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Teacher of the Year-Durwynne Hsieh



Congratulations to **Dr. Durwynne Hsieh**, co-chair of the LMC Biology department as the District's community college nominee for the 2009-10 Teacher of the Year program. The annual recognition of outstanding teachers is led by the Contra Costa County Office of Education, with the District nominee rotated amongst the colleges and selected by their Academic Senate.

"I was shocked that the LMC Academic Senate told me that I had been selected as the college's teacher of the year," says the modest and unassuming Hsieh. "Perhaps my biggest accomplishment is that after teaching the same courses year after year, I realized my students kept changing so I had to keep changing. Maybe this, along with my compulsion to fix things, have made each semester a new experience."

“As an educator, I don’t know anyone more naturally skilled, or more self-effacing about his talents,” states fellow LMC instructor Mark Lewis. “Over the years, I have stolen more teaching ideas from Durwynne than from anyone else, and his is always the first person I turn to for new ideas to promote student understanding.”

“I was fortunate to be a member of the hiring committee when he applied for a teaching position at the LMC Biology department,” says former governing board member Jo Ann Cookman. “During the lecture portion of the interview, Durwynne had us on the edge of our seats the entire time. If the committee reacted this way, we figured so would his students. And we were right!”

Dr. Hsieh will be honored, along with the other county nominees, at a gala awards dinner in the Fall.

DVC President’s Breakfast with High School Principals and Superintendents



Seventy-two people packed DVC’s Norseman Restaurant on April 1, 2009, to attend the President’s Breakfast which is held every spring and fall semester. The agenda of this breakfast focused on career technical education (CTE), and featured speeches by students who are benefitting by the programs offered at DVC.

“Although we have a strong reputation as a transfer institution, our CTE programs are also world-class thanks to the leadership of **Kim Schenk**, Dean of CTE and Economic Development,” says DVC president **Judy Walters**. “Community colleges are now getting the national attention we deserve for our important role in rebuilding the economy, so this CTE presentation to local high school principals and superintendents was a relevant and timely presentation.”

Great Teachers' Seminar



Participants:

CCC: **Mickelle Arnold, Joe DeTorres, Judy Flum, Andrew Kuo, Aminta Mickles, Sandra Moore, Aleida Perez, Sherry Sharufa, Irena Stefanova, Sue Van Hattum**

DVC: **Claudia Ecklemann, Stephanie Ernst, Helen DeMarco, Maria Dorado, Ray Gilmore, Joe Gorga, Tobey Kaplan, Kris Koblik, Tim Murphy, Lisa Orta, Charles Shackett, Rene Sporer**

LMC: **Jeanne Bonner, Casy Cann, John Henry, Mark Lewis, A'kilah Moore, Joanna Perry, Jeannine Stein, Kathy Willet, Sharon Wellbrook, Yongmin Zhu**

Human Resources: **Andrea Gonzalez-Lewis**

Facilitators: **David Gottshall, Dave Nakaji, Jim Webster, Dyan Pease, Kyle Chuah and Cindra Smith**

Thirty-two full and part-time faculty members from all across the District enthusiastically participated in a Great Teacher Seminar and Retreat at the Walnut Creek Embassy Suites Hotel on January 5-7, 2009. Coordinated by LMC retired faculty member Dave Nakaji and supported by HR's **Andrea Gonzalez-Lewis**, this staff development opportunity was the fifth such district-wide event and was especially noteworthy in that the founding "father" and creator of the Great Teacher movement, David Gottshall, came from Chicago to lead the seminar.

Throughout the seminar, participants found creative and effective solutions to real-life teaching problems, actively shared their own successful approaches to teaching and mutually supported each other with respect, dignity, humor and a sense of caring. One participant remarked that one of the beneficial outcomes for her was "being reminded that as teachers, we are not alone. The format of the seminar and the extra time that was given throughout the three days, allowed me to connect with other instructors from so many disciplines. I was able to see the common thread between us so clearly. It gave me a broader vision of what I love to do."

Unlike some seminars which are highly content driven or promote a specific philosophy of teaching, the Great Teacher Seminar is structured to meet the specific,

practical needs of the participants, to seek out the underlying principles of great teaching and to provide a supportive, stimulating environment in which great teaching can be uncovered, celebrated, and acknowledged.

Another participant added “I found the seminar richly rewarding. The best element was allowing time to think, observe and participate in an “unrushed” scheduled and requiring that each small group participant make a contribution. Most importantly, I feel I connected with some very nice people. The seminar is uplifting and inspiring in many subtle ways.”

District Spotlight on Years-of-Service Recognition Celebrations

Part-Time and Non-instructional Faculty

The first District employee years-of-service recognition celebration for part-time and non-instructional faculty with 25+ years of service was held on May 1, 2009.



Pictured (front row, left to right): **Suzette Handy, Maria Luisa McGill, Barbara Hamm, and Basudha Sengupta**; (middle row, left to right): **Firouzeh Zandi, Deborah Dahl-Shanks, Becky Styles, Jan Barnes, and Diane Maltester**; (back row, left to right): **Stuart Fogg, Jack Williams, Patrick Martucci, Steve Sage, Carolyn Hiland, and Robert Berggren**

Faculty members were warmly greeted by Governing Board President Sheila Grilli and Vice President Dr. Anthony T. Gordon, United Faculty President **Jeffrey Michels, Chancellor Helen Benjamin**, and Presidents **Peter Garcia, Judy Walters** and **McKinley Williams**. In addition, managers offered a personalized presentation, exemplifying the depth and breadth of each honoree’s contribution to the District and to their college communities. It was noted the group has contributed a collective total of 694 years of service to the District.

Chancellor Benjamin recognized **Deborah Dahl-Shanks**, part-time faculty representative, for her advocacy on behalf of part-time issues and with suggesting recognition of this employee group. All attendees had a good time, and the honorees especially enjoyed spending time with their colleagues “catching up” and reminiscing.

Part-time and Non-instructional Faculty with 20+ Years of Service

Kathleen Anderson, CCC
Matthew Anderson, DVC
Daniel Bach, DVC
Andrew Barlow, DVC
Wartney Buchanan Jr., CCC
Lorie Butler, LMC
Carla Chambers, DVC
Tom Chan, DVC
Tim Clow, CCC
Juan Cuara, LMC
Joseph Cunningham, DVC

Jeanie Dewhurst, DVC
Isabella DiBari, DVC
Osborne Dogan, DVC (Retired)
Donna Dubois, CCC
Ellen Geringer, CCC
Franco Guidone, DVC
Brantley Holt, DVC
Laurie Huffman, LMC
Jeffrey Jewell, DVC
Steven Johnson, DVC
Le Pham Le, LMC

Laurie Lema, DVC
Mariles Magalong, CCC
Cynthia McGrath, LMC
James Moran, DVC
Gail Newman, LMC
Steven Padover, DVC
Jeanette Peavler, DVC
Samuel Quinn, CCC
Kerry Surman, DVC

Districtwide Classified, Faculty and Managers

The Governing Board's annual employee years-of-service ceremony was held on May 4, 2009. Board members in attendance were President Sheila Grilli, who presided over the affair, Vice President Dr. Anthony T. Gordon, and Member Jess H. Reyes. In addition, United Faculty President **Jeffrey Michels**, Chancellor **Helen Benjamin** and Presidents **Peter Garcia**, **Judy Walters** and **McKinley Williams** offered their congratulations.

President Grilli noted in her comments that the group of employees recognized this year has contributed a total of 1,245 years of service to the District. The honorees were commended for their collective contributions to producing an educated community and received the Board's appreciation for their efforts. Managers were in attendance to say a few words about each honoree.

Employees with 20 Years of Service

Kathleen Anderson, CCC
Matthew Anderson, DVC
Daniel Bach, DVC
Andrew Barlow, DVC
Wartney Buchanan Jr., CCC
Lorie Butler, LMC
Carla Chambers, DVC
Tom Chan, DVC
Tim Clow, CCC
Juan Cuara, LMC
Joseph Cunningham, DVC
Jeanie Dewhurst, DVC
Isabella DiBari, DVC

Osborne Dogan, DVC (Retired)
Donna Dubois, CCC
Ellen Geringer, CCC
Franco Guidone, DVC
Brantley Holt, DVC
Laurie Huffman, LMC
Jeffrey Jewell, DVC
Steven Johnson, DVC
Le Pham Le, LMC
Laurie Lema, DVC
Mariles Magalong, CCC
Cynthia McGrath, LMC
James Moran, DVC

Gail Newman, LMC
Steven Padover, DVC
Jeanette Peavler, DVC
Samuel Quinn, CCC
Kerry Surman, DVC
Teddy Terstegge, LMC
Jeffrey Trettenero, DVC (Retired)
Tamera Trujillo, DVC
Mary Ulrich, DVC
Joseph Valdez, DVC
John Patrick Wagener, LMC
Rachel Westlake, DVC
Fritz Wilhelm, DVC



Pictured: (front row, left to right): **Cynthia McGrath, Le Pham Le, Laurie Huffman, Mariles Magalong, Kerry Surman, Wartney Buchanan, Jr. (kneeling), Jeanie Dewhurst, Rachel Westlake, Matthew Anderson, and Tamera Trujiollo**

(back row, left to right): **Ellen Geringer, Brantley Holt, Joseph Valdez, Steven Padover, Isabella DiBari, Daniel Bach, Joseph Cunningham, Juan Cuara, and Jeffrey Jewell**

Employees with 25 Years of Service

Julie Betsekas, DVC
Diane Bradford, DO
Terri Cassidy, DVC
Suzette Handy, DVC

Mark Jones, DVC
Sandi McCray, DO
Joyce Pavich, LMC
Marylou Pineda, DVC
Stanley Porter, CCC



Pictured (left to right): **Diane Bradford, Julie Betsekas, Sandi McCray, Suzette Handy, Terri Cassidy, and Marylou Pineda**

Employees with 30 Years of Service

Louis Dildy, CCC

Employees with 35 Years of Service

Olga Arenivar, LMC
Estelle Davi, LMC
Judy Foster, DVC

Daniel Henry, LMC
John Maltester, LMC
Michael Yuschenkoff, DVC



Pictured (left to right): **Daniel Henry, Judy Foster, and John Maltester**

The District's history boards were made available at both celebrations in recognition of the District's 60th anniversary, which runs through June 2009.

Special recognition goes to representatives from the District Human Resources Department for the outstanding job in coordinating both events.

Introducing New District Employees

Please welcome the following new employees who were approved by the Governing Board in April:

CLASSIFIED

Location	Name	Title
Diablo Valley College	Timon Sarkar	Customer Services Clerk
Los Medanos College	Amanda Brainerd	Media Design Specialist

April 2009 Board Report

To review the highlights of the April 29, 2009 Governing Board meeting, click on the link below:

<http://www.4cd.net/publications/BoardReport0809.asp>

April 2009 Cabinet Highlights

To review the highlights of the April 2009 Chancellor's Cabinet meetings, click on the link below:

<http://www.4cd.net/publications/ChancellorsCabinet0809.asp>

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