

## First Class Graduation

St. Francis Career College-San Jose (SFCC-SJ) celebrated its inaugural commencement ceremony on January 20. Twenty-five students received vocational nursing diplomas after a 15-month intensive curriculum that included 20 hours per week of clinical training at area hospitals. These graduates, many of whom faced significant social and economic obstacles, can now look forward to successful careers where their technical nursing skills are in high demand.

SFCC-SJ was established in 2003 as an extension of St. Francis Career College in Lynwood in direct response to the nursing shortage and through a grant from the Daughters of Charity Foundation.



SFCC Dean, Marilyn Overby, presents Michael Manalastas highest academic honors.

## UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE

Cross-cultural collaboration is a powerful process. St. Francis Career College Associate Dean, Alice Campbell, has first hand experience with this type of cooperation. She traveled to Russia to participate in an international professional and cultural program through People to People Ambassador Programs. The nonprofit organization is a voluntary effort of private citizens promoting international understanding through direct people-to-people contacts established by President Eisenhower in 1961. The 2004 medical conference focused on women's health issues. Ms. Campbell was one among 10 selected women's health professionals from across the country.



SFCC Associate Dean, Alice Campbell, visited sites such as Moscow's world famous St. Basil's Cathedral...

... and toured Russian medical facilities noting differences.



An alternative birthing center at Moscow's Family Planning and Reproductive Center.

## SFMC ENHANCES HEALTHCARE ACCESS

SFMC takes pride in its six satellite medical clinics serving the underserved population of Southeast Los Angeles. One clinic, located at Elizabeth Street School in Cudahy, is a collaboration between Healthy Children, Bright Futures and L.A. Unified School District. The clinic has been successful in providing students and their families needed healthcare, education and social services.

Last month, SFMC assisted 46 families - including 93 children - with enrollment into Healthy Families, Healthy Kids, and the Food Stamp Program; the Children's Counseling Center provided counseling to 63 children and parents; and 112 patients were treated in our clinic.

Beginning the first week of February, four outreach workers will begin a door-to-door campaign to provide information about our comprehensive services to this community.

## PATIENT CARE INSTITUTE DELIVERS NEW NURSES

While a nationwide nursing shortage afflicts the healthcare field, St. Francis Medical Center continues to produce highly qualified and committed RNs. An exceptional group of nurses has recently become part of the elite fleet in Labor and Delivery at St. Francis. After five months of intense specialty training, six RNs have achieved an advanced level of health care expertise through SFMC's Patient Care Institute (PCI).

The PCI was established in response to the statewide shortage of nurses and clinicians. The institute provides comprehensive accelerated training programs to move experienced RNs into urgently needed specialties. The training integrates classroom and clinical coursework taught by top instructors in the field. Four weeks of coursework is followed by a "preceptorship," during which veteran RNs guide students in hands-on patient care. Twelve talented trainers combined with the high volume and capacity of the Family Life Center, create an ideal atmosphere for the nurses to receive comprehensive instruction. The newly trained specialty RNs are able to function in a high risk environment. They are able to handle pregnancies complicated by high blood pressure, diabetes, cesarean sections and preterm labor. Graduating from the program will allow the associates to acquire certification in patient obstetric nursing.



Melissa Mejia volunteered for a year at SFMC before obtaining her position in March 2004 with Information Centers.



After 7 months at SFMC, Daniel Uribe has the skills and expertise to work with Radiology's brand new digital system.

## Volunteering Pays!

In 2004, St. Francis Medical Center hired ten new associates who were introduced to the organization through its vibrant volunteer program. Selected to work in departments ranging from Information Centers to Medical Records, these new associates have successfully demonstrated their dedication to our mission of serving the sick and the poor. It is encouraging to see members of the community turn their spirit of volunteerism into career opportunities. SFMC plans to continue identifying qualified applicants through this accomplished resource pool. For more information call: (310) 900-8574.

## FREE PROSTATE SCREENING

SFMC will hold its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Prostate Cancer Screening on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on the Patient Tower front lawn. Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among American men. An estimated 30,350 American men will lose their lives to prostate cancer this year alone. That's more new cases than any other form of cancer.

**Register for this free life-saving prostate screening today by calling (800) 603-9355.**



## SFMC ASSOCIATES CONTRIBUTE TO TSUNAMI RELIEF

Financial and medical support is flowing into South East Asia and the Daughters of Charity Health System is part of the world-wide effort. SFMC Associates collected over \$6,000. One hundred percent of the donations will go directly to aid victims of the natural disaster.

## CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLYMAN HECTOR DE LA TORRE VISITS SFMC

Newly elected, Assemblyman Hector De La Torre has not hesitated to get involved in the community he represents. De La Torre recently visited St. Francis Medical Center and learned more about the health care concerns facing our community as he toured SFMC's Emergency Department, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Children's Counseling Center and Health Benefits Resource Center. Appointing staff to work directly with SFMC on future planning and programs, De La Torre joins the medical center in its commitment to improve the health and welfare of individuals and families. A South Gate resident himself, De La Torre says, "I am honored that my fellow citizens have put their trust in me as their representative in the Legislature and I take this responsibility very seriously."



Dr. Daniel Higgins (right) explains L.A. county's emergency response system to Assemblyman De La Torre (left) and SFMC Foundation Trustee, Mike Patel.

## CONTRACT COMPLETED COMMITMENT REAFFIRMED

Recently SFMC completed contract negotiations with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 399, which represents associates in our technical positions. The new agreement terms were voted on and accepted by SEIU members last month.

A plan of wage increases and benefit plan enhancements were provided and will help SFMC maintain its competitive position in the Southern California marketplace.

As always, SFMC remains committed to ensuring that all of our associates receive wages and benefits that reflect our commitment to them and their families, and through our shared values, we will continue to provide clinical excellence and compassionate, quality care to the communities we serve.

## PICTURE ARCHIVING COMMUNICATION SYSTEM TECHNOLOGY

PACS is now available "live" at St. Francis Medical Center for the CT, Ultrasound, MRI and Nuclear Medicine departments and General Radiography.

With PACS, MRI, X-ray and CT images are captured and stored with digital (film-less) technology. These images are then permanently stored in PACS, replacing the need for large volumes of film that take up valuable storage space. Radiologists have immediate access to these images for diagnostic interpretation. Moreover, referring physicians can analyze and manipulate the images through a secure Internet connection, whether at the hospital, office or home, providing second and third opinions for complex cases and reducing the need for patients to make multiple trips to their physicians. Benefits of PACS include: immediate access to diagnostic images and reports, anytime, anywhere,



which enables faster diagnosis and improved patient care; more clinical information delivered to the radiologist for accurate diagnosis; improved service to referring physicians with remote access to images and reports; accelerated report generation which speeds turnaround time and increases efficiency; increased productivity and streamlined workflow.



## SFMC Naseau Reading Program

**St. Francis Naseau Reading Program** is a remedial reading program for elementary school students whose reading, spelling and comprehension skills are two or more levels below their current grade level. This forty-six (46) week program provides one-on-one instruction to the participants in classes held after regular school hours. No more than 20 students are in the program at one time, ensuring that a high level of individualized attention is maintained. The program is designed to enable children to dramatically improve their English language and reading skills, thus eliminating a significant obstacle to their development into self-sufficient, productive adults. A special thanks to the individuals and businesses whose donations keep Naseau Reading Program vital and growing!

# la Luz



To contribute to the Naseau Reading Program contact the SFMC Foundation at  
**310-900-7330**



3630 East Imperial Highway  
Lynwood, California 90262