



Victor
Valley
College

Link

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April 2010

... a publication of the Victor Valley College Foundation

VVC Model UN wins again

by Clarissa Manning

In March of 2010, the Victor Valley College Model United Nations team was blessed with the opportunity to attend the National Model United Nations

conference in New York City, New York. Being invited to attend the NMUN conference demonstrates the high reputation Victor Valley College has secured, as we are one

of only 20 community colleges that participates in this conference.

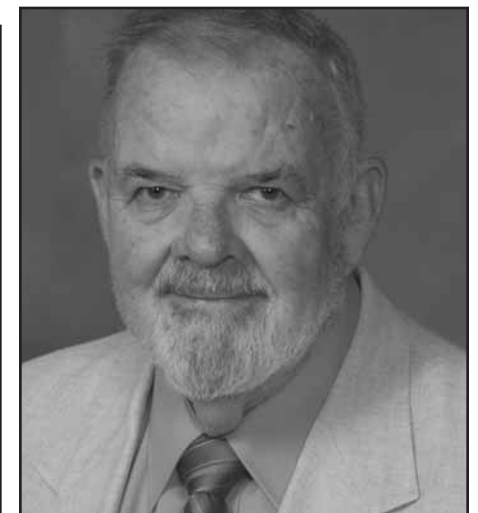
VVC was honored to work alongside delegations from universities such as Pepperdine University and Brigham Young University.

As President of the VVC Model United Nations team for this year, I was charged with spear-heading our fundraising. This was no easy feat, but, as a second-year member of the team, I know how important this conference truly is in refining the very skills necessary to be successful in school and in any chosen career.

The contributions our team relied upon in the past were not as readily available as they had once been. Nearly a month before the conference, our team was not sure if we would be able to secure funding to attend the conference. At that point, we had already spent several months preparing to go and without the support of the Foundation, ASB, Auxiliary Services and contributions from local businesses and community organizations we may not have



The 2010 Victor Valley College Model UN team with their two 'Outstanding' awards in New York.



Farewell to Bill Porter

by Ginger Ontiveros

Last week, the Victor Valley officially said farewell to a gentleman who dedicated a significant part of his long life and big heart to building a vibrant community. The Victor Valley College Foundation too will miss one of its strongest advocates in the passing of Mr. Bill Porter.

"Bill Porter, a founding father of the college Foundation, was the backbone, the caregiver, the guide, the carver of many projects at the college. He pushed the Foundation in to thinking big and needed certain members to

Campus Clues . . . helpful hints for using your college

Cinco de Mayo Celebration

The High Desert Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Cinco de Mayo Family Festival at Victor Valley College on May 1st from 10am-6pm. The public is invited to this free event full of live music, great food and fun activities for the whole family.

The Victor Valley College Associated Student Body is a proud sponsor of this event.

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The Link is published by the Victor Valley College District Foundation in partnership with the Daily Press. Content for the Link is developed collaboratively by the Victor Valley College District Foundation and Victor Valley College.

For information about how you can support higher education programs at Victor Valley College:

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For more information about Victor Valley College visit us on line at www.vvc.edu

Foundation President's Message

Janice Olson, Victor Valley College Foundation President 2009-2010



Victor Valley College students never cease to amaze! Read on

Recently I learned about an Associated Student Body (ASB) program that left me wanting to know more about their great organization. The college provides education and support to help families and children in foster and kinship care situations. This is, not surprisingly called,

the Foster Kinship Care Education Program.

The ASB actively supports this important program which is almost entirely funded through grants and gifts and is valuable to the success of an especially vulnerable student population.

Through this program foster care youth learn the independent living skills they need to successfully transition into a productive adult life.

They learn how to balance a check book, fill out applications for any number of reasons such as applying for a driver's license, employment or admission to school. They learn

to master many of the things that most of us encounter in our daily lives.

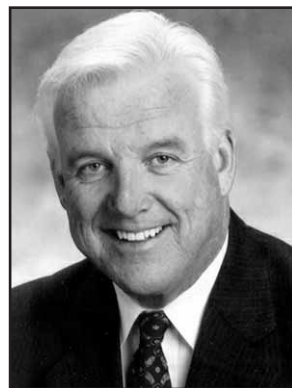
In working with this program, the ASB volunteers to share life skills such as socializing; soft skills, such as being on time, appropriate attire, consideration for others, and so on. They coordinate events such as holiday parties and get-togethers for these students.

The ASB also supports the younger kids whose foster parents are supported with educational programs through the FKCE. For example last year ASB wanted to

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College Superintendent's Message

Dr. Christopher O'Hearn, Victor Valley College Interim Superintendent/President



The one constant we can all be sure of is that change happens. Does this

mean a change in direction, mission or vision? No it does not. In this case, it merely means that something new has been inserted into the mix.

As the newly appointed Interim Superintendent/President, I would like to thank the Board of Trustees for the honor to serve this district and with that, I

promise to dedicate my time to continue on the path of advancement that the Board has helped to institutionalize. The direction is set and I am confident that together we will continue to move this college forward.

As some things change, some things do not. Our number one priority is to deliver a balanced budget. This task is made more difficult in that we are still in the throws of a severe statewide budget crunch. This does not mean a balanced budget is impossible, it just means that we will have to consider all budget saving ideas and do what we can without the need to lay off anyone. For this reason, I invite

everyone to pitch their ideas to the college's finance committee and the College Council.

In other areas, I intend to move quickly to stabilize leadership, bolster sustainability efforts, beautify the main campus, and ensure progress on projects funded by the college's bond measure.

In terms of the day-to-day operations, I will foster a management style that I find to be most comfortable. I believe in a collegial style of management and am not into micro-managing. I like to listen to people. I trust the staff to offer good ideas and will do my best to encourage this type

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ASB represents in Washington DC

by Judi Schmoll
ASB Vice President

Early in the morning of Friday April 2, the ASB Council began making their way to Washington, D.C. to attend the American Student Association for Community Colleges (ASACC) Spring Conference, in order to advocate for students' rights.

Each Council member was armed with VVC gear and a passion for the students, paired with excitement and anticipation and of course, the average smart phone to keep our comrades on campus in the loop for what was to happen over the course of our trip.

For the first evening, we had the almost unheard of opportunity to sit down with the father of Pell Grants, Frank Mensel and as we call her, his



ASB Councilmembers in Washington DC

better half, Bonnie Franke. During this dinner meeting a National ASB and Phi Theta Kappa Survey came into fruition to determine the link, if any,

See ASB page 7

Youth Environmental Leadership Conference held at Victor Valley College

by Joshua Smith and Bill Greulich

If student participation is any measure of the importance of an event, then one can only assume that concern for the environment and the health of the planet is right there at the top of the minds of young people in the High Desert. This was certainly the case when hundreds of local youths turned out for the fifth annual Youth Environmental Leadership Conference (YELC) hosted by Victor Valley Community College.

The youth conference, sponsored by the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District and the Mojave Environmental Education Consortium, offered children in the 3rd to the 12th grade a fun filled, action packed event featuring workshops and demonstrations. The theme of the conference was "Fight Environmental Apathy." Topics covered by the conference included Renewable Energy, Land



Students in a YELC workshop at Victor Valley College

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VVC's TechX highlights career options

Soon Tech X will return to VVC. The technical fair is a two day open house event that introduces potential students and the public to career opportunities through training that are available at the campus.

This year, Tech X will feature a sustainability themed event that will feature green careers in renewable energy, hybrid vehicles, green construction, water conservation, water reclamation, recyclable materials and the forces that drive economic, social and political sustainability for the High Desert.

The event will have displays that include hydrogen powered vehicles, solar powered boats and a sterling engine which runs off of the sun's heat, not the emitted light. There will also be a solar powered boat competition.

The public is invited to participate in games, contests and other activities. Tech X is scheduled for Friday, May 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for students, and Saturday, May 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for the general public. For more information you can call (760)245-4271 ext.2246.

Rams Baseball players score some memorable moments at Mavericks Stadium



The Rams Baseball team gathers for a team photo just before the game



Rams players line up for the National Anthem at Mavericks Stadium.



Rams player Mike Cappella batting to earn an RBI during the game.

by Ginger Ontiveros

The Victor Valley College Rams Baseball team suited up for the annual exhibition game against the High Desert Mavericks this month meeting up with the local minor league team's new players during their first appearance in their Adelanto home stadium. Hundreds of spectators shared in the fun on April 6th.

While the score predictably favored the Mavericks, Victor Valley College players also won through their exposure to playing at a professional level and from the game's proceeds which provided much needed support for their athletic program.

Rams players Andrew Martinez and Mike McAllister scored the Rams only two runs, but now have bragging rights for crossing home plate in the game as do Mike Cappella and Thomas Bagwell for the RBI that made these runs possible. Pitchers Tyler Hamill, Brian Jipp and Elias Montiel all struck out Mavericks to earn their own badges of honor and Daniel Lopez claimed a shut out inning for the college team. Rams outfielders intercepted several great hits and Infielder Kenny McMurray pulled a double play in the 6th inning to cap off a game full of memorable moments for Victor Valley College players.

For the Mavericks the annual tradition, provides a warm up as this is the first game for the

team to play together. At this game, possible standout players for the season made their first marks. Especially impressive were, Outfielder Johermyn Chavez, #12, hit two of the team's 4 home runs and Infielder Edilio Colina, #19, successfully made it to first base at every batting appearance.

It is also the first opportunity for the new seasonal staff to host stadium guests.

Several sponsors showed their support for the home teams including Jerry Klein / State Farm Insurance, Bluestar Properties, Wells Fargo Mortgage, Capstone Consulting, Distribution Property Solutions, Riverside Preparatory School, and the Victor Valley College Associated Student Body.

The final score was Mavericks 27, Rams 2 which is a testament to the strength of the new Mavericks team. After playing the Rams, the Mavericks went on the road winning a majority of their games. They played their first home game last week.

The event raised nearly \$2,500 for college athletic programs. Victor Valley College, its Foundation and baseball program are thankful to their friends at the High Desert Mavericks for hosting this great event.

'Little Women' comes to VVC stage

by Racheal Rickman, VVC Rampage reporter

Directed by Victor Valley College's Ed Heaberlin, "Little Women" will start showing on the Victor Valley College stage in May. The musical production, based on a novel by Louisa May Alcott stars four women as its lead characters.

"Little Women" is a story loosely based on the author's own childhood experience of growing up in a home with sisters and a mother who was often away. The story unfolds as the four girls overcome character flaws in their own lives. Meg, played by student Brook Woodward deals with overcoming her vanity. Jo, played by student Kara Woodward, has a hot temper. Beth, played by student Ammiel Hamrick, is shy, and Amy, played by student Katelyn Grebel, is selfish. Each of the sisters has to learn to accept and conquer their own issues.

Diane Wollan, who is a counselor at the college, plays the role of Marmee, the four girls' mother.

"I have no children and getting to play a mother on Mother's Day is nice," said Wollan.

Little Women as a musical is only a few years old, one of the newest shows to have ever been done at Victor Valley College.

"I wanted to do this production for some time now and was originally holding auditions for the Music Man, however, there were so many good women auditioning that I made the switch," said Heaberlin. "This is a beautiful show."

"Rehearsals are fun, the cast is tight. It is only the second week, and everyone already knows each other and works well together," said



The cast of Little Women (L to R) Katelyn Grebel, Kara Woodward, Ammiel Hamrick, Diane Wollan and Brooke Woodward. - photo by Patrick Foster, VVC Rampage Reporter

Hamrick. The play is scheduled to debut on May 6 with consecutive performances on May 7, 8, and 9 and on May 13, 14, 15 and 16. The performances start at 7:30 pm with the exceptions of the shows on May 9 and May 16, which will start at 2:30 pm.

Tickets can be purchased in advance online at www.vvc.edu/tix or at the Performing Arts Box Office one hour prior to the event. Tickets for adults are \$10 for seniors and children \$7 and free for VVC ASB cardholders.

This story originally appeared in the Victor Valley College Rampage and is reprinted with permission.



Rotary holds District Assembly at Victor Valley College

Rotarians from California and Nevada met in the middle at Victor Valley College for the annual District 5300 Assembly. This marks the second year that the regional collection of Rotary Clubs has selected Victor Valley College as the place to gather in the spring for their workshops and fellowship event.

The District Assembly equips

Rotarians for the upcoming year of service with sessions on growing membership, communications, international programs youth activities, meeting standards and more.

The Assembly which attracted hundreds of visitors to the Victor Valley, was held on April 10th. Rotary is the largest service organization in the world.

Alpha Phi Gamma earns Five Starts again

Victor Valley College's Alpha Phi Gamma, the local chapter of the international scholastic organization Phi Theta Kappa, achieved Five Start status for the second year in a row and only the third time in the chapter's history this year. Of the 95 chapters in the Nevada/California Region, only 10 chapters, including VVC's, were able to reach Five Star status.

To achieve this status, Chapter President Music Vernola's focused on ensuring that the chapter was able to offer more scholarship opportunities. One of the most successful efforts was a community wide book drive.

The chapter was able to garner donations of nearly 1000 books. Some of the books were sent to an organization that sends books to poverty stricken

communities in Africa while others were sold to students for \$1 a piece. As a result, they were able to offer a \$500 scholarship to a Victor Valley College student.

One of the largest projects that the chapter has been working on is revitalizing the gardens at the VVC Child Development Center. Alpha Phi Gamma members are working together to teach young children that fruit does not grow in

the grocery store but rather from the soil and sun. With PTK's help, children experience the life of a garden from planting seeds to harvesting vegetables and flowers. The hard work and time required for this level of recognition is a true reflection of the caliber of students and volunteers that are dedicated to the organization. The Alpha Phi Gamma was chartered in 1993.

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been able to make the trip. Thankfully, we got the support we needed.

This year, Victor Valley College represented Brunei Darussalam, a small country located in Southeast Asia. Each committee was assigned separate topics to research and analyze. Our job was to look at the topic and create policy positions based on the best interest of Brunei and how Brunei would stand in the actual United Nations.

For example, the GA 1st delegate spent several months researching illicit sales of small arms and light weapons, the role of private military and private security companies, and conflict minerals so that they would know as much as possible about the topics and how it relates to the international community as well as Brunei's stance on the topics.

As a team, our topics covered humanitarian issues, economic issues, security issues,

and topics unique to states with a majority Muslim population in the OIC. Our team spent between 15-20 hours per week since October, 2009 in practice and research, not including the additional time dedicated outside of practice to research and raise funds. Most of this work was done outside the classroom on the team's own time.

Armed with a three-inch binder full of relevant research pertaining to all three topics, we felt ready to take on this conference and participate with our peers at an academic level matching that of real international diplomats.

Our committee sessions always began early in the morning, between 7am and 9am, and they ended between 10pm and 12am each night. Our evenings ended with a team meeting where we would debrief about the events of the day to get an idea of how everyone is doing and how, if possible, we could help.

During our committee sessions, we worked diligently with other delegates to address the topic at hand, using our knowledge of the rules of procedure and diplomacy to keep the body running smoothly.

Each day, we were presented with new challenges, be it the breaking up of our own group, a difficult merge of papers with another group, or constant negotiations with fellow delegates to ensure the creation of a widely accepted working paper.

By the third day, affectionately known by most delegations as "Meltdown Tuesday", we were finalizing our papers and submitting them to the dais to be edited. While our directors edited our papers, we continued to go around the committee garnering support for the paper and addressing issues brought to light by other groups that our own group may have over-looked.

On the final day, after several days of long hours and grueling work, we went to the United Nations building to participate in the General Assembly Plenary in the Great Hall where we were able to sit in the very seats that the real UN delegates from our country sit. Amazing.

While at the United Nations, shortly before closing ceremonies, we learned that we upheld the reputation of Victor Valley College and been awarded with, for the 6th year in a row, the two top awards at the conference, Outstanding Delegation and Outstanding Position Papers.

This is a great accomplishment, especially considering the challenges we were faced with this year and I am truly proud of and commend each and every one of my teammates in performing at such a high level.

OLSON from page 2

give each foster student his or her own backpack, filled with necessary items such as a blanket and personal grooming tools.

They solicited donations and coordinated the assembly and delivery of these backpacks with love to the kids who often need to be reminded that they are valued. One such donation came from Ben Lamson of Blue Star Properties and a long time supporter of the

Foundation who purchased all the backpacks that remained on their wish list.

Personal items and gifts were provided by students, Foundation members, members of the community and the staff at the college to replace some of what they lost when they were moved from their homes to a temporary family situation. How cool is that?

At this time, a new

program to help foster children is being developed with San Bernardino County. It's a team approach to charting a life plan for each student. Team members consist of counselors, educators, friends and family of each foster child. No team has more than one student; together, they chart a life plan for the student. We can't wait to learn of their progress. In the meantime, "hats off" to a great

group of ASB students doing good work in our community.

The FKCE program serves 400-500 foster families and is open to all foster children. For more information, contact Rebecca Talley at 760.245.4271 X 2721.

We at the Foundation are proud to be collaborative partners with the ASB.

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Use, Recycling, Water Conservation, Environmental Geo-caching and much more.

Two teacher workshops were also held.

Each attendant was provided with an official conference T-shirt and a backpack filled with school supplies and lunch.

This program was designed to build leadership skills and encourage environmental stewardship among students. At the end of the day there was an Opportunity Prize Drawing for all students who attended.

O'HEARN from page 2

of collaborative effort.

Finally, I have seen, first hand, the good work of the Victor Valley Community College District Foundation and thank all who have volunteered or contributed to the cause.

I will continue to work closely with the Foundation's membership to refine and enhance all efforts that lead to student success.

ASB from page 3

between the two organizations and whether leadership training of one aids in the development of the other.

Saturday commenced the kick off of the conference with opening speakers Jee Hang Lee, Director of Public Policy for the Association of Community College Trustees, David Baime, Vice President of Government Relations for the American Association of Community Colleges, and Joel Packer, Executive Director of the Committee for Education Funding; who also spearheaded a question and answer forum on what issues students should focus on throughout the 2010 year.

Following were concurrent Issue Forums where students attended and voted as to which issues would be the ASACC Goals for the year: Pell Grant Funding, The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act, and Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act won top votes for student concern. On this evening, Frank Mensel was

honored with the ASACC Lifetime Achievement Award for all of his years of service and dedication to community colleges. Frank is also the first non-congressional recipient ever chosen for this award. This was an emotional moment that our Council was glad to be a part of, as Frank has been very closely tied with our campus and ASB.

Sunday morning's keynote speaker, Ralph Nader, succeeded in motivating students by instilling the idea in each of us that our concerns, as American citizens, should be heard, advocated for, and demonstrated. To do so we have to be active in our hometowns by uniting and making sure that our needs are known, by bringing issues forward to our Senators and Congressmen, as well as all other levels of government.

With this excitement fresh in our minds, we attended workshops to hone the necessary skills to speak with our state representatives and staff members. Monday's itinerary consisted of

pre-scheduled meetings with representatives from Congressman McKeon, Congressman Lewis, Senator Boxer, and Senator Feinstein's offices. During these meetings we advocated for the Pell Grant increases, The D.R.E.A.M. Act, and lowering the independent student age from 24 to 21.

In the midst of all the business as an ASB Council, we were able to bond and grow, as well as build upon each other's strengths, knowledge, and hidden talents. We may have been surprised by one another, but overall we have become a stronger and more successful team. In our time there we were able to experience the fast-paced and invigorating culture by touring the White House and the Capitol, and in meeting with our government representatives.

At the end of the day, whether you agree or not on the passage of the health care legislation this council was witness to the making of history.

PORTER from page 1

achieve great things.” said Janice Olson, Foundation President.

Bill joined the Foundation board in the early 1980's when it was, in his words, "a breakfast club" of guys who would meet over coffee to discuss the college; and he continued to lead the organization through its transformation in the mid 1990's to the vibrant resource development partner it is today. Bill was President of the Foundation in 1997-98.

“Bill asked me to get involved in the Foundation,” Olson said. “I accepted his challenge, because I saw in him the dedication, the love, the sense of honor and decency, and the commitment he'd clearly made to the furtherance of education.”

He was bold about asking for support and committed to recognizing those who provided it. His vision for this recognition led to the development of the Foundation's donor wall which he helped to unveil in 2008.

He often challenged Foundation members to find ways to help the college in programs that trained the local workforce. His passion for supporting the business community led him to recognize the college's role as a key to their success. He worked for years to ensure the college would have the resources it needed to help people learn the skills businesses need in their employees. For this reason, Bill supported the college bond efforts which is now providing important resources to expand education

facilities across the Victor Valley.

Bill knew that running a healthy philanthropic organization, like the Foundation, requires infrastructure and resources that are leveraged to generate greater support from grants, partnerships and major charitable gifts. So, Bill championed the "President's Circle" for many years. This group contributes to Foundation's operations, provides funding to support Foundation programs such as its annual campus grant awards, and responds to urgent needs from college programs. The President's Circle reached nearly 100 members which was a long-time goal for Bill, and when it became clear this threshold would be achieved, he immediately set his sights on 200 members.

“Bill Porter's legacy of strength, spirit, and doing the ‘right thing’ is inextricably woven in to the fabric of the Foundation,” said Olson. “He was truly a giant among men and those of us who were touched by him know we were touched by greatness. Thank you, Bill”

The Porter Family encourages gifts to the Foundation as a tribute to Bill Porter. Any contributions for this purpose should be made payable to the Victor Valley College Foundation, 18422 Bear Valley Rd., Victorville, CA 92392 with Bill Porter tribute designated in the memo portion of the check. Or they can be made through the web at www.vvcfoundation.com.



Bill Porter shared some history about the Foundation's quest for developing a donor recognition wall at its unveiling ceremony in July 2008.



Bill and Paula Porter walked the red carpet at the grand re-opening of the Victor Valley College Performing Arts Center in April 2008.



Bill Porter welcomes Bill and Linda Scott to the Victor Valley College President's Circle in 2004