August 17, 2006 Newsletter from President Margie Lewis

Cypress College, Newsweek’s ‘Instant Campus,’ Turns 40 This Year

A half million students have pursued their dreams at Cypress College since the campus opened on September 12, 1966.

Forty years ago, on September 12, 1966, a small group of faculty, staff, and students gathered around a flag pole and saluted the beginning of Cypress College. Escrow had closed on the 110-acre former dairy farm only 74 days earlier, hence Newsweek's designation of the college as the “instant campus.”

Imagine what that time must have been like. Interviews for faculty took place in houses that were still located on the property. Classes were scheduled in a variety of “temporary” facilities (quite a few of which are still with us today). There were so few faculty and staff that everyone knew each other. The first student body officers had the pleasure of choosing the college mascot and colors.

Given the student unrest at the time, the college was designed on a “house” or “cluster” concept, with each building being like its own campus. The theory was that each building would be its own small community with food services, student government, counseling, and other services. Instead of going to a large, impersonal institution, where no one would know their name, Cypress College students would be able to interact with faculty and fellow students not only in the classroom but in the adjoining study and “gathering” areas in each building.

However, it became apparent fairly soon that it would be difficult to maintain all the separate services in the different buildings because of the significant staff costs. As the college grew, it also became apparent that the college itself needed to be a community where faculty, staff, and students from all departments and divisions could benefit from more interaction.

Today, we watch as our new Student Center is being built, knowing that when it opens in January, 2008, it will become the central campus gathering spot. Located a short walk from anywhere on campus, it will provide student services and a dining area where people can meet and carry on the conversations that are such a vital part of any campus community.

We have seen significant growth in the college since it began 40 years ago. We currently have over 200 full-time faculty, approximately 250 support staff, around 450 adjunct faculty, over 30 managers, and between 13,000 and 14,000 students each semester. Nearly a half million students have been enrolled at the college over the course of these 40 years.

And yet, despite these numbers, I hope we have not become one of those large, impersonal places I referred to earlier. I hope that we still take time to treat each student as a special individual, worthy of our time, attention, and respect. I hope that we treat one another as colleagues, with professional courtesy, disagreeing when necessary and appropriate, but always firm in our shared commitment to helping our students be successful.

If we can maintain this kind of environment and hold true to our institutional core values of integrity, excellence, inclusiveness, and collegiality, we have every reason to expect that over the next 40 years, another half million students will make the decision to pursue their dreams at Cypress College.

Have a wonderful year!

— Margie Lewis

@Cypress is published each week. If you would like to have items included, please contact Marc Posner in the Public Information Office at ext. 47006 or mposner@CypressCollege.edu.

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THEY SAID IT

“At 20 years of age the will reigns, at 30 the wit, at 40 the judgment.”
— Benjamin Franklin
Campus Update

New Employees

As the semester begins, Cypress College has seven new faculty members, 16 new or recently promoted classified staff, and three new managers (see below). Formal introductions will take place during Opening Day. Each of the employees is also featured in the printed program for Opening Day (and included in the @Cypress extras).

Management Changes

Welcome aboard to Yongmi Han and Rick Rams. Han was selected as the permanent manager of the International Students Program. She had previously been the interim manager. Rams joins Cypress College as the Dean of Student Support Services, replacing the position vacated by Jorge Ramirez. Rams most recently was the director of Financial Aid at Golden West College. Here, he will be responsible for providing leadership to programs such as EOPS, CARE, CalWORKS and Financial Aid. The third new person to join the Management Team is Dennis Davino, Special Projects Manager for the Teacher Prep Program. Dennis has served in this capacity on an interim basis and has also been very instrumental in establishing the Educational Interpreter Program.

Enrollment

Headed into the 2006-2007 academic year, there is again a need to increase enrollment. The college was unable to reach the 2005-2006 enrollment target of 10,979 full-time students, falling 1,081 full-time equivalent students (FTES) short. The target for this academic year is 10,145. With summer classes wrapping up this week, it’s too early to have a projection for how strong enrollment will be this year.

The District receives funding from the state based on the FTES measurement, a complex formula that essentially takes the total number of units divided by a full-time load of 12 units. The current number of students enrolled is just about even with last fall semester, underscoring the need to help students in every way possible.

Outreach and Marketing

In support of the enrollment efforts, the college has undertaken an aggressive public awareness campaign that includes in-person outreach opportunities, direct mail, e-mail, as well as broadcast, print and outdoor advertising. Cypress College can be heard on two top L.A.-area radio stations — KROQ and KXOL “Latino 96.3” — and can be seen on cable stations such as MTV, E! and Comedy Central. In addition to print ads in a number of local newspapers, Cypress College also has spots appearing on the back of OCTA busses and on OCVRegister.com.

The new electronic marquee is also expected to become operational in the next week or two.

A significant addition was made to the front of the Cypress College Web site, focusing on application and enrollment. The effort was followed with e-mails sent to six subsets of the college’s student database. The messages were tailored to the various stages of the enrollment cycle for each individual student — for instance, a new student enrolled in 12 or more units received an affirmation of their decision to become a full-time student here, while a continuing student enrolled in no classes was encouraged to login to WebStar to select classes for the fall semester. Each of the students received information about navigating the campus and where to find help.

In addition, more than a dozen campus directory signs are being erected this week to help students get across campus. The full-color signs measure 6-feet by 4-feet and will feature specific directions to buildings and services from that particular spot on campus.

State Budget

On June 30, Governor Schwarzenegger signed the education trailer bill to the 2006-07 State Budget plus providing $273.4 million in one-time funds on top of the $690 million ongoing funds included in the budget.

“This historic budget ends the longstanding disparity in community college funding,” said Scott Lay, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Community College League of California.

In addition to the solid budget, the legislation also lowers the enrollment fee from $26 per unit to $20, starting with the spring semester.

The final remaining piece of the budget that is outstanding deals with funding for equalization, which is tied to the passage of SB 361. If passed, equalization will provide for funding of all community college districts at a more consistent level. Currently, there is a wide disparity in what districts receive in funding per student.

Karen Cant, Cypress College’s Director of Budget and Finance, says this is “a good year” in terms of the total budget picture.

Parking Information

The parking grace period for Fall 2006 begins August 21. Students will be able to park in all student parking areas without a permit until September 1. Beginning September 5, all students must display a valid parking permit.

Please refer students who registered for classes prior to August 21 and did not receive a parking permit via mail by August 28 to the Bursar’s Annex for information.

Disabled persons’ vehicles — vehicles displaying the proper disabled placard or license plate — may park in disabled parking, limited green zones and student parking areas. A valid parking permit must be displayed during the listed times: Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

Online Education

Cypress College’s robust online education program is being headed by Jeannie Miller. The Accounting professor is serving as the Online Education Coordinator this year while Betty Disney is on a leave of absence. The college is offering 116 sections of online and hybrid (a mix of online and in-class) courses this semester.

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Help Available for Students; Please Share this Valuable Information

Students who are still looking to add an extra course will find a new resource on the college Web site: a list of all classes with room still available. The “Open Classes” list has also been a hit with faculty members and department coordinators looking for a quick check of enrollment without logging in to WebStar. The complete class schedule and catalog are also online.

Speaking of our Web site: if you haven’t visited in the last few days, you’re in for a big surprise!

A number of resources exist on the Web site to help students find answers. Among them are frequently asked questions about the registration process. Since many questions are answered in the schedule of classes, a version of the schedule (without the classes) containing just the facts is also available. Students can also get answers online via AOL Instant Messenger to CypressCollPIO.

Feel free to share these links or point students to CypressCollege.edu.

One final note on the Internet: FREE wireless access points are now indicated on the college map. In addition to the Library/Learning Resource Center, there are new WiFi hotspots inside Gym 2, the Business Building and the Cypress College Complex. More are on their way. In case you’re curious, the hotspots are 802.11 b and g compatible (that means they’re extremely likely to work with your laptop).

Students can also get help from — gasp! — a real live human being! Information booths are planned for Lots 1, 5 and 7 during the first week of classes.

The staff in Admissions and Records, Counseling, Financial Aid and other Student Support Services offices (EOPS, CARE, CalWORKS, etc.) are available. Expanded service hours are in place for the start of school. Those offices are open from 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 8-5 on Friday with just two exceptions. Counseling is available starting daily at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 7 p.m., Monday-Thursday, and 5 p.m. on Friday. Admissions and Records is open 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Friday. Each of these services, except A&R, is in the Complex.

Blueprint

This summer’s season of “Extreme Makeover: Campus Edition” was a busy one. It included the demolition of some of the college’s original temporary buildings which had most recently been in use by the School of Continuing Education. Already, indicator piles have been driven at the construction site for the new SCE building, between Lot 4 and Tech Ed 2.

Further along is the Maintenance and Operations Building — which is now open. The new facility allows all M&O staff to reside in a central location for the first time in college history. The staff has been scattered across campus until this point. Moves into the building are still ongoing. M&O is located in Lot 6.

Underground work to move utilities from under the footprint of the new Student Center has been ongoing during the summer. The efforts have progressed far enough that a pathway will open between the construction site and Tech Ed 1, allowing access through the middle of campus from Business to Student Activities or Tech Ed 3. This will be a major improvement and will no longer require pedestrians to walk around the perimeter of the campus to get from the Career Planning Center in Tech Ed 2 to Admissions and Records in Business, for example. The pathway should be open when students return on Monday.

Also due to re-open on Monday are the Tech Ed 1 and Business buildings, which have undergone major renovations during the summer. The work in Business includes restrooms on all three floors, where previously they had only existed on the second floor. Classrooms have been remodeled in both buildings. The Student Activities Center, including International Students and Photo ID, is also re-opening on Monday. The center had a minor face lift over the summer to repair damage from leaks.

It was a good time to do the work since the piazza above it was part of the work in Phase 2 of the upper level’s renovation. Also included in Phase 2 is the area between Humanities, SEM and the east side of Fine Arts. Work on Phase 2 is progressing smoothly. Phase 1, on the other hand, has been a learning experience. Work on the piazza itself is complete, but contractors ran into difficulty installing new railing and finishing the facing of the piazza. The problems are resolved now, but the railing work for Phases 1 and 2 will now be completed at the same time, later this semester.

One of the three new additional elevators is set to open. It is between Tech Ed 2 and Gym 2. Elevators being added to the exterior of the Tech Ed 1 and Business Buildings are progressing in their development and are scheduled to open later in the semester.

Restrooms for the athletic fields will be added this semester. Remodels of Gym 2 and Culinary Arts will begin in December, after classes end.

For nearly a half-million students, Cypress College has been a springboard to their dreams. Come to Cypress College and Go Places!
Note: A more complete version of this map is available on the campus Web site.

Services in the Cypress College Complex: DSPS, Financial Aid, EOPS, CARE, CalWORKS, the Counseling Center, and the deans’ offices for Counseling and Student Support Services.

Student Activities Center: Student Activities, Photo ID and International Students.

Tech Ed 2: VoTech Division Office (for the next 4-6 weeks)

Business Building: Admissions and Records, Bursar, Assessment and Extended Day.

SEM: Academic Computing has relocated to the former DSPS location on the first floor.

L/LRC: Staff Development is on the first floor of the L/LRC.

Theater Arts: Campus Safety has returned to their office on the first floor of the Theater Arts Building, adjacent to the former Culinary Arts dining room.

Gym II: Campus Administration is on the second floor of Gym II, in the former Student Activities area.
Hiring Committee Training
for
August and September

Listed below is the training schedule for Hiring Committee training for August and September:

Monday, August 14  
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Fullerton College, LLRC, Room 820-P

Wednesday, August 23  
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.  
Anaheim Campus, Staff Development Lab, Room 307

Thursday, August 31  
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.  
Cypress College, Staff Conference Room, First Floor - Fine Arts

Tuesday, September 12  
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.  
Fullerton College, LLRC, Room 820-P

Monday, September 18  
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.  
Anaheim Campus, Staff Development Lab, Room 307

Tuesday, September 26  
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Cypress College, Staff Conference Room, First Floor - Fine Arts

If your, or any of your staff members, have not received training during the last two years and will be serving on a Hiring Committee in the near future, please plan on attending one of these sessions. To verify whether training is current, please contact Angela Cotton in Human Resources via phone 84816 or via email at acotton@ncccd.edu. To RSVP for training please contact Etta Dial at Fullerton College via phone 27273 or via email at edial@fullcoll.edu. Thanks for your help.