STUDENT SUCCESS NEWSLETTER

LOS ANGELES SOUTHWEST COLLEGE—STUDENT SERVICES

IMPORTANT FINANCIAL AID CHANGES ON THE WAY...

YOUR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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**For Rent Textbooks**

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**THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENT SERVICES DIVISION OF LASC**

If you have story ideas or questions, please contact Robert Klier at klierrm@lasc.edu or Dean Patrick Jefferson at jefferpd@lasc.edu

Visit the *Student Success Newsletter* on the web at [http://www.lasc.edu/students/studentsuccessnewsletter.html](http://www.lasc.edu/students/studentsuccessnewsletter.html)

*On The Cover: Financial Aid Changes to impact 2012-13 Award Year.*
The U.S. Congress has enacted legislation to deal with a $1.3 billion short-fall in funding for the Pell Grant program by limiting eligibility to the program. Changes to the Pell Grant program and modifications to other Financial Aid regulations will impact students now and during the 2012-13 award year.

Some of the important changes are listed below and on the next page.

- Starting July 1, 2012, students who do not have a High School Diploma must complete the GED, or pass the High School Proficiency Exam in order the meet the High School requirement criteria. This removes the Ability to Benefit (ATB) provision and could affect approximately 19,000 students in the California Community College system.

- The lifetime limit for the Pell Grant has changed from 18 full-time semesters to 12 full-time semesters. If a student needs a Basic Skills course, he or she should visit a Counselor to see if it is possible to take non-credit courses to satisfy the requirement in order to preserve the maximum Pell Grant time frame. The lifetime Pell Grant limit applies to all continuing and new students.
Important Financial Aid changes continued...

- A copy of a student’s Federal Tax Return is no longer considered as acceptable documentation to verify income. Students must request an IRS Transcript through the IRS office for the income verification process.

- Students may need to provide proof of receiving food stamps as part of the income verification process.

- Students may need to provide information regarding the amount of child support they paid.

The 2012-13 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov
Effective Summer 2012, the LACCD Board of Governors adopted regulations that limit apportionment for enrollment in a single credit course to three enrollments, with specific exemptions.

Enrollment occurs when a student receives an evaluative (A-F, N, NP, CR, NC) or non-evaluative (W) symbol. Limits set forth in this new regulation affect students based on all prior course enrollments. Students will only have three attempts to pass a class. If the student gets a “W” or a grade of “NP” or “F” in a class, that will count as an attempt. Students with three or more such records of enrollment will not be allowed to repeat the course within the Los Angeles Community College District. Students may, however, petition to repeat a course a third time due to extenuating circumstances.

Exemptions to this policy include courses identified as “repeatable” such as PE and performing arts in accordance with Title 5, Section 55041, subdivision (c), but do not apply to enrollment in all other credit courses.

~ by Kimberly Carpenter

PLEASE HELP INFORM OUR STUDENTS!

It is a student’s responsibility to drop any classes that he or she does not attend. Instructors may drop a student for failure to attend, but it is a student’s responsibility to ensure that he or she is officially dropped in order to avoid a record of enrollment such as a “W” or a failing grade, or a fee liability. Please inform all students that even though the new Course Repetition policy is not in effect until Summer 2012, any drops with “W” grades recorded this semester may prevent them from registering for the course again in the future. The deadline to drop without “W” grades is March 4, 2012.

Effective Summer 2012, in order to drop to avoid a record of enrollment, a student must drop the class before the census date. Please refer to the Academic Calendar in the Schedule of Classes for the specific date to drop without record of enrollment. Dropping with a “W” grade has consequences that may affect a student’s ability to retake the course. We will send out email reminders to students about the drop dates. Students should check their email regularly.
Dear Faculty,

Our students rely on you to send an extra textbook to be placed on Reserve for your class. Many students can’t afford the book and sometimes the books come in late. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Don’t be left out of the Library Instruction Workshops. Don’t allow your students wander in the maze called the library. E-mail the library chair at werts@lasc.edu or call (323) 241-5235 and make an appointment. Your students will thank you and you’ll see an improvement in their research skills.

Shelley Werts,
Library Chair

For more information on the LASC Library, visit http://www.lasc.edu/students/library/about_library.html
The Bernard Osher Foundation (http://www.osherfoundation.org) has provided community colleges in California and across the country with funding to help defray tuition expenses for students. The goal is to help ease the financial barrier created by today's high tuition costs as students complete a degree.

In Fall 2011, six Los Angeles Southwest College students were awarded $1,000 scholarships from the Bernard Osher Foundation. To qualify for the scholarship, these students had completed 24 degree-applicable units, were enrolled in at least 12 units at LASC, qualified for the BOGG fee waiver, and demonstrated financial need as a top priority in continuing their education. Scholarship applicants completed an application, wrote a 500-word essay about their most meaningful achievements and their future goals, and invited two faculty members to submit letters of recommendation.

The scholarship award may be used for tuition, fees, books or other school-related expenses. The scholarship is paid in two semesters, $500.00 in fall semester and $500 in spring semester, and in order to receive the scholarship funds for the spring semester students must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA and be registered for 12 units.

Please Congratulate our 2011-12 Bernard Osher Foundation Scholarship Winners!

Ebony Anthony
Kate Echereodo
Luciano Morales
D’Joy Robinson
Andrew Sena
Jessica Simington

For more information on scholarship opportunities at LASC, visit http://www.lasc.edu/scholarships/

~ Submitted by Dr. Tangelia Alfred
The ASO Community Leadership Scholarship is designated for LASC students who model integrity and academic excellence partnered with leadership. Three $500 scholarships, funded by About Time Catering, were awarded to three LASC students who exemplify such success while balancing a schedule of academia, service, and leadership.

To qualify for the scholarship, students must have completed between 12 and 80 units and have earned a 2.75 cumulative GPA. In addition, the students needed to be paid members of ASO and to also demonstrate that they are community leaders. To apply, students submitted an application, two reference letters from faculty/staff or community members, and a 500-word essay responding to the prompt “How has integrity applied to your life as a student and a leader? Give examples of how you have used integrity to promote leadership and community services.”

CONGRATULATIONS ASO COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

Lorna Abrego        Patrick Stewart      Leticia Conley
The TRIO Scholars Program presents

Fall 2011 Students with a 3.0 GPA or Higher

Lorna Abrego 3.21  Kevin Adams 3.45
Cristina Alvarez 3.25  Stephen Burks 3.14
Britnee Dolce 3.45  Deborah Fernandez 3.3
Micaela Flores 3.0  Genevieve Lewis 3.46
Antoine Margin 3.07  Luciano Morales 4.0
Kamlee Muschamp 3.60  Sheadya Taylor 3.53
Melvin Villaver 3.8  Rita Wade 4.0
Mosi West 3.35  Michael Wright 3.08
Luis Flores 3.23  Jean Gilmore 4.0
Porscha Johnson 3.37  D’Joy Robinson 3.07
Leticia Conley 4.0  Lauren Hoyd 3.46

Congratulations!

~ Submitted by Erika Miller-Washington
The winter intersession proved to be an active time in DSP&S. Students with disabilities continue to visit the DSP&S office seeking assistance and support. The DSP&S staff is very proud of its students for planning and preparing well ahead of the Spring semester. Student awareness of DSP&S policies and procedures grows stronger each semester as students plan and negotiate their accommodations for the upcoming Spring.

DSP&S conducted two sessions of student orientations last week. The covered material ran the gamut from the history of LASC to DSP&S student learning outcomes. The orientations began with Wesley Bucknor, ASO DSP&S Commissioner, welcoming incoming DSP&S students and explaining his role within ASO and DSP&S. Joining the guest speaker list was Gayan Chevchyan from the Financial Aid office. DSP&S extends a warm and sincere thank you to those involved with the orientations.

We have lots of new plans, ideas, and partnerships in store for the spring semester. First of all, the ASO DSP&S Commissioner and the DSP&S Counselor (Wesley and Roxanna) are actively developing fundraising ideas to supplement our budget in order to continue providing specific student services. Next, our collaboration with the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) will continue in the Spring but will shift days. At the beginning of the semester, a new DOR Counselor will join DSP&S on Thursdays during Graciela Rodriguez' temporary absence. Graciela will rejoin DSP&S mid-semester. She will be missed, but we look forward to continuing our relationship with the Department of Rehabilitation. And finally, DSP&S welcomes a new part-time CGCA employee, Rebecca Ludlam, to our family. Rebecca brings with her technology expertise and passion, motivation, and sincere interest in working with individuals with disabilities. She is a much-needed addition to the DSP&S group and we're thrilled to have her on board!

~ submitted by Roxanna Sanchez & Celeste Phelps
LASC received a Title III Predominately Black Institutions grant from the U.S. Department of Education to fund a five-year *Freshman Year Experience (FYE) project* in 2011. FYE’s goals are to cultivate academic achievement and interpersonal competencies and to lay the foundation for lifelong success. FYE will serve 125 incoming first-year students per year and implement the following services: Summer Bridge, Extended Orientation, Learning Communities (linked courses, intrusive counseling, mentoring, and service learning), Supplemental Academic Assistance (tutoring and supplemental instructions), and Faculty Professional Development.

The first program FYE hosted was the *Freshman Experience* extended orientation held in Fall 2011, and it was a big success. Even though the program could only accommodate 130 students, many more students submitted applications and expressed their interest in the program. 100% of the students who attended and filled out the program evaluation indicated that the FYE extended orientation was engaging and informative.

“*I had an excellent experience at the Freshman Experience. I would recommend it to any others whom will be attending Southwest.”*

“The *Freshman Experience* was awesome - very helpful! It helped me feel better on the first day of school.”

“This program [should be] mandatory for all incoming freshmen.”

“I thought the *Freshman Experience* was spectacular. It gave me a very large insight to how the campus is run and how to obtain information on some things I may be concerned about.”

FYE will continue to provide support services to the first year students in Spring 2012. The first event will be the *Spring Kick-Off* on Thursday, February 9th. It will be from 11:15am to 12:15pm in Tech 105. Refreshments will be provided. If you participated in the extended orientation in Fall 2011, be sure to attend the Spring Kick-Off where you can meet the new FYE Coordinator and some important student services providers and get acquainted with the friends from the extended orientation. It will be a great opportunity for you to form study groups as well. We look forward to seeing you at the Spring Kick-Off!

~ Submitted by Ming-huei Lam

We are pleased to announce that Ms. Ming-huei Lam will serve as the Coordinator for FYE. Ms. Lam has 20 years of experiences in social services, mental health, and higher education. Prior coming to LASC, she served as the Director of Covel Peer Learning Labs at UCLA and held different positions at Iowa State University and University of Washington, Seattle.

If you participated in the *Freshman Experience* Orientation in Fall 2011 or are interested in the FYE program, please contact her to schedule a meeting. She is eager to meet you in person and to help you navigate a pathway to academic success.

Ms. Ming-huei Lam
113 Library Center
lamm2@lasc.edu
LASC Spring 2012 Transfer Fair
Thursday March 15, 2012
Student Services Building (SSB) Lobby

Over 30 colleges & universities will be here!
The LASC College Transfer Fair is a great opportunity for students to solidify their plan to transfer and to network with other colleges and universities! Even if students are still undecided, they should stop by to find out about their post-LASC options!

~ submitted by Dr. Tangelia Alfred
On a hot Sunday afternoon, the student government of Los Angeles Southwest College worked arduously to raise funds by selling $5 parking spaces during the LAUNFD Celebrity Basketball Tournament held on our campus. ASO President Luciano Morales attended the Facilities Committee meetings and the Vice President of Administration, Mr. Ferris Trimble, approved a resolution on November 24, 2011, for the ASO to take the opportunity to raise needed funds. Thanks to this approval, the ASO used this revenue to purchase an ink cartridge and other supplies for the DSP&S Program as well as sponsor future events on campus.

This fundraising opportunity was possible because the ASO commissioners and volunteers were elated to work in an environment full of synergy. During the fundraising event, three students from Washington Preparatory High School came to play basketball at Southwest College and little did they know that they were going to meet Momma D’Joy and receive three of the donated tickets to attend the basketball charity event. The student government is also delighted to assist members of the community.

The hard work paid off because the ASO raised $1,500 that will assist with student advocacy and help sponsor future events. It was not only a fundraiser, but a “Fun-raiser” that was held with the goal of helping our fellow students.

~ by Victor May, ASO Administrative Vice President
The Associated Students Organization (ASO) or “student government” of Los Angeles Southwest College held a wonderful holiday event that brought laughter and joy to its constituents and to the community. By authorizing a Christmas Committee, the holiday event became the talk of the school. Ideas for the festivities were written on a white board in the ASO office which included: gifts, fundraising, face painting, and Santa Claus. These ideas became the blueprint for the holiday event. The Christmas Committee Chair, Almaz Pickens, took the initiative and assigned ASO board members specific duties. Also, thanks to Almaz, the ASO’s devoted commissioners became encouraged and motivated to participate in this special holiday event.

The Christmas spirit was initiated by Professor Sharon Collins-Heads, ASO club advisor, who came to the ASO Office and donated toys for the Christmas Toy Drive. It was the kindness in giving that inspired the ASO to give back to the students. It was also her kindness that brought smiles to children’s faces when Santa Claus handed out the presents. We also can’t forget to thank the DSPS counselors who helped the ASO by selling pizza. ASO raised a good amount of money and will allocate the funds to sponsor future events that will bring the community together.

~ by Victor May, ASO Administrative Vice President
On February 1st the Office of International Student Services hosted our International Student Orientation. Angola, India, England, Nigeria, and South Korea are just a few of the countries our incoming Spring semester international students hail from. The Office of International Student Services is excited to welcome 13 new students into the LASC family.

International students bring unique perspectives to our classrooms, campus, and student organizations. Interactions between international students and our host country students are invaluable opportunities for both parties to develop the traits of global citizens. International students are an important resource to our campus community. If you have an international student in your course or if you see an international student wandering the corridors, please take a moment to welcome them.

Are you a full time LASC faculty member? Are you interested in leading a short term study abroad course? If the answer is yes to both of those questions, then please contact the Office of International Students or visit our webpage at http://www.lasc.edu/students/studyabroad.html to learn how you can participate in this exciting opportunity.

~ submitted by Darren Grosch
The LASC Bookstore has initiated a new Textbook Rental program for LASC students. Select textbooks from a number of courses are available for rental—an option that could save students a lot of money, especially for courses with expensive textbooks.

Students should visit the Bookstore to learn more about this option and to see if textbooks they need are available for rental.

What’s required to rent a textbook?
- A Fee Receipt to show L.A. Southwest College Enrollment
- A Picture ID (CA. Drivers License (or CA. I.D.) or L.A. Southwest College photo ID
- A Credit Card or Debit Card expiring in July 2012 or later.

What if a student needs to return a rented textbook?
- To obtain a full refund, the rental textbook must be returned by February 10TH, 2012. All terms and conditions of the Bookstore Refund Policy apply to rental textbooks. All rental textbooks accepted for return must be in resalable condition as defined by the Bookstore Refund Policy.

  **IMPORTANT!** Lost or stolen rental books will be assessed the Replacement Fee shown on the receipt. If students choose to purchase the rented textbook they will be charged the Replacement Fee shown on the receipt. (Renting a textbook students later decide to purchase will increase the total cost for the book.)

When do students need to return rented textbooks?
- The Rental Return Deadline is June 8, 2012.

Rental Textbooks returned after this date will be assessed the late fee shown on the receipt. A rental textbook which is not returned by 06/08/2011 will be considered lost and assessed the replacement fee shown on the receipt. Rental textbooks that are lost or stolen should be reported to the Bookstore immediately to avoid being charged a late fee and replacement fee for the same book. If books are not returned and fees are not paid, a hold will be placed on student records. SEE RENTAL AGREEMENT FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

~ message from Esther Sunday
LASC student Rose Sumlin wrote a play called *My Cloud of Witness* under the guidance of Professor Al Cowart. The play won First Place at the NASDSA Conference in May 2010 and is being performed locally on February 24 and 25. The NAACP will be attending to review the show for nomination of the *NAACP Image Award*. Ms. Sumlin also recently learned that she is one of the Aves Scholarship Award recipients. Congratulations to Rose Sumlin and best wishes for future successes!

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**I’m All In Entertainment Group**

**Proudly Presents**

**My Cloud of Witness**

*Written & Directed by Rose Sumlin*

Friday February 24, 2012 7:00-9:00pm  
Saturday February 25, 2012 5:00-7:00pm

At the Saints of Value House, 12110 E. Firestone Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650  
(in the shopping center)

Tickets on sale now!  $15 (general), $12 (students w/ ID), $8 (children)

For information, call Rose Sumlin at 323.835.4945