Valley Foundation Awards SMC $1 Million

In last month’s OP Newsletter, it was reported that SMC had secured a grant of $1,000,000 from the Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation. The grant will help fund construction and equipment costs for Phase I of a new simulation center. Construction has begun on the ground floor of the Peralta Pavilion in space previously leased by the medical center. Phase 1 will be completed by fall 2006. Development and planning for Phase 2 is underway with 2007 as the target date for its opening. The College remains committed to providing students with the most innovative and state of the art educational learning environment, and simulation is recognized in the health care industry as one of the more powerful methodologies for learning. The only other comprehensive simulation center in Northern California is located at Stanford University.

Simulation mannequins provide future health care professionals new and innovative learning experiences.

Based on readiness to start simulation programs, the Bay Area Simulation Collaborative (a project developed by the California Institute for Nursing and Health Care with funding from the Betty and Gordon Moore Foundation) recently named SMC as one of its initial simulation sites for Northern California.

Talk to Us, Academic Programs!

Academic Programs is the next topic for the May 9 Town Hall. Always a popular agenda item, the SMC community likes regular updates from faculty and program chairs on what’s new in the curricula and student learning.

Ten-minute presentations by department faculty will include descriptions of degree programs, units required to graduate, student enrollments, length of programs, course sequence, and a bit about faculty.

In past years, staff have benefitted from learning more about academic programs so that they are informed for effective student recruitment and in providing student-centered services and resources.

The second portion of the program will discuss how the College and its programs address diversity and its commitment to diversity-related learning outcomes. Dr. Monica Rosenthal, Chair of the Curriculum Committee will moderate this session. (see Save the Date)
Who says SMC isn’t just as competitive as the next organization? The 91 percent SMC employee participation rate surprised and delighted the Experience of Work (EOW) Committee and President’s Council, surpassing the total Sutter Health organizational goal of 91 percent.

Be sure to attend the May 9th Town Hall (see Town Hall article on page 1) to learn more about SMC programs, mingle with staff and faculty, and look forward to a boxed lunch and ice cream at the conclusion of the program. Lunch and ice cream are courtesy of Office of the President.

The Faculty Development Committee and Faculty Organization are sponsoring a research and scholarship day to showcase faculty and student scholarship, and honor faculty achievement in both service and research with a special recognition luncheon. This event will be the first of its kind for the College. The goal is to recognize faculty and students who are at the forefront of scholarship and to honor faculty who have received other awards or grants from internal or external sources. The event is scheduled for Friday, May 12, 2006, in HEC. (see Save the Dates on page 4 for more details)

The Staff Development Committee invites you to participate in a focus group, available to all staff, next week on Thursday, May 4, 2006.

One of the SMC 2005-2006 Strategic Priorities is to develop a staff development plan for the College. The College is committed to providing opportunities for staff to enhance their skills and strengthen their own potential and effectiveness.

Your participation in a 1-hour focus group will help the committee generate topics for the 2006 Supervisors and Managers’ retreat, and contribute to future training and development at the College.

Your input to one of the organized focus groups will enable the committee to build a solid curriculum for Supervisors and Managers --whether you are one, or report to one!

A Sutter Health consultant will facilitate the informal discussion. The focus group sessions will be held in the West Pavilion 2nd Floor, conference room, 10:00 A.M. (All Staff), 11:00 A.M. (Managers only), 1:00 P.M. (All Staff) and 2:00 P.M. (All staff).

Please join with the staff of the Office of the President in welcoming the following new member of the SMC Community:

Lynn Dix, Librarian, John A. Graziano Memorial Library
Please join the College in congratulating the winners of the 2006 Faculty, Staff and Student of the Year Awards.

The Student of the Year is Leslie Smith, an ELMSN-2 student. Leslie won because of her exceptional work in tutoring, approachability, and devoting personal time to contributing to the success of other students.

The Faculty of the Year the award was jointly awarded to Aubrey Gilbert, faculty member in the OT department and Dr. Reed Rowan, faculty member in the CSPM department.

Both instructors were voted as exemplary models for providing individualized learning opportunities to students, and for their overall commitment to student achievement.

Staff Member of the Year is Chandra Kendrix, Administrative Assistant in the School of Nursing. Chandra won for her teamwork and engaging personality in dealing with students, faculty, staff and guests of the College.

Congratulations to these individuals who do make a difference.

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The 25th Annual SMC Career Fair held on March 23, 2006 was a rousing success with over 25 recruiting organizations and more than 250 students from all programs. Fifty percent of attendees were students from the BSN, ABSN or MSN nursing programs, 30 percent were MOT or DPT students, and the remaining percent of attendees were from MPA, CSPM, or SMC faculty and staff.

Energy remained buoyant throughout the day, in part due to the excellent lunch sponsored by Sutter Health and the College.

Recruiters were impressed by the level of student turn out and students were pleased with learning about the number and variety of health care employers.

Jamba Juice smoothies were a big hit, and proceeds from their sale raised money for the Student Body Association (SBA). The resumé workshop held prior to the fair generated a flurry of emails from students requesting assistance in strengthening their resumés for interviews that were landed at the Career Fair!

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The Splinter sculpture has a special significance for the College. It depicts a mother removing a splinter from her child’s hand, offering first aid as well as emotional support. This is symbolic of the role of caregivers in the health care world today and therefore symbolic of the College’s educational mission. The Splinter sculpture is located in the HEC, atrium outside of the Fontaine Auditorium.
Hot off the Press

Suzanne August-Schwartz has been appointed the Interim Director of the Family Nurse Practitioner Program effective Fall 2006. Suzanne has been a faculty member in the program for 5 years. A highly sought-after preceptor, clinical instructor and faculty of record for a variety of FNP didactic courses, Director of the FNP Program, Dr. Cecily Cosby, commended Dr. August-Schwartz for her many talents and leadership, now recognized by this important assignment.

The School of Nursing is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Arlene Sargent to the position of Associate Dean, April 2006.

Arlene returns to the College following two years in an executive position with Kaiser Permanente. Her extensive knowledge of nursing education and the corporate environment will assist SMC in many essential decisions and projects.

Save these Dates!

Town Hall:
Topic: Academic Programs and Cultural Competencies
Tuesday, May 9, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., HEC, Fontaine Auditorium
(boxed lunches and ice cream to follow program)

Faculty Organization
Faculty Scholarship Day
Friday, May 12, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., HEC, Bechtel Room and Fontaine Auditorium

Commencements:
Saturday, May 20, 2006, Saint Mary’s College, Moraga
9:30 a.m. Intercollegiate Nursing
Friday, May 26, 2006, Paramount Theatre, Oakland
10:00 a.m. Doctoral Ceremony
2:00 p.m. Bachelor and Master Ceremony

The Intercollegiate and 2+2 BSN programs and the Case Management, FNP, and CRNA programs will report directly to Dr. Sargent. The ABSN, pre-licensure ELMSN, and all remote nursing campuses will continue to report to Dr. Richard MacIntyre.

Congratulations to Diane Hansen for promotion to Director of Academic and Disability Support Services, effective immediately. As the College official responsible for adhering to the Americans with Disabilities Act. Ms. Hansen, is responsible for assuring that reasonable accommodations are made in compliance with federal law.

The Newsletter of the Office of the President is published by Samuel Merritt College, Office of the President, on a monthly basis.

This month’s contributors include: Kira Allen, Penny Bamford, Stephanie Bangert, Audrey Berman, Cecily Cosby, Craig Elliot, Scot Foster, John Garten-Shuman, Ronda Jarin, Elaine Lemay, Carla Ross and Sue Sylvester.

Ideas or submissions should be received by the 15th of each month and should be directed to sbangert@samuelmerritt.edu or rjarin@samuelmerritt.edu.