



# President's Report to the SMCCCD Board of Trustees

President Michael Claire ~ December 6, 2012

## Inside...

Congresswoman Speier Holds Town Hall Meeting at CSM . . . . .	1
CSM Jazz Festival Attracts Top Notch High School Musicians . . . . .	2
Higher Education Leaders from Pakistan Visit CSM . . . . .	3
A Global Celebration . . . . .	3
Volunteer Fair Matches Student with Service Opportunities . . . . .	3
Kudos . . . . .	4
Student Success Story: Gabriel Arteaga . . . . .	5

## Congresswoman Speier Holds Town Hall Meeting at CSM



On November 26, the Associated Students of CSM welcomed Congresswoman **Jackie Speier** to campus for a town hall meeting to discuss the topic of education. Congresswoman Speier opened the meeting with a brief description about her experience in government and the path that led her to Congress. She also highlighted issues she is working on as a member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the House Armed Services Committee. The rest of the meeting was devoted to questions posed by students and faculty about challenges facing education and particularly higher education.

Celebrating **90** years  
1922-2012

College of San Mateo



She addressed the federal student loan program, escalating college costs and legislation relating to higher education. The students also hosted a reception following the meeting during which they presented the Congresswoman with a CSM sweatshirt. The ASCSM Advocacy Board planned the event; the chair of the board, **Therese Salazar**, is a former intern in Congresswoman Speier's office. (Photos: CSM Community Relations and Marketing; Student Life and Leadership)



## CSM Jazz Festival Attracts Top Notch High School Musicians



Some of the Bay Area's most talented high school jazz musicians took center stage in CSM's 16th Annual Jazz Festival held in November. Approximately 400 students from 18 high school big bands participated in this year's event. The festival not only showcased student talent, but it also provided a learning opportunity as students performed and shared musical experiences with one another and learned from nationally-recognized professional jazz musicians and educators. The professionals served as adjudicators offering insightful comments and advice to the students. **Mike Galisatus**, professor of music and the festival coordinator, lined up an impressive panel of adjudicators: **Dave Eshelman**, emeritus professor of music, California State East Bay and well-known jazz composer; **George Stone**, professor of music at Cuesta College; **Dr. Gregory Yasinitsky**, director of the School of Music at Washington State University, an award-winning saxophonist and a CSM alumnus; **Dale Engstrom**, professor of music, Fresno City College; and **Paul Contos**, director of the Monterey Jazz Festival's Education Division. During the event, students and band teachers attended the following clinics and workshop sessions conducted by professional and noted musicians: Jazz Piano by **Frank Sumares**, Jazz Improvisation by **Peck Allmond** and Latin Rhythm Section by the **John Santos Quartet**. One of the highlights of the festival was a performance by special guest artist **Wayne Bergeron**, a "top call" studio trumpeter. (Photo provided by: Mike Galisatus)

## Higher Education Leader from Pakistan Visits CSM



On November 19, the Math/Science Department hosted a visit by an educational leader from Pakistan, **Dr. Nisar Ahmed Siddiqui**, director of the Institute of Business Administration, Sukkur – IBA Sukkur. Dr. Siddiqui’s visit focused on learning about community college education—specifically how our instructors teach and how our students learn—as his institution is interested in establishing a model community college system which could also be expanded to rural areas. After he was welcomed to the college by **President Mike Claire**, Dr. Siddiqui spent the afternoon touring the campus and meeting with faculty and administrators. He visited the Math Resource Center where he met with **Professor of Mathematics Cheryl Gregory**; followed by the Learning Center where **Director Jennifer Mendoza** introduced him to the new internationally certified tutor program; and lastly he was given a comprehensive tour of the Science Building, including the Planetarium and Observatory where he met with **Professors of Astronomy Darryl Stanford and Mohsen Janatpour**. **Dean of Math/Science Charlene Frontiera** coordinated the visit. *(Photo credit: CSM Community Relations and Marketing)*

## A Global Celebration



“Explore Your World” was the theme of CSM’s International Week 2012 celebrated during three days in November. The newly-formed International Club, sponsored a series of events designed to celebrate the benefits of international education and worldwide exchange. The college community participated in the events which featured complimentary foods from around the world; a screening of Shaolin, a Chinese Kung Fu action film; an international knowledge challenge; displays about world languages; and a “world wall” where members of the college community could sign and share messages to the world. CSM currently enrolls 138 international students representing 42 countries. *(Photo credit: Xian Zhao)*

## Volunteer Fair Matches

### Student with Service Opportunities

CSM’s Volunteer Fair brought together representatives of organizations from throughout San Mateo County to provide volunteer opportunities for student to give back to their communities. Students met with representatives from agencies to inquire and sign up as volunteers. While many CSM students volunteered to fulfill class requirements, others did so because they chose to participate in service activities. Organizations that attended the fair included the Sequoia YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs of Northern San Mateo County, South San Francisco Parks and Recreation Department, and Sequoia Hospital Volunteer Services. The fair was sponsored by the ASCSM and the Office of Student Life and Leadership.

## Kudos

~ CSM alum **Armand Brett**, a standout wrestler at CSM in the 1960s, will receive one of American wrestling's highest honors when he is inducted in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma. His nomination is for "Lifetime Service to Wrestling." At CSM, he was named the outstanding wrestler in the NorCal Conference in 1969. From CSM, Brett transferred to CSU Chico where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees and a number of wrestling titles; he also earned a doctorate from University of the Pacific. From 1974-91, Brett served as head wrestling coach at CSU Chico; his teams captured seven conference titles and a NCAA Division II championship. His wrestlers earned 105 Academic All-American awards, the most in the nation in Division II. Brett was a six time conference coach of the year. He is enshrined in California Wrestling Hall of Fame, Chico State Hall of Fame, Chico Sports Hall of Fame. (Photo source: *Chico Enterprise-Record*)



~ The first 2D art exhibit to be held in College Center is currently on display through December 12. The exhibit presents paintings, drawings, mixed media, digital art, and mosaics by art students in CSM's 2D classes taught by **Janet Black, Rebecca Alex, Deborah Rumer, Jim Smyth, Jude Pittman, Noah Buchanan, Susan Matthews** and **Ming Ren**. The display is located on the second floor adjacent to the Learning Center. (Photo provided by: *Kevin Henson*)



~ Several former CSM photography students have their work on display in 'A Group Exhibition of Fine Art Photography' at Avenue 25 Gallery in San Mateo. Among the photographers featured are CSM alumni **Linda Barsotti, David Massolo, Bijan Mottahedeh** and **Mary Scarpetti**. The show is on view through February 4; gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9 am – 5 pm. (Image source: *Avenue 25 Gallery website*)



~ CSM's bulldogs won their seventh Bulldog Bowl, remaining undefeated in the annual postseason game with a 49-20 victory over Sierra College. CSM quarterback **Blake Plattsmier** was offensive player of the game while Bulldog linebacker **Eric Tuipulotu** was selected as defensive player of the game. (Photo credit: *Patrick Nguyen, SM Daily Journal*)



~ CSM's CalWORKS, CARE and Child Development Center and EOPS Club have once again joined forces to make the holidays a little brighter for CSM students and families. The groups are collecting holiday baskets and stockings stuffed with gift certificates for local stories which will be distributed to 30 students and their families during finals week. In conjunction with this activity, the ASCSM/Center for Student Life Holiday Angels Toy Drive is also underway. The mission of Holiday Angels is to collect new, unwrapped toys which will be donated to the children of families enrolled in EOPS, CARE and the Child Development Center.

## Student Success Story: Gabriel Arteaga

### BA, UC Riverside Congressional Aide

What does a college graduate do with a degree in political science? For **Gabriel Arteaga** the answer is to enter the political arena by working for his local congresswoman.

“As a child of El Salvadorian immigrants, I have been given the opportunity to see life through a different lens,” says Gabriel. To witness his parent’s struggle to overcome tremendous hardship while providing for a better life for his family in the United States was motivating for Gabriel. He took the experience and turned it into a passion to help others and become an advocate for families like his own. “Working in politics is a perfect avenue for me to accomplish my goal of helping others.”

Even as a student at Burlingame High School, Gabriel had a social conscience. He was actively involved in student activities that provided leadership opportunities. He became president of La Cultura Latina, a student organization designed to create awareness of Latino/Latina culture, raise funds for student scholarships, and provide a college-prep support group for students and their parents. “I was very involved in high school. Although I wasn’t the world’s greatest student, I was very determined and persistent. I was a B average student, but I never measured my success by how many A’s and B’s I earned, but rather the choices that I made.”

According to Gabriel, one of his most important choices was to attend CSM. However, timing was not good; his family’s business demanded more of his time and Gabriel began to struggle academically. He found college work more challenging and college life very different from high school. Overall, it was a difficult transition. While Gabriel never considered quitting school, he needed support and guidance to navigate the college experience.

CSM’s Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) became something of a lifeline for Gabriel. He recalls, “EOPS was key for my success at CSM. It not only assisted me financially in purchasing textbooks and providing early registration and mentorship, but it gave me a home away from home. My **EOPS Counselor Ruth Turner** helped me to overcome obstacles and introduced me to several programs and services at CSM that assisted me with the transition and, as a result, my grades began to improve,” says Gabriel. The faculty and staff at EOPS treated me like family. They were truly invested in my future success.”



With a supportive network of faculty, staff and resources, Gabriel began to thrive at CSM both academically and personally. “I found that I became focused, determined and motivated. I felt that my professors wanted me to be more than just a better student; their goal was to make me a better critical thinker and a more conscious and active member in our community.”

Building on his student leadership experience from high school, Gabriel became involved in student government at CSM, serving as a student senator, president and co-founder of the Latinos Unidos and chair of the Inter Club Council. “I learned what it took to run a successful campaign, worked with others toward a similar goal and built community as a way to improve the campus. CSM was instrumental in preparing me for a life of service because service is one of the core principles of the college. It prepared me for where I am today – working in politics.” For his service to CSM, Gabriel was honored with the college’s prestigious Allan R. Brown Outstanding Student Service Award.

CSM’s Student Activities Assistant Fauzi Hamadeh recalls Gabriel’s commitment and contribution to the college: “During his time at CSM, Gabriel took the initiative to become an advocate for his community and for all students. He built bridges with the campus community to develop a thriving club that still continues. He truly embodies all the philosophies that we try to instill in our students: community, inclusiveness, engagement, and service. Gabriel’s continued public service is testimony to his leadership, commitment, and personal convictions.”



Gabriel explains the significance of CSM, “I live my life by metaphors related to running and it was CSM that served as the starting block to propel me to greater things in both my academic life and professional career.” Upon completing his lower division requirements at CSM, Gabriel transferred to the UC Riverside where he earned his bachelor’s degree in political science.

Today, Gabriel proudly serves as an aide to Congresswoman Anna Eshoo in her Palo Alto office (California’s 14th Congressional District). He has stayed on course and remained true to his passion for helping others. “Working for one of the most brilliant and hardest working members of Congress is as gratifying as it sounds; the Congresswoman and all my colleagues are an inspiration to me and I continue to be excited and thrilled to learn something new every day. It’s a dream come true for me.”

“I have always known that this is the field I was meant to be in because it allows me to give back directly to the community I serve. CSM definitely helped me reach that goal.”

*(Photo provided by: Gabriel Arteaga)*