EPCC Honors Distinguished Faculty

El Paso Community College held their annual award dinner on Friday, May 2, at the Coronado Country Club to honor the 2014 NISOD Excellence Award recipients. Ken Gorski, AIA (Architecture VV), received the Minnie Piper Stevens Award. Faculty Achievement Award recipients were Margie Nelson-Rodriguez (English VV); Dr. Barbara J. Yancy-Tooks (Speech NW); and Grace Vaughn (Business VV). Dr. Paula Mitchell (Campus Dean RG, Health Career & Technical Education, Math & Science) received the Administrative NISOD Award.

Winning the Adjunct Faculty Achievement Awards were Ricardo Marrufo (English); Allaa Salama (Sociology/Philosophy); and Oscar Macedo (Math).

Congratulations!

Faculty Recognized for 20, 30, 35 and 40 Years of Service

Employee recognition luncheons were held in April and May to honor those who have served EPCC in various roles. Faculty who were recognized May 2 include the following:

20 Years
Sandra Campbell

25 Years
Jose M. Baltazar
Lorena Chavez
Rogerio Chavira
Evangelina De Luna
Norman D. Love
Norma McKenzie
Carlos Ramirez
Stella Steagall

30 Years
Raul M. Arizpe
Deborah J. Caskey
Maria C. Gonzalez
Jacqueline M. Henry
Normina Wolff-Porras

35 Years
Luis F. Chaparro
Margaret Endlich
Lillie Taylor Johnson
Enrique A. Olivas
Rebecca A. Perales
Geraldine Rajski
Cynthia A. Rivera
Racquel C. Salas
Christl E. Thompson

20 Years
Sandra Campbell

40 Years
Teresa C. Duran
Alfred T. Enriquez
Theodore Johnston
Thomas D. Myers
Leo N. Pineda
Several faculty have chosen to retire as of April 28, 2014, representing a broad range of disciplines. Those present at the awards dinner on May 2 at the Coronado Country Club were honored along with faculty award winners.

Verne Alkire (Automotive Technology VV); Sharon Dickinson (Dental Assistant RG); Joanne Hackerson (Nursing RG); Dr. Timothy Hobbs (Dental Hygiene RG); Dr. Joseph Martinez (Speech VV); Dr. Armin Mayr (Chemistry RG); Elaine Olsakovsky (Health Professional RG); Marie Racine (Radiation Technology RG); Barbara Rigby-Acosta (ESOL VV); Hector Serrano (Theater VV); Gail Shipley (Economics VV); and Jose Tovar (Mathematics VV).

Thank you for your service and enjoy the next chapter of your life!

Hector Serrano, well known throughout El Paso for his activities in the field of drama, is retiring from EPCC after 34 years. Serrano, known for bringing Shakespeare to El Paso decades ago, will continue to do so through his company Eden Enterprises. When Shakespeare on the Rocks performed at McKelligon Canyon in the 1990s, theater magic happened on a regular basis. The group made theater goers out of people who had never heard of the Bard’s treasures and spurred many budding actors to go on to other cities and schools for theater careers. The group performed A Midsummer Night’s Dream so many times that the company itself tired of it. But fans were sad to see it go, so delightful was the show.

Performances by SOR this year included one of Dr. Faustus by Christopher Marlowe, Shakespeare’s contemporary. In May, Shakespeare on the Rocks will perform Taming of the Shrew, billed as “a comedy adapted to the Wild West of old El Paso in the late 1800s.” Performances will be held at The Women’s Club of El Paso, 1400 N. Mesa St. on Friday, May 30, and Saturday, May 31, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, June 1, at 2:00 p.m. General admission at the door is $10.

Serrano also is known for originating Viva! El Paso. Eleven years ago, Serrano left the musical, loosely based on early El Paso history, but it still entertains residents and visitors alike every summer. In its heyday under Serrano, thousands of patrons enjoyed the songs and dances by young people under the clear West Texas skies at McKelligon Canyon.

Serrano told Carol Viescas in an interview for El Paso Scene that he may continue teaching part-time at EPCC as well as directing and maybe even acting again in community theater. He still thinks there is a market for Spanish language theater and maybe this time around, he’ll find the audience. Serrano began directing Spanish language theater with “Los Pobres” in the 1960s and has tried to make bilingual theater succeed, with mixed results.

However, Serrano and his various theater companies have been entertaining and educating El Pasoans for more than 30 years. Thanks, Hector!
Mayor Oscar Leeser congratulates Deborah Knapp upon graduating from the El Paso Neighborhood Leadership Academy.

Deborah Knapp was part of the eighth Neighborhood Leadership Academy, a program for the residents of our community to learn more about our city government and its various departments. The program began on October 2 and consisted of 18 weeks of seminars, presentations, and tours of all of the city’s departments. Over the course of the program, participants toured several key sites around El Paso, including City Hall, the County Courthouse, the zoo, El Paso Water Utilities, museums, the Pat O’Rourke Center, and others.

AWCC Elects New Officers, Conducts Drive

The membership of the Association of Women in Community Colleges recently elected a slate of officers to lead the organization in 2014-2015. AWCC is currently holding a drive to gather personal hygiene and general supplies for the El Paso Opportunity Center.

2014-2015 AWCC OFFICERS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Pat Islas</td>
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<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>Elizabeth Acosta</td>
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<td>ASC VP</td>
<td>Lucy Rosas</td>
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<td>MdP VP</td>
<td>Pat Duran</td>
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<td>NW VP</td>
<td>Rebecca Escamilla</td>
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<td>RG VP</td>
<td>Elvira Fernandez</td>
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<td>TM VP</td>
<td>Melinda Camarillo</td>
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<td>VV VP</td>
<td>Margie Nelson Rodriguez</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Naomi Waissman</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Nena Fabela</td>
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<td>Publicity</td>
<td>Lisa Elliott</td>
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<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>Mary Beth Haan</td>
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<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>Debbie Knapp</td>
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Help AWCC and the EP Opportunity Center!

The women of AWCC are collecting personal hygiene and general supplies for the El Paso Opportunity Center. Listed below are the items needed. The deadline for delivering your contribution is May 9.

Items needed include: combs & brushes; shampoo & conditioner; deodorant; soap; lotion; disposable razors; toothbrushes and toothpaste; liquid hand soap; Lysol spray; garbage bags; aluminum foil and waxed paper; 8-oz Styrofoam cups; paper plates, bowls and napkins; spoons & forks; toilet tissue; paper towels; tissues; and tampons. Take your supplies to the AWCC vice president of your campus.
Dr. Jose Pacheco, Joshua Villalobos, and Dr. Rebecca Escamilla (pictured left to right) were three of seven EPCC professors who participated in the interdisciplinary Service Learning event of camping in the Franklin Mountains at Tom Mays Park. More than 80 EPCC students participated. Faculty provided an educational perspective to camping and learning about our surrounding outdoor life, mountains, plants, animals, astronomy, geology, and trails.

Adjunct faculty member Yasmin Ramirez (English, VV) has received the award for Outstanding Graduate Thesis in Education and Humanities at the University of Texas at El Paso for her thesis entitled “Por un Amor” in the Creative Writing program. Ramirez has recently been appointed Executive Director of BorderSenses, a nonprofit organization consisting of four community projects: BorderSenses literary magazine, Barbed Wire Open Mic Series, Memorias del Silencio, and ForWord Project. She has also won second place in the Sinclair Community College Nonfiction contest for “Hiding Places.”

From December 2013 through April 2014, Ramirez has had the following short stories published: “The End of Summer” in Fiction Magazine; “Caldio de Ita” in Rawboned; “Seven” in Bay Laurel; “La Trenza” in Cream City Review; “Customs” in the Rio Grande Review; and “Cherry Chapstick” in Bad Girls Tales Anthology. The following selections are forthcoming this spring: “Things which Float to the Top” in Ehanom Review; “Concrete” in the Hispanic Culture Review; “Hiding Places” and “Cold Cream” in La Noria Literary Journal and “Cuatro Copas” in Hinchas de Poesia. Congratulations, Yasmin!
File Cabinet Safety

From the Office of Risk Management & Safety

File cabinets hold heavy loads of paper and need to be treated with care.

The following are some safety guidelines to help prevent injuries:

Only open one drawer at a time. Some cabinets have a special feature that will not allow more than one drawer to open at a time.

Close the drawers while not in use. This will prevent other employees from tripping over or running into the open drawer.

To prevent being hit with the drawer while it is opening or pinching fingers while closing the drawer, open and close drawers slowly.

Keep the bottom drawer full of material that is used less frequently. This will help stabilize the cabinet and prevent it from tipping over. If the cabinet is on an uneven floor or seems unstable, contact EPCC Physical Plant to have it leveled or anchored to the wall to keep it from falling over.

Paper cuts?

Use rubber fingertips or band-aids on fingers to prevent paper cuts caused by the folders and papers.

Office of Risk Management & Safety
We Care
Nancy Tharp, Risk Manager
Jacqueline Lomeli, Safety Specialist
Gustavo Chavez, Safety Clerk
“Take Safety Home”
Local TFA Brings Home State Offices

By Gabriel Camacho

The EPCC Chapter of the Texas Faculty Association (TFA) extends an invitation to all EPCC instructors to consider joining its ranks. If you are a professional, then you should be a member of your professional organization.

We are a growing and active chapter establishing a presence here at EPCC and in the state. The officers of our local chapter have met recently with President Serrata and Vice President Smith to discuss issues of faculty concern. And just this spring, past president Michael Coulehan and current vice president Rebekah Bell were elected to statewide offices. Mike is the newly elected president of TFA and Rebekah was chosen as a member-at-large.

TFA is an affiliate of the National Education Association, which has more than 3 million members. It is the only such organization to have a full-time lobbyist fighting for faculty interests at the Texas State Legislature. Among numerous membership benefits, we offer legal counsel, leadership training, pedagogical advice, and hefty discounts at restaurants, hotels, insurance, and more.

If you are interested in joining, contact any of the current officers. Sign up for free until fall 2014!

Gabriel Camacho (Philosophy TM) — President
Rebekah Bell (Speech TM) — Vice President
Zaira Crisafulli (English TM) — Secretary
Charlie Miller (English VV) — Treasurer
Michael Coulehan (Reading TM) — Immediate Past President

Faculty Development Week is August 18-22. There will be no general session, but workshops will be scheduled on Monday afternoon!

Dr. Serrata has designated September 18 to be Professional Development Day for all faculty and staff, to be held at the Centennial Club at Fort Bliss from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., with workshops scheduled that afternoon. No classes will be held that day nor will there be any services so that all employees may attend these mandatory development activities. Light refreshments will be served in the morning.
Mauricio Rodriguez, M.F.A, Associate Professor and District- Wide Coordinator of the Chicana/o Studies program at El Paso Community College (EPCC), has been elected President-Elect by the members of the Texas Association of Chicanos in Education (TACHE). Rodriguez currently serves on the State Board of TACHE as the Far West Regional Representative. During his term as Regional Representative, he was instrumental in the founding of the first student chapter in the history of TACHE.

Professor Rodriquez was named the 2013 Distinguished Community College Faculty Award recipient by TACHE and was presented with the award during the 38th Annual Conference in Austin. Rodriguez states, “It will be my honor to serve TACHE as President-Elect. I hope to further our mission of promoting the inclusion, advancement, and recognition of Chicanas and Chicanos within the academe and communities. Our dreams, work, and struggle will serve as my motivation as I look to TACHE as the catalyst for our collective success.”
Borderlands Appears as Special Online Issue

The 2013-2014 student research and writing magazine titled Borderlands appearing annually in print and online is now available through the NW Library page or by Googling “EPCC Borderlands.” Look for volume 31.

Because of difficulties encountered last summer, the staff decided to produce an online only issue. Readers will be treated to in-depth stories, much longer than usual articles, along with related live links and historic photographs.

Topics this issue include the story of Jake Erlich, a little boy who grew to be the tallest man on earth at one time. Erlich spent time making movies as a teen and then joined the circus, where he spent 14 years in a side show. He later became a successful salesman and an artist and poet. Vernus Carey, a transplant from the Midwest, came to El Paso as a young boy with his mother, a widow. He found a father figure in the YMCA in the early 1900s and spent the rest of his life working to make the Y a place that supported and helped young people, both male and female, to succeed in life. Everyone has heard of Loretto Academy, the beautiful campus in Austin Terrace, but few have heard of Mother Praxedes Carty. She came to the United States as a young girl from Ireland and became a Loretta nun. She opened more than 50 Loretto Academies for young women at a time when many were denied higher education. Her last project was building Loretto Academy in El Paso, which she directed from her sick bed.

Fred Harvey, an entrepreneur originally from England, became a successful hotelier and restaurant owner, when he came up with the idea of feeding train passengers good food at a reasonable price. Working with the Santa Fe Railroad, he opened dozens of “Harvey Houses,” along the route of the Santa Fe which made elegant food available to both the rough laborer and the wealthy and cultured. El Paso even had one, staffed by what became known as the Harvey Girls. Responding to polio epidemics in the early 20th century, the state of New Mexico opened a children’s hospital in Hot Springs (later known as Truth or Consequences), known for its healing mineral waters. The hospital was the pet project of Carrie Tingley, for whom it was named, the first lady of the state. She and her husband, Governor Clyde Tingley, left a legacy of caring for others.

These articles and those of 22 other volumes await you online. Volume 23 will be published in the summer of 2014 both as a print copy inserted in the El Paso Times and online on the Northwest Library page. The articles are based on student research papers on local history in English 1302 classes taught by Ruth Vise, faculty editor and advisor. Student editor for volumes 22 and 23 is Isabel Hernandez. Joe Old serves as a faculty editor and Rachel Murphree is the Web Weaver. We hope you enjoy the latest issue of Borderlands!

The Faculty Development Newsletter is edited in the spring by Ruth Vise and in the fall by Celeste Favela.

Faculty Development Office

Phone: (915) 831-2201 Fax: 831-2738