Distinguished Alumnus Award for Dr. Willard Lewallen
Written by Esmeralda Montenegro Owen

On Friday, April 27, 2018, Cal Poly Pomona and its Alumni Association honored Hartnell College Superintendent/President, Dr. Willard Lewallen (’78) with the Distinguished Alumnus Award in the Athletics category. In the photo above (left) are all the awardees. In the photo on the right is current athletic director Brian Swanson (left) and 1976 assistant baseball coach Dick Parkhouse.

This was the 58th Awards Gala held at the Fairplex Conference Center in Pomona “honoring nine alumni who have achieved extraordinary success in their chosen fields, thus bringing distinction to themselves, their community, and their Alma Mater,” said University President Soraya M. Coley.

“It is very humbling to be named a Distinguished Alumnus for Cal Poly Pomona. I am just an average kid from Pomona who was provided extraordinary opportunities during my life,” expressed Dr. Lewallen. “I am truly standing on the shoulders of those who lifted me up along my path...my parents, teachers, colleagues, mentors, coaches, and most importantly for the last 36 years, my wife Michele and my children.”

Dr. Willard Clark Lewallen is a native Californian and a product of the California public education system where he graduated from Garey High School in Pomona. He completed a B.S. degree in Kinesiology with honors at California State Polytechnic University at Pomona and was a member of the 1976 national championship baseball team, which was inducted into the Cal Poly Pomona Athletics Hall of Fame on February 17, 2018. He was awarded a graduate teaching assistantship at Purdue University where he
completed two master’s degrees. He completed a Ph.D. in education at UCLA. Under his leadership, Hartnell College has increased degree completion by 90 percent and increased student transfer by 56 percent. Lewallen says he was attracted to the field of education early in his college years because he saw an opportunity to help young people grow and develop, to help them reach their goals and dreams.

Prior to joining Hartnell, Dr. Lewallen served as a faculty member and administrator for several other California community colleges, including President of West Hills College in Coalinga. He has also served as an adjunct professor in graduate studies at Chapman University in Orange and University of La Verne.

The elegant dinner program was filled with proud family and friends rooting for the recipients of such honorable award. With Lewallen were his wife Michele, daughter Jennifer, son Kasey; friends Dr. Lionel and Deb D'Luna; David Hunt; Praful Kulkarni; Trustee Candi DePauw; VP of IT, David Phillips; Director of Communications, Esmeralda Montenegro; and Hartnell supporters and friends, Vivien & Butch Lindley.

Dr. Lewallen's record of leadership, scholarship, achievement, accomplishment, community involvement, and service are documented in his curriculum vitae, which can be accessed at [http://www.hartnell.edu/sites/default/files/Library_Documents/president/docs/willard_lewallen_-_-cv.pdf](http://www.hartnell.edu/sites/default/files/Library_Documents/president/docs/willard_lewallen_-_-cv.pdf).

His wife of 36 years, Michele, served as a faculty member at Antelope Valley College for 30 years teaching health and physical education and also serving as a softball and basketball coach. They are the proud parents of Jennifer (32), Kasey (30), Parker (28), and the proud grandparents of Mina.

Congratulations!!

**Makerspace Grand Opening at Alisal Campus**

The April 24, 2018 Makerspace ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony attracted a good crowd. Trustees Pat Donohue as well as former Salinas Mayor, Dennis Donohue were present on behalf of our Foundation and Board. The crowd got to visit the several areas that comprise the Makerspace, including "the idea lab," where the inventors young and old can create prototypes that require messier processes like using a CNC router, laser engraver or vinyl cutter. This lab had a surprise element, comprising the body of an airplane donated by the local Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter.

In another room, away from the dust, one can find a space simulator, robotic equipment, 3D pens, 3D scanner, a wind tunnel and a low gravity simulator. The room formerly served as the NASA SEMAA Aerospace Lab and new pieces of equipment were added to broaden its scope. The room also comprises state of the art computers for programmers, 3D modelers, web developers and hackers alike.

The labs importance is to inspire students and others to make, test and invent, be it new types of airplane wings or
robots. They provide inspiration for users and others to find solutions to problems small or large, and to assist users in achieving their dreams. The spaces are available for students, faculty, and staff to use as well as to community members to bring groups over. Please contact Claudia Maciel at 831-269-9607 or ccontreras@hartnell.edu for more information or to schedule a visit. A mobile lab serves to provide further access to "making."

### 2018 Pister Scholarship Recipient

Last week, during the President’s Cabinet, I had the honor of delivering some good news to one of our students. Nelida Ponce was selected as the Hartnell College recipient of the UC Santa Cruz, Karl S. Pister Leadership Opportunity Program Award. The scholarship is for $20,000 and it is divided into awards of $10,000 per year for two years. She was thankful to the college for all the support she has received in the last three years in assisting her and her two children to thrive. Nelida is an active member of our Hartnell community and also serves as the President of the Associated Students of Hartnell College. Congratulations Nelida!

### Special guest at PAC meeting

The Panther Athletics Council held its quarterly meeting on April 25, 2018 with a special guest. Student-athlete, Keishawn Robinson, football, was there with a sharply prepared speech delivered with accuracy. He shared that he graduated from Seaside High and wanted to do something different than the rest, and came to Hartnell. He is an Administration of Justice major and plans to go to Law School. "During my Junior year in H.S. I made a decision to give it my all and to do whatever it takes to be academically successful," he shared with the group. And so he did. Now, he is not only an excellent athlete, he is also a straight A student! In addition, he enjoys writing poetry. What a multi-dimensional talent we have at Hartnell. Congratulations!
2018 Spring President’s Forum

On Monday, April 23, 2018 I presented an overview of the state of the college at Steinbeck Hall. The forum is an opportunity where I can provide a brief general College update on accreditation, budget, governance, facilities planning, strategic planning, advancement and development, plus we honored the retires for the 2017-18 year. Dr. Lori Kildal and Richard McGrath were present to receive a personalized plaque, and I caught up with Monica Massimo later that day.

The presentation from the forum is available online at [http://www.hartnell.edu/sites/default/files/u90/presidents_forum_2018-04-23.pdf](http://www.hartnell.edu/sites/default/files/u90/presidents_forum_2018-04-23.pdf)

Office of Advancement Retreat accelerates

On April 26, 2018, the Office of Advancement, the Foundation, and K-12 STEM held a half-day staff retreat on Main Campus. Led by Philanthropic Advisor, Steve Weldon and monitored by Strategist, Sonja Koehler, the 5-hour retreat included various exercises on team building, interpersonal communication, body language, donor & friend engagement skills, anchoring in the strategic plan, strengths & challenges, aspirations, and so much more. I was there to open up the conversation and to welcome this group of individuals who do so much for the college and the community. Those participating in the retreat are: Edna Valdez, Michele Peregin, Francesca Caver, Rosie Armstrong, Azucena Yzquierdo, Kira Bona, Monica Conner, Aileen Bradley, Jackie Cruz, Rocio Mendoza, Rafael Mendoza, Cristina Westfall, Maritza Marin, Claudia Contreras, Esmeralda Montenegro Owen, Terri Ugale, Michelle Ramos, and Ashton Clarke.
Bridging the Gap Convening

Influencers from the Salinas Valley and the City of Long Beach from across systems, including union school districts, community colleges, California University and MCOE and Bright Futures, etc. came together for a special convening regarding the Bridging the Gap Initiative this Friday, April 20th. The Bridging the Gap Initiative has been designed to support successful student transitions from high school to postsecondary education and into careers that feed regional economic growth. The group that came together, facilitated by Career Ladders Project, discussed systemic change efforts, and brainstormed strategies for system reform. Specifically, the major points reviewed were: reforms and mandates that are putting pressure on our institutions, including AB 705, the elimination of remediation at the CSUs, Guided Pathways, etc., specific change efforts, including legislative, policy, and advocacy, institutional levers (what core principles, ideas, measures make things move at an institutional level), and, the value propositions for partnering. This was an important time of learning, listening, discussion and encouragement that we hope will inspire and inform action steps and further collaboration efforts.

Presentation on Preventing Crimes Against Children

Erica Rowe (from our HR Department) in collaboration with The Joyful Child Foundation presented “Be Brave Be Safe,” a presentation on adult education for child protection. The 1-hour presentation at Steinbeck Hall, gave the group of attendees, important information and strategies to help keep children safe from abuse and abduction. The discussion was inspiring and empowering on how to create a safer community for all children. For more information, visit www.thejoyfulchild.org
Publication of Genomics paper by General Botany Class

On April 23, 2018, the third Hartnell College Genomics Group manuscript was published. It was accepted by the scientific journal *Mitochondrial DNA Part B: Resources* earlier this month.

“The publication is the result of a General Botany class research project, and involved two sections of biology major's totaling 47 authors,” said Dr. Jeffery Hughey, professor in Biology. The manuscript titled “Analysis of the complete organellar genomes of the rockweed Fucus spiralis (Fucaceae, Phaeophyceae) supports its infraspecific recognition as Fucus vesiculosus var. spiralis,” is the first study detailing the genomic relationship between these two common brown algae.

The paper can be found here: https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23802359.2018.1463829

Students attend Umoja Conference

On April 19-20, 2018, Counselor and Professor Tony Anderson took a group of seven students to Riverside for a series of workshops about African Americans in higher education in California. Twenty other California community colleges were present at the event which took place at University of California, Riverside. It was a day of great exposure and learning for our future leaders.

Students excel at competition in modeling with Differential Equations

Throughout the year, we have offered workshops for students to prepare for a competition in modeling with Differential Equations. “We offered many Friday afternoon sessions (1-hour) and 6 Saturday morning sessions (3-hour) to help engage and excite students, and encourage them to participate in the competition this April,” shared Professor Brian Palmer.

The big event was on Saturday, April 21, 2018, with six student participants who compete in two teams of three. Ian Ulrich, Yousef al-Shinnaui, and Daniel
Lamas competed against Paulo Jauregui, Paula Razo, and Dolores Mora in a modelling challenge using Differential Equations to describe a complicated, but realistic, dynamical system. Ulrich, al-Shinnaui, and Lamas modeled the dynamics of social groups over time, as a function of the group individuals' academic performance. Jauregui, Razo, and Mora modeled the interaction of predator/prey fish populations, where interactions were described as a function of the relative sizes of the fish.

During the week leading up to last Saturday, the teams worked on their problem together, and put together an executive summary, describing their model, and exploring some of its consequences. They were given an additional extension of their problems on Saturday morning, and they worked together to extend their model to include this new scenario. Each team then gave a 10-minute presentation of their model for scoring by judges. The Ulrich, al-Shinnaui, and Lamas team was ultimately victorious over their competitors, but both teams did fantastic work. Each participant enthusiastically endorsed the competition, and a full 6 out of 6 competitors are looking forward to competing again next year.

Special thanks to Dr. Jennifer Moorehouse, Nick Pasquale, and Dr. Mohammed Yahdi for their assistance with the program in general, and for judging on Saturday.

**Hartnell makes history with LGBTQIA+ Ally training**

In collaboration with a group of faculty, staff, and administrators, MiCASA led the planning and implementation of Hartnell’s first ever LGBTQIA+ Ally training on Wednesday, April 18, and Friday, April 20, 2018. Evolve Benton of the UCSF Diversity Center implemented the training. Over 80 Hartnell employees were in attendance. Participants gained knowledge of the diversity within the LGBTQIA+ community, and developed strategies for creating a more inclusive campus.

**Independent Living Program Career Fair: Depart Smart**

The Independent Living Program (ILP) in the Foster and Kinship office provides comprehensive services and support to successfully transition foster youth from dependency to self-sufficiency. Earlier this April, the ILP program facilitated Depart Smart, a career fair and resource hub for these 14-21-year-old individuals, hosted by Calvary Church in Monterey.

“The most important thing I learned was
how much education I need for different fields of work,” said one of the attending foster youth (their faces have been blurred).
Among the career fields represented were medical (nursing and veterinarian), agriculture, cosmetology, law enforcement, social services, social media including a representative from Google, photography/art, and the military. In the resource section, the foster youth had access to free professional clothing that had been donated, programs that focus on supporting foster youth through college (Guardian Scholars), as well as finances, housing options, medical care access, community support groups, and employment preparation. “Learning to be on my own and paying rent was helpful,” reports another transition-age foster youth. This annual event continues to be successful and inspires foster youth to utilize resources and empower themselves.

**Seed Central Networking and Career Faire**

On April 19, 2018, Seed Central (the premier organization networking California seed companies and higher educational institutions) had its spring meeting at the Hartnell Main Campus. Nine industry professionals described their path into the seed industry to a packed Steinbeck Hall filled with Hartnell students and students from around the region. Three of the speakers were Hartnell Alumni, while most of the others came from a local community college background. The event concluded with the students networking with a variety of representatives from local seed companies.

**Panthers finish 17-18 season with 5-2 win over Foothill**

As the 2017-2018 season comes to an end, one game remains in the regular season for the Lady Panthers. The Hartnell Women’s Softball Team headed over to Foothill with a recent 3-2 win over West Valley. At the top of the 1st inning, due to a sac-fly error by Foothill, Angelina Ruiz took the chance to give Hartnell a 1-0 lead. As the game continued Hartnell expanded their lead in the 4th inning, as the Lady Panthers scored another 4 runs. Celeste Canchola singled with an RBI. With bases loaded Jennifer Lafayette walked and received an RBI that led to Jasmine Aten advancing to second base, and Celeste Canchola advancing to third and having Nicole Martinez score. Angelina Ruiz also doubled with 2 RBIs bringing in Jasmine Aten and Celeste Canchola. The final score of the game came out to 5-3 as Foothill scored late. The Hartnell Women’s Softball team finished the 2017-2018 season with a 2-game winning streak, 16-17 (.485) overall record with an 8-6 (.571) conference record.
Administrative professionals day celebrated

On Wednesday, April 25, 2018, we celebrated our administrative assistants along with the rest of the country. Members of the President’s Executive Cabinet hosted their executive and administrative assistants to breakfast at Ellie’s in Salinas. Thank you to all the administrative professionals for their service to Hartnell College, you are truly appreciated. Those present were: Jackie Cruz, VP Advancement and Development; Ben Figueroa, VP Administrative Services; yours truly; Terri Pyer, Associate Vice President (Human Resources and EEO); Nonita Fortman, Administrative Assistant; Terri Ugale, Executive Assistant; Cristina Zavala, Administrative Assistant; Lucy Serrano, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/President and Board of Trustees; Juana Montelongo, Administrative Assistant; Laura Warren, Executive Assistant; Monica Massimo, Executive Assistant; Jacqueline Flores, Executive Assistant; Dina Hayashi, Executive Assistant; Dr. Lori Kildal, VP Academic Affairs; Dave Phillips, VP Information Services; Dr. Romero Jalomo, VP Student Affairs; and Esmeralda Montenegro Owen, Director of Communications, Marketing, and Public Relations.

CDC Celebrates Spring

To celebrate spring, the children at the Child Development Center invited their parents for a garden party to participate in the annual planting of the sunflowers. The children and their families explored many STEM related activities. One of the favorites was digging for worms. After the party the children wanted to involve the College Community. They used the seeds they had harvested to make seed packets to share. The children visited many areas around campus and passed out their seeds.

Student wins Pepsi Bubbly Contest!

The Grille has random contests from time to time, thus students should be encouraged to participate. During this spring semester Pepsi is promoting their ‘Bubbly’ brand, and put out a contest. The winner is student Edy Antoine who won a new set of wireless headphones. Congratulations and thanks for playing!
UPCOMING EVENTS

Ceramics 2-Day Sale
Student Center
May 2 and 3, 2018 – 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Blood Drive sponsored by
2018 Vocational Nurses
May 4, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Steinbeck Hall

Star Wars day presented by
the Astronomy Club and the Planetarium
Friday, May 4, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. for telescope viewing
At the Planetarium at 1:30 p.m. for the presentation of
A Cosmic Story

Western Food Safety Summit
May 9, 2018
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
At the Mainstage Theater

For more events, go to Calendar at http://www.hartnell.edu/hartnell-college-events-calendar
IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

County Clipboard: A dozen Panthers extend football careers
http://www.montereyherald.com/article/NF/20180422/SPORTS/180429958

Weekend Roundup, 4/23: St. Francis, Watsonville athletes break records
https://register-pajaronian.com/article/weekend-roundup-423-st-francis-
watsonville-athletes-break-records

Lowering the Lights
https://voicesofmontereybay.org/2018/04/24/lowering-the-lights/

Local Roundup: Monterey’s Neterer win MBL girls diving title
http://www.montereyherald.com/sports/20180425/local-roundup-montereys-
neterer-win-mbl-girls-diving-title

Flores selected as new board of trustee
https://gonzalestribune.com/article/flores-selected-as-new-board-trustee

Hawaiian players bring island flair to Hartnell baseball diamond
https://www.thecalifornian.com/story/sports/2018/04/25/hawaiian-players-
bring-island-flair-hartnell-baseball-diamond/538412002/