Campus greets VP Lolland at reception

Hartnell College faculty, staff, and Governing Board members welcomed Dr. Sonja Lolland, our new vice president of academic affairs, at a reception on Sept. 4.

Dr. Lolland has 20 years of experience in California community colleges. For the past two years, she was vice president of academics and student services for two years at Yuba College, where she led instructional and student services. She previously worked for 19 years at Sierra College, where she became dean of the Business, Applied Academics and Physical Education Division. Prior to moving into administration, she was a part-time and tenured business instructor at Sierra.

Dr. Lolland also has 11 years of business experience at small, medium and large companies, including Arthur Andersen & Company, First Nationwide Bank and Verio, Inc. She holds a doctoral degree in educational leadership from the University of California, Davis, a master’s degree in business from California State University, and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of California, Davis.

Dr. Lolland serves on the board of the California Community College Athletics Association and the statewide advisory committee for the CCC Maker Initiative and is a member of the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA) and the California Community Colleges Chief Instructional Officers (CCCCIO).

New employees tour The Western Stage

The 2018-19 First Friday series for new employees kicked off Sept. 7 with a tour of The Western Stage and a presentation about the theater’s 44-year history of offering high quality theater to the Salinas Valley.

First Friday participants will continue to meet monthly throughout the year as a way to introduce first-year employees to the programs, people and services of Hartnell College.
During the Sept. 7 event, participants walked around the construction site for a new theater lobby on their way to tour the green room, 500-seat Mainstage theater, backstage area and the 99-seat BlackBox Studio Theatre.

Artistic Director Jon Selover shared The Western Stage story and how it has intertwined with John Steinbeck’s Salinas legacy over three decades. He discussed how each production is the theater equivalent to a teaching hospital, with much of the work done by students learning their craft. Selover also described the state-of-the-art upgrades to sound and lighting in the Mainstage proscenium theater. The group saw the developing set for the upcoming production of “American Night: The Ballad of Juan Jose,” which uses triangular periaktoi from ancient Greek theater for scene changes.

Delegation completes Oxacan cultural training

Nine Hartnell employees and one student last month attended a cross-cultural training in Soledad to learn about the way of life and needs of indigenous migrants from the Mexican state of Oaxaca who have settled in the Salinas Valley.

Held Aug. 24 at Our Lady of Solitude Catholic Church, the “indigenous knowledge” training was provided by Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño (Binational Center for the Development of Oaxacan Indigenous Communities) and was sponsored and organized by the Salinas Valley Adult Education Consortium (SVAEC) at Hartnell College. The aim was improving services to what has become one of the largest communities of Oaxaqueños in California, especially in Greenfield, most of whom speak the indigenous languages of Trique and Mixteco.

The event drew more than 50 educators and other professionals from 26 different agencies, including teachers, counselors, social service providers and law enforcement. Kristen Arps, SVAEC director, encouraged participants to apply their new knowledge in their daily lives. “We usually think of increasing equity at a systemic level,” she said, “but let’s also use what we learn
today to build equity on a personal level, every day, every moment, as professionals and as community members.”

Attendees increased their awareness and understanding of Oaxacan culture, languages, indigenous heritage, family structures and values. They also learned about the factors leading to Oaxacan emigration and migration patterns and the socioeconomic conditions of Oaxacan migrants in rural California. These migrants face significant barriers to education, health care and other social services and face many challenges during the assimilation process, particularly those who speak neither English nor Spanish.

In addition to Arps, those attending from Hartnell were Alicia Gregory, also from the SVAEC; Ana Gonzalez, continuing education; Mostafa Ghous and Ernesto Rodriguez from the King City Education Center; Dr. Nereida Oliva, Mi CASA staff/Ethnic Studies faculty; Jesus Villicana, ESL faculty; Bronwyn Moreno and Yuliana Vásquez from MiCASA; and Estefanía Escalante, student ambassador.

Bronwyn Moreno, director of Student Affairs, Special Programs, noted that “many of our students speak indigenous languages as well as Spanish and English and are leaders within their families. We are privileged at Hartnell to have the opportunity to serve students and families who bring these unique talents and strengths to our institution.”

This fall our college will launch the Hartnell Catalyst Project for undocumented students and families. The Oaxacan cross-cultural training was an excellent first start in building our capacity to serve the indigenous community in a meaningful and respectful way.

Hartnell Cross Country alumnus with L.A. Chargers

Skip Powers, pictured (left) with David Beymer, athletic instructor and trainer, was a member of the Hartnell Cross Country team in 2001 and 2002 and the track team in 2002 and 2003. He is now senior manager for football public relations with the NFL’s Los Angeles Chargers. Prior to joining the Chargers, Powers worked in sports information for the University of Alabama and UCLA.
Mexican masks and Kavan Lake photos on display now in Seminar Gallery
Two new exhibits have opened at the Seminar Gallery in the Visual Arts Building (J). One features selections from the Hartnell College collection of festival masks from Mexico. The other is an exhibit of Kavan Lake’s photographs called “Dancers Upstage.”

The Mexican masks, which reflect a blending of pre-Hispanic beliefs and rituals with Christian traditions, include those worn by dancers to represent everything from old men to devils to an array of animals. Devils, for example, are depicted with a European type of red face, and native animals such as the tiger are presented as an abstract embodiment.

Lake, whose work focuses on dancers upstaging and outshining their surroundings, is a retired Marine chopper pilot, engineer who lives in Salinas with his wife and two daughters.

Known as a lover of all people, the former student of Hartnell Photography Professor Eric Bosler met on Aug. 29 with Hartnell’s visual arts students, Council for the Arts members and others. He explained that he has sought for more than six years to establish “a connection between the dancers, my camera and their movements.” Lake hopes viewers take the time with the work to be in the moment with dancers and photographer.

The mask exhibit will be on display through Nov. 2, and the photography through Oct. 5.

Walk of Honor pavers recognize key individuals
I am pleased to announce this year’s opportunity to honor former Hartnell College students, employees and board members through dedicated pavers for the Walk of Honor, dedicated last year as a place for remembrance and reflection.

Many individuals who have passed through Hartnell College made significant contributions to the evolution of the college and made a difference in the lives of others. Students and others have lost their lives before they could make their full mark on Hartnell and the world.

The Walk of Honor on the south side of the Learning Resource Center (Bldg. A) provides an opportunity to remember, recognize and honor these individuals. Eligible to receive this honor are former employees, students and Governing Board members. They need not be deceased. Members of both the campus and surrounding communities can participate.
The form for ordering a paver for the Walk of Honor is attached. The pavers are 8-by-8 inches, with room for six lines of text, 23 characters per line. I encourage you to see the pavers that have already been installed. To place a paver at the site, complete the attached form and return to the Hartnell College Foundation Office by Sept. 28.

We anticipate holding a brief ceremony this semester to honor those newly added to the Walk of Honor. I look forward to joining with you in recognizing outstanding individuals in this way.

The Western Stage prepares to stage “American Night”

The Western Stage is in rehearsal for "American Night: The Ballad of Juan Jose," a raucous comedy whose cast includes two of our students, Gabriel Alvizo and Jacob Juarez, and former student TJ Toribio is designing the set. "American Night" follows Juan Jose as he studies for his citizenship exam and finds himself on a fantastic odyssey through American history. Is the "American Dream" all it promises to be? Performs Sept. 22 – Oct. 7 in the Studio Theatre. Admission is free for Hartnell students and $15 for faculty and staff.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Respiratory Care Program Informational Session
4-4:45 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 18
Building – B, 110

Vocational Nursing Informational Session
3-5 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 19
Building – B, 110

Registered Nursing Informational Session
4-4:45 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 19
Building – B, 110
WELI Forum
5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Tehama Golf Club
Thursday, Sept. 20

Gala for the Arts
5:00 p.m.
STEM Center Building
Sunday, Nov. 18

Athletics Hall of Fame
11:45 a.m.
Saturday, Nov. 3
Hartnell College – Main Campus
Information: 831-755-6810 or email to aclarke@hartnell.edu.

For more events, go to Calendar at www.hartnell.edu

IN THE NEWS
Going to college is not a clear-cut path for first-generation students, but they are persisting

Local Roundup: Hartnell women win cross country invite