From the President: Reflections on an Academic Year and a Career

Dr. Lewis’ annual end-of-the-year remarks include a farewell to the campus as she ends a remarkable career in education.

This academic year is coming to a close unlike any other in my 40-year career. This graduation will be my last. In fact, this has been a semester of last-time events: Opening Day; Americana; groundbreaking; Scholarship Convocation, Classified Appreciation; End-of-the-Year Luau. I even managed one last move — into a new office, complete with new furniture, for the first time in my career.

The job I’m leaving behind this summer is the best job I could have. I get to work with smart, dedicated people who share my commitment to helping students achieve their dreams. The job is challenging, demanding, and full of variety. Every day new information comes my way, new challenges present themselves, and I have been able to continue learning just as our students do.

At the heart of everything I have done here was the attempt to ensure that all parts of the college were working as effectively as possible to serve students and our community well.

None of that would have been possible without the many dedicated, caring and skilled employees who have devoted themselves to that same pursuit.

Yes, there have been some trying times and some painful moments along the way. But, it is the people — colleagues and students alike — that I will remember most.

One of my best memories is traveling to New York to see the Jazz Ensemble perform at Carnegie Hall. Other events that come to mind are the opening of the L/LRC, the passage of Measure X and the receipt of our $2.25 million Title V grant. There have been repeated successes for our students in forensics, baseball, softball, Dental Hygiene and the T-TEN program. The women’s basketball championship in 2005 was movie-like magic.

Being the president of Cypress College has truly been a joy and privilege for me. From the moment Tom Harris called me, back in December of 1998, to tell me that the Board had selected me as the president of Cypress College, until today, I have been excited about this position and honored to work in such a can-do environment.

Thank you very much for your support and kindness these past eight and a half years.

— Margie

Softball in State Championships this Weekend

The softball team has reached the State Championship Tournament as Southern California’s second seed and will defend their state championship against seven of the California’s top teams in a double elimination tournament. Cypress has a 2-3 record against teams that will be competing in the State Championship tournament. The Chargers open the tournament at noon today against the number three seed from the North, Sierra. The tournament is at the Chino Hills Big League Dreams Park.

End-of-the-Year Luau Honors Employees

A year of successes was celebrated on Tuesday with the annual End-of-the-Year Luau. In addition, the event recognizes employees for reaching milestones in their service to the college, District and our students. Those retiring at the conclusion of the academic year are also honored.

The event also serves as a fundraiser for Staff Development.

Those being honored this year are:

Related Information:

Three finalists for the college’s presidency participated in an open forum on Monday, May 14. They provided information on their background and answers to questions.

The campus held a retirement reception for Dr. Lewis on Wednesday, that centered around a song-and-dance production by Pat Ganer.

See stories on page 2
Three Presidential Finalists Participate in Open Campus Forum

Three finalists participated in an open forum to introduce themselves to the campus community and to answer questions about their experience and qualifications. Each is now scheduled to meet with Trustees for the North Orange County Community College District at Tuesday night’s board meeting.

The finalists are:
- Dr. Robert Bell, Vice President of Student Services at Chaffey College’s Chino Center;
- Dr. Gari Browning, Vice President of Instruction at College of the Desert; and
- Dr. Mike Kasler, Executive Vice President here at Cypress College.

During the forum, which was held on Monday (May 14, 2007), each of the presidential hopefuls had 30 minutes for opening remarks and questions from those in attendance.

Photos and audio are available in the @Cypress “Extras” section.

Campus Honors Dr. Lewis with ‘A Chorus Line’-Theme Farewell Reception

It’s no secret that Dr. Lewis preferred lively, upbeat gatherings to monotone meetings — as was evidenced by years of laughter-filled Opening Day events such as the one that used spoofs of Desperate Housewives to recap a recent accreditation site visit.

Dr. Lewis is retiring at the end of the academic year.

Wednesday, it was her turn to be the target of Pat Ganer re-scripted songs from A Chorus Line to help illustrate the highs and lows of Dr. Lewis’ career at Cypress College. Cypress Idols (yes, American Idol was used at Opening Day to illustrate the college’s new core values) returned to campus with Liana Koeppel, Michael Brydges, Christy Davis and Mark Peterson taking on the singing roles.

In addition to the theatrical production, Dr. Hunter, Mike Kasler and representatives of constituent groups — Frank Smith, DMA; David Glover, AS; Rod Lusch, Classified; and Steve Gold, Academic Senate — spoke at the event.

Dr. Lewis also made farewell remarks and thanked everyone at the college for working with her to promote student success.

Photos and audio from the event are available in the @Cypress “Extras” section.

CONTINUED: End-of-the-Year Luau Celebrates Success, Milestones

continued from previous page

| 40 Years | Donna Friess. |
| 30 Years | Robert Burson; Helena DeCoro; Peggy Miller; Ron Miller; and Mary Rothera. |
| 25 Years | Shirley Ashburn; Nancy Byrnes; Michael Capsuto; Diane Henry; Doreen Villasenor; and Ron Von Soosten. |
| 20 Years | Pamela Bettendorf; Fred Depontee; Bonnie Fast; Troy McKeown; Fidel Ugarte; and Dave Wassenaar. |
| 15 Years | Dana Bedard; Hong Chi; Anne Herzog; Jay Kanaan; Mike Kasler; Noreen O’Brien; and Elizabeth Piburn. |
| 10 Years | Peter Azo; Paul Bottiaux; Lu Cayabyab; Keith Cobb; Robert Diaz; Leslie Doak; Manny Escarrega; Mary Forman; Kathy Godshalk; Susan Hauge; Jane Jepson; Sergio Leonardo; John Linhares; Tien Nguyen; Fernando Oliveira; Daniel Pelletier; Stuart Rosenberg; and Gail Smead. |
| 5 Years | Eduardo Assef; Heather Brown; Jennifer Coopman; Rosemary Diesenbruch; Mary Dowell; Ayman Gadalla; Mary Louise Giska; Will Heusser; Behzad Izadi; John Lombros; Cliff Lester; Zoe Megginson; Laurie Morvan; Danny Ortega; Eunju Owens; Sylvia Paek; Rita Pierce; Nancy Pound; Jaime Ramos; Kathryn Reid; Carlos Sandoval; Judith Swytak; and Penn Wu. |

Retirees: Ellen Berger; Jeffrey Block; Dana Brown; Nancy Byrnes; Marilyn Glattly; Robert Harkrider; Tony Jones; Manuel Leonardo; Margie Lewis; Charles Licari; Joyce Ricci; Russ Sandore; Charlene Schick; Susan Williams; and Margaret Willson.

For nearly a half-million students, Cypress College has been a springboard to their dreams. Come to Cypress College and Go Places!
Softball has defeated Sierra 5-0 in the first round of the State Championships this afternoon. Cypress will face Cerritos at 5:00 pm this afternoon in the second round just three wins away from repeating as State Champions. The State Championships are being held at the Chino Hills Big League Dreams park.

Baseball finally got over the hump defeating Golden West today for the first time this season to open the Super Regionals. Cypress won 5-3 in an extra inning thriller. They will play again tomorrow at 11:00 am at Santa Ana against the winner of the Santa Ana vs. LA Harbor game. They are two wins away from finding themselves at the State Championship tournament for the second year in a row.

Teresa Wang
Cypress College
Sports Information Director
http://pe.cypresscollege.edu
Cypress College Presidential Candidate Finalists

Dr. Robert Bell
Vice President of Student Services at Chaffey College's Chino Center.
Hear Dr. Bell's opening comments from the campus forum.

Dr. Gari Browning
Vice President of Instruction at College of the Desert.
Hear Dr. Browning's opening comments from the campus forum.

Dr. Mike Kasler
Executive Vice President at Cypress College.
Hear Dr. Kasler's opening comments from the campus forum.

One Giant Gigantic Photo Gallery
What are you going to do all summer without @Cypress?

How about the photo gallery extravaganza?!!
This week we offer images from:
- Joyce Ricci’s retirement reception
- Nancy Byrnes’ retirement reception
- Carol Waechter’s retirement reception
- The End-of-the-Year Luau
- Dr. Lewis’ retirement reception

Still not enough? @Cypress has added the photographs of Andrea Hannon to the mix, just to boost our photo count.

Click on in and enjoy!!!