



**SAN ANTONIO
COLLEGE**

Create Your Tomorrow

Update

November 18, 2005

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San Antonio, TX 78212

210-733-2147

www.accd.edu/sac/pr

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Sonia Valdez selected ACCD Employee of the Year

Sonia Valdez, Institutional Research Coordinator, has been selected District-Wide Employee of the Year for 2005 by ACCD Unified Staff Council. She was recognized with a plaque and congratulations at the November ACCD Board of Trustees meeting.



President Zeigler honors Ms. Valdez

"For over 10 years at SAC, Ms. Valdez has been a delight to work with," said President Robert Zeigler. He praised "her expertise, positive attitude, and high efficiency in doing complex work under stringent deadlines."

Colleagues at the college and the district

also appreciate her work. SAC Chief Financial Officer David Mrizek said she represents the college and district "with a high level of professionalism." Co-worker Cynthia Price said, "She is one of those rare individuals who have highly developed technical skills and can also work tactfully with people."

Director of ACCD Institutional Research, Planning & Effectiveness Velda Villarreal said, "She is truly committed to the mission of SAC and the college district in that she sets high performance standards for herself, realizing that all work ultimately impacts our students."

Community passes bond to enhance ACCD colleges

On Nov. 8, Bexar County voters passed the ACCD bond issue by a significant 60 percent, to provide for \$450 million in enhancements to the Alamo Community College District colleges, as well as construction of a new northeast college.

"The passage of this bond is very exciting," said President Robert E. Zeigler, who added, "It will enable the ACCD in general and San Antonio College in particular to meet the educational needs of our population. This bond will create a better educational citizenry and thereby build a better community."

For SAC, this will mean construction of a new Nursing and Allied Health Complex, a

new parking garage adding 1,000 new parking spaces, a new Academic Complex, expansion of the Library, as well as classroom reconstruction in the Nursing Education Building and in the Nail Technical Center.

President Zeigler said next steps include the creation of an Oversight Committee, which will be comprised of a core group plus the chairpersons of several User Committees, whose members will include faculty and staff from programs directly affected by the bond. He said that it will take five to six months of design and planning before any construction could begin, with construction district-wide taking approximately four to six years.

Recognized for their 15 years of service at SAC are, top row l-r, Phillip E. Glaspy, Chemistry; Luis A. Rodriguez, Biological Science; Stephen Dingman, Learning Resources; Samuel H. Creswell, Mathematics; Marianne Odom,



Journalism; Faye Lamphear, Business; Gilbert Castillo, Evening, Weekend, Distance Ed. Second row l-r, Gracie Savage, Student Affairs, (15 yrs. of combined ACCD service); Catherine A. Anderson, Chemistry; Helen Torres, Evening, Weekend, Distance Ed.; Sylvia A. Cadena, Learning Resources; Sylvia De Leon, Business; Alice L. Gomez, Music/Humanities; and Debbie Garcia, Facilities.

Not pictured are Alfred N. Alaniz, Chemistry; Sharon L. Argo, English; Ester Coronado, Institutional Budget and Planning,

with 15 years of combined ACCD service; Mark M. Davenport, Physics; Catherine Mallory, Business; Abdul Qudus, Chemistry; Jeanne M. Redmond, English; and Arthur R. Troell, Chemistry.

Calendar of Events

All events are free, except as noted.

Friday-Sunday, Nov. 18-20

SAC Theatre presents "Frozen" directed by Jim Mammarella. McCreless Theatre. 8 p.m. Fri. - Sat. 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Gen. Ad: \$10, Military/Sr. Citizens: \$8 Free to ACCD students, faculty and staff. Contact: Theatre Dept., 733-2715.

Monday, Nov 21

Parenting Workshop: Child Emotional Development. Noon to 2 p.m. MLC 613. Contact: Carolina Trevino, SAC Women's Center & Adult Re-entry Program, 733-2299 or womenctr@accd.edu.

Open Health Forum Brown Bag to help build healthy relationships: "How to deal with a raging bull without getting gored." Noon - 1 p.m. Candler PE 126. Contact: Louise Burton, lburton@accd.edu, or www.womenhelpingothersachieve.com/.

Student Talent Show 7:30 p.m. McAllister Auditorium. Mary Lou Russell, coordinator. Contact: Music & Humanities, 733-2731.

Wednesday, Nov. 23

Due date to submit poster design for SAC Women's Center 25th Anniversary. The winner will receive a \$500 scholarship for Spring 2006. Details at www.accd.edu/sac/students/wc.htm.

Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 24-27

Thanksgiving Holiday - College Closed

Wednesday, Nov. 30

Hot Potato Issues: "Drug Culture Out of Control" with Robert Flores, Director, Peer Education Program. Noon at Methodist Student Center, Belknap & Dewey streets. Contact: MSC, 733-1441.

Wednesday-Thursday, Nov. 30-Dec. 1

Phi Theta Kappa presents School of Pop: Music, Art, Film & Lit. 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. both nights. McAllister Aud. Details at www.txptk.org/betanu or call 279-6328.

Thursday, Dec. 1

Peer Educators celebrates World AIDS Day. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Loftin Student Center Fiesta Room. Contact: 733-2175 or peereducators1@yahoo.com.

www.accd.edu/sacpr/calendar.htm

SAC-ACCD Employee Giving Campaign

It's your chance to support education and community, and help reach SAC's All Time Giving High of \$40,000!

Call 733-2149 or visit www.accd.edu and click on Annual Charitable Campaign.

Dimitriu is Piper nominee

SAC faculty nominated Engineering Coordinator Dr. Dan Dimitriu for the 2006 Piper Professor Award. He now represents the college at the state level in the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation program that annually grants 15 awards of \$5,000 each to Texas college professors for superior teaching, based on nominations from their respective institutions.



Dimitriu at EDGE graduation

In his nomination statement, Dimitriu wrote, "I was blessed to have some exceptional teachers in the many schools I attended both in the U.S. and Romania.

They incited me to emulate their example and approach the students as a professor, as well as a friend and mentor. With a work history spanning 30 years, I come to class with a rich story. When I saw that in the U.S., my adoptive country, the number of students choosing an engineering career is declining and that schools are having difficulties in attracting and retaining students, I knew that my call in life was to be an ambassador of engineering education. In 2001, I became a full-time engineering instructor at SAC. Some call me 'the Billy Graham' of the Engineering Crusade."

According to Stephen Dingman, Faculty Senate Elections & Surveys Committee, SAC candidates also included Dr. Jessica Howard, Music/Humanities; Dr. Carol Keller, History; Dr. Jonathan Lee, History; and Lauri Metcalf, American Sign Language/Interpreter Training. Members of the Piper Nomination Committee included Mack Haile, Sally Hoppstetter, Ellen Marshall and Richard Schoenig.

Award announcements are expected May 1.

San Antonio College Update

Editors John Hammond and Deborah Martin
Photographer Leonard Ziegler

Deadline to submit items is 5 p.m. Monday. Send news to Public Relations, FAC 313, call 733-2147, or e-mail your items to jhammond@accd.edu or dmartin@accd.edu. The Update staff reserves the right to edit items.

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Arredondo at St. Paul's Cathedral in London

Cathedrals studied

Richard Arredondo, Visual Arts and Technology chair, joined the San Fernando Cathedral Study Group in September to conduct research on cathedrals in London. The trip, funded by a grant to the cathedral, included professors of art, theology, architecture and music from colleges in San Antonio, as well as experts in finance and urban planning.

He cited many highlights of the trip, including the 1,100-year-old Westminster Abbey that houses the royal chair used for coronations, last used in 1952 by Queen Elizabeth II. He also noted that Southwark Cathedral, built in 606 A.D., hosted visiting playwrights, including Shakespeare, and during a renovation some years ago, became an archeological site where earthenware workshops from the Middle Ages were found. Further, he said, the 19th Century Westminster "Catholic" cathedral remains unfinished, with a black ceiling in the nave.

In all, the group visited six cathedrals and the historic preservation agency English Heritage. Arredondo said the San Fernando Cathedral clergy and staff hope the research will help with fund-raising and staffing, and enhance their operations as both a historic site and a sacred space.



More than 5,000 students (full- and part-time) earned Honors certificates for the 2004-05 academic year. Pictured here is Dean of Student Affairs Joy Gates Black, Ed.D., congratulating one of the 253 students who attended the ceremony held in McAllister Auditorium. Students unable to attend may pick up their certificates in the Public Relations office, FAC 313, or call 733-2147 and ask that it be mailed.



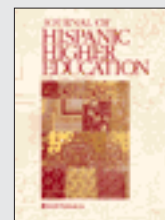
SAC Excellence ★



Congratulations to Electrical Engineering major **John Ruiz**, who attended the International Symposium of Mexican

American Engineers and Scientists, along with five other SAC students, and was selected for a \$2,000 Founders Scholarship. He also entered the poster competition summarizing the research he did on adaptive optics during his summer internship at the Lawrence Livermore National Lab in Santa Cruz.

Hooray for **Allen O. Olsen**, History adjunct faculty, for his article "San Antonio's West Side Sound," a study of an important component of the local music scene from the 1950s through today. It was published in the Spring 2005 edition of *The Journal of Texas Music History*, which is the first academic journal to focus on the entire spectrum of Southwestern music history and a project of The Center for Texas Music History, in the History Dept. at Texas State Univ. Additionally, Olsen's book query was recently accepted by UT Press. He is hopeful that the article will become a book in the not too distant future.



Bravo for **Dr. Helen Vera**, coordinator of SAC Women's Center and Adult Re-entry Program, who co-authored "Chicana Identity Construction: Pushing the Boundaries," an article

published in the April 2005 *Journal of Hispanic Higher Education*. The article expands upon recent research efforts conducted on Chicana identity formation.

Congratulations to the **Speech Team**, directed by advisor **Jolinda Ramsey**. In the Bayou Bucket Swing Tournament October 21-23 at Cy-Fair and North Harris Community College, the Speech Team placed 2nd in Team Individual Events Sweepstakes in the second half of the tournament, and placed 3rd Overall in Individual Events Sweepstakes, competing against 15 other colleges and universities in attendance. Students who placed in individual events included **Steve Williams, Melanie Peay, Melissa Ruiz, and Laura Cabaniss**.