Accreditation Remains on Warning Status

Story By
Carrie Smart
Editor-in-Chief

The accreditation status of Victor Valley College remains on warning, but college president Dr. Robert Silverman is optimistic that the Accreditation Commission of Community and Junior Colleges will be satisfied by the June 2009 deadline. The Commission placed VVC on warning in June 2007 and issued three recommendations and two concerns to be addressed. The concerns, which stated a need for better governance and a more empowering environment, were met and Dr. Silverman says that, for the most part, two of the three recommendations have been met, there are just a few kinks that still need to be worked out.

The most difficult recommendation to be met is the second recommendation, which requires a method of determining student learning outcomes on the course, program and institutional levels and using the results of those learning outcomes to improve institutional effectiveness. The best approach to achieving this is still being debated on, but Virginia Moran, Executive Dean of Institutional Effectiveness, assures that it will not be achieved through an increase in classroom tests. Students will likely not be directly affected by the changes that will come about as this recommendation is met. Learning outcomes can’t be determined until the end of a class and the results of those outcomes will then be applied to improving the class for future students. What students may expect to see is the addition of the expected learning outcomes of their classes added to syllabi.

More or less, students will not be directly affected as any of the recommendations are met. All three recommendations focus mainly on staff unity and communication. The difficulty in resolving these issues isn’t as much in the complexity of the problems as it is in getting the large staff population of VVC to communicate and agree on a method of resolving them; once that is accomplished progress can be

Continued on Page 2

Writing Contest Deadline Approaches

Story By
Brandon Chiz
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

The 22nd Annual Victor Valley College Writing Contest comes around to publish and inspire writers once again this spring.

The English Department along with the Friends of the Library is gathering works to award up-and-coming writers, and is divided into traditional assorted categories such as essay, poem, short story and personal narrative, with assorted lengths and requirements. Also accepted are two independent categories known as “short-short” which is only one page or about 250 words, and the Artwork category.

“The artwork category is really something we really need to get up. We don’t get that many works of art. Since the publication is black and white, we’re happy to get anything in black and white.” Adell said. “The art can be charcoal or pencil, which really works well with the publication, or we’ll have some people take black and white pictures, and some people get really creative with it and take pictures of their sculptures, and it’s completely acceptable.”

The writing contest started in 1986 when the Drama, English and Scribblers Clubs came together originally in a very small way and built itself over time. Surprisingly, there has been little change with the way things have been done.

“We’ll be having a reading while we give out their awards and complimentary copies, which are really cool, that’s how we would really like it to work.” Adell said.

Every writer can submit five stories, in any variation, including repeat entries in the same category.

To submit any work a cover sheet for your work or art must be provided with category of entry, title of work, name, address, phone number and school ID number.

The deadline is March 14. For any additional information or submissions of work or art can be received in Tim Adell’s office in the Advanced Technology Center, or by email at adellt@vvc.edu
New Advanced Technology Center Opens

Story By
Bill Buttler
Co-News Editor

After an April 28, 2006 groundbreaking and nearly two years of hard work, Victor Valley College’s newest ambitious addition is making its presence known as the Advanced Technology Center opened Feb. 11, 2008.

An impressive 46,620 square-foot facility centrally located on campus, it is the hub of computer related activities for the school. The center houses 20 multi-purpose computer laboratories equipped with state of the art smart classroom technology capable of instruction in a wide variety of disciplines.

Students can access the Web, process documents, design buildings, create animated movies, learn basic computer programs and much more.

Running the full length of the building is an open mall area with capabilities of individual group instruction and equipped with laptop docking stations and wireless service. Voice, video and data are planned for every work station.

"Moving into the new building was like that of moving into a new house, with the accompanying challenges, but we were prepared things went pretty well." Many of the college labs and tutoring are now within the facility. The services that are provided make it a one-stop-shop academically for all our students, said Dean of Instruction Lori Kildal. "By having it all housed in one complex it gives students an opportunity, then, to go from one room to another and to the mall and obtain the help required."

She mentioned the various classrooms and labs that offer assistance with writing, English as a Second Language, math and adult literacy. She also pointed out the learning center that is being used to run seminars and workshops for faculty on how to use the "smart classrooms" and technology in the building.

"Getting away from paper, pencils, chalk and utilizing technology is one of many tools that academics will utilize to enhance teaching. It's nice to have computer work stations for every student in the classroom and for instructors to use the ‘smart classrooms’ instead of blackboards only or overhead projectors. They can go on-line and show students websites to that refer them if they’re doing any research. So, it’s really opened up a bigger avenue for instructors to utilize their lectures and lessons and it has also been a good tool for the students," Kildal said.

Director of Educational Assistance, Sharon Groom, mentioned that the progressive move with technology helps prepare students who intend to move on to a four-year college. "One of our priorities here is to prep students so they won’t experience a culture shock as they move ahead," she said.

The funding for the center was provided by the State of California.

Accreditation continued from Page 1

made.

More information on VVC’s progress and the changes in effect can be found on the college website www.vvc.edu under the link “Accreditation” on the main page and links under the heading “College Council” on the President’s Office page.

Although highly unlikely, should VVC lose its accreditation students will not be greatly impacted. Units can be applied to other community colleges like Barstow and, as in the case of Compton College and El Camino College, VVC may be absorbed into an accredited institution but still remain functional. When Compton lost its accreditation it was folded into El Camino College to become El Camino College Compton Community Educational Center and students suffered very little disturbance.

Scholarships Deadline!

Brief By
Karen Howell, Co-News Editor

The deadline to apply for Victor Valley College scholarships is March 15, 2008. Just go to the VVC website, click on Financial Aid and follow the directions. These scholarships are only available to VVC students.

“We have over 11,000 students at VVC and last year less than 300 applied. We’d hope to increase that number. There is so much money available that does not have to be paid back,” according to Dee Snead, Financial Specialist.

The main requirements are an essay, two letters of reference (by e-mail) and a GPA of 2.00 or better. High School transcripts may be used for those who have not previously attended college.
Heard Around the Lake

Interviews By Tessa Willis

“What changes would you like to see around campus?”

“Going Green: Alternative Cooling Systems Conserve Energy”

Story and Photo By
Karen Howell
Co-News Editor

The Icebear and the hydronic piping system are now working to help Victor Valley College conserve energy and water.

“Our goal is to become a green college. We are striving to be a sustaining member of the High Desert,” said Chris Hylton, Director of Maintenance and Operations.

The Icebear is an ice storage air conditioning unit that freezes water at night in off-peak energy hours and uses the ice to reduce the energy used by air conditioning during the daytime peak energy hours. This reduces energy costs by shifting 95 percent of air conditioning consumption to off-peak times which reduces the cost and significantly lowers greenhouse gas emissions.

The Student Services 1 building is benefiting from this first Icebear project which was 100 percent funded by the Investor Owned Utility and the SEC incentive partnership project.

The VVC New Year Construction Update announced that the first phase of the hydronic piping system is completed. The system is providing both hot and chilled water to help reduce the costs of heating and cooling the Art Building, the Counseling/Administration Building and the new Advanced Technology Center. The system is located beside the Central Plant near the Library.

Phase two, if approved by the Board, will extend the piping to the new Speech and Drama Addition and the Student Services Buildings and provide additional long term energy savings.

According to Hylton, running a condensation tube through the campus lake to help cool and re-condense the refrigeration gases was considered at one point. It was decided to use the cooling tower system instead, which works on the familiar desert “swamp cooler” principle of evaporation.

One reason the lake was rejected was the loss of water through evaporation and percolation at a rate of 400 gallons a minute which might require replacing the lake with a sealed system at some future time.

In a separate effort to conserve water the college has introduced “green landscaping” around the new Advanced Technology Building and the updated Performing Arts Building which features decorative rock and trees instead of shrubs and bushes. About 43 acres of grass are currently maintained on campus, including athletic fields and landscaping, according to Hylton.
Spring Dance Concert Coming Soon to New PAC

Story and Photo By
Diana Cansino
Co-Features Editor

This semester the Spring Dance Concert is grooving its way to Victor Valley College’s new Performing Arts Center on May 30 and 31 at 7:30 p.m. With choreography ranging from Jazz to Tango and Hip Hop, it’s a concert that will appeal to everyone.

Dance class students are currently rehearsing for the concert. Artistic Director for the Spring Dance Concert, David Rodriguez, mentioned that his two assistants, Jessica Divine and Phil Bell, have helped him teach some of his classes by demonstrating some of the dance steps.

Lynn Guardado one of the instructors who is choreographing a few of the dances in the show said, “The audience can expect a high energy thrash jazz, I did it four years ago and it knocked everyone’s socks off so I brought it back,” along with a routine from the musical “Chicago.” A audiences can also expect to see choreography from faculty members Karla Franco and Nancy Helms whose routine involves a piece from “Phantom of the Opera.”

The students who are currently enrolled in dance classes at VVC will be participating in the show which will now be held in the new theater arts building at VVC as opposed to the Silverado High School Performing Arts Center where it has been previously held.

Rodriguez also said that they will hold a matinee for the Children’s Free Theater. It’s a chance for schools in the district to send some of their students to enjoy the dances created for this year’s Spring show.

General admission is $7, $3 for kids under 12, and $5 if you’re an ASB card holder.

One dollar from each ticket goes to parking so it’s guaranteed that audience members won’t get a parking ticket.

March Golf Schedule

March 10
Mt. San Jacinto College @ Saboba Springs CC
10 a.m.

March 12
Citrus, Santa Ana and Riverside Colleges @ Marshal Canyon GC
10 a.m.

March 24
Mt. San Antonio @ El Prado–Chino Creek GC
10 a.m.

March 31
Long Beach @ LB Rec Park GC
10am

Golf Seeks Improvement With New Coach

Story By
Zac Varela
Co-Sports Editor

Victor Valley College men’s Golf team is preparing to finish the season strong and make a noteworthy run into the finals.

VVC finished 4 in their conference opener held at Spring Valley Lake Country Club Feb. 25, and finished fifth at Industry Hills Golf Course on March 5.

Chris Mangold and Johnny Bozigan were the Ram’s top players on Wednesday, both finishing in the top 10.

“I had a bad first hole shooting an 8, but it helped build confidence as I went into the back 9,” said Bozigan who shot an 81 on the day.

The Rams next match is Monday, March 10, at Soboba Springs Country Club at 10 a.m.

Victor Valley also found a new men’s Golf coach in PGA pro Gregg Combs who has worked at The Spring Valley Country Club for more than 30 years.

“Coach Combs was born and raised in Ontario, California, and has been playing golf since he was eight years old.

Combs is grateful and having fun coaching golf this year, “If they will have me, it will be long term. I want to do this for as long as I can.”

“There will be good things to expect this season. Kids will be playing better and we have potential to place well in all our next events,” said Combs. Photos by Tessa Willis, Photo Editor
Basketball Season Ends With Win

Story By
Darryl Richie
Co-Sports Editor

On Sat. Feb. 23, the Victor Valley College Men’s Basketball team played the Chaffey College Panthers in their final game of the season, pulling off a victory of 92-87.

Alan Alston was the Rams leading scorer with a game high of 29 points and 10 rebounds. Dwight Gordon added 17 points, six assists, five rebounds, and a block. Tim Sanders scored 15 points; Tory Dudgeon contributed 11 points, eight assists, seven rebounds, two steals and a block. Deanard Crouch tallied with eight points.

The Rams’ record for the season was 16-15 and 5-9 in the Foothill Conference. The record wasn’t good enough to make the playoffs, but head coach Tom Dudgeon is still proud of his team.

Dudgeon said, “We didn’t make the playoffs, but we beat two top teams.” Most of the Rams roster is freshmen and will be coming back to play next season. They are aiming to win more games and enter the playoffs.

Tory Dudgeon said, “We have to be more consistent sharing the ball, rebounding, and playing defense. Doing these three things we could go to the playoffs.”

This season was full of ups and downs for the Rams. Coach Dudgeon said, “Great season with freshmen kids that never played college ball. I’m pleased with this group, overall I couldn’t be happier.”

Baseball Struggles in Double Header

Story By
Darryl Richie
Co-Sports Editor

Victor Valley College Men’s Baseball team lost in a double-header against San Bernardino Valley on Sat. March 2, 6-2 at noon and 13-5 at 2:30 p.m.

The Rams’ record is 5-11-1, and 0-3 in the Foothill Conference. Although it’s early in the season, the Rams are still struggling to get a win in Conference.

VVC was struggling to get on base in both games.

“We don’t make adjustments, we hit too many fly balls,” head coach Robert Smith said. “We believe we could win, we start the race but can’t finish. Cut down on mental mistakes and we should be fine.”

“We need to get the bats going and cut down mistakes,” said Randy Sausser. “We need to get the runs across and play defense.”

Before the double-header Victor Valley faced off against San Bernardino Valley on Thursday, Feb. 28. They had enough time to re-group but still couldn’t pull off a win.

Women’s Softball Still Seeks First Win

Story and Photo By
Zac Varela
Co-Sports Editor

The Victor Valley College Women’s Softball team had the rare opportunity to play on Feb. 29 and hopefully a loss like theirs doesn’t happen again for another leap year, as they fell 12-3 to the Panthers of Chaffey College.

The Rams were only able to tame the Panthers in the first inning, after that Chaffey went on a tear scoring runs in every inning after.

“We need to mask our fundamentals, improve our hitting and keep working, that’s all I can say,” Coach Donell Thomas said following the game.

The Rams then played a double header the following day, Mar. 1, but were not able to come up with a win as they lost two non-conference games to LA Mission College.

On March 5 softball had a game against the Eagles of Mt. San Jacinto. The Rams were defeated 20-4.

“It’s rough. We took a beating,” Thomas said. “We still have to work harder on the mental game.”

VVC had seven errors on the day and gave up 10 runs in the second inning.

“I think we played good, our fielding was off, but we usually do better,” Blanca Magallon said after the game.

The Rams are now (0-16)-(0-3) in conference and still looking for their first win.

“We will get our first win Saturday in Fresno,” Thomas said. The women will travel to Fresno to play in a tournament March 8, 2008.

Home Games for March

Men’s Baseball
March 15 Antelope Valley College: Noon and 2:30 p.m.
March 18 Irvine Valley College: Noon
March 20 Irvine Valley College: Noon
March 27 Mt. San Jacinto College: 2:30 p.m.

Men’s Tennis
March 13 Grossmont College: 2p.m.
March 15 San Diego City College: 2 p.m.
March 22 San Diego Mesa College: 2 p.m.
March 27 Mt. San Jacinto College: 2 p.m.

Women’s Softball
March 19 College of the Desert 3 p.m.
March 26 Antelope Valley College 3 p.m.

Women’s Tennis
March 20 Mt. T. San Jacinto College
March 29 Antelope Valley College
Movie Review: The Other Boleyn Girl

Story By
Kim Hill
Co-Entertainment Editor

Based on the best-selling novel by Philippa Gregory, The Other Boleyn Girl is a story based on Anne and Mary Boleyn's tale with King Henry VIII (Eric Bana). Forced by their father and uncle, Anne (Natalie Portman) is made to try and seduce the king, due to the fact that he has yet to get a male heir from his wife, Queen Catherine of A ragon.

Henry takes things into his own hands and falls for Mary (Scarlett Johansson). Mary in turn bears him an illegitimate son. Mary truly does care for the king but Anne is more ruthless and would do anything to get the king for herself. She will not stop until she is the Queen of England. As the battle between the sisters wages, England is beginning to fall apart.

Everything, by the looks, was correct for the age. The setting and the costumes were very well planned out. The language seemed appropriate for the time period the movie was set in. Nothing seemed out of place.

It was the storyline that fell a little flat. Yes there was sex, murder, romance and betrayal but it was nothing like someone may think. The script seemed underwritten. It could have been better made, or maybe even had the editing improved. Almost every scene seemed to be at a basic level. There were some scenes that had some level if intensity and attention grabbers but it never lasted the entire movie.

Though the story fell, the acting seemed to be well done for what they were given as a script. Each character was portrayed to an extent that made them believable. The emotion and persona that was felt seemed like each character could have been real. The acting may have only been done better if the story was improved.

Overall, much more could have been done to create an amazing movie anyone could enjoy. It was more of a time killer then something that is hugely entertaining.

Reviewer's rating:
2.5 out of 5

Profile: Ready Rams Club Holds Fundraiser for Road Trip

Story By
Ivannia Alay
Opinion Editor

Ready Rams Club is a positive, good natured club that VVC students can be part of. One of the main focuses the Ready Rams Club concentrates on is academic support for students. They also provide community service to assist the less fortunate. Ready Rams Club also participates in fun activities emphasizing leadership skills and work closely with club ASB officers. They are strong believers of further education and encourage students to seek and discover farther places for 4-year universities.

Kathy Cosgrove is a member of the Ready Rams Club. She encourages students to participate in the club’s fundraiser to win a 3-day cruise for two to Ensenada, Mexico on the “Carnival’s Fun Ship Paradise” for Jan. 23, 2009. The cost is $2 per ticket, but only 1000 tickets will be sold.

This will help students prepare for a potential road-trip to Northern California to visit campuses like UC Santa Barbara, CSU Monterey, UCSF, and CSU Stanislaus. This would be an opportunity for students to enjoy and explore campuses outside the Southern California premises.

Flyers for this event will be distributed within the next couple of weeks. The road trip will take place May 8 through 10 for 15 students.

If you liked what you read in this issue, see more pictures and articles at our Myspace:
www.myspace.com/vvcrampage
Or if you have any creative ideas or photos you would like to share, send them to us at
VVCrampage@yahoo.com

March 7, 2008 • Page 6
GENERAL INFORMATION

The RamPage is a newspaper published as an educational exercise and First Amendment Public Forum by students at Victor Valley College in Victorville, Calif. Issues come out approximately twice a month in the two full-length semesters, generally each February, March, April, May, September, October, November and December, for a total of 14 issues each calendar year.

The views expressed by the RamPage are not necessarily those of VVC, its board of trustees, its administration, its faculty, its staff, its Associated Student Body Council or its students.

The RamPage welcomes press releases, story ideas, letters to the editor, guest articles and guest editorials. Submit proposed items to the on-campus mailbox of RamPage Adviser Judith Pfeffer — clearly marked as being submitted for publication. Or, email them to VVCRamPage@hotmail.com or mail information to RamPage, Victor Valley College, 18422 Bear Valley Road, Victorville, CA 92395 or leave a message at 760-245-4271 extension 2773.

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The RamPage generally accepts as advertising only 8 1/2 - by -11-inch flyers as inserts. The cost is $100, which covers insertion/distribution of 1,500 copies. The cost and responsibility of designing, reproducing and delivering the 1,500 flyers to the RamPage is borne by the advertiser.

To discuss display advertising options or to purchase any form of advertisement, call Assistant Director of Auxiliary Services Deanna Murphy at 760-245-4271 extension 2707.

Acceptance of any advertisement in the RamPage does not constitute endorsement by the paper, college, district, board, council or student body.

The RamPage reserves the right to reject any material — advertising or editorial — that it deems to be not in keeping with the standards of the paper.

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OPENING GALA
HEADLINE EVENT!

GUYS AND DOLLS

Directed by: Ed Heab erlin
Musical Direction: Dr. Thomas Miller
Choreography: David Rodriguez

Story by Damon Runyon
Book by Abe Burrows and Jo Swerling
Music & Lyrics by Frank Loesser

“an evening of high spirited entertainment”
“quoted as being one of the greatest musicals ever written”
“a fantastic mix of comedy and truth”

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7:30PM
APRIL 18
7:30PM
APRIL 19
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APRIL 20
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APRIL 24
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APRIL 25
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APRIL 26
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