

# COLLEGE OF THE SISKIYOU

## THE CAMPUS CONNECTION

*September 1, 2015*

### PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

In mid-August, COS received a letter from the Accreditation Commission (ACCJC) in response to our Annual Report that we had submitted to them in March. Their letter expressed concern relative to the low level of ongoing assessment of our courses that we reported to them. In their letter, they shared that at 42 percent COS is extremely low when compared to other institutions and they provided us with guidance as to how and why we need to take steps immediately to address this shortcoming. The Commission stated that, depending upon our March 2016 Annual Report to the Commission, we may be required to submit a Special Report to the Commission. This letter has been posted on the COS website and also distributed to all of our employees. I am very pleased to share that the COS Faculty Senate, full-time faculty, part-time faculty, and the Instructional Administration immediately went into action to redress this situation. Outstanding effort has been, and continues to be, put into rectifying this situation and we will plan on providing a detailed report at our October Board of Trustees Meeting. I expect that this will become a positive aspect of our Accreditation Self Study that is set to be completed by mid-October.

The first week of August VP of Student Services, Melissa Greene, led a team from COS in attending an Enrollment Management Workshop at San Mateo College. Our Team returned with some excellent ideas for upgrading Enrollment Management efforts. We can all look forward to hearing about these improvements in the months to come.

On Friday, August 21, Instructional Dean, Greg South, and a dozen COS employees from English, Math, and Basic Skills attended a conference on Acceleration at Shasta College. The conference focused on increasing completion and closing equity gaps through the acceleration or shortening course sequencing for students below college level of preparation or at a basic skills level. I have talked with several of our attendees and they all shared that it was an excellent conference and there is a lot of excitement expressed in the opportunities that we will pursue that will greatly benefit our students. We have already begun taking steps to pursue accelerated course sequencing and removing roadblocks to student success. COS will join the other California Community Colleges in Northern California, who have already been involved in this effort, in participating in the California Acceleration project.

On Wednesday, August 26, COS Trustee Carol Cupp and I attended the first meeting of a group that was brought together to participate in updating the City of Weed General Plan. The current plan is over thirty-years old. We are excited to have the opportunity for COS to participate in this effort. This effort is expected to take about ten months to complete.

The fall semester is off to a good start, due in large part to all of the hard work of the entire COS family. Enrollments are about even with fall of 2014. We carried more enrollment into this year from the summer of 2015 than we carried into last year; so hopefully, our growth in Base FTES will continue again this year. Our efforts to provide better class scheduling to our students seems to be making progress. We have cancelled about half as many class sections as in previous semesters. We also expect that we are making progress in our efforts to increase our average class sizes. We will look to Institutional Researcher, Bart Scott, for updated numbers on this soon.

COS continues to make excellent progress across a broad range of efforts pursuing opportunities for improvement. I expect that this academic year will be another excellent year for us as we strengthen and improve in our goals to be an exemplary California Community College and the first choice for Higher Education in our service area and Northern California.

## **FOUNDATION/PUBLIC RELATIONS**



### **Public Relations**

**Welcome Back!!!** – Wow! Where did our summer go??? On Thursday, August 13, during our Staff Orientation Day, we took this fabulous group photo of our COS family. Also, special thank you to all our staff, faculty, trustees, and foundation members who volunteered to staff the COS information booth at the Siskiyou Golden Fair.

Last weekend, I along with Scotty Thomason and his wife, Sharie; Melissa Green and her husband, Nelson; Greg South; and Bob Taylor attended the Dorris Lion's Club annual Abalone Feed Community Dinner. This was a really fun event and a great opportunity to support our northern-most neighboring community. Held at the Dorris Community Center, there were more than 200 people who attended in support of their community and Lion's Club projects. I also got some great ideas for future raffles and decorating at events.

**Stay Connected:** Now that school has started, it's a great time to sign up for our communication system, Everbridge. This is a free system we use to notify students and staff of emergency situations, campus closures, or general information. To sign up, click on the Everbridge button located on the COS homepage.



**COS Employees will receive 2015/2016 Athletic Season passes for FREE!** The pass is good for the employee only (including Board of Trustees, current part-time faculty and employees) to attend all COS home athletic events in 2015/2016. (Excludes post season or tournament play) In addition, if you would like to purchase additional passes for the full season, the price is greatly reduced - \$25 Staff Special! To receive your pass, see Dawnie at the Weed Campus or contact to make other arrangements.

Athletic Season Passes for the community, parents, and everyone else to attend football and basketball events are also on sale as follows:

- 2015 Football (only) Season Pass (good for two people) - \$25 per pass
- 2015/2016 Football and Basketball (Men's and Women's) Season Pass (good for two people) - \$75 per pass (total real value is approximately \$165 – this is a savings of more than 50 percent per pass)
- 2015/2016 Basketball (Men's and Women's) Season Pass (good for two people) - \$50 per pass

**COS Preview Day and College Fair Event:** COS Student Services, Counseling Services, and College OPTIONS will host a COS Preview Day and College Fair at the Weed Campus on Monday, September 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The COS Preview Day will offer the high school students the opportunity to meet COS faculty and staff; view demonstrations; gather information on COS academic programs; and have fun. The College Fair hosts representatives from other colleges and universities. Parents and guardians of all students hoping to attend college are encouraged to attend. Parents interested in attending this event should contact Nathan Zorn at (530) 276-7287 or send an email to [nvzorn@ucdavis.edu](mailto:nvzorn@ucdavis.edu) for more information.

### **Foundation**

**Applications Now Available:** The COS Foundation invites staff and faculty to apply for a Foundation Mini Grant. The purpose of these awards is to offer wider monetary support for innovative educational opportunities at COS. It is expected proposals will enhance the College's ability to strengthen its programs and services; support faculty and staff development within a learning community environment; and/or support the use of technology for enhancing the educational opportunities of students, staff, and faculty. Award amounts up to \$1,000 will be considered for funding. In 2014, the Foundation was able to fund 12 projects and looks forward to possibly funding even more this year. Applications are due to the Public Relations/Foundation Office by 3:30 p.m. on Friday, September 18. Each funded applicant will have until May 31, 2016, to spend award. Announcement of mini grant recipients will be made during lunch at the October Planning Day event.

**Who Will Win the Coat of Many Colors This Year:** Tickets for the 31<sup>st</sup> annual COS Foundation Scholarship Dinner and Dessert/Coat of Many Colors Auction are now on sale from the COS Public Relations & Foundation Office - \$25/person. This fun event will be held on Saturday, September 19, at Sons of Italy Hall in Weed. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and a Tri Tip Steak and Barbecue Chicken buffet dinner catered by Butte Valley High School FFA Club will be served at 6:45 p.m. Other activities include the dessert auction, silent auction, and the Coat of Many Colors live auction. All funds raised are used to support the COS Scholarship program and local students attending COS.

**Join the COS Eagle Booster Club Today:** I am excited to introduce a great new opportunity we are offering this year at COS, the creation of a brand-new COS Eagle Booster Club. Over the past several years, due to budget cuts at the State level, we have had to find new and creative ways to support our athletic programs at COS. We know athletics is an important part of many of our student's lives and it shows in how well our students perform, both in and out of the classroom.

Just this past year alone, we have seen what hard work and dedication can accomplish! Our Football Team was the Nor-Cal Conference Champion and hosted and won a home Bowl Game! Our Women's Basketball Team was the Golden Valley Conference Champion and participated in the State Women's Basketball Playoffs. Our Track and Field Team sent several members to the State Meet and saw great success with our "throwers." However, our student athletes are not just successful on the field or on the court, in April we recognized 85 student athletes for their work in the classroom this past year for receiving a 3.0 GPA or higher.

Our coaching and teaching staff has been working hard at preparing for an excellent sports season and we take pride in continuing an excellent tradition of success in all our athletics at the highest level. As a Charter member of the Siskiyou Eagle Booster Club, our members' participation and support will help us in providing our student athletes with the necessary support needed to become a successful student and athlete. Funds donated will be used to support 1) purchasing uniforms (new or replacement); 2) travel costs (gas, food, and lodging); and 3) funding equipment needs.

Becoming a member of the Eagle Booster Club is an opportunity to show your support of College of the Siskiyou, and at the same time makes a difference in the lives of our student athletes. All donations to the COS Eagle Booster Club are tax-deductible and members of the COS Eagle Booster Club will be recognized at the end of the year in our annual report. Become a Charter Member today!! Contact Dawnie for further information.

**115 Days Until Christmas (starting September 1)** – The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual COS Holiday Craft Fair will be held on Friday evening, December 4 (5 p.m. to 8 p.m.), and Saturday, December 5 (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.), at the COS Weed Campus in the Gym. This craft fair celebrates the finest of hand-crafted products produced by local and regional artisans and crafters. Vendor registrations will be accepted starting September 7. For more information or to request a registration packet, call (530) 938-5373.

### **Eagle's Nest**

Over the last few months, all of the Siskiyou County Newspapers (including the Siskiyou Daily News, Mt. Shasta Herald, Dunsmuir News, and Weed Press), have been running a contest for the "Best of Siskiyou." The Mt. Shasta Area Newspaper office was responsible for collecting votes from those in the county and keeping track of winners in different categories. Angel Fisher and I were just notified the Eagle's Nest was winner of BEST Children's Clothing! Congratulations Angel and the Eagle's Nest!! A special section will be run in the September 9 issue of the papers with a listing of all the "Best" winners.

### **September Events**

- Volleyball vs. Ohlone College – September 3 at 5 p.m. (COS Gym)
- Volleyball vs. Chabot College – September 4 at 5 p.m. (COS Gym)
- Last Day to Drop w/o posting "W" on record – September 4
- Football vs. San Mateo College – September 5 at 1 p.m. (COS Stadium). Tailgate Party at 11 a.m. next to Tennis Courts (bring your own supplies)
- Volleyball vs. Umpqua College – September 6 at 2 p.m. (COS Gym)
- COS Campuses Closed for Labor Day Holiday – September 7
- Volleyball vs. Cosumnes River College – September 18 at 5 p.m. (COS Gym)
- Football vs. Sequoias – September 19 at 1 p.m. (COS Stadium). Tailgate Party at 11 a.m. next to Tennis Courts (bring your own supplies).
- Scholarship Dinner – September 19 at 5:30 p.m. (Sons of Italy Hall, Weed)
- COS Preview Day/College Fair – September 21 at 9 a.m. (Weed Campus)
- Last day to petition pass/no pass option – September 25
- Volleyball vs. Simpson – September 29 at 7 p.m. (COS Gym)
- Next Monthly COS Board of Trustees Meeting – October 6

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

August has been a flurry of activity with continued work on the budget, travel to the State Budget Workshop for Kent and I, Orientation Day (my first), and getting ready for classes to begin again. I can't believe how the summer flew by.

You will hear more about the Final Proposed Budget tonight but much work has gone into it by a number of people. It truly has been a collaborative effort. Because of the increase in one-time money and the timing of being able to get the budget through our process (Budget and Planning Committees and College Council), we added a reserve to the fund balance of \$500K so that we could really take the needed time to evaluate and prioritize some of the needed expenditures.

### **Business Office**

The Business Office continues to work on closing the books for 2014/15 and will be preparing for the auditors arrival in October. Thank you goes out to Nancy Coughlin and Kelly Groppi for helping us move the student workers and temporary workers to the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month payroll. I know it will be a real benefit to our students and our temp workers.

### **Eagle's Nest**

The Eagle's Nest has been voted as the **BEST Children's Clothing Store** by the people of Siskiyou County. The Siskiyou County Newspapers have run the contest for the "Best of Siskiyou" and we won. Congratulations to Angel and all her staff of students and volunteers! You will see the write up on September 9 in a special section of all the Mt. Shasta area newspapers.

On September 15, there will be a meet and greet at the store where volunteers invite friends and family members to shop and tour the store. They are open until 7 p.m. that day with special sales going on and refreshments being served. Come on down and see what's going on!

Eagle's Nest is still in need of additional volunteers. If you know of anyone who might like a fun part-time "job" whose pay is satisfaction of helping the College, have them contact Angel and she will get them set up and rolling.

### **Maintenance**

Maintenance has had a very active summer and there have been a number of improvements and repairs to the campus. Some sidewalks have been repaired, outdoor lighting is in process, theater steps have been repaired, floors have been polished, painting has occurred, and signs put up.

### **Student Lodging**

Student Lodging is operating at near full capacity for the fall term with only a few spaces available for women. The Residence Advisors presented a program/activity every night of the week for the first two weeks of school to help students get to know each other and build community.

### **Technology**

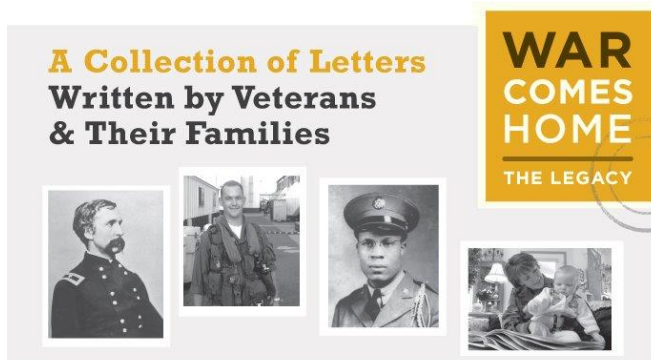
- With the recent core switch upgrade on the network, we are now able to enjoy Internet connection speeds that are about eight times faster than what they were previously.
- Five major technology classroom upgrades were done over the summer, three on the Weed campus, and two in Yreka. Much of the analog technology that had been used in the past is making way for the easier-to-support digital versions.
- We met recently with two representatives from the CCC Technology Center at Butte College to learn more about the support services they can provide us in the areas of security and accessibility.
- We also met with our Ellucian and SIG reps to explore services they may be able to provide to assist with our Banner-related upgrades and projects.

## **INSTRUCTION**

### **Library**

This summer, Dr. Madeline Duntley from Bowling Green State University in Ohio spent many hours in the COS Library conducting research on the spirituality connection of Mt. Shasta for a book she is writing. She made extensive use of the Mt. Shasta Collection with the assistance of Dennis Freeman, former Library Director and current library volunteer extraordinaire. A previous article of Dr. Duntley's on spiritual tourism, also researched in part at COS, can be found at <http://www.siskiyous.edu/library/shasta> near the bottom of the page.

Like everywhere on campus, the first week of classes was busy in the Library. In the first week alone, the Library issued over 100 library cards and saw steady use of the Reserve textbooks. Our most circulated books of the week were *Elementary Statistics*, *Algebra Foundations*, *Physics for Scientists and Engineers*, and *Psychology*. Thank you to the many faculty who are able to donate textbooks and to everyone for letting our students know that this collection exists!



In addition to helping our students, the Library is also busy getting ready to install the travelling exhibit *War Comes Home: The Legacy: A Collection of Letters Written by Veterans & Their Families* which will be on display in the Library from August 31, 2015 – October 8, 2015, with an opening reception on Thursday, September 10. We hope that the exhibit will provide educational opportunities on campus and serve as a connection with our community. The Library will be open late on select Thursday evenings and one Saturday to make the exhibit more available to

community members.

The Library is hoping to involve local veterans as exhibit hosts whose presence will enhance the experience for visitors and give the general public additional insights into the lives of US veterans. If you or someone you know is a veteran and interested in volunteering, please contact the Library (x5331, [library@siskiyous.edu](mailto:library@siskiyous.edu)).

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

### **Financial Aid**

We have successfully awarded Pell grants to 428 students by August 21! Last time this year, 252 students were awarded; we have almost doubled that number. Between our new automated process for awarding students and our new disbursement method partnering with Higher One, we were able to award more students this year.

Financial Aid Book Vouchers were given out to 120 students two weeks before school started so that they were able to get their books and supplies. These are available to students who have a completed financial aid file and eligible for their first Pell grant disbursement. We will continue to offer Book Vouchers to students who missed the first Pell disbursement and will be on the next disbursement, which is September 4.

On Friday, August 28, we will be awarding Cal Grant B's and C's to approximately 97 students. The Chancellor's Office has created a new Cal Grant called the Full-Time Incentive Grant. This is a \$600 per year grant awarded to Cal Grant B recipients who are enrolled full time. As per the name, the Chancellor's Office is in hopes that this will inspire students to enroll full time in order to complete their education in a timely manner. We have posted the award to the students' award package but we are waiting for confirmation from the Chancellor's Office of when the funding will be available.

During the first week of school, Enrollment Services remained open Monday through Wednesday, until 6 p.m. Jennie Cannon and Mary Mericle assisted 13 students at the front counter and 7 students on the phone.

We are still hard at work awarding new files and processing Direct Loan requests. This year all Direct Loans will be disbursed on September 18. For a complete list of our disbursements, you can locate them on our Financial Aid web page under "Disbursement." Our disbursement dates are also posted on the Navigator Student Financial Aid Award Tab.

I can't thank the Enrollment Services staff and Yreka Campus enough for their hard work and patience while learning our new processes and explaining multiple times to students what those changes are.

### **Outreach and Recruitment**

Outreach and recruitment visits are underway. We were at the Alturas K-12 Back to School Night on August 19 and have the following visits planned for September:

9/2/2015 "Recovery Happens," Siskiyou County Behavioral Health, Yreka, CA  
9/9/2015 Fresno College Fair, Fresno, CA  
9/21/2015 College Quest, Redding, CA

### **Student Life**

On September 21 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. College of the Siskiyous will host with College Options a College Fair and COS Preview day on the Weed Campus. All Siskiyou county high school seniors have been invited to meet with college recruiters from across the region. Our College of the Siskiyous Faculty will be participating at the event to meet potential students and provide information about career opportunities that start at COS. Theater, Music, Athletics, Computer Science, and more will be providing demonstrations on different stages set up the quad. Campus tours, music, food, prizes and Eddy the Eagle will help keep the energy up as our Siskiyou County High School Seniors begin their college application journey. Community members are invited and should RSVP to the ASB office 530-938-5280 in order to obtain accurate catering numbers.

### **Student Support Services**

We are very pleased to announce that the Student Support Services grant, which is part of the TRIO federal grant program, has been awarded for another five years of funding and received perfect scores!

Have a great semester!

***No other reports were submitted this month.***