



WestWords

A bi-weekly communique from the Office of the President

ISSUE #2: November 16, 2016

WLAC Colleagues:

The morning after the presidential election, I stepped out of my office and strolled West's grounds, for I wanted to gauge the mood of the campus. As I did so, the words of one student, speaking to her friends, stopped me in my tracks. In a clear, resolute voice, she said, "We can't change the results of the election. But I know that this is a defining point in my life. What we do from this point on—how we contribute to our community, how we prepare ourselves through our education—will describe our generation."

Think about her words for a moment. She understands that the world of the future is one she and her classmates will envision and build. She understands the responsibilities accorded her generation. Most importantly, she is acutely aware that education is fundamental.

In the scope of only one evening, the importance of helping all our students develop the skills this student—and all our students—need has clearly been accelerated. But there is a broader concern that encompasses our ongoing goals of student success and educational excellence. In her letter prefacing the 2014-2020 Educational Master Plan, Academic Senate President Adrienne Foster notes the importance of advancing "the college's vision of social justice." Further, in our ACCJC self-study, it is stated that "[Our] mission captures what West does best at its best. Our mission is social justice in action" (p. 139). With many students across the District gathering to protest the election later today, perhaps now is the time that we engage in a very important dialogue about how we as a community of educators can authentically incorporate the tenets of social justice into our learning environment.

I welcome your comments.

Sincerely,

Jim Limbaugh

Jim Limbaugh, President

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Honoring Our Veterans
- West Football Players Continue to Amass Honors
- ASO Provides Important Student Leadership
- West Exploring Feasibility of a Food Bank
- Welcome our Newest Members of the West Community
- Gum Removal: One Spot at a Time
- The Creativity Studies Lab at West
- Seminar on Presidential Power Offered This Week

Honoring Our Veterans

On Thursday, November 10, West observed Veterans' Day with a flag-raising ceremony presented by members of the Hollywood High ROTC unit. The event was organized by West's Veteran Resource Center, under the capable leadership of Bill McKillian, Tamara Jones-Jamison, Liz Martinez, and Francine Sanz.

West serves on a regular basis approximately 40 veterans from all branches of the service. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to visit our new Veteran Resource Center, I encourage you to do so.

The entire West community extends our deepest thanks to our veterans in appreciation for their service to our country.



Welcome to Our Newest Members of the West Community



As the Athletic Academic Counselor, Lily Mozafari has as a primary role supporting student-athletes in their academic success. She holds a master's degree in Counseling from the University of La Verne. Prior to her arrival at West, Lily worked at Santa Monica College and College of the Canyons as a counselor. "Some of my hobbies include watching and playing sports," stated Lily, "and I'm a huge Lakers fan! Most of all, I love spending time with my nine year old daughter!"

Robert Henrichs (who prefers to be called Bobby) is the new general counselor, but, as he explains, "My time at West goes way back to being a student here." He has owned a corporate travel agency serving business clients, and worked in the District between 2002 to 2016 as a provisional employee at West in Payroll and as an Admissions & Records Supervisor and as an Admissions & Records Assistant and Evaluator at Harbor. Because he wanted to serve students as a counselor, Bobby earned a second masters in counseling an internship at West in DSPS and general counseling. "I feel like I've come full circle," observes Bobby. "Many people I know over the years are still here. Those who know me know that I enjoy films, reading, gardening and Halloween season. I have a husband, Garry, and a fox terrier named Prudence. It's good to be home."



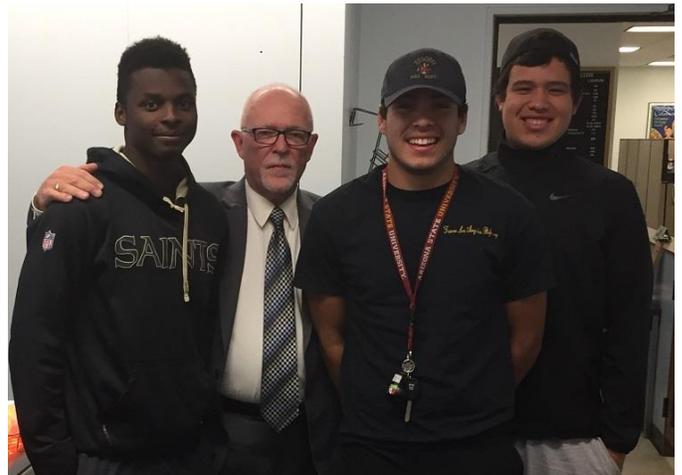
West Football Players Continue to Amass Honors

In the last issue of *WestWords*, I introduced you to the achievements of Jorge Reyna, West's quarterback. Since the season has ended, his accomplishments continue to mount. He is the leader in the California Community College Athletic Association in several areas, as noted below. Of interest, though, is that if California were playing on a national level under the auspices of the National Junior College Athletic Association, Jorge would also lead the country as a result of his on-the-field achievements. Take a look at his stats, with the national statistics in parentheses.

- Completions: 316 (218)
- Attempts: 448 (332)
- Total yards: 3646 (3236)
- Yards per game: 364.6 (358.4)
- Touchdowns: 39 (33)
- Completion percentage: 70.5% (65.1%)

Receiver Daniel Bell has also achieved recognition, both for his skills and for West. According to the California Community College Athletic Association, Daniel leads California community college football with 11 touchdowns and 94 receptions.

I had the pleasure of an impromptu visit from Daniel (left) and Jorge (center), as well as from Jason Gonzalez (offensive lineman) who Daniel and Jorge both describe as "the backbone of the team."



Gum Removal: One Spot at a Time

Our efforts to remove the gum splatters continue. Pictured are Chris Gafford operating the high-pressure steamer, with Eric Atkins and Derwin Pollard providing assistance.

This project is ongoing and will proceed throughout the coming months as scheduling and priorities permit.



ASO Provides Important Student Leadership



Kudos to our Associated Student Organization (ASO), who is addressing several campus issues of concern to students under the capable leadership of Jesus Reyes. Among their initiatives are a smoking cessation policy and working with the Office of the President to collaboratively alleviate the “gum on the sidewalks” issue.

The Creativity Studies Lab at West



Creativity Coordinator Kathy Boutry reports that “On November 4 and 5, the Creativity Studies initiative at West hosted Creativity Expert Liz Aebersold from University of Texas, Austin to train faculty from several disciplines in the concepts of Creative Problem Solving and how to integrate these practices into our classroom. We learned about the four creative personality types, and how recognizing your students’ ‘types’ can help you maximize their success in assignments and in group work interactions. If you missed the training, but are interested in learning

more, please contact me.”

Kathy continues, “Please save the date for the Creativity Conference WEST TALKS (think TED Talks) on May 6, and plan on having your students attend and participate! We have several speakers confirmed, including positive psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, who will be speaking on Flow and Happiness (his TED talk on the topic garnered 3.5 million views). TEDx speaker, physicist Dr. Jamie Orr on flow in environmental change is also confirmed, as is Groundlings comedian Holly Mandel who will discuss how societal gender expectations impact a woman’s creativity and comedy. The conference will coincide with the annual poster showcase and give our students the opportunity to present alongside our guests.”

If you have ideas for speakers or would like to check out the next Creativity FIG gathering, the next meeting is Dec 15 at noon in GC 210K. Feel free to contact Kathy at boutryk@wlac.edu with ideas and suggestions.”

A few West factoids you may find interesting...

During the early voting weekends here at West,

- 1,737 voted during the first weekend,
- 3,057 voted during the second weekend (with waiting times reaching 4.5 hours), for a total of
- **4,794** voters/visitors to our campus.

West Exploring Feasibility of a Food Bank

West is investigating the possibility of opening a food pantry to address issues of student food insecurity. We have had a productive exploratory meeting with the Westside Food Bank, and Tim Gilmore (Faculty Lead, Project LEARN/Black Scholars) has graciously agreed to coordinate our further discussions. Therefore, any member of the West community who is interested in participating in our initial dialogue is welcome to attend a workgroup session on December 6 at 3 p.m. in the Winlock Lounge (but the location may change based on interest).

Seminar on Presidential Power Offered This Week

Please inform your students about this important seminar which will address one of several concerns that has surfaced since the presidential election: the scope of presidential power. According to Michael Goltermann, organizer of the event, "The President of the United States is sometimes characterized as the most powerful position in the world. It's important to keep in mind, however, that there are numerous 'checks' on US presidential power including a free press, federal and state constitutions, the power of individual states (federalism) and the other branches of government (legislative and judicial)."

Please join Professor Christopher Lee and VP Goltermann on **Thursday November 17th in GC 160 at 3:00 pm** for a guided discussion on the nature of presidential power and its limits, particularly in areas such as immigration, free expression and health care."

