Summer Ahead

Over the course of the year we are all busy going about our daily routines. We become consumed by what we are doing and frequently fail to recognize the results of our efforts. I want to point out a few accomplishments that I have noticed as we close out the year.

There are 369 students graduating this year (with degrees and/or certificates.)
Over $80,000 in scholarship money was presented to 120 students.
GavFest 2005 was a success and Bach to Blues was sold out. (As a result of this event, community members have approached us to ask what they could do to help support additional programs in the music area.)

New initiatives for the year included: First Year Experience, Block Schedule, development of the Transfer Institute, development of the Noncredit program, planning for use of Measure E bond funds, development work for procurement and establishment of a campus in Coyote Valley, development work to study use of the golf course property for active older adult, student and faculty/staff housing, decision to go to a 16-week calendar in Fall, 2006, development of Student Mediation services, and more.

May is the month in which we celebrate the success of our students with year end events and especially the graduation ceremony. This is the time to acknowledge the efforts of everyone on campus who contributes to the success of our students. Faculty can be especially proud because you have made a difference in the lives of every one of the students. Congratulations on assisting another graduating class in achieving an important milestone as they pursue their individual goals.

Summer is a time to recharge and relish all that you have achieved during the year. The pace on campus is a bit slower (unless you work in admissions!) and many take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy well deserved vacations. This summer we are going to prepare to generate an updated Educational Master Plan, Facilities Master Plan, Technology Plan and Strategic Plan. All of the plans need to be current before we complete the accreditation self study report.

Our list of accomplishments illustrates that a lot of work has gone into implementing portions of our Strategic Plan. This year we moved beyond the vision of being “The College of Choice” and have initiated actions to realize that vision. Visioning is theoretical in nature and is usually fairly easy to understand. Implementation of a plan is far more difficult than plan development and it is easy to become disillusioned. Because implementation requires change, it can create resistance and fear. However, great benefits can result from successful change efforts. Next year we should see the benefits of many of the changes that occurred this year.

Persistence, patience and a focus on student needs will make us the College of Choice. This is a long journey. We will travel the road together and take the breaks we need along the way. For many of you, summer is a good opportunity for a break. For others it is simply a break from business as usual. Please enjoy it and return with renewed vigor for the next phase of the journey.

Sincerely

Steve Kinsella
Good News and End-of-Semester Thoughts
Thank you to everyone who contributed a story or letter for this section.

From **Dennie Van Tassel**: A new CSIS Certificate, Computational Preparation for Bioinformatics was just approved this semester. Two days after we announced the new Certificate, one of our students looked at the Certificate requirements and decided he wanted one. He had taken all the Gavilan classes required for the Certificate, and filled out the paper work for our new Certificate and will graduate in June. He has a B.S. in Chemistry and is working in the Bioinformatics field and felt this new Certificate would help his career.

**Employee of the Month**

April 2005: 
**Mark Friedman**

May 2005: 
**Rose Rodriguez**

**EOPS/CalWORKS Gives Awards**

The EOPS/CalWORKs department had their end of the year Awards BBQ, Wednesday, May 18, from 1:00-3:00 in the North/South Lounge. This was the first time they had a daytime event to honor graduates and transfer students. Three special students were recognized: Mindy Forsberg, Outstanding Student, Jesus Becerra, for Leadership, and Beatriz Ramos, Highest GPA.

The EOPS and CalWORKs Programs would like to acknowledge the following faculty who were nominated by our graduating and transferring students as the faculty who were most instrumental in helping them attain their academic goals.

Denise Besson-Silvia, Marlene Dwyer, Bea Lawn Kimberly Smith, Leslie Tenney, Jason Wolowitz

Congratulations and thank you for going “above and beyond” to teach students. We appreciate your dedication!

**It’s good to be back!**

I first started teaching at Gavilan in 1978. Over the years I’ve taught history and political science, and was the golf coach in the late 80’s. All of that as a part-timer.

I left Gavilan “for greener pastures” in 1990, but returned this semester (teaching Western Civ and American History) after a 15-year absence. And I’m glad I did. I’ve enjoyed my return, being with faculty and staff I hadn’t seen in years, meeting new faculty, and, of course, enjoying my students.

It’s good to be back, making NEW memories!

David B. Kier
Dept. of History

**GavFEST photos**

by Fran Lozano
Communications Students Make a Big Impact on the Community

Denise Besson-Silvia had a great semester with her small group communications class. The students worked in small groups to research, design, and implement a project to benefit the community. The projects were as different as they were compelling. Their accomplishments are inspiring.

The Care Bears (Eric Waszolek, Adriane deSousa, Danielle Torrez, Jennifer Yip, Angela Saguindel and Sayed Hashimi) raised $5,371.19 through a raffle and donation drive that was then matched by a private donor raising their fundraising efforts to a grand total of $10,742.38 for Heritage Home in San Jose. This is a safe haven for women who find themselves in crisis pregnancy. The home houses young women during their pregnancy and then assists them in finding the resources they need to become housed, employed, continue their education and be self-sufficient mothers. The group also collected hundreds of baby items and held a baby shower for the mothers. It was very moving and emotional. They were very grateful and thanked Gavilan College and the Care Bears for all of the support.

Operation Frontline (Angelica Rojas, Curtis Lilly, Victoria Tamayo, Celia Hoeft, Manual Bradish and John Hutchinson) raised $961.60 through tables set up at GavFEST and in front of Safeway. They donated the money to the Army and Air Force Exchange Services for the purchase of 115 calling cards that will be sent to the troops in Iraq. Cumulatively the group volunteered over 90 hours.

The Sunshine Gang (Elma Mendoza, Dora Trueba, Kim Wright, Margarita Ojeda and Annette Amezcua) worked to shed light on sexual assault. The six strong women volunteered over 96 hours raising awareness about sexual assault and child abuse. In conjunction with Community Solutions they participated in Denim Day, the March Against Rape and represented Community Solutions at an informational table at GavFEST.

Project P.A.W. (Daniel Remmick, Gina Gozzo, Julie Gozzo, Trish Hunt, Jennifer Morcate and Mark Alsup) Through the combined efforts of donation drives and individual donations, they raised $286.55 and collected HUNDREDS of items for animals. They donated everything to both the San Martin and Hollister animal shelters as well as donating 90 hours volunteering time at the shelters. They walked dogs, took care of kittens and cleaned.
Upcoming Events

June 6, 13, 20  Summer classes start

June 23  Hollister Saddle Horse Show Parade

June 24  Grand Opening, HSIAC
         Computer Technology Center at
         South Valley Junior High School

July 4  Morgan Hill 4th of July Parade - July 4

July 22 & 23  Gilroy STAR presents
              *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
              Gavilan College Theater

July 15 & 16  Morgan Hill STAR presents
              *Jungle Book*
              Morgan Hill Community Playhouse

Aug. 12 & 13  San Juan Bautista STAR presents
              *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
              El Teatro Campesino

August 19  Staff Development Day

August 22  Fall classes begin