



The Eagle Flies

News and Information
for the Laney College Community

August 1, 2007

FLAGSHIP OF THE PERALTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Mid-Summer, 2007

A Message From Laney College President Frank Chong, Ed.D



Dr. Frank Chong

Dear Colleagues:

Greetings. As the classic show tune *from Porgy and Bess* reminds us, in summertime, "the livin' is easy." I hope that's true for you this year, and that this letter finds you in good spirits, relaxed and in a period of rejuvenation!

I want to bring you up to date on some things that have been happening here at Laney College this summer:

- The Music Department summer youth programs have been a great success, culminating in a jazz ensemble concert on the last day of summer school. As it has for the past 16 years, this marvelous program brings younger students onto our campus and fills the air with melodious tones.
- The Physics for Building Science class, a partnership of Laney, the Oakland School District and the Lawrence Laboratory, was another exciting opportunity for younger students to study advanced physics and develop a class presentation on sustainability.
- New, large format photographs, from the "Faces of Laney" collection by former instructor Nathalie Pahud, now adorn the lower level of the campus. These close-up photos of our students serve to remind us of our rich cultural diversity and promise.

These are just a few highlights on a campus that is re-claiming its proud tradition. Laney College is once again moving in the right direction.

Extreme Campus Makeover

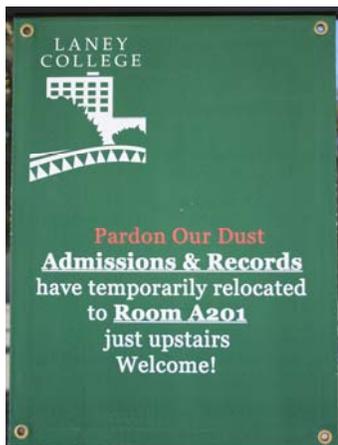
One of my highest priorities remains the restoration of our campus facilities after decades of neglect; we owe nothing less to our faculty and students. As a result, the traditional leisurely pace of summer living has not extended to the Laney campus, where the "extreme makeover" is going full-speed ahead, and is actually picking up momentum.

The entire campus is abuzz . . . with carpenters, roofers, electricians and trades people of every stripe working hard to make sure that Laney is, once again, a modern, safe, clean and functional learning environment.

We're in the midst of replacing window coverings, fixing bathrooms and "greening" the operation. The biology and chemistry labs are being retrofitted with new cabinets and eye washes. The Exterior Landscape Project is nearing completion, which gives a new, inviting, welcoming feel to the entire campus.



The core of our student services – The Admissions & Records Office, the Welcome Center, the Assessment Center and the E.O.P.S. Office -- have all been temporarily relocated to the 2nd floor of the “A” Building, while we renovate and remodel these offices.



In particular, I want to thank and commend the classified staff for their leadership in making this interim move a smooth one, and for providing uninterrupted service to our students during the construction phase and upcoming fall registration period.

I am also pleased to report that the demolition of the campus restaurant, The Beginners Inn, has been completed and the contract for reconstruction will be awarded soon. It is my hope that this phase will be completed by next March.

In addition, at your earliest convenience, please make the time to visit our two model classrooms, located in Rooms A-120 and A-140. These recently renovated classrooms feature new environmentally-sound flooring, lighting, paint and window coverings, and also have dramatically increased technical

capacity for video presentations, overhead projection and wireless internet access.

Your input on these “high-tech” improvements is particularly valuable as we seek your feedback before we set out to renovate every classroom, lab and office on campus.

Bids for all this work have been received, and contracts are scheduled to be awarded later this summer.

New Members of the Laney Team

As always, the ultimate key to Laney’s success rests with its people. I am pleased to welcome four new members to our team and want to introduce them to you:



**Mary Beth
Benvenuti**

Mary Beth Benvenuti is returning to the Peralta District as the Business Manager of Laney College, after serving for the past 13 years as the Assistant Controller of Mills College in Oakland. Earlier in her career, she served as the Business Officer of Merritt College (1988-1993), and as Chief Accountant in the District Office (1986-1988). Mary Beth holds a Bachelors degree in Accounting from Mississippi University for Women.

I also want to acknowledge and thank James Kendrix for his willingness to serve as the Interim Business Manager. James has been a great and steady contributor this past year

Jim Bracy brings a wealth of community college administrative experience to Laney, as interim Vice President of Student Services. Jim most recently served as interim Vice President of Student Services at Mission College, and was on the staff of Solano Community College for over 30 years -- including 12 years as the Vice-President of Student Services. Jim hold an Associate of Arts degree from Solano Community College, and both Bachelors and Masters degrees in Psychology from California State University, Sonoma.



Jim Bracy



**Marco
Menendez**

Marco Menendez began his duties as Dean of Fine & Applied Arts, Communications, and Physical Education on July 1st. He was most recently the Director of Education at the Guangzhou Nanhu International School in China. Marco is Cuban-Puerto Rican-American and speaks four languages including English, Spanish, Italian and Mandarin Chinese. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Studies-Directing from Boston University, and a Masters degree in Education-Curriculum & Instruction from Chapman University.

Lisa Watkins-Tanner has joined the President's office as my staff assistant. I am pleased that Lisa is on board; she has a rich history of involvement with Laney College, having served as Student Body President, Student Trustee on the Peralta College Board and, most recently, as staff assistant to the Dean of Vocational Technology. Lisa is a great addition to my office, and someone I know you will enjoy working with.



**Lisa Watkins-
Tanner**

This is an exciting time to be at Laney College; I look forward to seeing you this fall. Please plan on joining us for Flex Day Activities on Tuesday, August 21st. I have attached a tentative program for the day.

More information will become available and will be disseminated as the event draws near.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon [unclear]".

(SEE NEXT PAGE)

**TENTATIVE PROGRAM
Opening Day Flex Day**

**Laney College Flex Day
Welcome Back - Opening Day
Fall Semester, 2007
Tuesday, August 21, 2007**

Laney College Theater

Program

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Welcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction of New Faculty• Fall 2007 Opening Address, Dr. Frank Chong, President	
10:00 A.M.	Welcoming Remarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Faculty Senate• Peralta Federation of Teachers• Classified Senate• S.E.I.U. Locals 1021 & 39	
10:30 a.m.	Special Presentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "The Laney College Plan" 2007-08"	
12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	College-Wide Meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Elnora Webb, Vice-President of Instruction	
1:30 p.m.	Division Meetings
2:30 p.m.	Departmental Meetings
4:00 p.m.	New Faculty Orientation

(Additional details, room numbers etc. will be provided as the date draws near.)