A Note From the President...

Help Make Our Students Feel at Home in a Supportive, Challenging Environment.

On Monday, August 21, approximately 14,000 students will have enrolled for the Fall 2000 semester at Cypress College. They are here to prepare for transfer to a four-year institution, to obtain vocational training, to upgrade job skills, to improve their basic skills, or simply to learn something new. Regardless of their reason for enrolling, they have all chosen to be our students rather than deciding to attend one of the other nearby colleges.

I hope you will join me in promising these students that they have chosen wisely so that when they leave us they will say that Cypress College offers a high-quality, challenging educational experience in a supportive, student-centered atmosphere. Our students deserve nothing less, and each of us, no matter what position we hold at the college, can contribute to this goal.

I also want to welcome our 30 new full-time faculty, as well as new staff, managers, and adjunct faculty. We are glad that you, too, have chosen to become part of Cypress College, and we look forward to working with you. Your enthusiasm and new ideas bring renewed energy to us all.

Have a great semester!

Wear ‘How May I Help You’ Button to Show We Value Service

Attending college, especially for the first time, can be an intimidating experience. All faculty, staff and administrators can help reduce this stress on students by showing them we mean service. One of the many ways we attempt to do that here at Cypress College is by wearing blue “How May I Help You” buttons during the first week of classes.

The blue buttons were distributed to all employees last semester, and are available from Cora in the President’s Office for those who need a replacement or who may not have received one previously.

Please wear your button so students can easily identify college employees as they search for their classes, try to find our various student services or look for a quick snack.

‘Meet the Pres.’ for ‘60 Minutes’ of Discussion with Dr. Lewis

This semester’s “Meet the Pres.” series has been set with three dates scheduled for “60 Minutes” of questions and discussions with President Margie Lewis.

The events will be held: Tuesday, September 5, 12-1 p.m., in the Fine Arts Building, second floor, room 212; Wednesday, October 11, 5:30-6:30 p.m., on the Library Patio, third floor; and Thursday, November 9, 1:30-2:30 p.m., in the Student Activities Student Center.

Everyone is welcome anytime during the sessions. Drinks and dessert are provided.

New Name, Look for a Whole New Newsletter, @Cypress

By now, you’ve probably noticed that the “President’s Weekly Bulletin” has a new look and a new name: @Cypress.

Each week, @Cypress will bring campus employees relevant news, a brief calendar, a quotation, and job opportunities in the NOCCCD (please see the related story on job opportunities on the second page).

The goal is simple: to keep each other informed of what’s happening @Cypress College. As such, everyone is encouraged to submit information to our public information officer, Marc Posner. He can be reached at 484-7006 or via email at mposner@cypress.cc.ca.us.
Black Studies Learning Community Opens at CC

This semester brings the introduction of the Black Studies Learning Community, an innovative program designed to increase the development of basic skills, produce successful course completion, and increase transfer rates among African American students.

To achieve these goals, the BSLC offers peer and faculty mentors to students, provides tutorial and counseling services, and links courses in which the students are concurrently enrolled.

All BSLC courses are presented from the Black perspective.

For example, writing assignments in English 100 will be linked with research projects for Social Science 130: African American History in the United States.

“Not only are we linking the classes, but we’re linking the curriculum,” said Kim Wise, who heads the program and will teach the two English classes in the BSLC. “The topics overlap for reinforcement. All components are designed to create success.”

Although the program provides a cultural-specific academic experience, it is open to all ethnicities. In addition to on-campus studies, the BSLC will provide hands-on learning experiences such as field trips to the African-American History Museum.

“It creates a forum where students can express ideas freely,” Wise said.

Starting off on the right foot, the program has recently received a three-year, $165,000 grant intended to boost the academic success of under-represented populations.

The Fall 2000 courses offered in the BSLC are English 60 and Counseling 150. Next semester, BSLC students will enroll in English 100, Computer Science 125 and Social Science 130.

Future courses are projected to include English 102 and 103 and Social Science 135 and 235.

The BSLC is one of three learning communities beginning operation at Cypress College this semester. We will explore the other two – the Freshman Experience Learning Community and the Athletes Learning Community – in future editions of @Cypress.

Introduction of 4 New Managers at ‘Opening Day’

Four new managers will be introduced at the campus-wide “Opening Day” event this week.

They are: Dr. Shannon “Kay” Andrews, dean of the Social Science Division; Dr. Nancy Byrnes, vice president of Educational Support and Planning; Marc Posner, public information officer; and Caroline Sheldon, director of Institutional Research.

Job Opportunities, Applications on District Web Site

The North Orange County Community College District has added an extensive employment opportunities section to its Web site.

The site – available at http://www.nocccd.cc.ca.us/employ.htm – includes an especially nice feature that allows visitors to download all the necessary forms, including the application and job descriptions.

This is a useful resource for employees looking for advancement in the District. It is also great to know about when interacting with prospective applicants.

Featured on the site are: management positions; adjunct faculty positions; part-time faculty positions; classified positions; and confidential positions.

In addition, there are tips for applicants at http://www.nocccd.cc.ca.us/tips.pdf.

As a resource, @Cypress will be listing job openings each week. You can get a glimpse of the positions available, then visit the NOCCCD Web site for the details.

You can always find the job openings in the same place in each edition of @Cypress, the lower left-hand column of the second page.

The Cypress College Masterworks and Chamber Singers toured and performed in England, Scotland and Ireland this summer. The group presented a concert locally before heading across the Atlantic for five engagements as part of an international touring ensemble.

It has been a lucrative summer for the Advanced Transportation Technology Center, which received renewal of two grants. The first allows the creation of a center to develop and support an advanced transportation infrastructure, including alternative fuel vehicles. As part of the second grant, the ATT Center will provide curriculum development and training in the area of liquefied natural gas for the Orange County Transit Authority. The programs are managed by Dick Bettendorf.

Cypress College has established an EOPS Advisory Committee, which will hold a variety of advisory and planning meetings throughout the 2000-2001 academic year. The meetings represent the collaborative efforts of EOPS and CARE and other areas of Student Support Services. The participants will represent neighboring colleges and universities and community-based organizations.