



President's Report to the SMCCCD Board of Trustees

President Michael Claire ~ November 16, 2011

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CSM Students Pledge to Complete College Goals



Students in CSM's Beta Xi Eta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society have joined the national education initiative, Commit to Completion, designed to inspire students to complete their education, make the most of their college experience and work to lower the dropout rate.

To launch the project at CSM, students hosted a Commit to Completion event to help students understand the impact of completing their community college education. President Mike Claire provided opening remarks followed by CSM faculty members discussing the importance of education and strategies for overcoming obstacles that prevent students from successfully achieving their educational goals. The event also featured a panel of CSM alumni highlighting their experiences and sharing tips for student success.

A major element of Commit to Completion included a pledge-signing activity in which students recorded their educational goals, promises and dreams on an 8-foot tall by 16 foot wide signing board. The board, designed and constructed by the students, is currently on display outside the College Center where it has been available for signing. At the end of this week, it will be housed in the Learning Center.

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College of San Mateo

One of the student organizers, **Emmeline Wong**, expressed her passion for the project, “There are children in other parts of the world who would give up an arm just to receive education, and it is sad to see students in America, having the capability and plenty of opportunities to reach high, give up on their education. I hope that, with this project, they will be reminded how valuable education is and will be encouraged to make a promise to themselves: Commit to Completion.”

In addition to Wong, other CSM students working on the Commit to Completion project include: **Katherine Mibelli, Caleb Kenney, Matt Schmeackle, Luis Alvarez, Errol Dychiuchay, Monica Dittbern, Meghan Nolan, Bailey Girard, Regina Ramos, Natalya Hart, Luis Sanchtejd, Musette Caldera, Tricia Gardner, Brandon Snyder, Cecile Basnage, Alexis Madayag and Ardavan Moaveni.** Advisors to Phi Theta Kappa include Professor **Jean Mach**, Dean **Henry Villareal** and Associate Professor **Michelle Brown**. Critical support for this project was also provided by **Aaron Schaefer** and **Fauzi Hamadeh** from the Office of Student Life.



According to Professor Mach, “For five months, the students have met weekly to plan collaboratively for this event. They have also devoted hundreds of additional hours to create materials, contact speakers, and attend to numerous necessary details, simply because they want other students at CSM to discover the satisfaction and joy of challenging themselves and achieving their goals.”

Commit to Completion originated in April 2010 when leaders of six national organizations representing the 1,200 community colleges in the U.S. signed The Call to Action, a pledge to increase student completion rates by 50 percent over the next decade. Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society was the only student organization asked to participate. Collectively, the Phi Theta Kappa chapters’ initiative is known as the Community College Commitment Corps. *(Front cover photo credit: Alexis Madayag; Student photo above provided by Emmeline Wong)*

Cosmetology Students Show Award-Winning Style at State Competition



Competing among 55 other schools, CSM’s cosmetology students captured a number of top awards in the 17th Annual Hair Design and Beauty Expo, Nino Faggiano Student Competition. CSM entered two teams in this year’s competition held at the Coconut Grove Ballroom on the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. Students designed hair, makeup, and nails inspired by a Mardi Gras fantasy theme. Students from both of the CSM teams earned top honors.

Team 1 earned first place for Hair and third place for Overall Look
Team participants:

Rebecca Taff - Hair styling
Cherice Breckenridge - Makeup
Tara Brown – Nails
Kristine Gile - Model

Team 2 won first place for Makeup, first place for Best Model and second place for Overall Look

Team participants:

Jessica Miani – Hair Styling
Katy McLalan – Makeup
Desenia Gomez – Nails
Alex Kettler - Model

Preparation began about a month before the competition when the teams started practicing on their models and designing their fantasy looks. *(Photo provided by Maribeck Boosalis)*

Architecture Students Honored with Design Award



A group of CSM architecture students have been honored by Philanthropy By Design for participation in a community-enhancement competition. Philanthropy By Design, a non-Profit organization, provides free design services to local small businesses. CSM students won the award in the Daly City/Pacifica region for their design and implementation in the renovation of Florey's Books, a Pacifica bookstore. The students designed and provided new exterior and interior signage, furniture, decorations and a dedicated seating section for children. The team received a \$500 award for its winning design. Architecture Instructor **George Sun** provided leadership for the student team. Funding was provided by Wells Fargo through Philanthropy by Design. *(Photo provided by George Sun)*

Students Converge on CSM for Journalism Boot Camp

More than 150 high school journalism students from all over the Bay Area participated in the Fifth Annual High School Journalism Boot Camp held at CSM. Journalism Boot Camp provided an opportunity for aspiring journalists to attend workshop sessions about various aspects of the media industry facilitated by professional journalists, photographers and editors. Professor R. B. Brenner from Stanford University was the keynote speaker; he addressed the changing media and encouraged students to pursue careers in media and journalism. The San Francisco Peninsula Press Club and College of San Mateo's Journalism Department co-hosted the event.

New Interns Introduced

The college recently hosted a reception to welcome its new student services interns. Eight interns are providing support services to Psychological Services and Career Services. This year's interns are: **Annie Hemmelsbach, Kali Dewald, Melissa Risso, Hathryn Hadjasi, Travis Woodmansee, Candice Yu Simon, Marie Lam and Joyhn Eckstein.**

Kudos

~ Congratulations to CSM basketball player **Clarissa Mendoza** for being selected as one of the top 5 Academic All-State female student athletes for 2011-12. Clarissa earned a 4.0 grade point average; she plays guard for the lady bulldogs. *(Photo source: CSM basketball website)*



~ Director of the Learning Center **Jennifer Mendoza** was a presenter at the Research and Planning Group, 2011 Strengthening Student Success Conference: Emerging Issues in Assessment and Learning. The conference provided a unique opportunity for a wide cross-section of California community college professionals to discuss strategies for building institutional effectiveness and student learning. As a former network coordinator for the California Community Colleges' Success Network, Jennifer facilitated a discussion at the pre-conference session on institutional and pedagogical strategies that increase student achievement.

Additionally, as an Umoja Governing Board member and former Umoja coordinator, Jennifer presented a workshop that showcased intentional strategies from instructors and counselors who learn about the lives and stories of their students to inform and vitalize the learning experience between faculty and students. Umoja Community students call this process "dual commitment". This process actively serves and promotes student success for all students through a curriculum and pedagogy responsive to the cultural and educational experiences of African American and other students. *(Photo credit: CSM Community Relations and Marketing)*



~ KCBS sports director and anchorman and CSM alum **Hal Ramey** was honored by the Bay Area Radio Hall of Fame as a 2011 inductee. Ramey has been covering Bay Area sports since 1969 when he began as a writer for Lon Simmons at KSFO. Prior to that, he assisted the CSM Sports Information Office and Junior College Athletic Bureau in compiling statistical reports for the news media. This past September, Ramey returned to the college to serve as the master of ceremonies for CSM's inaugural Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony.

~ CSM's basketball team recently hosted a California Community College "Super Scrimmage vs. Cancer." Sixteen four- and two-year college women's basketball teams participated in the all-day scrimmage. All of the proceeds were donated to the American Cancer Society.



Photo: Hansel Vargas-Machuca

~ Throughout the month of October, the Classified Staff Planning Committee held a fund raising event for student scholarships by selling raffle tickets for highly prized "employee parking spaces of the month." In addition to the monthly parking spaces, there was a number of other prizes, donated by local merchants. This year's drawing netted \$662, approximately 20 percent more than last year's total. Staff members **Kathy McEachron**, **Dean Drumheller**, **Annie Mitchell**, **Mario Mihelcic** and **Nick Dellaporta** volunteered their time for the fund raiser.

~ Throughout the month of October, **Jude Pittman**, professor of art, had an exhibit of her work at an art show at Cañada College's Main Theater Gallery.

~ **Adrienne Etherton**, an administrator with Sustainable San Mateo County, is an alum of CSM's electronics program. Etherton completed the Solar Fundamentals class as preparation for the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners certification test. She holds a B.S. in industrial engineering from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Upcoming Performances & Special Events

The college is hosting an array of special events, many featuring live performances, at very low or no cost to the community.

~ CSM's 15th Annual Jazz Festival will be held on Friday, November 18 from 8 am – 6 pm in the Theatre. The festival features 18 of the top local and Bay Area high school jazz ensembles which will perform throughout the day. There will be a free noon concert with CSM's Monday Night Big Band featuring guest artist **Tom Scott**. Admission is free.

~ On November 30 at 7 pm, CSM's Music Department presents an Electronic Music Concert showcasing a variety of original student works. Students will perform selections that include hip hop, electronica, smooth jazz, rock, pop and classical. The concert will be held in the Theatre; the cost is \$5.

~ CSM's Symphonic Band will perform its annual winter concert on December 1 at 7:30 pm in the Theatre. Special guests include members of the Carlmont High School Symphonic Band. There is a \$5 admission fee.

~ The next Jazz Under the Stars event will be held on Saturday, December 3 from 7–10 pm on the rooftop observatory, Science Building. Admission is free.

~ On Sunday, December 4, CSM's Music Department will co-sponsor the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra Family Concert #1 from 12–1:30 pm in the Theatre. Registration is required; admission is free.

~ CSM's jazz ensembles will perform in concert on Monday, December 5 at 7:30 pm in the Theatre. The evening will feature three CSM big bands performing the music of Dave Holland, Fred Sturm and Thad Jones. Admission is \$5.

~ CSM ethnic studies instructor **Rudy Ramirez** will present World Beat Groove on Wednesday, December 7 from 7–9 pm in the Theatre. The event will include a presentation on the history, philosophy and protagonists of this relatively new genre of music; there will be performances by The Rhythm Shakerz and Zanzibar and a special appearance by a belly dancer. Suggested donation is \$5.

~ On Friday, December 9, students and faculty from CSM's dance classes, dance club and Performance Dance Ensemble will perform two dance concerts, at 1 pm and 7:30 pm in the Theatre.



Student Success Story: Justin Hoffmann

UC Berkeley, political economy major

From real estate to business to recreation administration and finally to political economy: that's the journey that CSM student **Justin Hoffmann** has followed in his pursuit of a major. While at CSM, he was exposed to experiences and opportunities that inspired him to choose a major which would prepare him to help people in some of the most underdeveloped areas of the world.

When he graduated from San Mateo High School in 2008, Justin received the "Most Changed Senior Award," which he admits aptly described his high school experience. "I didn't do well my first few years of high school because I lacked perspective about the future, but in my senior year, I turned it around." He was also the recipient of a CSM scholarship which provided an incentive to attend the college. As a first generation college student, he didn't know what to expect when he arrived on campus, but he recognized that he was given an exceptional opportunity.

Justin found his instructors and the staff to be "wonderful resources" that were eager to see students grow. "I had incredible professors, especially **Professor of Philosophy Dave Danielson** – he challenged me, exposed me to new ideas and outlooks, and most importantly, introduced me to the beauty of philosophy." As he began to consider universities, Justin became acquainted with CSM's Transfer Services and its coordinator **Mike Mitchell**. "Mike Mitchell is everything you could want in a transfer specialist." Initially, he planned on transferring to a CSU campus; however, after being encouraged by his counselor, **Joseph Tobener**, Justin set his sights on attending UC Berkeley.

As he adjusted to college life and learned what CSM had to offer, Justin joined the college's honor societies: Phi Theta Kappa and Alpha Gamma Sigma, and he became involved in student government as a student senator. He also served as a student ambassador in CSM's outreach program, working as a liaison between the college and his alma mater, San Mateo High.

Justin participated in two internships that proved pivotal in his ultimate career choice. Through connections made in his marketing class, Justin took part in a local internship with, "Shopping for a Change," a non-profit that partners with small organizations from underdeveloped nations, empowering local women artisans to move from poverty to self-sufficiency through an international market and fair trade practices. His next internship, with the world renowned, Nobel Peace Prize awarded Grameen Bank, took him around the world to Dhaka, Bangladesh. As an intern for Grameen, he visited rural villages, inspected micro-enterprises initiated by female microloan recipients and learned of the impact made by Grameen's sister companies.



To share the fruits of his community college journey, Justin is writing a book for transfer-bound students that focuses on "becoming holistically successful and transferring to top universities." Reflecting on his CSM experience he offers the following advice: "Develop proper habits, along with your critical thinking, writing, and speaking skills; be proactive about understanding and meeting every single university requirement; undertake interesting endeavors related to your major; and most importantly, meticulously understand why your educational goals are of utmost importance at this point in your life."

During his two years at CSM, Justin made the dean's list every semester and was awarded several scholarships that helped to pay for the next step: UC Berkeley, where he transferred to in fall 2011 as a political economy major. His career goal is to work for an international development agency and direct the flow of development aid to maximize its social and economic impact within developing countries. Not bad for a student who had a rocky start in high school!

"I would not have been successful if I didn't attend CSM. Every experience attained here allowed me to learn, wonder and challenge not only myself, but the status quo. From a global point of view, CSM has given me the comparatively rare opportunity of having a chance to transfer to one of the best universities in America. From the beginning, I understood how lucky I was to have such an opportunity, and ensured that I would take full advantage of it." (Photo credit: CSM Community Relations and Marketing)

