1. WELCOME BACK LUNCH SPONSORED BY ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

The Office of Student Life and the Associated Students of Hartnell College hosted the Welcome back lunch for students and staff on Wednesday, January 28, 2015. It was a scene to see! The line was huge but moved quickly. More than 600 enjoyed a traditional Mexican lunch out on the lawn in front of the new science building (under construction). The food and aguas frescas (home-made drinks) were catered by El Super. I got to join in and enjoyed a plate filled with great flavor and the company of students and staff. In addition to lunch, students had the opportunity to talk to the 15
clubs tabling that day. Many clubs commented they had a lot of sign-ups, thus it was a great day for all.

2. CHISPA CELEBRATES 35 YEARS

On Thursday, January 29, 2015, I had the honor of attending the Annual CHISPA Celebration dinner celebrating their 35th Anniversary of building neighborhoods. CHISPA has been a supporter of education and Hartnell College for many years; its CEO, Alfred Diaz-Infante is President to the Hartnell College Foundation Board. The proceeds from this event will go to services in the community and to fund scholarships for Hartnell College and CSUMB.

This year, five students were honored with a scholarship. Cinthia Estrada and Mirel Mejia spoke and talked of their time at Hartnell College and how happy they are to have transferred to CSU Monterey Bay. The other three students, Juan Ochoa, Juliana Gonzalez, and Estee Perez are current students at Hartnell. The entire table cheered a little extra for them and the entire room took notice of Hartnell’s presence and impact in these young students’ lives.

My wife Michele joined me for the event in addition to Vice President of the Board of Trustees, Erica Padilla-Chavez, Trustee Pat Donohue, Trustee Candi DePauw, and Trustee Demetrio Pruneda with his wife Sallie. Not pictured, Director of Communications, Esmeralda Montenegro Owen.

The Big Sur Land Trust was given the 2014 Community Partner of the Year award for providing the youth with opportunity and for resource conservation. Congratulations!

FOUNDATION BOARD PRESIDENT RECEIVES SPECIAL HONOR

And speaking of CHISPA, its President and CEO, Alfred Diaz-Infante who happens to also be the Hartnell College Foundation Board President, received a great honor at the 10th Annual Junior Achievement Monterey Bay Business Hall of Fame. Alfred was honored as one of five 2015 Business...
Hall of Fame Laureates for contributions to the Central Coast communities. The other four honorees were Nancy Ausonio, Jeff Davi, Chris Shake and Sabu Shake Jr. Congratulations!

Alfred was born and raised in Salinas. His parents, both farmworkers, came to Salinas from Mexico in 1961 to build a better life for their young family. Alfred inherited their work ethic and excelled in school and sports, living the American dream on the little league fields of El Dorado Park. He attended Hartnell, Sacramento State, and Berkeley where he earned a MBA.

In 1993 he was appointed to the Monterey County Planning Commission, becoming the youngest commissioner in history. In 1997, CHISPA faced an uncertain future. Needing someone with the vision, political experience and leadership skills to right the ship, they asked Alfred to step in as interim C.E.O. He was 36 years old and had never been considered the “next in line” for the top spot. But he was successful in his new role as Alfred has now served as President and CEO of CHISPA for 18 years.

Alfred has led CHISPA’s growth not just in terms of its business, but in terms of its stature within the industry and community. CHISPA has built and renovated more than 2,300 homes and apartments for low- and moderate-income residents in Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties. He has brought community partners to the table like the Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, and the Arts Council to provide services and amenities to CHISPA’s residents. Under his leadership, CHISPA’s projects and properties have injected countless millions into our local economy, providing jobs, and providing stability and sound financial footing for thousands of families.

Alfred has received numerous awards and accolades over the years, including the Distinguished Fellow Award from CSU Monterey Bay and the Trustee of the Year Award from the National Steinbeck Center. He and wife Elvira live in North Salinas where they have raised their three children – Karina, Alexis and Marcos.

4. PROSPECTIVE DONORS TOUR THE WESTERN STAGE

The Hartnell College Foundation and The Western Stage hosted a luncheon on the Mainstage and a peek backstage for a special group of patrons on Thursday. The event is part of an ongoing $1.5 million capital campaign launched to renovate The Performing Arts Center on the Hartnell College campus. The renovation includes a new box office, lobby, visual
arts gallery, improved atrium, marquee and exterior upgrades. Those interested in supporting the effort can call Executive Director of Advancement, Jackie Cruz at (831) 755-6810.

5. INSPIRING TALK AT THE LITERACY CAMPAIGN LUNCH

The Literacy Campaign for Monterey County offers monthly talks at the Harden Foundation; these are put together by our President of the Board of Trustees, Elia Gonzalez-Castro. Last week, the guest speaker was Herald Reporter, Claudia Melendez who talked about her life as a journalist and adding ‘author’ to her curriculum. She currently has a book ready to be published in fall 2015 – the title, for now, is West of the Gabilans; the name might change at the publisher’s request. The book is fiction and has an anti-gang message.

Claudia went on to talk about literacy in Monterey County, more specifically within the Latino community and the broken education system that she believes is not providing K-12 students with the necessary resources to succeed. “We should honor children’s culture and first language,” she said.

The lunch was attended by professionals in various capacities from the County.

6. TOUR BY MCSHANE AND UPCOMING AG TECH SUMMIT

Steve McShane of Converted Organics hosted Foundation staff member Cristina Westfall (pictured right) and Ag Business Technology Director Dr. Susan Pheasant for a tour of their nutrient processing facilities and discussions on the upcoming Salinas Valley Ag Technology Summit which will be held on March 26, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The event will be presented by Converted Organics (Gonzalez, CA), the Monterey Bay Chapter of CA Assn. of Pest Control Advisors, and our Ag Business and Technology Institute. The event is sponsored by Monterey County Farm Bureau, Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce, Grower Shipper Assn., Salinas High School FFA, Steinbeck Innovation Cluster, City of Gonzales, and City of...
Salinas. The event is open to the public with particular applicability to ag and farming professionals and ag students. For more information and to sign up, visit www.sv-ag-summit.com.

7. R.E.T.A. AND REFRIGERATION TRAINING

The local chapter of RETA (Refrigerating Engineers & Technicians Association) continues to have strong participation in refrigeration training sessions hosted at the Agricultural Business and Technology Institute on the Hartnell Alisal Campus. Chapter leaders are passionate about building a stackable certificate training program accessible at Hartnell College to increase industry capacity in refrigeration facility technicians, packaging/production technicians, maintenance mechanic, and managers. Just think of all the temperature controlled environments you appreciate and expect in your daily life: house, vehicle, place of work. And then consider where is your favorite ice cream or packaged salad is made, how is it transported to maintain quality, where is it kept frozen/cool at the grocery store, where do you put it within your home freezer/refrigerator, etc.? We are glad to be able to offer these trainings for our students and community.

8. EMPLOYEE GIVING IS HOT IN 2015!

The sixth annual Employees for Student Success Campaign is on. The campaign committee is grateful for all the support and leadership. Last year, the Employees for Student Success Campaign collected more than $62,000 to support our students. This year, the goal is to raise $75,000. Donations will have a monumental effect on our students, contributing directly to their success. Joining this group is easy. Fill out the form and deliver it to the Foundation Office (E-101) just like Dr. Mark Sanchez, Dean of Student Affairs, did this last week (pictured with Terri Ugale receiving his contribution). Each week the Employees for Student Success Committee will hold a raffle and draw a name from those who have given to this year’s campaign. And here is a special treat - If you find Hartnell parking difficult, please send in your donation card today to enter a special drawing to win my parking spot for a designated week!
9. WELCOME NEW COUNSELORS!

These are three newly-appointed full-time counselors, each to work at one of our three campuses. We are especially happy to be able to provide this support and personal attention to our students in King City and at the Alisal Campus where up until now, only part-time counseling services were available.

**Violeta Mendoza Wenger**

Violeta was born and raised in Guadalajara, Mexico. She moved to Salinas with her family at the age of 14. She attended local schools, including Hartnell College where she earned an Associate of Arts degree. After a long break from school to raise a family, Violeta went on to complete a B.A. in Social and Behavioral Sciences with minors in Sociology and Human Development at CSU Monterey Bay, and a Master’s in Education in Counseling and Student Personnel, as well as a Pupil Personnel Services Credential at San José State University. She joined Hartnell College as a Professional Expert at the Center for Advanced Technology – Alisal Campus in October 2010. Previously, Violeta worked as a School Counselor for Harmony at Home, as well as Transition Counselor for the Salinas Adult School. She began work as a Counselor at Hartnell in January of 2015. She resides in Salinas with her husband and two daughters.

**Francisco Corchado**

As an educator, Francisco has worked in the Central Valley as a bilingual tutor for K-6 students, focused on English development, a migrant tutor at Washington Union High School and then a long-term substitute teacher for Spanish. During his high school position, he completed his Master’s in Educational Counseling and began his internship at Fresno City College where he was hired as a counselor in the Health Sciences Division working with two programs (Medical Assisting and Surgical Technology). He focused on student retention, student internship placement, and job placement. He continued to meet with students interested in Health Science related fields (Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Radiologic Technology, and
Respiratory students). “I am very excited about joining Hartnell College and looking forward to making a difference in the community,” said Francisco.

 Gemma Uribe-Cruz

Gemma attended and received her Bachelor of Arts in Collaborative Health and Human Services at CSU Monterey Bay in 2005, followed by a Master’s in Counselor Education from San Jose State University in 2008. She has worked at Hartnell since March 2006 where she began as a Clerical Assistant with the TRiO Student Support Services Program. She worked in this position for two years and transitioned within the program into the Counseling position after obtaining her MA. She worked as one of the TRiO counselors for three years and then transitioned to general counseling for two more years. Her most recent position at Hartnell College has been as the Veterans’ Counselor in which she worked at both the Main Campus and the King City Center.

10. NEW AT THE GALLERY – WINTER REFLECTIONS

The Hartnell Art Gallery presents Winter Reflections: Chinese Painting and Calligraphy now through March 12, 2015. The collection examines the strong influence of nature on traditional Chinese paintings. These works are primarily drawn from a generous collection donated by Dr. Irving Stuart in memory of his wife, Helen Stuart. The 21-sample shows the long tradition of Chinese painting and calligraphy from the Yan Dynasty (1260-1368) to the 20th century.

Admission is free and open to the public Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon and 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. For further information, contact Gary Smith, gsmith@hartnell.edu.

11. FORMER SPRINTER OFFERED SCHOLARSHIP AT SJSU

Former Panther sprinter Lenae Stevens (San Benito HS) has been offered a partial scholarship to the women’s track & field team at San Jose State University. Lenae walked-on this fall and impressed the SJSU coaches with both her academic and athletic effort. At Hartnell, Lenae was a member of the two-time CCCAA qualifying 4x100 meter
relay team that placed 7th in 2014. She was a member of the 4x100 meter school record team (47.61) and the second fastest ever 4x400 relay team (3:53.09) that placed sixth at the 2014 CCCAA Championship. As an individual, Lenae had personal bests of 12.42 in the 100 meters, 25.76 in the 200 meters, and 60.11 in the 400 meters. She placed second overall in the 400 meters at the 2014 Coast Conference Championship. Lenae was a member of the 2013 and 2014 Coast Conference Women's Track & Field Team and 2nd place in 2013 and 3rd place in 2014 Northern California squads. She was recently named to the SJSU Dean's List for fall 2014. Lenae is majoring in Health Science. Congratulations!

12. UPCOMING EVENTS

"The combination of organ and piano creates a unique sound for the interpretation of classical music - their passion and musicianship are inspiring."
— Dr. Virgil Laurenco, Hartnell College Superintendent/President

The piano and organ duo return to Hartnell College in 2015!

FRANCESCO ATTESTI AND MATTEO GALLI in concert

Friday, February 20, 2015
The Western Stage – Mainstage
411 Central Avenue, Salinas

Concert starts at 6 PM
VIP Reception to follow at the Hartnell Art Gallery

For tickets and more information go to:
http://westernstage.com/

FREE Master Class by Francesco and Matteo (Class for Hartnell students, viewing open to the public)
Thursday, February 19, 2015
3:00 p.m. at the Mainstage
Cash for College Day!
Saturday, February 21, 2015- Student Services, B-110
Starting at 9:00 a.m. (12 noon and 1:30 p.m.)
Session in Spanish at 10:30 a.m.

Music Extravaganza 2015
March 20, 2015
6:00 – 9:00 p.m. in building K – Performing Arts
All ensembles to perform!

IN THE NEWS

Soratos clocks fastest mile time in nation!

Educator in Residence at Hartnell

Dr. Anne Benvenuti – Educator in Residence

Monterey County flu cases continue to climb

Hartnell baseball falls in season opener
http://www.thecalifornian.com/story/sports/2015/01/28/hartnell-baseball-falls-opener/22451829/

Calendar – The Mystery Play at TWS

Blackbeard to raise funds for Monterey Symphony