Dear Colleagues:

I was surprised recently when someone passing by on a bike greeted me and, as I saluted him back, said, “You are doing a great job leading this College and turning it around.” It has been hard for me to accept the compliments people have extended me for the turnaround of the College. There are many reasons for that:

- People who are educated in the French system—as was I—have a hard time accepting a compliment: “Tout ce que je sais, c’est que je ne sais rien.” (Socrates) (The only thing I know is that I know nothing). This statement is drilled in us as students.
- What we have accomplished should have been normal things at a College that is 66 years old.
- We still have many things to accomplish: achievement in some areas; achievement gap; better salaries for our faculty and staff; better facilities; solid professional development for our employees; and the list could go on and on. But, most importantly, higher achievement for our students and a support system that leaves nothing to be desired are still in the works. The need we have to be much more visible in the county and Winters needs to be addressed.
- I certainly do not want for what happened between the crow and the fox to happen to us by enjoying the compliments so much we lose track of our cheese.

But I have learned to appreciate the compliments while staying humble about not only our accomplishments, but also the tenuous environment of higher education. We should not think that we have arrived and boast in the glory of yesterday while forgetting what we need to do today and what we should plan for in the future.

Two more thoughts came to my head: 1) Ah! This could be a supporter of our bond; and 2) The compliments are surely more desirable than the alternative. Above all, though, I remind myself constantly that we are where we are because of our Board, our students, our faculty, our staff and most importantly our community. So, cyclist, thank you! I appreciate your support. College, I am turning the compliment to you. Take a bow!

Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D.
Superintendent-President
Trustees Supporting Green

At the September 7 meeting the Board experienced a soft launch of its green project by having a semi-paperless experience. Laptops were made available for trustees to view the agenda. Starting with the second Board meeting in September (21), the Board members will have had no paper agenda or materials. They were emailed to all Board members; therefore, no delivery to homes. At the meeting laptops will have the agenda pre-loaded for the Board. The audience will view the agenda on the big screen. This move will save the district approximately $11,000 and is considered to be the Board contribution to the budget reduction efforts. Everyone who currently receives the agenda will receive email directing them to the agenda. Those who still want a paper agenda will be charged a fee that reflects the cost of production..

Vidyo Displays Good Performance

During the recognition program at Flex Cal, our new Director of Research and Planning, Mr. Peter Cammish, who at the time, resided in the Marshall Islands, met the faculty and staff thanks to a new system established at the College called Vidyo. With this system, we can connect live with anyone around the world who has access to the Internet. James “Kimo” Callian from the IT Department is in charge of the system. This is an excellent tool to cut down on travel for meetings and allows faculty to teach across sites and off campus. We are currently using the system for our Student Services meetings connecting Vallejo, Vacaville and Fairfield.

Aeronautics at the Nut Tree Airport

As a routine and a habit I go to buildings and just check to see how things are going. With a new faculty on Board and almost new staff, I decided to pay an impromptu visit to the Aeronautics program at the Nut Tree Airport. Not knowing what to expect, I noticed that the parking lot was full and students were parked on the grass. I could not recall if that was the same thing as last year, so I did not predict what I would see. When I entered the building, the students were sitting in probably four groups at different tables, different groups doing different things. The instructor was in the classroom with some others. I was just amazed at the enrollment growth that took place in the program within two years.

I recall very well that this program was on the list of those we would eliminate unless something drastic happened to its structure and enrollment. The faculty and staff, as well as the administration, set in motion some
strategies to save the program. Now with a full program in place, an increasingly good reputation, and committed faculty and students, this is quickly becoming one of the most viable programs the College has. It is very possible that the program has not yet seen its best days.

**Travis Air Force Base Jimmy Doolittle Museum**

I recently attended a meeting where the committee raising funds to build the Travis Air Force Base Jimmy Doolittle Museum entertained the possibility of having a partnership with our program to provide internship opportunities for our students. One of their roles could be to help repair and maintain the aircraft.

The program could have rebounded without the challenge or the cloud of closing; we don’t know that. There can be two kinds of attitudes from a program with declining enrollment facing the potential for closure: It can act as if the closure is inevitable or it can assert itself by not just talking about it, but demonstrating by the quality and the numbers that it is viable, vital and appeals to a vibrant group of students and stakeholders. Aeronautics proved itself by the numbers and quality. Congratulations, faculty, staff, students and stakeholders! They seem to have not only overcome the threat of closure, but are proving their program indispensable to the community. Much credit for the success goes to former Lab Technician Michelle Duleck who retired this summer. As the former faculty member running the program retired suddenly, Ms. Duleck took it upon herself to move the program in a very positive direction.

**SCC Launches My Courses, by Scott Ota:**

“I hope that you have heard by now that the College has recently launched the improved My Solano Web portal and in it is a valuable, easy-to-use feature called My Courses. This new tool will help students and faculty communicate and share information such as syllabi, homework, tests, and general course questions. Every class offered here at SCC will have a My Courses shell available to Faculty and Students. Although it is not required to use My Courses, it is encouraged, since posting documents online will help keep SCC green and reduce printing costs. For a quick overview and introduction, please view the Faculty Resources for My Courses, http://www.solano.edu/academic_affairs/fac_resources.html. For a quick overview for students, please review the Student Resources for My Courses, http://www.solano.edu/student_services/student_resources.html.

*Thanks for all the hard work and contributions to the following staff who made My Courses possible.*
Flex Cal Presentation in August – Corrine Kirkbride
My Courses Resources and Videos – Lisa Raquel and Cindy Murashige
My Courses Technical Support – Technology Programming and Web Team: Jay Robinson, Evette Nichols, Seweryn Makosa, and Scott Ota
*My Solano* Redesign Team – Thanks to all the students, faculty and staff who participated on the My Solano Project Team

Thanks,
Scott Ota
Webmaster

Great News Again – From Christie Speck:
“What a great way to end the week! I just received word that the Children’s Programs will receive a renovation and repair grant from the CDE/Child Development Division in the amount of $19,780. This funding will support the renovation of the infant and toddler playgrounds. We are very excited to have this resource to update the outdoor environments for our youngest children.

Have a great weekend.
~Christie”

Redistricting Talk

Professor Bundenthal and I met with the League staff and Attorney Paul Loya to explore our options for redistricting. We also discussed the timeline to have the work completed. We will have a planning session on redistricting in October followed by a couple of other sessions for the Board and the public to evaluate our choices. With the League undertaking several of these activities in the state, we are confident that we can avoid serious challenges to our plan.

Middle College Visit to Contra Costa College

Fairfield Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jackie Cottingham-Diaz and some members of her senior staff, Dr. Shirley Lewis, EVP Reyes, Dr. Kea, and I went to Contra Costa College to visit their Middle College. College President, Dr. McKinley Williams, and his staff described the program for us and then gave us a tour of the areas where the program is housed. This unique program identifies students at the end of the eighth grade and enrolls them in the Middle College. They take both college and high school courses in the ninth through twelfth grades. They blend in well with the rest of the college students. We are having conversations that may lead to such a program in Solano County if Superintendents and Boards are supportive of the concept.
Solano County Education Initiatives Update

The committee recently met and solidified the logistics of the event that was held on September 24. The community was invited to take responsibility for educating young people by supplementing what the schools are already doing. Trustees were invited.

Countywide Emergency

Preparedness Exercise: The exercise will be October 15 from 8 to 1. Our professor of nutrition Ingeborg Bourdon will serve as the Incident Commander. Faculty, staff and trustees are welcome to attend.

Auto Technology Program

EVP Reyes, Dean Morinec and I toured the Armijo High School auto shop to evaluate whether we could start a college program there until we find the appropriate facilities for a college Auto program. The administrators from the County Office of Education, the Fairfield-Suisun School District, and Armijo High School were quite hospitable and helpful. We are interested in starting something that would give us a beginning as we work to revamp and update the program. The Alternative Fuel program would be located in the same place. What became much clearer to me is the desperate need for this program in the county. Armijo has 30 students in its program and several of the high schools have the same. For a good percentage of these students who are interested in this craft, they either have to get a huge amount of loans to continue their studies or they have to forego their interest. The College has an opportunity to not only provide the needed courses, but to lead the schools in offering a higher level curriculum that could translate into a better prepared workforce for our economy. This is also a good way to entice more of our young men and women to College.

ALG Meeting at Vallejo Center

Friday, Sept. 2, the Administrative Leadership Group held its monthly meeting at the Vallejo Center. This was to be a hands-on workshop so we could acquaint ourselves with the vast amount of information available to us to make data-driven decisions. We came out of the session wanting to know more and to apply what we learned. Dr. Chris Myers did a pretty good job at showing us what we have. More training will take place later for smaller groups of administrators, staff, and faculty.
Participation in Matt Garcia Tribute

The Fairfield-Suisun Rotary Club was asked to participate in the tribute to the late City Councilman Matt Garcia. The club sang “God Bless America,” a song we sing every Tuesday and one we thought we could perform in public after such great practice. We sang! We then realized that we sound a whole lot better when we sing indoors and among our fellow Rotarians. I was pleased to have the opportunity to participate in the tribute to Matt.

September 11 - Ten Years Later

During the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, I was travelling from Duluth, MN to Washington, D.C. I made a stop at Chicago O’Hare and boarded a flight to Washington that morning. The plane left the gate, but we saw planes all over. Assuming it was typical morning plane traffic at the airport, I did not think much of it. The pilot came on the intercom and told us we needed to return to the gate and we’d learn more when we got back. It was a short distance. We were simply told to deplane when I heard the guy next to me telling his ride that he would be late and not to come pick him up. Then he said, “They did what? Both towers? The Pentagon?” Curious, I asked him what happened and he told me the attacks our country was suffering. That was before I heard about the last plane. The pilot simply told us, “Be careful! It is a dangerous world out there.” O’Hare is one of the world’s busiest airports; there were a lot of people to handle. But it was in the baggage area that it became very interesting. One moment to the next they would tell you where to pick up your luggage and then it would change.

Despite the uncertainty as to when we would leave and the evacuation of the airport, everyone was so polite and supportive of each other. I happened to run into a lady who was travelling with two children, one of them an infant. I offered to help her with her luggage and to not leave her behind as she tried to contact her husband who lived in Wayne, Michigan to come and pick them up. We have stayed in touch. Though it is still too emotional for me to watch television or listen to the radio on September 11, I still have fond memories of the kindness of people in Chicago and all over who were trapped like I was away from home. The experience firmed up my belief in humanity; although the irony is that the events were caused by a lack of appreciation for humans who may be different from us. The raw emotion for me has been for the travelers on that day and considering myself among them and wondering why they had to perish and not me. I hope as I continue to live for the few remaining moments of my life that I will live for them and treat people well because we are all precious, if only because our life can disappear in half the blink of an eye and it is no more.
Clean and Green Day

The Clean and Green Day on the Fairfield Campus was another successful event. The work that our faculty and staff have done with the previous Clean and Green has not only brought a spirit of cooperation as we clean up the campus together, but it has also served as a catalyst for the progress we have made in the improvement of the campus aesthetics. Negative comments about the campus have been replaced with compliments on the beauty of the campus. We still have more progress to make, including the improvement in our signage that is underway.

Surviving the Holocaust

Ms. Yanina Cywinska was born in Warsaw, Poland to a Catholic family, whose father was morally obligated to help the Jews in the Warsaw ghetto. Consequently, she and her family were arrested and placed in the Auschwitz concentration camp. Her family's courageous story is currently in film production. Ms. Cywinska shared her moving story on Thursday, September 15 in the Solano College Theatre, 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Accreditation Pre-Visit

Team Chair Visit: President Jerry Patton and his Director of Research Planning from the College of the Desert paid us an accreditation pre-visit visit to check on the status of the College and any major changes since we mailed the self-study and to work on the logistics for the group that is joining us. EVP Reyes and others are working on the logistics and we are gearing up for the visit.

Visit with New Vacaville Superintendent

I recently had the opportunity to visit Dr. John Neiderhorn, the new superintendent of schools for the Vacaville School District. Though it was meant to be a quick drop-in to say hello, we spent about 45 minutes getting acquainted as fellow education leaders in the county and discussed a variety of issues of common interest: Update on the current Vacaville Center, our plans for the future, and the Middle College concept. He was very interested in the topics and I feel that he wants to move forward with the possibility of establishing the Middle College in Vacaville. This will be a study session topic for us in the coming months. You may recall that Fairfield-Suisun Schools Superintendent accompanied us to Contra Costa and will be exploring the same opportunities for students in the district.
Visit with Fairfield-Suisun Adult School

Ms. Kay Hartley is the new principal of the Fairfield-Suisun Adult School. I paid her a quick visit last week. We discussed the relationship that exists and is evolving between the College and the Adult School. I shared with her the great work Professors Reeve and Berger were doing with the ESL programs of the school and the College. We discussed the need and expectation that the College will respond to them when called upon. We had some interesting conversations with her predecessor about College courses being offered at the Adult School and Adult School classes being offered at the College. We want to continue the conversations as they would benefit our Basic Skills students as well as our career technical education students. I will be reaching out to the Vallejo Adult School as soon as the new principal there is hired.

Vallejo Education and Business Alliance

The Alliance held its first meeting of the academic year recently. The goal is for us to bring together education, business and government to positively affect the outcomes of life for people in Vallejo. The education sector is well united to move forward in unison with business and government: Cal Maritime Academy, Touro University, the Vallejo School District and the College. Our conversations at this point are more toward organizing ourselves, but moving forward. Trustees Young and Thurston are great participants in this endeavor and I am grateful for their participation and leadership with the Alliance. The participation of the four chambers of commerce is significant: Vallejo, African-American, Filipino-American and Hispanic chambers. The City Council is represented by two Council members and a representative from an Assembly member.

Special Falcon Thanks

A special Falcon thank you goes out to A&R Director Barbara Fountain and her staff of evaluators for their work on athletic eligibility. Barbara has gone above and beyond working late nights and weekends on our athletic eligibility to help us get our student-athletes ready to compete within tight deadlines. Our student-athletes and staff are extremely grateful.

Solano Sports Update

Solano Football opened its season at home this Saturday with a victory! Final score: Solano 15, Los Medanos 8. We had a capacity crowd on campus watching another great falcon squad. Full-time professor/coaches Floyd Burnsed and Kevin Marks, along with their staff, have been working hard recruiting this off-season and they have over 100 student-athletes in their athletics class. Special thanks goes out to Peter Bostic who volunteered as the athletic administrator on-site running this event all day for the college making it a successful experience for the players and fans. The Falcons hit the road next weekend to take on Cabrillo College in Aptos at 7pm.
Hall of Fame
Last chance for tickets. See our very own former Dean/AD Bob Myers inducted. The event is Monday, October 3, 2011. Email Matt.Borchert@solano.edu for info.

Soccer
Solano women’s soccer record after pre-season is 1-5-1 having played a very tough schedule with many of the state’s top teams. The Falcons start Bay Valley Conference competition today at Contra Costa College, 3:30 pm game time.

Volleyball
Solano Women’s Volleyball finished their pre-season 8-6. The Falcons start Bay Valley Conference competition on Wednesday at HOME against College of Alameda, 6pm game time. Please come support your Volleyball team.

Football
Solano Football lost this past weekend to Feather River College 12-28. The Falcons are 1-2 headed into another home game this Saturday vs. West Valley College at 1pm. During half-time last week, the Falcons retired the jersey of deceased student-athlete Ennis Johnson. The Falcons also collected donations to help the family pay for funeral costs and were able to raise more than $2,000 with their efforts. Thanks to all who contributed.

Water Polo
Solano Men’s Water Polo finished their pre-season 0-5. The Falcons start Coast Conference competition next week on the road vs. Merced College.

Baseball
Solano Baseball continues in Fall competition with a home game on Sunday, October 2 vs. Seattle Mariners Scout Team, 11 am game time.