Norco Campus
Riverside Community College District

Inaugural Commencement

Norco, California

6 p.m.

Thursday, June 12, 2008
Program

Musical Presentation ................................................. Pomp and Circumstance

Academic Procession .............................................. Banners, Graduates/Certificate Recipients,
                                                          Academic Senate, Faculty, Administrators,
                                                          Guest Speakers, Board of Trustees, President

Flag Salute ............................................................. Ms. Sharon Oh
                                                      President, Associated Students of Norco Campus

National Anthem ..................................................... Norco Campus Choir
                                                      Directed by Ms. Dina Humble
                                                      Associate Professor, Music

Poetry Reading “Going Free” ....................................... Mr. Michael Cluff
                                                      Associate Professor, English

Opening Remarks ...................................................... Ms. Sharon Oh

Welcome ................................................................. Dr. Gaither Loewenstein
                                                      Vice President, Educational Services

President’s Address .................................................... Dr. Brenda Davis

Academic Speaker ..................................................... Ms. Carol Miter
                                                      Associate Professor, English

Student Speaker ....................................................... Mr. John Paul Perez

Musical Interlude ..................................................... Norco Campus Choir

Presentation of Class .................................................. Dr. Gaither Loewenstein

Acceptance of Class .................................................. Mrs. Janet Green
                                                      Secretary, Board of Trustees

Presentation of Degrees and Certificates ........................ Dr. Gaither Loewenstein

Conferring of Degrees and Certificates ........................... Dr. Brenda Davis
                                                      Mrs. Janet Green
                                                      Mr. Norm Godin

Musical Presentation “Mustang Pride” .............................. Norco Campus Choir

Recessional

To maintain decorum during the Commencement Ceremony, the audience is requested to remain
seated while the diplomas are being awarded and until the academic procession is completed.
Only participants are permitted on the amphitheater floor during the ceremony.
Academic Regalia

Academic ceremonies with gowns, mortarboards, tassels, hoods, and maces are traditions handed down from European universities of the Middle Ages. These first organized institutions of learning originated during the 12th and 13th centuries, generally under the jurisdiction of the church. Robes, hoods, and caps were worn mainly for warmth in unheated buildings by the clerics, monks, and priests who were the first students.

European universities continue to show great diversity in their academic dress. In the United States, as the result of our English heritage, caps and gowns have been used since colonial times by the faculties of some universities and became generally standardized about 1895.

The field of study is indicated by the color of velvet facing (under the chin) of the hood of all master's and doctoral degree holders.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Field of Study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>Arts, Letters, Humanities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drab</td>
<td>Business Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilac</td>
<td>Dentistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Blue</td>
<td>Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antique Gold</td>
<td>Environmental Science and Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Fine Arts, Architecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purple</td>
<td>Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lemon</td>
<td>Library Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Green</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pink</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apricot</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark Blue</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peacock Blue</td>
<td>Public Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmon Pink</td>
<td>Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Yellow</td>
<td>Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bright Pink</td>
<td>Social Psychiatry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citron</td>
<td>Social Welfare</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The title of the degree, not the subject studied, governs the color of the velvet facing: e.g., a Master of Education wears light blue, but a Master of Arts with a major in education, white velvet; a Master of Public Health uses salmon pink velvet, but a Master of Science with a major in public health wears gold.

The Lamp of Learning

Dating from ancient times, the lamp is the symbol of intelligence, learning, wisdom and knowledge.

The first documented reference to the lamp at Riverside Community College appeared in proposed architectural drawings of the Quadrangle by Peter Weber in 1926. The lamp, mounted on three books, was etched over the entrance of the Quadrangle by 1938. Although that arch disappeared during a later renovation, the south arch now bears a representation of the lamp, supported by the words: Wisdom is my Light.
President’s Message

Dr. Brenda Davis

Welcome to our students, families, guests, faculty and staff.

Tonight, we will take part in one of the most historical moments in our history: the first college commencement ceremony held on the Norco Campus. This special evening has been 17 years in the making--years filled with challenges and opportunities, debate and collegiality, practical realities and visionary ideas. Most of all, these years have offered students and our communities a chance to grow, achieve, and succeed.

Tonight, for the first time, our graduates will receive their diplomas at the campus on which they were college students. Congratulations to the Class of 2008. You are the first, lighting the way for all who will follow.
Carol Miter, daughter of Frank Cooke and Carolyn Cooke Sessions, was born in Hollywood, California. She and her older sister were raised by their mother and stepfather, along with their younger half-brother. Her family moved to Corona in the summer of 1963. Carol is married to Tom Miter, pastor of Corona’s West Grand Baptist Church. They have two adult children, three grandchildren, and a great grandson.

After many years away from school, Miter came to RCC as a re-entry student in the spring semester of 1985. She earned her associate degree in June 1987 and transferred to California State University, San Bernardino, with a major in English. After earning her B.A. in 1989, Miter remained at CSUSB to complete the graduate program, earning a M.A. in English Composition in 1991.

Miter’s teaching career began as an adjunct faculty member at the Riverside City Campus of RCC, at Chaffey Community College, and at CSUSB. She joined the faculty of RCC Norco in September, 1991 as one of our first full-time faculty. Miter is a member of the Communications Department and she has been a faculty advisor to the Re-entry Club and to Alpha Gamma Sigma. She has served on the Library Committee, Matriculation Committee, and currently serves on the Strategic Planning Committee, Standard IIA Instructional Programs of the Accreditation Committee, and the Student Success Committee.

Miter has a large body of writing that includes human interest essays, travelogues, memoirs, and poetry. Over the past 12 years, she and her husband have traveled numerous rivers in America as well as the Volga River in Russia. Together they have also pedaled their tandem bicycle from San Francisco to Corona.
In 2003, I moved from my home of 21 years in Los Angeles to my new home in Riverside. At first I was a bit apprehensive to the move – I was afraid of change. I was worried that I would have difficulty making new friends, finding a job, and finishing school. Now I realize that the move to the Inland Empire and the change it brought have helped make me the person I am today, and I am thankful for it.

I started my life at RCC in 2004 and was a part-time student for a while. In 2006, I started taking classes at the Norco Campus. It was here at Norco that I found myself getting more involved in my studies and more interested in school events and groups. I met some great teachers who really helped me find direction and I made some great friends who have supported me through my troubles and cheered me on through my triumphs. I joined the staff of the Norco Campus student-run newspaper, The Norco Voice, in 2006 and served as managing editor for a year in 2007.

After leaving Norco, I will be attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo as a landscape architecture major. After I graduate from San Luis Obispo, I hope to serve in the Peace Corps.

Today I stand on this stage a proud graduate of this great school. I am honored to be the student speaker at Norco’s first graduation ceremony. I credit my success to the wonderful faculty at this campus, to the friends I have made, and to my loving family.

When I look back on the path that led me to this stage today, I am grateful for all the help I have received, for all the mistakes I have made, and for all the things I have learned.

So all that’s left to say is congratulations. Congratulations to the graduating class of 2008!

And remember, “Be yourself. Everyone else is already taken.” –Oscar Wilde
Associate Degree Recipients

Yasir Bahjat Abdelhadi
Seraj Abu-Seraj
Charlene Acosta
Vanessa A. Acosta
James E. Agatep
William Aguinaldo
Wendi Lee Alcazar
Melissa Kay Allen
Karen Lynn Allstun
Jenny Maveth Alvarez
Saundra M. Antonio *
Jennifer Antonucci
Usmaan M. Arshad *
Tryphena Delores Arthur
Alain Alimi Badarou
James Francis Baiz *
Edna Moreno Barbosa **
Yelena Marie Barboza-Giles
Andrew James Barlow
Jessica Marie Barlow
Reynaldo Max Barnes
Kristianne Barron
Richard William Bartlett
Jessica Morgan Beard
Mirian T. Beas
Cheryl L. Beck **
Kelsey Nicole Beckman *
Ruth Ann Bedford
Alison Christine Berry
Lorraine Muriel Berte
Laura Beth Biddle
Theresa Marie Biscal *
Ebony Shelena Bolton
Michelle Annette Bonner **
Susan Lynn Boswell **
Nicholas Augustus Brace
Timothy Joel Broad
Angelica M. Brown
Nicolas A. Brown **
Justina Livia Brox
Stacy Marie Brzozowski
Karla Elyssa Buendia
Mayra Patricia Bueno
Tiffany Anne Bugos *
Jessie Christina Cacao *
Janet Robin Campos *
Kathleen Mary Capilla
Maribel Rara Carbajal
Tiffaney Louise Carel
Kevin Patrick Carlson
Christopher Joe Castro *
Miriela Castro **
Sheryl Lynn Centro
Sonia Cercea **
Karina Cervantes *
Amanda Leann Chapman
Shahzad A. Chaudhry *
Aurora Chavez
Salvador Chavez
Amanda Rosaline Chism *
Abigail Jane Clark
Alison Paige Clark
Damon Jacob Clarke
Jennifer E. Cole *
Besita Patrice Coleman
Reanna Lillian Conenna
Joel Nathan Connell *
Nancy Sophia Contreras
Andrew Francis Coover
Christian O. Cordoba
Velina Crane
Leona Crawford *
Debbie Lee Culver **
Daniel Luna Curiel
Aubrey Davisson Curtis
Kyle Edward DeCasas
Jorge Anise Dickey
Dieu Do
Miranda Antonia Dominguez
Chandra Elaine Donaldson
Jonathan David Dorsey
Cynthia Nadine Du Rousseaux
Jennifer Renee duBois
Celine Renee Eazell
Jacquelyn Colette Edwards
Anna M. Elkins **
Eric Flynn Ellingham *
Michael Enriquez
Amber Rose Ensign *

** Great Distinction – Student has at least a 3.70 overall grade point average.
* Distinction – Student has at least a 3.30 overall grade point average.
Associate Degree Recipients

Ericka Lynn Erickson  
Diana A. Farraj **  
Catrina Jean Figueroa  
Garett Paul Finamore  
Mark James Finch  
Alexandra M. Flores  
Stephanie Pamela Flores  
Robert L. Flores Jr.  
Linda S. Foster *  
Amber Lee Friesmuth  
Frederick Wayne Fuchs *  
Valetta Denise Fulce  
Renee’ Joy Gadut  
Cynthia Garcia  
Eric Garcia  
Kate Jeanette Gatlin *  
Steven Michael Gearhart  
Tyler Adrian Gents  
Eric Thomas Gibby  
Brianna Jane Giboney *  
Jamie Sue Gibson  
Cesar Godinez  
Brandon Kenneth Gohn  
Stephanie Lyn Goins  
Maritza Robles Gomez  
Tracy Elizabeth Gomez  
Erica Leticia Gomez-Rodriguez  
Alexandro Gonzalez  
Christina Gonzalez  
Patricia Lia Gottowski  
Natllely Natibel Green *  
Ashley Elizabeth Grimes  
Ryan C. Grimes  
Vedilia Yvette Guardado  
Alicia Francisca Gutierrez  
Ernesto Gutierrez  
Andres Dominique Guzmán  
Amanda Marie Hafe  
Kristin C. Harris  
Jennifer Lynn Hartley  
Steven Ralph Hartsock  
Marcus Louis Harvey  
Nicole Kay Hasson  
Lee Hausner  
Patrick Price Henry  
Aundraya Michelle Hernandez  
Jodi Nicole Hernandez  
Marlena T. Hernandez  
Claudia Ibet Herrera Gutierrez  
Daniel Charles Herron  
Beverly Hewitt  
Kevin Michael Hicks *  
Lauren Jane Hirata  
Stephanie Marie Hoida  
Michelle Marie Holland-Hernandez  
Ryan Christopher Hudson  
Nafisa Husain **  
Mustafa Hussain *  
Ian Ibbetson **  
Hussain Juair Ibrahim *  
Jason Michael Ilievski  
Jennifer Jacobs  
Tammy G. James *  
Rosario Jimenez  
Rose A. Jimenez  
Yesenia Jimenez  
Andre’ Dwayne Johnson  
Rebecca Joanne Joswiak  
Gloria Kahler  
Franklin Anelu Kahiwalu  
Kathleen Marie Kelley-Trunko  
Rashad Saad Khamis *  
Shams Khoram  
Kristin Ann Kiesler *  
Lailani H. Kings  
Ashley Dawn Kirschmann  
Stephen Scott Krechmery **  
Eugene Clarence Kuehl  
Teresa Lanell Kupis *  
Damaris Lamboy *  
Laura Beth Lampers  
Chelsey Lamphere  
Theresa Ellen Laquian  
Evelyn Lara  
Pablo Larios  
Sophia Thao Le *  
Vu Le  
Bernadette Yvonne Legarreta  
Clara Dorothy Lerma  
Jamal Zakee Lewis

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Associate Degree Recipients

Joshua Daniel Linden
Cory Dean Lindsay Jr.
Jorge Luis Lopez *
Lorena Elizabeth Lopez
Krystle Janine Lowerison *
Frank A. Lozano II
Grace Macias
Charisse Lenore MacKenzie
Olivia MacRae *
Anthony Xavier Magaña
Rosemary Mwelu Maingi
Tara Michelle Malle
Chandice Renee Manley
Eric Jason Marquez
Kristine Marroquin *
Darlene Jeanette Martens *
April Marie Martin
Francisco Martinez
Veronica Lynn Martinez
Paul Tsuneshi Matsumura
Kevin C. McCauley *
Ryan Patrick McColeman
Karina Rubi Medel
Amanda Nicole Medina
Jonathan Alejandro Mejia *
Bryan Andrew Melton **
Diana Mendoza *
Adrian Menedez
Jamie Lynn Milette
Anna Kate Miller
Carla Yvette Miller-Lark
Justin Eugene Mills
Alyssa Nicole Modyman *
Bridgett Marie Molinar *
Kaitlin Jade Moltz
Nicholas Bradley Monge
Mario Morales *
Dustin Paul Murphy *
Lisa Marie Nahin *
Carlos Raphael Naranjo Jr.
Jennifer Lynne Narita
Ashley Lucille Nassar
Jessica Yvette Navarro
Kimberly Ann Neebe
Linda Mae Nielsen

Olivia Novoa
Nicole Ann Nowell
Lanre A. Oguntibeju
Adaeze Rosejane Okonkwo
Jaymie Leilani Olotoa
Diana Christine Orne
Rachel Ortega
Miriam Otero
Michelle Janiece Parker
Benessa Parra
Keith Allen Passic
Constance M. Patton
Karen Elizabeth Payne **
Maria Isabel Peña
Danielle Perez
Evelyn Yvette Perez
Gladys Perez *
John Paul Perez *
Jorge Luis Perez *
Nathaniel Bennett Perez
Ruby Perez
Aaron Anthony Petroff
Matthew Richard Phillips *
Elizabeth Debra Plascencia
Jacqueline Ann Polee-Wicker
Adam Paul Pollock *
Andrew Puente
Genifer Lynn Quarles
Gabriela Ramirez
Juan Ramirez *
Lucia Guadalupe Ramirez
Izabell Noemi Ramos
Paula Lydia Ramos *
Jenna Louise Redlin
Nicole Christine Reed *
Nicole Marie Reed
Laura Anne Regis
Marjorie Fabiola Rendón *
James Andrew Reyes *
Nicholas Thomas Riddick
LaTasha LaNise Robledo
Aaron Rodriguez
Brenda Melany Rodriguez *
Cecilia Antoinette Rodriguez
Mark Daniel Rodriguez **

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Associate Degree Recipients

Mayra Berenice Rodriguez
Rene G. Rodriguez *
Heather Ann Roese **
Tatiana Andrea Rojas
Kourtney Loren Romine *
Nicole Anne Rosales *
Felisha Marie Rossi
Daniel Scott Rozich
Allison Marie Rozzana
Ana Delia Rubalcaba **
Daniel Wylie Ruis
Maria J. Saavedra
Cassandra Marie Sadler
Danny Sanchez Jr.
Cesar Sandoval
Karina Sandoval
Rebeca Victoria Sariñana *
Michael Milad Sayegh
Erich Kurt Schindelbeck
Ashley Nicole Seward
Steven Leslie Shafer Jr.
Elsa Sifuentes
Karinda B. Simmons
Satinder Singh
Devin Montrell Singleton
Bertha M. Solis
Rebecca Sarah Spiegel
Tanya Shoshana Spiegel
Michelle Nicole Stanley *
Alexandria Rose Stern
Chelsea Nichole Stocking
Alyssa Ann Sudds
Griselda Tapia *
Thomas John Tesarek *
Robert D. Thellmann
Candice Lela Thompson
Laura Catherine Tidwell
Nichole Shiesha Timmons
Aymed Ivonne Toledo
Ember Maria Toth
Constance La'Tonia Tucker *
Brian Christopher Urquhart *
Krystal Ann VanVoorhis
Veronica Meki Vaouli *
Aja Angelique Vasquez
Jaime Ruben Vasquez
Maria Vasquez
Sharon Veazie
Jennifer Vu Tran
Kelley Jo Wagner
Michelle Diane Walker
Elisabeth Jolene Watkins *
Tina Lenee Watson *
Joshua Ryan Westbury
Sandra Eugenia Whitley **
Elene Williams
Mark Anthony Williams
Teresa Ann Williamson
Christopher M. Wilson
Sheree Ann Wilson
Bouisha Sharee Winston
Lachele Nicole Wittman *
Elizabeth T. Woodworth
Kayla Jill Young *
Abel David Zamora **
Lauren Monique Zazueta **
Rachelle A. Zehm *
Anjelica Tiffany Zeno **

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* Distinction – Student has at least a 3.30 overall grade point average.
Certificate Recipients

William Aguinaldo
Tryphena D. Arthur
Wilfred M. Asperin
Susan Lynn Boswell
Kevin Patrick Carlson
Diana A. Farraj
Elizabeth Favela
Frederick Wayne Fuchs
Patricia Garcia
Catherine J. Gomez
Ernesto Gutierrez
Jennifer Lynn Hartley
Lori Frances Hicks Coulter
Ian Ibbetson
Jennifer Jacobs
Franklin AneLu Kaihewalu
Laura Beth Lampers
Brenda Jean Lauer
Vu Le
Bernadette Yvonne Legarreta
Kristine Miller
Adrian Molina
Salvador Tenorio Moran
Linda Mae Nielsen
Nicole Ann Nowell
Constance M. Patton
Anna Maria Payne
Edward N. Rehfeld
Kourtney Loren Romine
Leah Ruby
Danny Sanchez Jr.
Cathy J. Schilling
Elsa Sifuentes
Frank Robert Silveira
Melisa Elisabeth Simmons
Griselda Tapia
Erika Lyn Van Holland
Sharon Veazie
Cheryl Watts
Sheree Ann Wilson
Bouisha Sharee Winston
Connie Wong-Fruscella
Norco Faculty and Managers

Aljord, Huda
Instructor, Arabic

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Assistant Professor, Sociology

Aycock, Gregory
Outcomes Assessment Specialist

Bader, Melissa
Instructor, English

Beck, Rex
Assistant Professor, Business Administration

Blayton, Adriene
Health Services Supervisor

Boelman, Peter
Associate Professor, Economics

Brockenbrough, Celia
Associate Professor, Library Services

Brotherton, Catherine
Associate Professor, Computer Information Systems

Burnett, Sarah
Instructor, Early Childhood Studies

Chacon, Rosina
Assistant Professor, Counseling

Chaks, Leslie
DSPS Counselor/Learning Disabilities Specialist

Chung, Elisa
Associate Professor, Mathematics

Clavesilla, Elvia
Early Childhood Education Center Manager

Cluff, Michael
Associate Professor, English

Cordier, Gerald
Assistant Professor, Drafting

Coverdale, John
Associate Professor, Computer Information Systems

Crasnow, Sharon
Associate Professor, Philosophy

Davis, Brenda
President

DeAsis, Mark
Student Services Supervisor

DeGuzman, Joseph
Assistant Professor, Mathematics

Dieckmeyer, Diane
Dean of Instruction

Eckstein, Joseph
Associate Professor, Geography

Elizalde, Andres
Instructor, English

Farrar, Carol
Associate Professor, Psychology

Flick, Arend
Associate Professor, English

Freitas, Siobhan
Assistant Professor, Chemistry

Frewing, Janet
Assistant Professor, Mathematics

Friedrich-Finnern, Teresa
Instructor, Biology

Gamiz, Gabriela
Project Director, Title V

Garcia, Carlos
Associate Professor, Drafting
Godin, Normand  
Vice President, Business Services

Gonzalez, Heather  
Instructor, English

Gray, Alexis  
Instructor, Anthropology

Gutierrez, Monica  
Instructor, Biology

Hill, Jimmie  
Associate Professor, Counseling

Hitchcock, Dominique  
Associate Professor, Spanish

Humble, Dina  
Associate Professor, Music

Johnson, Brian  
Assistant Professor, Mathematics

Kyriakos, Stephany  
Associate Professor, History

Lewis, Mark  
Assistant Professor, Speech Communication

Loewenstein, Gaither  
Vice President, Educational Services

Low, Don  
Interim Dean of Student Services

Makin, Deborah  
Associate Professor, Political Science

Mills, David  
Assistant Professor, English

Miter, Carol  
Associate Professor, English

Monsanto, Steven  
Director Plant/Operations & Maintenance

Moore, Barbara  
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Morrison, James  
Associate Professor, Biology

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Nelson, Lisa  
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Oceguera, Gustavo  
TRIO Director

Olaerts, Ana-Marie  
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Payan, David  
Associate Professor, Counseling

Perhamus, Judy  
Associate Professor, Computer Information Systems

Prior, Robert  
Associate Professor, Mathematics

Ries, Richard  
Instructor, Mathematics

Robles, Andy  
Associate Professor, Mathematics

Salcedo, Fernando  
Associate Professor, Spanish

Scott, Phyllis  
Title V Grant Coordinator

Shirinian, Margarita  
Instructor, ESL
Norco Faculty and Managers

Skiba, Karin
Associate Professor, Art

Sloniger, Mitzi
Associate Professor, Reading

Smith, Deborah
Associate Professor, Mathematics

Sternburg, Charles
Associate Professor, Anatomy/Physiology

Stevens, Walter
Associate Professor, Theater Arts

Synodinos, Dimitrios
Coordinator, Student Activities

Thomas, James
Associate Professor, Construction Technology

Tran, Phu
Instructor, Physics

Tschetter, Sheryl
Associate Professor, English

Van Hulle, Paul
Instructor, Manufacturing Technology

Vega, Daniel
Instructor, Counseling

Wagner, Thomas
Associate Professor, Business Administration

Wales, Edward
Associate Professor, Architecture/Drafting

Wallstrom, Timothy
Associate Professor, Physical Education

Wimer, Beverly
Associate Professor, Physical Education

Worsham, Patricia
Assistant Professor, Business Administration

Zwart, Gail
Assistant Professor, Business Administration
Acknowledgements

A number of individuals contributed to the success of this evening’s inaugural Commencement ceremony. The following persons and departments should be recognized for their time and efforts:

2008 Commencement Committee

Admissions and Records • Edward Alvarez, Mark DeAsis

Associated Students, Norco Campus • Sharon Oh

Barnes & Noble Bookstore • Josh Olsen

College Safety and Police • Officer Shaun Frantz

Disabled Student Program and Services • Keith Coleman, Leona Crawford

Evaluations • Pam Kollar

Facilities • Steve Monsanto, Roxanna Vannatta

Health Services • Adriene Blayton

IMC • Dan Lambros

Norco Choir • Dina Humble

Office of Business Services • Norm Godin, Linda Wright

Office of the Dean of Instruction • Dr. Diane Dieckmeyer, Laurie Hankins, Jefferson Tiangco

Office of Educational Services • Dr. Gaither Loewenstein, Ruth Smith

Office of the President • Dr. Brenda Davis, Debra Creswell

Outreach • Daniela Grecu

Printing and Graphics Center • Deb Ferguson

Public Affairs • Beverly Buckley

Student Activities • Dimitrios Synodinos, Robin Anderson

Student Services • Dr. Don Low, Tricia Hodawanus
Going Free

by Michael Cluff

In this interim,
pausing is just fine
reflections in a mirror
temporary waypoints
between accomplishment and aspiration,
yet to take a breath now
is best here,
before the need to put on
societal shoes and systems
is jumped into
fully-fledged.

Leaving this stage
out of this safe harbor
out into the awaiting
maw of life,
you are now better prepared
for its bites, baiting
and bliss
by what we have done
for you here
how we helped you
push off from these paths,
walkways, lecture halls, labs
at Norco
to move confidently
out into your own.

Going free is what we wish for you tonight.

This voyage is now your own
take it where you want to go.

We will also be journeying with you
our teaching and mentoring
helping you,
we hope,
make each new stride
prouder, insightful,
and inspirational
as we want our words
and wassails of wisdom
to be to you,
and to those to follow you
down this corridor.

This interim is over
take the next
and the next
into your own hands
fill it well,
as we here
let you go,
with regret, regard and remembrances,
sailing free.