

## Deans' Welcome

Welcome to the Business Division Fall 2018. We hope that you have all enjoyed your hot summer and got a chance to relax and rejuvenate even if you taught. We are happy that we are now fully in the BCT. Facilities is still making minor tweaks, but for the most part we are happy to be in the new complex. Many faculty and students have commented on how happy they are to be able to teach and learn in such great facilities. The faculty have waited a long time to have truly state of the art technology in the rooms and that is exactly what we have. The building committee members did a great job of ensuring we had a complex that represents a professional business atmosphere and provides the best up-to-date technology for our students. With the new

space we now have the ability to offer more classes and teach more students. We just need to make sure we are offering what is needed and have the students to fill the classes. This will prove to be an exciting year!

Also happening in the future is the opening of our bakery and student-run-restaurant. Most people we see ask us when. We have to remind people it is a learning classroom and we have to be able to offer the classes before we open. Our bakery is anticipated to begin production and supplying Sodexo's campus stores this fall. If all systems are installed and ready to go by mid-fall, we anticipate a possible soft-opening for test purposes by winter. We are still waiting a few pieces of equipment and need to do some more testing.

We have been very lucky this year with our hiring of staff and faculty. We have hired 6 new full-time faculty with Luz Melendez and Estela Mejia-Gonzalez in Child Development, Paul Chiu and James Holbert Jr in CIS, Dr. Esha Ahmed and Louis Vayo II in Economics. Additionally we hired 6 new adjunct faculty: Spencer Holloway (accounting), Ivan Leon (accounting), Donna Wilson (accounting), Lydia Tran (CIS), Ksenia Glenn (NF), and Jennifer Morgan (HRM). For our new staff we have a new 47.5% Administrative I, Adriana Jimenez, and four new Foods Lab Technicians to coordinate the restaurant, Marianne Lima, Alex Carrillo, Margaret Speak and Calin Pahle.

The College had a very successful year with over 2.8% growth in the 2017-18 year. We should all be proud as this was achieved when most schools were losing enrollments. Thank you for all of your hard work and for being proactive in opening courses and allowing students to add. However, that makes our job of growing more that much harder. At least we now have the space and the rooms for additional sections if we need and have the students. We have faith in our faculty and the power of

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our programs to know we can do it.

We want to wish you the best of luck with the start of the academic year. Let us know what we can do to help you have a successful semester and continue to be great. Sincerely,

Your Dean and Associate Dean

Jennifer Galbraith and Fawaz Al-Malood

# Welcome and Congratulations:

## James Holbert Jr, Computer Information Systems Professor



James earned his B.S. in Mathematics (Honors, Computer Programming minor) from North Carolina State University, graduating Summa Cum Laude with a cumulative 4.0 GPA. Since 1996, he's worked various systems and network engineering positions with Verizon, MCI/Worldcom, IKON Office Solutions, Vanstar/Inacom, and AT&T. He's attained many industry certifications including CCNP (Cisco Certified Network Professional) and MCSE (Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer). Most recently he has also been an adjunct professor for us in our CIS Department. He enjoys classic muscle cars and misses his numbers-matching red 1970 Chevelle SS 396.

## Paul Chiu - Computer Information Systems Professor



Paul Chiu graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo with the Bachelor of Science degree in Nuclear Medicine Technology while minoring in Management Information Systems. He started working as a System Analyst at the New York Stock Exchange for his first job and then migrated to Irvine in the year 2000. Working at Quest Software, KU Associates and Friends of Family Health Center over the years have taught him that the IT field is constantly changing. New trends and technologies will yield greater challenges and opportunities for our students in the future workforce.

Paul currently resides in the City of Walnut with his wife Holly and their 1-year-old son Joseph. Their family will have a new addition in March of 2019 as they expecting their second child. He has taught at Mt. SAC since the fall semester of 2015 as an adjunct and played a big part in coaching our Cyber Security Team

## **Luz (Lucie) Melendez- Child Development Professor**



Lucie Melendez has worked in the field of child development for more than 15 years. Her experience includes teaching at a state-licensed preschool program, developing and administering instruction for parents, and teaching various courses of Child and Human Development at several community colleges. As an adjunct professor, Lucie collaborated with the OCC ESL department, OCC Adult Education office, and the local Adult School in Huntington Beach to develop and implement curriculum to support English language learners completing Child Development college courses and certificates. In addition, Lucie taught dual enrollment classes in Child Development at local High Schools in the Orange Unified School District, through Santiago Canyon College.

Lucie is a product of the community college system. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Child and Adolescent Development from California State University, Fullerton and a Master of Education degree, with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education, from California State University, Long Beach.

## **Estela Mejia-Gonzalez- Child Development Professor**



Estela has over 25 years of experience and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of current quality standards and best practices in the field of early childhood education. She holds an M.A. in Human Development from Pacific Oaks College and B.A. in Child Development from the University of La Verne. She has held numerous positions with El Monte City School District Child Development Programs, MVJ Business & Consulting – USC Head Start CLASS Project, Los Angeles Unified School District Early Education Division, and Options State Preschool Program.

Estela has provided leadership in both state and federally funded early childhood programs; including Head Start, State Preschool, Home-Based, and Child360. In addition, she has five years of experience as adjunct providing Mt. SAC students with high-quality instruction.

## Esha Ahmed- Economics Professor



Esha Ahmed holds a B.S. degree in Mathematics/Economics from UCLA and a M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from Claremont Graduate University. She has four years of teaching experience as an adjunct instructor at the University of Redlands, Cal Poly Pomona, and Mt. San Antonio College. Her dissertation studies the effects of sociopolitical instability and fiscal expenditures on private investment.

Prior to teaching, Esha worked as a Cost Analyst at Northrop Grumman for Estimating and Pricing and as a Valuation Analyst at FMV Opinions, determining the fair market values of client holdings in estate and gift tax valuations. She enjoys staying current in the economics discipline by providing journal referee service for Social Indicators Research. In her spare time, she

enjoys hiking, traveling, baking, and watching Laker games.

## Louis Vayo II- Economics Professor



Louis has dual Master's degrees in Applied Economics and Environmental Policy from the University of Michigan, and a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Economics and Policy from UC Berkeley. He has taught Economics at CSULB and the community college for four years and assisted in creating and evaluating student learning outcomes for economics and environmental economics courses.

Prior to completing his graduate work, Louis served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Community and Economic Development sector in Kenya. In the community where he spent his two years of service, Louis coordinated and led gender empowerment camps, taught sustainable waste management and agricultural practices, and developed income-generating activities for women's groups. He still works together with Kenyan community members to help in projects like tree-planting, conservation agriculture, and support for the local school. Louis is passionate about teaching and inspiring his students and loves to learn from the life experiences his students bring to the classroom.

## Alexander Carrillo- Foods Lab Technician



Alex Carrillo is a former student of Mt. SAC. His experience is in culinary arts, which he acquired while working for restaurants such as Café Santorini in Pasadena, Animal Restaurant in Los Angeles, and Manuela in the Arts District of Los Angeles. His goal at Mt. SAC is to share his knowledge with our students and to collaborate with colleagues to create a unique dining experience in our new student-run restaurant.

## Marianne Lima- Foods Lab Technician



After receiving her Bachelors degree from the Collins College of Hospitality Management at Cal Poly Pomona, Marianne worked at the Disneyland Resort for 6 years as a Restaurant Manager. From one magical place to another, she looks forward to sharing her expertise here as well as learning new skills - like crafting latte art with the restaurant's new espresso machine!

## Calin Pahle- Foods Lab Technician



Calin a chef by trade, most recently at Asa, in Los Altos, CA. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Hospitality Management from California Polytechnic University, Pomona. Calin has experience in fine-dining, catering, and special events. Her favorite culinary focus is special diets, specifically those that deal with food allergies and auto-immune disorders. She is excited to use her experience to help develop an excellent culinary program for our students.



## Margaret Speak, Foods Lab Technician



Margaret began attending Mt SAC in 2008 before attending Le Cordon Bleu to finish her culinary degree. After a few years working in the industry, she decided to come back to Mt SAC in pursuit of a hospitality degree. While attending she worked for a while as a student assistant before receiving her new full time position as a food laboratory technician. She looks forward to the challenges set forth by this new opportunity and excited to be a part of the Mt SAC family!

## Adriana Jimenez, Administrative Specialist I



Adriana started here at Mt. SAC as a student worker through the Technology and Health Division and then later at the Natural Sciences Division. Adriana has an AA in Kinesiology and Wellness, and is looking forward to being accepted into the Radiology Technician program here at Mt. SAC to continue her goals of one day working in health care. She is proud to now be a part of the Business Division where she hopes to develop more skills.

## David Gordon, Computer Lab Tech



David started working at Mt. SAC on October 22, 2015. He knows the day well as it is his birthday. He worked as a CFA underneath the library with the amazing LTC tech team under the IT division. Co-workers became friends, managers became mentors. David is now a laboratory technician under the Business Division. As he starts this new path of meeting new people and looking forward to all the new experience that are to come, he feels honored and happy to be part of the Mt SAC family and will always cherish old friendships and look forward to making new friendships!

# Big Data Coming to the CIS Department

The CIS Department has created three Big Data Analytics courses and a Big Data Analytics Certificate that are currently completing the WebCMS curriculum approval process. Dr. Sohair Zaki has taken the lead in the development of the program during her first year here at Mt. SAC. The department will be heavily marketing the new program and expects it to be a popular program when the classes are offered for the first time in Fall 2019.

As described by SAS, one of the market leaders in big data analytics, “Big data is a term that describes the large volume of data – both structured and unstructured – that inundates a business on a day-to-day basis. But it’s not the amount of data that’s important. It’s what organizations do with the data that matters. Big data can be analyzed for insights that lead to better decisions and strategic business moves.”



## The Restaurant at Mt. SAC

The new student-run restaurant in the BCT is anticipated to begin its baking operation this fall. This is an exciting milestone for the culinary program as we will be supplying Sodexo with the pastries for sale in the various campus stores. Additionally, the rest of the campus will have the opportunity to place orders for baked goods produced by our culinary students once our system has been installed and is production ready.

Despite the wait for food service in the restaurant, it has already become a popular venue for events as many programs and departments across campus, including the president, have requested to hold meetings in the dining room. As progress continues in our new Culinary Arts program, the availability for meetings will be reduced as we hold classes in the space and open the Restaurant for business.



The opening itself is highly anticipated. Faculty, staff, and students are very eager to eat in our student-run-restaurant. Just remember that the Associate of Science in Culinary Arts is a new program, so there is a need to offer the classes the students need to develop their restaurant operating skills before we can open the restaurant to the campus community. Our new culinary classes are being offered starting this fall and we anticipate a possible soft-opening for test purposes by winter.

# Accounting Starts New Tax Program

The Accounting and Management Department has developed a new Tax Certificate to go along with their highly successful Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Starting this fall we will offer a three course Tax Preparation Certificate. Professor Steve Valdes has worked hard in converting our current Federal Income Tax Class to be a California Tax Education Council (CTEC) qualifying education tax class as students can now take the course and be legally licensed to prepare tax returns. The third and final course in the certificate is the VITA II course in which students will be working during the winter and spring to help our local community prepare their tax returns. Last year our VITA Tax Assistance processed 284 returns generating \$300,000 in total refunds with an average refund per family of \$1,200. The program had 37 student volunteers saving over \$30,000 in fees for the community.

