Dear Colleagues:

This is our last issue of SPDIRECT before the holidays; except if there is new and urgent information to share with you. Even though there is something to report on the budget front, I will spare you that because whatever I may say now will change by the time you return from break or shortly thereafter. Let us take a break from the bad news and gear ourselves to enjoy our time away and to refresh for the spring.

You may recall, in the fall last year, I shared with you or reiterated what Dr. Jensen had said, “Banner rolled over us.” While we will continue to master the software, at least one piece is completed. We have stabilized Banner 7 and successfully migrated to Banner 8. Students are currently enrolling using Banner 8 and other transactions are taking place. With hard work from Jim Ennis and Kimo Calilan, we now have and are perfecting a system called VIDYO that will allow us to discuss services with students remotely or teach courses remotely. It is a nice replacement for Interactive Television. The system will allow us to offer the same class at all sites, or wherever student or faculty will be. We will be discussing these in the future.

I want to thank each of you for your commitment to our students and to one another.

Happy Holidays! May you and your loved ones be safe and healthy. We look forward to seeing you back in January for a successful conclusion of this academic year.

Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D.
Superintendent-President

Board of Trustees Meeting Report

The Board met for a Study Session on December 1. It heard the following reports:

- Dr. Betsy Julian, Dean of Mathematics and Science and Chair of the Sustainability Committee, briefed the Board on the College’s efforts toward sustainability. One pillar of this effort is the signature of a document called the Presidents’ Commitment to Climate Control. Dr. Julian encouraged the Board to support the College’s signature to this commitment.
Important Dates to Remember

Special Events
- January 16 - "Living the Dream" Celebration in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, 3-6 p.m.

Upcoming Board Meetings
- January 19 – Regular Board Meeting

Board of Trustees Meeting Report (Continued)

- Dr. Jowel Laguerre, Superintendent-President made a presentation to the Board in regard to the Community College Completion Agenda. This presentation was based on three distinct reports and efforts at the national and state level. Each report encourages community colleges to ramp up their graduation numbers to meet the intellectual, scientific and workforce demands of the nation. Two reports asked the colleges to produce more college graduates. All the documents suggested that we cannot and will not achieve much greater success if we do not close the achievement gap of minority and poor students. The Superintendent-President shared with the Board that to accomplish these goals will require difficult and courageous conversations.

- The Board also heard a presentation from a financial firm, Caldwell Flores Winters, Inc., that show that the possibility of another bond is real and that the College should be planning for this opportunity to happen at the November 2012 general elections, provided we are ready.

The Board approved the Emeritus policy. This policy allows the College to recognize individuals who have served the College for ten or more years, upon their retirement. Thus, there will be professor, staff, and trustee emeriti. The policy takes effect immediately.

At the upcoming December 15, 2010, Board Meeting, the following items are up for the Board’s consideration and action:

- New Governing Board President election
- New Governing Board Vice President election
- Governing Board Secretary (likely Dr. Laguerre)
- Hiring of Director of Fiscal Services
- Retirement of Sharron Murray (thank you for your service, Sharron!)
- Sabbatical leaves (four faculty)
- Agreement with Meyer Corporation
- Job Description changes: Campus Extended Assistants to Student Services Generalists
- New Accounting Manager: Job title change and upgrade
- New Broker of Employee Health Benefits
- Proposed Academic Calendar for 2011-2012
Mission Statement

Solano Community College prepares a diverse student population to participate successfully in today’s local and global communities. We accomplish our mission by providing:
- quality teaching
- innovative programs
- effective transfer preparation
- a broad curriculum
- services that are responsive to the needs of our students
- life-long learning
- economic and workforce development

Banner 7 to Banner 8 Conversion

Dear Colleagues: This is an excerpt of my bulletin to the Trustees. I wanted to share this with you as well as give you a glimpse of the great efforts our staff made to get Banner going. Of course, almost everyone plays a role in this conversion; albeit tangential. You all gave up the use of the system and were at times inconvenienced. Yet, nobody complained. Thank you.

The Week It Was: Starting on November 19th, the access to Banner was discontinued so full work could start on the conversion. Of course, for several months staff had tested and retested the software. Staff members and SunGard consultants spent three days working on the conversion Monday-Wednesday. By Tuesday, we were receiving updates and the signal that many things were working, but that some were not. They had all but given up on the Students’ module because it would not work. However, all efforts were to be devoted to resolve the students’ module because registration was to start the coming Monday (29th). We agreed that staff would take Thursday off, but would work on Friday and Saturday to see if the issues could be resolved or if we would go back to Version 7. The problem with the module was diagnosed and was found that staff at SunGard did not take care of certain issues to allow the module to be implemented successfully. SunGard deployed two technicians to help resolve the issues. By Friday, things looked very promising and the staff felt that we were in a good position to finish the conversion and stay with Banner 8. At the end of the day on Saturday, after some long hours of testing and re-testing, we had a conference call with Barbara Fountain, Arturo Reyes, Jim Ennis, and Mike Schmidt from SunGard. At that time we made the decision to go live with Banner 8.

Students are now able to start registering in the new system. SunGard is making sure that we have support on site in case we need it.

Lessons: There are many lessons to draw from this experience:
- Support for the team is crucial to keep it going.
- The front line workers and their supervisors worked extremely hard to accomplish the task and were patient beyond the call of duty.
- Implementing this system is a very difficult task our staff members have undertaken on our behalf.
- Regardless of the system, much comes down to leadership and the commitment from the staff that they, “cannot not make this happen.” That is exactly where we were on November 24th.

Gratitude: I want to express our gratitude to the following staff and individuals:
- Financial Aid staff involved in the testing led by Arthur Lopez. Their testing went fine and so did their conversion. But a lot of hard work went into it.
- The Curriculum staff of Pei-Lin Van’t Hul and Tina Abbate.
- Human Resources staff led by Karen Ulrich.
- The Finance team led by Terri Ryland, Ron Cox, and Roy Stutzman.
- The IT staff and their leader Jim Ennis, but in particular Justin Howell and Scott Ota.
- The Admissions and Record staff involved in the project led by Barbara Fountain.
- Jim Ennis for his endurance with this project. Although we still have a lot of work ahead of us, Jim’s leadership has been extraordinaire for what he inherited and where he was able to take the Banner project as he continues to hold his old position.
- Not to be forgotten are the Administrative Assistants who participated with the testing; Ralphpine Andrus, Kathleen Callison, Jill Crompton, Donna Meyer, Roxie Morgan, Lisa Raquel, Sheryl Scott, and Debbie Luttrell-Williams.
Banner 7 to Banner 8 Conversion (Continued)

Not enough can be said to and about the staff that hung in there over the weekend to get us ready to register students on time and to take a giant step forward:

- Program leader Jim Ennis.
- Student Module leader Barbara Fountain, who refused to be satisfied until she was sure that things were working for students.

The following non-administrative staff who gave us their whole weekend (away from their family members working at least eight hours Friday and Saturday) to make sure things were working. This is great dedication and sacrifice for the College:

- From A&R: April Takahashi, Laurie Cheatham, Andrea Uhl, Tonya Kent, and Maria Delgado.
- From Information Technology: Jay Robinson (JR), Evette Nichols, and Seweryn Makosa.

One of the major milestones of the contract with SunGard was to have Banner 8 running. The team of SunGard and SCC made it happen. I am not saying that all our issues are resolved, but we have made strides.

A Note from Trustee Keith

“I am so impressed with and proud of our staff and all the hard work they have done. Please relay how grateful I am for their sacrifice and dedication. Thank you for the surprise SP Gram. I needed to hear something positive, and there you were with such uplifting news about Banner. Have a great day!”  Pam

Winter Holiday Celebration

Community building has been an expectation of the Board and the College community as we have moved forward, and is part of the ACCJC Recommendation One. This was highly and successfully demonstrated this past week at Solano Community College. Although we have had gatherings before, the College held a first-time breakfast for the holidays and many employees remarked that it was the best gathering they had been a part of. The event was well attended by staff, faculty and students as well as members of our employees’ families. The administrators served the breakfast and several activities took place. Christie Juliano and her choir had a successful audience participation singing of “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” in addition to other beautiful songs they sang. Professor Sean Maddox provided remarks on non-denominational Christmas and Ralphine Andrus led the committee in a sing-along number. The committee of Ralphine Andrus, Peter Bostic, Arthur Lopez, Karen Mitchell, Pat Mitchell, Ann Short, and others could not have done a better job at bringing us together as a family. While several faculty members participated, many could not be there due to class conflict. This is a problem the committee will continue to work on. My gratitude to the committee as well as the union and senate presidents who joined me as co-hosts of the event and who also served breakfast. Several departments donated baskets for raffle prizes. A heartfelt thank-you to the donors. As we celebrate one another, it gives us the environment and the framework to solve major issues when we are confronted with them.
Solano Sports at Home

Go Falcons!

- December 10-12 – Women’s Basketball (Solano Showdown)
- January 5 – Men’s Basketball (Napa Valley College)
- January 5 – Women’s Basketball (Napa Valley College)

First Day of Registration and Banner 8

The implementation of Banner 8 has occurred. We continue to have some minor glitches in the system, but they are handled as they come up. Overall the system is working and attention is being turned to enhancements as we continually maintain the new system. Once again, our gratitude goes to the staff members who have worked diligently to make things operational.

Meeting with President Gonzalez and Staff at Sacramento State University

Executive Vice President Reyes, Executive Director Bostic, Dean Lewis and I met with President Gonzalez and three of his senior staff members to discuss the possibility of Sacramento State offering Bachelor’s degrees at our Vacaville Center. The University and its President remain interested. We dialogued about a variety of issues pertaining to the potential new venture. We are going to engage in some in-depth exploration of what the area needs, what businesses and organizations will support, and the best format to offer access to the Bachelor’s Degree. We toured the campus with the President and were impressed with what the University has to offer.

Staff Performance Evaluation

I completed the evaluation of the administrative staff reporting to the Superintendent-President. Several of the administrators are new to their positions. The process gave us a formal way to see where they are and what needs to be accomplished for the rest of the year.

Holiday Party at Travis

I attended a holiday party at Travis Air Force Base on Wednesday. It was an opportunity to reconnect with the various members of the Travis Community Consortium and get acquainted with new personnel at Travis I had not yet met. I met the commander of the David Grant Medical Center. We are planning to meet after the holidays to explore partnerships.

Community Celebration at the Laguerre’s

Over 70 people came to the house to participate in our traditional holiday open house for the College’s partners. We had representation from federal, state, county, and city officials. Several business partners were also on hand for the celebration, as were members of the College Foundation and partners from Travis. Several administrators helped us with the hosting and everyone had a genuine good time.

The Salvation Army Bell Ringing for Rotary

My daughter, Marthe-Shela, and I spent a couple of hours ringing bells to raise funds for The Salvation Army on Saturday at Suisun City. People were very generous. I must confess that a member of the public pushed my button and we sang several Christmas carols. He provided the English and I provided the French, all harmonized. I wanted to share this in case people report that the President was heard singing in public.
Travis Air Force Base Honorary Commander Program

December 5 was the Honorary Commander program at Travis. You may recall that I am an honorary commander for the 349th Mobility Wing. The 349 is a reserve unit involved in aircraft repair and maintenance. I especially like the assignment as it allows me to work with the commander to provide access for our Aeronautics students to the maintenance facilities at Travis as field trips.

Delta Sigma Theta World Program

Delta Sigma Theta collaborated with the College to present information on health and international development. Dr. Karen McCord’s UMOJA students also made presentations at the gathering. Trustee Chapman attended the event and was one of the speakers.

Injury Prevention Workshop

The College has seen a spike in the number of on-campus injuries. As a response, I asked our Risk Management company to provide some training on injury prevention to our employees.

Ghous Completes Master’s Degree

Congratulations to Mostafa Ghous, Director of Student Development and MESA for completing his Master’s Degree this month!

Softball Team Fundraiser for the SCC Children’s Center

By Terri Pearson-Bloom

“Every year the Solano Community College Softball team holds a fundraiser and uses the proceeds to go out and purchase piles of new PJ’s, sweatshirts, and other warm winter clothing for the children at the SCC Children’s Center. Here is a picture of the sophomores holding the goodies before we take them over to donate. This is one our teams favorite annual traditions that always adds much needed perspective to the holiday season.

Happy Holidays
Terri Pearson-Bloom
Head-Coach
Solano Softball”
News from Facilities

By Dave Froehlich

Vallejo Landscaping: Within the next few weeks, weather permitting, we will be doing some landscaping improvements at the front of the Vallejo Center. These are just the first steps, but are being done as we approach the holiday break, so the traffic will be lighter and the impact will be minimal.

The areas that will be affected:

- The main entrance -- the Horsetails in the middle island of the main entrance will be removed and replaced with a combination of trees, plantings, flowers and ground cover. These will all be coordinated, attractive and have a balance of color, but be relatively drought tolerant and relatively low maintenance.

- The two corners of the main entrance will also gain some decorative plantings and rock to set them off and have the entrance look “more classy!”

- The west entrance -- This area will also gain some decorative plantings, flowers and rock, to again, set off the entrance and generally be more attractive.

Fairfield Campus: Again, weather permitting, the two entrances of the Fairfield Campus will be getting a “facelift” over the next few weeks and into the holiday break. We are cleaning out most of the old and worn looking plants, and all of the weeds, and will be adding trees, plants, some flowering bushes, and decorative rock. This will all add to the attractiveness of the areas and also be more visible during the hours of darkness, to enhance safe entrance to the campus.

SCC Core Values

- **Integrity** — firm adherence to a code of ethical values in thought and behavior
- **Critical Thinking** — the use of intellectually disciplined, logically sound processes involving data-driven decision making
- **Mutual Respect** — valuing the intrinsic worth of each person in an atmosphere of collegiality
- **Collaboration** — working together across areas of responsibility or interest to achieve common goals and objectives
- **Innovation** — the search for and use of effective processes or procedures
- **Accountability** — individual and collective responsibility for achieving the highest level of performance
- **Student Well-Being** — considering and addressing the impact on students of any and all actions or inactions

Shirley Lewis and Jerry Kea at Merriment on Main, in Vacaville, November 30, 2010.

Happy Holidays!