



# President's Report to the SMCCCD Board of Trustees

President Michael Claire ~ May 15, 2013

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## Kathy Chaika Receives Classified Employee of the Year Award

**Kathy Chaika**, senior accounting technician in CSM's Payroll Office, is one of six employees statewide to be honored by the Board of Governors for California Community Colleges and the Foundation for California Community Colleges with a Classified Employee of the Year Award. The award honors community college classified employees who demonstrate the highest level of commitment to professionalism and community colleges. Each recipient receives a \$500 cash award and a commemorative plaque.



During her 30-years with CSM, Kathy has been very involved with CSEA leadership, having served as chapter president, second vice president, union steward for the College and District, and chief negotiator; she was founding member of the Labor/Management Committee. In addition to her union work locally, she has been very active with CSEA at the State level. She has also served on numerous college committees, including College Council and the Classified Events Committee. She currently serves on the President's Council and Budget Planning Committee, and over the years, she has participated in numerous ad hoc committees to help improve the operations of the college and district.



(photos: Charles Jones)

Kathy works with students during moments of crisis and her primary concern is always what is best for students. According to President Mike Claire, "Kathy is always willing to lend a helping hand, both in her work and personal life." She is active in her community, having served as team mom for numerous sports teams. She and her family have opened their home to troubled youth who had no other options.



## A Celebration of Achievement through Scholarship

On May 3, the college honored 288 students with scholarship awards at the 2013 Scholarship Awards Reception. According to the Financial Aid Office, scholarships were awarded to 244 CSM students and 44 high school students; collectively, they received 394 scholarship awards totaling \$231,668. A crowd of more than 425 attended the celebration, which for the first time, was held in the Bayview Dining Room. The ceremony began with remarks by President **Mike Claire**, Academic Senate President **James Carranza** and ASCSM President **Paige Kupperberg**; Vice President **Jennifer Hughes** individually recognized the many donors who made the scholarships possible and members of CSM's Scholarship Committee and its subcommittee. Mike Claire and Jennifer Hughes presented the awards to each of the scholarship recipients. With many of the donors in the audience, the event provided the opportunity for student honorees to meet with the donors who contributed to their scholarships. The



(photo: Luis Carranza)

Foundation provided the opportunity for students, donors and families to take memorable keepsake photos for free. The event was organized by **Karen Chadwick**, **Jennifer Hughes**, **Claudia Menjivar**, **Dennis Tordesillas** and **Henry Villareal**; volunteer assistance was provided by staff from many departments and student ambassadors.

## CSM Marks 6 Years of Free-Tax Service to the Community



2013 VITA class (photo: Donna Marcus)

In partnership with the IRS and United Way of the Bay Area, CSM sponsors a VITA (Voluntary Income Tax Preparation) site where students enrolled in Accounting 175 prepare and e-file free federal and state tax returns for students and the public. The first site opened in 2008 with the preparation of about 100 returns. In 2013, 21 students enrolled in the class prepared 393 tax returns over eight Saturdays. They were assisted by 10 experienced volunteers who answered questions and reviewed every return that was completed. The returns generated \$478,000 in refunds to the

community. Of the refunds, \$129,000 was Earned Income Credit (EIC) provided to low-income clients.

In addition to the on-campus preparation, free internet self-preparation was made possible by United Way. Through CSM's advertising of the site, about 50 people prepared and e-filed their own returns for free. The operation of the VITA site at CSM was made possible by a generous grant of \$12,000 from United Way of the Bay Area. (This article was contributed by Donna Marcus, coordinator of VITA and an adjunct instructor in accounting.)

## Mosaic Mural Celebrating the Physical Sciences Dedicated in Central Hall

On Friday, April 26, faculty, staff, administrators, and students gathered in the lobby of Building 16 (Central Hall) to dedicate the mosaic mural “Desperately Seeking Space: Ode to the Realms of Science.” The mural, constructed of glass, was designed and created to celebrate the physical sciences by the students in Professor **Jude Pittman**’s Mosaic Mural II class from 2010. Three of the student-artists were able to attend the ceremony (pictured with Jude Pittman in front of their beautiful work—**Devyani Jackson**, **Lawan Jackson**, and **Gail Strack**). Dedication tiles will be mounted on a wood plaque and attached to the wall near the mural over the summer. Attendees included Jude’s former dean, Linda Avelar as well as many of Jude’s friends, colleagues, and family.

Jude retired from the CSM faculty after many years of teaching (part-time and full-time) in December of 2012. Over the years, Jude and her students also completed other mosaic murals around campus and the Bay Area, including a mural in Building 1 and at the entrance to Samaritan House in San Mateo. The dedication ceremony was followed by a celebratory retirement luncheon for Jude in Foster City. *(This article was contributed by Kevin Henson, dean of Creative Arts and Social Science.)*



From left: Devyani Jackson, Lawan Jackson, Gail Strack and Jude Pittman  
*(photo: Kevin Henson)*

## More than 200 Participate in CSM’s Human Rights Day

For the third Semi-Annual Human Rights Day on April 18th, CSM students literally took center stage to build awareness about global human rights, manifesting their passion, their knowledge, and their outrage in a day of activism, music, and theater in the Bayview Dining Room. “I now feel I am part of something greater--a community in pursuit of justice,” wrote student **Dee Dee Pickard**, an AGS member, and a participant in the day’s events. More than 200 activists, the members of the Human Rights Committee of AGS, the students of **Allison Herman**’s, **Tim Maxwell**’s, and **Jeremy Wallace**’s English 100 sections, and the Puente Project. Poster presentations ranged from the exploitation of sex slaves to the right to education in Germany, and stage presentations included the dire situation of orphans in Russia, the execution of teens in Yemen, and the human rights abuses of Mexican citizens at the hands of the government and the cartels. Finally, a new arrangement of John Lennon’s “Imagine” was both a demonstration of outrage and a celebration of the Universal



*(photo: Rory Ward)*

Declaration of Human Rights. Join us for the next Human Rights Day this fall!

View a YouTube clip of the event: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3LS5QzamgA>

*(This article was contributed by Professor of English Tim Maxwell)*

## Update on CalTeach Program

“Students in CSM’s CalTeach Program are making a vital contribution to California’s future,” says Professor of Biology **Kathy Diamond**, a co-coordinator of the program. Seven CalTeach students are completing the Bio/Phys 126/128 courses this semester and two students will be “graduating” from the program, having completed all three semesters of the program (representing K-5, middle school and high school). According to Diamond, “It is one of our most successful semesters in terms of student investment in their mentors’ classrooms and seminar meetings.” CSM’s CalTeach program began in fall 2008 and since that time, 50 students have completed one or more courses in the program. In addition to Diamond, her colleague, Professor of Physics and Astronomy **Mohsen Janatpour**, helped to establish the program and serves as co-coordinator.

Each student is matched with a mentor teacher and assists in the classroom with his/her mentor for 15 hours (K-5, middle school) or 30 hours

(high school). Mentors are enthusiastic about CalTeach and give our students valuable experience and inspiration. They attend the first class meeting, offering an inside look at teaching. Some former CalTeach students plan to pursue K-12 teaching careers. Others realize the importance and challenges of teaching and are strongly supportive of education in the community.

*About the Program: CalTeach arose as a partnership between California’s universities, K-12 schools, government and industry leaders to address the state’s serious need for mathematics and science teachers. The Aurora project established CalTeach programs at community colleges.*



(photo: Kathy Diamond)

## College Honors Asian Pacific Islander Heritage



(photo provided by Lews Kawahara)

In celebration of Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May, the college hosted several special activities including the 4th annual Asian Pacific American Film Festival with screenings of *Jake Shimabukuro: Life on Four Strings*; *Among B-boys*; *The Untold Story: Internment of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i*; and *Blossoms & Thorns: A Community Uprooted*. **Lewis Kawahara**, adjunct assistant professor of ethnic studies, coordinated the festival. Encore screenings of these films were sponsored by the Office of Student Life

for members of the college community who were unable to attend the festival. Other events included a presentation by Eddy Zheng on “Asian Pacific Islanders & the Prison Industrial Complex,” Filipino Day, Polynesian dance performances, Chinese lion dancing and traditional foods of each of the cultures.



Eddy Zheng speaks to CSM students (photo: Tami Hom)

## CSM Pilates Club Hosts 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Pilates Day

As part of National Pilates Day, CSM's Precisely Pilates Club presented the First Annual Pilates Day. This all-day event featured classes and workshops taught by guest Pilates instructors. Participants received a good value for a donation of \$20 for a full day of activities.



(photo: Pilates Day flier)

## Students “Get Linked” with Employers

CSM's annual Get Linked Career and Internship Fair provided a variety of opportunities for students seeking summer jobs and internships. Thirty employers representing accounting, sales and other paraprofessional fields were on campus to meet individually with students and discuss career opportunities in their respective companies. Students who attended found the fair to be a good chance to learn how to present themselves to employers and practice networking. Prior to the event, the Career Center assisted students in developing resumes and preparing to meet employers at the fair. Career Counselor **Eileen O'Brien** coordinated the event.



(photos: CSM Community Relations and Marketing)

## Library Adds More Makerspace Events

The Library's Makerspace activities in April were so well received by students, faculty and staff, that additional events have been added for the month of May. New and returning workshops include:

“Telescopes, Lenses and Optics” in which participants learn to make and operate their own telescope in the Astronomy Lab and led by Professor **Mohsen Janatpour**;

“Express Your Inner Poet” a fun poetry writing workshop led by English instructor, poet and author **Autumn Newman**;



(photo: CSM Library staff)

“Create Your Own Terrarium” hosted by Professor **Matt Leddy**; and

“A Demonstration of 3-D Printing Using the Maker Bot” presented by the **Engineering Club**.

## Kudos

~ **CSM's Jazz Ensemble**, under the direction of Professor of Music **Mike Galisatus**, competed in the Reno Jazz Festival. Going into the competition, the Ensemble was ranked among the top ten collegiate bands, which included university and community college groups from California, Washington, Oregon and Wyoming. CSM finished in 4th place, receiving “superior” rankings and outscoring numerous universities in the process. This honor is a major success for any group, but especially meaningful for CSM's Jazz Ensemble which was newly formed this year.

~ CSM student **Joy Marcus** (pictured at right) has already accomplished a great deal in her 71 years. Now, she just wants a college degree—something she was not able to pursue until recently. To help her achieve her latest goal, she has been awarded CSM's Bonnie Chastain Memorial Scholarship for Women in Broadcasting for 2013-2014. The \$3,000 memorial scholarship was established to honor Bonnie Chastain, a pioneer in Bay Area broadcasting and graduate of CSM's class of 1972.

Joy had to leave home at 18, then worked full time and raised a family. Now she's ready to make some waves in broadcast journalism! “I believe that broadcast journalism in the United States is in need of a robust upgrade,” says Joy. Her plan is to use digital media to tell the stories of other seniors. CSM is proud to support Joy's passion to bring attention to issues surrounding aging and add the voices of seniors to the media landscape. Congratulations Joy! (This article was contributed by Associate Professor Michelle Brown)

~ The work of **student artists** in Digital Printing and Mixed Media classes was exhibited earlier this month in a show held in the Theater Lobby. The exhibit highlights student skills in Photoshop, design, drawing, painting, collage, printmaking, photography and digital print techniques.

~ Double Play: CSM shortstop **Brandon DeFazio** was named Coast Golden Gate Most Valuable Player and signed a scholarship letter with University of San Diego. He led the team in virtually every hitting category –371 average, five home runs, 20 doubles, 38 RBIs, 36 runs and a perfect 14 for 14 steals.



Joy Marcus (photo provided by Michelle Brown)

~ CSM's top-ranked **softball team** (pictured below) swept its California Community College Athletic Association women's softball regional series with Feather River College. CSM is one of three Coast Conference teams that will compete in the upcoming super regional tournament. The Lady Bulldogs record as of this writing is 38-4. In addition, CSM's 27-game winning pitcher **Michele Pilster** was the named State Co-Pitcher of the Year and catcher **Jamie Navarro** was named State Co-Player of the Year.

~ CSM's **swim team** capped off its season at the Coast Conference Championships with an impressive haul of medals. **Miya Oto**, who finished the regular season undefeated, took home gold medals for the 100- and 200-meter freestyle and as part of the 200-medley relay team. The college owned the breaststroke as **Alvaro Andaluz** and **Kellsey Mercado** both won gold. Both the men's' and women's' teams captured bronze medals for the 400-freestyle.



(photo: CSM softball website)

## Upcoming Events

### CSM Spring Electronic Music Concert

Thursday, May 15, 7 pm, Theatre

### Track & Field State Finals

Friday & Saturday, May 17 & 18, 2-day event, CSM Track

### Classified Staff Appreciation Day Breakfast

Tuesday, May 21, 8:45–11 am, College Heights Conference Room

### Yoga Alliance 200 Hour Teacher Training Graduation

Tuesday, May 21, 12 pm; Theatre

### Stepping Up: A Transfer Tribute

Thursday, May 23, 4–7 pm, Bayview Dining Room

### CSM Commencement

Friday, May 24, 5 pm, Gymnasium

### Jazz on the Hill & CSM Open House

Saturday, June 1, Concert: 10 am – 6pm,

Open House: 11 am – 2 pm

### CSM Presents at the San Mateo County Fair

Wednesday, June 12 & Saturday, June 1



## Student Success Story: Grace Noland

### San Francisco State University, Communications Major

For **Grace Noland**, a graduate of Mercy High School in Burlingame, attending CSM was an enhancing and transforming experience. She arrived at the college as a determined and independent student uncertain of what she wanted to pursue academically, but she had confidence that she would be able to figure it out at CSM. “I wanted to start over. I wanted my successful past—that had been successful because of my dedicated parents and supportive teachers and coaches—to be put to the test. I wanted to prove to myself that I could do it alone. And, I wanted my supporters to be proud that they had contributed to my success.”

Grace could have done it alone but she believes that it wouldn't have made her personal or academic life as interesting. She was working full time to pay for her education and participating in a few extra-curricular activities, but she wasn't completely satisfied. It was during her second semester at CSM that her perspective changed completely. “I met a girl in my philosophy class, who is now one my best friends, and she was adamant about me showing up at an Alpha Gamma Sigma\* (AGS) meeting. Having tried clubs in high school I tried putting it off for as long as I could, but when I finally attended, I thought it was okay. As I continued to attend meetings, I became more comfortable and realized that I had skills that could help the club.” As she got more involved in AGS, Grace decided to volunteer for a position on the club's executive board, that of communications officer. With the position came a lot of work, organization and fun, and ultimately, her skills helped build a stronger club.

While college life was good, Grace decided to pursue her childhood dream of visiting and studying in Italy. She knew she had wanted to participate in the college's Study Abroad Program and applied for the Semester in Florence. While in Florence, Grace was able to take a full load of transferrable courses and travel throughout Italy. “Most of the organized trips were the perfect length and the right amount of structure and freedom. Italy was a life-changing experience but not for the romanticized reasons most people think. I found myself contemplating my next step. Where was I going? What should my next steps be?”

When Grace returned to the states, she was at a crossroads: her family, health, and finances were hurting. However, she realized that CSM was there for her once again. Faculty helped her believe in her potential both in the classroom and



*(photo provided by Grace Noland)*

beyond. She was also asked to become a student assistant for a faculty leadership group which she found interesting because it provided insight into how the college operates. Working on campus added a new dimension to her education. “I feel that I'm a stronger and more confident person, both academically and personally because of the friends I've made at CSM and the support I received from faculty and staff.”

Grace will be earning two associate in arts degrees and three certificates in spring 2013 and she now has a clear path to follow: “I was inspired by Professor Rope's Speech 100 class to become a communications major. I will be transferring in the fall to San Francisco State University. I decided I want to stay local, and by doing so, it allows me to work to pay for my education. My goal is for the rest of my education to be as stress-free and fulfilling as possible. While I've not decided on a particular career, I want to keep my options open. I just know that I like helping people.”

“I would recommend CSM to anyone; it is wonderful for all types of people. It's a nurturing place where students are received with open arms and the best intentions. It's what you contribute that will follow you the rest of your academic career and life.”

\*Alpha Gamma Sigma is the California Community Honor Scholarship Society.