1. DR. ANNE BENVENUTI’S MESSAGE IS HEARD

Our Educator in Residence, Dr. Anne Benvenuti was with us for three days last week. The theme for the visit in March was on stress, depression, and methods to cope. On Wednesday, she met with our students in Nursing and Allied Health at Mainstage. Nursing students from other colleges were also invited.

On Thursday, a public talk welcomed over 50 attendees from the community, students, staff and other guests. This lecture was also streamed live for those who were not able to be present.

The next day, Dr. Benvenuti offered a ‘Mental Spa Day’ to the Hartnell employees. She started with a session on meditation, followed by one on affirmations and what makes us feel happy, and lastly a talk about depression – how to prevent it and how to treat it. Dr. Benvenuti will return in April and in May to continue her teachings on how to improve our personal and professional lives. She is our first Educator in Residence selected by the Professional Development Committee. We will keep you informed of her visits.
2. STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: THE MIGHTY TWINS

Fernando and Ricardo Valenzuela Acharte are 21-year-old twins majoring in electrical engineering at Hartnell. They are exceptional students and have proven it during the three years with us; they make sure their grades are close to perfect landing them on the President’s List each time.

Their mom, Silvia Ester Acharte, is also a Hartnell student. She is taking classes to improve her English. She says that there are no words to express how proud she is of her boys. “We live in a studio apartment; our furniture consists of three beds and nothing else fits,” she shared. “The boys are so dedicated to their studies; every day I see them doing their homework using their beds as desks.”

The three of them were given the opportunity to come to the United States in 2010 – but had to leave their father and older brother behind in Peru. They attended adult school to learn English and in 2012 the twins were ready to attend Hartnell.

“We found so much support here,” said Ricardo. “Bronwyn Moreno, Dr. Silvia Millan, Debra Pyle, and others in STEM were so kind to us; we felt that warmth and sense of familiarity from the start.”

Both brothers enjoy being part of just about every club in STEM – MESA, math, physics, engineering, and others. They enjoy these because of the challenging nature in each. They also like to have healthy academic competitions with their peers, but in the end, they say it’s about helping each other and providing others with easy solutions to problems.

Their goal is to transfer to UCLA and continue on to acquiring a master’s degree to then open their own engineering firm. (Go Bruins!) They should soon find out if they are both accepted. The have already been admitted to San Jose State University.

These pair attribute their sense of responsibility, love for others, academic efforts, and values to their mom.

“She is everything to us; our motivation to move far, our source of happiness, the good moral values instilled in us, and more,” said Ricardo and Fernando agreed and added, “Here in the USA there are so many opportunities and citizens do not take advantage of them. It is important that we show them to reflect on other countries and their lack of these opportunities and make conscious decisions to choose success through education.”
The Hartnell College Foundation recognizes the work and efforts of different departments around campus on a monthly basis with the goal to get to all soon. In March, Human Resources received the visit along with pastries and coffee at their staff meeting. Terri Ugale, Cristina Westfall, Kira Bona, and Karen Hagman expressed their gratitude to HR on behalf of the Foundation and all Hartnell employees. The presentation was well-received by Associate VP of Human Resources, Terri Pyer and her staff: Monica Massimo, Louann Raras, and Nora Torres. They expressed it was a nice gesture; the coffee and sweets a welcomed extra. Stand by because your department could be next!

4. NEWLY TENURED FACULTY TO BE CELEBRATED

You are invited to celebrate

Our newly tenured faculty:
  Maya Watson
  Jason Hough
  Rebecca Fields
  Amy Taketomo
  Cristina Esparza-Luna

Thursday, March 19, 2015
4:00—6:00 PM
Hartnell Art Gallery
411 Central Avenue, Building J
Salinas, CA

Hors d’oeuvres and wine will be served. Sponsored by the Office of the President and the Hartnell College Foundation.
I was in Sacramento on Monday for the Innovation Showcase. I arrived early and went to find a place to eat. I ended up at Ambrosia Cafe on the corner of K St. and 10th St. I had on my Hartnell shirt and a young lady working there came up and said "I’m a graduate of Hartnell College." It was Ariana Valencia, now a communications major at Sacramento State. She spoke highly of Professor Jason Hough and her experience at Hartnell.

Ariana Valencia was a member of the Hartnell Speech team from 2013-2014. She was recruited from one of Coach Hough's Communication Studies classes, and represented the college at several regional speech competitions and served as the Vice-President of the team. She graduated December 2014 with an Associate Degree in Communication Studies.

"Ariana provided strong leadership for the team, both as a competitor and as a supportive teammate. We miss her presence every tournament," commented Hough.

The February 27 weekly report included an article on the Hartnell workshop presentation at the recent ACCCA Conference - The Embodiment of Continuous Improvement: Embarking On, Embedding & Embracing It! ACCCA (Association of California Community College Administrators) has a membership of over 1,100 administrators. I have been a member of ACCCA for 16 years and had the privilege of serving as president of this organization during 2011-12. Along with my good friend and colleague, Dr. Lisa Sugimoto, I founded the ACCCA Student Scholarship Program in 2002. My colleague retired several years ago, but I have continued to coordinate the program for 14 years now. Over the last 14 years ACCCA has awarded $34,500 in student scholarships through this effort, all through donations from administrators as part of the annual conference. For this year’s scholarship drawing Dr. Brian Lofman’s ticket was pulled resulting in a $500 student scholarship. It was a good thing that I do not pull the tickets. This year Chancellor Brice Harris was on hand and he pulled the winning tickets. This scholarship will be added to the others to be awarded this Spring. (Dr. Lofman pictured showing some of that scholarship $$)
7. HARTNELL IS WELL-REPRESENTED AT UCSC EVENT

On Saturday, March 7, 2015, Hartnell College was very well represented at the Annual MESA Day at UC Santa Cruz’s Jack Baskin School of Engineering. MESA Day is a regional math and science competition for educationally disadvantaged middle school and high school students. Hartnell’s own MESA program, NASA/SEMAA, Coder Dojo and the Planetarium all took part in the Expo event. At Hartnell’s various booths, students and families from throughout Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties took part in hands on activities and learned about our amazing programs.

Photo 1: Andy Kreyche, Planetarium Educator, Maggie Melone, Director of NASA SEMAA/Coder Dojo, and the UCSC Banana Slug mascot!!

Photo 2: Students from the Hartnell Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, who spoke with middle school and high school students about Engineering and Robotics.

Photo 3: Andy Kreyche, Planetarium Educator and Educator Fellow for NASA’s New Horizons Mission, shows students a model of the solar system.

Photo 4: Maggie Melone, Director of NASA SEMAA/Coder Dojo created an interactive experience using ipads.

8. HARTNELL HOSTS COUNTYWIDE SPELLING BEE

On Sunday, March 8 I had the honor of giving a welcome to the many parents, teachers, administrators, K-12 Governing Board members, and community members attending the 2015 Countywide Spelling Bee. After 13 rounds and 169 words, Monterey County has a new spelling champ. Nina Harmer, 6th grader at All Saints’ Day School, out spelled 48 other students from schools throughout Monterey County to win the Countywide Spelling Bee last weekend at the Western Stage Theater at Hartnell College. Nina’s winning word was amphibious. This was the 20th Annual Spelling Bee. All 20 of the spelling bees have been held at Hartnell College. A total of 49 finalists from 6th, 7th, and 8th grades participated in the spelling bee.
Nina Harmer will represent Monterey County at the Scripps National Bee in May along with over 280 regional winners from all over the country.

9. CAREERS IN AG CLASS WELCOMES SPECIAL GUEST

The Careers in Ag Class at the Alisal Campus had a special guest on March 9, 2015 - Norm Groot, Executive Director of the Monterey County Farm Bureau as invited by adjunct faculty and Hartnell College Foundation Board Member, Nick Pasculli. Norm Groot shared with the students his background and his introduction to the agricultural industry. He holds a degree in accounting with minor in finance and, prior to joining Monterey County Farm Bureau, he worked in a family business in the seed industry until the business was sold. Groot’s presentation addressed important information for students pursuing careers in the agriculture industry:

- Fifty-three counties in California have a Farm Bureau Office to serve as a voice for farmers and ranchers and provide information, advocacy, benefits and services to its members.
- California produces more than 400 crops. Some of those with year-round cropping seasons include lemons, artichokes, avocados, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, lettuce, mushrooms, potatoes, spinach and squash.
- California grows nearly half of the nation’s fruits, vegetables and nuts.
- Fifty-five percent of California’s strawberries production is held in the Salinas Valley and Pajaro Valley.
- Monterey County 2013 Agriculture Crop Report reflected a production value of $4.3 billion which represents an increase of 9% over the previous year. The sector supports more than 45,000 local jobs annually.
- Groot queried the students to answer the meaning of TV Station KSBW, and it was originally named after K-Salad Bowl of the World).
- He spoke on upcoming, high-demand careers in response to the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) regulation to be implemented by the FDA; it emphasizes a proactive approach to food safety throughout the entire supply chain and, consequently, increases the need for a specialized workforce.
- Growing areas of workforce needs include: diesel and fabrication technicians, equipment maintenance crew, labors relations, auditors, researchers, organic industry, conservation and natural resources, sustainability, production planning, crop advisors, pest control advisors, data management, sales, regulatory compliance, labor relations, human resources, among others.
- He advised the students on the importance of professional growth, to be a proactive professional, keep learning, specialize in your knowledge and learn
other sectors, network, participate in ag related organization, be involved and active in your community.

Norm Groot concluded his presentation by announcing the Forbes Reinventing America – The AgTech Summit to be held from July 8 to July 10 in Salinas. The event is expected to bring together leaders from Silicon Valley and the agricultural industry in the Salinas Valley to target some of the biggest challenges including biotech, precision farms, technology and other topics critical for the Salinas Valley’s role in feeding the population in the United States and exporting various commodities to other countries.

10. REMINDER: TECH CAREER READINESS WELCOME BREAKFASTS

The Agricultural Business and Technology Institute is hosting two more Technical Career Readiness Welcome Breakfasts at the Alisal Campus. The purpose of the breakfasts is to discuss careers leading to various jobs in the agriculture industry, workforce demand, pay scale and educational training required to pursue those careers. Presentations are from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. followed by site tour and hands-on activities for attendees.

The program includes discussion on current programs offered at the Alisal Campus, articulation, transfers, student success, facilitated discussion with industry representatives (Bob Martin, General Manager of Rio Farms, and Abby-Taylor Silva, Vice President, Policy & Communications Grower-Shipper Association of Central California) who will address careers in demand, workforce skills needed, and more. Feel free to register for the date most convenient for you as the program is similar.

Audience: Counselors, CTE teachers, school administrators, government agencies, employment agencies and industry representatives

Register at:
March 20, 2015
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/technical-career-welcome-teachers-breakfast-registration-15853547387
April 10, 2015
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/technical-career-welcome-principals-and-industry-representatives-breakfast-registration-15853927524
On March 1, 2015 Alice Moser passed away at the age of 101. I met Ms. Moser shortly after my arrival at Hartnell in 2012. Of course, she was only 99 then. She was probably one of the most knowledgeable people when it came to the life and history of William Hartnell. The photo is from one of her visits to my office.

I have to share a very recent story regarding Ms. Moser. About a month ago I received a message from Steve McShane, Salinas City Council Member and former member of the Hartnell Governing Board. He told me Ms. Moser had contacted him because she was upset that a tree was blocking the view of the Hartnell/De La Guerra Mural. I told Mr. McShane that I knew Ms. Moser and that I would follow up with her personally. I called Ms. Moser and before I could even say a word she said "Is this Dr. Lewallen?" We had a wonderful conversation and I assured her that we would take care of the issue. After the tree was removed I took a photo of the result and sent it to her. A few days later I received a thank you note. Not often and possibly never in our lives will any of us receive a note such as this from someone who is 101 years old. The note is very special because it is not on a notecard. It appears to be a photo that she took herself, trimmed and then wrote her note on the back. I will certainly hold onto and cherish this note.

Here is an excerpt from Ms. Moser's obituary. Her full obituary can be accessed at this link.

She was a charter member of the National Steinbeck Center and a scholar of William Edward Petty Hartnell, the early California historical figure after whom Hartnell College is named.

After retiring in 1981, she became an advocate of the legacy of Mr. Hartnell. In 1998 she convened a conference at Hartnell College in celebration of the 200th anniversary of his birth. Attendees included 35 of his descendants. Most recently, Alice developed and designed the William and Maria Teresa Hartnell mural, painted by local artist John Cerny, now on the wall of the Merrill Science Building at Hartnell College.

Alice lived her life with intent, purpose and great determination. She competed, persevered and succeeded in the workplace at a time when women had to try harder for their roles. She clearly was at the forefront of the women’s movement, a
woman way ahead of her time. She pursued her own path, spoke her mind, and was strongly passionate about social justice. Alice was well read, well-travelled, curious, current and a great conversationalist. Friendships were especially important to her and she enjoyed and nourished those in her life.

**12. MISSION PARK STUDENTS TOUR THE CAMPUS – A TREAT!**

**13. CRISTIAN SORATOS – WOW! HE IS UNSTOPPABLE!**

Former Hartnell College student-athlete Cristian Soratos was recently featured on Flotrack's "Track Shack" showing how collegiate athletes live. Think of it as "Lifestyles of the Rich & Famous" minus the rich! Flotrack will also release a profile video on March 12 of Cristian and his sudden rise to the top of the NCAA this season.

Flotrack "Track Shack" (Get to know Cristian)
http://www.flotrack.org/coverage/251948-Track-Season-on-Flotrack-2015/video/763015-TRACK-SHACK-Cristian-Soratos#.VP5nNC5yV6l

Flotrack Profile Trailer (The Hype)

Flotrack Profile (The Hype)
It is just about this time in the track and field season that some substantial improvements start to be seen. With a few extra weeks of practice athletes jump and throw farther, run faster, or go higher. With a sunny warm day in Sacramento, the Hartnell College Track & Field team saw some solid improvements in all events. The short relay teams started the day for the Panthers with both genders running season bests. The team of Shaq Bowman, Quentin Minor, Alex Azevedo, and Marcus Washington lowered their season mark to 43.06 in the 4x100 meter relay. That mark now leads all Coast Conference teams. In the ladies version, the baton passed between Celina Murillo, Linda Delgado, Taylor Blaha, and Maribel Ortega to cover the one lap distance in 50.42. Blaha also ran season bests in the 100 meters (13.03), 100 meter hurdles (13.86) and 200 meters (26.80) to qualify provisionally to the regional championship meet in those events. Malena Grover was the winner of the 1500 meter run (4:54.84) with teammates Rachel Shimabukuro (5:00.35), Brandi Hobson (5:04.80), and Lizette Garcia (5:04.93) improving their season bests. Garcia also won her heat of the 800 meters in 2:29.39 and Shimabukuro lowered her season best 5000 meter time to 19:20.25. Nolan Fuqua ran a lifetime best in the 400 meters (51.15). Diego Leon was the winner of the 5000 meter run in a season best 15:06.12 helping teammate Justin Carrancho (15:22.05) to the State "B" qualifying mark and Luis Vargas (15:53.90) and Javier Garcia (15:54.98) to season bests. Former Palma HS product Rhett Gonzalez made his Hartnell debut with a solid 15.83 in the 110 high hurdles to lead teammate Nathan Bishop (16.85) to a season best. Tito Chaidez dipped under the Norcal provisional mark in the 3000 meter steeplechase (10:14.19). Frankie Gutierrez flirted with the 150 foot mark in the javelin with his season best 149’7”.

For full ARC Beaver Relays results:
http://www.directathletics.com/results/track/37040.html

Last week at home against San Jose and Cabrillo, we did not play well despite what felt like good practices. Our women's softball team is determined to get it right! We had a long positive talk on Thursday after the Cabrillo game. Lucky for us, we had 2 games Saturday in Merced. Both teams were very much like we are. Danielle Blaylock
allowed just 4 hits, Alma Gallegos and Angie Savoldi had good
days at the plate. We were able to beat Merced 6-1 in 7 innings.
We told our girls that our football team suffered loses to both Merced and Contra
Costa. We were determined to avenge the losses!
In game 2, we scored 5 runs in the first. Izzy DeLeon followed Angie Savoldi’s double
with a base hit. Alma then singled, Jo Salao hit a 3-run double into the right center
gap. A really bright spot was when reserve, Jenny Ragland, came off the bench with
2 hits and 3 RBIs. Danielle Blaylock got both wins this weekend. Hopefully our
determination to improve will continue this week with a home game versus San
Mateo on Tuesday at 3:00 and away game at De Anza Thursday at 3:00.
I hope to see you out on the field! Thank you for supporting our team! ~ Andy Watt

16. UPCOMING EVENTS

Music Extravaganza 2015
March 20, 2015
6:00 – 9:00 p.m. in building K –
Performing Arts
All ensembles to perform!
$5 (students/seniors),
$10 (general) – at the door
Food, prizes, and wine.

Spring Fling Health Fair
Saturday, March 28, 2015
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Hartnell’s Student Center
Sponsored by Foster and
Kinship Care Education,
Nursing and Allied Health, and
Foster Parent Association of
Monterey County.
For information 831-755-6807

Agricultural Business and
Technology Institute
Open House at Alisal Campus
Saturday, April 18, 2015
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Job Fair at Steinbeck Hall
Tuesday, April 28, 2015
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Contact Mercedes Quintero at
mquintero@hartnell.edu
17. IN THE NEWS

Students in President’s and Dean’s lists fall 2014

Hartnell STEM programs at UCSC event

Soratos first qualifying NCAA indoor track finals
http://www.thecalifornian.com/story/sports/2015/03/14/soratos-first-qualifying-ncaa-indoor-track-finals/70319214/

Soratos clocks fastest qualifying time ever

Soratos on Clipboard

Amphibious keeps girl’s head above water to win spelling bee

Monterey County’s queen bee

Spelling bee in Salinas

Dear Jon – gas prices vs motor oil (Christina Esparza-Luna, Economics-featured)

Dear Jon – quick gas price hike raises questions (Esparza-Luna featured)

Theater listings and SpringFEST

Events in March