DR. JACK E. DANIELS III NAMED PERMANENT PRESIDENT OF LASC

The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Board of Trustees has approved the selection of Jack E. Daniels III, Ph.D. as President of Los Angeles Southwest College. Dr. Daniels served as Interim President since August of 2006.

“President Daniels has done an incredible job of pulling things together at LASC over the last two years,” said Dr. Marshall E. Drummond, LACCD Chancellor. “For the first time in my memory, the community, regional stakeholders, faculty, staff and students have an enthusiastic view of the future. I am grateful to have talent such as Jack’s on my team.”

With a 30-year career in higher education in four states, Dr. Daniels brings a wealth of expertise in strategic planning, continuous process improvement, business-education partnerships, fundraising and grant procurement, as well as outreach to multicultural communities.

Previously, Dr. Daniels was president of Lincoln Land Community College (Springfield, Ill.) and Central College (Houston), and also held administrative positions in California (Grossmont College, Peralta Community College District, Contra Costa College) and Florida (Miami-Dade Community College).

Dr. Daniels holds a Ph.D. from the Wright Institute Graduate School of Psychology and a B.A. in History and Education from Huntington College. He is an honorary member of Phi Beta Lambda and Phi Theta Kappa.

“I would like to thank the Board, the Chancellor and Los Angeles Southwest College for having the confidence in me to lead Southwest College into the future,” Dr. Daniels said. “Many challenges are facing our college and I look forward to working with the faculty, staff and the community to insure that we continue to offer quality programs and services.”

SUPV. BURKE TO LASC GRADS: ‘WE ARE LIVING IN A REVOLUTIONARY TIME’

Yvonne B. Burke, Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, was keynote commencement speaker at Los Angeles Southwest College on June 5.
“We are not sleeping through a revolutionary time,” she told 182 graduates of associate degree, nursing and certificate programs. “We are living a revolutionary time.”

Supervisor Burke went on to encourage a commitment to the community. “Think about this time you sat in this gym and saw people so proud of you; people have great hopes for your future. A revolution has taken place here — make a difference in your life and for generations to come.”

Dr. Daniels presented Supervisor Burke with a crystal memento, in recognition of her longtime support of Los Angeles Southwest College.

Among the 2008 graduates were valedictorian Lavita Brown and salutatorian Phyllis Kumar. Five Middle College High School students earned associate degrees before graduating with high school diplomas.

2008 Graduate Rickey Santos sang “This is the Moment!” and LACCD Student Trustee and LASC alum Eva Jackson sang “The Star Spangled Banner.” Sue Verity was faculty grand marshal.

Commencement Committee member were Blanca Barajas, Darlene Comegys (also program designer), Sidney Cosby, Randy Craig, Blanchie Hollier, Marilyn Ingram, Marilyn Muy, Bridget Perez, Jose Robledo, Barbara Stephens, Chauncine Stewart, Traci Tippens, Deborah Ward and Cassandra Walker.

NEW TRANSIT CENTER FUNDING SECURED BY REP. MAXINE WATERS

Community residents will find it easier to attend Los Angeles Southwest College next year, thanks to funding secured by U.S. Representative Maxine Waters for a transit center to be built on the campus.

The approval of federal appropriations in the amount of $400,000 will construct a transit center at West Imperial Highway and Denker Avenue.

Plans call for the LASC Transit Center to serve Metro Bus, Metro Rapid and Gardena Bus passengers. In addition, new pedestrian walkways will be constructed.

Rep. Waters stated she had secured nearly $7 million in funding for 14 projects within her Congressional district. The Transit Center is one of those projects.

“In this time of economic hardship, I know how important it is to invest in our communities, and this funding will go a long way for the citizens of the 35th district,” she announced at a press conference in Washington, D.C.

Funding for the Los Angeles Southwest College Transit Center and other projects was included in the fiscal year 2008 appropriations legislation passed by the U.S. Congress and recently signed into law by the President.

“This transit center will pull in more students because of the accessibility,” said Gwen Maris, 2007-08 President of LASC’s Associated Student Organization.

“They will be able to purchase on-site tickets. This offers the community a chance to really appreciate the college and its growth.”
BOARD MEMBERS APPROVE $3.5B BOND AND LIST OF PROJECTS

At its April 23rd meeting, the LACCD Board of Trustees approved a $3.5B bond initiative to be placed on the November 2008 election ballot. At its June 11th Board meeting, the Trustees approved a list of projects. The list for Southwest College is as follows:

1. Build a Career Technical Education Center focusing on our current and proposed career tech programs. The building will house all current career/technical programs in addition to providing much needed space to our existing career technical programs. It will also provide instruction space for new programs such as sustainability, HVAC, Allied Health, logistics, transportation and hospitality. This building will be connected to the college’s Central Plant.

2. Build a Visual, Communications and Performing Arts Training Complex that will house workforce aspects of careers in music, music technology, dance and theater, and include media and graphic arts, backstage operations and theater management. The facility will prepare students for careers in music, performing and visual arts. This building will be connected to the Central Plant.

3. Modernize the Lecture-Laboratory Building to include a complete four-story renovation to the existing building, including outfitting all classrooms electronically and adding four laboratory classrooms. The renovation will include architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, technology and security systems upgrades, and connect to the Central Plant.

4. In the northeast quadrant of the campus, a three-level parking structure for 650 cars will be constructed with PV installation.

5. Renovate the college’s Fitness and Wellness Center including floor replacements, security system, increased lighting, fire alarm system and improvements to existing practice fields. The building (Lakin Center) will be connected to the Central Plant.

6. Connect the Tech Educational Center to the Central Plant and existing college security systems, and make all classrooms electronic.

7. Upgrade the Little Theatre to include architectural finishes and door hardware, new seating, lighting and controls, electrical, HVAC, and security and fire alarm upgrades.

8. Renovate the Cox Building to include interior and exterior architectural finishes, flooring, ceilings, HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and upgrade of existing technology, fire alarm, and security systems. The Cox Building will be connected to the Central Plant.

9. Create a third entrance to the campus from Normandie Avenue.

10. Provide landscaping upgrades, including lighting facilities.

11. Bring the college into Americans With Disabilities Act compliance based on recent survey.

12. Centralize access control for all facilities to enhance the ability to ensure authorized access to new and existing buildings and, subsequently, reduce maintenance costs for re-keying locks.

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13. Coat all buildings with an anti-graffiti, advanced coating and self-cleaning technology on all interior and exterior surfaces.

14. Insure that all classrooms are “smart,” upgrade computer network and provide upgrades to our communication system.

15. Institute a storm water pollution prevention program.

16. Create a reclamation water project on the campus for energy conservation.

With the passage of this bond the College will be “built-out” based on LASC’s master plan. Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Daniels for additional information.

LASC UNVEILS REVAMPED WEBSITE WITH NEW LOOK AND FEEL

All nine LACCD colleges have redesigned their websites into a more standardized and accessible framework.

After studying websites of other educational institutions and also considering what today’s college students expect in functionality and appeal, a collective design was created for a common look and feel.

While the navigation styles and general structure are similar, each college has selected its own color schemes and other features to maintain individuality.

Migrating content from LASC’s original structure into the new one has been a long process, but successfully completed by Milton Medina. Medina was on the District Web Task Force, which was comprised of technically qualified representatives from each of the nine colleges. The redesigned www.lasc.edu went “live” last month.

SUMMERTIME
SESSION 2 STARTS JULY 14

Summer is an ideal to get college units under your belt in a short time. And it isn’t too late to start. Session 2 offers six-week classes that run July 14 through August 22. Most courses are UC and/or CSU transferable. Please help spread the word about Summer Session 2 – enrollment is happening now!

BOOKSTORE NOW OFFERS DIGITAL TEXTBOOK OPTION

The LASC Bookstore now offers the option of buying some textbooks as a digital download. This option can mean a savings of more than 50%.

LASC has partnered with Nebraska Book Company of Lincoln, and CourseSmart, a joint venture of national textbook publishers. These publishers include Cengage Learning, Pearson Education, McGraw-Hill and Houghton Mifflin. See www.coursesmart.com.

ACADEMIC HONORS CEREMONY RECOGNIZES SCHOLARS

Dean’s List and President Scholars for the 2007 spring and fall semesters were honored on May 1.

Seventy-seven full-time students were honored for spring 2007 achievement and 95 for fall; and 228 part-time students for spring 2007 and 232 for fall. The President’s Honor award was presented to 22 students who were on the Dean’s List for three consecutive semesters.
LATINO SOY FESTIVAL II: A SUCCESS

Not once, but twice in one day, the LASC Latino Soy Planning Committee hosted a full house with its Second Annual Latino Soy Festival: Celebrating Our Diverse Latino Cultures.

Having afternoon and evening programs enabled the Committee to reach a larger audience in this annual celebration of LASC’s diverse Latin American cultures. College Vice President Jose Robledo and Matriculation Director Rose Calderon were emcees (left) for both programs.

Mariachi singer Ricardo Duque returned for a second year. A fashion show featured LASC faculty, staff and students in Latin American National Costumes.

Other performers were from America Vive Dance Studio and Capoeira South Bay/Bimba Meu Mestre. In a taste of Latin America, audience members sampled an array of authentic cuisine.

Students from Middle College High School also attended and participated. Senior Evan Itzale (left) read an original poem. LASC student Rosa Guzman (below) read a letter to President Dr. Jack E. Daniels III, noting how LASC has changed her life.

Marvin Martinez, Vice Chancellor for Economic and Workforce Development, told the story of how his family immigrated from El Salvador to New York City.

“All of us immigrated – all of us came to this country for a reason,” he said. The family later moved to Long Beach, where Martinez graduated from Wilson High School. He credits a counselor there for encouraging him to further his education.

Once at UCLA, he became president of MECHA and editor of the Daily Bruin. His

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graduation gift to himself was traveling through Latin America.

Of his role as LACCD Vice Chancellor for Economic and Workforce Development, Martinez explained, “I work with all colleges and all of you to figure out what kind of jobs you can take after you graduate high school and college.”

Martinez closed his afternoon keynote, “You are at a unique place right now – you have a unique treasure at LASC – take advantage of it. Dedicate yourself and commit yourself. And think about how you want to give back to the community.”

Miguel Santiago, newest member of the LACCD Board of Trustees, spoke of perseverance in achieving an education. “Not too many years ago, my father was standing on a corner looking for work,” he said. “It was not until I was at a community college that I could see there could be a better tomorrow for me.”

After his application to UCLA was rejected, he decided to make a case to the University. It worked. He was accepted on a provisional basis and graduated – magna cum laude – with a history degree. This achievement was made while holding a full-time job.

Santiago credits his parents for teaching him to respect hard work and appreciate what the Latino culture has to offer. “The culture we’ve been given is a starting point, not an end to how we define our lives,” he said.

“Our culture has to teach us to reach out beyond ourselves and help others. If there’s anything I’ve learned—I’m here because others took the time to get me here. It would be an incredible experience if you could go back to your community and do something positive.”
PIN CEREMONY HELD FOR NURSING PROGRAM GRADUATES

A Pin Ceremony was held to honor 17 Nursing Program graduates. Pictured below are some of the graduates after the commencement ceremony.

DNA WORKSHOP EXPLORES BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND MORE

Professors Glenn Yoshida and Kang Kim led a four-day DNA workshop as part of a bridge program for 20 community college students. This opportunity was sponsored by the UCLA Bridge Program, PCC Biotechnology Center and Los Angeles Southwest College.

The workshop covered:
- Measurements, micropipetting and electrophoresis
- DNA digestion and DNA electrophoresis
- Green fluorescent protein purification and protein electrophoresis
- PCR amplification of DNA region from human buccal lining cells

Goals were to help students better understand cell biology and cytogenetics, be more aware of biomedical research as a career, and be exposed to basic laboratory tools and techniques in molecular biology.

Participants were from Southwest, West Los Angeles, Harbor and East Los Angeles Colleges.

Last summer, two LASC students participated in the UCLA-NIH Bridge Summer Research Program at UCLA. Elia Adjakey’s research topic was “Aerial Hyphae Extension of Neurospora Crassa.” Michael Smith’s project was on “Understanding a Novel Mechanism of Programmed Cell Death in T Cells.”
FACULTY & STAFF APPRECIATION DAY

A Western-themed Faculty & Staff Appreciation Day was held May 15 on the baseball field. The Staff Development Committee organized an array of activities -- from BBQ lunch to line dancing to service award and pin presentations. (See next page for list of recipients.)

Committee members are: Pauline Itow (chair), Hassan Elfarissi, Ron Haynes, Leige Henderson, Yvonne Owens, Bridget Perez, Toni Rhodes, Dr. Earnestine Thomas-Robertson, Alexis Tucker and Roxanne Williams.

Event sponsors were Dean Phyllis Norwood and the AFT 1521(A) Staff Guild. The Committee also acknowledges Betty Williams, Sidney Cosby and Maria Cortez, as well as prize donor John Rhodes.
CONGRATULATIONS TO FACULTY AND STAFF RECEIVING SERVICE AWARD PINS ON MAY 15:

**10+ Years**: Frank Le, Yvette Tucker, Anna Gutierrez, Darryl Holmes, Anita Walker, Lorrine Bell, Lynda Hall, Lawrence Woods, Domingo Gomez, Philip Jones, Darrell Harris, Gabrielle Arvig, Arnold (Jay) Adler, Kabwe Chanda, Thelma Lenora, James Flagg, Johnny Brown, Elizabeth Desylva, Woodrow Rowell Jr., Genaro Zamora, Sharon Collins-Head, Celestine Tillman, Leonard Apenahier, Vincent Jackson, Randy Craig


Those unable to receive their service pins (10+, 15+, 20+ years) should contact Alexis Tucker in the Counseling Office (ext. 5425).

Eva Jackson (right) with LACCD Chancellor Dr. Mark Drummond

**JACKSON’S TERM ACKNOWLEDGED BY LACCD BOARD**

Eva Jackson, an LASC alumnus and former ASO president, was elected Los Angeles Community College District Student Trustee one year ago. The Board of Trustees and CCUSD Administration recognized the completion of her 2007-08 term.

"Who ever knew that stepping out of my comfort zone would bring me so much joy," Jackson said. “I believe that I was put in a position to help take the students to the next level. I am very proud to have served as Student Trustee of the Los Angeles Community College District.”

Jackson’s next step is to attend USC, Biola University or San Jose State University.
BOWLING TOURNAMENT PUTS FACULTY & STAFF ON TOP

With a total of 713 pins, the Faculty & Staff Team won first place in the bowling tournament held at Southwest. Placing second was the Student Team, with 675 pins, followed by the Community Team with a total of 662 pins.

Thank you to Ron Haynes (Tournament Commissioner), Alexis Tucker (Assistant Commissioner) and ASO President Gwen Maris for organizing this tournament in celebration of LASC’s 40th anniversary.

FOOTBALL PLAYERS MOVING ON

Sixteen members of the LASC Cougars football team have committed to four-year institutions, where they will also play beginning this fall term.

- U of Hawaii – Jovonte Taylor
- San Jose State – Willie Crummie
- Lincoln U – Cornell Hadnot, Delvonte Gibb, Gerald Ewell
- Lane College – Antwon Hamilton, Corey Jones
- U of Arkansas – Terry Webb
- Hampton U – Jairon Bailey
- New Mexico, Highland – Christopher Bell
- Northern Michigan – Marcell Mancinne
- Texas Southern U – Joshua Baker
- Tuskegee U – Kurios Alexander, Joshua Spencer, Robert Dorsey, Michael Henley

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Session 1
--June 9 to July 11
--Five-week session

Juneteenth Potluck
Sign up to bring food, dessert or beverage to this observance of Juneteenth (the oldest-known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States). If unable to bring an item, donations are accepted toward purchase for the potluck.
--Thursday, June 19 at noon
--President’s Conference Room
--Contact: Cassaundra Walker; ext. 5231

Summer Session 2
--July 14 to August 22
--Six-week session

Diana Ross at the Hollywood Bowl
Join your colleagues for an evening at the Hollywood Bowl, organized by the Staff Development Advisory Committee.
--Friday, July 25; concert begins 8:30 p.m.
--Tickets are $35 – limited availability
--Shuttle buses leaving from several locations; $5
--Contact: Debbie Odom; ext. 5444

Fall Semester
Registration is happening now!
--September 2 to December 20
--Online and shorter sessions also offered