Rancho Santiago Community College District Names Dr. John Weispfenning as Santiago Canyon College’s Next President

(Santa Ana, CA) — At a special board meeting on June 30, Rancho Santiago Community College District’s (RSCCD) Board of Trustees approved the appointment of John Weispfenning, Ph.D., as Santiago Canyon College’s fourth president. Weispfenning succeeded Juan Vázquez who retired on August 15, 2014.

“SCC is a great college, and I’m honored to follow President Vázquez,” Weispfenning said. With the completion of the Humanities building and the Athletic and Aquatics facilities, his attention will be on future enrollment growth. “The recession forced us to hit the ‘pause’ button on our growth plans, but with new classrooms, we can focus on serving more students.”

In addition to enrollment growth, Weispfenning is interested in adding more student activities to the campus offerings. “We want to create a full college experience for the students who choose SCC.” He cited student clubs and the return of the Model UN and the forensics teams as examples of the experiences that can make college more meaningful.

“Not all of our students are able to participate, but for those who can, it can be a powerful experience,” Weispfenning said. “When I meet SCC alumni, they’re quick to share how much they gained from being in student government or competing on an athletic team. They draw on those experiences whether they’re transferring to a four-year school or moving into a career.”

Weispfenning served as the Vice President of Instruction at Orange Coast College from 2012-2014. Before joining OCC Dr. Weispfenning was a dean of instruction at Santiago Canyon College (SCC) from 2007-2012, leading three divisions covering the breadth of arts, humanities, social sciences, sciences and the library with additional responsibilities for accreditation, distance education, faculty development and institutional planning. Prior to that, he was associate dean for academic affairs at Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio. Earlier, he was an associate professor in the Department of Communication at Otterbein, which he joined in 1995 and chaired from 1999-2004. He is the author of more than two dozen scholarly publications and papers dealing with media organizations, processes, and content. His research has been published in the Journal of Communication, Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly, and Mass Comm Review.

Weispfenning received his doctorate from Purdue University. He earned a Master of Science in Communication from North Dakota State University and a Bachelor of Science in Mass Communication from Minnesota State University, Moorhead.

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Alumnus Spotlight:
Kevin Vincent

Kevin Vincent, alumni class of 2011, is currently attending California State University, Fullerton, and plans to graduate in December with a Bachelor's in Computer Science and will be graduating Magna Cum Lade. Kevin interned at Jet Propulsion Laboratory (a part of NASA), and recently finished his summer internship with Oak Ridge National Laboratory, focusing his research on Algorithm Optimization through the utilization of GPUs. Kevin shares with us his favorite memory of being at SCC. “My favorite memories were the times that I talked with instructors during office hours; it is great to get to know them outside of class. Every instructor that I have met during office hours genuinely cares about the students and wants to help us out.”

Santiago Canyon College Foundation Welcomes SCC Alumnus as New Board President

Kyle Kneubuhl, Communications, Class of ’03 has been selected as the new President of the Santiago Canyon College Foundation the non-profit organization that raises private funds to support Santiago Canyon College.

Kyle came to Santiago Canyon College in 2002, after an injury derailed his hopes of playing college football. Like a lot of young people making their way through college, he really didn’t know what he wanted to do, but serendipity took him to Professor Mike DeCarbo’s public speaking class. It was there that Kyle discovered his inner Plato and a passion for public speaking. It was also there that Professor DeCarbo did what a lot of SCC faculty do. He saw potential in a promising student and reached out to encourage him to put his untapped talent to work. In this case, DeCarbo suggested that Kyle join SCC’s award-winning debate team. Kyle did just that, and soon after joining, he won a debate competition in Long Beach. He was hooked.

Kyle graduated from SCC in 2003 and went on to get a BA in Communications from Cal State Fullerton. He’s currently Regional Manager of Commercial Lending for Popular Community Bank. While proud to be a CSUF Titan, he’s also proud to call himself an SCC Hawk; he credits SCC for igniting the spark that got him started. “I got a lot of public speaking experience with the debate team at SCC. I developed more confidence and better communication skills. I can’t tell you how much that experience shaped my success at Cal State Fullerton and in my professional life. I can confidently talk to any group about anything I know about – and occasionally, when necessary, even things that I don’t!”

Asked why he’s come back to SCC to volunteer with the SCC Foundation, Kyle doesn’t hesitate – “SCC is a public college where young people can explore their educational interests with the direct help of dedicated faculty willing to point them in the right direction. I want to help the college find more resources so it becomes a place where the word “can’t” doesn’t exist. Raising funds for people who need it to accomplish their life goals will be a cause I will always stand behind. Go Hawks!”
Spring Alumni-Business Mixer A Success

On Thursday, April 17, 2014, the SCC Foundation hosted its first Spring Alumni-Business Mixer, titled, "Be Connected." Approximately 100 individuals attended the event, held at the new Humanities building patio, hosted by the SCC Foundation in collaboration with the Orange Chamber of Commerce. Table displays from college programs included Robotics, Library, Athletics, and Forensic Speech and Debate Team, along with faculty and students who welcomed and informed alumni and business representatives of the growth and accomplishments that SCC has achieved over the years. Artwork purchased by the Foundation was displayed at the venue to further engage attendees.
New Courses Offered At SCC: Introduction to Digital Media Course Offering
Responding to industry feedback, SCC is offering a new class: Introduction to Digital Media! In this course, Instructor Dave Echols (TV/Video) is introducing Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) video acquisition, dual channel audio acquisition, lighting and non-linear digital editing equipment. Students will have an opportunity to use state-of-the-art equipment and learn professional procedures from pre-production through post-production to develop, produce and execute commercial and industrial videos. This prepares students for careers in areas such as commercial development and event videography.

Upcoming Events:
Thursday November 6: Alumni Vs. Faculty Basketball Game 6:00 – 8:00 PM SCC Gymnasium Contact Tam Nguyen at 714-628-4843 or nguyen_tam@sccollege.edu for more information on how to participate or attend.

Saturday November 22: Celebration of Diversity, Home for the Holidays 7:00 PM SCC Gymnasium. Students, faculty, staff, senior citizens and children under 12: $7.00 General public: $12.00 Contact Janell McWilliam at 714-628-4822 for more information.

If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact us at santiagocanyonalumni@sccollege.edu

Athletic Roundup

Women’s Soccer Start OEC With Two Wins
In temperatures reaching above 100 degrees, the Hawks opened league play with a 1-0 victory at Irvine Valley College. Danielle Snook was the difference-maker scoring with a close range header from a Taylor Hollywood serve right on the stroke of half-time. Later on, Casey Pulido made a fine save from a free-kick from distance to preserve the shut-out and give the Hawks a well-deserved victory.

Freshman Brooke Mays scored a first-half hat-trick in 20 minutes to lead the Hawks in a 12-0 defeat of a brave visiting Norco Mustangs team.

Men’s Soccer Record Victory
The men’s soccer program got back to winning ways with a 2-1 victory over visiting Cuyamaca at SCC on Friday, September 19. The hard-fought victory gives the Hawks a season tally of 3 wins, 1 loss and 1 tie.

Running Hawks Compete at Southern California Preview Meet
On Friday, September 19, the SCC cross country teams competed within a field of 32 community colleges at the Southern California Preview Meet held at Woodley Park in Van Nuys. The SCC men’s team placed 16th overall in the meet. The Running Hawks were led by the freshmen trio of Robert Freeman, Tanner Deutsch, and Forrest Riley. The SCC women’s team placed 21st overall in the meet. The Lady Hawks were led by the freshmen duo of Jordan Keller and Tracy Vineyard.

President John Weispfenning met with the 2014 Men’s and Women’s Cross Country teams and spoke to the fact that the discipline and dedication they are showing now, will follow them through their college and future careers.