



Long Beach City College

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2013

CONTACT:

Ruthie Retana

(562) 938-4004

Long Beach City College Celebrates 85th Anniversary with a Gala Finale

More than 300 Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Students Honor Vikings of the Decade from the 1930s-2000s

Long Beach, CA – Long Beach City College (LBCC) culminated its yearlong celebration of its 85th Anniversary with a Gala Finale on the evening of May 30, 2013. This once-in-a-lifetime event, chaired by the LBCC Foundation, commenced with an outdoor reception displaying college paraphernalia and yearbooks from decades ago, with [The Elm Street Band](#) playing rock and roll songs in front of the Hall of Champions Gymnasium at Long Beach City College (LBCC). Guests then proceeded into the Hall of Champions and enjoyed the Gala Program, which included a live auction led by Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe. Knabe invited guests to make pledges to support students. Overall, more than \$50,000 was raised for student scholarships by the different Gala festivities.

Guests also enjoyed the grandiose 85th birthday cake wheeled in by [Choura Events](#), music by the LBCC Jazz Ensemble, memorabilia, and chocolates from the LBCC Culinary Department and Chef Pierre Jues.

The highlight of the 85th Anniversary Gala was the recognition of 24 “Vikings of the Decade” representing each decade between the 1930s to the present. These outstanding alumni were selected out of close to 70 nominees for their extraordinary Viking spirit, career accomplishments, community service and dedication to LBCC.

The College also acknowledged close to 40 faculty and staff members who made a real difference in the lives of students over the past 85 years, including Former Mayor of Long Beach Beverly O’Neill, LBCC Superintendent-President, Emerita and John Fylpaa, LBCC Dean of Athletics and Student Affairs, Emeritus.

“The 85th Anniversary Gala displayed the evolution of our College while remaining true to its founding mission from 85 years ago,” said LBCC Superintendent-President Eloy Ortiz Oakley. “It was a joy to see LBCC history play out on stage as we recognized Vikings of the Decades from the 1930s to the 2000s for their exemplary leadership and commitment to the community.”

(more)



Long Beach City College

NEWS RELEASE

The “Vikings of the Decade” Winners were:

➤ **Vikings of the Decade – 1930s**

- **Leamel Comparette** enrolled in the second class of Long Beach Junior College that met at Wilson High School in 1928. She graduated in 1930 and transferred to USC. She worked as a classified employee for the Long Beach Unified School District for many years. Her community activities included Long Beach Day Nursery, Long Beach Historical Society and Memorial Children’s Clinic. She has been an enthusiastic supporter of LBCC’s planetarium, and in 2004, she established a scholarship fund for future teachers. Leamel is 103 years old and lives in Placerville, California.
- **Robert Wilson** attended LBCC from 1936-1938 where he played handball and football. After graduating from LBCC, he received his BS from UC Berkeley in 1941 and then served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He went on to a distinguished career, serving as Corporate Vice President of General Electric, President Commercial Products at North American Rockwell, Executive Vice President at Rockwell International, President and CEO at Collins Radio, and Chairman, President and CEO at Memorex. He has served the community as a volunteer for United Way, Salvation Army, Syracuse Hospital Board, Junior Achievement, Silicon Valley Leadership Group, Atherton Civic Interest League and Boy Scouts. Robert was inducted into the LBCC Alumni Hall of Fame in 1986.

➤ **Vikings of the Decade – 1940s**

- **Bob Ellis** attended LBCC before and after serving our country in World War II. He was active in many campus clubs and student activities. Bob has enjoyed an incredible career as teacher and administrator in the Long Beach Unified School District including principalships at Jordan, Poly and Wilson High Schools. He also served as the district’s Assistant Director of Personnel. He has been involved with the California Retired Teachers Association and the Long Beach Fire Museum, providing programs to students from elementary schools in the area. Bob currently serves as a Board Member to our Long Beach City College Foundation.

(more)



Long Beach City College

NEWS RELEASE

- **Freda Kingsbury** was active in student affairs, member of Mahabarata and Kassai, and was Homecoming Princess while attending LBCC. After LBCC, she attended USC where she was active in ZTA. She was selected by Mr. Buffum of Buffum's Department Store to intern in their training program. After becoming a wife and mother, Freda was active in the community serving as PTA president, active in Ebell Juniors, Assistance League of Long Beach, active on the Panhellenic board, supportive of the ZTA chapter at CSULB, president of her P.E.O. chapter multiple times, and wedding hostess for First Methodist Church for more than 20 years. She attends LBCC Senior Center classes at the Pacific Coast Campus and has supported LBCC scholarships for many years.
- **Barbara Zunich** was active in many student affairs activities and served as AWS Secretary before graduating from LBCC. She graduated from CSULB and received her master's degree at CSULA. She served as an administrator for adult education, ROP, and at a Career College. She completed her school administrative career as interim Vice President of Continuing Education at Santiago Canyon College. After semi-retirement, Barbara worked as a freelance writer with a specialization in grants for non-profit organizations. She has served as a Fire Ambassador for Long Beach Fire Department, served on Alumni Board of Directors for CSULB, served as a docent for the Long Beach Art Museum and is currently active in P.E.O. and the Assistance League of Long Beach.

➤ **Vikings of the Decade – 1950s**

- **Grace Carroll** earned her AA Degree from LBCC in 1950. While attending LBCC, she was a Song Leader, a member of "Entre Nous," Treasurer of the Associated Student Body and "Fylke Queen." While raising three children, Grace remained active in the community, serving as President of Long Beach Law Wives for three terms, a member of Long Beach Junior League, a Girl Scout Leader, a Sunday School Teacher, and a Docent at Rancho Los Cerritos. Currently Grace is President of "Footlighters," an auxiliary of Musical Theatre West, and serves on the Musical Theatre West Board of Directors.

(more)



Long Beach City College

NEWS RELEASE

She also volunteers in the office at Grace First Presbyterian Church. Grace lives in Long Beach with her husband, Al Larson, also an alumnus of LBCC.

- **Gary Fox** was active in student affairs at LBCC, served as President of “Thane,” and graduated in 1957. He continued his studies, earning a BS, a Master of Educational Administration and Life Teaching Credential K-12 at CSULB. Gary taught elementary school and served as principal in the Alhambra Unified School District for 27 years. During his tenure, Gary learned sign language in order to communicate directly with a large population of students that were deaf and hard of hearing. After retirement, he served as a supervising teacher at CSULB for student teachers. He was a charter member of the Association of California School Administrators, Region 15, and a Rotarian. Gary served as the first president of the ICT Board and remains involved with fundraising for the ICT Theatre that originated at LBCC in 1985. In addition, Gary helped found a Food Pantry and serves on the pantry’s board.
- **Frances Keys** attended Long Beach schools and graduated from LBCC in 1954. Following graduation, she attended CSULB. While at LBCC, she was an active in the TNT sorority.

She credits LBCC and the teachers for helping her to identify and overcome dyslexia. She then began to accept leadership roles with new confidence. Her involvement with the college spans more than forty years including the time that her husband, Bill, taught at LBCC, and that her three children attended and graduated from the college. She has been an active member and officer of LBCC Faculty Wives Club, including serving as President for two terms. She volunteered for ten years assisting foreign students with the development of etiquette and conversational skills. She remains active in the college’s Senior Program serving on the Senior Associates Board and has championed fundraising activities to fund programs for Senior Adults.

(more)



Long Beach City College

NEWS RELEASE

➤ Vikings of the Decade – 1960s

- **Donna Brandmeyer** received an AA in nursing from LBCC in 1963. She received her BS & MS degrees from CSULA and her Ed.D. from the University of Georgia. While at LBCC, she served as President of Tammuz Sorority and directed Tammuz' first place Spring Sing win. She spent 12 years as Professor and Chair of four associate and baccalaureate Nursing Education Departments. She served three years as a major in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps at Fort Benning, Georgia. Her community activities include service on four Agencies on Aging Councils, five medical missions to Dominica, West Indies and one to Chihuahua, Mexico. She developed a baccalaureate nursing program in Sumatra, Indonesia. She has presented on distance learning and designed a web-based nursing research course. Donna is currently working as a nurse practitioner in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
- **Jeri Carter** received her AA from LBCC, her BA from CSULB and her MA from Azusa Pacific. While at LBCC, she received a Viking Award and the Five Jewel and One Jewel AWS Awards. She was an officer in Kassai and in her TNT Sorority. Hired by her mentor, Dr. Beverly O'Neill, Jeri was an integral force in student life as an advisor at both the Pacific Coast and Liberal Arts Campus for many years. She received the Outstanding Colleague, Outstanding Advisor, Outstanding Club Sponsor and LBCC Star Employee Awards. Her volunteer activities include creating floral/balloon arrangements and decorating for numerous community events and for her church. She recruited and supervised student leaders to make over 33,000 calls which were instrumental in passing Bond Measure E. Jeri also taught Kinesiology and Recreation/Leisure studies at CSULB and now enjoys being a Nana to her grandchildren, Ellie and Dane.
- **John Fylpaa** received his AA from LBCC in 1968 and then transferred to CSULB where he received his BA and MBA. He received his Ed.D. from the University of La Verne in 1988. He taught at Long Beach Poly High School before joining the LBCC faculty where he had a 33-year career

(more)



Long Beach City College

NEWS RELEASE

that included the positions Dean of Student Affairs, Interim VP of Student Services and Dean of Physical Education and Athletics. He retired in 2011 and was recently honored at the 30th Annual Golf Tournament benefiting Viking Athletics. His community activities include President of the Century Club, Vice Chair of the LBS Credit Union Board, LBCC Foundation Board of Governors, Academic Committee of Memorial Healthcare Systems and President of Family Services of Long Beach. He and his wife Dr. Sandra Rittman, volunteer together for Meals on Wheels in Huntington Beach. John has been a devoted Viking for most of the decades of his life.

➤ **Vikings of the Decade – 1970s**

- **Josephine Fitzpatrick** was a re-entry student and the mother of three young children when she attended LBCC. She fondly remembers the encouragement she received from Mark Hannaford and Bob Barger. After LBCC, she attended law school and worked in her own family law practice until her retirement in 2007. She served her community as a judge pro tem and mediator for family law courts, president of the Long Beach Women Lawyers, a provider of legal services to the Long Beach Women's Shelter, and a court-appointed attorney for children. She served as a volunteer for the Weingart-Lakewood YMCA, Metropolitan YMCA, Children's Dental Health Clinic Foundation, Stramski Children's Development Center and Soroptimist of Long Beach. She and her husband have been married for 50+ years. She remains active in her church and she teaches a class on the art of writing personal memoirs for the CSULB Osher Life Long Learning Center.
- **Marty Hartsock's** life-long inclination to volunteer and take a leading role in numerous community and charitable activities blossomed fully during her time at LBCC. Not only was she an active member of Car Amies social service club, she also participated in the college's large and well-known marching band as a baton twirler. Kassai beckoned next and Marty assumed the club's leadership in 1974, while also maintaining an active role in AWS events. After leaving the college Marty began her

(more)



Long Beach City College

NEWS RELEASE

career in banking, and has had a long career including having served as Vice-President/Manager at the Belmont Shore branch of Farmers and Merchants. She has also helped to plan numerous community events and activities, including the annual Belmont Shore Christmas parade.

- **James Poper** enjoyed playing recreational volleyball while attending LBCC. The competition was great, but he also met his future wife, Mary. He has had a very active public career as an architect, businessman, educational planner and administrator. After a decade in private practice as an architect that led to assignments with various community colleges and school districts, he began an administrative career with several school districts and that led to his current position as Director of Facilities with Rio Hondo Community College. Over the years, he has received recognition for his commitment to public service with several administrator of the year awards at the local district level and for Orange County as well. He also is active in community organizations and youth soccer leagues.
- **Naomi Rainey** had already begun a life-long career in education that produced two master's degrees and seven teaching credentials when she decided to follow a family tradition and try a medical career. That led her to LBCC's Nursing Department. Upon finishing her course work, she decided that education was the more effective career for her, and she spent three decades working with several southern California school districts, decades of activism for civil rights, education and cultural diversity, as well as a career as a public speaker. Her work with the NAACP began at age 14 in Mississippi and has included leadership roles at all levels, and a special interest in the arts and education. She serves on many community boards and has received numerous awards for her leadership and vision. In 2010, CSULB re-named a residence hall, the Naomi Rainey House, in recognition of her years of philanthropy and volunteer efforts to support education, civil rights and diversity.

(more)

➤ **Vikings of the Decade – 1980s**

- **Brian Russell** has been a constant supporter of LBCC beginning in 1983 as LBCC Associated Student Body President, LBCC Student Trustee and President of Thane. He received the Viking Award in 1984 and has been honored as a Distinguished Alumni. Brian has a successful career in Commercial Real Estate and is the Vice President at Coldwell Banker Commercial Blair Westmac. He works hard in the community and has been involved as President of L.B. Commercial Real Estate Council, Long Beach Day Nursery Board, Long Beach Boy Scouts executive board member, Board of Governors Los Altos Family YMCA, and is currently serving as Long Beach Rotary Director of New Generations. He continues to be involved at LBCC as a Board of Governor and in 2012 served as chair of the Alumni Hall of Fame Planning Committee.
- **C.C. Sadler** has spent most of her life at LBCC, first as a student and then as a highly regarded and respected educator. While attending LBCC from 1980-1982 she served as ASB Vice President, member of TNT and Kassai. She received the 5 Jewel and Viking Awards. She went on to earn her BA and MA at CSULB. Employed at LBCC for fourteen years, first working for the LBCC Foundation and then Instructional Technology and Distance Learning, she has remained committed to the success of the faculty, staff and students. She is always there to lend her expertise and talents from educational technology to the faculty, voice-overs for multi-media, graphic design, and she enthusiastically supports her students. Outside of LBCC she is a renowned Certified Zentangle Teacher and teaches Zentangle workshops concentrating on Zentangle Inspired Art and integrating the drawn letterform.
- **Janeen Steel** was diagnosed as an adult with severe learning disabilities and overcame them to become a leader in her community. It is thanks to Mr. Mastros, a learning disability specialist at LBCC that Janeen discovered for the first time that she had a learning disability. Appropriate services and support were given to Janeen for the first time, allowing her to reach her potential, including becoming the President of her class while at LBCC and winning several awards, including a writing scholarship.

(more)



Long Beach City College

NEWS RELEASE

Janeen graduated from the UCLA School of Law and went on to a successful career as the Founder/Director of Litigation and Advocacy at Learning Rights Law Center, a non-profit providing free legal services and training to families of children with special needs. Janeen is a tenacious advocate well known in the field who has been recognized for her talents by many entities.

➤ **Vikings of the Decade – 1990s**

- **David Coher** attended LBCC from 1993-1997. During his time at LBCC, he participated in the LBCC Honors program and volunteered for a number of organizations on campus. After transferring to the USC and then going on to earn his law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center, he returned to LBCC to sponsor a scholarship for others who transfer to a four-year university. He currently works as Compliance Manager, Trading & Energy Operations for Southern California Edison. He is a teacher in the El Monte, California District's Street Law program and serves as Fellow of the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum. He serves as Chairman of the State Bar of California's Committee on Group Insurance Programs, leading a team of 15 attorneys who oversee programs generating approximately \$2 million annually for pro bono legal representation in California.
- **Pamela Hale** received her AA in Journalism from LBCC in 1998. She served as editor in chief of the Viking newspaper, writing hard-hitting opinion pieces on important topics affecting LBCC students and employees. Pamela served her country as a brave military member and continued to serve her community as a columnist and religion editor at the Long Beach Press-Telegram. She mentors LBCC students as they begin work at the Press-Telegram. In 2007, she started the Hale-Burns Evangelism Ministries which reaches out to the hurting & broken for Christ. In 2010, Pamela published her first book, "Come Out From Among Them," a compilation of her religion columns.

(more)



Long Beach City College

NEWS RELEASE

She served as grand marshal of the Long Beach Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and was recognized as a Distinguished Alumna by the LBCC Alumni Association.

- **Sara and Mark Neal** met as students at LBCC in the early 1990s. Since then they have faced many challenges – Mark, a member of the LBCC Hall of Champions, played professional basketball in China and Finland before a drastic car accident - but through it all they remained committed to their family, community and LBCC. The parents of three (soon to be four) children, both work at LBCC while volunteering countless hours to their children’s sports organizations (LBYSO, club soccer, track and basketball). Sara also raises funds and organizes donation drives for many causes for children. Mark coached freshman basketball at Jordan high school and now enjoys being a spectator at Mark Jr.’s high school games.

➤ **Vikings of the Decade – 2000s**

- **Alexandra Escobar** was an honors student at LBCC where she was a member of Leaders Across Campus and received philanthropic and scholarship awards. She held leadership positions in Alpha Gamma Sigma honor society, mentored students, and was a member of the LBCC Cross Country team. As a student, she volunteered weekly, feeding the homeless at the Long Beach Rescue Mission. She transferred to Loyola Marymount University where she graduated with a degree in business in 2011. While at LMU, she worked on sea turtle conservancy in Costa Rica and helped poor women in Uganda and Peru start businesses. She is currently teaching University English in the Peace Corps.
- **Samantha Sears** is known for combining athletics and academics. Earning first team All-American, All-State, All-Southern California, and All-South Coast Conference honors in water polo at LBCC, she then went on to become a member of the NCAA Division National Championship and MPSF Championship water polo teams at UCLA. A 4.0 scholar at both LBCC and UCLA with a B.A. in English, she graduated summa cum

(more)



Long Beach City College

NEWS RELEASE

laude from UCLA before attending CSULB, where she again achieved a 4.0 GPA while earning her teaching credentials and Master's Degree in English and physical education. Samantha is currently an English teacher and Athletic Director, water polo and swim coach at Marina High School. She holds the world record as part of an open water relay team for crossing from the mainland to Catalina Island.

- **Blas Villalobos** began his college career at LBCC in 2003. After his discharge from the U. S. Marines, he ensured that his fellow veterans received all of the benefits they earned. While at LBCC, he served a PCC Student Council President and was awarded the Crystal Award for his volunteer work which included hundreds of hours in the Veteran's Affairs Office. Transferring to CSULB, Blas earned a Bachelor's Degree in psychology, and in 2012 he received his Master's Degree from USC. He was named Veteran of the Year for the 54th District in 2010 by then Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal. Blas currently works for U.S. Vets, supervising three community-based programs.

About Long Beach City College

Long Beach City College is one of the largest single college districts in the California Community College System. LBCC is a comprehensive college which provides quality educational programs and related students services to nearly 30,000 students pursuing a wide range of degrees, certificates, transfer and other courses of study. LBCC is recognized throughout California and the nation as a leader in efforts to improve college preparation, access and success through the Long Beach College Promise Partnership, with the Long Beach Unified School District and California State University, Long Beach, and its Promise Pathways initiative. The College has received several important recognitions including: finalist for the 2013 Exemplary CEO/Board Award of Excellence from the American Association of Community Colleges, winner of the 2012 RP Group's Excellence in College Research Award for development of a predictive placement model, recognition by the White House Initiative for Excellence in Hispanic Education in 2010 and recipient of the California Community College Chancellor's Office Student Success Award in 2009.

(more)



Long Beach City College

NEWS RELEASE

About Long Beach City College Foundation

The Long Beach City College Foundation was established as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization in 1978 to provide a vehicle for financial support from the community. Since that time over \$27 million has been raised to provide for scholarships, departmental grants, campus beautification and facilities upgrades. Thousands of students have received funds to pay enrollment fees and buy books. Over \$150,000 has been distributed to campus departments and faculty for program improvements. Over \$1,000,000 has been raised by the Foundation's ten Associate Organizations: Adapted Physical Education, Athletic, Child Development, Emeritus, Fine Arts, Friends of Languages, Health Care, Library/Learning Resources, Pacific Coast Campus/Vocational and Senior Studies.

###