SPECIAL ISSUE!
Welcome to the Fall 2011 Semester

Los Angeles Southwest College—Student Services

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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
Greetings,

Welcome to Fall 2011! Wow! Here we are again starting another school year. It seems like the semesters are just melting away. I am always excited this time of year. The campus is buzzing, the offices are full, and students are adding classes. This is a time of opportunities, when energy abounds and when many of our students are taking one step closer to their dreams of a brighter future. The new semester always reminds me of why I have dedicated my career to education.

I want to take time to thank all of my colleagues here in the Student Services Division for their hard work and service. This has to be one of the most passionate and dedicated group of professionals I have ever worked with. I want each of you to know that your service, especially in these tough times, does not go unnoticed. Our students are the better because of you.

I also want to remind everyone of the role the various Student Services offices play in the lives of our students. I get student through my office all the time singing the praises of the office staff and counselors in our offices, and commenting on how much they have been supported and encouraged in their journey with us at LASC. Your words and interactions keep them going. I don’t have to tell you the hardships and challenges many of our students endure. Remember that we are often all that stands between them and walking out the front door and not fulfilling their destiny.

And lastly, let’s remember our motto: “The Student Services Way.” Let’s live this every day in our service here at the college. This will be a great year folks.

See you around!

Dean Patrick Jefferson
On June 21, 2011, fourteen PASSAGE Project members from Los Angeles Southwest College and fourteen LACCD faculty members participated in the Men’s Advance (because men never retreat) at the Northwoods Resort in Big Bear Lake.

The purpose of this advance, was to:
- First, have students receive academic/personal social counseling sessions with counselors from various schools in LACCD.
- Second, conduct workshops that would benefit these male students in becoming higher performing students.
- Third, engage in team-building activities that would teach the students how to work together for a common cause.
- Fourth, place the students in an unfamiliar setting to get them out of their comfort zone.
- Last, have male students and male faculty members achieve fellowship with one another.

For most of the students, this was their first time traveling to Big Bear Lake. Some were excited about the opportunity to leave South Central Los Angeles for a few days. Some were nervous or a bit apprehensive about leaving what was comforting to them. Many of the students stated that the two and a half hour drive to Big Bear Lake was very “therapeutic” because it allowed them to clear their minds from all of the day to day issues that they encounter while living in South Central Los Angeles.

From school-related problems, gangs, family, and financial concerns, these students are burdened with many issues that sometimes cause them to feel as if they have no hope, that maybe no one cares, or that life has just dealt them a “bad hand.” But with their minds clear and their stomach empty, the students arrived in Big Bear to begin their counseling sessions.
Each student received an 1½-hour counseling session. After the sessions were concluded, the counselors reported that the students were very frank and candid with them. Over the course of three days, the students continued to reference the counseling sessions as being very helpful. This allowed for them to open up and share with the other students and staff members personal issues that concern them.

The next day begin with the students participating in group activities provided by an international leadership and team building company. The purpose of each activity was to place the students in a position where they would need to think and work together to achieve a common goal. Students partnered up with each other to figure out how they were going to untangle themselves from ropes, and they worked in groups to help each other reach for a piece of paper with a personal goal written on it. As the team building activities occurred, you could hear the students encouraging each other by saying “I got you”, “you can do it”, “we can do it”, and “we got you.” Students who didn’t know each other prior attending the Men’s Advance were now high-fiving, hugging, and congratulating each other.

*Story continues on next page...*
After lunch, the students participated in workshops that focused on ways they can become not just better students but better men. The workshop topics included *Expressions in Writing* (Robert Klier, LASC), *Test-taking and Study Techniques* (Dr. Oscar Cobian, LASC), *Defining Manhood* (Dr. Edward Bush, Riverside CC), and *What’s In Your Backpack?* (Darren Grosch, LASC).

To end the day, students and staff participated in a roundtable discussion centered on what makes them angry. Many students expressed how they have been physically, mentally, and verbally abused at some point in their lives. Some of the students expressed how not having a father or not having a positive male figure in their lives has had a enormous effect on them.

On the last day of the Men’s Advance, the students participated in several more workshops: *Classroom Etiquette* (Dr. Allistaire Callender, LASC Professor) and *Goal Setting* (Johnel Barron, LASC Outreach & Recruitment). After the last workshop, the students were given journals to write about what they wanted to accomplish over the next thirty days and the next six months. The purpose of this activity was for the students to draw upon all of the information, wisdom, and knowledge that they had gained from the workshops and counseling sessions.

The staff of the PASSGE Project will continue to monitor the progress on the students that attended the Men’s Advance. Each student has been assigned a mentor, a LASC staff member who attended the trip. We hope our students will continue to advance in the right direction.

In The Students’ Words...  

“The trip helped me gain more insight into my life.” 

“I loved it and wanted to stay longer.”

“Let’s do it again. This brother had an educational time.”

“I pray that the Passage Program will never end because it is helping us in so many...”

The moon is cold over the sand dunes  
And the clumps of sea grasses flow and glitter  
The thin chime of my watch yells the quarter after midnight  
And still I hear nothing  
But windy beating of the sea  

*Written by student Roymel Brooks while on the 2011 Men’s Advance*
The installation of the 2011-12 Associated Student Association (ASO) Board of Los Angeles Southwest College took place on Thursday, June 30, 2011. Please join us in welcoming our new ASO Board for the 2011-12 academic year.

For information on ASO events, starting an ASO club, and open ASO Commissioner positions, visit ASO on the web at [http://www.lasc.edu/aso/index.html](http://www.lasc.edu/aso/index.html)
The LASC Freshman Experience introduced over 120 incoming freshmen students to the college experience here at Los Angeles Southwest College. This 4-day program, from Monday August 22 to Thursday August 25, 2011, included a mix of academic pre-intervention, informational workshops, team-building, and social enrichment for all participating students. The goal of the Freshman Experience was to assist new students begin to navigate LASC so they can achieve success in college and their life goals.

Students attended a series of workshops designed to give them a foundation of knowledge that will help them successfully navigate college systems, identify and access support services, positively interact with faculty and staff, and develop beneficial study and test-taking habits. Some of the workshop topics included Developing Study Skills, College Success, Using Library Resources, Financial Aid, and Transfer Opportunities.

In addition to workshops, students participated in a variety of team building, self-esteem building, and self-awareness exercises. These activities made the Freshman Experience lively and engaging to students and created social and support networks that are critical for college success. Students were divided into teams, each of which came up with a team name and even a team dance routine. Students reported that they were able to easily make friends easily of the team-building exercises and that they hoped to remain in touch with their team members throughout the upcoming semesters.

Students who completed the full 4-day Freshman Experience are eligible to receive credit for Personal Development 17, a 1-unit, transferable, college-level course. Students who are EOPS eligible received a $200 book grant for the Fall 2011 semester.

If you have any questions about the 2011 Freshman Experience, please contact Johnel Barron, Coordinator of the Office of Outreach and Recruitment, at 323-241-5325 or by email to outreach@lasc.edu

~ submitted by Johnel Barron
I can’t say enough about what LASC did with the Freshman Experience. So much material was covered in those four days that I went to my family and told them that this should be mandatory for every student.

We need to equip students to be successful by day one, and these four days did that. I’m 40 years old and returning to school for my degree in Child Development, and here I am in the first week of classes. I’m not lost, even with all the room changes I’m able to get to my classes, and I’ve already received help from a connection I made during one of the workshops.

Mrs. Erika Miller—Washington presented to our team about a women’s support group on campus, called Sister 2 Hermana and she passed out her business cards in case we ever needed help from the TRiO Scholars office. I needed to talk to someone about a problem, took her up on her offer, and got the help I needed. This would not have happened without the personal connections I made during the Freshman Experience. These are the kinds of things that can make it or break it for new students and can show us that a school is invested in our future.

I’m an adult, but the high school graduates were able to come to campus, get familiar with how a college works, and even receive classroom etiquette lessons. Where else are some students going to learn how to interact properly with teachers and other students? Some students don’t have a sense of belonging in their homes or neighborhoods, but we now already have some of that sense of belonging here at LASC.

The team-building activities broke down our barriers immediately. In the team games you had 20 year olds tossing stuffed animals to 40 year olds and all of us dancing together. Mr. Barron’s positive attitude and how he presented and ran everything really made it happen. We were engaged for four full days and didn’t lose our attention. Some people didn’t want the four days to end.

Instead of just showing up to LASC on the first day of classes, I already feel like I’m home. Getting help like this is a big deal if you want to succeed as a student. LASC gave me and the rest of us the tools we need. We’re prepared for battle. I was ready before, but now I’m ready.
The 1st Annual Student Services Retreat *Getting To Know Our Community - The Student Services Way* was held July 21, 2011 in the SSB Lobby. Student services offices closed for the day so all staff and student workers could attend this event.

After a continental breakfast and a welcome from Dean of Student Services Patrick Jefferson, the day’s presentations began. Ms. Maisha Jones from the Financial Aid Office offered a presentation entitled “So This Is Our Community, Huh?”, which provided all Student Services staff with a greater understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the population of the LASC service area. Following this presentation focused on an awareness of those we serve, Ms. Yvette Moss of the TRiO STEM Program took retreat participants through an *Understanding Ourselves; Understanding Others* exercise designed to foster a self-awareness. A Myers-Briggs “Personal Inventory” instrument allowed Student Services staff to understand their basic personality types so that they might strategize how approach their work, coworkers, and LASC students.

Following a barbeque lunch, Student Services staff returned to participate in breakout groups focused on recent changes in Financial Aid policies and procedures. Ms. Kathaleen Stiger and members of the Financial Aid staff presented information to small groups about policies that might affect their specific areas within Student Services.
LASC Executive Vice-President Trudy Walton led retreat participants through a *Why Do We Do What We Do?* exercise so that staff might share with each other reasons for working here at LASC. Rose Calderon of the Assessment/Matriculation Office led the final presentation of the retreat, taking posters that had been hung around the SSB Lobby and sharing the staff input from each poster. Student Services staff had written their responses to prompts such as “Describe your idea of ‘The Student Services Way’” and “How can we improve communication in Student Services?” The retreat ended with closing remarks from Dean Jefferson.

Over 92% of retreat attendees surveyed rated the retreat’s presentations and activities as *Excellent* or *Very Good*. Almost 90% of those surveyed responded that the overall experience of the retreat was *Excellent* or *Very Good*. A few survey respondents commented that “The staff has a heart and compassion for the community” and “We are all working for similar reasons - we are passionate and we know we can make a difference”.

The Student Services Retreat Committee created an agenda, coordinated the materials and workshops for this retreat, and sent the following message to all Student Services staff.

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**TO THE STUDENT SERVICE STAFF:**

“We truly appreciate all of your hard work and commitment. Your contributions no matter how big or how small do not go unnoticed. Your presence, support, dedication, professionalism, willingness to go the extra mile, smiles, resourcefulness, care, and concern for our community are evident daily. You provide the highest level of service—we’ve coined it *The Student Services Way.*”

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**Student Services Retreat Committee**

Dr. Tangelia Alfred  
Ms. Blanca Barajas  
Ms. Rose Calderon  
Ms. Kimberly Carpenter  
Dr. Patrick Jefferson  
Ms. Yvette Moss  
Mr. Oscar Paniagua
Los Angeles Southwest College’s Latino Employee Association (LEA) and the Associated Student Organization (ASO) will proudly celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15th – October 15th. During the college hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays, activities will be held that will enhance the understanding of the diverse cultures within the Hispanic American community and their contributions to our society. Some scheduled workshops/forums address issues directly affecting our LASC and surrounding community.

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15th to October 15th by recognizing and celebrating the cultures, contributions, and heritage of Hispanic Americans. The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting September 15 and ending October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The day of September 15th is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico, Chile, and Belize celebrate their independence days on September 16th, September 18th, and September 21st, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12th, falls within this 30 day period. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute’s theme for this year’s Hispanic Heritage Month festivities in Washington D.C. is “Keeping the Promise: Unity, Strength, and Leadership.”

~ submitted by Ms. Blanca Barajas
LASC’S HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

All students, faculty, and staff are invited to participate in the month-long scheduled activities.

All events are scheduled to begin at 11:00 am, unless otherwise indicated.

Hispanic Heritage Month Kick-Off
Thursday, September 15th – Opening Ceremony and Salsa Workshop (SSB Patio – South Entrance)

September 18th – LASC Group Visit to the Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) in Long Beach - 2:00 p.m., Free Entrance

September 19th – 24th: Arts & Culture
Tuesday, September 20th: Mexican Lotería/Bingo (SSB – 1st Floor)
Thursday, September 22nd: Papel Picado (Arts & Crafts) Workshop (SSB - 208)

September 26th – October 1st: Health & Well-Being
Tuesday, September 27th: Diabetes in our Latino & Black Community (SSB - 1st Floor)
Thursday, September 29th: Let’s Zumba! (SSB Patio – South Entrance)

October 3rd – 7th: Politics and Social Awareness
October 4th: Dream Act Forum (SSB Patio - South Entrance)
October 6th: Divided We Fall: Black/Brown Relations (SSB - 1st Floor)

October 10th – 14th: The Immigrant Experience
Tuesday, October 11th: Panel Discussion: Nuestras Historias/Our Stories

Hispanic Heritage Month Closing Event
Thursday, October 13th - Sabor Latino: A taste of Latin American Cuisine (SSB – 1st Floor)

Please note: Above schedule subject to change

In our ongoing commitment to reflect the diversity of the communities we serve, Los Angeles Southwest College honors local heroes of the Hispanic American community for their dedication and commitment to enrich the lives of others.
Student Organization
BLACK STUDENT UNION YOUTH SKATE PARTY

During Summer 2011, the Los Angeles Southwest College Black Student Union (BSU) held a skate party for community youth at World on Wheels Skating Rink. Over 36 youth accompanied with either biological or foster-care parents came out and had a ball!

Everyone had so much fun. We had gift bag giveaways for kids who were able to answer history quiz questions. This event was the first annual BSU Community Skate Party, encouraging youth to continue their education. We lead by example.

The Black Student Union is dedicated to serving the student body of LASC. Contact us at bsulasc@gmail.com

~ submitted by LASC-BSU President Gary Thomas Easley
Roxanna Sanchez and Erica Ruiz conducted four DSP&S student orientations this summer and had approximately 40 students in attendance. Students learned about DSP&S services, rights and responsibilities, how to use the catalog and schedule of classes, and much, much more. Additionally, Financial Aid staff presented their services and information, and Kimberly McBride from the Student Success Center joined in to offer support for all students. We send out a big THANK YOU to Financial Aid and Ms. McBride for their time, support, and dedication.

We recently said goodbye to Erica Ruiz, CGCA, who accepted a position at California State University Long Beach. She had been with DSP&S since November 2010 while finishing her Master’s Degree in Counseling at USC. We are so proud of her but will miss her horribly. As one door closes, another opens and on that note, we are excited to welcome a new employee, Jennifer Grenado, to the DSP&S team. She is a much-welcomed and much-needed addition, and will begin September 1, 2011. Please welcome her when you see her.

What to expect for the Fall 2011 semester

- Learning Skills 59 (Orientation to Disability Services)
  - DSP&S Workshops
- Disability Awareness Month Activities (October). Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming information.
  - Learning Disabilities Assessment
  - Professional Development activities
  - Much more!

~ submitted by Celeste Phelps & Roxanna Sanchez
The Dean of TRiO Programs and the Upward Bound Coordinator and staff are pleased to announce another successful year for Upward Bound. In the spring we reported to our Student Services family the success of our 2011 graduating class --- all 22 of these graduating seniors enrolled in programs of post secondary education. We wish these students the best as they embark on their freshmen year of college!

During the summer, Upward Bound hosted 40 high school participants on campus who took various academic courses: mathematics, English, environmental science (college credit course), senior seminar, and financial literacy. The five-week intensive academic program was followed by a one-week college tour of four-year universities in Northern California.

In total, Upward Bound participants visited nine colleges over the summer. The students also toured the Hyperion Treatment Plant as part of their environmental science course. The summer program is geared to prepare students for success during the academic year at their target schools and to give them a competitive advantage over their peers.

Upward Bound will continue to support students throughout the year with tutoring, advising, academic instruction, leadership training, educational & cultural field trips, SAT prep, CAHSEE prep, college application & financial aid assistance, and more. We look forward to another outstanding year!

~ submitted by Oscar Cobian & Michael Harris
A group of students from LASC participated in a pilot program called Connect: LA, which gave the participants a chance to immerse themselves in a different culture. The culture for this trip was the Chinese-American culture and the trip took us to Chinatown, just north of downtown Los Angeles.

Upon arrival in Chinatown we were greeted by a guide called Gene, from a Chinese preservation society. The first part of the trip consisted of a one and a half hour walking tour through the various parts of Chinatown where Gene narrated the rich history of the founding of this cultural town. The tour took us from the busy streets of the shopping districts to the serenity and peace of the Chinese temples. The walk was thoroughly interesting and was jam-packed with interesting facts.

After the tour, Gene departed and we were greeted by Doreen Fang, a star of the Food Network and food connoisseur. Little did we know, but one of the best parts of the trip was about to begin with the ordering of Chinese food for lunch. We had unforgettable traditional Chinese food from Westlake beef soup to Peking duck. The food tantalized our taste buds and gave us the most insight experience into the Chinese culture.

Shortly after our delicious lunch, thanks to the ordering help of Ms. Fang, we journeyed into a Chinese supermarket where Ms. Fang introduced us to various teas. Tea is a large part of Chinese culture and this gave us another chance to experience the various beverages. After our beverage tasting session, one of the most fun parts of the trip commenced. We were let loose into Chinatown with a well-devised scavenger hunt to find objects and seek clues. Unfortunately this part of the trip was cut short but only for a chance to meet and greet some of the kids who grew up in Chinatown and learn more about their experiences. This session with the Chinese youth group allowed our students, already a diverse mix, to learn what it is like to grow up in a Chinese-American culture first-hand. It was an invigorating experience for all of us who attended and it was a great chance to learn more about Chinatown.

Our trip capped off with a drive to Pasadena for an opera performance based on the Chinese poet Li Bai. After a long, eventful, and fun day, we finally arrived back at LASC just after 10:30pm. I thoroughly recommend this Connect: LA experience for anyone who is looking to seek out other cultures and also to anyone who may be taking a trip to China as it will give you an excellent taste of what to expect.

~ submitted by Connect: LA participant Andi Tam
In preparation for the ACCJC team visit in Spring 2012, our college is striving to meet the characteristics of “Proficiency” level of the ACCJC’s rubric related to SLOs. Two important characteristics are detailed below.

**#1) Student learning outcomes and authentic assessment are in place for courses, programs and degrees.**

Approximately 96% of all courses (after planned archives) have SLOs and 55% of the courses have been assessed. Course SLO reporting is done on the SLO Addendum to the Course Outline in concert with the recently developed Checklist. Both documents are downloadable at [http://www.lasc.edu/faculty_staff/slo/SLO_Committee_Membership.html](http://www.lasc.edu/faculty_staff/slo/SLO_Committee_Membership.html). This Fall 2011 semester, another 92 courses will be targeted for SLO assessment.

As SLOs are assessed, we need to be focused on “authentic” assessment. According to the ASCCC’s SLO Glossary, “traditional assessment sometimes relies on indirect or proxy items such as multiple choice questions focusing on content or facts. In contrast, authentic assessment simulates a real world experience by evaluating the student’s ability to apply critical thinking and knowledge or to perform tasks that may approximate those found in the work place or other venues outside of the classroom setting.” All programs, including Student Services, now have defined SLOs and results of assessment will be reported in Program Review this academic year.

**#2) There is widespread institutional dialogue about the results of assessment and identification of gaps.**

Now that the class-free time ("College Hour") on Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00-12:30 pm becomes effective this Fall 2011, additional time for institutional dialogue on assessment results and improvement plans is anticipated. Discussion of SLO results is encouraged during department meetings (please document with meeting minutes) and “reflections” on program SLO results will be incorporated in academic Program Review.

Our SLO Committee is meeting every 2nd and 4th Thursday from 11:00am to 12:30pm in the PCR. Our next meeting is September 8th and we welcome new members and visitors. Contact G. Yoshida (x5263) if you have any questions or need assistance with SLO assessment or reporting. Have a great Fall semester!

~ submitted by Glenn Yoshida, SLO Coordinator
Construction Update
LASC BOOKSTORE

Visit the LASC Bookstore’s new location in the Student Services Building
The temporary Library Center is located next to the Sheriff’s Office and houses the Library, the Mail Room and the Reprographics Office.

The Academic Village is a new facility located on the field between the Lakin Gymnasium and the 105 Freeway.

Student Parking is available in two locations: the parking structure (Lot 4) and the large parking lot in front of Student Services Building (Lot 3). A new faculty lot is located off Imperial Highway next to the CDC (Lot 1).

Due to construction projects, we are unable to occupy the Lecture Laboratory (LL) and Student Services Center (SSC) buildings.

Alternate arrangements for classrooms have been made. Visit the updated schedule at the Enrollment Pages on the LASC website, located here: http://198.188.13.123/research/index.cfm

Or contact Academic Affairs at 323.241.5284 to confirm classroom locations.

Student Success Center opens September 6th in the 4th Floor of the Cox Building.