



BCC Connections

Barstow Community College District

The Importance of Being Earnest Debuts in New Performing Arts Center

Barstow Community College opened its new Performing Arts Center –formerly the old library- with the comedy “*The Importance of Being Earnest*” directed by Amy Ross. Written in 1895 by playwright Oscar Wilde (“*An Ideal Husband*,” “*Lady Windermere’s Fan*,” “*Salome*”), the play’s central theme is about two couples’ struggles to find love in a conflict of deception and false identities.



Cecily (Julie Robles) watches as Gwendolen (Brittney Case) and Jack (Jonathan Bearshear) embrace.

Through a series of hilarious situations, the characters all learn the importance of being earnest with each other. Set in 1890’s England, the actors were required to learn how to speak in the British accent and

develop mannerisms from the era. However, these period requirements along with a smaller-than-usual set, produced a convincing comedy for this first production in the interim Performing Arts Center.

This space will be used until the 40,000 sq. ft. Performing Arts Center, scheduled for completion in late 2009, is finished. Limitations to the interim PAC include non-stationary sets be used within the space. For the actors, this meant closing set doors with ease, otherwise the set may come crashing down.



Miss Prism (Pat Barrett, left) and Cecily have a serious talk in a scene from *The Importance of Being Earnest* which opened Oct. 13 in the interim Performing Arts Center.

Barstow Community College Performing Arts veteran Pat Barrett returned as Miss Prism with Jonathan Beardshear making his debut as John. Set construction and lighting was designed by Ron Trotter and costume design was by Rose Scarbrough. Auditions for the spring musical “*Meet Me in St. Louis*” are scheduled for the third week in January.

State of the Cosmetology Program

Officials of the college met with several students on Sep. 25 to discuss the future of the cosmetology program currently offered at Barstow Community College. The college administration received written notification from Vicky Bridges, the current owner of Bridges Beauty Academy, of her intent to end the contract agreement with the end of the fall semester, 2006.

To date, progress has been made to address the students concerns, including ongoing instruction through the end of the semester. A potential buyer is reviewing the details of the current contract between BCC and Bridges Beauty Academy to facilitate a smooth transition with the current students in the cosmetology program. Negotiations are on-going.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- OCTOBER 30** DSPS FLIM PRESENTATION *INSIDE I’M DANCING* 12 NOON TO 2 P.M. NORMAN SMITH CENTER.
- NOVEMBER 2** “THE BIG GAME II” STAFF VS. STUDENTS BASKETBALL GAME 6 P.M. GYM
- NOVEMBER 4** 2ND ANNUAL GIRLS SPORTS EXPO 9 A.M. GYM
- NOVEMBER 7** WOMEN’S HOME BASKETBALL GAME VS. CITRUS COLLEGE. 5 P.M. GYM
- NOVEMBER 9 - 30** STUDENT ART SHOW -LRC LOBBY. OPEN LOBBY HOURS WEEKDAYS. OPENING RECEPTION NOV. 9 5:30 P.M. PUBLIC INVITED.
- NOVEMBER 14** MEN’S HOME BASKETBALL GAME VS. CITRUS COLLEGE 6 P.M. GYM
- NOVEMBER 15** WOMEN’S HOME BASKETBALL GAME VS. RIVERSIDE 5 P.M. GYM

Viking Briefs

- ◆ **BCFA** will be honoring instructors **Wendy Chisholm** (computer science instructor and Club Technology advisor), **Amy Ross** (theatre arts instructor and Callboard Performing Arts Club advisor) and **Ray Perea** (instructor and Athletic Director) for receiving tenure status (Chisholm and Ross) and for 30 years of service (Perea).
- ◆ **Paul de Dios**, Dean of Student Affairs, was selected as the new representative for the Desert Discovery Center Partnership. The organization's mission is to continue to develop and implement educational opportunities focusing on the California desert. Partnership organizations include the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, Barstow Unified School District, Barstow Community College, Mojave River Valley Museum, the City of Barstow, and the Discovery Trails Foundation.
- ◆ **Dr. Mark Meadows** recently received a call from his counterpart at Skyline College, Dr. Regina Stroud, a member of the WASC accreditation evaluation team. Her call involved a request to "borrow" the matrix BCC faculty implemented for general education assessment. Imitation is the best form of flattery.

Disabilities Awareness Month – Spotlight on DSPS



Passig enjoys the work she performs as the administrator for DSPS since 1999.

Ricki Passig has been an employee of Barstow Community College for 12 years. Passig, along with others from EOP&S and Student Services, are responsible for the weekly activities in observance of October's designation as Disabilities Awareness Month.

Starting as a receptionist in the Admissions and Records office, Passig never imagined that today she'd be helping others quite the way she does. "I liked Admissions and Records because I greeted the public and took their calls. Helping others is what I liked about that position," states Passig. "My long-term goal now is to teach, either in the classroom or on-line. I'm working toward completion of a master's degree in counseling psychology."

In 1999, Passig joined DSPS when the former administrator of the program announced retirement. "One of the requirements of the job was proficiency in sign language. That class was offered here in '97 and two semesters later, I was ready for testing." However, the first attempt wasn't a sure thing. Passig had to compete for the job like other applicants. "The first time around, I wasn't made an offer of employment. Once the position re-opened, I was tested in sign language by someone whose first language was sign. A whole conversation/interview in sign and I passed!"

Today, Passig enjoys her job working with both traditional and non-traditional students. "Five years ago, we had 35 students in the program, one wheelchair, four recorders and two of those were broken," Passig states. Today, DSPS boasts a roster of 150 students, two electric cars, two motorized wheelchairs and five scooters.

Bev Lowry Honored at Board of Trustee Meeting

In a show of appreciation for her dedication to the High Desert community of Barstow, Bev Lowry, member of the Mojave Water Agency Board of Director, was honored by the Board of Trustees at their October meeting. Lowry has worked countless volunteer hours for numerous organizations in the High Desert (San Bernardino County Flood Control Advisory Commission, Barstow Heights Community Services District, and the bond measure that started the college's expansion) and has over 35 years of expertise in water conservation and preservation. That dedication led to the creation of the Desert Demonstration Garden located on campus.



Trustee Fernando Baca (*left*) presents Bev Lowry with a proclamation honoring her outstanding service to the Barstow community.

ASB at City Hall for Meeting

For a change of location and perspective, the Associated Student Body (ASB) of Barstow Community College held their Sep. 26 meeting at Barstow City Hall. This past summer, Student Services held a meeting with ASB to determine goals for the year. One of the goals included an ASB meeting at City Hall. “We noticed a lot of their activities included event planning, and they decided to change over to more leadership and government roles,” stated Joann Garcia, student life and development supervisor. “Having a meeting at City Hall also shows them how the process [motions and procedures] works.”

Mayor Dale, Councilwoman Runyon, Public Information Officer John Radar and City Manager Hector Rodriguez greeted students and provided a few instructions on use of microphones, the overhead projector and desk monitors. At City Council meetings, presenters use the LCD projector for audience viewing of documents that are being presented and discussed. To aid Councilmembers in viewing these documents, each council desk is equipped with a computer monitor.

A total of 16 ASB senators attended the meeting at City Hall including the youngest ASB member, 14-year-old Charlie Bullock. Other BCC staff included Lefty Olguin, Ray Perea, Joann Garcia and Paul de Dios. Following the meeting, City Manager Rodriguez offered the use of City Council chambers for future ASB meetings.



ASB members conduct bi-monthly meeting at City Council Chambers.

Donations in Memory of Dr. J.W. Edwin Spear

Donations in lieu of flowers are still being accepted in the Business Office for former Barstow Community College president and instructor, Dr. J.W. Edwin Spear. All donations will be forwarded to the Desert Heritage Writing Contest in Dr. Spear's name.

Cameron Elementary School Students Take Biology Class at BCC

39 Gifted and Talented Education (G.A.T.E.) students from Cameron Elementary School, mostly third and fourth grade students and one second grade student, learned about spiders, beetles, and other bugs of the biology world from Bret Sage, biology instructor. The Oct. 20 presentation was held in one of the new Science co-labs, located in the T-Building.

Equipment in the new co-lab provides monitors at each workstation for students to view slides that are presented by the instructor. G.A.T.E. students jotted down notes on their fill-in-the-blank hand out, while others entertained Sage with their knowledge of bugs. “This was a very lively and energetic group of kids,” states Sage. “I look forward to doing this type of community learning experience again.”

Joining the students from Cameron Elementary School were five volunteer parents, G.A.T.E. teacher Ms. Sheryl Marino, and retired physical education teacher Dr. John Sage, Sage's dad. Plans are being made for the next Biology instruction for G.A.T.E. students, this time on the focus on animals, tentatively scheduled for December.



Biology instructor Bret Sage discusses interesting insect facts with students from Cameron Elementary School.

BCC Connections is produced by the Public Information Office at Barstow Community College. For information, contact the Maureen Stokes at (760) 252-2411 ext. 7350.



Students hunt for insects on campus with Sage following the PowerPoint presentation on bugs. As an added feature of the presentation, each child was presented with a live cricket for observation and release into the environment.

Outreach Team Makes Friday's *Fantastic*

About 120 sophomores from Barstow High School participated in a College Awareness Day on Friday, Oct. 20. Students were welcomed by President Brock and other staff from the Student Services division and provided with information from departments throughout the campus including academic and vocational course offerings. One of the more touching moments during the three-hour presentation was a presentation by Joann Garcia to her mentor, Barstow High School teacher Elaine Braden. Garcia graduated high school and was working for some time in the community when she was approached by Ms. Braden. "You're going to college! Ms. Braden told me, so I enrolled at BCC," states Garcia. "I continued my education and today I have a B.A. degree. I could not have done it without her."

Students received a tour (lead by ASB senators) and presentation in the Science co-lab (with Dr. Stinson), the sewing room (with Lindsey Meindl), a presentation by the Callboard Performing Arts Club (Amy Ross), and the English department (Penny Shreve), each sharing aspects of career opportunities within their respective discipline. "You're exposing our future civic leaders and Barstow residents to what BCC has to offer," states Lefty Olguin, assistant dean of student affairs.

Future Fantastic Friday events include Vocational Day on Nov. 17, a College Motivation Day on Feb. 23, 2007 and a High School Motivation day on Apr. 20, 2007.



Barstow High School sophomores participate in College Awareness Day.



Adjunct instructor Lindsey Meindl provides tour and discusses career opportunities during Fantastic Friday event.

Sewing Student Takes Best of Show at Kern County Fair



Above: Blue ribbon winners are proudly displayed in Miendl's classroom, located in the D-Building. Right: Use of velvet, lace and hand beading and embossing methods garnered student Monica Craig 1st Place and Best of Show at the Desert Empire Fair.



Adjunct instructor Lindsey Miendl has a lot to be proud of. Since beginning her sewing classes at BCC four years ago, never have all student entries placed in the county fair. "All five placed, including one *Best of Show*," states Miendl. "They worked hard and it showed." Each semester, Miendl makes a point of encouraging students to participate in one of the area's two county fairs. "Friendly competition in the classroom and among peers can only go so far. However, competition at a fair includes a broader audience with specific rules and criteria."

Monica Craig, whose been with Miendl since classes began in 2002, is a non-traditional student with sewing experience. However, Craig returned to the classroom to learn it the text book way. "She's the type of student that will rip a seam over and over just to get the technique right," Miendl states, who wasn't at all surprised by Craig's *Best of Show* ribbon, among the others she won. Within the Adult Clothing and Textiles Amateur Division, Craig's *Best of Show* beat approximately 189 entries, if not more. Other students that placed at the Desert Empire Fair, held Oct. 12 – 15 in Kern County include: Susan Johnson MacDonald (two -1st Place blue ribbons, one – 2nd Place red ribbon, and one – 3rd Place white ribbon); Susan Brakefield (two – 1st Place blue ribbons); Monica Craig (one 1st Place blue ribbon and Best of Show); Lonnie Richardson (one – 1st Place blue ribbon); and Marie Welch (one – 1st Place blue ribbon).