



Napa Valley College

News for
Students, Staff
& Faculty

NEWS

May 21, 2007
www.napavalley.edu

Graduation plans

Napa Valley College will award 711 degrees and 198 certificates at the 2007 commencement ceremony on May 25. It will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Gymnasium. The Gym doors will open at 6:30 p.m., and the ceremony is normally over before 9 p.m.

Students who petitioned for graduation or certificates for summer 2006, fall 2006, and/or spring 2007 received a letter before the end of April with details on the ceremony. Please note that all graduates wishing to participate in the ceremony must RSVP by May 22 by calling 253-3010.

A rehearsal will be held at 10 a.m. Friday morning, May 25, in the Gym. The rehearsal is strongly encouraged but not required if the graduate is working or taking a final exam.

Valedictory speakers named

The valedictory speakers for the 64th annual commencement will be Anne Bruns and Monica Hurtado-Leon.

A "Hot Summer Nights" reception hosted by the ASB will be held in the Cafeteria following the ceremony.

Other ceremonies

Other college pinning ceremonies are Psychiatric Technician, Monday, May 21, at 6:00 p.m. in the Theater; Respiratory Therapy, Tuesday, May 22, at 6:00 p.m. in the Theater, and the Associate Degree Nursing, Wednesday, May 23, at 6:00 p.m. in the Gym.

The Police Academy will graduate at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 9, in the Gym.

Excellence in education 1987-2007

Chiabotti and Scott honored as 2007 McPherson Teachers

Professor Dianna Chiabotti of Child and Family Studies and Diagnostic Learning Services Coordinator

Professor Rebecca Scott were named Napa Valley College's McPherson Distinguished Teachers for 2007. They were honored at a luncheon May 11.

The awards program was established by Dr. Harry McPherson, founding president of Napa Valley College, with the first awards given in 1987 to recognize excellence in teaching. The program continues today, part of Dr. McPherson's legacy, and is funded by the McPherson-West fund of the Napa Valley College Foundation.

Professor Chiabotti earned her B.S. from University of



Dianna Chiabotti



Rebecca Scott

California, Davis, and her M.S. from California State University, Hayward. She started at Napa Valley College as an adjunct instructor in 1995 and has been teaching full time since 2001.

"Dianna is a creative and imaginative teacher. She has exhibited a great devotion to her students and to her program," according to one nomination. "She is intelligent, creative, compassionate and one of the most highly respected professors at our college," said another nomination. She was cited for a critical role in revising the Child and Family Studies Program to increase the rigor

TEACHERS CONTINUES ON THE BACK PAGE

Golf tournament benefits college athletics

The second annual Storm Classic Golf Tournament will be held Wednesday, May 30, at Silverado Country Club. The event benefits Napa Valley College athletics. The cost is \$165 for an individual or \$600 for a foursome. After May 23, the cost to enter increases.

The tournament will start at 10 a.m. with registration; there will be a noon shotgun start.

The price includes lunch on the course, range balls prior

to play, shared golf cart, tee prize and green fees. There will be prizes and a reception to follow the tournament.

Entry forms are available in the NVC P.E. Dept. or from the Napa Valley College Foundation. Call 253-3374 for details. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Student athletes and college coaches will be among volunteers at the tournament. The event will help support college athletics.



Napa Valley College students honored

Two Napa Valley College students have been honored by the Napa Chamber Foundation and The Mechanics Bank. They were winners in the 2007 Napa Valley Community Awards "Celebrating Community" event. This program, to be held May 23 at The Meritage Resort at Napa, recognizes local community leaders, individuals and businesses for their outstanding leadership, contributions and achievements.

Outstanding Napa Valley College Student of the Year was a tie between James Carter (among those pictured above) and Rachel Salas. Carter has a 4.0 GPA and is president of the Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) club. Under



Photo by Richard Bruns
Student leaders from MESA and ASB interviewed by a Korean television camera crew on May 7 included seated from left, Francis Villegas, James Carter, Will Roque, Chris Barberi, Sara Morgado and Eric Anderson. The Nurses Week celebration was happening in the background

his leadership, the group raised over \$3,000 for Katrina victims. He also organized students to clean up after the Napa flood. He plans to study food toxicology at UC Davis so he can join the Peace Corps and help local people

develop better food growing and storage practices.

Salas joined the AmeriCorps program to help underachieving children. At NVC, she works in the Puente program, founded and was elected president of the Puente Club and organized students to help rebuild homes after the Napa flood. She is a peer support mentor, peer tutor, vice president of Publications in the honor society, a member of the community service clubs La Comunidad Unida and Club Hispano Americano and volunteers for the Migrant Education program. She will attend St. Mary's College and plans to become a first-grade teacher.

Bruns and Hurtado-Leon selected as commencement speakers



Bruns

Honor students Anne Bruns and Monica Hurtado-Leon have been selected as valedictory speakers for NVC's commencement ceremony May 25. They both received scholarships at

the Scholarship Ceremony May 17.

A pre-nursing student, Anne focused on Natural Science and Math at Napa Valley College and also earned a General Education degree. She attended Napa High School and completed an alternative independent studies program. A mother of two, she appreciated the care her children received at the Child Development Center. Having access to the center, she said, allowed her to continue her education. Anne took several online classes at NVC and has high praise for her online and other teachers. She was involved in campus life, Phi Theta Kappa, and planned a forum on world religions, for example. Anne has already transferred and this spring is enrolled in 18 units at California State University, Sacramento. Her goal is to get into graduate school at UCSF and become a nurse anesthetist. Anne said her talk will reflect on her journey at Napa Valley College. She



Hurtado-Leon

says she did not do well in high school; faculty members at Napa Valley College helped her learn how to learn. "I had a great experience at Napa Valley College," she said. "Getting connected helped

me. Getting involved with clubs and activities was wonderful."

Monica graduated from Napa High School and describes how the transition from high school to college was difficult for her. She had seen few Latino role models as she went through her elementary education. A first-generation college student, she said she did not really know what to expect from college. Initially she says she struggled and dropped classes. As a working student, she found the demands on her time and the amount of homework difficult. Martin Olguin had recruited her from high school into Student Support Services, and his encouragement "saved me," she said. "I kept thinking, I can do it. I got encouragement. He did not let me drop completely."

Other campus support services and the counselors at campus Health Services also deserve credit, she added. She was among the first group

of Puente students and said that experience helped her grow into the person she is today. She started earning A grades and is now transferring to UC Davis, planning a double major in Psychology and Human Development with a minor in Spanish.

Monica has tutored others since the seventh grade and continued to tutor other students at Napa Valley College through SSS. "I appreciate all those who helped me. I had good teachers here," she said. "I love Napa Valley College."

Summer classes start

June 11

Register Now!

See www.napavalley.edu
for the *Summer Class Schedule*

NAPA VALLEY COLLEGE NEWS

Is a publication for faculty, staff and students of Napa Valley College and the community which the college serves.

Dr. Christopher McCarthy
President

Betty Malmgren
Community Relations Office

Richard Bruns
Layout & Design

NVC Print Shop
Rick Foley

Acknowledgments

Christine Bettencourt - Shannon DiFillippo

Send items for this publication to the Community
Relations Office or email
bmalmgren@napavalley.edu

STUDENT CORNER



BY DIEGO HERNANDEZ

Susana Ponce has been elected ASB president. The results were announced at Cinco de Mayo. For those who weren't present to hear the winners announced, allow me to reveal the victors, listed below:

- u **President:**
Susana Ponce (278)
Tamera Melvin (224)
- u **Vice-President:**
Chris Hagerman (285)
Lynsey Kavanagh (215)
- u **Student Trustee:**
Christopher Adams (288)
Jose Keanoano Ganutan (168)
- u **Senator of Environment:**
Beth Bonds (275)
Theresa Imel (185)
- u **Senator of Natural Sciences:**
Jose A. Carrillo-Parada (240) Chris Sprott (232)
- u **Senator of Athletics:**
Elizabeth Medina
- u **Senator of Business:**
Lora Jeanne Benin
- u **Senator of Fine Arts:**
Gregory Wong
- u **Public Relations Officer:**
Katelyn A. McLeod
- u **Legislative Advisor:**
Isabel S. Hernandez
- u **Total votes cast this year:** 527
- u **Total votes cast last year:** 460
- u **Average votes received over past three years:** 362

Keep up the good work, students of Napa Valley College!



Betty Malmgren photo

New Officers include, from left: Jose Carrillo-Parada, Beth Bonds, Christopher Adams, Susana Ponce, Chris Hagerman, Lora Benin and Katelyn McLeod.

Phi Theta Kappa honored

Napa Valley College's honor society chapter was recognized at the spring Phi Theta Kappa regional conference in San Diego. Out of 80 chapters, NVC's chapter won the Service Hallmark award for outstanding service projects. The chapter again earned 5-star status (the highest level of overall achievement) and a Pinnacle achievement (higher percentage of recruitment).

Beta Beta Sigma was also recognized at the international level with the Hallmark Service Award and Top 100 Chapters Award.

Honor society students honored

NVC student Jason Johnson was honored as a member of the All California Academic First Team and



Submitted photo

Griselda Vargas, left, and Jason Johnson display their awards received in Sacramento.

Griselda Vargas was named to the third team. Jason is an active board member with Phi Theta Kappa. He is majoring in Business and has plans to transfer to UCLA.

Griselda is a first-generation college student. She plans to transfer to UC Berkeley with a double major in Spanish and Chicano Studies.

Both students have been honored with additional scholarships and awards.

Honor society advisors are Cathy Gillis and Andrea Bewick.

Student Corner – Reflections on Virginia Tech

BY DIEGO HERNANDEZ

In the aftermath of the Virginia Tech Massacre, much controversy has erupted not just in Virginia, but all over the U.S. Just like after the Columbine shootings, people are blaming one person and/or entertainment form after another; gun-control advocates are butting heads with gun-control opponents, and people are freaking out, thinking that they're going to be killed by a deranged, homicidal youth. And just like the Columbine shootings, my opinion on the whole affair remains the same: Calm down, you're not going to die.

OK, let me rephrase that. You are going to die, but everyone else will too because nobody is immortal. But the chances of you being gunned down in school? They're about the same as you marrying Halle Berry or Axel Rose ever recognizing Chinese Democracy—very low and highly unlikely.

Contrary to what you might have heard, a generation of killers is not being currently raised. Are young men and women exposed to violent media today? Yes. But wasn't it said during the fifties that comic books would warp the mind of the youth? Wasn't it feared during the seventies that *The Wild Bunch* was going to turn kids into gun-toting maniacs with happy trigger fingers? Wasn't it the opinion of professionals during the eighties that Heavy Metal was going to be responsible for converting its young listeners into Satanists? And wasn't it the fear of America during the nineties that Mortal Kombat would transform little nine-year-old Billy into a sadistic lunatic? Well, none of the above ever happened, so I doubt that any of today's movies, video games, music or any other media subject will ever do the same.

You know what caused the Virginia Tech

Massacre? It was lack of gun control. The lesson here is simple: If a mentally unbalanced young man, with a history of stalking and threatening behavior, was able to obtain a gun, then gun control laws should be tightened to ensure that people like him cannot buy one. I don't know if you're aware of this, but gun control is the issue and agenda here! Events like this have happened in the past, and they are bound to happen in the future. However, we can influence just how many will occur. Taking logical steps, like tightening gun-control laws to a reasonable level, paying more attention to potentially dangerous students and focusing attention away from the so-called dangers of entertainment should help reduce the number of similar events that will eventually happen. Sorry, but outlawing Grand Theft Auto and John Woo flicks just ain't gonna cut it.



NVC Community Relations file photo

The first McPherson Distinguished Teacher awards were presented by former NVC President Dr. Bill Fedderson, left, and Dr. McPherson, right, to George Hagen and Dolores Fischer in 1987.

and bring course outlines of record up to date. “Dianna is so loved and respected by her students...she builds a wonderful rapport with students, treats them with compassion and as individuals,” according to a nomination. Professor Chiabotti serves on the Child Care Planning Council of Napa and has served as the Early Literacy Specialist for a community project. She places students in the community for their practicum and student teaching classes. She coordinates the grant-funded California Early Childhood mentor program. This spring semester Professor Chiabotti became interim director of the Child Development Center and is paving the way for the center’s integration with the Child and Family Studies Program in the fall. She was commended for instituting positive change and meeting challenges with perseverance. For the past two years, she has served as Academic Senate President and has served on many program review and evaluation committees.

Professor Scott earned her B.A. and M.A. from Western State College in Colorado. She has 25 years experience

in the field of education with 19 years in the classroom. Professor Scott strives to assist all students in identifying their strengths and reaching their potential. She has worked at Napa Valley College since 1999. She has worked in the classroom and shared

her expertise in a variety of other assignments, including a vital role with Title III. In 2003 Professor Scott became the Activity One Director for Title III, a federal grant that provides critical interventions for under-prepared and under-served populations of students. She has been grant coordinator this spring, as well as serving as interim dean of Instruction. Her leadership was noted in developing and overseeing the English Learning Communities, devoted to keeping students in college. She was described as “a very important asset to Napa Valley College” in one nomination. “She is very knowledgeable in her subject matter and instills an enthusiasm for learning. She always has a smile on her face and a readiness to listen and help her students,” said another nomination. Professor Scott focuses on creating

opportunities for students to meet their goals, while addressing their interests, abilities and learning styles. She provides continued support to her students throughout their careers at the college, according to a nomination. She is active both in the college, serving on college committees, and in the Napa community.

NVC President Dr. Chris McCarthy introduced Ann Cash, Dr. McPherson’s daughter, at the luncheon. She offered congratulations and expressed her delight that the program recognizes outstanding faculty members and continues to inform the community about excellence in education at the college. Sue Nelson, vice president, Instruction, made the presentations which include a plaque and check. Many past McPherson Distinguished Teachers attended the event.



Photo by Betty Malmgren
Many past McPherson Distinguished Teachers attended the luncheon to congratulate Rebecca Scott, seated left, and Dianna Chiabotti, seated right.