

The Poly Optimist

Special Senior Edition

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

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JUNE 2009

Politics '09



Internet Photo

Jobs Fall, Hopes Rise

By Angel Silva
Editor In-Chief

345,000 jobs were lost in the United States jobforce last May, driving the unemployment rate to 6 million unemployed.

However, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, the amount of lost jobs is the lowest since September of last year, and half the average loss per month of the last six months-providing hope that perhaps the worst of the economic slump may be over.

The Bureau reported an increase of 0.5% in the nation's unemployment rate, raising it from 8.9% in May to 9.4%, compared to last year's unemployment rate of 5.8%. This increase marks the worst unemployment rate since 1984.

Jobs in manufacturing reported steep losses, with 30,000 lost jobs in the auto industry alone. According to the Bureau, jobs related to the auto industry have fallen by 50% since 2000, when the auto industry was at its peak.

The construction industry reported lesser losses than the previous months. 59,000 jobs were lost in May compared to 125,000 monthly for the previous four months- a result of the infrastructure spending set by President Obama's stimulus program.

The service sector reported similar conditions. Education, leisure and healthcare sectors reported no losses for May.

Poly Scores Second Warren Scholarship

By Francisco Meraz &
Sergio Mendoza
Staff Writers

Sophomore Rahwa Yehdego is the second tenth grade student to win the Warren Christopher Scholarship at Poly since 2007.

The Warren Christopher Scholarship provides \$20,000 in grants for college, \$5,000 annually for four years. The \$20,000 award will be awarded after the student graduates

from a Los Angeles School District (LAUSD) high school.

"My family and I are originally from Eritrean, Africa and moved to the U.S in hopes of greater aspiration," said Yehdego. "I found my inspiration in school and ever since have worked to have it."

Yehdego was motivated to enter the Warren Christopher Scholarship writing contest an investment towards her future.

"It seemed like a great opportunity to gain funds," said Yehdego.

The writing contest is strictly for tenth graders. Applications are submitted in the

beginning of the sophomore's year. Only one student per school in LAUSD can win this scholarship.

"I wrote my essay on my past and my hopes for the future, like going to medical school and becoming a doctor," Yehdego said.

Neva Bryan, Yehdego's counselor, notified Yehdego about winning the scholarship.

"Living in a household with only one working parent, the scholarship will be very helpful in granting me a more promising future," said Yehdego.



Photo by Michael Obando

SECOND TIME: Sophomore Rahwa Yehdego second to win Warren Scholarship from Poly.

Summer Session 2 Cancelled

By Melissa Perez &
Wanasaunt On-Art
Staff Writers

Around 300 Poly students were enrolled in college classes in the year 2006. The number increased to 1,600 this year.

However, starting this summer, things will change.

Poly will not be offering college classes to students this summer due to budget cuts. Los Angeles Community College district (LACC) has cancelled all summer session 2 college classes including those offered at Poly starting July

20th.

"We don't know what's going to happen and how bad its going be, so take advantage of the classes," Career Advisor Pia Damonte said.

English 101, 103 and Astronomy 101 will no longer be offered to Poly students on Poly's campus this summer.

The number of classes that will be offered in the fall will be based on the number of applications submitted by Poly students. LACC is also reducing summer session 1 classes as well as others around their district.

LACC prioritizes Polytech-

nic High School because of our structured program. The Advantage Plus Program's goal is to get students as close as possible to completing their first two years of college, known as the IGETC (Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum).

In the past, Los Angeles Valley College offered 8 to 12 college classes every 8 weeks on the Poly campus.

Poly has a unique block schedule allowing college classes to be completed within the class time limit.

"It fits right into our schedule because Valley allows us to," Damonte said, comparing the number of college classes offered at Poly to other high schools.

The majority of students taking college classes this year are mostly sophomores under the Advantage Plus Program.

Poly students have been performing well in their college classes with a passing rate of 90 to 95 percent. Damonte hopes students keep progressing towards their college goals in spite of the budget cuts.



Internet Photo

LEARNING DENIED: Community college classes offered only one summer session due to budget cuts.

No Mountain Too High to Climb

By Karinina Cruz
Staff Writer

Poly senior Jorge Luna will graduate this year after overcoming unimaginable obstacles in life.

"When I sleep I'm connected to a machine that breathes for me," said Luna. "Sometimes it's uncomfortable."

Luna was born with Spinal bifida, which is a physical condition that involves the incomplete development of the spinal cord or its covering.

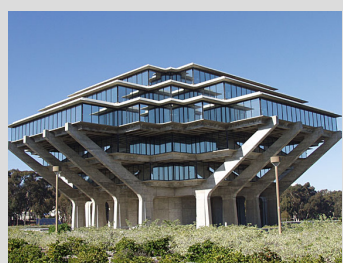
"I feel sad but I try not to show it," said Luna. "I know that I'm ready to face other challenges that will come."

Due to his condition, Luna would frequently miss many school days.

"I was in and out of school, but I would tell my teachers in advance if I can't come to school so I can do make up work and not fall behind," said Luna.

Luna also mentioned that for several times he would spend months in the hospital.

[See Luna, pg 4]



Where Will You Be?

See Map | Pages 6-7



On to Oklahoma

See Bubba | Page 10



One Last Look

See Sports | Pages 11

POLY KNOWS NO LIMITS

By Belle Tadena
Senior Editor

Ever since my high school years began, I've been hearing the same thing over and over again—that Poly is “ghetto.”

Yet that's what everyone says about San Fernando High, North Hollywood High and even Valencia High.

“Ghetto” according to the dictionary is “a section of a city in which Jews were required to live in,” “a section of a city in which members of a minority group live especially due to social, legal or economic pressure,” and/or “a situation that resembles a ghetto especially in conferring inferior status or limiting opportunities.”

“Limiting opportunities.” I would hardly think of Poly as an institution that limits the students' chances to rise far above himself/herself.

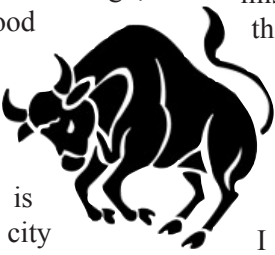
With Poly's available programs and benevolent faculty, I flourished individually and intellectually. With a combination of hard work and dedication, my efforts have resulted in my success.

I began high school at a slow pace, taking regular classes, not knowing anything about Advance Placement (AP) classes, disregarded the importance of honors classes, extra-curricular activities and the idea of “getting ahead.”

Now, I tell myself, I tell my juniors and my little cousins, if I knew everything I know now

about what I need to do in order to secure my spot at a highly accredited university, I would have initiated my pursuit for success at an earlier time.

It is not to say that I feel as though my endeavors are lacking or that I have any misgivings; it is more that had I taken the initiative, been more resourceful, retained that important information, and known what rights I have as a student pursuing a higher level of education, I would have tried harder and perhaps achieved more.



Right Under Your Nose

By Carolina Huezco
Contributing Writer

When I was a younger version of myself, my mom would drive by Poly — my then-future high school.

Each time we passed by, I always thought, “It'll be ages before I get to high school, much less graduate and go on to college.” I'd look away and carry on with something else on my mind.

Well, the time I thought would take forever to get here is finally here, and, as with almost every senior past and present, it's taken me by surprise. I still haven't completely processed that



Nonetheless, in my four years in high school, I have developed friendships and connections both with my peers and my advisors, friendships I value and will definitely miss.

For all those who truly believe in this “ghetto” fallacy, look around and watch our own Poly students head off to Dartmouth, Princeton, MIT and other prestigious universities in the nation and even the world.

Meet me at the Bruin Plaza at UCLA and prove to me Poly limits our abilities to grow and develop to pursue our dreams.

I, along with my friends and classmates, will be graduating next week.

Though high school is meant to foster and expand a student's intellectual abilities in preparation for the future, it's forgotten that the high school experience also fosters and encourages the growth of each student's individual character.

For me, the latter has impacted me the most.

It was while at Poly that I experienced personal growth, though not because of the institution that Poly is.

Rather, it was the people of Poly, peers and faculty alike, that have impacted me greatly and who will be greatly missed.

DEAR EDITOR,

started studying more, and started talking more.

I regret so many things I could have done, but things happen.

I was never a straight “A” student and I may never be. I'm different than many students at Poly and I like it. From having a half shaved head of hair to having four pairs of the same shirt.

A close friend once told me “Love can make you blind, but if you let it. It will open your eyes.”

I will never forget all the teachers and friends who I've met. Thank you for everything.

Lead in local schools' drinking water is a public health concern.

I was pleased to see OPTIMIST reporters Francisco Meraz and Sergio Mendoza investigating the story at Polytechnic.

Their well-written article contained the specific information we need to protect our health. I appreciate the LAUSD contact information they provided for follow-up questions.

Sincerely,
Laura
Fineman



Rising Against Paralysis

By Norma A. Mercado
Contributing Writer

My name is Norma A. Mercado.

I'm in a wheelchair due to a car accident I was in six years ago. When I came to Poly that's when everything hit me.

I had to learn how to speak out for myself to teachers and counselors to explain my needs. At first, I thought it was going to be easy, that people would understand my situation.

Now I've learned how to speak my mind and not keep everything to myself.

I went through a long period of depression. I had some of the worst grades. People judged me negatively and most of the time, I let them get to me.

At some point my family doubted me a lot. They said that I wasn't ever going to do anything, especially now that I'm in a wheelchair.

Unfortunately, I allowed their words to affect me and put me down.

I eventually learned not to let anyone judge me by the mistakes



that you made in life. I just had to move on forward.

Luckily, I came across some good people who helped me and motivated me to move forward. They also helped me through school.

Now that my grades are better, I feel that I have more respect from people. I like the feeling of getting good grades and being able to achieve anything I want and set my mind to.

My biggest challenge now is trying to walk again.

I'm currently a volunteer at Kaiser Permanente. I work at the Emergency Room (ER).

At Poly, I took a first responder class where I earned my license. Thank to this class, I realized that this is something I would want to pursue.

In the future, I want to go to college to pursue my dream of being a paramedic.

I felt that with all I have been through, this is something I would love to do.

Thanks to Poly, I am a better person and know what direction I want to go in life.



Never Too Late For You

By Teddy Suravech
Staff Writer



When I first stepped into Poly I was frightened. Seeing new people, new friends, and new teachers made me nervous. I was never the talkative type and because of that I never had many friends.

In the beginning of my high school year, I hung out with the wrong crew until I reached my sophomore year.

Everything changed. I met new friends who I can call my best friends,

started studying more, and started talking more.

I regret so many things I could have done, but things happen.

I was never a straight “A” student and I may never be. I'm different than many students at Poly and I like it. From having a half shaved head of hair to having four pairs of the same shirt.

A close friend once told me “Love can make you blind, but if you let it. It will open your eyes.”

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Laura
Fineman



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The OPTIMIST is the voice of the Poly community and accepts the responsibilities of a free press. The OPTIMIST follows the Code of Ethics for the Society of Professional Journalists. Editorials are the opinions of the staff writers.

LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be typed or neatly printed in ink and include the writer's signature. The OPTIMIST reserves the right to edit submissions. Send letters to Rm.14 or Ms. Matlen's or Mr. Blau's box.



Photo by Michael Obando

NEVER TOO BUSY FOR FUN: Polytechnic Principal Loera engages with graduating class of 2009, the Zodiacs.

PROUD FAREWELL TO CLASS OF 2009

I would like to extend our personal congratulations to each of you on your academic and personal accomplishments over the past four years.



We were proud of you four years ago when you entered as freshmen. And now, four years later, we are most proud of you and pleased by all of your superb accomplishments.

All of you are living proof that hard work and perseverance make a difference. As you enter adulthood, no matter if you are going off to college or beginning a career in the workforce, remember what you've learned at Poly.

Work hard, maintain your dedication to your purpose, persevere and most of all, learn something new every day. Remember after all is said and done, your education never ends.

Get used to it!!! Enjoy it!!! Also remember this...**KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.** Power breeds **CONFIDENCE.** Confidence thirsts for knowledge. If you keep this in mind and stay **INTERESTED** in life and what you bring to it, you will succeed.

Like an athlete in training, or a composer writing a song, listen to that voice in your head, learn to focus and see what happens.

Congratulations to all you seniors, as you move on your way to your next step in life-

To the class of 2009: I dedicate this song to you. It's "My Wish" by Rascal Flatts. I'll miss you lots!

"I hope that the days come easy and the moments pass slow,
And each road leads you where you want to go,
And if you're faced with a choice and you have to choose
I hope you choose the one that means the most to you.
And if one door opens to another door closed,
I hope you keep on walkin' till you find the window,
If it's cold outside, show the world the warmth of your smile."

Sincerely,
Cheryl Kehrmeyer

Remember seniors,

It's not where you start, it's where you end up. Luckily, today is the first day of the rest of your life. Yea!

Ms. Neva Bryan

Best of luck to all the seniors I had in my English classes of 2005 - 2007. I will always remember you.

Mrs. Sara Rodrigues

Dearest Class of 2009

You have been hilarious and challenging, infuriating and inspirational. This is the first stanza of a poem that came to me at the right time. It made me want to know about language, and I can only hope I have done the same for you. I'll miss you.

Poetry
By Pablo Neruda

And it was at that age, Poetry arrived
In search of me. I don't know, I don't know where
It came from, from winter or a river.
I don't know how or when
No, there were not voices, there were not words
Nor silence
But from a street I was summoned.
Abruptly, from the others.
Among violent fires, or returning alone
There I was, without a face
And it touched me.

Best if luck to you all.

Much love,
Ms. Katie Marzolo

To the class of 2009 - The Zodiac

"Adhere to your own act, and congratulate yourself if you have done something strange and extravagant, and broken the monotony of a decorous age.

Hitch your wagon to a star."

By: Ralph Waldo Emerson



Much love,
Mrs. Ethel Matlen

To my future doctors, nurses, caretakers and all other seniors:

I am so proud to know you and to have the privilege of working with you. Keep up the good work.

Graduate from college or technical school!

Ms. Ellaine Larson

Calc class/Geometry Class:

Many of you I've had for three full years now! And I've loved every singly moment of it. You know that there can only be one "first" class and you've really received all of me. I couldn't express how much I will miss you guys when you're gone. Congratulations on a job very well done.

Ms. Jinna Hwang

To all the peer counselors that worked in the College Office, you were outstanding! Thank you for your assistance and the contribution you made to Poly.

Continue helping and sharing. May your dreams come true.

Mrs. Leona Warman



Now you've made it to this graduation time not to continue would be such a crime.

Your schooling has prepared you for the race life has you run.
Your new adventure has just begun.
I praise you for your efforts, and send good wishes, too, for a future filled with happiness, and your fondest dreams come true.

A special shout-out to Belle Tadena who spent many hours planning her schedule so it would be just right. What a planner. When you're CEO of your own company, don't forget those of us who made sure you got all the classes you wanted. (smile)

Ms. Jammie Kenion

To the class of 2009:

It seems only yesterday that you were little freshmen and we were performing "Egad! What a Cad!" You have grown into wonderful young adults. To each and everyone of you—after graduation go out into the world and fearlessly establish your identity. Create your true self. I will be here at Poly remembering you and rooting for you.

Ms. Mischa Martin

To the best ninth grade honors class ever! I'll never forget the Shower Power Hippie man experience. Thank you for making me laugh and being the kind of class that made me proud to be a teacher. You all have fantastic futures ahead of you. Have fun in college and please come back sometime to say hello. I'll miss all of you.

Ms. Lori Combs

CADETS AWARDED FOR SERVICE

By Billie Smith
Contributing Writer

The Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (AFJROTC) academics includes, studies in Aviation Science, Weather, History, Astronomy, Life Skills, Leadership, Communications, Social Sciences, Military Drill, and Physical Fitness.

Poly's Air Force JROTC held its 16th Annual Awards Night on 29 May 2009 to award cadets for outstanding performance and those who go above and beyond, as well as to honor all graduating senior cadets.

This year had the added distinction of honoring graduating Cadet Major Rene Escobar and his family for their dedication and contribution to the program for the past 4 years.

Graduating 2009 seniors are: Dylan Hearne (Unit Deputy Commander), William Cabezas, Christine Hernandez, Giancarlo Vitale, Liliana Benavidez and Julie Valdez graduating with a 3.9 GPA.

The event's Mistress of Ceremony Cadet Master Sgt Veronica Burch began with the introduction of the Unit Honor Guard performing the

traditional Prisoner of War (POW) – Missing-in-Action (MIA) Ceremony. The cadets surround a single table draped in a white tablecloth, set for one in the middle of the room. The single setting represents the prisoner who is alone, and in the middle of the table are a U.S.A. flag, and the black POW-MIA Flag, representing all POW's and those who are still missing. A Bible is placed on the table signifying faith in a higher power, and a single plate with salt and lemon representing the constant renewal of remembrance by family and friends, tied together with a red ribbon which represents all MIA's.

After dinner, a video was presented of short vignettes of the senior cadet's years and farewell comments given by the remaining cadets. JROTC's drum corp and drill team performed traditional change of command with the outgoing Cadet Commander Rene Escobar handing off the command of this unit to the incoming Cadet Commander Julia Salas.

The Honor Guard team finished the ceremony with the retirement of the colors.



Photo provided by Sgt. Billie Smith

TEN-HUT, READY, SMILE: AFJROTC cadets stand tall for their Annual Awards Night.

Poly Celebrates Nurses

By Vanessa Gomez
Staff Writer

Five Poly students received their certificate as Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA) through the regional occupational program (ROP) on June 13. Poly Parrots graduated on June 13 at Grant High school.

The ROP selected a total of fifteen students from Panorama High, North Hollywood High, Chatsworth High, and Poly High to join the program. Five of the chosen students were from Poly.

This program is year round. Every Saturday from September of 2008 through June of 2009, these students attended CNA courses that lasted from 6:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The five students who were chosen were Dalia Galvan, Maria Jose Mendoza, Manuela Dones, Jessica Gutierrez, Judy Serrano, and Adriana Amaya.

Participants are trained to pass the CNA state exam. Students also received one school credit for every eight hours of attendance in the program.

The ROP coordinators normally select seniors. However, four out of 15 students are juniors. They select their participants via survey and a one on one interview.

All Poly participants who attended the program passed the exam. Now, they are Certified Nursing Assistants and are eligible for a job in the medical field.

The ROP students spent five days at Sacramento competing with other health care people nation wide.

Poly Parrots who participated in ROP got a certificate presented by ROP Counselor



Photo provided by Yesenia Pleitez

CERTIFIED NURSE ASSISTANTS: Dalia Galvan, Maria Jose Mendoza, Manuela Dones, Jessica Gutierrez, Judy Serrano, and Adriana Amaya.

Pia Damonte recognizing all their hard work during the program.

The ROP program includes

the nursing program, cooking, careers in aviation and numerous other certificated programs for Poly students.

Student Overcomes Difficulties

[Luna continued, pg 1]

"I have had a few surgeries and one was on my head," said Luna.

According to Luna, the most difficult event in his life was when he discovered that he was not able to walk anymore.

"I was able to walk until I was eleven years old when my condition became worse," said Luna. "I noticed that I was becoming weaker and weaker."

Although Luna is still not able to walk, his physicians assured him that in time he would regain the strength to walk.

"My doctors told me that there is still hope that I can walk again with proper exercise and physical therapy," said Luna.

Despite Luna's current condition, he remains determined to accomplish his goals in life.

"I want to have a career in Web design," said Luna. "I really like to play Wii and other video games."

Like other graduating seniors, Luna has mixed feelings about college.

"I feel little sad and excited

about moving onto college," said Luna. "I had fun at Poly and I mostly enjoyed the trips we made to the L.A. Convention Center and the Dodgers' Stadium.

Luna will attend Mission College this year and plans to major in Computer Science.

Most of Luna's inspiration comes from his family, especially his mother.

"My mom motivates me to go on with my life," said Luna. "My brother and sisters would also visit me every weekend and they help me a lot."



Photo by Efrain Rodriguez
MADE IT: Senior Jorge Luna.

Prom Royalty Announced

By Ivan Verdin
Staff Writer

At seven p.m., cars were piling up the driveway entrance of the Los Angeles Omni Hotel on May 30th for the 2009 Senior Prom: Midnight Rendezvous.

Women were dressed in elegant dresses of all shapes and colors and accompanied by their dates who wore a matching color on their formal attire or a flower worn by both.

Like a typical teen movie, Poly Parrots walked up the high red stairs to get to the reception room in the premier Bunker Hill Ballroom, with 19-foot ceilings, and space for up to 800 guests.

Continuous music, festive dancing and even comical caricature drawings were all part of the endless fun and exhilaration



Photo by Michael Obando

NOBILITY: Prom King Eduardo Nieto and Queen Darlene Ku.

ration that was felt during the night.

At eleven p.m. Eduardo Nieto and Darlene Ku were announced as Prom king and queen. Nieto and Ku shared the traditional king and queen dance.

People filled the dance floor in an expression of celebration until midnight, which concluded the memorable night.



Next Stop?

Cal State Northridge (CSUN)

Aleksan Abgaryan
Carlos Aguilar Jr.
Liliana Aguilar
Jose Alvarez
Mario Anguiano
Stefan Arellano
Patricia Ascencio
Karen Barba
Cynthia Barillas
Ana Barragan
Esteban Barragan
Yesenia Bautista
Luis Bonilla
Mayra Bravo
Neil Bueno
Emelyn Cabrera
Rosa Camey
Alejandro Canul
Kimberly Cardenas
Katherine Carias
Liliana Castellanos
Jason Castro
Andrea Cazares
Jane Cenon
Adrian Chacon
Richard Cortez
Tania Cosme
Crystal Cristales
Laura Cruz
Jobeth De Jesus
Allan De Leon
Maila De Peralta
Jose Duran
Denise Espinoza

Emanuel Estrada
Mayra Estrada
Crystal Figueroa
Rafael Figueroa Jr.
Carolina Flores
Christina Flores
Chelsee Foster
Donald Gamez
Esther Garcia
Prisma Garcia
Rolando Garcia
Tomas Garcia
Valerie Garcia
Vanessa Gomez
Natalie Granado
Antonio Gutierrez
Lucia Gutierrez
Elizabeth Heredia
Anika Hernandez
Jeanet Hernandez
Jonathan Hernandez
Raymond Hernandez Jr.
Vanessa Hernandez
Stephanie Howe
Yessica Huerta
Carolina Huevo
Julio Lemus
Janeth Lepe
Alexander Linares
Richard Long
Daisy Lopez
Elizabeth M. Lopez
Lizette Lopez
Mario Lopez

Marisol Lopez
Gerardo Lupercio
Luigy Maldonado
Bayzig Manougian
Elizabeth Manzo
Elizabeth Manzo
Ana Martinez
Antonio Martinez
Colleen Martinez
Elizabeth Martinez
Elizabeth T. Martinez
Heliana Martinez
Joe Martinez
Sheyla Martinez
Gamez Melissa
Jonathan Mendez
Yuritza Mendoza
Ailleen Menendez
Ana Menendez
Vaagn Mesropian
Francisco Mojica
Antonio Morales
Gerardo Morales
Henry Morales
Juana Moran
Melina Morelos
Patricia E. Moreno
Esmeralda Munguia
Stacy Ocampo
Jessica Olmedo
Alex Orellana
Alberto Padilla
Jacqueline Peña
Kenneth Petralba

Dollar Phao
Madelyn Portales
Ariadna Quiroz
Karina Ramirez
Verenice Ramirez
Stephanie Rendon
Erika Reyes
Jessica Rivera
Dianita Rodriguez
Jeanette Rodriguez
Claudia Roman
Abilio Romero
Brenda Romero
Marlon Romero
Cristina Saldana
Jimmy Segovia
Stephanie Silva
Maira Solis
Louie Sosa
Ady Suarez
Raquel Tamayo
Elora Tan
Kellyn Torres
Kellyn Torrez
Noslinn Tosta
Kimberly Valdez
Ivan Verdin
Ivan Verdin
Jazmine Villa
Ainsley Villegas
Kimberly Yacharn



Los Angeles Valley College

Cal State Poly Pomona

Hyeran Choi
Karen Barba
Alexander Linares
Patricia Moreno
Jessica Olmedo
Karen Salazar

Cal State Fullerton

Mario Anguiano
Jane Cenon
Laura Cruz
Evelyn Escobar
Daisy Hernandez
Alexander Linares
Daisy Lopez

Cal State East Bay

Francisco Mojica
Ingrid Morales

Mira Mesa College

Yentl Bustamante

Los Angeles Valley College

Estefany Aguilera
Saul Aguilera
Fermin Albarran
Gabriel Aleman
Ashley Alvarado
Jessica Alvarenga
Odon Alvarez
Mario Anguiano
Steven Araujo
Jesus Arias
Allan Astorga
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Martin Ayala
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Jessica Cruz
Marlene Delgado
Liset Diaz
Priscilla Duarte
Jonathan Escalante
Emanuel Estrada
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Jacqueline Flores
Jeanette Franco
Raquel Funes
Corrine Garcia
Prisma Garcia
Priscilla Gomez
Rocio Gomez
Brenda Gonzalez
Diana Gonzalez
Erika Ibarra
Bianca Lopez
Claudia Lopez
Elizabeth Lopez
Jairo N. Lopez

Tigran Luledzhyan
Julian Luque
Luigy Maldonado
Alexis Mendoza
Dayana Mendoza
Norma Mercado
Francisco Mojica
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David Morillo
Yadira Navarrete
Michael Obando
Johanna Orantes
Hugo Ortega
Alexander Ortiz
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Nancy Piña
Edgar Pineda
Evelin Pineda
Sarah Pinelo
Andrea Pintor
Gabriela Portillo
Yuriria Proo
Cynthia Ramirez
Katherine Ramirez
Michael Ramirez
Diana Ramos
Kevin Recinos
David Regalado
Johnathan Reyes
Sergio Reyes
Carlos Rivera Jr.
Brayan Rodriguez
Grecia Rodriguez
Ana Rojas
Fabiola Romero
Alana Rosales
Chris Ruiz
Juan Salazar
Lezly Sanchez
Gloria Silva
Erica Torres L.
Vianey Vargas
Vanessa Vasquez
Ernesto Vazquez
Ainsley Villegas
Jose Yepez
Krystal Zalaya



Humboldt State University

San Francisco State

Evelyn Escobar
Melissa Gamez
Jimmy Segovia
Sara Villanueva

San Bernardino

Elizabeth Heredia
Alexander Linares
Karen Salazar

Cal State Monterrey Bay

Liliana Aguilar

Cal State Bakersfield

Evelyn Escobar
Julian Luque
Jeanette Rodriguez

Cal State Channel Islands

Francisco Mojica
Alberto Padilla

Art Institute

Michael Obando



Mount Holyoke College

Cal State LA

Aleksan Abgaryan
Liliana Aguilar
Patricia Ascencio
Cynthia Barillas
Alfredo Barreto
Andrea Cazares
Jane Cenon
Richard Cortez
Jessica Cruz
Evelyn Escobar
Mayra Estrada
Chelsee Foster
Elizabeth Heredia
Daisy Lopez
Lizette Lopez
Marisol Lopez
Elizabeth Manzo
Francisco Mojica
Martha Montes
Jessica Olmedo
Alberto Padilla
Adriana Quiroz
Jeanette Rodriguez
Claudia Roman
Kellyn Torres
Ainsley Villegas

Humboldt State

Jason Castro
Xiomara Escobar
Melissa Gamez
Joseph Martinez

Cal State Long Beach

Crystal Cristales
Mayra Estrada
Chelsee Foster
Vanessa Hernandez
Carolina Huevo
Daisy Lopez
Lizette Lopez
Martha Montes
Jessica Olmedo
Alberto Padilla
Stephanie Rendon

San Diego State

Marisol Lopez

San Jose State

Karen Barba

Cal State Dominguez Hills

Patricia Ascencio
Andrea Cazares
Mayra Estrada
Chelsee Foster
Lizette Lopez
Sheyla Martinez
Elizabeth Manzo

Cal State Chico

Christina Flores
Amilcar Santos

College

UC Berkeley

Jocelyn Alas
Eric Bejarano
Mayra Estrada
Jessica Gonzalez
Hamilton Guillen
Steven Huynh
Lynn Le
Edwin Olivas
Jessica Olmedo
Estela Ramirez
Sara Villanueva

UCLA

Eric Bejarano
Mario Colon
Ricardo De Guzman
Stephanie Del Villar
Mayra Estrada
Jessica Gonzalez
Hamilton Guillen
Razi Haq
Carolina Huevo
Steven Huynh
Lynn Le
Israel Monroy
Jasmit Nijjar
Edwin J. Olivas
Jessica Olmedo
Estela Ramirez
Brian Rodriguez
Billy Song
Jaycabelle Tadena
Puchong Toongsub

UCSD

Milagros Aceves
Esteban Barragan
Vanessa Campos
Hyeran Choi
Hyereem Choi
Ricardo De Guzman
Jobeth De Jesus
Mayra Estrada
Razi Syed Haq
Yessica Huerta
Carolina Huevo
Steven Huynh
Lynn Le
Lizette Lopez
Tiare Mendoza
Vaagn Mesropian
Israel Monroy
Edwin J. Olivas
Jessica Olmedo
Brian Rodriguez
Jasmit Nijjar
Edwin J. Olivas
Ana Raya
Brian Rodriguez
Karen Salazar
Billy Song
Jaycabelle Tadena
Puchong Toongsub
Hector Vega
Sara Villanueva

UC Davis

Milagros Aceves
Karen Barba
Eric Bejarano
Micheal Bernabe
Neil Bueno
Mario Colon
Eduardo Contreras
Edwin Cordon
Jessica Gonzalez
Hamilton Guillen
Luis Hernandez
Carolina Huevo
Lynn Le
Ana Martinez
Denise Mejia
Tiare Mendoza
Gary Morales
Jasmit Nijjar
Jennifer Nunez
Nayeli Ortega
Daniel Ramos
Brian Rodriguez
Amilcar Santos
Jonathan Torres
Jonathan Varela
Hector Vega
Sara Villanueva

UCSB

Milagros Aceves
Patricia Ascencio
Esteban Barragan
Neil Bueno
Grace Carpio
Mario Colon
Jobeth De Jesus
Jessica Gonzalez
Razi Syed Haq
Stephanie Howe
Yessica Huerta
Steven Huynh
Lizette Lopez
Marisol Lopez
Tiare Mendoza
Vaagn Mesropian
Israel Monroy
Edwin J. Olivas
Jessica Olmedo
Brian Rodriguez
Jaycabelle Tadena
Puchong Toongsub
Jonathan Torres



Mount St. Mary's College

UC Merced

Jose Alvarez
Karen Barba
Michael Bernabe
Alejandro Canul
Ricardo De Guzman
Antoni Fajardo
Rafael Figueroa
Jorge Garcia-Figueroa
Daisy Gomez
Vanessa Gomez
Luis Hernandez
Alexander Linares
Richard Long
Elizabeth Manzo
Yuritza Mendoza
Edward Oliveros
Brenda Ramos
Karla Salazar
Jasmine Salvador
Amilcar Santos
Nataly Vargas
Hector Vega

UC Riverside

Jocelyn Alas
Jose Alvarez
Karen Barba
Esteban Barragan
Grace Carpio
Crystal Cristales
Chelsee Foster
Jorge Garcia-Figueroa
Hamilton Guillen
Luis Hernandez
Richard Long
Marisol Lopez
Elizabeth Manzo
Edward Oliveros
Amilcar Santos
Raquel Tamayo
Nataly Vargas

UC Santa Cruz

Jocelyn Alas
Stephanie Howe
Carolina Huevo
Karla Salazar

UC Irvine

Jocelyn Alas
Karen Barba
Neil Bueno
Ricardo De Guzman
Mayra Estrada
Lizette Lopez
Tiare Mendoza
Israel Monroy
Jessica Olmedo
Raquel Tamayo



Alumni Recitation Hall, Grinnell College



UCLA

California Baptist University

Morales Ingrid

Northern Arizona University

Jaycabelle Tadena

Mount Saint Mary's College

Ona-Nika Arriola
Hyeran Choi
Hyereem Choi
Kelly Duarte
Marisol Lopez
Elizabeth Manzo
Raquel Tamayo
Nataly Vargas

U Wisconsin, Madison

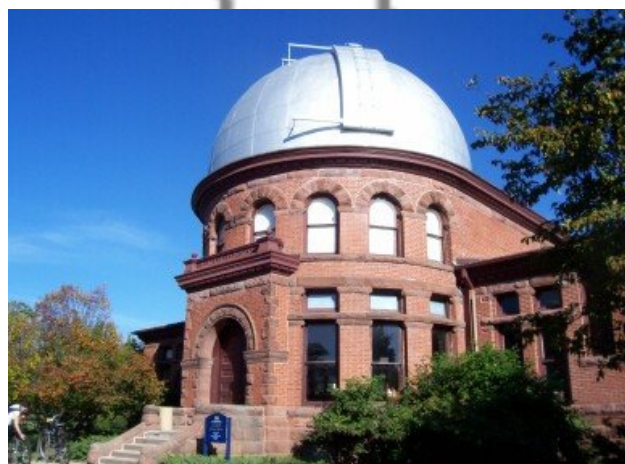
Jobeth De Jesus

Lewis & Clark College

Sara Villanueva

Woodbury University

Denise Espinoza
Ingrid Morales



Goodsell Observatory, Carleton College

MIT

Steven Huynh

Duke University

Brian Rodriguez

Brandeis University

Eric Bejarano

Carleton College

Puchong Toongsub

Whitman College

Eric Bejarano
Steven Huynh

Johnson & Wales University

Morales Ingrid

Johnson & Wales College

Evelyn Escobar

University of Montana

Eduardo Contreras

St. John's University

Jonathan Torres

Brown University

Steven Huynh

Smith College

Carolina Huevo

University of Nebraska at Lincoln

Karen Salazar

Grinnell College

Jose A. Alfaro

University of Texas at Austin

Daysi Hernandez

Mount Holyoke College

Carolina Huevo

University of Hawaii at Hilo

De Jesus Jobeth

University of Chicago

Eric Bejarano
Edwin J. Olivas

Arizona State University

Belen Chavez
Daysi Hernandez

Poly Bids Fond Fa

By Jose Alimagno
Staff Writer

After teaching math in LAUSD for 26 years, Jenny Pacho is retiring.

Pacho has been a math teacher and coach in Poly for four years and has taught for 22 years in Van Nuys High School.

When asked about advice for future teachers, she said, "Teaching is hard work, if you want to do a good job of it." She continued. "Unless you really want to teach, one shouldn't go into teaching."

Pacho started teaching because she likes to help students learn. Even at high school, she liked forming study groups.

She obtained her Master's degree in Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey in 1971 and has taught in different states like New Jersey, Ohio, Illinois, and Missouri.

She has taught in the Philippines and immigrated to the United States when she was 24 years old.

"My plan is to go back and



Photo by Michael Obando

JENNY PACHO: *Math coach and teacher.*

forth from the Philippines to America to take care of my mother who is 92 years old."

Pacho is going to travel to Russia, China, Norway, and many other places during her retirement.

Her advice for her students is, "Students can achieve potential if they put their mind to it," she said. "Study hard and you can achieve your dream."

"My students are like my kids, only I don't have to pay for their food and clothes, but I can enjoy their personalities and their brains."

- Steve Hines

By Wanasaut On-Art
Staff Writer

English teacher Kathy Courtney is retiring after 27 years of teaching.

Courtney graduated from California State University (CSUN) in 1972 with a Sociology major and an English minor.

Out of 27 years teaching, Courtney spent 8 years at Columbus Junior High, Canoga Park, California. She left teaching when her daughter was born and returned 8 years later. She has been teaching at Poly ever since.

One of the problems that she sees at public schools today is that "Not enough students are here to learn, they want to play".

Courtney was born and raised in North Hollywood.

She was inspired to become a teacher by her two favorite teachers from Sun Valley Junior High, where she attended.



Photo by Michael Obando

KATHY COURTNEY: *English teacher.*

Her best friend, an elementary teacher in Orange County who retired two years ago has been persuading her to retire, and now it's her turn.

"It is a good time to retire, to do more things I enjoy," Courtney said.

She will be spending most of her time reading, quilting, and organizing her home.

Courtney's motto is to read, read and read some more.

By Vanessa Gomez
Staff Writer

A track bilingual teacher Dora Mendoza has been working at Poly for 13 years and will be retiring this June.

"I have done my time," Mendoza said after being asked why she will be retiring.

The lack of bilingual teachers motivated Mendoza to get into the teaching department. She has earned her master's degree in education at California State University, Northridge (CSUN).

After retiring, Mendoza plans to travel and stay with family. She looks forward to wake up late everyday. She loves bicycling, reading, and going to casinos.

Mendoza has been teaching for a total 32 years.



Photo by Michael Obando

DORA MENDOZA: *Spanish teacher.*

She sends thanks to her students and the staff for her wonderful years in the education system.

"I will miss the atmosphere, especially the foreign language department," said Mendoza.

"Students, never give up. Keep swimming."

By Daysi Neiro
Staff Writer

Poly's F.A.M.E. coordinator Karen Worle will be retiring from Polytechnic High School this year.

"I just felt it was time," said Worle.

After being an art teacher for 26 years, Mrs. Worle will be spending her time with her husband.

"It is going to be hard to leave students who need your support," Worle said.

Like many other teachers, Worle is looking forward to the new adventures that await her as she goes into retirement.

However, the prospect of retirement in Worle's future doesn't sidetrack her from remembering her students.

Worle states, "I will miss



Photo by Michael Obando

KAREN WORLE: *Art and Animation teacher.*

Poly-especially the students. My students...Oh my gosh! My students!"

Worle is leaving Poly with a heavy heart. She has worked at Poly long enough to see her students become co-workers.

"It has been an experience here lately at Poly," said Worle. "I am really going to miss the Poly students and faculty. It is going to be sad."

it feels right. It's time to make way for a new counselor and start a new life," said Fishman

Fishman has worked in education for 37 years. He came to Poly as the ESL counselor and has been working here ever since.

"The thing I have enjoyed the most about Poly is the gratification I get from helping students," said Fishman "I'm going to miss the people here the most."

Fishman's degrees include his bachelor's in Spanish, his master's in education and his master's in Counseling.

After retirement, Fishman plans to spend some time over seas.

"I am going to live in Taiwan for half a year," stated Fishman. "I have recently bought a house over there."



Photo by Michael Obando

LARRY FISHMAN: *E.S.L. counselor and teacher.*

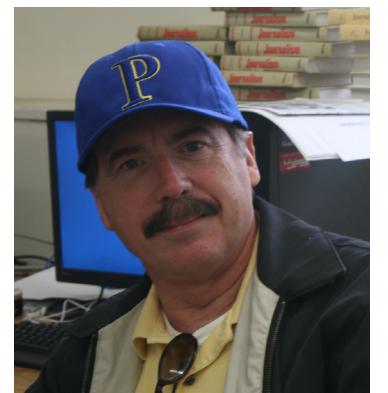


Photo by Michael Obando

STEVE HINES: *Administrator and former science teacher.*

By Karinina Cruz
Staff Writer

Poly Administrator Steve Hines will retire this year after forty years of teaching.

"I'm retiring because they made me an offer I can't refuse," said Hines. "They offered me extra money to retire early, so the district could reduce the personnel they have to pay."

Hines was born in Washington D.C. He attended the University of Maryland and American University, where he obtained his B.S. and M.S. in Physiology.

After graduating from college, Hines worked as an eighth grade science teacher in Heightsville, Maryland for two years.

"Columbia Records moved me to L.A. to work as a studio musician for TV shows like the Brady Bunch," said Hines.

While in the recording industry, Hines was also a substitute teacher at schools in the San Fernando Valley.

"I took a full time job as a chemistry teacher in Reseda High School in 1983," said Hines. "In 2005 I started teaching at Poly and became an administrator last year."

According to Hines, teaching is absolutely the best job and he will miss it dearly.

"My students... Oh my gosh! My students!"

- Karen Worle

"My students are like my kids, only I don't have to pay for their food and clothes, but I can enjoy their personalities and their brains," said Hines.

How Well To Retirees



Photo by Michael Obando

JOHN ORTEGA: *Assistant Principal, Attendance Office.*

By Sergio Mendoza
& Francisco Meraz
Staff Writers

Assistant principal John Ortega is retiring after six months of working at Poly and twenty one years in the teaching profession.

"I got into teaching because I enjoyed working with kids and I thought that it was a perfect combination", said Ortega

Ortega is the first in his family to be a teacher. Before he became a teacher he worked for the California Nurses Association labor union as an employee representative.

"...I want to continue enjoying life..."

- John Ortega

"When I was in high school I spent too much time drinking and partying. I dropped out of school, but later went back." Ortega said.

Ortega overcame his difficulties and after four years in the army graduated from the University of California at Davis (UC Davis) in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in International Relations and a master's degree in Education.

Outside of school he enjoys cooking, playing with his three grandchildren and reading books. One of the most recent books he read was, "Three Cups of Tea" by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin, a story about a person who builds schools for children in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Ortega said, "I'm retiring because I want to continue to enjoy life and do things other than teaching."

Ortega hopes to travel with his family after retiring and plans to visit Europe, New York and Connecticut.

By Evelyn Cisneros
Staff Writer

After teaching here for the last 35 years, E.S.L. teacher Sara Chialtas is saying goodbye.

"I was planning to retire next year but when they came up with the incentive, that made up my mind," said Chialtas.

Chialtas was born and raised in Paraguay. After graduating high school, she moved to California with a relative and began attending California State University of Northridge (CSUN), where she obtained her Masters in Spanish.

Following her Masters, Chialtas continued her secondary education at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and received her English degree and Masters in Education.

Chialtas has been an ESL teacher ever since.

Her mother has always been her inspiration by

always telling her she could do anything.

She recently started a business that provides residential care for the elderly.

Chialtas will look forward to having time to herself and feeling relaxed and not so rushed anymore.

Her advice to the students is to go to school and follow their hearts. Chialtas would also like to remind them that there is no limit to what they can be if they are willing to work for it.



Photo by Michael Obando

SARA CHIALTAS: *E.S.L. teacher.*

By Daysi Neiro
Staff Writer

Laura Terry began her journey as a Parrot in 1985. Before serving Poly for 29 years, Terry was a teacher for 11 years in other schools.

Terry started working at Poly as a Social Science instructor. She is a current A-Track dean and sponsor of the Black Studena Association (BSA).

"I feel good at 61. I want to start some new adventures while I am still young," said Terry.

Although Terry is anticipating her retirement, she will miss some daily duties she fulfills day by day.

"The thing I will miss the most is being active," said Terry. "I am going to miss getting



Photo by Michael Obando

LAURA TERRY: *A-Track Dean and B.S.A. sponsor.*

up for work and my regular daily routine."

As the end of June approaches, so does Terry's journey.

"I really wish that I was able to work as many years as Mrs. Brown," said Terry.

By Jazmin Herrera
Staff Writer

Poly P.E teacher Pamela Miller is officially retiring from teaching after 25 years.

"I thought I could fix the things I didn't like about school," said Miller. "I didn't like school much, I was a medium student."

According to Miller, it was hard to keep her grades up

but she managed to earn A's and B's (and sometimes C's in hard classes).

Miller attended Hollywood High School and California State University Northridge (CSUN). Miller obtained her major in Health and then worked in a hospital for 8 years.

"I liked college better than high school because people actually wanted to be there,

By Daniel Martinez
Staff Writer

Poly assistant principal Jay Kirschner is retiring after working at Poly for two years.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Kirschner graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) with a Bachelors Degree in English.

Before working at Poly, Kirschner worked at Los Angeles High School for seventeen years along with Cleveland, Taft, and LACES High School.

When asked why he came to work at Poly he said "I took a one-year leave and when I came back there was an opening. I wanted to work with Dr. Martinez and knew Poly had a cutting edge programs and great teachers."

According to Kirschner, he



Photo by Michael Obando

JAY KIRSHNER: *Assistant Principal.*

is retiring because he needs to devote himself full-time to writing his novel "Mad River." It centers around the first woman to play Major League Baseball.

Kirschner finds Martin Luther King Junior inspirational and loves French food. His favorite car is the 1965 Mustang convertible.

the University of Minnesota and a M.S. at the University of La Verne. She worked as a caseworker after college.

"I thought I would be in the social work field forever," Larson said, "But when I learned about school counseling, it seemed like a career that used all of my education and experience in one job."

Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Larson moved to California to start community college but then moved back to Minnesota to begin working as a social worker.

Later on, she moved back to California because she realized she missed the weather.

Larson has worked as a caseworker for families, at American Red Cross as an after-hours caseworker.

She also taught 9th through 12th grade emotionally disturbed students and adults.

After retirement, Larson is going to move to southeast Washington to decorate and landscape her new one-acre land.



Photo by Michael Obando

ELAINE LARSON: *11th and 12th grade B-Track counselor.*

By Melissa Perez
and Vanessa Gomez
Staff Writers

Elaine Larson, B track 11th and 12th grade counselor, has been working at Poly for 16 years and will retire by the end of this school year.

"I have reached the 'magic age' and the district is giving an incentive to retire because teachers are being RIF'ed (Reduction In Force)," Larson said.

Larson received her B.A. at

not like high school where students were forced to go to school," said Miller.

Miller chose to retire because she thinks she could do other things and still be productive. Miller wants to train her race horses over the next year.

"Students should remember in the future if someone is on their case, it's to make them a better person," said Miller.



Photo by Michael Obando

PAMELA MILLER: *P.E. and Health teacher.*

Parrot Trail Blazer Migrates North

By Daniel Martinez
Staff Writer

Two years ago Poly sophomore Eduardo Contreras earned the Warren Christopher Scholarship giving him \$20,000 dollars for his college fund.

Today, Contreras is a senior about to graduate from Poly and go attend the University of Montana.

When Contreras first submitted his essay (which was about saving the environment from future harm) for the Warren Christopher Scholarship, he wasn't confident about winning it because other students at Poly had also applied for it.

The fact that only one student in the Los Angeles Unified School District could win it also didn't help but that didn't stop him from entering.

According to Contreras "I didn't have anything to lose, if I don't get it oh well."

Apart from earning the Warren Christopher Scholarship Contreras has also won the SPFF Sierra Pacific Scholarship worth \$1,000 dollars, and a \$32,000 dollars Scholarship from the University of Mon-



Photo by Michael Obando

MONEY: Poly senior Eduardo Contreras awarded final installment of Warren scholarship.

tana. Altogether he has earned \$53,000 dollars for collage.

"Students should be the ones who pay for college," said Contreras. "They should keep their options open and look at all the scholarships available."

Contreras plans to major in Wildlife Biology in hopes of becoming a Wildlife Biologist.

When asked what he'll most miss of Poly he said, "The magnet faculty. They were really supportive and prepared me for college."

Contreras was the first Poly student to have won the Warren Christopher Scholarship.

Day of The Dead Lives At Poly

By Jose Alimagno
Staff Writer

Student performers sang, acted, and danced in Kari Teeter's final production at Poly.

Teeter's production, *Adiós Mis Queridos*, is based on the religious and cultural holiday, Day of the Dead, which is celebrated in different countries around the world.

The play began with a silhouette of an Aztec king. The lights dimmed and a video of skeletons and spirits projected into a blank screen.

The animation captured the audience's attention and gave spectators the idea of where the story took place.

Then a silhouette of Benjamin Thomas (played by senior Hamilton Guillen), one of the many characters of the play, appeared. The story followed the lives of several characters including Thomas, whose spirits are now trapped in their grave.

Other characters included Isabel Fuentes, a very proud grandmother played by Stephanie Tejada, and Elena Gomez, a suicidal teenager, played by Ely Martinez.

The show continued with students singing traditional Spanish songs like *A La Nanita Nana*, and a rendition of *Amor Eterno* with English



Photo by Michael Obando

SPIRITED CAST: Play Production takes final bow in the "Dia de los Muertos" performance.

lyrics. Guitarist Ivan Bautista played the acoustic guitar in both songs.

Nearing the end of the show students performed with an Aztec tribal dance, where actors wore masks and skirts while they lively whirled on stage. After, dancers with long colored skirts performed the

traditional Latin American Folklorico dance.

A parade finally ended the show. Students danced through the aisles of the auditorium and dragged some of the audience members to dance with them.

This was Teeter's final play and possibly the last play at Poly for a long time.

Curtain Call For Teeter

By Daniel Martinez
Staff Writer

Poly drama teacher Kari Teeter gives her final good-bye to Poly in "Adios Mis Queridos"

Teeter was born in the city of Santa Monica and raised in Culver City. She first attended the University of London but graduated from the University of Long Beach with a double major, one in English and one in theater arts.

Teeter received her teaching credentials on both majors and started teaching in 1971 but came to Poly in 1999. Before coming to work at Poly she worked at Taft.

According to Teeter she came to work here at Poly because "The students were really nice."

"I asked a couple of them where the main office was but instead of pointing it out to me, they took me to the office," said Teeter.

Teeter interviewed many schools to see which one she wanted to work at. Poly was the last one standing in the



Photo by Michael Obando

PLAY PRO TECH: Theater teacher Kari Teeter.

end. "I liked Poly a lot."

Her last play directed in Poly is "Adios Mis Queridos" also known as Day of the Dead. The production took six months to make.

Teeter's favorite plays that she directed here in Poly were "Eight Simple Words about the Holocaust", "Macbeth", "Dancing on Mango Street" and of course "Adios Mis Queridos".

She will be leaving to the newly opened Sun Valley High School once mester six ends.

"Bubba" Heads East

By Leah Pike
Staff Writer

Poly counselor and attendance dean Rick "Bubba" Fennel is retiring after fourteen years at Poly.

Before working as a dean, Fennel served as a Counselor in the Counseling Office.

"My job was to improve attendance and also oversee tagging intervention and eradication," said Fennel.

Thanks to the efforts of Fennel, and others, the attendance and graduation rates have increased, while dropout rates have decreased in very large amounts.

"Poly attendance was running about 89% when I started and it is now up to 95%."

"I also helped coordinate the improvement of graduation rates from 65% to 85%." He said.

Fennel has put a lot of hard work and dedication into his job.

"My inspiration is the success of all students who overcome all difficulties and aspire higher levels of achievement."

He only had positive thoughts about his opinions on teaching today.

"There are many, many good things about teaching. The most difficult is giving students a purpose for accomplishing tasks before them and finding the motivation to start their initial drive."

Fennel's decision to retire came at the right time.

"I decided to retire because the perfect storm. Early buy-out and downturn of the economy was an early incentive."

There are many things he is looking forward to in his retirement.

"Going back to work in Oklahoma, having summers off, and new experiences are what I am really looking forward to."



Photo by Michael Obando

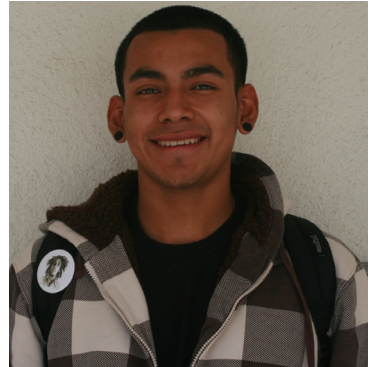
ON PATROL: Rick Fennel looks out for students' safety.



More than a total of \$1.5 million awarded to Poly Students in scholarships.

ELITE SENIOR ATHLETES SOAR HIGH

By Kelsey Cruz
& Teddy Suravech
Staff Writers



One of the fastest runners in Poly's track and field team Michael Park trains to be the best.

"It's a great experience," said Park. "It's an experience that enriched my life."

Park has been with the team for all four years at Poly and he has risen to the top.

"Training is hard, but if you stay with the team its worth it," said Park. "You get the feeling of everything."

The 4 by 4 relay race at Birmingham was the greatest match Park has ever faced. Running against several other schools, Park won the 4 by 4 with a time of 3:33.00.

Park plans to continue his track and field career at Valley College.

"Life is one big equation, you cannot expect an output that does not correspond with an input," said Park.

Valedictorian Sara "Sunshine" Villanueva led the Poly Parrots Girls Varsity Basketball into the finals undefeated as one of the captains and providers of the team.

Villanueva averaged 18.8 points averaging 3.6 assists per game and a 4.2 GPA.

Able to balance out her academics with basketball, she was awarded "Scholar Athlete of the Year" twice along with "All City 1st Team," "League Player of the Year," "MVP of League," "MVP of Team," and many more.

Villanueva's favorite game was against North Hollywood where she scored 35 points. "We won and they were our arch enemies," said Villanueva. She also appeared in Fox Sports News where she was named "Athlete of the Week."

Villanueva plans on attending Lewis & Clark College and said she will "most definitely" continue to play basketball.

Felix Juarez Jr. joined the baseball team as a freshmen and reached varsity level as a sophomore when Chuck Schwal was still head coach for boy's baseball.

Juarez assisted the Boy's Varsity Baseball team into the playoffs until an injury to the right shoulder in April put him out for the rest of the season.

Although he was injured he was the designated hitter for the rest of the season.

He finished the season with a .415 batting average. Juarez pitched 25.2 innings.

His favorite and most memorable games were against Utah in Vegas, where he pitched well and against Arleta where Juarez pitched extra innings with a winning score of 5-4.

He plans on continuing to play baseball in the future.

Captain and catcher of the Girl's Varsity Softball team, Aileen Menendez, assisted her teammates into the City Level Playoffs. Menendez ran her team with her talent and leadership which led to a #1 ranking and the title of League Champions. "This was my best season because we were the only team my coach had that was crowned League Champions," said Menendez. Menendez was noted as captain in the 07-08 season. "My coach just saw the potential in me to lead," said Menendez, "I just tried to stay positive all the time and set goals for us." Menendez's favorite game was against Grant where she hit a 3-run homerun to put them in the lead and win the game. Menendez plans on attending Glendale Community College and continue with her softball experience and guidance skills.

Jose Duran joined the volleyball team to prove his friends wrong, that volleyball is not only a girls sport.

"It's harder than it looks," said Duran, "If you think it is than you should join it."

Duran became the captain of the team in the beginning of his senior year.

The best game that Duran has played was against Verdugo Hills with the score of 15 to 13.

The volleyball team made to city games but lost in the second round 0-3 against Taft.

"I wanted to make it to the all stars and take the team to city finals," said Duran.

Duran does not plan on continuing volleyball after high school, but playing for fun in open gyms.

While at California State University of Northridge, Duran wants to balance his schedule with majoring in mathematics, playing volleyball and playing soccer.

Sports Wrap-Up '08-'09

By Kelsey Cruz
and Teddy Suravech
Staff Writers

Girls Varsity Softball

Led by Head Coach Manny Peralta, Poly Girl's Varsity Softball had a league season record of 11-1 entering into the playoffs ranked as the 11th seed. Their first game against Huntington Park ended with a guaranteed win by the 4th inning, but the next game against Banning High closed out their playoff season with an overall season record of 20-9-1.

Boy's Basketball

Poly's boy's basketball team led by head coach David Bonino ended their season with a league record of 2-10-0 and an overall record of 5-25-0. Both their league victories were against Canoga Park.

Boy's Soccer

Rafael Loza led his soccer team to a second place standing in league at 8-2-0 and an overall record of 11-5-4. They lost their second playoff game against Jefferson 0-1.

Boy's Tennis

Poly's boy's tennis team led by head coach Bryan Block ended their season third place in league.

Girls Soccer

Ceil Miller brought her lady parrots soccer team to fifth place in league with a record of 4-8-0 and an overall record of 4-11-0.

Girls Varsity Volleyball

Head Coach Peter Johannsen along with Team Captain and star setter, Patty Moreno led the Girl's Varsity Volleyball team into the playoffs with a league record of 8-4. The Lady Parrots were ranked number 12 as they competed into two rounds of the City Sectional Playoffs. They lost to Van Nuys in 4 games and ended their season with an overall season record of 10-4-0.

Football

Head Coach Scott Faer led his team 3rd in league with 3-2-0 and an overall record of 5-5-0

Girls Varsity Basketball

The Poly Girl's Varsity Basketball came into the playoffs as a threat, being undefeated in their regular season 12-0. Clutch games against North Hollywood High did not stop them from being ranked #1 in the league going into their playoff season. As Head Coach Tremeka Batiste carried her team into the playoffs without a loss, they kept up the run for their first two playoff games until Roosevelt High ended their streak at the semifinals with an overall season record of 22-7-0.

Boys Volleyball

Jose Camberos and his boys volleyball team ended their season 5-5-0 and 10-6-1 overall. They lost their second round of the L.A City Section playoff games against Taft with a initial score of 0-3.

Track and Field

Head coach Mario Rivera and his runners won five out of six meets and took the East Valley League championship title. Jose "Chiva" Rodriguez entered State for the 800 meter run finishing in 12th place.

Boys Varsity Baseball

The Poly Boy's Varsity Baseball grabbed a league record of 15-3 under head coach Andy Montes. Coach Montes worked the boys hard and ended their season with 8 consecutive wins making it into the playoffs ranked as the 13th seed. The Parrots ended their season with their first playoff game as they battled against Narbonne High losing 0-4 with an overall season record of 22-14-0.



Resolve, Effort, Strife, Victory

