SMC Leadership Transition

As announced by President Sharon Diaz at the February Town Hall, 2007 is a year of leadership transitions for Samuel Merritt College (SMC). President Diaz begins a six month sabbatical effective July 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007, a leave approved by the Board of Regents some years ago. She described her plans to enjoy the Hawaiian island of Kauai with husband Lu for well deserved rest and relaxation, with plans to do research on transformative leadership.

Effective March 1, Dr. Scot Foster has been appointed Provost and Chief Operating Officer (COO) through June. Beginning July 1, he will assume the position of Interim President of the College through the end of the calendar year. The three months prior to the President’s sabbatical gives Provost Foster an opportunity to assume day-to-day institutional responsibilities with consultation by the President before assuming the Interim President role. Dr. Penny Bamford has been appointed Interim Academic Vice President effective March through December.

In other leadership news, Stephanie Bangert, Executive Director, Office of the President, has been appointed senior communications officer for the College in addition to her other responsibilities.

“I value the enthusiastic support provided to me in this transitional role from President Diaz and the Board of Regents. I am confident that our College community will continue its great work of student learning as we embark upon achieving our new vision as a nationally recognized health education institution. I am honored to be a part of that effort.”

Scot Foster, PhD
Provost and COO

R2 Lease Agreement Signed for San Mateo Site

The College is pleased to announce that the R2 lease agreement has been signed. Preparations to open the South Bay remote site represents the latest in SMC geographical expansion.

The location of the site is 1720 S. Amphlett Boulevard, Suite 300, San Mateo, with a space of approximately 12,000 square feet. Construction is projected to be completed by June 15 with a move-in date shortly thereafter. The School of Nursing will determine the exact date for the ABSN program, anticipated to begin at its new location on July 2nd.

The San Mateo site will house two classrooms, a 12 patient bed skills lab, ten private offices, a computer lab/library, conference room and a break/lounge room.
The San Francisco Local Learning Center (SFLLC,) also known as R1, has been up and running for almost a year. The first class of 46 Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) students is set to graduate at the end of May. Spring is a busy time at R1, not only with the second ABSN class of 48 students, but with the implementation of the first class of R2 (San Mateo students) at the SFLLC in early June. The R2 student cohort will be taking classes at SFLLC until the new site in San Mateo opens.

Mary Anne Broker, Associate Managing Director at the SFLLC, explained that the R1 team is working to “define the culture” as a way to differentiate it from the other SMC campuses (Oakland, Sacramento, San Mateo.) Broker explained that students choose a campus based not only on location but also on the “culture” of the community in which it is located. Broker describes the strength of the SFLLC culture as one where student clinical training, also known as a preceptorship, engages students with diverse patient populations. For example, several R1 students have a preceptorship at Friendship House, a Native American substance abuse clinic.

R2 (San Mateo campus) will become SMC’s fourth campus. Only Oakland offers the full range of SMC’s degree programs (nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician assistant, and podiatric medicine.) The Sacramento Regional Learning Center (SRLC) offers a number of nursing programs, while R1 and R2 only offer the ABSN degree program. The ABSN degree is a bachelor’s degree designed for students who hold a bachelor’s in another field; it is an intensive 12 month program divided up into five week blocks of classes.

The San Francisco Local Learning Center has strengthened relationships with hospitals and medical clinics in the area, including St. Luke’s, Stanford, SF General, Children’s Hospital of Oakland, Lucille Packard Children’s Hospital, Good Samaritan, and St. Francis. According to Broker, those relationships are value-added because they enable SMC to provide students with hospital based clinical site experiences. For preceptorships at one of the hospital sites, ABSN students chose an area of concentration or specialty such as surgery, critical care, OB/maternity, community health, mental health, or pediatrics.

The SFLLC managing team is: Mary Anne Broker, Associate Managing Director; Zenobia Collins-Johnson, Associate Managing Director; Karen Kelly, Associate Managing Director San Mateo; and Sandra MacKay, Interim Managing Director and Managing Director, San Mateo.

**pre·cep·tor·ship (pri-sēpˈtər-ship) n.**

A period of practical experience and training for a student, especially of medicine or nursing, that is supervised by an expert or specialist in a particular field.

(definition from Answers.com)
SMC Staff Council Welcomes New Co-Chairs

Admission Counselor Che Abrams and Student Services Coordinator Kira Allen were welcomed as the new co-chairs of the SMC Staff Council (SC) in March. Both expressed excitement about their new positions, Allen explained that “I like being a part of the community, a part of something, and [being on Staff Council] is taking a proactive stance. I think Che and I work well together and it’s going to be a good balance.”

The SC meets once a month to identify and discuss issues relevant to the SMC staff, and to work on current projects. Projects are typically decided upon once a year, after which the council does research on how similar projects have been implemented in other colleges or businesses. New ideas and research are then presented to the appropriate staff or groups on campus.

The SC has an impressive list of projects to tackle this year, voted upon at its annual luncheon in February. The 2007 projects include working with the College to establish a 360° performance review process (a method of employee review where feedback is received from a direct supervisor as well as from a number of co-workers and sources,) to consideration of extending the current summer-only alternative work schedule year round. The SC is also proposing that the College offer an additional informal College-wide holiday celebration for additional social interaction among staff as well as to boost morale.

Other upcoming projects involve improving SMC’s orientation for new employees, and introducing environmentally friendly practices into the College such as recycling. Increasing the number of community service projects like the December Salvation Army Angel Giving Tree, which was a great success, is another item on the 2007 SC to-do list.

When asked about how she was feeling with such a daunting list ahead of her as co-chair, Abrams replied “I’m excited. When all is said and done I’ll be able to say that I helped push that [project] through.”

Coming Soon! SMC E-Bulletin Board

ITS staff members, including program coordinator Mary Grefal and web developers Marvin Lee and Michael Tam, have been working diligently on a new interactive electronic feature for the SMC website. Called the SMC E-Bulletin Board, the project responds to the recommendation of the Communications Committee to provide a web space where informal community announcements and information can be shared quickly.

The E-Bulletin Board will be available to employees the week of April 23. The Bulletin Board will be accessible from the faculty or staff links located on the SMC home page. Any SMC authorized web user will be able to post to the bulletin board with the ability to edit or delete announcements once written. Notices will stay on the bulletin board for 15 days, after which time they will be deleted to make room for new postings.

The E-Bulletin Board is envisioned as a community space to more casually communicate informal or personal communications such as church fundraisers, charity events, and garage sales, or home sales such as cars, arts, crafts, or other goods. Personal announcements such as births, deaths, and weddings can also be posted. After a six month beta testing period with faculty and staff, the E-Bulletin Board will be available for students. Watch for an e-mail announcing the implementations of the SMC E-Bulletin Board.
Introducing Shelby Designs and Illustrates

The observant reader may have noticed a more cohesive look to SMC publications created in the last year. Since January 2006, SMC has been working with Shelby Designs and Illustrates (SDI,) a design firm founded in 1989 by Ms. Shelby Tupper. The award winning firm, based in Jack London Square, has a client roster that includes companies as varied as Beverages and More, The Oakland Zoo, Gap, Hewlett Packard, and Samuel Merritt College.

In addition to producing the SMC alumni newsletter The Reporter (Carla Ross, editor) SDI has re-designed the SMC commencement programs, and student catalog, and designed the new Staff and Faculty Handbook, Report to the Community, and the General Brochure (see box below).

The Shelby team includes Shelby Putnam Tupper, Founder and Creative Director; Will Yang, Senior Designer; Kristine Ng, Junior Designer; Michelle Bennett, Resident Design Assistant; and Tom Hincher, General Manager. Scott Goff, operations assistant, was in charge of developing SMC project schedules, has recently moved overseas and been replaced by Seth Gusse.

Tupper has only good words about working with SMC, saying, “Samuel Merritt College and Shelby Designs has enjoyed a truly symbiotic partnership based on mutual respect and productivity. Together we work hard to make sure that the College is sending an integrated, accessible message to the community, prospective students and beyond.”

SMC Publications Update - Spring-Summer 2007 Project Roll Out

The number of new and improved SMC publications continues to roll out to the College community for disseminating information about the College and its academic programs to the general public, friends, alumni, donors, and prospective students. The spring and summer production calendar is in full swing:

**April**
- Introducing the SMC General Brochure
  Trifold publication highlighting SMC mission, academic programs, with a focus on technology

**May**
- Second Annual Report to the Community
  25 page report on SMC 2006 accomplishments
- Introducing the OP News Flash
  Hot-off-the-press news updates when important information needs to be shared quickly
- Student Handbook and Catalog
- Undergraduate and Graduate Commencement Programs

**June**
- Introducing the E-OP Newsletter
  Office of the President Newsletter launches quarterly electronic issues

**August**
- SMC Admissions Packet
  with new academic program updates

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Just Released!

Brand new SMC General Brochure to be distributed to divisions and departments the 1st week of April.

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The Shelby Team, from left to right: Scott Goff, Seth Gusse, Tom Hincher, Kristine Ng, Shelby Putnam Tupper, Will Yang, and Michelle Bennett
The 17th Annual Picchi Memorial Lecture took place last month on March 15th, and was a success, raising $12,000 for the Graziano Library. Dr. Bertram H. Lubin, President of Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute (CHORI), was the guest lecturer, speaking to a full house in the Fontaine Auditorium. It was no surprise that so many people showed up to hear his presentation titled “The Social Life of Stem Cells.”

After remarks by Teresa Picchi, daughter of the late Joseph and Mary Picchi, for whom the lecture is named, and Dr. Scot Foster, Provost and COO of SMC, the evening began with a movie about the Picchis that included interviews with their friends, colleagues and children. The film highlighted the Picchi legacy: education is the most powerful form of preventative medicine.

Dr. Lubin’s spoke of California’s leadership in stem cell research and the work of CHORI in Oakland to fulfill its mission to “work locally, heal globally.” CHORI conducts research on how stem cells can help cure diseases such as cancer, metabolic issues, or blood and genetic diseases. All who attended the event left more educated about stem cell research, and hopeful about its potential for saving lives. The event was organized by Development and Alumni Affairs.

Dr. Bertram Lubin with Joseph Picchi and Teresa Picchi

Inclusivity Workshop Coming:
April 26, 8:30 am-12:30 pm, HEC

A special workshop called “Promoting Student Success” will be offered on Thursday April 26 from 8:30 am-12:30. Facilitator Tom Brown, noted educator and consultant in the field of student persistence and diversity, will lead a lively session inviting members of the college community to think about student success and their role in promoting it. The event is in response to the SMC meta strategy “to provide an inclusive learning environment that supports the full engagement of all students, faculty, and staff”. Mark your calendar and keep the date in mind when scheduling other College events and meetings. The event is sponsored by the Office of the President and the President’s Council. Details are forthcoming.

EOW Employee Opinion Survey
2007 Participation
Sutter Health (SH) Goal: 60%
SH participation: 83%
SMC participation: 91%