

Renegade Roundup



The Power of Music & Opening Day

August 13, 2019

Dear Colleagues:

Hans Christian Andersen, the Danish writer brought us so much joy through his prolific fairy tales like the *Little Match Girl* and *The Little Mermaid*... inspiring stories of victory over adversity. He has been credited with the quote, "Where words fail, music speaks."



Music is a powerful gift, offering an outlet to express profound emotions and messages. It can bring unique comfort, like healing a wounded heart and repairing a broken soul.



There is something very special about making music in community. Singing has a calming effect on the heart, especially when one sings in unison with a larger group. Have you seen the BC choir recently?

It is a beautiful thing when we synchronize our words, harmonize our voices, and share in the beauty of inhaling and exhaling together. Some may argue that harmonized singing is a way to feel as one – a way to create a space in which no one voice is alone.



Music takes us to a safe and magical place. It reminds us that there are things in life worth singing about, worth dancing about, reveling in the shower about, and even crying about. We often connect music to significant moments in our lives as we seek the right words to represent our feelings. At the candle light vigil led by our SGA President Samantha Pulido to honor those who lost their lives in the recent mass shooting incidents, Dr. Nicky Damania talked about the *joy of life...the joy of living*. It struck me that what we do at BC goes beyond training and educating our students for the workforce. We bring the world to our students; we expand our students' minds and hearts so they may see and enjoy the beauty and joy of life. We help them see the richness and fullness in their lives even in times of difficulty and tragedy.

In 2016, Nicky and SGA brought to BC the New Student Convocation. At this event, Dr. Jen Garrett and the BC Choir performed Simon and Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water." The song symbolized to the incoming freshmen that the journey through college might sometimes feel like troubled waters, but that BC staff and faculty are committed to being the bridge they needed to cross safely through those turbulent times – to thrive and to soar in their educational pathways.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IY6ui8guQtk&feature=youtu.be>

At the last KCCD board of Trustees meeting, Trustee Nan Gomez-Heitzeberg spoke to the public about the tragedies that happened in Gilroy, El Paso, and Dayton. She called on us as educators to be a beacon for the community. In a private conversation with me after the Board meeting, she referred to the children's book *The Geranium on the Windowsill Just Died, But Teacher You Went Right on* by Albert Cullum. She said that she was proud of what we do at BC for all of our students, particularly those who are the most vulnerable. She said that in today's turbulent times we must continue to shine brightly for our campus and for our community.

In preparation for the 2019-2020 academic year, BC's 106th year and Gandhi's 150th birth year anniversary, I asked Jen Garrett and the music department if we could make *Bridge Over Troubled Water* our theme song. Of course, you know what Jen Garret said: yes and yes. Jen Garrett - a super powerful 5000 megawatt person who bring so much light and beauty to our campus.

In addition to our student singers, Jen Garret is inviting faculty and staff singers to join her in rehearsal on Monday, August 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. Let us combine our voices to spread the message of hope, light, and love to our campus and our community.

Mark Your Calendar for Opening Day: August 22, 2019

Our annual campus Opening Day will take place on Thursday, August 22, 2019 in the Indoor Theater. Remember, this is the only day of the year that we close the campus to students and the public to ensure that all employees can come together in community to participate in this all-day event. For this year's Opening Day, we have also invited community leaders to address our campus. So let's pack the indoor theater and let's pack the two overflow rooms that Jennifer Serratt has organized for us. This is my seventh Opening Day as president and my seventh State of the College. I cannot be prouder of BC!

We also have two new Vice Presidents and this will be their first Opening Day - well, the first for one in her new role at BC. We have new deans, we have new managers, we have new classified, and we have new faculty. **What better way to welcome them to the Home of the Renegades than a grand Opening Day.** The planning team has been hard at work to make the day special, so show up and engage with your fellow colleagues.

We will start the morning at 7:45 AM with a delicious and healthy breakfast provided by BC's Food Services on the plaza before moving inside the Indoor Theater to kick off the presentations at 8:30 AM. Besides the annual State of the College address and hearing from constituent leaders Tina Johnson, CSEA; Ann Tatum, CCA; Steven Holmes, Academic Senate, and Manny Mourtzanos, Management Association, we should all look forward to hearing from our insightful community panelists.

On BC's Health Equity and Learning initiative, we will hear from Adventist Health's CEO Sharlet Briggs, Dignity Health's CEO Ken Keller, and Centric Health's Physician Partner Dr. Jeet Singh. To share more about our partnership with high schools and its impact in the community, Senator Jean Fuller will be moderating a panel with Barbara Grimm, founder of Grimmway Academy, Aaron Resendez, Superintendent of McFarland Unified School District, and Myka Peck, Principal of Garces High School.

You will hear from our winners of the Margaret Levinson Leadership Award and the Shirley Trembley Teaching Award, Kimberly Nickell, Helen Acosta, and Regina Hukill. We will also hear from Reggie Williams and Susan Pinza about the Levan Center and the Levan Institute.

Our catering team will prepare a delicious lunch as part of our full day of enriching professional development.

We have a closing extravaganza planned. So do stay till the very end.

Following our afternoon presentations, we will break for additional workshops. Please sign up for and attend the two workshops that interest you the most.

Time	Classified Track	Management Track	Wellness Track
3:15-4:15	Manage your Life with Outlook with Todd Coston (CSS 151)	Presentation Skills with Andrea Thorson (Indoor Theater)	Nutrition and You with Leah Carter (Levan Center)
4:30-5:30	Dealing with Difficult People: & Having Hard Conversations: A mindful approach with Stephanie Baltazar (Levan Center)	Manage your Life with Outlook with Todd Coston (CSS 151)	Mindfulness with Bill Moseley (Indoor Theater)

It is an exciting time to be a Renegade. Here's to a great 2019-2020 year at Bakersfield College!

That's all for now.
Until next time.

With much Renegade Pride and Collegiality,

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