Oct. 29 Town Hall/Teach In focuses on organizing to stop budget cuts

AgainstCuts and BCC’s Global Studies Club organized and hosted a Town Hall/Teach In on Budget Cuts, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sat., Oct. 29 in Berkeley City College’s auditorium and atrium. Local restaurants and bakeries donated lunch and snacks for the 150+ AgainstCuts activists.

The group focused on how to organize and stop future budget cuts. More than 150 students, faculty, staff, friends and community members attended the event. The group also voted to support and participate in Oakland’s General Strike, the first of its kind since 1946, held Wed., Nov. 2.

“The event was divided into several sessions,” explained Joan Berezin, BCC’s global studies department chair. “Mark Lispi, who teaches English and philosophy here, gave a PowerPoint presentation which showed the effects of budget cuts locally, statewide, and nationally over the past nine years.”

Berezin noted that many who were present told their own stories of foreclosed homes, lost jobs, and delayed attendance at college because of increased tuition costs.

Each participant also was presented with an organizing packet filled with facts about how California and the federal government spends money, which groups pay the highest taxes and which groups pay the least.

BCC alumna and 2011 Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship winner Lark Omura gave a presentation about international “Occupy” movements, from the “Arab Spring” to the “U.S. Fall” and showed where “Occupy” demonstrations are occurring throughout the world.

“People learned that whether it is a repressive dictatorship in Egypt, a reactionary governor in Wisconsin, or unemployment and crime in Oakland, the 99 percent will not remain passive,” Berezin said. “How does all of this translate to us? It comes down to something I saw in Occupy Wall Street in New York: If you want to see the leaders and organizers of this movement, look in the mirror.”

Berezin observed that anyone can download an organizing packet, then take the information and the tools in it back to their schools, their neighborhoods, their workplace, and to their families and friends, so that people can work from facts, link the dots, and connect to each other.

The group plans to organize an expanded march on Sacramento this spring. It will call attention to education, health, poverty and a wide range of services that have suffered debilitating cuts in the last decade.

Meanwhile, over the next ten years, social programs and education will experience reductions between $2.1 and $3 trillion dollars.

In 2011 alone, the activists learned, $80 million was cut from the
Did you know?

The last day students can drop classes and receive a “W” is Wed., Nov. 23?

Wed., Nov. 23 is Attendance Verification Day?

Thur. thru Sun., Nov. 24-27 is Thanksgiving Break?

Fall Grade Rosters and Rollbooks are due from faculty Tue., Jan. 3?

President’s Message

by Dr. Betty Inclan

The fall 2011 semester has passed quickly, given the myriad of urgent and significant activities that Berkeley City College has undertaken this year. Here are several of our key accomplishments:

- In terms of accreditation, BCC formed a college Accreditation Steering Committee chaired by Krista Johns, J.D., vice president of instruction. Other committee representatives—Dr. Joseph Bzilanski, counselor, Dr. May Chen, vice president of student services, Paula Coil, coordinator of the college’s transfer/career information center, Dr. Pieter de Haan, faculty senate president, Shirley Slaughter, business services manager and Terry Tricomi, Title III grant director and me—continue to review and address the responses to the accreditation recommendations to prepare for the Midterm Report due to Peralta’s Board of Trustees in January 2012 and to ACCJC/WASC in March 2012. More than 50 members of BCC’s faculty, staff and administration are currently involved preparing the college’s 2012 Midterm Report.

- In spring and fall 2011, the college updated its program reviews. These program updates included resource recommendations in the areas of staffing (faculty, classified and administration), technology, and facilities. Prioritized requests were approved by the Roundtable for Planning and Budget. The approved priorities will be presented to District’s Planning and Budget Committee on Fri., Nov. 18.

- As a result of BCC’s prioritized staffing list, we will move forward to advertise district wide faculty transfers in 19 disciplines. BCC supports the transfer process as a way to address disparities in the numbers of full-time faculty currently teaching and/or providing counseling services at the college.

- BCC is reviewing its administrative structure to ensure that the college has the administrative capacity to address key functions. Of particular concern is the need to support academic departments and department chairs by filling vacant deans’ positions.

- During the college’s fall 2012 semester, BCC continued to raise funds through the President’s Circle. We again witnessed the generous philanthropic spirit of our community and its support of Berkeley City College. Two major fund raising events occurred, thanks to the generosity of Soheyl Modarressi, real estate developer and principal of the Oxcent Group, LLC, and Gene Agress and David Kent, co-owners of Berkeley Mills (see the articles on pp. 6-7).

Innovative Practices Supporting Student Success

BCC’s Title III grant and the Teaching/Learning Center continue to transform the college as faculty learn new pedagogies and approaches to teaching. Scott Hoshida must be acknowledged for his dedication. He applied for and received BCC’s first faculty inquiry grant. In addition, the Faculty Senate’s Learning Outcomes Committee and Title III assessment coordinator Jenny Lowood will ensure that BCC reaches a proficiency level in learning outcomes assessment. I am proud of the college’s commitment to developing strong assessment standards and appreciate Berkeley City College’s presence at the ACCJC/WASC Assessment Workshop, Oct. 27-29 at the Hilton Doubletree Hotel in Berkeley.

Budget Update

Although we do not know for certain which state budget triggers will take place in January as a result of revenue shortages statewide (Tier 1 means a reduction of $30 million and Tier 2 means a reduction of $72 million to community colleges), we expect that mid-year cuts will occur. That is one of the reasons for class section cuts in response to state-mandated workload reductions. Workload reductions go hand in hand with state budget reductions; thus, our colleges are forced to cancel classes and turn away students. California turned away 89,800 students in 2010-11. As a result, BCC’s academic departments have made considerable sacrifices in terms of reducing classes in the spring 2012 schedule. We have built into the schedule a number of “shadow sections” in case the January news from Sacramento may not be as dire as anticipated.

It also is significant to note that the Community College League of California released sobering data about per student community college funding. It has dropped from $6,097 in 2000-2001 to $4,997 in 2010-2011. Curtailing community college funding means reversing the pace at which economic recovery can be regained. It is therefore essential that we use accurate data to continue to advocate against cuts through our teach-ins and in discussions with legislators and the community at large.

(see p. 8, column 2)
Midterm accreditation report committees prepare for 2012 ACCJC/WASC visit

Berkeley City College faculty, staff and administrative representatives have formed four groups which will develop the college’s 2012 accreditation midterm report. The report, which is due the third year following a comprehensive team visit (BCC’s comprehensive visit took place in spring 2009), will include narrative analysis and evidence which demonstrate how deficiencies were resolved, describe progress on recommendations for improvement, and identify the status of improvement plans from the 2009 Self-Study Report.

An ACCJC/WASC team is scheduled to visit BCC in March 2012. The committees plan to complete the report by the end of the fall 2011 semester, send it to the college’s Roundtable for review and adoption in January and then send it for approval to Peralta’s Board of Trustees.

BCC committees will address issues pertaining to the college at large, student services, assessment, and facilities and financial practices. An article outlining ACCJC/WASC recommendations as they effect the Peralta District and Berkeley City College, was published in the summer issue of BCC Today (see pp. 3, 9 in that newsletter). College committees, which will meet twice each month, are:

Midterm Report Steering Committee

This group also will address recommendations and standards which relate to planning, parity and allocations.

Chair:
Krista Johns, J.D., VP of Instruction and Accreditation Liaison Officer

• Dr. Betty Inclan, President, BCC
• Dr. Pieter DeHaan, President, BCC Academic Senate
• Dr. Joseph Bielanski, Counselor
• Paula Coil, President, Classified Senate
• Dr. May Chen, VP of Student Services and Co-Chair of Student Services Subcommittee
• Terry Tricomi, Director, Special Projects
• Shirley Slaughter, Business Services Manager and Co-Chair of the Facilities and Financial Practices Subcommittee
• Dr. Fabian Banga, Student Services Committee
• Dr. Joseph Bielanski, Co-Chair: Dr. Joseph Bielanski
• Classified Staff Member: Victor Flint

Financial Practices Subcommittee

• Shirley Slaughter, Business Services Manager
• Terry Tricomi, Director, Special Projects

Student Services Committee

• Dr. May Chen, VP of Student Services
• Classified Staff Member: Victor Flint

Co-Chair of the Facilities and Financial Practices Subcommittee

• Dr. May Chen, VP of Student Services
• Paula Coil, President, Classified Senate

Co-Chair of Student Services Subcommittee

• Dr. Joseph Bielanski, Counselor
• Sylvia Espinosa and Francine Lewis

Facilities and Financial Practices Committee

• Shirley Slaughter, Business Services Manager
• Dr. Fabian Banga
• Classified Staff Member: Dwayne Cain and John Pang

Assessment

Midterm Report Subcommittee

• Administrative Co-Chair: Terry Tricomi, Director of Special Projects
• Faculty Co-Chair: Jenny Lowood, Title III
• Classified Staff Member: Sylvia Espinosa and Francine Lewis

Facilities and Financial Practices Committee

• Administrative Co-Chair: Shirley Slaughter, Business Services Manager
• Faculty Co-Chair: Dr. Fabian Banga
• Classified Staff Member: Dwayne Cain and John Pang

Fall college wide forums and meetings take place:

• Noon-1 p.m., Thur., Nov. 10: Facilities, Operations, and Fin. Practices Forum, Rm. 451A&B
• 1:30-2:15 p.m., Mon., Nov. 14: Midterm Report Steering Committee, Rm. 451A&B
• 3-4 p.m., Fri., Nov. 18: Assessment Forum, Rm. 451A&B
• 1:30-2:15 p.m., Mon., Nov. 28: Midterm Report Steering Committee, Rm. 451A&B
• 1:30-2:15 p.m., Mon., Dec. 12: Midterm Report Steering Committee, Rm. 451A&B

BCC’s midterm report will focus on student services, assessment, facilities and financial practices.

AgainstCuts fights to stop budget drain

(from p. 1, column 3)

California’s community colleges have cut programs to balance the books. In all, 2009-10 was lower than it was in 1995-96. Enrollment in community colleges grew 44% in the last 15 years, per student funding in 2009-10 was lower than it was in 1995-96.

Want to learn more? Visit AgainstCuts.org to download organizing and information packets and a list of AgainstCuts events.

Transer Center hosts university reps, workshops

Tue., Nov. 15
10 a.m.-1 p.m. CSU East Bay
1st Floor Lobby
10 a.m.-Noon University of Phoenix
1st Floor Lobby
11 a.m.-1 p.m. Mills College
1st Floor Lobby

Thur., Nov. 17
11 a.m.-1 p.m. National Holistic Institute
1st Floor Lobby

Tue., Nov. 22
9 a.m.-Noon UC Berkeley Rep
BCC Transfer Center

10 a.m.-Noon & 2:30-4 p.m. SF State University
1st Floor Lobby

Thur, Dec. 1
5-6 p.m. Resume and Interview Workshop
UC Berkeley

Tue., Dec. 6
11 a.m.-1 p.m. Golden Gate University
1st Floor Lobby
Vice Chancellor Ron Gerhard answers budget questions at Oct. 10 BCC Roundtable session

Ron Gerhard, the Peralta Community College District’s Vice Chancellor of Finance, visited Berkeley City College’s Roundtable Budget and Planning Group on Monday, Oct. 10, to answer the group’s questions about Peralta’s 2011-12 budget, and how budget decisions for the current fiscal year will affect Berkeley City College. The following questions and answers reflect the group discussion.

Q. The new Parity Model approved by PBIC was not reflected in the 2011-12 budget. Why is this so?
A. One of PBIC’s primary tasks was to approve a budget allocation model. After discussions and review, Chancellor (Wise) Allen signed off on it. With the District’s primary goals in mind, the model was approved. These were to:
• Achieve established productivity rates.
• Achieve the District’s FTES target.
• Not deficit spend.

Peralta’s 2011-12 budget was developed and approved in November 2010. The budget framework was achieved far in advance of putting it through a shared governance process. We are now working on a way to modify Peralta’s 2011-12 budget so that it conforms to the District’s new budget allocation model.

Q. Berkeley generated 20% of the District’s FTES yet it has received only 13% of the general fund. We have gone through the process where we asked for voluntary faculty transfers and have received four.
A. We are proceeding to bring equity and the budget allocation model into place. There are processes that we must go through—collective bargaining contracts, and new faculty hiring priorities—to reach our goals. The four voluntary faculty transfers who chose transfer to Berkeley City College are not reflected in the 2011-12 budget.

Q. How can colleges sustain critical student services when budgets for them are constantly reduced and the District budget seems to continually increase?
A. There are centralized costs which cannot be allocated to the colleges. Out of a 2011-12 general fund budget of $43 million, the District spent $10 million to pay medical benefits for Peralta Colleges retirees. Another $5.5 million is set aside for OPEB bond debt service. Right there is $15.5 million that does not go to college operating costs.

In 2005, when the OPEB bonds were purchased, there was an assumption that there would be continued increased Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) from the state to finance growth and that continually rising values in stocks would pay for retirees’ health benefits. Those assumptions did not materialize. In 2008, the OPEB lost $20 million in stock value. Peralta also has experienced a 12% reduction in categorical funding for 2011-12, plus a 7% current and possibly more mid-year reductions in general apportionment funds.

We have now broken out costs for retirees and current employee benefits. We have clearly defined where costs are located. Other centralized services fall under custodial, admissions and records, financial aid, general counsel and purchasing, to name a few.

The present style and format of Peralta’s budget does not always clearly articulate these but this will change in future budgets and cost center budgets will be clearly presented in 2012-13.

Q. What is the current situation around budget cuts?
A. Because of the state budget, we prepared 5%, 10% and 15% budget reduction scenarios. Several points that the District considered in its budget process, were:
• How we budget for retiree benefits.
• Beginning in July 2010, we broke out costs of employee benefits.
• We created separate budget health benefit cost categories, one for active employees and another for retirees.

If there is extra money, it will be set aside for the colleges. A one-time allocation of $75,000 per college will be set aside under the new budget allocation model.

Q. How is the District positioned to prevent bankruptcy, considering its OPEB obligations?
A. OPEB is being implemented based on actuarial reports which are based on retirees and current employees annual required contributions to keep the fund solvent. Peralta must comply with federal and state standards across the board. So, currently, out of the General Fund, we set aside $10 million for current retirees; $5.5 million for OPEB charges; and $5 million over a 25 year period. That leaves us with a $21 million operating budget for 2011-12.

Q. Why in Peralta’s budget are there listings for two Director of Human Resources positions?
A. One of those positions is interim. We are in the process of filling the vacancy. When that occurs, it will be listed only as one position.

Q. Where can we find a public list of Peralta salaries and benefits?
A. We are working to clean up the way that PeopleSoft’s database management Financial and Non-Financial Reporting systems work. Once they are better structured, we will be able to generate an accurate list of this information.

Q. What about programs such as Disabled Students Programs and Services? At Berkeley City College, we do not have a permanent DSP&S counselor and departmental staff who leave are not replaced, even though we have the highest number of disabled students in the District.
A. DSP&S allocations are driven by MIS reporting. A longer term practice is to augment money restricted for campuses. Peralta’s contribution to college DSP&S programs from unrestricted funds was $1.1 million. There also have been instances where Peralta colleges have identified greater needs and have spent their own money filling them. The people in charge of college programs are responsible for finding funds for them. We are being asked to do more with fewer dollars. If the numbers can be reconciled, Peralta’s Finance Office is ready to move money where the students are.

(see p. 5, column 2)
College co-hosts fall “University and the City: Ideas for Partnership” series

Three “University and the City: Ideas for Partnership,” panel discussions were hosted this fall at Berkeley City College. The events, sponsored by UC Berkeley, the City of Berkeley and Berkeley City College, focused on how the city, community organizations, and the University can work together during challenging economic times.

“A Berkeley Student District,” Wed., Sept. 21, launched the series at Westminster Hall of Berkeley’s First Presbyterian Church. The session examined whether students have fair representation in Berkeley and how redistricting affected the city’s relationship with students. Panelists included Bruce Cain, professor of political science and public policy at UC; Berkeley City Council Member Kris Worthington and Joey Freeman, ASUC vice president for external affairs. The panel was moderated by Lance Knobel, cofounder of Berkeleyside.com.

On Wed., Oct. 19, Berkeley City College hosted, “The Sustainable City,” in the college’s auditorium. Panelists lead a discussion on how the city of Berkeley, the University and its community partners can collaborate on strategies for the future and how city organizations and the university can cooperate on future plans around transportation, energy conservation, zero waste and housing. Panelists included: Timothy Burroughs, Climate Action Coordinator, City of Berkeley; Lisa McNeilly, Director of Sustainability, UC Berkeley; Jason Trager, Environmental Sustainability Director, UC Graduate Student Assembly; Claire Evans, Lead Coordinator of the UC Berkeley Compost Alliance in conversation with Jason Mark, Editor of the Earth Island Journal.

“Late Night in Berkeley,” the last session in the series was held Wed., Nov. 9. Working with the audience, panelists examined how Berkeley could improve its arts, food and entertainment districts. Panelists included Jim Peters, president of the Responsible Hospitality Institute; David M. Mayeri, entertainment consultant and former chief operating officer of Bill Graham Presents; Kemi Amin, program director of Buy Local Berkeley; and Noah Stern, former president of the Associated Students of the University of California. Polly Armstrong, CEO of the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce, moderated the discussion.

UC President Betty Inclan moderated a panel on “College Access and Career Success,” at the 5th annual California Town/Gown Conference, held Oct. 6-7 at the Hotel Shattuck Plaza in downtown Berkeley. Panelists included Mary Keipp, program director of community based learning at UCLA; Lizette Navarette, youth and education coordinator for the City of Riverside; Trina Ostrander, manager of public policy and communications, Bayer HealthCare; and Mohammad Qayoumi, president of San Jose State University.

Califonia’s Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom was a keynote speaker at the conference. Topics included panels and discussion on climate change and disaster preparedness; economic resilience; attracting a talented and diverse workforce; turning green research into green businesses; and opening college access for career success.

Another keynote address was lead by Dr. Robert Reich, Chancellor’s Professor of Public Policy at UC Berkeley. Discussions centered around buying and hiring local; creating a buzz on campus; balancing nightlife and safety; planning for climate change; transportation planning; and designing ecofriendly and earthquake safe buildings.

Enroll in Peralta’s emergency prep training

All district and college employees who participate in Emergency Response activities must enroll for fall SEMS/NIMS training. November, December and January sessions are listed below:

- Basic SEMS/NIMS 100/700
  9 a.m.-1 p.m., Fri., Nov. 18, 2011
  College of Alameda

- Advanced SEMS/NIMS 200/800
  9 a.m.-5 p.m., Thurs., Dec. 15, 2011
  Laney College

- Advanced SEMS/NIMS 200/800
  9 a.m.-5 p.m., Wed., Jan. 12, 2012
  Laney College

- Basic SEMS/NIMS 100/700
  9 a.m.-1 p.m., Mon., Jan. 23, 2012
  College of Alameda

To register, please send an email to Carrie Burdick at cburdick@peralta.edu or call 510-587-7821.
Berkeley’s Kitchen on Fire fetes memorable Sept. 15 President’s Circle fundraiser

Berkeley City College President Betty Inclan worked with Stephanie Casenza, executive director of the Peralta Colleges Foundation, and President’s Circle Advisory Committee team members, to develop the college’s Second Annual President’s Circle Dinner on Thur., Sept. 15, at Berkeley’s Kitchen on Fire, 1509 Shattuck Ave., between Vine and Cedar Sts. The event raised $8,100 for BCC programs and was hosted by Soheyl Modarressi, principal of Berkeley’s Oxcent Group, LLC.

Guests contributed $125 to cook and eat a sumptuous gourmet meal at the “hands-on” event. All donations will support Berkeley City College programs.

Berkeley’s Kitchen on Fire brings together friends and family with food and spirits. The restaurant holds hands-on cooking classes, culinary demonstrations and lectures taught by top chefs and food professionals. Founded in 2005 by seasoned restauranteur and author Olivier Said of Cesar, and popular chef instructor and caterer Chef MikeC of Party Lifestyle, Kitchen on Fire is located in Berkeley’s Epicurious Garden.

Guests work principally with organic food and support organic local small growers and winemakers. Their focus is on high quality seasonal ingredients, minimal preparation, maximum flavor, and zero stress.

Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates and State Senator Loni Hancock addressed the group and BCC’s Kristophe Green told how Berkeley City College transformed his life. “In fall 2010, I became a Berkeley City College student ambassador; that, coupled with my academic activities led to me getting involved in peer mentoring, joining clubs and becoming a member of student government,” Green recalled. “While all of this wonderful change was going on, my family was going through many difficulties, one of which was being evicted because of a sudden increase in the monthly rent.

“BCC was the rock that kept me anchored during the storm; it was my safe haven and a place where I could come and succeed and exceed my expectations,” he said. “At BCC, I’ve found my passion in both my position as a student ambassador and as a psychology major.

“I also have found that I truly can achieve anything I have the will to achieve. This college has helped me raise my sights above the traps that unfortunately capture so many young men who lose their fathers early on in their lives,” he added. “This is where I belong at this point in my journey. I cannot picture where else I would be.”

BCC faculty, staff and students extend thanks to those whose generous contributions will help students continue to transform their lives:
• Gene Agress
• Peralta Chancellor Wise Allen
• Polly Armstrong
• Dion Aroner
• Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates
• Gary Bell
• Simone Bloch
• Rauly Butler
• John Caner
• Laurie Capitelli
• Stephanie Casenza
• Jennifer Cogley
• Joel Corona
• Steven Donaldson
• Andy and Kristina Doung
• Dr. Ione Elioff
• Fred and Renee Fassett
• Jon Fowkes
• Dr. Nicky Gonzalez-Yuen
• State Senator Loni Hancock
• John Hyjer
• Dr. Betty Inclan
• Dave and Margaret Kent
• Leon and Rhoda Litwack
• Meredith Marschak
• Emily Marthinsen
• Soheyl Modarressi
• Christopher Noll
• Trina Ostrander
• Shashank and Rita Parasnis
• Robbie Pintos
• Lan Shaw

Mrs. Garry Bell (l.) prepares dinner with Peralta Trustee Nicky Gonzalez-Yuen.
Berkeley Mills Oct. 29 silent auction raises $10,000 for college

Gene Agress, chief executive officer of Berkeley Mills, and business partner Dave Kent, raised $10,000 at a buffet and silent auction he hosted at the corporation’s Berkeley showroom on Sat., Oct. 29.

The firm is a renowned designer and manufacturer of exquisite furniture and interiors. It has served Bay Area residents for more than 20 years. Guests bid in a silent auction for an exquisite Tansu armoire, designed and built at Berkeley Mills. The event was catered by Kitchen on Fire chefs Oliver and MikeC.

Agress welcomed Dr. Betty Inclan, BCC’s president, who introduced student speakers and faculty from the college. BCC guests included Trustee Cy Gulassa of the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees, Dr. Pieter DeHaan, president of the college’s academic senate; Rachel Simpson, multimedia digital video arts coordinator; Shirley Fogarino, public information officer; Esteem Brumfield, student trustee; Adena Ishii, former student ambassador, now a junior at UC Berkeley’s Haas School of Business; Ari Agress, a BCC student and son of Berkeley Mills’ CEO.

“I came to BCC was to learn to write,” Brumfield told the group. “After I left home, I ended up in a shelter,” he noted. “I was trying to get established with an ID and a job, but without a social security number, it was impossible. But college is a place you can learn to overcome challenges.”

“I believe in helping others and want to do it every day; you can reach the top and pull people up or you can pull people up while you’re climbing,” he added. “Berkeley City College has given me so much. I am extremely grateful; college is challenging in a good way and allows you to go beyond any self-imposed limits.”

Ishii told how her experience as president of BCC’s Civic Engagement Club developed her awareness of the importance of community service.

“When I joined Berkeley City College’s Civic Engagement Club and became a student ambassador. That helped me to create a community that was committed to serving others and making a difference.”

“The club conducted and organized food drives, blood drives, voter education marches on Sacramento, community education workshops on the state budget and ballot initiatives,” she said. “We also sponsored teach-ins on the banking industry bailout and encouraged students to move their money to community banks.”

Ari Agress noted that his experience at the college helped him to understand the importance of education. “Berkeley City College is a great place; faculty care about you and I’ve made great friends there,” he said. “I will continue my studies and want to train to be a student ambassador.”

Donors included:

• Denny Abrams
• Gene and Diep Agress
• Robin Azevedo
• Carl Bass
• Dr. Sue S. Chan
• Dr. Pieter De Haan
• Cyril Gulassa
• Dr. Betty Inclan
• Larry Isaacs
• Sheldon Kahn
• David Kent
• Charles Koppelman
• Dr. Bruce Lawrence
• Margaret Love
• James Maser
• Alexander Nguyen
• John Seuss
• Michael Steller
• Dr. Michael Wagner
• Michael Ziegler

Dr. Betty Inclan (l.) thanks Gene Agress (c., seated), CEO of Berkeley Mills, and all who participated in the college’s Oct. 29 fundraiser.

1-r.: BCC students Esteem Brumfield and Ari Agress with BCC alum and UC Berkeley junior Adena Ishii.

Trusted Cy Gulassa with wife Harriet.

Margaret Love with husband David Kent.

Chef MikeC. (r.) demonstrates the art of pastry sculpture.
2011 California Dream Act offers new opportunities for children of immigrants

Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law the California Dream Act (AB131—Cedillo) on Sat., Oct. 8. The legislation has far reaching implications for students whose parents may have arrived in the United States illegally. The state’s Dream Act applies to:

- People who are not California residents (including legal citizens of other states) who:
  1) Attended a California high school for more than three years,
  2) Graduated from a California high school or attained an equivalent degree.
  3) Registered to attend an accredited California higher education institution not before the fall of 2001-02 academic year.
  4) Filed an affidavit, if an alien without lawful immigration status, stating that the student has filed an application to legalize their immigration status or file such an application as soon as they are eligible to do so.

- The population group mentioned above is eligible for the following types of financial aid beginning Jan. 1, 2013:
  1) Board of Governors Fee Waivers.
  2) Cal Grant entitlements.
  3) Competitive Cal Grants, but only if all California resident citizens and legal permanent residents are provided aid first.

Board of Governors Fee Waivers will not reduce funding to the state’s community colleges. No legal citizen or lawful permanent resident will have their financial aid displaced by AB131. The state’s department of finance estimates that the addition of approximately 2,500 more students will cost the Cal Grant program $14.5 million out of a $1.4 billion program.

President’s Message

(from p. 2, column 2)

We must also be prepared for more budget reductions in fiscal year 2012-13. The State Assembly’s Finance Committee released preliminary estimates on next year’s budget. Projections indicate that California may face a $5 to $8 billion budget shortfall. Much will depend on what transpires around the Prop. 98 guarantee. The intent of these preliminary projections is to raise awareness about our situation and the need for all of us to unify and advocate on behalf of our colleges.

Student Success, Excellence, Innovation

Despite our challenges, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to student success, excellence and innovation. Our college has an excellent reputation in the communities we serve. We have consistent success in the area of university transfer (for example, this year, Berkeley City College is ranked third statewide in transfers to the UC system). BCC’s occupational programs prepare students for jobs in relevant industries; and we have unwavering dedication and proven strategies to ensure that our basic skills students transition to college-level courses. All of us, at every level, are dedicated ambassadors on behalf of Berkeley City College as each day we help to transform students’ lives.

I am honored to serve Berkeley City College. Let us take every opportunity to nurture BCC’s indomitable spirit. Our students and our communities expect nothing less.

Sincerely,

Dr. Betty Inclan, President