She is also a member of the Pomona Friends of the Library.

Baca has served as a Mt. SAC Trustee since 1999 and is a former Board President. Professionally, he is the Interim President at Rio Hondo College in Whittier.

Chyr, who has been a Mt. SAC Board member since 1995, is serving his third term. Professionally, he is the Director of Marketing and Publications for the University of La Verne.
Mt. SAC Welcomes New Employees

Mt. SAC welcomes 17 classified employees, who have been hired since the start of the fall semester, as well as two employees who were promoted to managers.

Christian Alvarado  
Assistant Director  
Financial Aid

Windy Compos  
Education Advisor  
Financial Aid

Roberto Ceja  
Custodian  
Custodial Services

Priyadarshini Chaplot  
Research Assessment Analyst  
Research & Institutional Effectiveness

Lanny Arifin  
Account Clerk  
Payroll Department

Donna Evans  
Director  
Payroll Department

Leticia Hernandez  
Technician  
Human Resources

Loralyn Isomura  
Secretary  
Humanities Division

Michael Kwiatkowski  
Program Specialist  
Tutorial Services

Desiree Marquez  
Scholarship Program Specialist  
Financial Aid

Vanessa Nombrano  
Educational Advisor  
Financial Aid

John Nunez  
Custodian  
Custodial Services

Javier Pedroza  
Equipment Operator  
Grounds

Obdulia Reynoso  
Receptionist/Clerical Assistant  
Small Business Development Center

Manny Rivera  
Custodian  
Custodial Services

Nerissa Uiagalelei  
Clerical Specialist  
Human Resources

Gabriela Ulloa  
CalWORKs Caseworker  
Student Services

Denise Van Tiburg  
Basic Skills Secretary  
Community Education Center

Marisa Ziegenhohn  
Account Clerk  
Payroll Department

FLEX/Professional Development Day Set for Feb. 23

A half day of faculty training and workshops is what the Academic Senate and Professional & Organizational Development co-sponsors have in store for the annual FLEX/Professional Development Day on Friday, Feb. 23, at the Clarke Theater and the Learning Technology Center.

The training program begins with a 7:45 a.m. “Power Breakfast” in the Theater Courtyard, followed by an “Administrative Work Out” (the Spring Semester Opening Meeting) for all staff at 8:15 a.m. The meeting will feature administrative updates, reports by the Academic Senate and Faculty Association, a leadership panel, as well as student performances.

Two training sessions on teaching and educational topics will be offered from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in LTC and Performing Arts Center facilities. Workshops include “Web Technology in the Classroom,” “Strengthening Your Knowledge on Statewide Issues,” “Beyond Special Programs and Accommodations,” “Managing Division & Department Web Pages,” “WebCMS Training,” “Tips for Effectively Teaching Deaf Students,” and “Student and Faculty Perceptions of Student Engagement.”

For more information, call Senate Vice President John Vitullo at ext. 5436.
Mt. SAC Celebrates Faculty, Staff, Student and Institutional Honors

State Chancellor Mark Drummond recently presented Mt. SAC with the 2006 Chancellor’s Award for Best Practices in Student Equity. It recognizes those colleges and districts that have advanced students’ access to educational and support services at their respective campuses—particularly for disadvantaged students and those in the ethnic minority. Mt. SAC’s award entry was titled, “Achieving Student Empowerment through Equity and Diversity.” Mt. SAC’s efforts were spearheaded by its interdepartmental Student Equity Committee, co-chaired by Dean of Student Services Carolyn Keys and Communications Professor Phillip Maynard, who is also the former Academic Senate President. The committee includes representatives from the instructional, student service, research, and administrative divisions of the college as well as a community representative.

Community Education Instructor Tom Fong was honored as one of the “20 Great Teachers,” selected by American Artist Watercolor magazine in fall 2006. A watercolor instructor with Community Education since 1989, Fong teaches watercolor painting at several area Colleges and is a guest instructor for the Yosemite National Park Association. His work has been featured in many national juried exhibitions.

Assistant Athletic Director Debbie Cavion has been inducted into the California Community College Soccer Hall of Fame by the California Community College Soccer Coaches Association. As the former Women’s Head Soccer Coach, she led her teams to a 209-49-36 (wins-loss-tie) record, capturing six South Coast Conference Championships and two California State Championships. A pioneer in women’s soccer, she was a member of the inaugural Mt. SAC and Cal Poly Pomona Women’s Soccer Teams in the early ’80s.

Nine members of the Mt. SAC’s Repertory Dance Company captured the Olga Giannani Second Place Award and $1,000 at the Ninth Annual Palm Desert “Dance Under the Stars” Choreography Festival. The group performed “Outside the Box,” which was choreographed by Dance Department Chair Amy Nakamura. The repertory company is under the direction of professors Karol Ritz and Lee Martino. The group was one of 21 entries selected to perform in the amateur division.

The Mt. SAC Aquatics Program was recently rated best in the state by the U.S. Water Fitness Association. The Mt. SAC program was also named the nation’s top community college aquatics program. This year, Mt. SAC received numerous national rankings in various categories including: successful aquatics events, fund-raising programs, adult and infant swimming instruction, and community outreach.

Biology Professor Cindy Anderson and her summer vacation were featured in an Orange County Register article in September. Her vacation was a seven-day inline skating tour of Switzerland, during which she averaged 40 miles per day. The tour was her second such excursion. The inline enthusiast’s skating resume also includes the 2006 Walt Disney World Inline Marathon and the Long Beach Marathon in 2004 and 2005. Cindy is shown leading a group of skaters in the Netherlands.
Vic Belinski believes Banner enterprise system will address campus’ information needs efficiently.

**Vic Belinski**, Mt. SAC’s new Chief Technology Officer, is overseeing one of Mt. SAC’s largest information technology changes since the current ICCIS system was implemented over a decade ago. But the complex transition to the Banner information management system is nothing new for the veteran IT expert, who notes that the new system will advance the College along the technology curve.

“Banner will allow us to manage the College better, and we will be able to better understand our functions and systems,” said Belinski, who as Associate Vice Chancellor for Information Systems presided over the Ventura County Community College District’s implementation of the Sungard Higher Education Banner System.

Whereas ICCIS is one of several isolated systems, Banner is a management information system that integrates the functions of different departments across campus while providing the flexibility to expand in the future. Banner will tie together Student Services, Financial Aid, Human Resources, Fiscal Services, and other functions so that users—who include management, faculty, classified staff and students—can get the information they need, in the form they need it, and when they need it.

“Basically it’s a unified system with a simple Web-based front end,” Belinski said. “The goal with Banner is to allow a student to log in at one central place without having to learn different systems.”

Since November, the system has been tested in several areas on campus. The overall plan includes having the core system up and running in two years with registration functions ready by summer 2008.

“The goal of registering students for summer 2008 is quite aggressive, but we are on schedule,” he said. “The effort to get the system up is moving much faster than I expected, and faculty and staff are excited about it.”

Banner activities are planned each week over the next two years. Unlike other college cultures that are resistant to change, Belinski finds the Mt. SAC culture highly receptive to the idea of starting something new.

“We know people are sometimes adverse to change, but here at Mt. SAC, people are embracing change and are enthusiastic about the new system,” he said. “I think the College, from the President on down, has already made a huge commitment to putting technology to work.”

Belinski came to Mt. SAC last August after nine years of managing information technology at the Ventura District and many years as an information systems executive in the private sector. He also taught mathematics at colleges as an adjunct professor. So with a unique grounding in both academia and industry, he well understands the information, data and communication requirements of a complex educational institution and knows the process improvements necessary to develop the type of integrated system Mt. SAC needs.

“IT has to be integrated as part of the college community, and we have to understand what that community’s needs are,” Belinski said. “More and more, information technology people need to be more than ‘techies.’ They have to understand customer service and be people-orientated. We’re expanding that mindset among our team.”

—Mike Taylor

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**GETTING TO KNOW VIC**

**Roots:** Born NYC; reared in Indianapolis; moved to CA in 1972.

**Education:** Santa Monica City College, transferred to UCLA
B.A. (Phi Beta Kappa) and M.A., mathematics, UCLA

**Employment:** Associate Vice Chancellor, IT & Telecommunications, Ventura County Community College District
Various executive IT positions in private sector
Private Consulting
Adjunct math professor, Ventura College

**Family:** Wife Lila; two sons Adam and Matt; reside in Diamond Bar

**Hobbies:** Collects jazz/classic rock, golf, digital photography, bartends at friend’s Thai restaurant
The Future Is Now for Online Counseling Services

While making an appointment with a college counselor may not be a thing of the past, Mt. SAC has ushered in a new era with its new online counseling option, just in time for spring semester.

“I think for young people who are into myspace.com and text messaging, the future is now,” said Counselor Jim Smith, who spearheaded the Counseling Department’s online venture. “This is how students are communicating today, so it’s a matter of going with the flow.”

Available through the My.MtSAC.edu link on the College website, the online counseling feature is an option for students to ask counselors questions about their academic plans and to receive the information they need within three days.

“It’s basically a formal system that invites questions from students and provides another means of access,” Smith said.

A hybrid system that incorporates the Web and e-mail, online counseling has been under development at Mt. SAC for the past year and provides students with a wide array of topics for inquiry, including questions on classes, majors, career options, transfer information, prerequisites, and probation issues. A counselor then responds within three working days.

For students, online counseling means not having to make an appointment and wait to come in. During the Counseling Department’s busy seasons, students sometimes have to wait two or three weeks before they can see one of Mt. SAC’s 19 counselors.

“The online service is a real time saver and a efficient option for students,” said Smith.

Mt. SAC now joins the majority of regional community colleges in providing students with online counseling services.

Mt. SAC Website Sports a New Image

In December, Mt. SAC launched its redesigned website, featuring a sleeker design, a consistent look for the pages of departments and programs, and greater ease of use and navigation.

The 10-month redesign by the Marketing/Web Support Team boasts new features and a more intuitive organization of the navigational links. In addition to the new look of the site’s homepage, templates and style sheets were provided to departmental and program web designers to achieve universal branding and a consistent look.

One of the new homepage features is an “enrollment marketing banner,” designed to appeal to the various types of prospective Mt. SAC students. The new feature provides information links to the College’s transfer, vocational, community education, and professional development programs as well as the award-winning Pathways to Success matriculation site.

Other features include a new online campus map, campus event promotions, College news, campus life activities, and header drop-down menus that provide information about the College, administration, student and campus resources, instructional programs, and My.MtSAC.edu.

Marketing Director Clarence Brown noted that this site redesign is a work in progress, and that the Web Team will continue to convert departmental and program pages into the new design format.
Graffiti Removal Project Gets ‘Green’ Light of Approval

When students from Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) offered their services to help remove graffiti and clean up the campus, Maintenance Director Kent Smith saw this as a win-win situation. The honor students launched their Project Green campaign on campus last fall, and since then their efforts have earned nothing but praise from management and staff.

“We are very grateful to them,” said Smith. “Graffiti is a big problem, it’s a real mess, and its removal is something that shouldn’t have to be done. But the students were very dedicated and did a great job.”

Working on several days under staff direction, 25 PTK students engaged in campus graffiti clean up efforts and painted the front face of Buildings 14 and 15. The students finished in four hours what usually takes a full day to accomplish.

“The students did so well it was unbelievable,” said Lead Painter Art Morales, who supervised the students on one of the projects. “Many people remarked what a good job they did.”

The project started in the fall when the students decided on a theme for their campaign and then drew up the game plan for Project Green.

“Our goal for this school year is to help beautify the campus,” said PTK student Sarah Dodge. “We thought if we can start with a small project we can eventually work our way up to larger projects and make an impact.”

Project Green will continue into 2007 with more painting of the row buildings, more graffiti removal, and some landscaping work on campus.

“Projects like this are important, because they give students a sense of ownership on campus, and they feel good about what they do,” Morales said.

The students also plan to expand their efforts by including community projects. One project already lined up is the City of Walnut Adopt-A-Trail program, in which students will help maintain a 19-mile trail.

“We want students to be interested in taking care of our environment and make an impact on campus and the community,” said PTK student Michael Wilhelm.

—Mike Taylor

Payroll Deduction: the easy way to help students reach their potential

Mt. SAC employees can help students reach their academic potential by giving the gift of scholarship through the College’s convenient Employee Payroll Deduction Plan.

More and more employees each year are jumping on the bandwagon to help deserving students and meet the College’s unfunded needs by pledging $10, $25, or $50 per pay period for 10 months. You can also designate the specific program your donation will support, such as the Scholarship Fund, the College Endowment Fund, the Alumni Association, or a particular department or program.

For more information, call Foundation Director Leslie Kerr at ext. 5438.
Founders Hall Opens for Business

Renovated facility blends the old and the new.

The newly opened Founders Hall represents much more than just another new or remodeled campus building. Predating the College in 1931 as the residence for a state hospital director, the restored and expanded Founders Hall is symbolic of the College’s past and its future.

“There’s a unique blending of the old and the new in this project,” says Facilities Planning and Management Director Gary Nellesen.

The building may have taken a little longer to complete than expected, but it was worth the wait. Founders Hall combines the renovation of 3,800 square feet of the old Staff Center with a new 6,000-square-foot addition. The new wing now houses the Board of Trustees meeting room, the President’s Office, conference rooms for various committees and campus groups, landscaped courtyards, as well as a dining facility—primarily for fund-raising functions and donor cultivation.

“Founders Hall is probably the most technologically sophisticated building on campus right now,” notes Technical Services Director Bill Eastham. It features state-of-the-art video, audio and multimedia systems. The Board Room, for example, features five remote control video cameras along with a digital audio recording and multimedia presentation systems. The President’s conference room has projectors that retract into the ceiling.

Most of the original structure was painstakingly restored. Even the original sycamore trees were preserved as much as possible, Nellesen notes.

“It’s a beautiful building, as nice as anything we have on campus,” says Nellesen. “The trick with this project was trying to preserve as much of the old structure as possible while having the new sections complement the old—which was an architectural challenge.”
FEBRUARY

9, 6 - 11 p.m.—**Mountie Carlo Night**, Alumni Association fundraiser, Diamond Bar Center.

15-18—“*Woke Up In America,*” theater production, Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m., Sun., 2 p.m., Clarke Theater.

23, 7:45 a.m.—**FLEX/Professional Development Day & Opening Meeting**, Clarke Theater and Learning Technology Center.

24, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.—“*Ca$h for College,*” financial aid workshop, Student Life Center.

26—Spring semester begins.

28, 6:30 p.m.—**Board of Trustees Meeting**, Founders Hall.

MARCH

10, 8 p.m.—**Music Department Showcase**, featuring classical works performed by faculty and students, Music Recital Hall.

23 & 24—“*Puttin’ on the Hits,*” Faculty Association fundraiser, Sat. & Sun., 7 p.m., Sun. matinee, 2 p.m., Clarke Theater.

28, 6:30 p.m.—**Board of Trustees Meeting**, Founders Hall.


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**High Rollers Aim to Win at “Mountie Carlo Night” Feb. 9**

The Diamond Bar Center will be transformed into a New Orleans Mardi Gras setting, featuring casino-style games for the Mt. SAC Alumni Association’s third annual “Mountie Carlo Night” on Friday, Feb. 9, from 6 to 11 p.m.

Mt SAC employees are invited to join alumni and community members in trying their luck at blackjack, Texas Hold’em, roulette, and craps during an evening of fun for a great cause. Proceeds go to the Alumni Association’s scholarship program. A silent auction will also be held, and auction gift items are currently being sought.

The $35 ticket price includes chips for gaming, dinner, and dancing. Tickets are available at [www.4tix.org](http://www.4tix.org) or through the Performing Arts Box Office at ext. 2050. For more information or to donate auction gift items, call the Alumni Association Office at ext. 5443.
Twenty-one students were inducted in the AmeriCorps Program during a swearing-in ceremony last fall. The students will serve as reading and math tutors at six local elementary schools.

The Art Gallery hosted the 59th Student Art Exhibition, which featured the best original work by Mt. SAC art, photography, and animation students.

The Business Division staged an information fair and luncheon for students. Students took a short Business Division survey and were treated to a pizza lunch. The division served 92 pizzas in 90 minutes—that's one slice of pizza every seven seconds!

Art students held their annual holiday ceramics sale, showcasing the students’ special one-of-a-kind handcrafted work on sale for the gift-giving season.

Mt. SAC’s Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) chapter inducted 74 new members in November. Mt. SAC’s chapter is one of the largest PTK chapters in the state.

More than 40 employers were on campus to recruit students for jobs during the annual Holiday Seasonal Job Fair sponsored by Career Placement Services.

PICTURE THIS . . .
Employees celebrated Halloween on campus by donning their spooky best. See if you can recognize your co-workers under those costumes.
The bookstore’s holiday tea kicked off the yuletide season on campus. Retirees and current employees had an opportunity to catch up at the annual holiday fete in the lobby of the Administration Building.

The LTC’s biennial holiday celebration is well known for its fine seasonal spread: Food, food and more food.

Staff, students and community members were treated to a choral concert by the Chamber Singers, Concert Choir and Fermata Nowhere at the 9th edition of this popular event.
Mt. SAC Releases 2007 Calendar and Annual Report

On Jan. 8, Mt. SAC released its 60th Anniversary Edition of the 2007 Calendar and 2005-06 Annual Report to the Community.

Both publications highlight the various anniversary events conducted over the past year. In addition, the expanded 32-page annual report highlights the College’s major achievements and provides the President’s state of the college message, division summaries by Instruction and Student Services, a financial report, as well as inspiring student, alumni and faculty profiles. The calendar, in particular, serves as a year-round promotional tool, featuring photos depicting a significant milestone or accomplishment for each month.

Beyond campuswide circulation, these publications have been distributed to business and legislative leaders, donors and supporters of the College.

If you have not received a copy of these publications, you may obtain them at the Marketing & Communication Office in Bldg. 4, Room 206.

Ca$h for College Workshop Set Feb. 24

The Financial Aid Office will host its popular Ca$h for College Workshop on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Life Center. Students and their families will receive one-on-one assistance in completing the 2007-08 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The event is open to high school seniors, including children of Mt. SAC employees regardless of the college the students plan to attend. All participants must register for the event by Monday, Feb. 5.

Mt. SAC departments that would like to host an information table to showcase their programs/services or simply help on that day should contact Patty Hamilton at ext. 5972.

Spring Semester Registration Under Way

Spring semester registration continues through Feb. 21. If you or your family have considered starting or returning to college, now is the time to do so. Plenty of academic classes are still available at various times of the day, evening and weekends.

Prospective students can conveniently apply, register and pay their fees online. Enrollment fees have been lowered to $20 per unit, and abundant financial aid is available.

Credit and Community Education Schedules of Classes are available both in hard copy and online at www.mtsac.edu. The 16-week semester starts Monday, Feb. 26.