

# Language Arts News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 12, 2007

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- District Opening Day 9/20 8—3:30 at Foothill's Smithwick Theater
- De Anza Opening Day 9/21 7:30—4 at De Anza's Campus Center
- Order Your Keys
- Turn in your syllabus and office hours
- Turn in Paid Office Hours Form by 9/28

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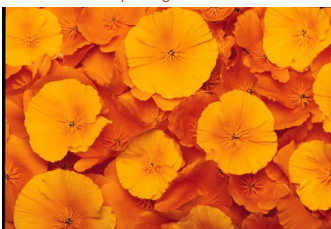
## New Look for Language Arts Division

The Language Arts Division will see quite a few changes this upcoming school year as related to personnel, facilities, procedures, communication, budget, etc.

The most obvious change will be the new faces in the Division office. We have five new faculty: Linda Choi (ESL), Anthony Delaney (English), Craig Norman (ESL), Jesus Quintero (English), and Paula Silva (English). Alganesh Fsshaye Gereziher will join the Division as an Administrative Assistant while Susan Edman is on leave for the year. Lydia Hearn will serve as the Interim Dean of Language Arts as John Swensson has taken an interim role as the Vice President of Instruction for the 2007-2008 school year.

Congratulations to Marcy Betlach, a long-time member of the Division, who is taking on a new role as ESL department chair.

We are also fortunate to have with us two excellent student assistants—Michelle Duong and My Nguyen. Both have been working in the Division office over the summer and have helped give it a more wel-



come Division office itself has changed significantly. For example, we switched the general information office and John Fleming's office so that we can more effectively greet the public as they enter the Division office. We streamlined the look of the part-time faculty computer room (did you know the room has a window?) and we enhanced the facilities

by adding another computer and a television for previewing videos.

The conference room has also been de-cluttered and re-organized. There are bookshelves dedicated to each department. This area will be used as a resource library for textbooks and course materials particularly when we have publishers' book fairs. It will be up to each department to keep its bookshelf up-to-date. Please do not use the area for general office storage.

Another addition to the Division is this monthly newsletter, which still needs a catchy name. Please email any of your suggestions to Lydia at [hearnlydia@deanza.edu](mailto:hearnlydia@deanza.edu). You may also email any submissions (program/department reports, best practices, creative writing or artwork, book reviews, upcoming events, etc.) for the October edition by October 1.

## Opening Day Activities

The theme for District Opening Day Festivities is "Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence and Opportunity for All." Dr. Pam Cox-Otto, keynote speaker, will discuss "Student Learning in the Multigenerational Classroom." See Chancellor Kanter's email sent to all employees for more information.

District Opening Day (Sept. 20) breakfast begins at 8 a.m. at Foothill's Smithwick Theater. The program will be 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to Martha Kanter's house for a 50th Anniversary Party immediately following the afternoon workshops.

De Anza Opening Day (Sept. 21) will provide a Strategic Planning

update and will focus on retention strategies for our students. Breakfast is at 7:30 a.m. in the Campus Center Patio. The program will start at 8:45 a.m. in the Campus Center, and lunch will be served at 11:40 a.m. Following the campus program, the Language Arts Division meeting will commence at 1:00 p.m.

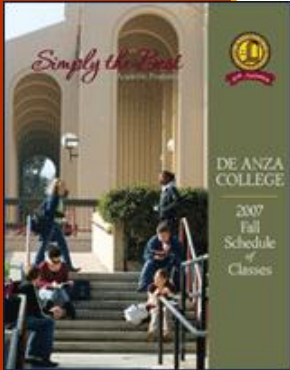
Language Arts will offer three workshops: Writing Expectations Across the Curriculum facilitated by Marcy Betlach and Kristin Skager, Multicultural Curriculum and Pedagogy facilitated by Karen Chow and Marc Coronado, and Critical Thinking in the Classroom facilitated by

Matt Abrahams and Rowena Tomang (please read the short article located at [http://www.mhhe.com/socscience/english/tbw/Hilgert/hilgert\\_module.html](http://www.mhhe.com/socscience/english/tbw/Hilgert/hilgert_module.html)) prior to attending this workshop).

Department meetings will be held after the workshops. Join us at 3:30 for the Division open house.

Part-time faculty receive a \$100 stipend for attending the entire day if they have signed in. Sign-ins after Sept. 21 will not be accepted.

# Enrollment Update



Schedule of Classes are available in the Division Office

## DID YOU KNOW?

*The most expensive school-related cost for students to attend community college is not tuition but the cost of textbooks.*

Marilyn Patton  
Distinguished Educator  
Recipient  
Dec 2006



For the 2006-2007 school year, the District was under "cap", which means that we did not reach our base enrollment numbers. This also means that we did not achieve the 2% growth (over cap) that we had anticipated when we allotted new permanent positions.

The good news is that De Anza's on campus enrollment was up approximately 5% but because off-campus programs (over which we don't have as much control) were down in enrollment as a result of factors

such as an improving economy, our overall enrollment was down.

For the 2007-2008 school year, we are continuing our trend of increasing our on-campus enrollment at De Anza College. The latest data suggests that we may be flat or up 1% (not taking into consideration off-campus programs yet) but it might still be too early to tell.

The Language Arts Division is doing very well, and many of our classes filled early in the registration cycle.

The Outreach Office and all of our efforts have helped to bring many new students on campus, but a significant part of growth and enrollment is also retention. Considering that we already attract a large number of college-bound high school students in the surrounding areas, we need to remember that achieving growth in even larger numbers will rely on ability to retain the students who are already here.

## Alternative Course Materials and Textbooks

In an effort to reduce the cost of textbooks and course materials for students, many alternative methods are being explored including the use of e-books (which saves paper as well) and creating a textbook rental program (which allows students to "rent" a textbook at a significant reduction in cost to the student). While the ebook option is available in the near future, the textbook rental program will

take a little more time to set up. For more information about either of these options, please see Jeri Montgomery, the Director of the Bookstore.

Using Course Readers instead of pre-published textbooks can also reduce textbook costs. More information will be forthcoming regarding copyright policy, the bookstore's role in helping faculty construct a reader, etc.

The District is spearheading an effort to support the use of free online alternatives to textbooks as well as course supplements. We are forming a nation-wide consortium of community colleges in support of this effort as a means to lower the cost of education for students. If you are interested in participating, send email to Barbara Illowsky at [illowskybarbara@deanza.edu](mailto:illowskybarbara@deanza.edu) and indicate your discipline.

## Weekend and Working Adult College

De Anza College is committed to enhancing our weekend college offerings to working adults.

Several combinations of Friday, Saturday, and Sunday classes will be offered beginning in Winter Quarter 2008.

The classes will be marketed as a package in order to attract a population of students who might not be able to attend our traditional weekday classes.

The Language Arts Division plans to offer Reading, Writing, ESL, and Speech classes as part of the Weekend

and Working Adult College package.

If you are interested in teaching a weekend class either for Winter 2008 or in the future, please contact your department chairs or schedulers to indicate your interest.

# Foster Youth Summer Program

De Anza offered a summer program this past July and August, in which foster teens from the Silicon Valley were able to take college classes to develop their writing and reading skills as well as learn more about resources available to them.

The Language Arts Division was fortunate to be represented by two wonderful faculty—Ulysses Pichon (Reading) and Jennifer Kockelman (Writing). The program was also privileged to have Donna Fung's (Counseling) coordination efforts

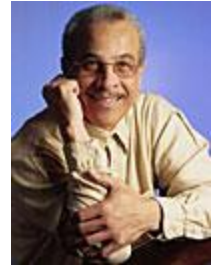
The Program has been recognized by the San Jose Mercury

News as well as by State Senator Elaine Alquist and State Assemblymember Jim Beall, Jr. in a resolution commending the program.

In one of my earliest acts as the Interim Dean of Language Arts, I had the privilege of visiting one of the classes while the students were preparing for their quarter-end presentation to the government officials. The students were using the Internet to network and provide information to resources for fellow foster youth. I was also able to read some of the stories they had written in Jennifer's and Ulysses's classes.

These students come from incredibly disadvantaged backgrounds, yet have not only persevered but want to help their peers.

Ulysses has been quoted in the San Jose Mercury news as saying he "loves to watch the students' confidence grow as they share their life experiences in poetry and prose." In Ulysses's words, "I learn that if I ever think I have troubles, I have nothing compared to what these kids have been through."



*"I learn that if I ever think I have troubles, I have nothing compared to what these kids [Foster Youth] have been through."*

—Ulysses Pichon

## Curriculum Committee News

Effective Fall Quarter 2007, per the Curriculum Committee, curriculum can only be submitted by using the ECMS (Electronic Course Management) system. Last year was the transition year and this year, there will be no exceptions.

Free training will be conducted every week in October, and alternate training sessions are available for the Division, departments, or individuals.

Many course outlines are already online at the ECMS website at <http://dilbert.fhda.edu/curriculum>. Click on the "ECMS" logo at the bottom left of the screen. (You might have to scroll down to see it.)

Thanks to Michele Dubarry who has served as our Division's Curriculum Committee representative, and congratulations to Mary Alice Bonilla, who will serve as the Division's Curriculum Committee representative for the year. Any curriculum concerns should be directed to her.

If you are creating new curriculum in the next 1-2 years, it is vital that you let Mary Alice know since there are many deadlines in place, and so that she can forward that information to the Curriculum Committee.



## Facilities and Housekeeping

\* Remember to order your keys before the quarter begins. You may order keys online at <http://dilbert.deanza.edu/>. Contact Paula Joseph if you have any problems. Remember to use the correct door numbers.

\* Did you know that you can request a "smart" classroom? If you find yourself borrowing a

projector, running out of overhead transparency, needing internet access, etc. regularly, you might consider teaching in a "smart" classroom, which comes fully equipped with the latest technology.

\* The division has purchased a portable PA system with a single powered 9"x9"x6" speaker,

which makes it easy to carry. See George Hein to borrow the system.

\* New faculty ID numbers have been issued to replace the use of SSNs. Your new faculty ID number is noted on your paycheck stub.



Visit the Language Arts website at <http://faculty.deanza.edu/languagearts> for conference & event links

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 9/20 District Opening Day  
8:00 - 3:30 Foothill—Smithwick Theater
- 9/20 Chancellor Kanter's Party  
3:30 - Martha Kanter's home
- 9/21 De Anza Opening Day  
7:30 - 3:30 Campus Center and Patio
- 9/22 De Anza New Student Open House  
9:00 - 1:00 Pkg Lot A
- 9/23 Iranian Arts and Cultural Festival  
11:00 - 6:00 Quinlan Comm. Center, Cupertino
- 9/30 Indian Business and Professional  
9:00 - 2:00 Woman's Career & Life Conference
- 10/26-27 Pearson Course Redesign Workshop  
Westin La Paloma, Tucson AZ
- 10/26 Community Service Learning  
9:00 - 1:30 Faculty Training Workshop  
California History Center
- 10/31 Developing and Implementing  
10:00-11:30a Podcasting Web Conference  
hosted by Academic Impressions

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FHDA Board of Trustees** - Laura Casas Frier, Betsy Bechtel, and Hal Plotkin will automatically renew their three-year terms in November because no one challenged the incumbents.

**Veterans Services** - Outreach and Admissions is trying to grow the veterans' population. If any staff or programs already provide services to vets, please forward your contact info to Kathleen Moberg, Dean of Admissions and Records, if interested in collaborating.

**Paid Office Hour Forms Due** - Part-time faculty who intend to hold office hours are eligible for one paid office hour/week (total, not per class). You must submit your intent to participate form by Sept. 28 to Patty Jobs. Any incomplete forms (including any missing signatures) will not be accepted. Also, you must indicate a location. If you use a classroom for your office hour, you must first check with Mi Chang x8544 in scheduling to reserve the classroom if it is available. Forms submitted after September 28 will NOT be accepted, and you will NOT be paid for your office hours.

## Spotlight on Student Resources

Each newsletter, we hope to provide information about a variety of campus resources for students. We will highlight a couple of resources in particular per newsletter.

This month we will focus on financial resources for students. In addition to direct financial aid through the Financial Aid office, many other forms of aid are available.

Each Division is allotted a limited number of one-time bus passes and book vouchers for students in need. If you think you have a student who is struggling to remain in school because of transportation or textbook costs, please recommend the student to one of the Division administrative assistants or to the Dean. The student does not need to have applied for financial aid in order to receive a voucher. Remember that we have a

limited amount, so please make sure the student is taking at least one class in the Language Arts Division and has significant need.

De Anza College also has an excellent Recycled Computer Program. The program provides free computers to students in need. Generally the student needs to have applied for



financial aid in order to be eligible, but if you have a student who has not applied for aid but still has financial

## FINANCIAL RESOURCES

struggles, you may recommend the student to receive a free recycled computer. Contact Susan Malgrem at x5713 for more information.

A significant portion of Strategic Planning monies have been designated to hire more student mentors, facilitators, tutors, and employees. If you have students who are in need of employment, they might be able to secure a job on campus. Also, if you have ideas for how to utilize student mentors, facilitators, and tutors in your classes or program, please let Lydia Hearn know so that we can follow up on hiring more students. By providing students employment as mentors/tutors/facilitators, not only are we helping retain other students but the employed student as well.