

PMU – New Beginnings for 2009-2010

By

Des Rice, Ed.D.

Director of the LRC and Professional Development.

The beginning of a new academic year is always filled with excitement especially for newcomers as well as for those returning. The LRC was humming with activity especially as it became the hub for orientation and training activities. Under the guidance of the Director of Libraries, Dr. Jamil Qureshy, faculty were introduced to the services provided by the library. Dr. Rice, Director of the LRC and Professional Development, gave a session on the background of PMU and where we are today. He also introduced the faculty to the emphasis this year on student retention and the responsibility that rests on each instructor for early identification of those students that might need help. Dr. Husain Ali Al – Sinan, HR Director, talked about HR matters as well as provided insights into an understanding of cultural differences. Mr. Abdulrahman Abdulghani, Supervisor General of Administrative Affairs and Acting Director of Public Relations, clearly explained the way in which the Government Relations Office works closely with the faculty in obtaining official documents. Training sessions were conducted by Ms. Nawal Chennai, LRC training coordinator; Dr. Erika Berner, Director of the ELI and Continuing Education; and Mr. Joseph Harrison, certified Blackboard Instructor. We also had a joint faculty seminar in which Dr. Zlatica Kraljevic, Dean of Institutional Relations, along with Dr. Bruce Wells, a member of our instructional faculty and coordinator of our FATS program, discussed the need and demonstrated the manner in which we can achieve cooperation and understanding between all parties in an academic institution.

With the influx of so many new faculty into each of the colleges, PMU for the first time inaugurated its first Faculty Colloquium at the Half Moon Bay Holiday Inn in which the Rector and Vice Rector for Academic Affairs were able to reflect on the past and share their vision for the future of PMU. Each of the Deans were given the opportunity to introduce the new members of their colleges and departments. The event ended with a scrumptious dinner provided by the Holiday Inn in which faculty had the opportunity of meeting one another.

PMU is maturing as it enters its fourth year of existence. It is truly beginning to look like a university with the opportunities presented with the vast talent and experience to be tapped and utilized for the mutual benefit and ultimate benefit of the students. This is a landmark year in the short history of PMU.