Message from the Dean

Colleagues:

It's official! President Norma Rees has given her official approval to the revision of our name to that of the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences, making our acronym CLASS! As you can see from this letterhead, we will begin using it immediately on all College documents.

I hope we can use the new acronym as a catalyst for a multi-faceted promotion of the College as part of the larger University strategic communication plan. This will include the website, documents for prospective students, tenure-track/lecturer searches, and staff hiring packets. We'll also have materials for school and community outreach, College events, and College Galleries, Museums, and Centers. All of us associated with the College know our high standards and commitment to quality; the establishment and promotion of CLASS will be our vehicle to convey our excellence to others and establish us as a College and University of choice.

Over the past few months, I have presented the initiative to promote the College to the Associated Students, the College Council, faculty, staff, the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate, and the Educational Foundation. In each case, the initiative received overwhelming support, and as you can see, we have launched this on-line College Newsletter. In the coming months, we will implement a new web design aimed at facilitating easier access, and we will produce new department brochures, and department and program fact sheets.

Thank you for your support and encouragement. Together, we can ensure that we invite the best and the brightest to COME TO CLASS!

Sincerely,
Alden Reimonenq
Dean

DeClercq Family Establishes Endowment for English Department

John and Kathy DeClercq have donated $10,000 to establish the Helen “Jackie” DeClercq Poetry Prize Endowment. The money will enable the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences English Department to offer three awards annually of at least $50, $100, and $250 to CSUEB students for their original poetry. The poetry endowment honors the memory of Jackie DeClerq, who worked at the University for many years.

Recent Achievements

Students

Selina N. Hill, a senior Liberal Studies Major with a prelaw option, and Pamela A. Goodwin, a junior studying History, are this year’s recipients of the Barbara Owen Memorial Scholarship. Named for a long-time College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences staff member, the award supports students combining single parenthood, work and a college education.

Faculty

Professor Melissa Michelson, Political Science, has been awarded a $300,000 James Irvine Foundation award to evaluate the effectiveness of a California voter mobilization effort aimed at low propensity voter groups, especially low income and ethnic voters, in the 2006 and 2008 elections.

Alumni

Pamela A. Ratliff, a graduate with a Master’s in Public Administration and a Minority Training Program in Cancer Control Research Coordinator was selected to participate in a five-day MTPCCR Institute featuring interactive theory-based lectures, presentations, and group activities.

Staff

Steve Main has been named CLASS Interim Information Technology Director.

Class of 2007 Transfer Students Welcomed

Dean Alden Reimonenq welcomes 147 Class of 2007 transfer students who were on campus July 7 for the CSUEB Transfer Orientation for the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences (CLASS).
College confers 1,900 degrees

Dean Alden Reimonenq and Associate Dean Marilyn Silva conferred approximately 1,900 bachelor and master's degrees at the University's 45th annual commencement on June 11. Dr. Terry Jones served as CLASS Faculty Marshal. Daniel Oxman, 86, second from right, was our oldest graduate and was awarded his seventh degree from the College, a Master's Degree in English Literature. The College made history by graduating its first class of graduates in the Master's Degree of Social Work Program.

Graduates Fill University Stadium With Enthusiasm

Dean Alden Reimonenq, Associate Dean Marilyn Silva, and College Faculty Marshal Dr. Terry Jones presided over an enthusiastic crowd of CLASS graduates June 11 at University Stadium.

In addressing the gathering of approximately 1,900 graduates and their families and friends, Dean Reimonenq gave special recognition to Daniel Oxman, who, at 86, was the most senior of all of the University's approximately 5,000 graduates, receiving his seventh degree from the College, a Master's Degree in English Literature. Over the years, Mr. Oxman has earned four bachelor's degrees in English, History, Philosophy, and Art, with an overall grade point average of 3.7, and two masters degrees in History and in a Special Major, with an overall GPA of 3.2. The conferring of this latest degree marked the first time that Mr. Oxman crossed the stage to receive his diploma.

The Dean also recognized Professor Terry Jones, from the Department of Social Work, for serving as the College Grand Marshal. Professor Jones, who started teaching at the University in 1972, is chair of the Department of Social Work, and also chairs the African American Staff and Faculty Association. He heads the Project YES (Youth Experiencing Success) enrichment program, serving low income, minority youth in Richmond. Dr. Jones was recently named Social Worker of the Year by the California Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Professor Jones had the honor of joining Dean Reimonenq in hooding the College's first graduates in the Masters of Social Work program. Then, Dr. Silva joined Dean Reimonenq in awarding the certificates and congratulating students receiving all other degrees.

Graduates were presented by Dr. Dee Andrews, History; Dr. Diane Beeson, Sociology; Dr. Sally Murphy, Communication; and Professor Grace Munakata, Art. Student Marshals were Dr. Eileen Barrett, and Dr. Sarah Nielson, English; Dr. James Forsher, Communication; Dr. Karina Garbesi, Geography and Environmental Studies; Dr. Kim Geron, Political Science; Professor Michael Henninger and Professor Scott Hopkins, Art; Professor Tom Hird, Music, and Theatre and Dance; Dr. Xeno Rasmusson, Dr. Jiasheng Guo, and Dr. Keri O'Neal, Human Development; Dr. Marcelo Paz and Dr. Meiling Wu, Modern Languages and Literatures; and Dr. Dianne Rush-Wood, Social Work.

Dean Reimonenq took a moment to thank Ed Wright, Department of Theatre and Dance, who has served as coordinator of the College ceremony for 12 years, and who is retiring.

Following the ceremony, graduates, their families, and friends shared in a College reception with music by the Jazz ensemble of Colin Hogan, Tommy Folen, Brian Sears, and David Swigart from the CLASS Music Department.

Faculty Personnel News

New Tenure-track Faculty
- Communication Department: William Alnor, Temple University, 2004
- Communicative Sciences and Disorders: Nidhi Mahendra, University of Arizona, 2001
- Ethnic Studies: Luz Calvo, University of California, Santa Cruz, 2001; Carlos Salomon, University of New Mexico, 2002
- History: Vahid Fozdar, University of California, Berkeley, 2001
- Human Development: Godwin Ashiabi, University of Tennessee, 2002; Christina Chin-Newman, University of California, Santa Cruz, 2004
- Modern Languages and Literatures: Jesus Diaz-Cabellero, University of Pittsburgh, 2001
- Music: Rafael Hernandez, Indiana University, 2005
- Social Work: Mayling Chu, Arizona State University, 1995
- Sociology: Patricia Jennings, University of Kentucky, 2000
- Theatre and Dance: Marc Jacobs, California State University, Long Beach, 1993; Darryl Jones, Boston University, 1994

Tenure and Promotion
- Dennis Chester, English Department, Associate Professor/Tenure
- Nan Chico, Sociology Department, Professor
- James Forsher, Communication Department, Associate Professor/Tenure
- Jennifer Eagan, Philosophy Department, Associate Professor/Tenure
- Kim Geron, Philosophy Department, Associate Professor/Tenure
- Robert Peppard, CSD, Associate Professor/Tenure
- Janet Patterson, CSD, Associate Professor/Tenure
- Susan Gubernat, English Department, Associate Professor/Tenure

Appointment
Janet Patterson, effective Fall Quarter 2005, Chair of the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders
A lively Romeo and Juliet will open the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences Highlands Summer Theatre 2005 Season. Performances will be at 8 p.m. July 22, 23, 29, and 30, and 2 p.m. July 31 at the Studio Theatre, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward.

“The play is about conflict in society, especially between and within families,” says Department of Theatre and Dance Chair Thomas Hird. “In casting a female Romeo, Director Christine Plowright has made an interesting choice that probably adds additional pressure to the complication of the secret the young lovers keep. Inexperienced or not, we need to remember that the secret in this play was deadly, all the more reason for us to heed Shakespeare’s lessons,” says Hird.

Plowright says the production will focus on the danger of petty differences getting out of hand, and place greater responsibility on society, as a whole, and the lovers’ need to keep their secret from the people with whom they are the closest.

In guiding this story, Plowright observes, “What greater lesson do we need to be reminded of than the danger of petty differences and rivalries? What lesson will we no doubt forget at the end of our world, and the start of a new one?”

A combination of seasoned CSUEB students, alumni, local high schoolers, and even several foreign students make up the cast. Juliet will be played by Rachel Throesch, from San Diego, who is finishing her first year at CSUEB, during which she performed in every department production. Romeo, played by Emmelie Bovington, has a similar record that covers two years at CSUEB. Tickets for Romeo and Juliet, at $9 general, $8 for seniors, youth, faculty and staff, $6 for CSUEB students, or $25 for a family of two adults and two children, will be available from noon-4 p.m. weekdays as of July 5, and one hour before curtain, at the University Box Office. 510-885-3261.

Former, Current Faculty Join in Annual CLASS Art Show

For the first time, the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences Annual Faculty Art Exhibition will include the work of both current and former faculty.

The Oct. 20-Dec. 3 show at the University Art Gallery, will include distinguished painters, sculptors, and printmakers among the former faculty, such as Clayton Bailey, Romare Bearden, Enrique Chagoya, Misch Kohn, Jacob Lawrence, Kenjilo Nanano, Mel Ramos, Ray Saunders, and Alan Shep. “All of these artists are highly respected locally, while several have national reputations and indeed have made their way into Art History textbooks. For example, Mel Ramos holds a seminal position in the history of Pop Art, and is famous around the world. Ramos has lent one of his classic nudes ‘Lola Cola #5’ of 2005,” says Gallery Director Lanier Graham.

Lawrence will be represented by his poster for the 1972 Munich Olympics which honors black track men in general and Jesse Owens in particular, and, Bearden will be represented by his jazz-inspired ‘Jammmin’ at the Savoy.” “In short, the Art Department has had world-class artists/teachers since the University opened in the early 1960s,” says Graham.

Current painters and sculptors on the faculty include Grace Munakata, whose work was on the cover of the May issue of ARTWEEK; and Dickson Schneider, Kirk LeClaire, and Gwyan Rhyt, the core faculty for the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) program. Professors and lecturers who now teach photography and digital imaging include Kristin Becker, Michael Henninger, Philip Hofstetter, Scott Hopkins, James Petrillo, and Suzy Wear.

For additional information, visit the University Art Gallery at http://www.csueastbay.edu/artgallery. Gallery hours are noon-3 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. Admission is free.