Ring in the New Year
by President Steve Kinsella

Welcome to the start of the New Year. At the start of each year, it is wise to take some time to assess our strategic direction to determine if there should be some adjustments to the plan and what amount of progress we are making in achieving the plan goals. As a reminder to you all, the College’s key strategy areas to make Gavilan the College of Choice are:

• Improve transfer and completion rates to be in the top 20% of California Community Colleges
• Identify where customer service should be enhanced and implement training and feedback in order to ensure that students, staff and community are treated with respect
• Acquire the land and facilities and improve existing facilities to meet the needs of the community
• Strengthen the system to support underprepared students
• Be the employer of choice of all community colleges within the region
• Take a leadership position in economic development specifically in the area of Biotechnology/Bioscience to develop an industry base in Gavilan’s service area
• Be an active member in state community college events

The foundation has been laid for us to move forward with implementation activities to bring us closer to realizing our strategic goals. Measure E funding has allowed us to gather key data about our service area. This data has been important in recognizing that we have a lot of work to do before we can say we are in fact the College of Choice for the residents of our service area. The work of the College of Choice Task Force will be especially useful in helping us achieve a number of the strategic plan objectives.

Becoming the College of Choice is at least a ten year project. We may see some immediate improvements but in all likelihood instant changes in the communities’ perspective of us is not going to occur. Patience and persistence will be required to realize this vision.

There are several key goals that I will be pursuing during the upcoming year. Those goals include:

1. Identify courses of action to stabilize and grow student enrollment
   a. Develop the implementation plan for a 16-week academic calendar
   b. Establish an effective marketing plan
   c. Establish stronger connections with the local high schools to ensure local students are provided with information on why they should choose Gavilan College in lieu of other community colleges
   d. Develop the noncredit program as a support program for the college’s credit programs and to reach underserved populations within the district.

continue on page 3
Employee of the Month

The President's Council selected Robert Rinck (pictured here as "Ballot Boy" on Halloween) as November's Employee of the Month.

Faculty newsmaker

Distance Education coordinator Joanne Howell was selected as a finalist by the Sofia (Sharing of Free Intellectual Assets) Project, for contributing content for her online course Web Page Authoring.

It is one of eight free courses now available online through the Sofia open content initiative, made possible by the joint contributions of faculty, The William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, and Foothill-De Anza Community College District.

The pilot grant open content initiative, Sofia was initiated in March of 2004. “Open” content refers to material that is freely available for use by faculty, students, and self-learners.

"I did a lot of work in the development of the course. It is fun to think that after I retire other people could use it and build upon it,” said Howell.

The Sofia finalists include content contributed by faculty from five California Community Colleges. Sofia sought to answer fundamental questions regarding the publication of “open” course materials: Is there available online content? Is it interactive and of high-quality? Is faculty willing to share it freely? What content conversion processes must take place to make the materials “re-usable” by others?

The Sofia Gallery can now be accessed by instructors developing online courses. "It can be used as a starting point to teach online," explained Howell, "so that an instructor moving into the online arena can customize without having to start from scratch."

To find out more about Sofia go to http://sofia.fhda.edu/index.htm

Photo Album

The EOPS/CalWORKs annual holiday event was a great success due to the generous support of Gavilan Staff. Our Santa Claus, (Fabio Gonzales) charmed the children, and Debbie Roderick, Maintenance Staff, Hope Jukl, and Lorraine Welk, provided contributions that made the evening extra special. Thanks to all for donating to this worthwhile event.

Gloria Luna (Ms. Claus) and grandson await Santa (Fabio Gonzalez).

Anne Ratto, Michelle Reardon (EOPS Club), Lucy Olivares, and Susanne Muszala share some holiday spirit.

Everyone enjoyed the great food and beautiful decorations at the Staff Holiday Potluck.
2. Initiate development work on the long-range facilities master plans for Coyote Valley, San Benito County and the Gilroy campus.

3. Develop the implementation schedule for use of the Measure E funding.

4. Work to improve the image of the College and make Gavilan the College of Choice.

5. Develop the leadership talent within the College.

6. Manage change efforts in a way that maintains a positive climate on campus.

I am especially concerned about managing the pace of change as we proceed to develop ideas and implement actions suggested by the College of Choice Task Force.

Also starting in the Spring semester will be the formulation of the team structure and a training session to prepare for the upcoming Accreditation process.

Sincerely,

Steve Kinsella

P.S. I know you are all aware of the devastation caused by the tsunami in Asia. I encourage you all to assist as you can through a charity of your choice.

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Mayock descendants visit family's historic home

On December 22, a group of visitors came to the Mayock house to get in touch with their family history. Karen (Mayock) Lefton, pictured far right, is the great granddaughter of Stonewall "Stoney" Mayock, who built the house with his father Michael Mayock. Stoney Mayock was the proprietor of the Central Hotel in downtown Gilroy. Lefton is also the niece of Bonnie Welburn of Gilroy.

Now a resident of Los Altos, Karen Lefton was delighted to make her first visit to the Mayock House at Gavilan College. "My grandmother had those pictures in her bedroom!" she exclaimed upon viewing the framed prints in what is now the main meeting room of the Mayock House. The family asked questions about both the renovation and the current use of the house, and were impressed that it has become a place of importance to the decision-making process of the college.

Accompanying Lefton were her husband, her daughter Erin Schenone of San Mateo, (with her husband Brian and daughter Olivia) and her son Chris Whittaker of Campbell, (with wife Carrie and daughter Carly.)

Ring in the New Year, continued
Upcoming Events

January
21  Staff Development Day  408-848-4711
29  Science Alive! conference

February – Black History Month
3   Stand Together Group mixer – 4 p.m. in the North Lounge. All invited.
14  Healthy Relationships Day and Club Day
25  Bach to Blues! With Maria Amirkhanian, Dave Porcella, Nate Pruitt, John Garcia, Art Juncker, and more. Preshow: 7:00 p.m., show starts 7:30 p.m. Tickets available now: 408-846-4973.
 
TBA  Rams Ladies Luncheon – a benefit for women's athletics.

Save the Date!!!

Friday May 21

Staff Recognition and Retirement Celebration

Get ready for Mardi Gras......
......at Eagle Ridge