

COMMUNITY VOTES
PORTERVILLE COLLEGE
“BEST”
LEARNING INSTITUTION”



The Porterville Recorder newspaper has an annual campaign for the community to vote on the “Best Of” a lot of things and places . Porterville College was voted in as the “Best Learning Institution”. The winners were featured in a special edition of the paper, and were presented a nice banner indicating the award. PC president, **Dr. Rosa Carlson**, responded with a “ thank you” statement. *“We at Porterville College are proud to be a part of and to serve the Porterville community. It is special to know there are so many of our graduates who are so successful in their professions and who are in very responsible positions in our local schools and government. By working together, we can continue to make this even a greater community in which to live.”*

FACULTY GOES BACK TO SCHOOL...

As a feature of annual Flex Days, staff development activities, the PC faculty went back to class for a special learning session about a new means of communication. **Randy Morgan**, Website Coordinator/Graphic Designer, led the informative instruction, aided by members of the IT staff. It was held in the beautiful new Computer Commons in the Learning Resource Center.



Randy explained what the program is all about for our “Update” readers: “Beginning in 2010, Porterville College students and staff will have a valuable new communication tool. Porterville College, as well as sister schools Bakersfield and Cerro Coso, are implementing a Web Portal system. PC's portal is called “InsidePC”, and this Fall PC faculty and staff are getting a preview of the tool's capabilities. Viewed through a web browser, InsidePC is much like the personalized home pages of “MyYahoo” and “iGoogle”, where users can control what content appears on the web page. It also provides teachers and students with course tools such as message boards, chat capabilities, and a “Home Page” for each course that is taught.



InsidePC gives individuals personalized, 24x7 access to information and services previously limited by location or hours of operation. Users can access the portal at any time and from any place. ”

HONORS KEEP COMING FOR PC FACULTY



You can now call them “Doctor”. Yes, two more members of the PC faculty have completed their doctorate degrees during the summer. **Rebecca Gervasi** and **William “Rob” Hodges** received those prestigious titles.



Rebecca, who received her PsyD degree in Clinical Psychology, is a part-time instructor in the Social Sciences department, teaching Psychology. Her education journey began in her hometown of Porterville and as a student at Porterville College. She earned her BS degree from Chapman University and followed that with a Masters in Counseling/Psychology from National University. She chose Ryokan College in Southern California for work on her doctorate because their students had the highest percentage of graduates who passed the state exams than any other school and their faculty was made up strictly of practicing practitioners.

Rebecca said she has a goal of becoming a full-time teacher and eventually have her own counseling practice. She currently serves as a volunteer at the local Women’s Shelter. She also keeps busy with home duties as she and her husband, Jeff, have three sons. She met Jeff while she was a waitress at a local restaurant. Her 23 year old son, Curtis, is in the U.S. Army. 17 year old Evan is a junior at PHS and Brandon is their 9 year old. It should be pointed out that Jeff, PC full-time Math professor, received his doctorate not too long ago, and Rebecca gives him a lot



of credit for being so helpful around home as she worked on hers. Needless to say, there aren’t many homes with two doctors in the house. “Update” salutes both Gervasi’s.

The other recipient of a PhD is William “Rob” Hodges, who earned his in Music, (Ethnomusicology), from UC Santa Barbara. His was a somewhat typical long road to success, but a very long one. It took him and his family to Indonesia for nine years in the Sumatra area, where they learned the language and he started a music department in the local theological college. Along the way, Rob was reared in a family that moved a lot, as his dad was a minister. They settled in California in the 1980s and he got his four-year degree from the University of Redlands, majoring in Cello performance. He earned his masters from Central Washington University with a secondary emphasis on choral conducting. Another masters was added in Inter-Cultural studies, Anthropology from Wheaton College in Illinois.

He applied for and received a Fulbright Research grant and went back to Indonesia to study and research funeral, tradition, lament, and other cultural areas related to local music. He compared ways of grieving between Protestant and traditional customs. He has since gone back to that area to present to them the results of his dissertation.



He and his wife, Catherine, who is a PC English professor and director of the Learning Resource Center, decided to come back to Porterville as they like the lifestyle and size of the community. Rob is an adjunct professor, teaching “Exploring the World Through Music” on Thursday nights. He hopes to eventually have a full-time teaching position at PC and hopes to

become active in teaching the community more about music and traditions in other cultures. They have two children. Daughter, Clara, is a junior majoring in Sociology and Anthropology at University of Redlands and a son, Matt, a sophomore at PHS.



EXPECTATIONS HIGH FOR VOLLEYBALL



Lady Pirate volleyball coach, **Dale Henderson**, has high hopes for his team this season. The second year coach says they will be a lot better than last year. He has a taller team and quicker team with some experienced returning players. He thinks they can be up among the top two or three teams in the CVC. A first team all-conference middle blocker, **Olga Velasquez**, returns to

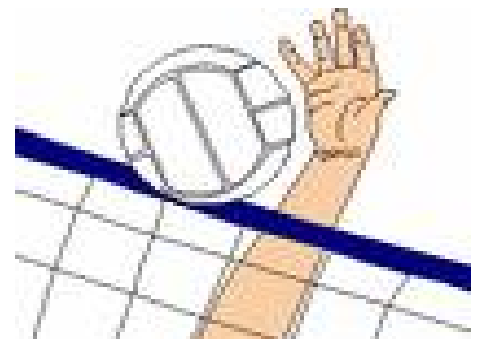
lead the team. **Laura Lopez**, who was one of the top setters in the state last year is also back along with all-conference honorable mention blocker, **Jennifer Gliddon**.

A top recruit is **Sabina Lopez** from Exeter, who last **Dillon**, has she is a outside hitter. impressed in early as well.



was the Tulare County Player of the season. Her Exeter teammate, **Evan** joined the team and the coach thinks potential conference all-star as an Coach Henderson has been with freshman, **Katrina Goulbourne**, practices

The roster includes: **Zori Hernandez**, Delano; **Laura Lopez**, Tulare; **Sabina Lopez**, and **Evan Dillon**, Exeter; **Nansi Reyes** and **Olga Velasquez**, Arvin; **Jennifer Gliddon**, Las Vegas; **Katrina Goulbourne**, Visalia; and **Chyna Smith**, Three Rivers.



Jennings Named PC Men's Basketball Coach



Porterville College has announced the hiring of **T.J. Jennings** as its new head men's basketball coach. Jennings, a former assistant coach at Reedley College and Fresno Pacific University, will also become a part-time adjunct instructor for PC's physical education division.

"We are proud to welcome T.J. to the Porterville College family," said PC athletic director **Eric Mendoza**. *"T.J. has a passion for life and a positive energy that motivates people around him. Our students will benefit from his great character and leadership, in addition to his knowledge of basketball."*

Jennings has coaching experience at the high school, community college, and four-year university levels. After a successful playing career at Fresno Pacific University, where Jennings was named Academic All-American three times and Sunbird of the Year in 2004, he began coaching at his alma mater. Jennings was an assistant coach for the FPU women's team (2004-05) before spending a season at Riverdale High School. Jennings has spent the past two basketball seasons as the women's top assistant coach at Reedley College. Last season, he took over as interim head coach for a brief period. Because of the team's success under Jennings-posting a 4-1 record- the Central Valley Coaches named Reedley its "Coaching Staff of the Year". T.J. is currently employed at San Joaquin Valley College in Hanford as a general education instructor. Jennings earned two bachelor degrees at Fresno Pacific University in business administration and communications. He obtained a master's degree at FPU in kinesiology. His father, Rick Jennings, was a return specialist for the Oakland Raiders. Jennings made the following comments following the announcement of his hiring.



"I am excited about the opportunity to work with the students and staff at Porterville College, and I hope that we can get the people in the community excited about Pirate basketball the way it used to be. My goals are simple: to have our students graduate and transfer to four-year schools, demand the highest standards of character, and compete at a level where we can enjoy success together."

2009-10 Academic Calendar Dates to Remember Fall Semester

Aug. 24	Instruction Begins, Fall
Aug 29	Saturday Classes Begin, Fall
Sept. 7	Labor Day Holiday
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day Holiday
Nov. 26 – 27	Thanksgiving Holidays
Dec. 7-12	Final Exams, Fall
Dec. 12	End of Fall Semester
Dec. 24 – 25	Christmas Holidays
Jan. 1	New Year's Day Holiday