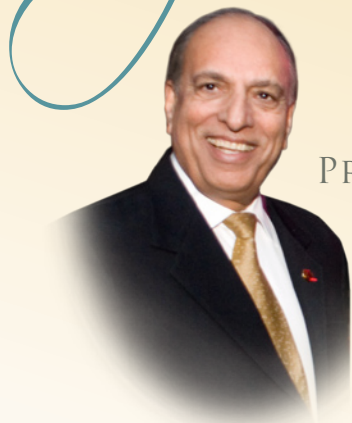


The Spirit

March 2008

FOR EMPLOYEES AND FRIENDS OF SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the inaugural edition of *The Spirit!* This newly-designed newsletter is a spin-off of *The Messenger* and will showcase accomplishments and achievements of Southwestern College's (SWC) faculty and staff. In addition, *The Spirit!* will occasionally feature success stories of SWC alumni, current students, and retirees. The publication is designed to showcase the people – and the spirit – that make Southwestern College unique.

It will be produced on a monthly basis and distributed both internally and externally. If you have any recommendations on story ideas, please send them directly to Nevada Smith at nsmith@swccd.edu.

Open lines of communication with the South County community remain a priority for the College. *The Spirit!* will assist in communicating all the good things that happen at Southwestern College.

I hope you enjoy our first edition!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raj K. Chopra".

Raj K. Chopra, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President

CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR PROVIDES UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS

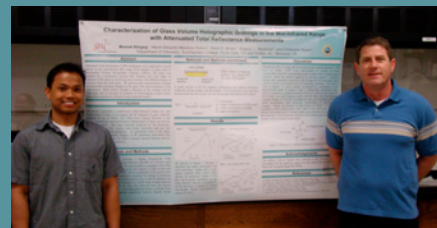
Southwestern College (SWC) chemistry professor Dr. David Brown is on a mission: he wants to change the face of science. Long thought to be a field primarily for Caucasian men, Brown believes the industry is desperately in need of a facelift.

"Science needs to look more like society," said the 11-year SWC teacher of chemistry. "It needs more women and more minorities. Community colleges hold a huge pool of untapped talent in both of these areas."

Dr. Brown is also firmly committed to a growing national movement to increase the amount of authentic research generated by community college students at their two-year institutions. With a lot of hard work, commitment and support from colleagues, he is making great strides in molding SWC's Chemistry Department into a model program.

Dr. Brown's most recent achievement is an invitation for him and SWC student Manuel Alingog to visit Washington D.C. in April and present research at the 2008 Posters on the Hill event. Hosted by the Council on Undergraduate Research, this annual contest provides select students the opportunity to showcase their research results on Capitol Hill. SWC is the second community college ever to participate in this highly competitive and prestigious event.

See *Chemistry* page 2



SWC student Manuel Alingog (left), and professor Dr. David Brown, pose in front of Alingog's first-place winning poster for the American Chemical Society's Western Regional Meeting.

Do you have a story idea for *The Spirit*?
Send ideas to Nevada Smith at nsmith@swccd.edu

900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista, CA 91910
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Continued *Chemistry*

Representing himself and three other students in Brown's research group, Alingog will be showcasing their findings on "Mid-Infrared Spectral Characterization of Volume Holographic Gratings and Nanofabrication of Optical Structures." This work was supported with funds from the National Science Foundation (NSF) SBIR Phase IICC program, established in 2006 to form research partnerships between community college research teams and small business enterprises. SWC's partner in this project is Ondax, Inc. of Monrovia, CA.

Additional achievements by Dr. Brown include being awarded the American Chemical Society's Stanley C. Israel Regional Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences in 2007, as well as being the recipient of NSF grants totaling \$560,000 as the Project Director, Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator. He also co-developed SWC's Chemical Technology Program (now the Pharmaceutical and Laboratory Science Program) and is the project evaluator of the College's NSF Geographic Information Systems (GIS) grant.

During his tenure at SWC, Dr. Brown has directed approximately 20 undergraduate researchers, is currently serving as the advisor of the SWC Student Affiliates Chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS), and four of his students have been selected as ACS Scholars. It is his passion and enthusiasm for student success that led Superintendent/President Dr. Raj Chopra recently to recommend Dr. Brown to serve as a mentor for the American Association of Community Colleges MentorLinks program, which is funded by the NSF Advanced Technological Education program.

Congratulations Dr. Brown on your hard work! ■

PHILOSOPHER BY DAY – MUSICIAN BY NIGHT



Professor and musician, **Peter Bolland** has the satisfaction of living the best of both worlds. Bolland's day job includes being a Southwestern College (SWC) philosophy professor, teaching classes in introductory philosophy, world religion and ethics. When he is not preparing lectures for his students or in the classroom, Bolland is a singer, songwriter and guitarist for the band, The Coyote Problem.

Bolland formed The Coyote Problem with band members, drummer Danny Cress and bassist Billy Fritz. The award-winning band plays indigenous California rock which is a mixture and blending of alt-country, Americana rock and folk music. The band's web site is www.thecoyoteproblem.com.

Since grade school, music has played an important role in the life of Peter Bolland. It was in 1993 when a student of his at SWC suggested the two create Jackson-Bolland, an acoustic duo. Jackson-Bolland performed in San Diego County before Bolland helped establish The Coyote Problem in 2002.

The School of Arts and Communication proudly supported Bolland's recent show during the SWC Music Department Spring Recital Series. His solo and acoustic performance at the College is a perfect example of having the best of both worlds. ■

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Contributors: Melissa Abeyta, Silvia, Lugo, Brenda Mora,
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LNT PROFESSORS BOAST BODACIOUS BOTANIC GARDEN

The Landscape and Nursery Technology Department at Southwestern College (SWC) is proud to announce its registration as a botanic garden in the national registry of American Public Gardens Association (APGA). The garden, which is maintained by SWC professors **Bill Homyak** and **Meredith Sinclair**, has been named the "South Bay Botanic Garden at Southwestern College."

The South Bay Botanic Garden at Southwestern College originated with a four-acre bare plot of land in 1974 and grew over the years due to student and lab projects in the horticulture program. Today, there are more than 150 plants labeled in the garden plus 300 other wonderful specimens. The labeling of individual plants includes the scientific name, common name, family name, and their native origin in the world. Typically, botanical gardens are those with collections of plants that are scientifically ordered and remain open to the public for recreation, education and research. ■