

ON CAMPUS

PALO ALTO COLLEGE

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Oct.-Nov. 2006

Groundbreaking heralds Southside's first Soccer Field funded by City Bond Issue



Joining PAC President Dr. Ana M. 'Cha' Guzmán, center, with shovels during ground breaking ceremonies are (from left) Rodney Dzuick, Park Design Superintendent for the City of San Antonio; Humberto Saldana, Saldana & Associates Architects; Kenny Allen, Palo Alto Elementary (PAE) School principal; Dr. Guzman; Judy and Richie Perez, wife and son of City Councilman Richard Perez; and Susan Blackwood, Executive Director of the San Antonio Sports Foundation. Viewing the ceremony are (far left) Roberto Hernandez, a PAE 4th grade teacher, and his students. The groundbreaking marks the beginning of the first phase of a planned three-year construction project between Palo Alto College and the City of San Antonio in its Soccer Field Partnership. (Photo by Mario Ramirez)

For some students, dreams of playing on an international size professional soccer field in south San Antonio came one step closer to reality when Palo Alto College held a groundbreaking ceremony on campus Oct. 6.

Joining Dr. Ana M. "Cha" Guzman, PAC president, in turning over the first spade of dirt for the field were representatives from the city and the San Antonio Sports Foundation, along with fourth-grade students representing PAC's 30th Anniversary Scholarship students from Palo Alto Elementary School.

"Thanks to the leadership of Councilman Richard Perez, citizens of the southside will no longer have to travel to other parts of the city to play soccer on a professional field," Guzman said. "I'm looking forward to the day we can all watch amateur

and professional athletics played right here, on campus, on what promises to be a beautiful field."

With the soccer field located on campus, PAC will be able to use it in its college and continuing education courses. The soccer field will also be available for community use.

The ceremony marked the beginning of the first phase of a three-phase Palo Alto College and City of San Antonio partnership.

Phase One involves construction of the field and an irrigation system. Phase Two calls for the construction of a 1,200-square-foot toilet and concession facility, field lighting, utilities and sidewalk improvements. Phase Three will involve construction of a parking area.

'CSI' training growing in interest at PAC

CSI . . . we are all familiar with those three letters from the TV show that has become so popular. Forensic Science drives that program and now we have a Forensic Science program at Palo Alto College.

"Palo Alto College had the first course in Spring 2006 with FORS 2440, which we developed based on a template from Weatherford Community College.

"PAC's course goes a little farther and introduces the student to every aspect of the forensic sciences on an introductory level" said Earl Ballou, PAC's forensics instructor.

Since that first course, the advanced successor to FORS 2450 was developed and offered this fall.

"We had 10 people in FORS 2440 and six of those have come back for our advanced course" Ballou says. "But when the word gets around about the courses, we really expect it to become one of the more popular classes."

FORS 2440 – Forensic Science I – is the introductory course. In this class, the student will learn the basics of such things as crime scene investigation, evidence, the courts, fingerprinting, anatomy and physiology, chemistry, hairs and fibers, blood splatter, DNA, uses of the microscope, impression evidence and glass evidence.

Then in the advanced course, FORS 2450 – Forensic Science II – students will review previous subject matter from



A chemist from the Bexar Medical Examiner's Lab explains the process for determining drug identification to PAC Forensic Science students.

FORS 2440 in detail and with a lot more hands-on performance. Additionally they will discuss theories of criminal behavior and look closely at psychiatric forensics. This will introduce the student to the foundations of "profiling."

Interviewing and interrogation skills will be exercised and the class will end with a graded "live" crime scene investigation from start to finish.

These classes often help a student decide on specific careers which range

from crime scene investigator generalist, to specialties like fingerprint expert, serology, odontology, ballistics, chemist and even DNA technician.

Graduates are sought by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies as well as many private organizations.

If you would like more information about these and other Criminal Justice programs contact Steve Mardock, Lead Instructor, at 921-5353, or Earl Ballou at 373-1007.

FIGHTER PRAISES EFFORTS FOR TEXAS A&M CAMPUS

Four-time World Boxing Association Heavyweight Champion Evander "The Real Deal" Holyfield made a stop at Palo Alto College to visit with the faculty, staff and students of Texas A&M University-Kingsville System Center-San Antonio, to congratulate them on their efforts to bring an A&M campus to San Antonio, during a promotional tour of the city Nov. 7.

Holyfield posed for photos and spoke with fans eager to meet with him prior to his 50th professional boxing bout scheduled for Nov. 10 with The World Latino Heavyweight Champion Fres Oquendo.

"Education is a wonderful thing," Holyfield said. "I'm happy to see the community came together to bring more educational opportunities to the citizens of south San Antonio."



Michelle Vargas, President of PAC's Student Government Association, left, and Leo Mancilla Jr., PAC facilities, right, pose with Evander Holyfield, the four-time World Heavyweight Boxing Champion. Holyfield stopped at PAC to congratulate the faculty, staff and students of TAMUK for their efforts in bringing an A&M campus to San Antonio. (Photo by Mario Ramirez)



Recognitions From the President

Dr. Ana M. "Cha" Guzmán

Congratulations to **Dora Contreras**, Administrative Secretary for Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, Employee of the Month for September; **Leo Mancilla**, Master Plumber in Facilities, Employee of the Month for October; and **Rogelio Arizmendi**, Computer Support Technician, Employee of the Month for November. Each honoree receives a luncheon at a restaurant of his choice, reserved parking space, photo posted on the Staff Council Bulletin Board, recognition on the PAC website, a certificate, an the traveling EOM Trophy displayed at his desk.

Congratulations to **Sue Valle** and the Palo Alto College Cafeteria staff on receiving a perfect score (no violations) on their latest health inspection report. This is the third perfect score in as many visits; this past March, KMOL TV-4 awarded the Cafeteria the Blue Plate Award. The PAC Cafeteria is managed by Custom Foods.

Five PAC teachers are among those honored in this year's edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 2005-2006*. Congratulations to **Brad Chandler**, Biology; **Gabriel O. Ume**, Government; **Amy Jackola**, English; and **Diane Beechinor**, who is the new Chair of Sciences & Math at Northeast Lakeview College.

PALO ALTO COLLEGE

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Larry Jackson, Director of Corporate and Community Education, was honored by the West San Antonio Chamber of Commerce with the 2006 Veterans in Business award. He served in the Air Force until 1989.

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 Congratulations to Coach **Gabriel Palacios** and PAC's Men's Cross Country Team, who ranked No. 8 nationally at the end of the regular cross country season and competed in the NJCAA Division III National Cross Country Championship Nov. 11 in Alfred, N.Y. Students who participated are **Arthur Acosta**, **Alex Solano**, **Cesar Arce**, **Ruben Cruz** and **Marcus Kisner**. Palacios is a former PAC student and cross country runner.



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 Congratulations to Mathematics Instructor **Monette Elizalde**, who has earned her doctorate from the University of the Incarnate Word.

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 As we celebrate the holiday season, I encourage you to participate in our annual **Little Palominos Tree**, which began over 10 years ago.

You can take a tag off the tree outside the Student Activities Office, alert the staff there which student you will sponsor, and purchase the requested gift. They are provided for children of our students who register and are verified to be in need. You can also help with donations of gift wrapping items, such as paper, tape and bows.

If you want to give a monetary donation, they'll take that, too.

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Faculty Senate

President: **Javier Aguirre**
 Vice President: **Juan C. Tejada**
 Secretary: **Dorothy Ulcak**
 Parliamentarian: **Caroline Mains**
 Treasurer: **Tony Villanueva**
 Immediate Past Pres.: **Ismael Dovalina**

Student Government Association

President: **Michelle Vargas**
 Secretary of Business & Treasurer: **Chris Goodman**
 Senator-Campus Operations: **Viviane Reyes**
 Senator-Instruction & Curriculum: **Bobby Sandoval**
 Senator-Public Relations: **Rachel Gayoso**
 Senator of Student Activities: **Anthony Perez Jr.**
 Senator of Student Services: **Sirena Abrego**

Staff Council

President: **Anita Soliz**, Multimedia Specialist, Instructional Innovation Center
 President-Elect: **Jane Velasquez**, Community Outreach Coordinator, Distance Education
 Secretary: **Azucena Rodriguez-Guerra**, Learning Resources Specialist, Technical Services, LRC
 Treasurer: **Mary Ester Perez**, Coordinator, Continuing Education & Customized Training.
 Reporter/Historian: **Serena Monita**, Senior Secretary, Kinesiology, Health & Dance
 Parliamentarian: **Carol Medrano**, Student Success Team Leader, Admissions & Records
 Professional Reps: **Thomas Murguia**, Education Skills Specialist.
 Classified Reps: **Jennifer Leal**, Administrative Secretary, Science & Technology; **Virginia Vargas**, Student Success Specialist, HEP; **Linda Glover**, Senior Secretary, Learning Resource Center.
 Facilities Rep: **Roger Chacon**, Grounds Foreman; **Ramon Hernandez**, Groundskeeper; **Arturo Sanchez**, Groundskeeper; **Larry Smith**, Maintenance Mechanic.

'Community Conversation' suggests state-funded mentoring, early intervention, parent orientations

A consortium of south San Antonio students, educators, community organizations and business leaders came together at Palo Alto College recently to participate in a "Community Conversation" centered on ways to help PAC students achieve their educational goals.

The "Community Conversation" event is part of the Alamo Community College District's "Achieving the Dream" initiative. The District, and each of its colleges, has held a "Community Conversation" in their sectors in order to engage their community and stakeholders in dialogues to raise awareness on collegiate activities and issues, and to establish partnerships designed to help students succeed.

"Our goal is to uncover new ideas and initiatives that will allow more students to graduate with an associate's degree, or obtain their certification," said Dr. Ana M. "Cha" Guzman, PAC president. "With your help, we can continue to provide a multitude of opportunities to help students achieve their academic goals."

At the end of the evening, participants who had been divided up into three groups were rejoined in the Student Center where they presented their top three recommendations to Dr. Guzman:

- **Red Group:** The group's #1 recommendation called for "Post-secondary Fairs in Elementary Schools." The group felt it was important for students in elementary school to have a plan, or at least an idea, that they are going to college upon graduation from high school. The second recommendation called for inviting more business leaders to partner with PAC in providing additional opportunities and financial resources, and a third recommendation called for PAC to increase distance learning.



- **Blue Group:** The group's #1 recommendation called for "State-funded Mentoring Programs" that would help students gain more direction. The group wants to see more businesspeople and professionals partner with students in order to offer them an insight into how they became successful. The second recommendation called for educating faculty on various resources available to them in order to enlighten students, and a third recommendation called for PAC to identify existing programs, or renew prior successful programs, to bring adults back into the classroom.

- **Green Group:** The group's #1 recommendation called for "Parent Orientation" at the start of the academic year. The group felt that parents, along with their children, need a college orientation session so that they know what to expect and the resources available to them. The second recommendation called for a "Student Mentor Program," and the third recommendation called for a "PAC Summer Camp for K-12 Students."

Palo Alto College will now review the recommendations and form a "Follow-up" work group to ensure that the ideas presented are considered and implemented as appropriate.

Annual Charitable Campaign to feature PAC binders

The ACCD's Employee's Annual Charitable Campaign is in full swing as coordinators from 40 departments on campus are soliciting financial support for the campaign, scheduled to end Dec. 15.

According to Vincent Bosquez, PAC's public relations director and campaign coordinator, the purpose of this year's drive is to support a variety of education-related funds and scholarships supported by the ACCD Foundation, as well as community-based programs funded by the United Way.

"This campaign is designed to meet genuine needs on our campus and in our community," Bosquez said. "Over the past five years, the Palo Alto College family has made generous donations to the campaign that has helped recipients achieve their educational goals, or has



raised their quality of life."

This year there are 13 accounts that directly benefit the college and its students that donors can choose from when making a donation. Among them are the Jason DeLecour Memorial Scholarship (Code 4418), the Ozuna LRC Children's Library Endowment (Code 4450), and the Mariachi Scholarship Program (Code 4412).

Pledge sheets are designed to accommodate as many as four designations.

There are also accounts that support education at all of ACCD's colleges, and accounts for agencies that are served by the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County.

Everyone who makes a contribution, regardless of amount, will receive a "Thank you" from Dr. Ana M. "Cha" Guzman, PAC President, in the form of a PAC binder.

Leadership Society recognition pins will also be awarded by the ACCD coordinator in three categories: the Alamo Society, for pledges from \$500 to \$999; the Tejas Society for pledges from \$1,000 to \$2,499; and the Bejar Society for pledges from \$2,500 to \$4,999.

For more information on PAC's Charitable Campaign, contact your department coordinator or call Vincent Bosquez at 921-5269.