

CITY CURRENTS



A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITY COLLEGE COMMUNITY

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Elixirs of Life topic of Chancellor's Flex address

One hundred years ago, May 27, 1907 to be specific, a little girl was born in a small town near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: the pristine village of Springdale on the banks of the Allegheny River.

Here she learned from her mother the pleasures of studying nature – observing the wildlife and plants around her and particularly the habits of birds. **Rachel Carson's** life was regrettably cut short, as she died of breast cancer in 1964 at the age of 56. But her fame was widespread and her achievement was spectacular. A devoted aquatic-biologist, she was called "the greatest living writer of science" in her time. Her book, *Silent Spring*, published in 1962, spawned a social revolution, substantively and vividly exposing a climate of pollution in which chemical pesticides were poisoning life on the planet. She called the endless stream of synthetic insecticides "elixirs of death."

Since Rachel Carson, we have experienced an explosive growth of knowledge and awareness. We have seen a convergence of disciplines and interdisciplinary studies such as behavioral ecology and sociobiology. We have even created a new vocabulary for matters pertaining to the environment. We speak not only of environmental protection but about the sub-areas of ecology and the nature of the biosphere. We applaud naturalists and we promote green. So much so that some have agreed that we may have gone a bit overboard, in fact, on green. That is why the British songwriter and folk guitarist, **Robyn Hitchcock**, has written a tongue in cheek piece called "We're Gonna Live in the Trees." It is also why, on occasion, the savants of eco-friendly shopping are called the "light greens." And it is why



Photo by Monica Davey

Dr. Philip R. Day, Jr., Chancellor of City College of San Francisco, delivers his Flex Day speech as a prelude to the Fall 2007 semester. The talk was given August 14 in the Diego Rivera Theatre.

green is sometimes said to be "the new black," meaning fashionable.

Recently, we have devoted a lot of attention to the concept of "sustainability." And that is the topic I have chosen for today's address: sustainability. But instead of "elixirs of death," I would like to talk about "elixirs of life." My first thesis is this: there is a serious movement underway to preserve the environment, a movement in which we have an immense stake and also much to offer for achieving

a beneficial outcome. My second thesis is that in order for us to contribute most effectively to the "sustainability" agenda, we need to reaffirm our commitment to personal, organizational, and institutional renewal. My speech today will focus on both of these issues.

Roots of Sustainability

Most members of this audience, being academic, will have a greater than average understanding of the subject of

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sustainability. But I would guess that we could all benefit from a bit of reflection on how we arrived at the current state of environmental awareness and the heightened prospects for sustainability. A good place to begin, I would suggest, is to remember the importance of the people who preceded us in America and exceeded us in their environmental appreciation. I speak, of course, of the original inhabitants, Native Americans. Long before us and our ancestors, the inhabitants of America held a very different view of nature than those who emigrated here. Native Americans had many different customs and different languages. But they also shared some common beliefs. One of them was that the earth is a spiritual presence which must be honored, not managed. We may sometimes be inclined to romanticize their view, but it clearly contrasted with the perspectives of the newcomers. Europeans saw America as a vast land to be tamed and to be used as mankind saw it. Now, nearly four centuries later, we must say that despite other measures of national success, we have failed to take care of the environment. We have gotten out of balance with the Earth. And, we could benefit, as never before, from the wisdom we did not heed, the wisdom of the native peoples of America about the truth of nature. Fortunately, we can still turn to the eloquent words of the chiefs of Tribal nations. Hear, for example the words of Chief **Luther Standing Bear**, of the Sioux nation:

It was good for the skin to touch the earth, and the old people liked to remove their moccasins and walk with bare feet on the sacred earth. Their tipis were built upon the earth and their altars were made of the earth. The birds that flew in the air came to rest upon the earth, and it was the natural abiding place of all things that lived and grew. The soil was soothing, strengthening, cleansing, and healing. This is why the old Indian still sits upon the earth instead of propping himself up and away from its life-giving forces. For him, to sit or lie upon the

ground is to be able to think more deeply and to feel more keenly; he can see more clearly into the mysteries of life and come closer to kinship to other lives about him.

Or the words tinged with a prescient warning by Chief **Seattle**, of the Suquamish and Duwamish tribes:

What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, men would die from great loneliness of spirit, for whatever happens to the beasts also happens to man. All things are connected. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the children of the earth.

These words are from a little book entitled *The Wisdom of the Native Americans*. I discovered this book to be filled with moving oratory and insights about life. It revived in me a sense of appreciation for the legacy of our forebears, which though purchased at a terrible price inspires us still.

I would like now to call your attention to three individuals whose passion and commitment, at least to my mind, have contributed enormously to the current state of environmental enlightenment in our country. Certainly, many other trail blazers could be cited – **Barry Commoner**, **Edward O. Wilson**, biologists, environmentalists, associations and organizations – but I have chosen three who have brought about dramatic changes that affected millions of people. First, let us consider once again the important role played by **Rachel Carson**. To appreciate her contribution, we need to be reminded of the times in which she wrote. America in the late 1950s and early 1960s was an exuberant and prospering nation. There was spectacular growth economically and endless progress. Science and technology were fueled by space and weaponry development. It was no time for limits and constraints. It was surely not a time for apocalyptic environmental warnings. But in 1962, Rachel Carson did just that. And it was a jolt that galvanized public consciousness. She imagined, in the opening chapter of *Silent Spring* an

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idyllic green village that had prospered when life was in harmony. But over time it sickened and withered until one spring there were no voices, only silence. She documented the tragic effects of pesticides, such as DDT (short for dichloro-diphenyl-trichloro-ethane), Chlordane, and the alkyl phosphates. She told in scientific detail, buttressed by research data, how these pesticides wreaked immediate and long lasting genetic consequences. Here is one example of the calamitous effects that she cited:

One of the most sinister features of DDT and related chemicals is the way they are passed on from one organism to another through all the links of the food chains. For example, seeds of alfalfa are dusted with DDT; meal is later prepared from the alfalfa and fed to hens; the hens lay eggs which contain DDT. Or the hay, containing residues of 7 to 8 parts per million, may be fed to cows. The DDT will turn up in the milk in the amount of about 3 parts per million, but in butter made from this milk the concentration may run to 65 parts per million. Through such a process of transfer, what started out as a very small amount of DDT may end as a heavy concentration.

As much as any book could, *Silent Spring* changed the country. It launched the environmental movement. It led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. And it caused the banning of a long list of pesticides, including DDT. Rachel Carson was subsequently vilified and maligned by the industry, sometimes in silly ways – she was called an hysterical woman, a bird and bunny lover, a spinster who kept cats and was therefore suspect. But Carson gained a large audience and her message made and still makes a difference. Her book stirs us to re-evaluate our relationship to the natural world. It bequeaths to us a legacy – that all living creatures belong to the fragile ecosystem of the earth which must be respected and preserved in order to sustain life and the human spirit.

The second major contributor to environmental enlightenment is a name very

few people would recognize, even though he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 and is considered throughout the world to be among the leading Americans of our age. He is one of only five people in history who have been honored with not only the Nobel Peace Prize but also the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal. These five individuals were **Martin Luther King, Jr., Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, Elie Wiesel and Norman Borlaug**. “Norman” who!!” (Says *Newsweek Magazine*!!) Well, he is referred to as “the father of the Green Revolution.” Norman Borlaug spent most of his life in developing nations teaching the techniques of high-yield agriculture. He was awarded the Nobel for reversing food shortages and averting starvation in India and Pakistan during the 1960s. It has been estimated that the form of agriculture he preached and taught is credited with saving the lives of 1 billion human beings worldwide, more than one in seven people on the planet.

Norman Borlaug was born in Cresco, Iowa, in 1914. He completed a graduate degree in plant pathology and championed ideas that not only increased overall food production in the mid-West, often called “the world’s breadbasket,” but annually increased the yield of crops, in other words the growing of more bushels of grain from the same amount of land or less. What Borlaug did was to hasten the perfection of dwarf spring wheat. Previously, farmers had produced tall wheat with long, impressive looking but inedible stalks. Borlaug bred wheat with short stalks so the plants expended less energy on stalks and more on the grain, were assured equal sunlight for all the grain, and made the process of reaping significantly easier. He did this initially in Mexico, where farmers doubled their yields within seven years. Soon, the success of high yield agriculture was expanded to the Philippines, Columbia, Chile, India, Pakistan and most recently China. In addition to wheat, the breeding of dwarf plants was extended to rice, maize, and other crops.

The major contribution of Norman Borlaug, it can be said, was to decide that his life’s work would be to spread the benefits of high-yield farming to countries where population growth and crop failures were producing rampant poverty and leading to strife and warfare. He sought to correct what **Malthus** had predicted a century and a half earlier: the dire consequences when population increases faster than food supplies. But the solution — advancing food production ahead of population growth — as Borlaug admitted would only be a temporary success in reducing hunger and deprivation. It could only be counted on to sustain the population for a few decades at most. He said that the frightening power of human reproduction (he called it the population monster) must ultimately be curbed; population growth must be adjusted to the carrying capacity of the environment. However, he also emphasized that environmental responsibility required more than food production and population control. In his 1970 Nobel Prize address, he wrote:

We must recognize the fact that adequate food is only the first requisite for life. For a decent and humane life we must also provide an opportunity for good education, remunerative employment, comfortable housing, good clothing, and effective and compassionate medical care. Unless we do this, man may degenerate sooner from environmental diseases than from hunger.

Today, in his nineties, Norman Borlaug, continues his efforts to mobilize the international community to rescue additional populations from human suffering. He wants to extend the benefits of high-yield agriculture in Africa, and he has the help of former President **Jimmy Carter**. Recently and perhaps belatedly, he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, America’s highest civilian honor. Yet, he remains for most of us an obscure figure. It is my hope that this brief introduction will expand our appreciation for the work of Dr. Norman Borlaug and the Green Revolution. After all, he saved more lives than any person who ever lived.

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The third contributor to environmental enlightenment on my list would be former Vice President **Al Gore**. A long-time advocate for the environment, he was the author of the 1992 best seller, *Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit*. His most recent book has caught



Photo by Monica Davey

the attention of an even larger audience, perhaps because of the documentary movie: *An Inconvenient Truth*. I suspect that many of you saw the movie, read the book, or did both. And I expect you might have been struck, as I was, with the passion and persuasiveness with which Al Gore has spoken. Who would have thought that a lecture filled with statistics could garner so much attention, especially when attention spans are said to be getting shorter and shorter? The moment I thought most elucidating was when Al Gore, pointing to a wide-screen chart with a zigzag graph line climbing steeper and steeper, said that his college teacher, Dr. **Roger Revel**, had created that chart showing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere which has been steadily and dramatically increasing for about a half-century. And then he says:

The problem we now face is that the atmosphere is being filled by huge quantities of human-caused carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. This traps a lot of the infrared radiation that would otherwise escape. As a result, the temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and oceans is getting

dangerously warmer. This is what the climate crisis is all about.

For most of the documentary, Gore demonstrates what is now considered irrefutable truths: melting snow-capped mountains, receding and vanishing glaciers, massive heat waves on the rise, increased wildfires, more frequent and fiercer hurricanes and tornadoes, disastrous floods, disappearing lakes, and the loss of polar ice caps. The documentary continues with a description of the consequences: rampant pollution and disease; shortages of food, shelter, water, and energy; and the collision between population growth and preservation of life. Gore also lays bare the self-interests of powerful businesses that make money from activities that worsen global warming; and so they oppose controls. He then turns to solutions: solar panels and geothermal power stations; fluorescent light bulbs; green roofs; hybrid cars; hydrogen fuel-cell buses; and wind power. He ends with an appeal for all people to recognize the Earth as our only home and begin to take care of it. He says, "It means we are going to have to change the way we live our lives."

[e.g. _ Wa` S-g`kVSkE Ufa` Wtk numerologists, 7-7-07, the mission of Al Gore and millions of like-minded individuals was on worldwide display. Perhaps some of you tuned in or attended one of the Live Earth concerts organized around the world to encourage all people to help solve the problem of climate change. Drawn by superstar artists of stage, screen, and music, stadiums were

filled to capacity on each of the seven continents, beginning in Sydney, Australia, and proceeding to Tokyo, Shanghai, D[a Ws` Wa` aZS` Wtgm: S` Tgm London, and New York. Even Antarctica got in on the act with five British scientists, who in the middle of winter in a remote weather-locked research station (with a population of 22) performed a concert online, calling themselves the Nunatak (referring to the exposed mountain peaks surrounded by glacial ice or snow). Using streaming television, the goal of Live Earth was to reach 2 billion people with a call to action and

a seven-point pledge. As Al Gore said, it's important to "create a critical mass of opinion worldwide ... that will push the world across a tipping point beyond which political, business and civic leaders across the spectrum will begin offering genuinely meaningful solutions to the climate crisis."

The skeptics of Live Earth, to be sure, can question the lasting effects of mega-events in which the spectacle sometimes overwhelms the cause. And all of us can attest to the disappointment and despair when inspired commitments are not executed. But, to their credit, the leaders of Live Earth have promised a 3-5 year campaign of education and grass-roots activities. According to **Kevin Wall**, founder and producer, "Live Earth is committed to providing our global audience with ways to 'answer the call' and individually make a difference to help solve the climate crisis. Perhaps some of you have seen the publication of Live Earth now in bookstores: *The Global Warming Survival Handbook*. The book calls for individual action and outlines 77 practices that are simple, easy, and inexpensive to perform. Some of the suggestions will amuse you: build a straw house, audit your garbage, take a bath together, skate on old tires, buy a camel, adopt a glacier, and move to Stockholm.

The bulk of the book is actually filled with substantive and practical recommendations (sometimes ingenious ones) that encourage individuals to live, consume, and vote eco-responsibly. And so, we might wish that the work of Al Gore, Kevin Wall, and Live Earth will succeed in bringing people together for a common cause and stimulate meaningful and lasting action.

I am suggesting in this address that the beginning of a worldwide movement is already underway, despite the occasional detractors who may feel otherwise. I think the signs are evident by the successive examples of public response to Rachel Carson, Norman Borlaug, and Al Gore. I feel also that the movement has momentum because it appeals to individual action; it calls each of us to do

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what we can do in our little domain. Our domains include our homes, our neighborhoods, and our towns. Our domain also includes this College. So, let's talk about that for a moment.

Sustainability at City College

Environmental enlightenment has a history at City College. I am indebted to Professor **Austin White**, as on many other occasions, for providing important historical information about the early years at City College; and to both Professors **Julia Bergman** and **Christopher Kox** for the opportunity to review some very interesting primary source documents. According to Austin, the 1960s and 1970s were important years for environmentalism and occasioned the first eco-wave at the College. A new generation of faculty and students showed great interest in the issue. Then, several members of the faculty began to offer courses in environmentalism, not without initial controversy although soon attracting students and winning ongoing support. It helped when the Experimental College was established with several thousand students enrolled. The opportunity was provided to try out new courses. And several departments did just that: Biology, Engineering, and Political Science. At the same time, a bright young student named **Lawrence Lazore** took on the role of championing the environmental cause. He began a student-produced newspaper, *the Free Critic* (an early alternative to *the Guardsman*). Lasting about a decade, the newspaper tackled many issues and devoted frequent articles to environmental

assistance the opportunity to read over copies of *the Free Critic* in the library demonstrated to me how pervasive the concern about the environment was during the early history of the College. Although the 1980s and early 1990s were lean years financially, City College did not retreat from curricular offerings that included courses in environmental science and portions of courses devoted to environmental protection. During that period, the College demonstrated its value commitment by inaugurating a re-

cycling program in 1987 through and Ad Hoc Recycling Committee of the Academic Senate. Members of the committee consisted of **Mary Jane Kobayashi**, **Rosalie Wolf**, **Ed Kloster**, and **Rita Jones**. I'm told that **Will Maynez** was also involved as well. The work of this Ad Hoc Committee on Recycling was an extension of the earlier work of another Ad Hoc Committee on Waste Paper that was formed by the President of the Academic Senate Professor **Eileen Rossi** in 1975. In 1996, the Board of Trustees adopted an important policy resolution on sustainability, embracing the specific issues of solid waste disposal and hazardous materials management as well as the broader issues of facilities management and educational development.

In the 2000s, a second eco-wave has rekindled the cause of environmentalism and appears noticeably advanced in scope and sophistication. We have seen recently a number of exemplary developments, the commendable work of individuals whose vision and tenacity have made significant headway in fostering environmental sensitivity. I speak of the work of **Crima Pogge** of the Biology Department who has led the growing of native plants around Science Hall; the work of the Parking and Transportation Committee in organizing the College's participation in the City CarShare program; the work of **Gerald Bernstein** and **David Dias**, of the Alternative Transportation Technology initiative, in winning a major grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to offer training programs for Bio-diesel fuel suppliers and educational programs for users.

A major precipitator of what might be called the second eco-wave at City College has been the extensive program to modernize and build campus facilities. Enabled by the citizens' approval of bond referenda in 1997, 2001, and 2005, coupled with State matching funds, other fund raising, the College is currently engaged in a 750 million dollar building program. As you know, all of our construction and renovation work is guided by a comprehensive Facilities Master Plan, approved by the Board of

not only provides the schematics for campus development but also establishes our strong commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development. It specifically seeks to ensure that new buildings will earn certification as meeting national standards for sustainable buildings and that renovated buildings will be environmentally friendly. This commitment was reinforced as recently as May, 2006, when the Board of Trustees adopted a resolution on sustainability.

The commitment has been further reinforced by the inclusion in the 2007-2008 Annual Plan of an objective related to producing a comprehensive sustainability plan (Objective 8.6). So, let's talk a little bit about the Sustainability Plan.

As I see it, the production of a Sustainability Plan is not simply an environmental checklist for compliance. It is more like the College's Strategic Plan and other special-purpose plans such as the Facilities Master Plan or the Educational Master Plan. The Sustainability Plan will need to be a visionary document that provides us with a stimulating roadmap for the College to address both environmental and institutional concerns and opportunities. Of course, the impetus for the plan is to guide the construction and renovation of facilities in a manner that is sensitive to the environment. But the plan must also guide college operations, general business processes, transportation practices, maintenance efforts, and student support – all of which should be environmentally sensitive and sustainable. And surely the plan must devote significant attention to our educational mission, with emphasis on courses and curricula oriented to environmentalism and sustainability, exploring new career programs related to the environment and sustainability, conducting professional development and awareness development events, considering peer-to-peer educational programs, and communicating a strong sense of ecological commitment to both students and the larger community we serve. I look upon the Sustainability Plan as an opportunity to elevate our

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stewardship of this College and make a lasting contribution to environmental enlightenment and practice.

In the coming academic year, we expect to be engaged in the continued development of the Sustainability Plan. The Facilities Review Committee has approved within the shared-governance system the formation of the Sustainability Subcommittee and members have been recruited – members from each constituency group (administrators, classified staff, faculty, and students). Already, several persons have begun to gather potential information for the plan, including **Winifred Kwole, Susan Lopez, Crima Pogge, Bob Gabriner, Stephanie Lyons and Jim Blomquist** to name a few. We expect the subcommittee to be very active during the fall term with lots of consultation and opportunities for conversation about the plan. I would appeal to all of you to give thought to what you would recommend the plan to include and to share your thoughts with the subcommittee members. Over and over again, we have witnessed the extraordinary benefits of the active participation of the College community in shaping and implementing a new initiative. It is my hope that the production of a comprehensive Sustainability Plan will arouse your interest and your talents for making good things happen in exceptional ways.

Challenges of Sustainability

Now that we've talked about the background and context of sustainability including its history at City College, I'd like to call your attention to some specific challenges which actually represent opportunities for commitment and renewal. As you leave the auditorium today, you will receive a copy of the four-page *Prospectus for Sustainability* prepared by those who are organizing the Subcommittee on Sustainability. The prospectus is a well written summary of the concept and potentiality of a Sustainability Plan. In its opening paragraph, it defines sustainability in the following way: "A sustainable society meets the needs of the present without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their own

needs. Put simply, sustainability requires that we limit our negative impact on the natural, social, and economic environments, while at the same time positively impacting these environments." This definition provides us with an excellent starting point for discussing the challenge of sustainability. It tells us that sustainability is a balancing act. On the one hand, we need to positively impact our world. On the other hand, we need to avoid negatively impacting the world.

Keep that thought in mind for a moment while I digress to share with you a revealing experience that occurred in one of our meetings with the organizers of the Subcommittee on Sustainability. The participants had brought to the meeting a carefully prepared and lengthy paper on the subject, the content of which was quite ambitious. The paper described the traditional issues of sustaining the environment – energy conservation, green buildings, recycling, and so on. But the paper went further than that. It broadened the scope of sustainability to include many other elements besides the physical environment. It included sustainability in the educational area, in programs and curricula, in student support services, in budget resources, in general college operations. It was quite comprehensive in its scope. The *Prospectus for Sustainability* that you will receive today, a considerably shorter version than the original, is infused with this broader perspective of sustainability. It not only challenges the College to examine its physical environment but also to examine the institutional environment in broad array, educationally and operationally.

Taking a cue from the experience just described, I want to reinforce the point of view that the concept of sustainability should be broader than the physical environment. It ought to embrace a variety of initiatives and activities at the College yet seek to achieve a balancing act – in other words increase our positive impact while reducing the negative impact on the environment. I will mention three specific areas that should be addressed.

The first area is education. The prospectus provides helpful illustrations of what

might constitute an agenda in this area: considering the offering of sustainability events and professional development events to increase awareness across the College; infusing sustainability throughout the curricula, including new courses and enhancements to existing courses; incorporating these values and practices in student development services; offering career programs related to sustainability; and communicating a message of sustainable living to students and to the community. The second area is operations. Here again, the prospectus is helpful: developing, improving and expanding work flow processes to become less redundant, more efficient and effective in every area of the college such as payroll, purchasing, human resources, accounting, something our re-engineering initiatives currently underway are attempting to do. The third area is facilities and the physical environment. The prospectus encourages employing sustainable practices in the construction of new buildings and renovation of existing ones; enhancing the use of green design; and expanding recycling. I am confident that in all these areas the Subcommittee on Sustainability together with your involvement will produce a plan that exceeds this list of topics and provides a transformative program for institutional and environmental renewal.

Now, I want to add a personal message to all of this. It is a statement of my self-interest in a strong agenda for sustainability. Most of you know that this year, my tenth as your Chancellor, is to be my final year. I brought up the subject in my address to the Board of Trustees. I announced it to the Board of Trustees. I talked about a timeline for securing a new Chancellor during the coming year and the need for a thoughtful process for successorship. Everyone with whom I have spoken has been supportive of my wishes to return to the East Coast and also to ensure that City College is poised for a bright future and good leadership. This latter consideration is the point of my personal message. I wish to do everything I can in this final year to help City

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College be prepared for the next decade as a strong, healthy, thriving, vibrant, and sustainable organization.

Along these lines, my first priority can be expressed in two words that you've heard from my mouth more than any other words: student success. Here, my hope is that you will carry on and enhance the educational and student support initiatives that will ensure that every student has a fair educational opportunity that works for them. My second priority is a participatory planning and budgeting system that charts the ongoing mission and the strategic priorities for the college coupled with an effective and efficient process for the allocation of resources. Here, my hope is that you will continue the practice of strategic planning and the process of annual planning and budgeting with an emphasis on sustaining the initiatives that best advance the impact of the college on students and their success. The third priority is about facilities and the physical environment. With three citizen bond allocations and a major construction program underway (we're opening three brand new buildings this year – the Mission Campus, the Child Development Center, and the Health and Wellness Center), the College is clearly being transformed from substandard facilities to inviting new facilities that provide positive space for teaching and learning. My hope is that City College will seek approval for a fourth bond referendum in the near future, complete the building program for the reservoir site across the street from the Ocean campus, and achieve a huge educational impact from its facilities while leaving a small environmental footprint ecologically. Finally, I must mention the priority of sustaining a positive and supportive institutional climate. I won't go into details but ten years ago this institution was not a happy place. It has been a great satisfaction to me personally that the climate is now turned around and the college community is functioning as one team with a concerted effort to excel.

I look at the five priorities just mentioned as lamps – or torches of light – that must be kept burning. They light the college

path and help the institution to make a difference in the people it serves. These lamps must be constantly renewed for the sake of sustainability. As I said before, during this my final year I intend to do everything I can to help City College be prepared for the next decade as a strong, healthy, thriving, vibrant, and sustainable organization. If we are able to accomplish this goal, it would represent a culmination of our working together for the last ten years and would establish a foundation for the next decade of achievements for you and the institution.

Before closing, I want to add one more point to this discourse on environmental sustainability. I have spoken of what appears to be a major movement focused on protecting the environment and that we have an immense stake in that movement as well as much to offer for achieving a significant outcome. I have urged that we seek to have a greater impact on human progress while also reducing wherever and whenever we can any potential negative impact. That remains my central point. It is said, however, that even with all the positive initiatives that people are taking and will take (for example the 77 ways that individuals can help preserve the environment) it will only make a dent in the challenge. It is also said that until political leaders take on and enact the major policy changes that are necessary, which will take time, we will not truly make a difference in protecting the environment. Still, it is important that we take the initial steps and do what we can do to advance the cause of protecting the planet. Beyond this, it is also important that we prepare ourselves for a major change in the way we live and work. Until now, we have lived and prospered by consuming more and more, as if our resources were endless. Somehow, we must break the cycles of escalating acquisitions and learn to

take only what we need. Ultimately, the balancing act requires us to adjust our lifestyles to what is sustainable. That is the transformation, I believe, that Al Gore and others are telling us we must achieve: "We are going to have to change how we live our lives."

Doing more with less is not new or strange to a lad from Maine who grew up in a Portland flat with scarce but adequate resources (we were rich in ways other than monetary). Consumer consumption and conspicuous display were never the values my mother conveyed. Living within our means was a value. Once **Marshall Dodge** told a story to illustrate this point (I've mentioned before



Photo by Monica Davey

his *Bert and I Stories* that portray down-east humor). A tall-tale-telling Texas rancher was bragging with a pronounced drawl to an understated Maine farmer: "Yep. My ranch in Texas goes on for miles. It is so big it takes me four days to drive around it in my car." The farmer, in his classic down-east accent, snapping the suspenders of his overalls, replied: "Ayuh, back on my fahm in Maine we gotta cah just like that." I am also reminded of a short story by **Leo Tolstoy**, though I've long since forgotten the title. It's about a man who is promised as much land as

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Elixirs of Life topic of Chancellor's Flex address

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he can circumscribe by running around it in one day. The man begins at sunrise and runs all day long making the largest possible perimeter. At sundown, he stumbles back to the starting point but collapses and dies. Tolstoy's point: How much land does a man need? Enough to be buried in! As we begin a new term: Let's strive for sustainability, achieve the balancing act, recognize the importance of doing more with less, and live joyfully.

Closing

In the beginning, I suggested that this would not be a doomsday speech about pollution and climate warming, the "elixirs of death," but rather a positive speech on challenges and opportunities to enhance the quality of life in a sustainable way, a speech on the "elixirs of life." I will close with the example of one who discovered first hand the elixir of simplified living. Henry David Thoreau was an author, naturalist, transcendentalist, and philosopher who lived in Concord, Massachusetts. We know him mostly through his book, *Walden*, a reflection on simple living in natural surroundings. Beginning in 1846, he stayed for two years and two months in the woods of Walden Pond, living in a hand-built cabin on whatever he could produce himself. He said his purpose for going into the woods and coming out of the woods was the same: to find the joy of life. He had seen his friends spending their lives in laborious efforts to support life, exalting their money-getting activities and forgetting the lives they toiled to maintain. "A man is rich," he said, "in proportion to the number of things he can afford to let alone."

His book is considered a classic in literature, has been read by generations of college students, and has influenced major figures around the world. But, as someone has said, no writer is so inspiring yet so ignored (at least with respect to the asceticism he espoused). Now, here in California I'm always wary of an implied bias in praising New Englanders. But let me tell you something you may not know about Thoreau. He was definitely biased toward the west. He said he looked to



Photo by Monica Davey

the west as virtual infinity suggesting the possibilities of enterprise and adventure as well as escape from the old and crowded ways of the east. He said that in his walks, when he set forth without any intention, he found himself stepping westward – "I must walk toward Oregon, and not toward Europe." Of course, given his limited sense of geography and place at the time, he was actually looking westward towards Mount Wachusett and Mount Monadnock in "Western" Massachusetts*.

Seriously, it is with the advice of Thoreau that I want to close. He urges us to consider the quality of life and what is truly important for sustaining life, now and in the future. "If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in the common hours." So may our lives advance confidently (and sustainably) in the direction of our dreams. And may we meet with unexpected success. Thank you and I hope the start of the semester is a successful one for each of you.

References

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David De Rothschild, *The Global Warming Survival Handbook*. New York: Melcher Media, Rodale, Inc., 2007.

Al Gore, *An Inconvenient Truth*. New York: Viking, Rodale, Inc., 2006.

Kent Nerburn, editor, *The Wisdom of the Native Americans*. Novato, California: New World Library, 1999.

Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*. New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 1951.

*NOTE: I've taken some poetic license here; Mount Monanock is actually located in Southwestern New Hampshire

Marvin Tartak passes away

Dr. **Marvin Tartak**, a longtime member of the Music Department faculty, died of a stroke at his Mount Davidson home. He was 77.

Madeline Mueller, Music Department Chair, comments, "City College was very fortunate to have had Dr. Marvin Tartak, a world-class musician and scholar, teaching here for 32 years. Dr. Tartak also organized and led the College's first Study Abroad course, 'The Festivals of Europe,' in the summer of 1985. Students attended 26 operas/concerts in 29 days in as many different cities — all with daily lectures on the music and culture of each event and place. I was one of those students and never learned so much.

"Many of us also had Marvin to thank for his superb opera lectures and those great tickets to San Francisco Opera performances he was able to get for CCSF students and staff," said Mueller.

The Music Department Chair added, "As one of his students once wrote to me (in part): 'Marvin Tartak's opera class has been a consistently happy and rewarding experience. Always punctual, his coherent lectures and extraordinary assemblage of demonstration materials are so well prepared that there has been no wasted class time. I appreciate the unpretentious language, the wry humor, and a sense of the absurd that have made his lectures so delightful! My life is enhanced and I am very grateful.'"

In his web page on CCSF's Faculty in Review, Dr. Tartak listed himself as "a musician who specializes in two areas — as a music historian and as a concert pianist. He has contributed articles to *Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, 6th, and the forthcoming 7th edition, *Grove's Dictionary of Opera*, 1992, *Music and Letters*, *Notes*, and *Piano and Keyboard*. In 1982 he edited a set of 24 piano pieces by **Rossini**, *Quelques Riens*, for the new, complete edition of that composer's music published by the Fondazione Rossini in Italy. In 1995 a second volume appeared, this time a collection of 18 Italian songs. In 2002 a third volume, this time of miscellaneous piano music, will be published for the same publisher.



Dr. Marvin Tartak

"He gives lectures to the San Francisco Opera Guild and the San Francisco Opera. As a performer he has concertized in Germany (debut recital in Berlin, 1956, during a year as a Fulbright Scholar), the United States, Canada and Central America, often as accompanist to **Betty Allen**, mezzo-soprano.

"Beginning in 1998 he has contributed over 20 reviews of opera, symphony and chamber music for the Internet journal, *San Francisco Classical Voice*."

Dr. Tartak was born in 1930 in Milwaukee, Wis., but grew up in Kaplan, La., a small city in Vermillion Parish that had been founded by one of his ancestors. He earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Chicago and his master's degree and doctorate at UC Berkeley.

Joshua Kosman, music critic of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, wrote, "A pianist of ferocious technique and wide-ranging interests, Mr. Tartak appeared for 20 years with the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, giving performances of music by composers as diverse as **Elliott Carter**, **Arvo Pärt** and **Augusta Read Thomas**."

"Teaching was a central part of his life," wrote **Robert Commandy** in *San Francisco Classical Voice*.

Dr. Tartak is survived by his sister, **Nelle Shalom** of Bellingham, Wash., and an aunt, **Shirley Tartak** of Tiburon.

The Music Department will announce a Memorial Concert time and place soon.

Robert L. Dill passes away

Robert Leland Dill (August 23, 1952 –) died of a heart attack while visiting a friend in Athens, Greece. Bob was born in New York City. He taught ESL at University of California Extension, and had been teaching ESL at Mission Campus and the Institute for International Students at CCSF as well as at College of Marin before his death. Bob read voraciously. His profound knowledge of world literature, history, art, and philosophy informed his lifelong passion, writing fiction. He loved music (Rolling Stones was one of his favorites), played the guitar, and was an avid tennis player and sports fan. The love of his life was his son, **Spencer**, whose soccer career he guided. He often talked about him fondly.



Robert Dill

Who was Bob Dill? **Catherine Hartman**, faculty at IIS, describes him best:

"Bob was one of a kind. I think it will be years before the sound of his voice will be gone from my head. On the last day of last semester, I could hear Bob strumming his guitar while the students were writing their final papers. The students always thought his style was unusual, out of the ordinary, but they all loved him and many became his lifelong friends. **Michele (Zimmerman)** and I have spent countless hours talking about Bob in the last six weeks and we keep coming up with new thoughts and takes on Bob, who he was and what he meant to us as a colleague and friend. It's difficult to put a summation of one's life into print. You can never do that person justice; all

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Fight Breast Cancer

The Women's Motorcyclist Foundation is once again sponsoring a 1000 mile fund raising ride in support of breast cancer research that will take place on **September 17-22**. **Mike and Debbie Lowther** from the Admissions & Records Department will be participating in this vitally important cause.

"Many of us in the City College of San Francisco family have known the hardship brought about by this disease either directly or through friends and loved ones," point out Mike and Debbie, adding, "There is hope on the horizon, however, as progress is being made and survival rates are climbing through the efforts of organizations like the Susan G. Komen Foundation for Breast Cancer Research."

The Women's Motorcyclist Foundation has raised more than \$2 million for the Komen Foundation over the years and, with this ride, hopes to increase that sum substantially. At least 95 percent of all funds collected will go to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Visit www.rstgiving.com/FBC2007 to donate easily and securely.

Thanks, City College.

Robert Dill

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you can hope is that you can leave hints of what a person was and the effect that person had on other people. Bob was funny, irreverent, loud, self-deprecating, thoughtful, bright, tuned in, concerned about the world and did I say funny?

If he were reading any of these things Michele and I have written about him, he would get red in the face and in his New York accent say, "What's not me you're talking about?"

Then he would just start laughing and go right into a long story about something unrelated and you would just want to stop and listen because you were instantly engaged. Yup, that was Bob and we're going to sorely miss him. We already do."

If anyone wishes to express any sentiments or anecdotes about Bob, please forward them to Michele Zimmerman at zmimmerm@ccsf.edu. They will be included in a memorial book that will be forwarded to his family.

Want Ads

GIANTS TICKETS — Two Giants tickets View Reserved for August 28 at 7:15 p.m. for \$20 each. Please call (415) 452-5208 for G. Leong.

UNIQUE ITALIAN RENTAL — Umbrian tower (La Torre di Guardia) in magnificent medieval hilltop town. Beautifully restored, antique furnishings, panoramic views. Dishwasher, washer and dryer. Centrally located: 40 minutes from Assisi, Gubbio. 1.5 hours from Florence. Call (510) 528-1331. Website: www.casamontone.com. Email: myrna Holden@earthlink.net. \$870 per week. References available. Local English-speaking manager.

NAPA VACATION RENTAL — Enjoy wine country and stay in 3 bedroom condo centrally located in Napa. Includes nicely furnished living room, dining room, full kitchen, washer/dryer, A/C, wireless internet, two patios, BBQ and pool. \$275/night (2 night min.), \$1580/week, \$3,000/month. 1 or 2 bedroom options available for smaller groups. Visit website for photos and more info: www.napavalleycondo.com or call (707) 252-0692.

Classified Employment Opportunities Chief of College Police

Public Safety Department

**(Civil Service Class 8287
Director of Public Safety)**

Duties of the position: Under administrative direction of the Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration, the Chief of College Police plans, develops, organizes, directs, supervises and evaluates a comprehensive public safety and law enforcement program for the San Francisco Community College District to ensure the protection, security and safety of all students, staff, property, visitors and equipment.

Job type: Permanent, Full time.

Salary: \$84,704–\$124,515 (negotiable)

Filing Deadline: August 31, 2007.

If you are willing to consider an academic appointment and salary placement for this position, please visit the website www.ccsf.edu/hr and select Academic Job #D-07036.

For further information on the position, please contact **Elisa Daniels**, CCSF Human Resources Analyst, at (415) 241-2288.

**Civil Service Class 1426
Senior Clerk Typist**

Location: Evans Campus, 1400 Evans Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94124

Job type: Permanent, Full time. Appointment for this position will not be effective until after October 1, 2007.

Minimum Qualification: Applicants must be current permanent, full-time incumbent in Class 1426 Senior Clerk Typist with City College of San Francisco.

Filing Deadline: August 23, 2007.

Further information: Telephone **Phyllis McGuire**, Associate Vice Chancellor, Office of Workforce and Economic Development, Evans Campus, (415) 550-4449.

Applications for City and County of San Francisco jobs are being accepted through an online process. Visit www.jobaps.com/sf.

On the occasion of
Kathleen Wolf's
retirement from CCSF

Saturday, September 8 from 1 to 5 p.m.
Miwok Meadows in China Camp State Park, San Rafael

Chicken, sausages, water and iced tea WILL BE PROVIDED.

PLEASE BRING

1) ONE of the following:

AN APPETIZER, SALAD, SIDE DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE (other drinks if desired)

2) a gift of a single earring (clip-ons or pierced ears) for a special gift for Kathleen,

3) folding lawn, camping or folding chairs and,

4) if possible, wear mismatched earrings.

RSVP by September 1 with the form below and a check of \$12 payable to Karen Batchelor, 79 William St. #J, Cotati, CA 94931. (Please remember to include the apartment number.)

* DIRECTIONS TO MIWOK MEADOWS in China Camp State Park.

In San Rafael from Highway 101 take the North San Pedro Road exit east. Go east on North San Pedro Road until you pass mile marker 3.84. Then turn right into Miwok Meadows.

*Please forward this to colleagues and other admirers of Kathleen's who may not be on this listserve.
(Please do not include Kathleen's students because of size limits.)*

-----Detach here-----

RSVP TO KAREN BATCHELOR by September 1 at kbatchel@ccsf.edu
and send this form along with a check of \$12 per person (to cover site, supplies, food and a gift) payable to:
Karen Batchelor
79 William St. #J
Cotati, CA 94931

Name of attendee: _____ Number of people: _____

Amount of enclosed check: \$ _____

I will bring:

____Appetizer ____Salad

____Side

____Dessert

Master Calendar

August, 2007

Rev. 08/15/07 Subject to change without prior notice

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
20	21	22 <i>8:30 p.m.</i> <i>Cable-casting of the</i> <i>Board Meeting(EATV 27)</i>	23 <i>6:00 p.m.</i> Board Meeting (Gough)	24
27	28 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. PBC (R-518) 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Classified Senate (B-307) Last day to reduce units in order to qualify to 100% enrollment fee and non-resident tuition fee refund for full term length classes	29 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. Academic Senate <i>8:30 p.m.</i> <i>Cable-casting of the</i> <i>Board Meeting(EATV 27)</i>	30	31 1:00 p.m. Works of Arts (R-518) Last day to add full-term credit classes or to change sections.
September 3 Labor Day (Holiday)	4 12:10 – 1:30 p.m. Communication Comm. (Artx-170) Census Day	5 <i>8:30 p.m.</i> <i>Cable-casting of the</i> <i>Board Meeting (EATV27)</i>	6 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. CAC (E-200)	7 Last day to drop credit classes. No notation will appear on the student's permanent record. Last day to withdraw or reduce course work in order to qualify for 50% non-resident tuition fee refund.
10 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. TLTR (R-518)	11	12 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. Academic Senate (Loc TBA) <i>8:30 p.m.</i> <i>Cable-casting of the</i> <i>Board Meeting (EATV27)</i>	13 <i>5:00 p.m.</i> Board of Trustees Work Session (Gough)	14 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. PBC (C-334) Last day for students to fulfill requirements to remove an Incomplete grade received in previous semester.

Calendar is regularly updated by the Office of Shared Governance. To submit meeting notices call Attila Gabor at 239-3812
The Master Calendar is also available via Internet at http://www.ccsf.edu/Offices/Shared_Governance