SMC Proudly Announces the opening of:

The Health Sciences Simulation Center,
The San Francisco Local Learning Center, and
an expanded Sacramento Regional Learning Center!

The College is extremely proud to announce the opening of a new Health Sciences Simulation Center (HSSC) on the Oakland campus, a new Local Learning Center in San Francisco, and an expanded Sacramento Regional Learning Center (SRLC). SMC has achieved a critical milestone as a multi-specialty health sciences institution with the openings of the three facilities, responding to strategic growth in academic programs, increased enrollment, and the teaching and learning needs of students. The celebrations represent a rapid expansion in the College’s geographical reach in the greater SF Bay Area.

On Tuesday, September 26, forty seven students in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program were welcomed at the brand new 8,000 square foot learning center in San Francisco. The center is located on the St. Luke’s Medical Center which is an affiliate of Sutter Health. The student cohort began the program in May on the Oakland campus, patiently awaiting the program’s move to San Francisco. This week, students began new coursework at the much anticipated site. SMC staff and faculty have worked tirelessly over the past many months, especially the Facilities department, ABSN Implementation Task Force and faculty, to complete move-in readiness. The College is deeply appreciative of its partners: the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and the Kaiser Permanente Northern California Fund for Health Education for making the San Francisco campus a reality.

Through the generous support of the Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation, SMC has just opened the state-of-the-art Health Sciences Education Center (HSSC) located on the ground floor of the Peralta Pavilion on the Oakland campus. This multi-million dollar human simulation laboratory puts the College at the forefront of nursing education. The center includes four simulation learning areas, each complete with separate control rooms and programmable mannequins. HSSC Coordinator, Celeste Villanueva, CRNA, MSN and faculty have been working intensely with simulation experts and technicians to program the mannequins and prepare this innovative learning facility for active student learning.

The Sacramento Regional Learning Center has been open for four years, and the College now celebrates the SRLC expansion of approximately 7,000 square feet. The additional space is located in another building within the same Gateway Oaks business park as the current facility. The new space includes two classrooms, a computer lab, student lounge, conference room and offices. Phase II of the SRLC expansion is the addition of a nursing skills lab in the original space, anticipated to be completed this fall.

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LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: SMC TRANSFORMS MISSION, VALUES AND VISION

The College is guided by a strong mission and commitment to quality in educating students to become health care professionals and practitioners. The learning environment is shaped by values that have been determined by the full SMC community of students, faculty, staff, Regents and external partners and supporters.

As many of you are aware, the College has been engaged these past six months in conversations and focus groups to re-examine and re-energize the mission, values, and vision (MVV) statement. The MVV expresses what the majority of people believe to be the College’s core purposes, its abiding values that inform and shape what we do, and the vision of what we wish to College to become (see box on next page).

The internal process of dialogue has been completed, and the following groups are acknowledged and thanked for critical input into the strengthening of these statements:

- Staff Council
- Student Body Association (SBA)
- Faculty Organization
- College Planning and Advisory Council (CPAC)
- Supervisors and Managers
- President’s Council (PC)
- Regents

No fewer than 125 members of the SMC community have participated in the process, and an additional 10-20 individuals external to the College were interviewed. The process required CPAC to take responsibility for leading the MVV effort, and at its September 26 meeting after developing and redrafting several iterations of the statement, approved and recommended the statement to be considered by the Board of Regents at its November meeting. Should the Board endorse the MVV, the College will be positioned in 2007 to incorporate the newly transformed statement into SMC publications, advertisements, recruitment materials and other forms of internal and external communications.

SMC is one of a number of higher education institutions across the country that has made quality improvement a key component in its strategic planning. In striving to become the first choice for students and employees. That commitment calls upon us to be clear and convincing about the unique SMC value in the educational marketplace. Going forward, the mission, values, and vision statement will frame the assessment of institutional effectiveness and quality in the months and years to come.

MVV article continued pg. 3
At the May 2006 Town Hall, the College community participated in a unique and exciting discussion about our diversity as a community, and how we can “live” our values. Through the work of the Curriculum and Multicultural committees, two questions were brought to the gathering of faculty, staff and administrators: What does diversity look like for Samuel Merritt College; and how do we make this value a consistent and meaningful engagement?

Diversity has been an explicit core value of Samuel Merritt College for over a decade, and an implicit value embedded in the culture of the institution since its founding. What diversity means to the College community is as varied and complex as it is in all of higher education and society.

After collecting the notes from the four Town Hall conversations, a sub group comprised of Monica Rosenthal, Craig Elliott, Stephanie Bangert, Scot Foster, and John Garten-Shuman met during the summer to synthesize the feedback and to begin to shape a more clear definition of what the College’s commitment to diversity means, and how we wish to move forward with a meaningful and effective plan to realize this commitment.

A critical component of such a plan is to create a process by which meaningful issues are selected as priorities for our work. Examples of issues are: learning outcomes for cultural competencies across all academic programs, diversity awareness training for staff, and understanding better the health care needs of the Oakland and Greater Bay Area community.

The team is completing its first draft of a recommendation for action, to be submitted shortly to the President, President’s Council, CPAC and Academic Council for review and feedback. It is anticipated that those recommendations can be shared at the November Town Hall and implemented in the 2006-2007 academic year.

It is clear that, as a whole, the faculty, staff and administrators value strengthening a diverse and pluralistic community, difference as an opportunity for learning. The community’s work in re-envisioning the mission statement calls upon us to educate students to transform care in diverse communities—to use our collective skills and talents to make a difference in the world. It is also clear that we, as a community, have continued work to do to consistently meet this value for our students and ourselves.
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES
(new employees or staff departures as of June 2006)

Please join with the staff of the Office of the President in offering a warm welcome or a heartfelt goodbye to the following people:

ARRIVALS

Jeana Drayson-Steinbach, Adjunct Instructor,
Jocelyn Garrick, Adjunct Assistant Professor,
Reena Haymond, Adjunct Instructor,
John Litten, Adjunct Instructor
Deborah Roush, Adjunct Instructor
Nicole Christensen, Assistant Professor
Zayda Yeoh, Instructor
Rebecca Boyd, Librarian
Jean Mattlin, Adjunct Assistant Professor
Vincenza Ryan, Adjunct Instructor
Amanda Holland, Administrative Assistant
Margaret Early, Department Chair
Nicole Courts, Adjunct Assistant Professor
Michelle Trautman, Adjunct Instructor
Collin Bowman-Woodall, Assistant Professor
Andrea Medakovic, Campus Service Assistant Assistant
Jocelyn Ferguson, Assistant to the VP Finance
Ann Chamberlin, Lab Manager
Mary Anne Broker, Instructor
Jenine Bagley, Admissions/ASU Assistant
Thatcher Wright, Network System Administrator
Dew Chung, Desktop & Technical Support
Francisco Buencamino, Desktop & Technical Support
Jacalynn Blankenship, Adjunct Assistant Professor
Nasser Sorkhabi, Adjunct Assistant Professor
Ryan Uberman, Adjunct Instructor
Saeng Saephanh, Administrative Assistant, Financial Aid
Karen Kelly, Assistant Professor
Kamla Ahiuwalia, Assistant Professor
Dawn Eglin, Administrative Assistant II
Katherine Lemmer, Administrative Assistant III
Yurismary Llerena, Campus Service Center Assistant
Tara Nabaie, Coordinator health Services
Na Tanya Jones, Administrative Assistant II
Nancy Karp, Coordinator of Student Account
Migdiel Moretta, Adjunct Assistant Professor
Lin Jia, General Ledger Accountant
Randall Roark, Adjunct Assistant Professor

DEPARTURES

Patricia Henry, Adjunct Assistant Professor
Robert Saunders, Adjunct Instructor
Liya Sinitsa, Adjunct Instructor
Carolyn David, Administrative Assistant III

Luzmaria Alcala-Van Houten, faculty
Arslan, Orhan, faculty
Kimberly Beatty, faculty
Diand Bevis, faculty
Jennifer Duncan Boyden, staff
Roberta Durham, faculty
Barbara Maerz, faculty
Veronica Rule, staff
Patricia Wright, staff
Denice Von Arx, faculty
Carmen Albury, staff
Marissa Esparza, staff

Save these Dates!

San Francisco Local Learning Center, Grand Opening,
Tuesday, October 24, 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., St. Luke’s SF site

The Health Sciences Simulation Center, Open House
Thursday, October 26, 2006 - 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

The Health Sciences Simulation Center, Grand Opening,
Monday, November 6, 2006 - Oakland campus, Sim Center

Sacramento Regional Learning Center, Grand Opening,
Monday, November 13, 2006 - Sacramento campus

President’s Dinner
Friday, December 1, 2006 - 6:00 p.m.
Sutter Health has expanded its model policies related to providing accessible and affordable health care services by extending substantial financial discounts to all uninsured patients regardless of their financial status. The expanded policies are being adopted by all 24 Northern California hospitals affiliated with the not-for-profit Sutter Health network of doctors and hospitals.

Sutter Health’s newest policy extends discounts to uninsured patients who do not qualify for full or partial charity care. Under the newest policy, these patients are entitled to discounts based on the discounted reimbursement each Sutter hospital receives from commercial health plans. Discounts for uninsured patients are set by each hospital at a point between the average and lowest discounts from billed charges for all commercial fee-for-service health plans.

“As a result of this policy, no uninsured patient will be billed at full hospital rates,” said Cyndi Kettmann, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs. “Taken together, we believe we may offer the most generous and fair discounts and collections policies in the industry.”

Sutter-affiliated hospitals, which have always provided free charity care to low-income patients, enhanced their policies in early 2004 by expanding eligibility for free care and by offering discounts to low-income uninsured patients who don’t qualify for free care. Patients with annual family incomes of below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guideline (below $40,000 for a family of four in 2006) pay nothing for hospital care under Sutter’s charity care policy. Sutter Health hospitals also provide catastrophic protection to low-income uninsured patients by limiting their payment liability to 30 percent of their annual household income.

Sutter Health-affiliated hospitals have always maintained charity care policies to assist low income patients. In 2003, Sutter-affiliated hospitals came together to develop a more consistent approach to charity care. In February 2004, Sutter Health affiliates adopted common, systemwide charity care and partial charity care policies. In March 2006, Sutter Health expanded its policies permitting affiliated hospitals to extend substantial financial discounts to all uninsured patients regardless of financial status.

Sutter Health puts social values on the line at a time when the SMC community is reflecting on its own values it is significant to see the parent organization put its values into practice as well.