

The Spirit

April 2008

FOR EMPLOYEES AND FRIENDS OF SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

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FOR ENRIQUE LOPEZ, SWC RUNS IN THE FAMILY

For Enrique Lopez, Southwestern College (SWC) seemed a natural fit. Graduating from Bonita Vista High School with an elementary grasp of the English language, Lopez didn't have the money or the grades to attend a four-year institution. In addition, he had only recently recognized his appreciation and interest in mathematics.



SWC Alum Enrique Lopez is now a Systems Test Engineer for Cymer.

Following in the steps of his four sisters, Lopez enrolled and began taking classes at SWC. Pursuing his newfound passion for mathematics, he became active in the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and the Math/Science Club. He also held tutoring jobs and became involved in undergraduate research, working closely with SWC chemistry professor Dr. David Brown.

It was a combination of his many activities and achievements at SWC that helped Lopez secure admission to the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), where he transferred and majored in Electrical Engineering with an emphasis in Solid State Physics. After graduating from UCLA, Lopez was hired by Cymer, Inc. as a Systems Test Engineer for the Technology Integration Division.

Lopez is grateful to the entire SWC family for helping him reach his educational goals.

SWC congratulates Enrique on his successes and wishes him well in his future endeavors!

SWC'S OUTREACH PROGRAM HAS AMIGOS APLENTY

Southwestern College (SWC) Outreach Technician, Sandra Calderon, was recently awarded the Amigo/Amiga Award of the Sweetwater Union High School District (SUHSD) Counselors Association. Presented annually to a friend of SUHSD in recognition of his or her commitment to the District's students, the award is reflective of a dedication to advance education – particularly in the South Bay.

Calderon, who has worked at Southwestern College since 1991, has built a good relationship with SUHSD counselors during the 16 years that she has been working for the Outreach Program and was honored to receive this award.



SWC Outreach Technician Sandra Calderon was recently awarded the Amigo Award from SUHSD.

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DYSTE TO RECEIVE FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD

Southwestern College's (SWC) Vice President for Academic Affairs, Ron Dyste, will be honored by the Journalism Association of Community Colleges with its First Amendment Award. Presented in recognition of extraordinary administrative support for journalism, Dyste will be presented the award at a banquet in Los Angeles in early April. Former SWC Superintendent/President Norma Hernandez received the same award in 2006.



GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

David J. Agosto, President
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Raj K. Chopra, Ph.D.,
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Contributors: Melissa Abeyta, Brenda Mora,
 Fernando Poveda, Nevada Smith, Joan Stroh

SWC'S JOAN STROH: ALWAYS THERE FOR THOSE IN NEED

Computer Information Systems/Electronics department chair, Joan Stroh, has been volunteering with the Interfaith Shelter Network for the past 21 years. She coordinates an annual two-week shelter at the Chula Vista Presbyterian Church. The effort involves managing nearly 100 members of the congregation, who serve as overnight hosts, dinner providers, and launderers of the towels and sheets. Those who are unable to do these tasks provide the food for breakfasts and lunches.



SWC faculty Joan Stroh volunteers with the Interfaith Shelter Network.

Besides securing all the volunteers, it is also Stroh's task to open the church building every night and welcome the guests. For the next hour and a half she learns of how they spent the day and passes out the bus passes for the next day. Stroh says she especially enjoys interacting with the children, talking with them about their school experiences. Before the dinner meal is served, she offers the grace for the guests.

The local church financially supports the shelter through donations by its members. The coordinating body, Interfaith Shelter Network, is funded by grants and donations. In addition to the shelter program, it provides semi-permanent housing – called El Nido – for battered women and their children. If you or your church is interested in becoming involved, call Joe at 619-702-5399.



STUDENT TRUSTEE EARNS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Adrian Del Rio, the College's Student Governing Board Member and president of the Associated Student Organization (ASO), recently earned Certified Student Leader credentials during the National Conference on Student Leadership in Atlanta, GA. Del Rio was one of 96 students attending the conference to earn this award by scoring high on an examination of leadership skills. The exam tests candidates on the skills necessary for the effective leadership of student organizations including running effective meetings, resolving conflicts, creating an inclusive and diverse environment, and launching successful publicity and promotional campaigns. ■

SWC STUDENT RECOGNIZED AS PEPSI SCHOLAR ATHLETE

Southwestern College (SWC) would like to congratulate Viridiana Martino for receiving the women's 2007 COA/CCCCAA Pepsi Scholar Athlete Award. Martino was recognized for excelling academically, athletically, and in citizenship, representing the positive outcomes of dedication, hard-work and service. The Pepsi Scholar Athlete Award is the highest student achievement honor awarded annually by the California Community College Commission on Athletics (COA) and California Community College Athletic Association (CCCCAA).

Being both academically focused and an outstanding athlete helped Martino receive the award, as well as get accepted to the University of Southern California, where she will pursue a bachelor's degree. In addition, Martino received numerous scholarships as an SWC student, including the ASO Athlete Scholarship, Chicano Latino Coalition Scholarship, and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) Scholarship.

SWC proudly applauds Viridiana on her achievements! ■

Continued *Amigos*

"Since working for Southwestern College, I have realized that promoting higher education is on of the greatest gifts that I can share with counselors and students," said Calderon.

This is the second time that someone from the Southwestern College Outreach Office has been recognized by the SUHSD Counselors Association. Fernando Poveda, Director of Outreach received the 2003-2004 Amigo Award of SUHSD Counselors Association for his many years of service to the students and counselors of the Sweetwater District.

Congratulations Sandy on your achievement! ■

Do you have a story idea for *The Spirit*?

Send ideas to Nevada Smith at nsmith@swccd.edu

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