



# Division of Counseling & Student Services Newsletter

2009-2010 DIVISION REVIEW

Dr. Regina Smith, Dean of Counseling & Student Services

## Welcome New Counseling Faculty

We are delighted to welcome the following new employees to the Division of Counseling and Student Services:



**Mary Beth Barrios, General Counselor.** Mary earned a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in criminal justice from California State University, Fullerton, and a master's degree in counseling, with a concentration in higher education from the University of LaVerne. Her counseling experience includes positions at San Bernardino Valley College, Citrus College, Rio Hondo College, and Mt. San Antonio College. She also has experience as a VTEA counselor at Fullerton College and Rio Hondo College. Mary has counseled ESL, basic skills, and probation students, and has coordinated the Puente Project. In addition, she has taught psychology, transfer/career, and student success courses.



**Yamonte Cooper, General Counselor.** Yamonte is a graduate of California State University, Northridge, where he earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree in counseling/career counseling. He was previously a counselor/instructor at West Los Angeles College, Pasadena City College, LA City College, and LA Valley College. Yamonte has experience working with students in EOP&S, Career and Transfer Center, and Community Education. He has taught courses in personal development, career planning, and conducted college orientations. His classroom experience includes several years as an elementary school teacher.



**Bernadette Flameno, Financial Aid Counselor.** Bernadette received a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in counseling, both from California State University, Los Angeles. Her experience in counseling includes positions at El Camino College, Rio Hondo College, and Mt. San Antonio College. She has served in the CalWORKs, SSTARS, Bridge Program, and transfer areas, among others. Her professional work experience also includes serving as a university recruiter and coordinator of orientation programs at California State University, Los Angeles.



**Kelsey Iino, General Counselor.** Kelsey received a bachelor's degree in sociology with a minor in education from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a master's degree in education from University of California, Los Angeles. Her experience in counseling includes positions at El Camino College, Santa Monica College and Citrus College. Kelsey has counseled students in various student programs and services at El Camino College, such as, Transfer, International, First Year Experience, Career, Outreach, Honors Transfer, and Center for Teacher Excellence. Kelsey has also conducted new student orientations, personal statement and application workshops.



**Janice Ishikawa, General Counselor.** Janice received a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles, a master's degree in education counseling and a P.P.S. credential from California State University, Dominguez Hills. Her experience in counseling includes positions at Los Angeles Harbor College as a General, Harbor Teacher Prep Academy, and a Nursing Success counselor. Janice also has experience as a transfer, career center, online, and EOP&S counselor. In addition, she has identified and developed programs and strategies designed to improve retention, graduation and transfer rates.



**Rutina Taylor, Financial Aid Counselor.** Rutina is a graduate of California State University, Dominguez Hills, where she earned a bachelor's degree in human service, a master's degree in counseling, and a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. Her counseling experience includes positions at El Camino College, Norco College, Chaffey College, and a full-time general counseling position at San Bernardino Valley College. In addition, she taught at the elementary school level for over nine years.

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## CAREER CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

***"To accomplish  
great things, we  
must dream as  
well as act"***

***-Anatole France***

***"Education's  
purpose is to  
replace an  
empty mind with  
an open mind"***

***-Malcolm Forbes***

***"If you can Imagine it...  
You can Achieve it.  
If you can Dream it...  
You can Become it."***

***-William Arthur***

The Career Center provides career orientations for students who wish to familiarize themselves with career resources and services. Students receive information on how to utilize different career resources such as: the Chronicle Guidance Brief, What Can I Do With a Major Sheet, Vocational Biographies, and Eureka. Students also have the opportunity to research their major and identify careers of their interest. By familiarizing students to the various resources and services in the Career Center, students can make an informed decision when they declare a major and identify their academic and career goals. Many faculty include Career Orientations and visits to the Career Center as part of their syllabus because they recognize the importance of the Career Center and the resources and services it offers.

In addition to Career Center Orientations, the Counseling Division continues to conduct general classroom presentations to various classes as requested by faculty. Counselors visit classes within their division/specialty and inform students on academic, career, transfer and counseling resources and services.

### **Collaborations:**

This past year, the Career Center collaborated with many divisions, programs, and departments on campus to enrich students' educational goals and objectives.

In fall 2009, the Career Center collaborated with the Student Job Placement Center to co-sponsor the Internship Fair on October 29, 2009. The purpose of the Internship Fair is to provide students with an opportunity to look for work or

an internship that is related to their major. The 2009 Internship Fair had the highest employer turn-out and student participation. There was a 60% increase in employer participation and the fair was well attended by El Camino College students and people from the local community.

The Industry & Technology Division and the Career Center co-hosted the first Industry & Technology Career and Majors Fair on November 18, 2009. The fair provided students with an opportunity to network with employers and explore vocational and certificate programs offered at El Camino College. The fair was represented by the Career Center Committee; L. Raufman, B. Cooper, V. Rayford, J. Weitzel, V. Nguyen, and V. Martinez. The following departments from Industry and Technology divisions were in attendance: Architecture, Automotive and Technology, Fire & Emergency Technology, Welding, Cosmetology, Electronics, and Construction Technology.

Due to an increase in the number of students majoring in Liberal Studies, the Career Center and Teacher Educational Program (TEP) decided to work together to offer several career workshops highlighting careers and majors in the field of Liberal Studies and Childhood Education. The emphasis of the workshops is to prepare and inform students about the trends, requirements, and outlook for the major. The workshops were conducted by C. Kroll, Liberal Studies Counselor. Other career workshops offered in fall 2009 were in the areas of Fire Science, History and Social Services.

In spring 2010, the Career Center and Student Job Placement Center joined forces once again and hosted the Career Expo & Majors Fair on Wednesday, April 29, 2010. Participation consisted of ECC faculty, employers, students, and community members. Attendees were pampered with a manicure and massage by the students of the Cosmetology department. The success of the fairs were due to marketing efforts, proper staffing, student volunteer participation, and the support of H. Tyler's Student Development Office.

In an effort to provide services to evening students, the Career Center and Student Job Placement Center also coordinated the Mini-Business Major and Career Fair. The fair offered students an opportunity to network with the business industry.

The Division of Counseling and Student Services and the Humanities Division provided counseling services to ESL students through various creative avenues. ESL students received counseling services ranging from individual counseling appointments, educational plans, group orientations, assistance with MyECC registration, express counseling to follow-up emails and phone calls. With the support of the ESL faculty, ESL classroom presentations were conducted and 329 students received information related to counseling services in Fall of 2009 and 363 students in Spring 2010. The coordination of counseling services and ESL classroom presentations were provided by V. Nguyen, ESL counselor.

## SLO UPDATE

We are happy to report that Counseling Services SLOs are current and up to date. With diligent work and commitment from Counseling and Student Division Services faculty and staff we completed the first SLO and are on our way to finalize the current SLO by Summer 2010! Counseling and Student Division Services' SLO includes the Career Center, Transfer Center, Counseling, Matriculation & Orientation, Student Enhancement Program, CalWORKs/CARE & EOP&S.

Results from the first SLO are: Transfer Center's SLO indicated 90% of the students strongly agreed that they have a better understanding and awareness of university transfer options. Career

Center indicated a success rate of 83% of the students that attended the "Got Major" Conference either declared, confirmed, or changed their major. EOP&S had an 86% success rate based on their indicated surveys. Students were given surveys when they attend their counseling appointments or participated in an event or conference sponsored by the Career Center or Transfer Center. At the end of the counseling appointment or conference, the surveys then were collected and forwarded to Institutional Research for data and statistics information. The 2009-2010 SLO's are currently posted in the Counseling Division Services areas including offices and bulletin boards.



**The Career Center sponsored a tour to Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).**

**Student Comments:**

*"Before the tour, I never really considered applying to universities in Northern California, however, now that I've been there and had the opportunity to see the campuses I feel more motivated to apply." -Yamil*

*"The most valuable part of the tour was the experience. It showed us that there is so much more out there." -Adriana*

*"The tour definitely helped me experience the type of environment I will be around if I decide to go to any of the universities visited." -Hadasa*

*"By experiencing the UC's in person and talking to students, I was able to learn a lot more about each UC than I would have online." -Aaron*

*"The most valuable part of the tour was staying in the UC Berkeley dorms and exploring the campus." -Michael*

*"I was split between Berkeley and UCLA but after this tour I know which one is right for me." -Luis*

*"You tell me and I forget.*

*You teach me and I remember.*

*You involve me and I learn"*

*-Benjamin Franklin*

## El Camino College Warriors Explore Northern California University Opportunities



**El Camino College students at the Santa Cruz Boardwalk.**

For the past few years the El Camino College Transfer Center has sponsored transfer students on a three-day campus excursion to four prestigious universities in the Northern California area. In Spring 2008, 57 students attended this tour and in Spring 2009 70 students attended. However, the fate of the Northern California University Tour for Spring 2010 was in question due to the lack of funding available to sponsor this tour. Fortunately, the Transfer Center was able to collaborate with S.T.E.M. to make this tour a reality.

During the 2010 spring break, 30 eager students participated in the Northern California University Tour, chaperoned by Sue Oda Omori, the Transfer Center Coordinator/Counselor and Blanca Prado, a Student Services Advisor. The students had the opportunity to visit UC Merced, UC Santa Cruz, Santa Clara University, UC Berkeley, and UC Davis. They learned about transfer admission requirements, how to prepare at the community college, research opportunities available for undergraduate students, and student life and activities the campuses have to offer. They actually experienced first-hand student life by staying in the dorms at UC Berkeley, eating in the dining commons at each campus, and talking to current students. The highlight of the trip seemed to be the opportunity to talk to students who are currently attending the various universities, whether they were former ECC students or their overnight student hosts. The following are some highlights at each campus we visited:

While in the brand new library at

UC Merced, a small group of us bumped into a former El Camino College student, John Wyatt, who is currently attending UC Merced as a computer science major. The students who were with us asked him a lot of questions about the campus. He told them he really liked it at Merced and one of the reasons was the many research opportunities that are available for undergraduate students.

At UC Santa Cruz the tour guide was from southern California and gave the students a lot of information from a student perspective. Many of the students loved the natural environment of the Santa Cruz campus, the fresh air, and the redwood trees. For fun we visited the Boardwalk and downtown Santa Cruz in the evening. Former ECC students Jaime Gallegos and Jessica Quezada joined us.

In the afternoon we visited Santa Clara University, a small private university. They attended an admission presentation and then went on a campus tour. The students found it to be a small, intimate campus.

That evening we arrived in Berkeley and the students attended a social that was organized for them to meet students currently attending Cal, and then they were paired up with a student host for an overnight dorm stay. Some of the students were taken out by their student host and were shown the campus and/or the town of Berkeley and some really nice bonds were developed by this experience. The next morning we entered the campus from Bancroft and Telegraph, passing the infamous Sproul Hall and Sather Gate. We were given an admission presentation and then

had a presentation from a former ECC student, Dean Kwon, who is a pre-med senior in molecular and cell biology with an emphasis in immunology. He was a great inspiration to the students because he told them he was a high school drop-out, attended ECC, which he said was his "second chance," and is doing great at Berkeley. He told our students about the many activities he is involved with, about his classes, and student life. After the campus tour, we met more former ECC students in front of the Transfer Student Center: Myron Ramirez – engineering major, and Tanu Padrath – biology major.

We arrived on the UC Davis campus the next morning and went on a campus tour and then had an admission presentation. Part of the presentation was a student panel of transfer students. One of the students on the panel was a former ECC student, Armando Lee, who is an engineering major. The students then had free time and two other former ECC students met with some of the group, Calvin Ueda – biology major, and Vanessa Rivera – animal science major.

It was a great experience for all of the students. You can see a change in some of them as they began thinking a Northern California university can be a real option for them. An important and revealing statement on the Transfer Center evaluation is: "After participating in this tour, I am now considering universities outside of the Southern California area as a transfer option." Below is how the students responded to that statement: 69% strongly agree, 14% agree, 3% are undecided, 10% disagree, 3% strongly disagree.



## SSTARS Breakfast Highlights

On Friday, January 29, 2010, SSTARS celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Galaxy of the Stars Breakfast Fundraiser at the Doubletree Hotel Torrance/South Bay. The goal of the breakfast fundraiser is to help raise money to support our mission...“to improve communication between support programs and the community, to increase student retention, to share information about support services, to celebrate student accomplishments, and to raise money for recognition grants and other student needs.” The event continues to be a great success and raised nearly **\$7,000.00** for SSTARS Recognition Grants and student supported events.

During the banquet ceremony, we recognized and celebrated former student achievements and current SSTARS

grant recipients involved with SSTARS programs at El Camino College. The following people were inducted into the SSTARS Hall of Fame:

David M. Brown II-Public Admin., M.A.  
EOPS

Aneliese Lechuga-Registered Nursing, A.S  
CalWORKs

Michael Martinez- English, B.A  
EOPS/Financial Aid/Counseling/Transfer Center

Skyler Maxwell-Public Health Ed., B.S.  
Project Success/Counseling/Financial Aid/  
Transfer Center

Johnny Torres- Cognitive Science, B.S  
Transfer Center/Honors Transfer Program/  
MESA

The following students were recipients of the 2009 SSTARS Recognition Grants:

Jessica Valdez, continuing ECC student,  
\$500.00

Keythema Bush, continuing ECC student,  
\$500.00

Stefanie Garcia, continuing ECC student,  
\$500.00

Stephanie Alcorn, transfer student to Cal  
State Dominguez Hills, \$1,000.00

Jose Guardado, transfer student to Cal  
Poly Tech, \$1,000.00



Inductees to the SSTARS Hall of Fame.

## New Student Welcome Day

The New Student Welcome Day (NSWD) event is an open house activity sponsored by Counseling Services to showcase and highlight the programs of study, support programs, and services of the college. During this event students have the opportunity to interact with faculty, and other students from the discipline of their interest. In addition, various informational workshops featuring support programs are offered. A resource fair is also featured so that students can obtain additional information from ECC's programs and services. The event took place on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and approximately 1,000 students and parents were in attendance. The New Student Welcome Day Planning Committee met once a month and consisted of division deans, department directors, faculty and staff. The committee was headed by co-chairs, Maribel Hernandez and Griselda Castro with the assistance of Angie Funes from the Counseling Division.

**Teamwork:** Cooperative effort by the members of a group or team to achieve a common goal.

This year the New Student Welcome Day Committee demon-

strated that the definition of teamwork was at the basis and at the heart of realizing this project. As you may know there was a 58.8% budget cut to the matriculation budget. In order to keep the event it was proposed that no lunch be given to students, the time of the event be shortened, and for students to be provided with water and a protein bar to save on costs. The NSWD Committee had to work very hard to create ways to alleviate the impact of the budget cuts.

The ECC Bookstore donated 500 plastic bags, 800 water bottles, 800 granola bars, 10 ECC sweaters and \$600 toward the food; CalWORKs/CARE donated 150 black portfolios for parents' bags; and Seeds Partnership Program donated \$1,000 toward the food. Staff Development donated 10 round tables with umbrellas and 100 chairs.

The ECC Public Relations & Marketing office updated the postcard, flyer, and online registration for the event. The counseling appointment center student staff and student workers from Project Success and the Puente Project assisted with the mass mailing of flyers. Student volun-

teers aided with the organization of the survival bags that were distributed to students and parents who attended. Approximately 112 faculty and staff and the 7 division deans participated in the Major Division sessions. We had approximately 52 volunteers, 23 Ambassadors, 3 bookstore volunteers and student staff assisting during the event.

Overall, the event was a success. Students were satisfied with the lunch that was provided. People also seemed to be pleased with the radio station, '97.1 FM AMP

Radio. There was also an increase of students and parents who attended, in 2008 the turnout was approximately 800, this year it went up to 1,000.

A successful outcome could not have been accomplished without the efforts, support, and contribution of everyone who participated. Each person who was involved in this project facilitated an excellent collaboration and demonstrated ECC's dedication to student success.

teamwork. (n.d.). *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*. Retrieved February 24, 2010, from Dictionary.com website: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/teamwork>

***“We make a living by  
what we get, but we  
make a life by what  
we give”***

***-Winston Churchill***



New Student Welcome Day  
Summer 2009

# Basic Skills Counseling Intervention

For the past two years Counseling Services Division has been partnering with the Math and Humanities Divisions to increase student academic achievement of basic skills courses and promote their success.

Currently, The Counseling Services Division faculty involved in this effort are

Sabra Sabio, Dr. Lisa Raufman, Valencia Rayford, Margaret Miranda, Rene Lozano, Xiao Wang and Dr. Margaret Quinones-Perez. They are working with Mathematics Professor Arturo Martinez to deliver counseling services to 15 sections of Basic Skills math level courses. The counseling services inter-

ventions consist of: (1) providing an overview of college requirements, (2) identifying and accessing college resources, (3) applying for and securing student financial aid, (4) mapping pathways to obtain AA/AS/Certificates, (5) understanding and utilizing transfer information, and (6) accessing registration and *MyECC*.

## Counseling Division Retreat: Perspectives

During the summer of 2009, the Counseling Division embarked on an innovative and exciting new approach for our annual retreat. The retreat took place on January 2010 and was attended by both counseling faculty and classified staff members. Under the leadership of our division dean, Dr. Regina Smith, we decided to adopt the Great Teachers' Seminar format created by David Gottshall. This new format allowed all participants to share their own unique ideas on how the Counseling Division can improve its student service operation. We split up into groups, each led by a facilitator whose job was to record everything shared by each individual. The facilitators represented both faculty and classified staff in order to create an equal voice for everyone. The basic principle is that everyone is an "expert" in his or her specific roles and can impart a vision of what can be improved and how to improve it. The issues that were addressed

in the retreat emerged from the day's discussions rather than a pre-set agenda. The format's rules included equal time for all participants, sharing only positive and productive ideas, not griping about things that don't work or proposing ideas that would require a long waiting period or unrealistic resources (i.e. an improved state budget, the approval of the cabinet or board, etc.) The achieved outcomes included a higher professional morale, rooted on increased teamwork, and a stronger willingness to learn from others' ideas and unique points of view. Dr. Regina Smith scheduled time during spring 2010 flex activities for follow-up and committee subgroups to put all of the great ideas born out of the retreat into action.  
-Rene Lozano, Counselor.

The 2010 Counseling Division Retreat was a great experience. I had the opportunity to be the classified staff representative, serving as the only classified facilitator of

workshops. From a classified perspective, I thought the retreat was effective in bringing faculty and staff together. Rarely do the two meet to discuss topics as a collective group. We were all able to interact in asking questions, giving opinions, offering suggestions to various issues and innovative ideas. It was guaranteed that each group was able to learn something from each other which created a productive and insightful retreat. Personally, I discovered that faculty and staff share different experiences in helping our students but we all have the ultimate goal in giving the best service possible to students. As a division, we were able to effectively communicate and determine what the most important issues were that needed to be resolved to have a successful functioning division. We all had one objective and were on one accord which was the recipe for a productive and successful retreat. I give it two thumbs up!  
- Andrea "Angie" Eke, Classified Staff

## What's New & Upcoming...

**Maribel Hernandez** - New Coordinator/Counselor for the Puente Project.

**Rutina Taylor** - New co-chair for SSTARS.

**Bernadette Flamenó** - Co-chaired this year's New Student Welcome Day with Griselda Castro and Angie Funes.

**Facebook** - The Counseling Division, Transfer Center and FYE are now on Facebook.

**Copy & Print Station** - Students are now able to print and copy in the Career & Transfer Center at minimal cost. The print station is linked with the library's print station so students are able to retrieve print jobs in the library.

**SARS Appointment Reminders** - Students receive automatic appointment reminder calls two days prior to their appointment.

**SARS Drop-in System** - The Counseling Division is piloting the SARS Drop-In screen for Express Counseling. Students are now able to sign-in electronically.

**5th Annual SSTARS Breakfast Banquet** - Will be held on Friday, January 28, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Torrance/South Bay Double Tree Hotel. Cost is \$35 per guest. Proceeds will go towards continuous support of our programs and the success of our students.

**"Opportunity**

**may knock only**

**once, but it**

**passes by your**

**door every day."**

**-Unknown Author**

# CONGRATULATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS!

## Congratulations to:

- ◆ The Division of Counseling for receiving the Highest Commendation for Accreditation.
- ◆ Mrs. Elaine Moore for being selected as one of two John Rice Diversity and Equity Award recipients.
- ◆ FYE for receiving an Honorable Mention for the 2009 Exemplary Program Award, presented by the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) for best exemplifying this year's theme, *Creating a Bridge to Transfer or Career*.
- ◆ The New Student Welcome Day committee (Maribel Hernandez, Griselda Castro, and Angie Funes) for tripling student participation over the past three years (2007-2009).
- ◆ Sue Oda Omori and Transfer Center staff for coordinating the Fall 2009 Transfer Conference. It was a success with over 300 transfer students in attendance.
- ◆ John Weitzel, Van Nguyen, Bill Cooper, Lisa Raufman and Valencia Rayford for coordinating a successful Career Expo and Majors Fair during Spring 2010. Over 40 companies were in attendance.
- ◆ SSTARS for hosting their 4th annual Galaxy of the SSTARS Fundraiser which generated nearly \$7,000 for SSTARS Recognition Grants and student supported events.
- ◆ Our transfer student population for achieving a 47% admission rate to UCLA, the highest admit rate among California Community Colleges that sent 100+ students to UCLA for Fall 2009.
- ◆ Dr. Cynthia Mosqueda for receiving her doctoral degree from UCLA and Dr. Keith Curry for receiving his doctoral degree from UC Irvine.
- ◆ Masiel Martinez for completing her B.A. in Sociology from CSU Long Beach.
- ◆ Karla Villaseñor and Kelton Higgins for receiving the ECC Student Employee of the Year Award.

## Acknowledgments:

- ◆ The Transfer Center signed over 200 Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) contracts during Fall 2009.
- ◆ The Career Center conducted career orientations to 425 students in Fall 2009 and 475 students in Spring 2010. A total of 1,759 students received career related counseling during Fall 2009 through Spring 2010.
- ◆ The Matriculation team had a total of 1,143 students attend a Matriculation workshop and 1,055 students attend a Student Enhancement Program workshop during July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

# THANK YOU, ON BEHALF OF THE DEAN

It takes a village to run a successful division. Dr. Smith would like to thank the following people for contributing to the accomplishments of the Counseling Division.

## **THANK YOU TO:**

Dr. Fallo and cabinet for their continued support of the Division of Counseling & Student Services.

Blanca Prado and Theresa Barragan-Echeverria for their input, assistance and creation of the newsletter.

Everyone who participated in the search committees for a financial aid counselor and full-time general counselor. Although I cannot mention you by name, a special thank you to each and every one of you for all of the time you gave so freely.

Human Resources department for their support during our hiring process.

Dr. Jean Shankweiler for her support in hiring counseling faculty for the S.T.E.M. project.

Nancy Fong and Harold Tyler for chairing the SSTARS Banquet.

The Online Ed Plan Committee (Cheryl Kroll, Chris Jeffries, Linda Gallucci, Rene Lozano and Sabra Sabio) for helping jumpstart the Student Online Educational Plan.

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The Basic Skills support team: Margaret Quiñones-Perez, Dr. Lisa Raufman, Valencia Rayford, Margaret Miranda, Sabra Sabio, Rene Lozano and Xiao Wang.

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