The President’s Corner

Dr. Marty Harris

As the newly appointed president of LABI/LATS it is with great pleasure to welcome you to our first edition of our very own newsletter! I wanted to also share some about my experience prior to joining LABI/LATS. I have a BA in psychology from UC Irvine and M.S., and PhD in clinical psychology from Washington State University. I carried out my professional psychology internship at UCLA and Postdoctoral clinical hours at Cornell. I am a clinical fellow of the American Psychological Association (MFP). I am also a licensed and ordained minister, serving for over a decade, feeding, clothing and providing a message of hope to the homeless and poor in Orange County, CA. I have also served as a professor and university administrator at Vanguard University, Bethany University, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology and more recently at Southern California University of Health Sciences. I am also a registered consultant with the federal government, the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Education, SAMHSA and others. I also serve on the editorial board for the Journal of Psychological Issues in Organizational Culture.

This newsletter/communication vehicle will help reach our beloved students, alumni, faculty and staff across our campus and various extension sites. When I think of LABI/LATS I think of transformative experiences and the impact we make on our communities. Many college institutions prepare students with the tools to make a difference within their communities at some point post-graduation. LABI/LATS students make a difference “today!”

Sharing of this news within this newsletter will also be important.

Our chairman of our board, Dr. John Brito has already shared with me his joy in knowing that this communication piece which will serve as an important adjunct to receiving and disseminating information to and from our LABI/LATS community. Further, this newsletter will allow for sharing of various highlights of progress. These highlights may include information about individual faculty, students, conferences, church experiences/events, employment possibilities, internships, research and scholarship opportunities amongst many others. This newsletter is also an opportunity for students to share ideas, concerns, success and progress within their respective areas. I believe that our LABI/LATS community is innovative in many ways, always progressing, and impacting the communities we serve. This newsletter is another example of the impact we are making right here within our own LABI/LATS family! Whether through teaching, learning, service or volunteering we are making a difference. Finally, I want to pause to congratulate those involved with the inaugural edition and ask that when and wherever possible you contemplate participating in subsequent newsletters.

In His Service,

Dr. Marty Harris
President, LABI/LATS

JOIN US FOR THE INAUGURATION OF OUR 17TH PRESIDENT, DR. MARTY HARRIS
SEE LAST PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS
It is exciting to see the school spirit and tradition continue here at LABI College. The fun activities that are created to capture moments will stay with the LABI students for a lifetime. The Residence staff and Student Government Association (SGA) strive to create wonderful moments that will bond us together forever.

One event in particular helped our first year students have a proper welcoming to LABI College. Our residence staff hosted a bonfire where first years shared testimonies and a good time of fellowship. Following our Apertura service, our SGA staff held an Open Mic. Night. This was a special night where students were able to show their God-given gifts and talents to their new LABI College community. SGA continued to promote school unity and class spirit through fun and exciting activities, for example Spirit Week. Students participated in Spirit Week by dressing up in different attire for each different theme: Twin Tuesday, Way-back Wednesday, Super hero Thursday, and Fit Friday. This was a week of activities that provided opportunities to strengthen friendships within our campus. Also, we decided to continue our tradition of Beach Day at another beautiful beach: Corona Del Mar. Beach Day served as an opportunity for growth and unity for LABI College students. We provided an atmosphere of peaceful fellowship. Our students enjoyed a day of swimming, eating food, playing sports, and s’mores – accompanied with a bonfire and a time of devotion.

On campus, we promote student unity as well. Students are given the opportunity to lead mid-week devotionals, have worship nights and fun activities. It is a tradition here at LABI College to encourage our students and provide for them the best experience. Each of these activities has resulted in a strong student bond that will last for a lifetime.

FALL EVENT SNAP SHOTS

Here are the students that attended the Fall 2014 College Days event and that committed to attend LABI.

The LABI INVASION (evangelism) group held a fantastic community outreach on October 17.

On Saturday, September 6th, the LABI SGA team hosted “Beach Day” at the Corona del Mar beach.

ADMISSION & RECRUITMENT CORNER, ELI VEGA CHIEF ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR

It’s an honor to present to you our current enrollment numbers at LABI College. There are 90 students on campus and 36 students off campus, giving us a total number of 126 students this fall semester.

This year we held our very first “Fall” College Days event and merged it with our annual alumni event on October 23 and 24. This event is designed to recruit new students and to connect with our alumni. We were successful at both, praise God! Over 200 people attended and we received 21 prospective students that declared that LABI College was their next college. The students were able to experience LABI by attending morning prayer, meeting the president/staff, shadowing a class, fellowshipping with each other/alumni, and worshipping as a community at our night service. We also held a film screening of “Expelled” where students and the guests could discussed the aspect of the film through a Christian perspective.

We are confident that this upcoming year will be one to remember with new students coming to LABI and with graduating students embracing their time at LABI. As the close of the year quickly approaches, I want to encourage anyone that is thinking about LABI to call the Admissions office to find out more information about LABI. This is the best place to grow!

BOOK OUR FALL 2014 LABI TOURING TEAM FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT

Meet our wonderful LABI students who are involved with the LABI Touring Team this semester. They travel to different churches and venues proclaiming the goodness of God through music. If you would like for the LABI Touring Team to minister at your church or next event, please contact Roy Rodas, Director of Worship Ministries, at (626) 968-1328.
Our pastoral team is led by our Campus Pastor and Dean of Spiritual Formation, Steve Pinto. The Pastoral House counts with three additional Pastors to serve the spiritual needs of the campus: Roy Rodas, Worship Pastor; Krystal Baca, Women’s Pastor; and Antonio Reyes, Spanish Ministry Pastor.

The pastoral team rounds off with seven interns, Janice Contreras, Carlos Gonzalez, Susie Baron, Anhely Camacho, Marilyn Campos, Jamie Brizuela, and John Lopez. The purpose is to expose students to aspects of pastoral ministry with which they may be unfamiliar and to develop pastoral skills and competencies under the supervision of a mentor.

The Pastoral House has established a seven point Value System (E7) to help keep promote and evaluate the purposefulness of the office.

E1: Equip NexGen - We equip the next generation leaders by providing an educated and experienced staff composed on Pastors, Pastoral Interns, and Student interns.

E2: Encounter God - Our Objective is to encourage every student to spiritual maturity through daily devotionals, small groups and regular chapel and church attendance. The pastoral house provides three weekly bilingual chapels (Tue, Wed, Thurs, 11:10 am -12:30 pm) and three collective devotions (Tue, Wed, Thurs, 7:00 am - 7:30 am) on campus on a weekly basis.

E3: Establish Healthy Relationships - The Pastoral House is dedicated to the spiritual health of our students.

E4: Empower Students for Ministry - To help our students discover, develop, and deploy their gifts, talents, and abilities the Pastoral House has partnered with over 40 local churches in our Mobilization and Practicum program.

E5: Engage in Small Groups - All students are encouraged to join a campus small group. These groups are staff led with five to eight students covering a variety of topics and themes.

E6: Encourage Unity - In everything the Pastoral house does, we are committed to being intentionally bilingual and multicultural. We understand that we are a unique community of Spanish, English, and bilingual speaking students. All of our ministry is committed to welcoming to every person and to view everyone with intrinsic value.

E7: Educate the Spirit Filled Life - The pastoral house teaches four academic practicum courses. The course includes but is not limited to administration of liturgy, church management, conflict management, and personal leadership development. It is a course designed to mentor, support, and instruct students through the challenges of ministry via interactive lectures, class discussion and reflection papers.

Finally, we would like to congratulate our first year student, Karina Davila, who was baptized in our fountain on September 10th.
IMPORTANT ACADEMIC INSIGHT
FROM RUDY ESTRADA, CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

There are so many new things happening at LABI that I am excited to update our community, alumni, and ministry partners—from the installation of new campus wide wifi with hotspots in our classrooms to the exploration of online ebooks with Ebsco, LABI has been developing and charting new areas for growth and educational training. We also know that for many years LABI has offered an Associate degree in Bible and Ministry and a diploma in Biblical Studies. Since we reopened LABI’s on-campus program we have seen a great growth and interest in the school. This last year LABI had a 74% transfer rate into four year colleges and universities with a 67% graduation rate. Many students have come from across the nation to enroll at our college. However, as the needs of our pastors, ministers, alumni, and students will adapt we also believe that our Christian education must also respond in order to be effective in serving the church and world. At the request of the President who has charged me with exploring new programs we have done a preliminary survey with our core faculty and coordinators in order to gather some thoughts for new certificates programs. In January we are planning to launch new programs for LATS that would include 18 unit certificate that could be completed in 6 months on the weekend. This will provide students who cannot come on campus in the traditional model another option toward completing their ministerial training. We are exploring new certificate programs that, for example, may focus on Church Administration, Pastoral Counseling, Media and Ministry, Youth Ministry, or Urban Ministry. New programs and revitalization for LATS is coming soon. In the meanwhile LABI is also going forward with our accreditation and we are hoping to host an evaluation team visit within the coming years. Our June visit was a major success and we are thankful for Dr. Randall Bell’s recommendations to help LABI draw one step closer to accreditation. Within one year we have reduce from 10 action items to 4 items to address.

We have made a tremendous progress within these years and are thankful to God for His grace and guidance. I am honored to serve our students and church in equipping the next generation for ministry.

LIBRARY IS CONTINUING IN INNOVATION
STEVE VALDEZ, LABI LIBRARIAN

Fall semester has started and the LABI Library is off to a great start. Over the summer, LABI College and the Board of Directors approved the installation of a brand new computer lab. The remodeled study room with six newly installed computers within the computer lab has made the LABI Library a great resource center. LABI’s Library is continuing to fulfill its promise in equipping students in lifelong Christian learning. With a brand new computer lab, the LABI Library has also completely ungraded the internet services and its wireless systems. This has enabled our students, as well as faculty, to access all of their study and academic resources online. As we continue forward this fall semester, our online catalog of books continues to grow. Everyday LABI’s library staff continues to enter our current 20,000 volumes into LABI’s online library. And yet we have another 40,000 volumes waiting in storage to be placed in our library. It is amazing how God continues to provide our students and our school with plenty of educational resources. God is good all the time and all the time God is good!

In mid October, we hosted our first “Think Tank” event for the 2014-2015 school year. The “Think Tank” is an event where students and faculty come together to discuss a current topic or book and is analyzed through a Q & A (questions and answers) public forum with a narrator who mediates the event. Our first topic/book was C.S. Lewis’ writing of Mere Christianity, on the first chapter titled, The Law of Human Nature.

Would you like to stay informed? Follow LABI College on facebook.com and/or look us up under the library tab on LABI.edu. Want to volunteer in the library? Helping out in LABI’s Library is a great way to give back to the next generation of spiritual leaders. If you’d like to help out contact me, Steve Valdez at svaldez@labi.edu or call (626) 968-1328 ext. 3008 Get in touch and be informed.
NEW EXCEL (ACCELERATED 6 MONTH CERTIFICATE) PROGRAM TO LAUNCH JANUARY 24TH.

The Executive Center for Education and Leadership (ExCEL) advances a model of professional education that is comprehensive, efficient, and transformative. As an innovative leader in Hispanic Christian higher education since 1926, we seek to improve upon the teaching, learning, delivery, and evaluation of professional competencies across a number of specialized certificate programs. We know that there is an emerging need for urban, Hispanic, and church ministry for the working professional. Responding to this need provides challenges for traditional educational models but a unique opportunity for ExCEL.

On the intimate and urban campus of LABI College in La Puente, CA, easily accessed from all major Southern California freeway venues, we are pleased to launch the new Executive Center for Education and Leadership (ExCEL) program. Our new programs will be delivered in six consecutive courses, offered once a course at a time, each completed within a one month period (four consecutive Saturdays). This platform approach will allow for efficient and effective delivery of a professional certificate program within six months while providing a comprehensive yet innovative and efficient learning experience.

ExCEL provides a unique, professional and accelerated adult-focused model of educational delivery designed to enhance and advance an individual’s purpose, mission and career goals one day a week format. Why wait 9, 12, 18 months or more to finish that professional certificate program, when you can ACCELERATE through ExCEL today!

www.labi.edu/excel
Latin American Theological Seminary

NEW CHALLENGES, NEW GOALS BY JOSE LUIS SAAVEDRA DEAN OF LATS

We continue to be firm in our commitment to form a biblical and Pentecostal community with a superior quality education. This commitment is reflected in the reach that LABI extension has within Hispanic communities where our services are demanded. Because of this, to finish the present year, we have begun a new project of establishing our extension program online, which permits us to amplify our academic offers and reach out to places and people that, for circumstances of access, have not been able to register at a biblical Institute. This way, they continue to be faithful to their calling of being Christian men and women so that they may serve in a local church and around the world. Technological advances can also be used appropriately for divine purposes. May all the glory be given to God because we are at this time committed to Christian education like never before. For that reason is deemed readers, we encourage you to support those in your congregation that have heard the voice of our Father God to contact us and prepare them like approved workers who use the word and truth well. For more information about classes offered in our extension program and via internet, email us at jmuno@labi.edu or jose.saaavedra@labi.edu.

NEW LATS CENTER OF STUDY IN VERACRUZ MEXICO! BY DENIS RIVERA, DEAN OF LATS

With great joy the center study of LATS was established in the city of Veracruz, Mexico. On September 24 we held a meeting with leaders of the District of Veracruz on the premises of John Wycliffe College to confirm the opening of this center. We thank God for the solidarity and support of the executives to develop theological education at this level.

Did you know... LABI College holds applicant status with the Association for Biblical Higher Education. Applicant status is a pre-membership status granted to those institutions that meet the ABHE Conditions of Eligibility and that possess such qualities as may provide a basis for achieving candidate status within four years.
Presidential Inauguration
December 3, 2014
10AM | LABI CHAPEL

NEW LABI STAFF MEMBERS & PROMOTIONS

Priscilla Sanchez has been
promoted from
"Receptionist/Office
Manager" to "Executive
Assistant to the President's
Office." Priscilla has
demonstrated her passion and
care for LABI and in all
things within her role.

Within this new role, Priscilla moves and
speaks, as an extension of the President's
office. In all of her efforts at LABI, Priscilla
has moved and operated with the best interest
of the students, staff, faculty and the President
in mind. If you need to contact Priscilla, you
may e-mail her at Prisanchez@labi.edu, or (626)
968-1328 Ext. 3023.

We are thrilled to
introduce the new LABI
Missionary in
Residence, Rebekah
(Becky) A. Rossi. Becky
will report directly to
Ruben Mora, Chief
Financial Officer. She
has impeccable
credentials, and holds a Master of Divinity
and has an extensive academic
background. She has served on several
missions trips, is also a graduate of
Bethany University, is a great preacher and
teacher. If you need to contact Becky, you
can e-mail her at B Rossi@labi.edu.

We are excited to
introduce a new part-
time LABI
staff member,
Walter Cortez.
Walter will be
responsible for
alumni relations
and marketing/
promoting the new ExCEl
Program. He will report directly to
Jessica Estrada, Chief
Communications Officer. If you
need to contact Walter, you may e-
mail him at Walter.Cortez@labi.edu
or (626) 968-1328 Ext. 3007.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: MERCEDES FERNANDEZ

"LABI College is an amazing school and very near to my heart. I tell you the truth when I say, what makes the school spectacular is the people who work and attend the college! I love the great opportunities that the school has to offer me too. With a willing spirit, you can achieve so much here at LABI College because of the classes, chapel time, dorm life, and friendships made. This is a Bible school that I have learned a lot from and I am so happy that I decided to come here! I now know that God was with me every step of the way when I decided to attend LABI. I am forever grateful to God and those that have help me answer my calling." - Mercedes Fernandez, 1st Year LABI Student

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