
Taft College
Cougar Echo

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Work on first major project to get underway soon

Construction on Taft College's new community technology center will begin shortly after graduation.

College trustees, at their April meeting, awarded a contract to a Bakersfield firm to remodel the administration building and LRC and demolish and build a new library.

The \$14 million project will be done by S.E. Anderson. Construction is expected to take a year and a half.

In the meantime, plans to remodel the science building are taking shape. That project is expected to be finished before the tech center.

Anderson's bid was the lowest of three submitted for the project and came in under the \$14.5 million architect's estimate.

"Needless to say, we were pleasantly surprised," said Willy Duncan, vice president of administrative services.

The original cost estimate was \$11 million, but project plans languished in the Department of State Architecture for a year while construction costs soared.

State construction bond funds will contribute \$7.7 million of the cost with the remainder coming from the

local Measure A bond approved by voters.

The administration building will be remodeled into a new student services center on the ground floor and administrative offices on the second floor.

Classes will continue to be held in

existing rooms and labs, including the portable buildings in the parking lot and the Student Center conference room.

Off-campus locations, including a nearby shopping center, are being explored to alleviate the crunch for classroom space.

Summer, fall registration continues

By Anthony Bench

Echo Staff Writer

Registration for summer and fall classes is underway.

Priority registration began on April 4

Open registration will begin on May 15.

New students must complete the assessment test and orientation before registering.

The assessment test and orientation schedule is available in the Counseling Center.

Assessment testing and orientation will continue until May 17.

Summer and fall semester class schedules are available in the Student Center and online at www.taftcollege.edu.

A change in the summer schedule moves away from the typical six-week schedule with most classes meeting twice a week for four hours.

Some classes will be spread over an eight-week period beginning May 22. A few are offered in shorter time frames and some even in longer time frames.

The gasoline voucher program for commuting students will be offered again next fall.

Cougar spring sports teams wrap up seasons



ONE LAST TIME—Softball coach Don Bandy gives his team some encouragement. He capped a 20-year career at TC.



YOU'RE OUT!—Cougar catcher Matt Bezzant and Merced's Thomas Wooten look to the umpire for a call after this play at home plate. The call was out.

Bandy finishes 20 years as head softball coach

Don Bandy has closed out a 20-year career as head softball coach at Taft College.

Bandy and his sophomores were honored at the last home game, a 7-6 victory over Porterville College.

Pitcher/catcher Pikake Nutter-Gaudet made both the all-conference and all-state teams.

Second baseman Jalen Garcia also made the first team.

Taylor Miller and Tiffany Pease made the second team and Cheyenne Dayton and Stacy Sakata made honorable mention.

All except Sakata are sophomores.

Baseball team closing season on bright note

The Cougar baseball team, after struggling during the middle part of the season, is finishing on a bright note.

TC has won three games in a row, including a 5-1 upset victory over Fresno City College, the No. 1 team in northern California.

Taft swept Reedley College, 5-1 and 11-0 on Tuesday, allowing the Tigers no earned runs and only six hits.

The Cougars close out the season today by hosting Porterville College.

Josh Herback-South, who has emerged as one of the top community college pitchers in the state, will get the call on the mound. He pitched a four-hitter against Fresno.

Sophomore Tyson Davis has hit .545 in his last eight games.

36 students will receive scholarship awards at luncheon

Thirty-six Taft College students will haul in \$27,700 in scholarship money contributed by local organizations.

The scholarships will be presented May 19 at the annual awards luncheon at OT Cookhouse.

More than a dozen students earned two or more awards.

Leslie Baker will receive six, Bradley Cramer five, Shannon Wingfield and Brandalyn Thomas four each and Taylor Miller, Omar Rodriguez and Tiffany Pease three.

Cramer's haul of \$4,400 was the highest.

Donors and recipients include:

Phi Theta Kappa: \$300 to John Erdei, \$275 to Bradley Cramer, \$225 to Shannon Wingfield, \$175 each to Leslie Baker and Simon DeLaRosa III, \$125 to Edna Barajas, \$100 each to Brandalyn Thomas and Kara Koenig, \$50 to Keith Bickel, and \$25 each to Mariam Chaundry, Rosalba Fonseca, and Zedith Brown.

American Petroleum Institute: \$250 to Leslie Baker.

Mildred Baer Memorial: \$1,500 to Bradley Cramer.

TC chapter California School Employees Association: \$500 to Leslie Baker, \$300 each to Megan Carugao and Jodi Sharp.

Chester & Clara Carr Book Scholarship: \$100 to Krista Nelson.

Chevron/Texaco: \$500 each to Leslie Baker, Chad Beath and Taylor Nicole Miller.

Daniella Rosales Memorial: \$250 each to Tiffany Pease and Jalen Garcia.

FOPS: \$200 to Megan Magee and Justine Halpern, \$125 each to Brandalyn Thomas, Prisciliano Martinez and Tristina Reich, and \$50 each to Christine Bamford and Juan Ramos.

William & Juanita Feeder: \$150 to Allyson LeClair.

Katie Owens Memorial: \$500 to Shannon Wingfield and Kaena Apana.

Kaeli Pearl Memorial: \$500 to Paepaetele Poasa and \$250 each to Kaena Apana and Christi-Anne Haia.

Kem Division Retired Teachers: \$2,000 to Brandalyn Thomas.

Kiwanis Club of Taft: \$500 each to Allyson LeClair and Taylor Nicole Miller.

James C. Lipscomb Memorial: \$1,000 to Omar Rodriguez.

Marian Mickelson Memorial: \$500 each to Grethel Frias-Merritt and Sue Ellen DeWoody.

Roslyn Nua Memorial: \$300 to Paepaetele Poasa.

Pepsi Cola/Dr. Pepper: \$200 to Jason Maguire.

Rotary Club of Taft: \$500 each to Megan Magee and Patricia Patterson.

Barbara B. Searle Memorial: \$2,000 to Bradley Cramer.

Soroptimist Club of Taft: \$1,000 to Megan Gary.

Taft College ASB Officers: \$166 to Shannon Wingfield, Bradley Cramer and Grethel Frias-Merritt.

ASB Scholarship One: \$500 to Shannon Wingfield.

ASB Academic Excellence: \$500 to Bradley Cramer.

ASB Athletic Excellence: \$500 to Omar Rodriguez.

ASB Scholarship Two: \$500 to Christi-Anne Haia.

Taft College Faculty Association: \$500 each to Omar Rodriguez, Simon DeLaRosa III, and Taylor Nicole Miller, \$200 each to Tristina Reich, Edna Barajas, and Krista Nelson.

Taft College Foundation: \$500 each to Kimberly Gunter and Megan Magee.

Taft College Life Science: \$125 to Leslie Baker.

Taft Sportsmen's Club: \$250 to Leslie Baker.

Taft College Women's Scholar Athlete: \$150 to Tiffany Pease.

Westside Hospital Auxiliary: \$1,000 to Holly Villatoro.

Hal Kinsey Memorial: \$250 to Tiffany Pease.

Charlotte Miller Memorial: \$250 to Brandalyn Thomas.

Gene Miller Memorial: \$250 to Shawna Mitchell.

TC Memorial: \$250 to Justine Halpern.



Anita Ferguson was all decked out and ready for Spring Fling week. A variety of activities were held, including daily costume contests.

TIL students get job training at Goodwill

By Susan Madsen
Echo Staff Writer

For those who have yet to discover Taft's newest shopping spot, a Goodwill store has taken up residence in the nearby Pilot Shopping Center.

Aside from the customary sales of affordable clothes, books, toys and collectibles, this annex is referred to as a "mission-driven" store.

Simply stated, its main purpose is to provide training, job experience, and the opportunity for TIL students at the college to work in the retail business.

Nevertheless, management at the local store is astounded by the number of sales and level of productivity the store has generated since it opened in March.

This project is the result of negotiations between Jeff Ross, director of Student Support Services at TC and Goodwill Industries.

Currently, there are 10 TIL students working in the store for up to eight hours a week.

Ross said he is writing a grant that would allow the students to work up to 30 hours a week.

"Eventually, we would like to partner with Goodwill to set up a certificate program with Taft College in retail business.

Tutoring still brisk but numbers down

By Kay O'Neal
Echo Staff Writer

While tutoring and test proctoring are going well in the LRC, the number of students taking advantage of the services was down.

By Anthony Bench
Echo Staff Writer

This is, sadly, my last semester at Taft College.

I say sadly because it should have been my last semester a while ago. No, I didn't slack off, I just stayed behind for a stupid reason--a girl.

Enough of my lovelife--or lack thereof. I recently interviewed a senior at Taft High planning on attending Taft College next fall.

For his safety, let's call him Bruce. No, that's not silly enough, so let's call him Hamburglar.

Ab: So, you're planning on going to TC, correct?

Hamburglar: Correct

Ab: Are you afraid?

Hamburglar: Not really.

Ab: You will be. So what classes are you taking your first semester?

Hamburglar: I have no idea, just my prereqs I guess.

Ab: What do you plan on doing with your life and time at TC?

Hamburglar: I plan to move in with a few of my friends while I attend TC. I plan on working at a job I have yet to acquire and just goof off and whatnot.

Ab: Exactly how long do you plan on staying at TC?

Hamburglar: Two years, just to get my AA, then I plan on transferring

Last fall, 1,260 students were tutored, down from 1,647 last spring and 1,979 in the fall of 2004.

Test proctoring follows a similar trend--1,421 last fall compared to 1,724 for spring a year ago.

Q and A with a future TC student

to a four-year university that is yet to be determined.

Ab: No

Hamburglar: Huh?

Ab: You're going to stay there forever . . . FOR-EVVV-ERR.

Hamburglar: Liar

Ab: Spinctersayswhat?

Hamburglar: Huh?

Ab: Damn. You win this round. Any teachers you are particularly interested in taking?

Hamburglar: Not particularly.

Ab: Take Dr. Chung-wee. He's a funny guy. And take McCall. He's the best teacher ever. (Hopefully, he'll give me an A for this.)

Hamburglar: Ha ha.

Ab: Any advice or questions you seek from me because I'm somewhat of a TC guru?

Hamburglar: What should I NOT do while at TC?

Ab: Hmmm. So much I could say right here. Don't overstay your welcome. And, don't forget to wash your hands. Yeah, that's pretty much it.

Hamburglar: Cool. Cool.

Ab: Are you excited about attending TC?

Hamburglar: Not really.

Ab: You should be. It's a great school.

Hamburglar: That's the problem. It's a school. I don't like school.

Ab: Hmmm, OK then. Best of luck with that.

I would like to thank Jesse Flory for taking the time to let me interview him as well as giving him the random alias of Hamburglar. Teachers and staff beware: Jesse smells.