With the start of a new academic year, it is a good time to meet staff behind the scenes in campus departments. In this issue, we will get a chance to meet a few of the classified staff in the Biology Department starting with Veronica Enriquez and Jean Gener.

Meet Veronica Enriquez, shown above holding a Leopard Gecko, who currently serves as a Laboratory Technician IV in the Biological Science area. Veronica is responsible for the animals and plants used in Biology, and prepares exercises for the laboratories of Bio-2B, ENSC-11, Bio-10, Bio-31, Bio-50, Physiology, and Anatomy. Another part of Veronica’s job is she assists instructors when their students need an extra hand with the use of the microscope and in general activities in the lab.

What peaked Veronica’s interest with wanting to work at Chabot was the cultural diversity of the Chabot community which she finds invigorating. Veronica states, “As a Hispanic, it makes sense to work in a Hispanic Serving Institution like Chabot where the Hispanic population is 29%. I want to encourage students to follow their dreams and show them that it is not an impediment to be a minority, we all have the same potential to grow. I was a Chabot student myself (early childhood development) so I know firsthand that sometimes you need an extra hand that knows your situation and understands your culture, too, in an institution that embraces cultural diversity.”

Some of Veronica’s goals include interacting more with instructors to improve the quality of Biology laboratories. Veronica stated, “I would like to see a transformation of the biology area with newer equipment that would facilitate the preparation of our students for the jobs that are in demand in the biotechnology field.”

As a classified professional, Veronica says that one of her favorite parts of her job includes “Having the encouragement from the instructors to collaborate using my knowledge to modify and hopefully improve their laboratories. They all embrace innovation and change, I see it when they help students to develop critical thinking in various contexts, and support the development of the whole person.”

One thing Veronica wants the Chabot community to know about the Biology lab is that biology is fun and is for everyone. Veronica would like to show everyone her area.

Jean Gener, shown in the photo below, is a Chemistry Lab Tech IV, and she provides experimental and analytical laboratory support activities for all the chemistry courses. Jean’s daily routine involves the set-up of laboratory experiments, preparing chemical solutions, conducting tests, and providing students the necessary materials to interpret and analyze data, which includes a (continued on page three)
Building 1800 is Under Construction- The seismic strengthening and new roofing are complete. The new windows are installed and the new exterior treatment is almost complete. The building is now weathered in and interior work has commenced at a brisk pace.

Drywall is being hung and mechanical systems are nearly complete. Building 1800 will house new Math and Science classrooms and labs. The site between buildings 1700 and 1800 has been designed in coordination with faculty to serve as an outdoor classroom with botanical specimens not located elsewhere on campus.

Building 1200/PAC Plaza- The B1200/PAC/SOTA Plaza project continues to proceed well. Interior framing is complete as is the new roof framing for seismic strengthening and mechanical unit support. The addition is completely framed and the application of the exterior skin has begun. The renovated building will house music performance spaces, practice rooms, and the Little Theater. The addition will house a new recording studio. The SOTA Plaza has been demolished and the new plaza construction has begun. The renovated plaza will contain an outdoor stage and seating areas. The Theater renovation is also now underway. This involves creating a new sound mixing area in the seating area and replacing the HVAC equipment.

P.E. Complex Renovation is Progressing- The renovation to the existing P.E. Complex is moving forward. Instructors have been temporarily relocated to the new Instructional Office Building while Building 2600 is being renovated. Building 2600 is nearly complete and the new furniture for the faculty offices has been ordered. Above photo shows the food court outside building 2600.

Extensive work is also underway in buildings 2800 and 2900. Construction crews are focusing on the renovation of building 2800 so that the Team Locker Rooms will be finished before football season. Finished flooring and team lockers have been installed. Work on the Gymnasium has started. Measure B has leased off-site courts as swing space for basketball programs while construction is underway. The photo on the right shows an inside look at the Men’s Locker Room under the renovation process.

Building 3400, Automotive Technology has Finished Design- Drawings have been completed for building 3400 which houses the BMW program. The drawings were submitted to DSA last week. Once comments are received and addressed, we will be going out for bids.

Small Projects- A number of smaller projects are progressing well. The traffic signal on Hesperian Boulevard at the southern exit of Campus Drive has received final approval from PG&E to be powered up. The power and final controls should be complete within the week. Interior lights are being replaced in Building 3100 as a part of our energy savings retrofit program. This project has been submitted to PG&E for project incentive payments.

Construction drawings are almost complete to finish our campus security project in parking lots G/H/E and J. An electronic marquee at the corner of Hesperian Boulevard and Depot Road will also be part of this project.

Design work is moving forward on a project to enhance the college landscaping along Hesperian Boulevard. Ideas will be presented to the Facilities Committee this fall semester.
full-range of laboratory functions related to safe standard laboratory methods, practices, procedures, and regulations. Jean states, “In all, I work closely with faculty to ensure that students are able to safely learn and conduct lab skills that are key in reinforcing learned theories.”

Jean shown to the left doing a lab said a highlight of the job is “…none compares to a student visiting the stockroom window expressing gratitude at the end of a semester. It is gratifying to see students’ progress with lab skills from a learning capacity to independently skilled and accomplished.” Jean further states, “The chemistry program caters to students seeking to fulfill allied health professional careers such as Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and physical therapy to name a few. Our program also provides the inorganic and organic chemistry series to fulfill pre-medical, pre-dental, and pre-pharmacy requirements transferring to complete their major. We are the only community college within a 50-mile radius that offers four sections of Organic Chemistry in one campus. Chemistry is not as scary as I thought of growing up. We have an excellent line-up of faculty that supports student learning. Incidentally, we also have an introductory chemistry course (Chem. 10) conveniently scheduled in the evening for those who would like to revisit chemistry in a more relaxed pace.” In response to a favorite part of the job, Jean replied, “My favorite demonstration is the slime. The chemical reaction is safe, fool-proof, and instantaneous, and always amazes people. I would like to see our department progress to using updated technology that will better assist in faculty in teaching and enhance student learning.”

Veronica & Jean in the lab.

Diego, a resident in the lab, is an Argentine Horned Frog, which is also known as a Pacman frog.

Photos by GRC Photography.

Shown here is a female Leopard Gecko that has been residing at the Biology lab for five years.

Diego chilling at home.
The Maintenance and Operations Department, under the supervision of Chuck Bender, will have on display one of the newly-restored ticket booths. Maintenance workers Rob Barattino, Emidio Lopez, and Gregory Correa contributed to this project.

The Student Health Center will be hosting its **FIRST HALLOWEEN HEALTH FAIR & FLU SHOT** event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, October 31st. The theme of this event will be **LEARN THE TRICKS OF TREATING YOUR BODY RIGHT AND SAFE**.

The Student Health Center will also be providing a free course presentation on **Personal Disaster Preparedness Guide** sponsored by the American Red Cross on Halloween Day, October 31st, at 11:30 a.m. (room TBA). A free emergency preparedness kit will be given to those who participate. To sign-up, please contact the Student Health Center at #723-7625.

Congratulations to Dr. Carolyn Arnold who has been elected to the Board of the Research and Planning Group (RP Group) of the California Community Colleges. This important board represents all of California's community colleges.

Chabot College will be hosting the **San Leandro Chamber of Commerce Coffee Connection** on Friday morning, September 7th in the Event Center. San Leandro business leaders, community members, and local movers and shakers will be on campus to tour our new green buildings and classrooms as well as learn more about Chabot College’s state-of-the-art programs and services, and with opening remarks by President Sperling. Chabot staff are invited to stop by the Event Center at 8 a.m. and attend this premiere event. The coffee connection event will coincide with our September 7th Fall Flex Day.

Dental Hygiene Faculty and Staff are proud to announce that for the second year in a row, the Dental Hygiene graduates have scored 100% on their clinical licensure exams! The average pass rate for the statewide and regional exams is 75-80%.

Chabot recently identified that there are 500 veterans on campus taking classes. One way we can assist our veterans is by planning an array of events celebrating and recognizing our veterans during the coming academic year, as well as supporting their academic endeavors through these events and through our programs and services.

A **BIG WELCOME** to Chabot College’s Veterans will be held on **Tuesday, September 18th, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** in the Event Center (Room 722). For more information, please contact Dean Matt Kritscher at mkritscher@chabotcollege.edu.

**VETERAN’S DAY CELEBRATION** is being planned for **Thursday, November 1st, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** in the Event Center. Professor Mark Stephens is available for more details on this great event. Mark can be reached at mstephens@chabotcollege.edu.

A **CELEBRATION HONORING WOMEN VETERANS** will be taking place in the Event Center on **Tuesday, March 12th, starting at 11 a.m.** Dr. Lani Wilson will be the contact person for this celebration, and can give you more details via Email at lwilson@chabotcollege.edu.

A **MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION** will be held on **Thursday, May 9th, 2013, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** in the Event Center. More event information can be obtained from Counselor/Professor Becky Plaza at bplaza@chabotcollege.edu.

The year-long events celebrating Chabot’s Veterans will be presented by the Chabot Veterans’ Task Force, Chabot Admission & Records Office of Veterans’ Services, Chabot Counseling Division, Associated Students of Chabot College, Chabot Student Veterans’ Organization, and Chabot College President’s Office.