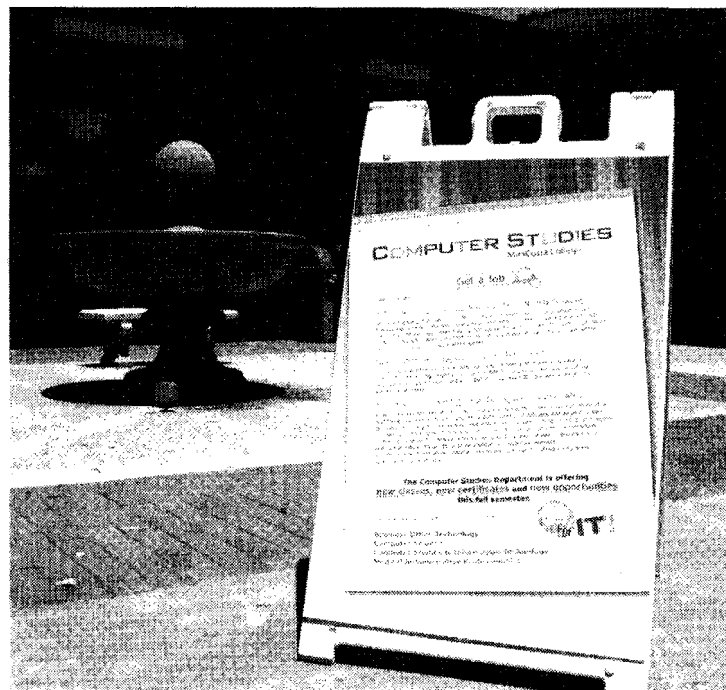# Chariot

Computer Studies Department goes for IT

Photo by Alex Medina

CANDICE WYATT
Editor in Chief

Next semester MCC will launch a revamped Computer Studies Department which contains a new department logo and curriculum that includes new course names, new course offerings and new certificate programs.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, information technology employment is expected to grow 38 percent through 2016, placing it among the top 10 industries with the largest predicted job growth.

"Information technology is one of the fastest changing disciplines on campus. We want to be on the leading edge of that change," stated Steve Isachsen, Computer Studies instructor and head of the Computer Applications Program.

Within the Computer Studies Department are four sub-areas that include business office technology (BOT), computer science (CS), medical administrative professional (MAP), and the new revamp has transitioned the former computer information science (CIS) to computer studies and information technology (CSIT).

"Go for IT!" is the new slogan of the Information Technology (IT) Department, and 23 new CSIT classes are part of this reinvention and are either brand new or revamped. New classes include Google Apps for Business (CSIT 137), Web 2.0 (CSIT 155) which deals with social media and blogging, Computer Studies Portfolio Development (CSIT 195) and Fundamentals of Game Programming (CS 141).

The curriculum of each course has been re-written and all the textbooks have been changed. Hybrid classes are also being offered, which give students the flexibility of an online class, with a one-day-a-week on campus meeting.

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"CSIT 110 remains our core computer competency class. This really is where the industry is at its baseline," stated Isachsen. Fall 2010 will offer 12 sections of CSIT 110.

Along with the classes come seven new degree and certificate programs. Certificates of Proficiency can be completed with as little as nine units and students can become a Microsoft Certified Application Specialist for Business after completing the 12 unit program.

Last month, The Wall Street Journal reported that Google, Intel, Apple and Microsoft all had first quarter sales revenues that jumped as high as 44 percent over the previous quarter. "Google said it hired 786 new employees in the first quarter and was just getting started. Intel expects to hire 1,000 to 2,000 people in 2010, and Cisco Systems Inc. in February said it plans to hire between 2,000 and 3,000 workers," stated the "Tech Sector in Hiring Drive" article.

"We really stepped up and are going to be giving students and working professionals the skills they need in these hard economic times," stated Kathy Striebel, Chair of the Computer Studies Department.

Last Wednesday, Isachsen led an all-counsel meeting that invited MCC faculty and staff members to learn about the new course offerings and ask questions. Thirteen members attended, including Marty Spring, Dean of Counseling, Mike Deaton, Counseling Department Chair, various counseling staff and representatives from the Disabled Students Program, International Students department and EOPS. Also in attendance was special guest Chrissy Murray, an intern from SDSU who works at HP. Isachsen announced that Murray will be teaching at MCC next fall.

"We tore the whole department apart and put it back together. It's the biggest overhaul this department has ever been through. The initial response and feedback has been very positive," said Isachsen.