

## We'd Like to Hear from You!

The News is e-mailed to District employees monthly from August to May. If you have news items to suggest, please contact Suzanne Fox at [sfox@4cd.net](mailto:sfox@4cd.net) or at (925) 229-1000, extension 1292.

**SPOTLIGHT**

## A Snapshot of New Faces in the District

Over the summer, the District hired many new faculty and classified employees bringing important new talent to the District. Position changes also occurred that further changed the face of the District.

Please welcome the individuals below as they begin their assignments for the Fall 2006 semester.

### Classified

Many different career fields are reflected in the classified staff hiring since July 1.

A big "thank you" goes to the many current employees who participated in the hiring process, which covered paper screening, screening interviews, and final interviews.

### Contra Costa College (CCC)



**Carlos Blanco:**  
Instructional  
Assistant, Title III



**James Cox: Student  
Services Instructional  
Support Coordinator**



**Pablo Lucero:**  
Financial Aid  
Assistant I



**Neotha Richardson:**  
Administrative  
Secretary, Athletics  
(promotion)



**Setiati Sidharta:**  
Student Services  
Instructional Support  
Coordinator



**Luna Gilligan:**  
Media Design  
Specialist



**New Financial Aid Assistant  
Pablo Lucero reviews stu-  
dent's financial aid paper-  
work at CCC.**



**Gene Paris, new equipment main-  
tenance worker at LMC.**

## Diablo Valley College (DVC)



**Tom Chan:**  
*Lead Custodian*



**Kendra Curtis:**  
*Theater Costume Designer*



**Steven Goldenberg:**  
*Science Lab Tech II  
(hourly to permanent)*



**Tim Grant:** *Science  
Lab Tech II*



**Valerie House:**  
*Senior Account Clerk,  
Cashier*



**Chrisanne Knox:**  
*Director of  
Marketing*



**Guadalupe  
Rubalcava:**  
*Lead Custodian*

## Los Medanos College (LMC)



**Lily Espinoza:**  
*Student Services  
Instructional Support  
Coordinator, EOPS*

## San Ramon Valley Campus (SRVC)



**Jennifer Curtis:**  
*Admissions and  
Records Assistant I*

## District Office (DO)



**Jeannie Chroney:**  
*Executive Assistant,  
Facilities and  
Operations (transfer  
from RTI)*



**Dolores Mendicino:**  
*Human Resources  
Representative (pro-  
motion from CCC)*



**Gene Paris:**  
*Equipment  
Maintenance Worker  
(assigned to LMC)*



**Susan Sedillo:**  
*Administrative  
Assistant, Purchasing  
(transfer from DVC)*

*Classified Camera shy...*

*DVC: Luke Damiani: Instructional Assistant, Art*

*LMC: Lucienne Gouveia: Instructional Assistant, Child Development*

## Faculty

The District is pleased to welcome 34 new faculty members, the largest group hired in the last decade. Some of our "new" faces are actually well-known to many of you as former part-time faculty.

## Reception



*On behalf of the CCCC Board, President John Nejedly welcomed new faculty and guests at a reception held on August 30. The college presidents then introduced their respective faculty and briefly reviewed each new faculty member's education and discipline.*



*Art Alatorre, LMC Enrollment Management Director, greets Katalina Wethington (right), new LMC English instructor, and her sister, Kenia Krembs, who attended the event from the state of Washington.*

The following employees are recognized for their efforts to make the employee "snapshot" segment come to life. Thank you!

### Photographers:

- CCC: Laurie Laxa
- DVC: Judy Klein Flynn, Kathleen Gilmore
- LMC: Eloine Chapman, Rob Valentine

## CCC:



**Manu Ampim, History**



**Anoosheh Borhan, ESL**



**Miguel Johnson, Head Basketball Coach**



**Aminta Mickles, Human Services**



**Sherry Sharufa, Mathematics**

## DVC:



**Jamie Bailey, Counselor, Athletics**



**Tamar Baskind, English**



**Jeannie Chiu, English**



**Kristen Colchico, Health science**



**Helen DeMarco, Nutrition**

**DVC:**



**Nicole (Hess)  
Diestler, Drama**



**Raine Dougan,  
Counselor, EOPS**



**Karen Gard, Allied  
Health**



**Craig Gerken,  
Chemistry**



**Ray Gilmore,  
Business**



**John Hanecak,  
Speech**



**Katrina Keating,  
Mathematics**



**L. Jessamyn Lovell,  
Photography**



**Janet Mason, Early  
Childhood Education**



**Jason Mayfield,  
Geology**



**Matthew Morrissey,  
Administration of  
Justice**



**Naomi Nezuka,  
Japanese**



**Rebecca Opsata,  
Speech**



**Mark Wallwork,  
Chemistry (Fulbright  
Exchange)**



**Chancellor Helen  
Benjamin provided an  
overview of the District  
at a faculty orientation  
held in August.**

**LMC:**



**Joanne Bent, Nursing**



**Gabriella Boehme, ESL Instructor  
ESL Instructor  
Coordinator**



**Marco Godinez, Counselor, Puente**



**Luis Morales, ESL Counselor**



**Sterling Alexander, English**



**Katalina Wethington, English**

**SRVC:**



**Marina Crouse, Spanish**



**Richard Godinez, Art**

**Faculty Camera shy...  
LMC:  
Jason Dearman, Automotive  
Arturo Nunez, English, Puente  
Lucy Snow, Art**

***New faculty is shown boarding their bus for an informative day-long tour of District facilities prior to the start of the fall semester.***



**Tour guides included (L to R)  
Chris Tarp, CCC Biological Science Instructor  
Richard Livingston, LMC Senior Dean  
Bruce Koller, DVC Faculty Senate President.**

# Management changes for fall 2006 semester

The management employees below accepted new opportunities and challenges as they moved into new positions.

## Contra Costa College



**Carol Maga** – Interim Vice President, replacing McKinley Williams



**Susan Lee** – Acting Dean, Library, Allied Health, Vocational Training and Athletics, replacing Susan Lamb



**Donna Floyd** – Interim Senior Dean of Instruction, replacing Lynda Lawrence



**Ellen Smith** – Acting Dean, Communications, Liberal Arts, Skills, and Services (CLASS), replacing Donna Floyd

## Diablo Valley College



**Dan Martin** – Acting Vice President Student Services, replacing Diane Scott-Summers



**Michael Almaguer** – Interim Dean Fine Arts, replacing Katrin Spinetta



**Diane Smith** – Interim Dean, replacing Rosemarie Russo



**Susan Lamb** – Interim Senior Dean, replacing Carol Maga

## Los Medanos College

Student Services directors and managers shared duties, replacing Delores McNair who is on an administrative leave teaching assignment at UOP

## San Ramon Valley Campus



**Kimberly Schenk** – Interim Dean, replacing Cheryll LeMay

## District Office



**Cheryll LeMay** – Placed on special assignment until December 31, 2006

## Fulbright Exchange Offers Opportunity to Teach Abroad

**D**iablo Valley College (DVC) chemistry professor Karen Long is taking part in a Fulbright Exchange program teaching classes at Exeter College in England through the end of 2006. In turn, Mike Wallwork, a chemistry professor from Exeter, England, is teaching at DVC.

This is both Long and Wallwork's first time teaching abroad. For over 60 years, the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program has helped more than 23,000 teachers and administrators participate in international exchanges. The program matches U.S. teachers with an overseas counterpart for assignments ranging from four to six weeks.

Long arrived at Exeter, located on the South Coast of England in mid-August, and began teaching classes on August 30.

"The Fulbright program offers faculty a wonderful opportunity to teach overseas," Long said. "The experience is different from our own DVC teaching abroad program. I'm teaching British students and working with British colleagues on their chemistry program.

Wallwork has been teaching at Exeter for the past 20 years and has served as Head of the chemistry department and Head of the school's science and math departments. He recently introduced a new Forensic Science program at the college.

"I'm enjoying my work at DVC," Wallwork said. "There are differences between teaching at Exeter and DVC. In England, I'm used to teaching 20 students and here I'm lecturing to a class of 56. I appreciate the wide diversity of students at DVC and the fact that many of them are older or re-entry students."

Wallwork came to Pleasant Hill this summer, accompanied by his wife Linda. His son, Ollie, and daughter, Megan, spent August in the East Bay before returning to England to attend their respective colleges.

"This is our first visit to the West Coast, and, in addition to teaching, I'm also learning quite a lot from the experience," Wallwork said. "While the content of the courses is basically the same, many of the details are different. After being in the same job for 17 years, I'm able to get a different perspective."

Faculty interested in exploring future teacher exchanges can visit the Fulbright Web site at <http://www.fulbrightexchanges.org/>. The application deadline is October 16, 2006, for the 2007-2008 academic year.



**Karen Long and Mike Wallwork together in Washington, DC, where they met for the first time at a Fulbright orientation of all the exchange teachers from and to the United States. All the exchange teachers proceeded to their new teaching locations from the orientation.**



**Wallwork and his wife, Linda, toast his Fulbright Exchange teaching assignment at DVC.**

**"I appreciate the wide diversity of students at DVC and the fact that many of them are older or re-entry students."**

## LMC to Train Process Technicians

**L**os Medanos College (LMC) has introduced two new programs that will provide both students and unemployed local residents with job training for positions in the manufacturing industry.

The first is a joint partnership with the Contra Costa County Workforce Development Board that LMC began offering in August to train out-of-work Bay Area residents as process technicians. The state's Employment Development Department provided a grant of \$952,000 to fund this countywide project.

The grant-funded project is expected to train approximately 80 unemployed local residents to work in the manufacturing industry.

In January, LMC will begin the second program with the introduction of Process Technology courses to the LMC community.

The Process Technology Program was developed at LMC in response to requests from local chemical and refining industries. The college is the only community college in Northern California to offer this type of training.

"Companies such as Dow Chemical in Pittsburg and others are facing a shortage of trained employees due to a number of baby boomers reaching retirement age," said Kiran Kamath, Dean of Occupational Education. "New employees that have been recruited from other states typically haven't stayed beyond two years due to the high cost of living in California."

"Process technicians" are skilled plant operators who work for chemical, refining, oil and gas production/refining, power generation, water, waste management and related manufacturing companies.

To qualify for the Process Technology Program, students need to possess excellent math and communication skills, good interpersonal skills and be willing to learn technical training in process technology. The curriculum is a combination of hands-on labs, classroom lecture, and site visits. Starting salaries for these jobs begin at between \$45,000 and \$65,000 a year. The 33-unit certificate program, which will be offered at LMC beginning in January, can be completed in three semesters.

David Kail was recently named director of the new program and can be reached at LMC at (925) 439-2181, Ext. 3194.

## Student Community: First Police Aide Corporals Report to Work

**S**ix students representing the three community colleges were sworn in by the Chief of Police, Charles Gibson, as the first Police Aide Corporals (PAC) at the August Governing Board Meeting. Gibson, who authorized the corporal position, welcomes the opportunity to have an impact on the lives of young people.

In the newly-established position of PAC, students will perform a wide variety of support and administrative duties in a learning capacity and assist and observe police officers and other department employees in their duties.

"These positions provide many opportunities to gain valuable skills and to supervise and train newly-appointed Police Aides," said Michael Hotton (pictured), Police Services senior traffic officer/evidence technician, who supervises the new recruits.



**Pictured Left to right with college locations in parentheses are: Kevin Warmesley (CCC); Kristen Martinez, Corporal and First Aid Trainer, (LMC); Lindsay Patterson (DVC); Chief Charles Gibson; David Meeks (DVC); Patrick Cardin (DVC) and Tony Sibrian (CCC).**





**Michael Hotton**

Hotton started with the Police Aide Program ten years ago while taking law enforcement classes at LMC and was so impressed with the department that he later joined the force as a full-time Police Services employee.

“We have a very strong police department and this new promotion opportunity provides students who have an interest in law enforcement with a chance to actually work in the field,” Hotton said.

Applicants for the position of PAC must have completed one semester of good service within the District Police Services department before applying. They must also be taking at least six college units, maintain a 2.0 grade point average, and undergo a thorough background investigation. PACs will be paid to work 20 hours per week.

“We are also tapping into the expertise of our PACs to enhance their learning experience,” Hotton said. “For example, one of our new recruits is an emergency medical technician, and she will be conducting CPR and first-aid training.”

For more information on the PAC positions or District Police Services, visit [http://www.4cd.net/police\\_services](http://www.4cd.net/police_services).

## Planning throughout the District is Happening in a Big Way

**District Strategic Plan** – A strategic planning task force comprised of the DGC representatives, the Chief Instruction Officers (CIOs: Dan Henry, Carol Maga, and Alice Murillo), Research Council, and the marketing representatives from each college are working on the development of a new strategic plan for the District. This is a year-long process. In an effort to facilitate and encourage broad-based participation, a Web site is being developed to elicit input and reactions from those not directly involved with the Strategic Planning Task Force, and to track the progress of the plan. The task force meets from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. monthly following DGC, and everyone is welcome to attend.

**College Educational Master Plans** – Each of the colleges is beginning the process of developing an educational master plan. These master plans will be used to guide and inform the development of a facilities master plan for each college. The master plan is developed much like a strategic plan, involving both an internal and external assessment of programs and services, and a vision for the future.

## Around the District...

**Groundbreaking Ceremony for CCC’s New Student Services Building** takes place on Wednesday, September 27, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. In addition to District employees, community dignitaries have been invited to attend. The groundbreaking will take place behind the transit center, adjacent to the new High Tech Center and the Student Activities building.

This is the first groundbreaking at the college for a new building since the Early Childhood Center groundbreaking in 2001. In addition, work has been underway on the Library and High Tech Center for months, and the entryway off Mills Drive has been in process for several weeks.

**Chancellor’s Chats Continue...** Although Chancellor’s Chats at Los Medanos College and Brentwood Center have concluded, there are still opportunities to meet with Helen at one of the locations listed. Remember, employees may visit the Chancellor at any location.

### Chancellor’s Office Hours

To schedule a 15-minute appointment, contact Pat Kaya at [pkaya@4cd.net](mailto:pkaya@4cd.net) or by telephone at (925) 229-1000, Ext. 1204.

#### Diablo Valley College

Thursday, September 28  
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. • BFL 109

#### Contra Costa College

Wednesday, November 1  
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. • AA-205

#### District Office

Thursday, November 9  
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon • Chancellor’s Office

#### San Ramon Valley Campus

Thursday, December 14  
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Location: TBA

## Governing Board Meetings Open to All...

- **September 27, 2006:** George R. Gordon Education Center ~ 500 Court Street, Martinez ~ Board Room  
Closed Session: 5:00 p.m.  
Open Session: 7:00 p.m.
- **October 25, 2006:** George R. Gordon Education Center ~ 500 Court Street, Martinez ~ Board Room  
Closed Session: TBA  
Open Session: 7:00 p.m.
- **November 15, 2006:** Contra Costa College ~ 2600 Mission Bell Drive, San Pablo, HS Building, Room 101  
Closed Session: TBA  
Open Session: 4:00 p.m.

**D**istrict Police Services Holds Teambuilding Event on September 8. Twenty-three participants from District Police Services, Operations and Maintenance, friends, and family joined together aboard the New Salmon Queen for a day of salmon fishing.

The photo album below shows that, by all accounts, the trip was a success!



**Police Services Dispatcher Stephanie Reyes (DVC)**



**Sam Quinn, Grounds Worker (CCC)**



**Mario Rebholz, construction manager (CCC), and Sam Quinn (CCC)**



**Police Officer Steve Malino (DVC) and son, Anthony.**

## DVC Professor Announces Book Signing

**M**anuel G. Gonzales, a professor of history and ethnic studies at Diablo Valley College, will be holding a book signing at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 552 Contra Costa Boulevard, Pleasant Hill, on Saturday, October 7, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

His new book (co-authored with Richard Delgado), is titled THE POLITICS OF FEAR: How Republicans Use Money, Race, and the Media to Win. The book asks, what explains the electoral success of Republicans, particularly of the ascendant right wing who now dominate the Party? Based on a thorough and up-to-date examination of the New Right over twenty five years, The Politics of Fear proposes some provocative answers, including globalization, new technologies, and a far-reaching network of right-wing think tanks and foundations.

Gonzales has also authored Andrea Costa and the Rise of Socialism in the Romagna, The Hispanic Elite of the Southwest, and Mexicanos: A History of Mexicans in the United States.

## Contra Costa Times Column

“Financial aid helps students” is the title of the second District column in the *Contra Costa Times*. A regular feature of the newspaper, the column provides general community college information and specific information about our District’s programs. Look for the column to run the second Sunday of the month in the Contra Costa section (A) of the newspaper.

The second column, reprinted below, appeared in the newspaper on September 10.

### CONTRA COSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ROUNDUP

Financial aid helps students

By Chrisanne Knox and Laurie Laxa

WHEN SUE ARNETT walked into the financial aid office at Diablo Valley College seven years ago, she was very apprehensive. She never thought of herself as college material, which made her feel like an impostor on the college campus.

The idea that someone was willing to give her the money for college seemed impossible, but as a new single parent, she knew that she had to improve her level of employability to support her three children. She was encouraged that the support she needed was available, and she had nothing to lose.

Now working as an employment development specialist with a bachelor’s degree from CSU East Bay, Arnett says without reservation that the financial aid office and student services were absolutely essential to her success and perseverance as a student.

Arnett’s story is a familiar one at the three colleges of the Contra Costa Community College District. Although California state residents are fortunate enough to benefit from the lowest tuition in the nation for an exceptionally high quality community college education, college students face additional expenses such as books and supplies, parking permits, and transportation costs, which combined with tuition, can make the overall cost of college out of reach for many of our county residents.

The current cost for a full-time student enrolled in a California community college is \$26 per semester unit and the governor recently approved a decrease in tuition to \$20 per unit effective spring 2007.

But even with the fee reduction, current estimated annual expense for a student enrolled in 15 units per semester is just under \$12,000 per year: fees (\$600); books and supplies (\$1,224); transportation (\$738); food and housing (\$7,448); and miscellaneous personal expenses (\$1,913), according to the California Community Colleges chancellor’s office.

But there is good news for any Contra Costa County resident who wishes to get a higher education but cannot afford it. Financial aid services are available and accessible at all three Contra Costa Community College District campuses for students who need help paying for college.

There are several ways for students to get help including grants, low-interest loans, work-study (on or off-campus) and various privately supported scholarships for outstanding students in particular fields.

Students can stop by the financial aid office at Contra Costa College, Diablo College or Los Medanos College to get information, an application, or to ask questions about getting the money they need for college.

### ONLINE

Visit the Web site of any of the three colleges and click on student services:

[www.dvc.edu](http://www.dvc.edu)

[www.contracosta.edu](http://www.contracosta.edu)

[www.losmedanos.edu](http://www.losmedanos.edu)

### Other Sources:

Department of Education’s free application for Federal Student Aid: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

California Student Aid commission: [www.calgrants.org](http://www.calgrants.org)

The Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid: [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

Fast Web (scholarship search): [www.fastweb.org](http://www.fastweb.org)

US Citizenship and Immigration Service: [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)

Chrisanne Knox is the director of marketing and communication at Diablo Valley College and Laurie Laxa is the public information officer at Contra Costa College. They can both be reached at [columnists@4cd.nct](mailto:columnists@4cd.nct).

### Coming up next month in *The News*

- National District Purchasing Award
- District Bookstores—Great Places Serving Students
- CCC’s Intisar Shareef Selected for Early Childhood Education Fellowship