

We'd Like to Hear from You!

The News is sent electronically to all District employees each month. If you have news items to suggest, please contact George Medovoy, Editor, at gmedovoy@4cd.net or at 229-1000, Extension 1287.

SPOTLIGHT

This Student Leader Is a 'High Flyer'

By George Medovoy, Editor

Valentin Lorien flies high. When he's not attending classes at Diablo Valley College or sitting on the District Governing Board as student representative, Lorien is a flight attendant for Southwest Airlines.

Lorien remembers landing at Oakland Airport about four years ago after a trip to the West Coast from New York.

He had never heard of the airline, but he was impressed that it had its own terminal at the airport.

"Just talking to people in the Bay Area," he said, "I realized that the job market (in 2001) was not as hot as previously.

"I heard a lot of good things about Southwest and looked at their website. The more I went into it, the more I decided that it was a great company to work for."

So Valentin applied, and a month later he was invited in for an interview. He had two interviews on the same day, and a month after that he was invited for a month's training in Dallas, Texas.

Valentin's schedule is "very flexible." "I can work as little as I want," he says, "or as much as I want and the days that I want."

His work day is usually nine hours long. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) limits the work week to seven days in a row, with a 24-hour break in between.

Valentin is 24, but the ages of his fellow flight attendants vary from 20 to as old as 70 "and probably older."

"We have people working as flight attendants who are already retired," Valentin says.

"They have families who are out of the house. For some of them it's an easy job and for others it's something they have wanted to do all their life. We even have people who were in a corporate job and got fed up with it and wanted to do something they always wanted to do."

Valentin enjoys being on the Governing Board. "I like it a lot," he says, "I feel that most of the discussion doesn't necessarily concern students, but on the few issues that do, I could understand why I'm there.

"I think it gives me insight into how society operates and how the world works because even if you have individual ambitions to change things, you can't. You have to have the consent and approval from more than one person.

Lorien Valentin



"I heard a lot of good things about Southwest..."

"I think it gives me insight into how society operates..."

"I also realize that you can accomplish a lot by being nice. I know that when you tell people to do things or force them, you don't always get the results you're looking for. Forcing people to do something can have the potential for ruining relationships."

Student leaders have two Governing Board goals – achieving student health centers on the college campuses (see below) and a common course numbering system.

Another issue, which is Valentin's only, is better transportation to and from college.

"This mostly affects DVC," Valentin says. "The parking on campus is terrible.

"I think it does affect enrollment. The first week of school, students first have to find a parking spot" before they can add classes.

"What prevented me from enrolling a semester earlier was not finding a parking spot. Valentin is aiming for an AB degree and then transferring to a four-year university next year. But beyond that, he isn't setting any very specific goals for himself.

"The only goal that I'm setting," he says, "is that I want to make a positive difference in the world.

"I know that's something that a lot of people would like to do, but I don't think everyone accomplishes that because they encounter stumbling blocks.

"I truly believe I will make a positive contribution to the world even if it's rather insignificant.

"Whether it's through politics, whether it's through social work, whether it's becoming a teacher, that's my goal – making a positive contribution."

"I truly believe I will make a positive contribution to world..."

Following a Statewide Trend

Students Push Health Center Initiative on Campuses

Will the Contra Costa Community College District open student health centers on its campuses?

Right now that question is part of a student-led initiative, whose latest step is a questionnaire on Web Advisor:

"The initiative is basically to support college students in achieving their education goals by maintaining and improving their mental and physical health," says Valentin Lorien, student representative on the District Governing Board.

Other community college districts, he points out, about 99 out of 108, have student health centers. One of these districts is neighboring Chabot-Las Positas Community College District.

In general, Valentin says, these health centers are staffed by a registered nurse and aides. Services include general medical care, emergency care, and basic medications.

Mental health counseling is also available from mental health counselors.

"Generally," says Lorien, "I've seen the trend where they give students a limited number of sessions and then give students a referral if they need more."

A student health center would be covered by a student fee, Lorien notes. The maximum fee allowable by the education code is \$14 a semester.



An Interview with Frank Dorritie

LMC's Recording Arts Program: Technology Side of Music Gives Sound Top Billing, Nets Grammy Awards

By George Medovoy, Editor

Frank Dorritie sits in his small, crowded office at Los Medanos College (LMC). On the wall, are some of the professional "prizes" he's collected over the years – musical albums he's produced which provide a kind of living testament to the creative strength of the Recording Arts Program at LMC.

Two of these earned him Grammy Awards among a total of nine nominations – "New York Scene," a jazz album featuring Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers, and "La Onda Va Bien," a Cal Tjader Latin album.

Dorritie was recruited from the Concord Jazz Record Label by John Maltester, who wanted to start the recording arts program.

As Dorritie describes the program, it's an "organized curriculum intended for people who are going to go into the technology side of the music field."

What this means, essentially, is recording, either as an engineer, or as a sound reinforcement person who deals with the same skills, only in a live situation, or someone who is interested in becoming a producer who supervises recordings.

"You know," says Dorritie, "producer is a funny term. It's used differently in different genres.

"In film, a producer might be somebody who writes a check. But in music, that would be an executive producer. An audio producer is a person who is actually a supervisor, more like what a director does in a film."

There's a wide variety of people who enroll in the Recording Arts Program – from individuals actually interested in becoming audio producers, to individuals interested in making their own recordings, to people interested in doing field recording, like outdoor sound effects or nature recording, for example.

"One thing that people don't realize," says Dorritie, "is that the vast majority of recording has nothing to do with music. Most of what is recorded these days is words and sounds, and you need only think of the movies, because every bit of that dialogue has to be recorded, sometimes more than once, and all the onsite, on-location sounds, plus all the sounds that are recorded to be used later. So, most of the recording that takes

place is actually non-musical."

So LMC's program is of interest to people who are interested, as he puts it, "in all things that pertain to recording."

What's more, the program is an outgrowth of a very strong music tradition at LMC.



Frank Dorritie of the LMC Recording Arts Program

-- George Medovoy/The News

"You know, producer is a funny term... used differently in different genres."

"One thing that people don't realize is that the vast majority of recording has nothing to do with music..."

About 20 years ago, LMC started to provide recording arts as another track or option in its music program, and it has matured since then into one of the most respected in its field.



John Burke...Emmy Award Winner & Recording Arts Program Grad
—Scott Viha /The News

Eventually, the recording program became a department unto itself because of its impressive growth.

One of the things that makes the LMC Recording Arts Program most attractive is the fact, says Dorritie, “that we are pretty much at the front end of the curve all the time in terms of the hardware.

“We are completely tapeless now, meaning that everything is done to hard disc. However, that doesn’t mean that we don’t train people to use the other technologies because those are still in use, especially in film.

“So up at Skywalker Studios, for example, they still use several multi-track analog recorders, and if you’re going to work there, you need to know how to maintain them.”

The LMC program does have a number of graduates who have worked or are working at the Skywalker Studios.

For example, Kevin Sellers, a graduate of the LMC program, is currently working at Skywalker as a production engineer, and M.T. Silvia worked for Skywalker for several years and now works for Pixar and had a great deal to do with films like *Toy Story* and *Shrek*.

Another graduate of the program is John Burke, who was at LMC in the late 80’s and has won a number of Grammy awards doing what Dorittie did, which is supervise recordings.

In fact, last year, Burke had a great success supervising the recording of the Ray Charles album called “Genius Loves Company.”

That recording, which featured duets with names like Elton John, Michael McDonald, and Van Morrison, got something like 12 Grammy nominations and won about eight or nine of them.

A number of faculty in the program also have Grammy credentials, including Ritchie Green, Steve Savage, who is still with the program, and Dorritie himself, who has had nine Grammy nominations and two awards. Another faculty member with impressive credentials is Rick Shiner, who has held high office in the Audio Engineering Society (AES) -- the pre-eminent technical network for recording engineers for several years.

So the biggest strength of the LMC program is its faculty “because they are the folks who will connect you with the industry directly.”

But, Dorritie is quick to note, the recording arts business “is entrepreneurial...it’s freelance.”

“It’s not as if you’re going to work for a bank or an insurance company, or something like that,” he says.

The reason, of course, is that the days of the big studios are pretty much finished.

So the route to success in this business is to learn software, to learn the concepts of recording, “and then,” in Dorritie’s words, “go out there and do it.”

Burke had a great success supervising the recording of the Ray Charles album called “Genius Loves Company.”

Only College Team in 'Top 5'

DVC Debaters Savor Their Victory at UOP

The Diablo Valley College (DVC) debate team, coached by Ana Petero, is savoring the joys of its victories November 14 at the University of the Pacific (UOP).

"This was the only community college team in the top five," she says, "and we beat the University of Kentucky, the University of the Pacific, Azusa Pacific, Rice in Texas, and the UC Berkeley and UC Davis."

The winning team, made up of 18 students, won in parliamentary debate on an impromptu basis (where students have 20 minutes to prepare arguments after receiving their topics), impromptu speaking, persuasive speaking, extemporaneous speaking, and interpretation of literature.

Petero noted that two of the debaters, Andrew Eckman and his partner Kris Trevino (the cousin of golfer Lee Trevino), were semi-finalists at their very first tournament while still in a debate class.

"Most of the students have already taken a debate class," she says.

Another student, Kalen Horton, placed first in all of the preliminary rounds and third place overall.

Student P.J. Quesada, who was a semi-finalist in impromptu speaking, summed up the reason for the team's success this way:

"Forensics is a competitive sport. But it's also an art – the art of case-building, and we find that it's probably the most practical education you can possibly have.

"It's really how you delegate what you want, what you want to give, who's going to get it and how...

"It's all very political in nature, and as you know, everything is politics these days. We love the art, we love the sport, we like to compete, we like to win — who doesn't like to win.

"We love our coaches – they're great coaches. And most of all, we love the fact that debate is our interpretation of the world. Basically, in a debate we're all listened to equally, and that's probably the biggest thing...it affords a lot of respect, especially when you are successful!"

Here is a complete list of DVC winners:

Kalen Horton: First Place, Preliminary Rounds, Third Place Overall

P.J. Quesada, Semi-Finalist, Impromptu Speaking

Partners Daniel Leahy and Alex Krasov, Top-Seated Debaters at Tournament

Partners Andrew Eckman and Kris Trevino, Semi-Finalists

Viktor Verontsov, Semi-Finalist, Parliamentary Debate

Andrew McManus, Second Speaker Out of All Debaters

This is Petero's fourth year coaching debate at DVC. She received her AA degree at Chabot College, where she was an English major. From there, she went on to Solano Community College and then to San Francisco State, where she received a BA in English and a MA in Speech Communication.

She also competed in debate at Chabot, where she was the national champion in persuasive speaking. Then, while at Solano Community College, she represented Northern California in interstate oratory, the oldest tournament in the country.

Her winning speech, on gifted and talented education, was also published.



Anna Petero (center wearing hat) with the DVC debate team.

— George Medovoy/The News

"Forensics is a competitive sport. But it's also an art – the art of case-building..."

Petero was also the first state champion in parliamentary debate.

"I wanted to be an English teacher," she says, "but my husband also coaches speech, and he said, 'Do you want to grade papers or listen to speeches?' and I chose to listen to speeches."

Assistant coach Erik Zell, who was in graduate school with Petero at San Francisco State.

"No matter what side of the political fence they're on, no matter what their ideas are," he says, "the students can test them and apply them and expand them amongst a group of individuals who also have a wide variety of talent and ideas to express."

Petero notes that it is very rewarding to see young speakers develop their talent as speakers.

"They are literarily going to be the future leaders of our country," she says, "so it's just a wonderful opportunity for us as coaches to watch them, and just hopefully, they'll take care of us when we get old."

"No matter what side of the political fence they're on...the students can test (their ideas)...and apply them and expand them..."

Transforming Student Lives

Energy, Commitment Contribute to CCC Debate Success in Tournaments across the State

The Contra Costa College Speech and Debate Team, coached by Dr. Connie Anderson, Director of Forensics, is proud of its recent wins at two statewide, Veterans Day tournaments.

On November 11 at Delta College, the team took third place sweepstakes for community colleges in the one-day tournament of individual events.

The categories and winners were as follows:

- Nicholas Chin, Second Place, Open Persuasive
- Angelina Faggett, Third Place, Novice Poetry
- Ed Martell, Finalist, Open Programmed Oral Interpretation
- Montrisha Williams, Third Place Bronze, Dramatic Interpretation (Novice) and Semi-Finalist, Extemporaneous Speaking (Novice)
- Hazhir Zahed, Semi-Finalist, Open Extemporaneous Speaking

Then on November 12-13, at one of the largest tournaments held in the country, including two- and four-year colleges, the CCC team took a number of prizes, including a First Place Gold by Nicholas Chin in the Open Persuasive category.

Chin was also seventeenth-place speaker of all the debaters (over 200 total contestants) to rank in the top 20 speakers of those receiving speaker awards.

Chin was a Semi-Finalist in Open Impromptu and an OctoFinalist in Parliamentary Debate (Open Division) with partner Anna Romanowska.



Dr. Connie Anderson (center) with her Contra Costa College debate team.

—George Medovoy/The News

In addition to Chin, other CCC students to bring honor to the team were:

Ed Martell, Second Place Silver, Open Programmed Oral Interpretation

Angelina Faggett, Second Place Silver, Novice Extemporaneous and Finalist, Novice Dramatic Interp

Montrisha Williams, Semi-Finalist, Novice Extemporaneous and Finalist, Novice Dramatic Interp, as well as Second Place Silver, Junior Division, Parliamentary Debate with partner Terance Orme

Terance Orme, Second Place Silver, Parliamentary Debate with partner, Montrisha Williams and Semi-Finalist, Open Impromptu

Tinna Westbrook, Finalist, Open Impromptu and Finalist, Open Extemporaneous

Anna Romanowska, OctoFinalist Parliamentary Debate (Open Division) with Partner Terance Orme.

The success of the Contra Costa College Speech and Debate Team is due to a heavy dose of energy, dedication, commitment and collaboration, according to Coach Anderson, herself a living symbol of those three basic requirements of a successful team in any endeavor.

Anderson, who has taught at CCC for seven years, is also an experienced recruiter:

Every semester, the first thing she does is turn her attention to recruiting.

"I'm always talking about the team," says the diminutive Anderson, who received her MA in Speech Communication from the University of Hawaii and her doctorate in Organizational Leadership from the University of San Francisco.

Anderson is proud of the fact that students who study speech and debate "can use it in any field." "It gives them the ability to transform their lives...and the whole world," she says.

"They learn how the power of public speaking can literally transform their lives and the world!"

Anderson enjoys a "mix of students," starting with the college's middle college students, who can be as young as 15.

One of the students Anderson remembers is Dimitri Akulov, a shy Russian immigrant with limited English skills and a great fear of public speaking.

The experience in speech and debate helped Akulov to such a degree that he picked up a bronze award medal in the persuasive category at a Phi Rho Pi National Speech and Debate tournament for community colleges.

Sherry Diestler is co-chair of the Speech Department. Mark Urista, a student at UC Berkeley, is a part-timer who coaches parliamentary debate, and Julie LaBrincha is another part-timer who works with students on literary interpretation.

A number of the students in the program plan on law or public service careers.

"I also have a student who wants to go into broadcasting," Anderson says, "and another who is going to be an architect." But above all, she notes, "We're having a lot of fun, too."



CCC debaters Montrisha Williams and Nicholas Chin..

"I'm always talking about the team..."

"They learn how... public speaking can...transform their lives and the world."



Assistant debate coach Mark Urista (at left) discusses strategy with debaters Nicholas Chin and Anna Romanowska.

Box 2A

Colleges Make Decisions for New 2006-2007 Faculty

The colleges have made the following decisions for new 2006-2007 full-time faculty positions:

DVC Positions

Art (SRVC)
Business
Chemistry
Counseling (Athletics)
Drama
English
Family Life
Geology
Health Science
Japanese
Nutrition
Photography
Speech

In addition, DVC will hire one EOPS position, which will be funded categorically.

The college has also established a priority order for other necessary positions, in the event that additional funding is available or that one or more departments is unable to meet the deadline, which will be established by Academic Affairs.

These are:

Spanish (SRVC)
Allied Health
Math
English
Multi-Media

LMC Positions

Nursing
Automotive
Math
English
Counseling (Puente emphasis)

CCC Positions

English as a Second Language (ESL)
Academic Skills Mathematics