



President’s Report to the SMCCCD Board of Trustees

President Michael Claire ~ July 24, 2013

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Students’ Success Story

Melissa Aliu, U.C. Santa Cruz, Major: Sociology

Sione “Fehoko” Fanaika, Louisiana State University, Major: Sociology

Cousins **Melissa Aliu** and **Fehoko Fanaika** come from a close-knit Pacific Islander family that greatly values a college education. Sacramento native and high school football player, Fehoko made the move to the Bay Area to be closer to his extended family and continue his football career at CSM. He lived with Melissa’s family in South San Francisco and the two cousins found themselves attending CSM at the same time. As fellow students, they provided each other with motivation to work hard and inspiration to reach their respective goals.



After graduating from El Camino High School, Melissa attended another community college for a year but she realized it wasn’t the right place for her. “I decided to enroll at CSM and although I didn’t know anyone at the college, I was better able to focus on academics.” At CSM, opportunities began to open up for Melissa. She adapted quickly as she got to know faculty and staff and made new friends. “I appreciate the diversity of the campus; it made me feel more comfortable,” says Melissa. Making connections with faculty was another benefit for Melissa. “My ethnic studies professors **Frederick Gaines** and **Rudy Ramirez** and my English professor **Jon Kitamura** were especially inspiring.

She became involved in student life by joining the Pacific Islander Club and participating in events that celebrate the culture. Melissa also worked as a student assistant in the Financial Aid Office conducting workshops and as a student



ambassador assisting the college's marketing department with outreach activities. Her work experience at CSM provided the opportunity to work with people from different backgrounds and cultures. Melissa explains, "I could understand the struggles that students go through, and, to best assist them, I became knowledgeable about appropriate resources that I could refer them to."

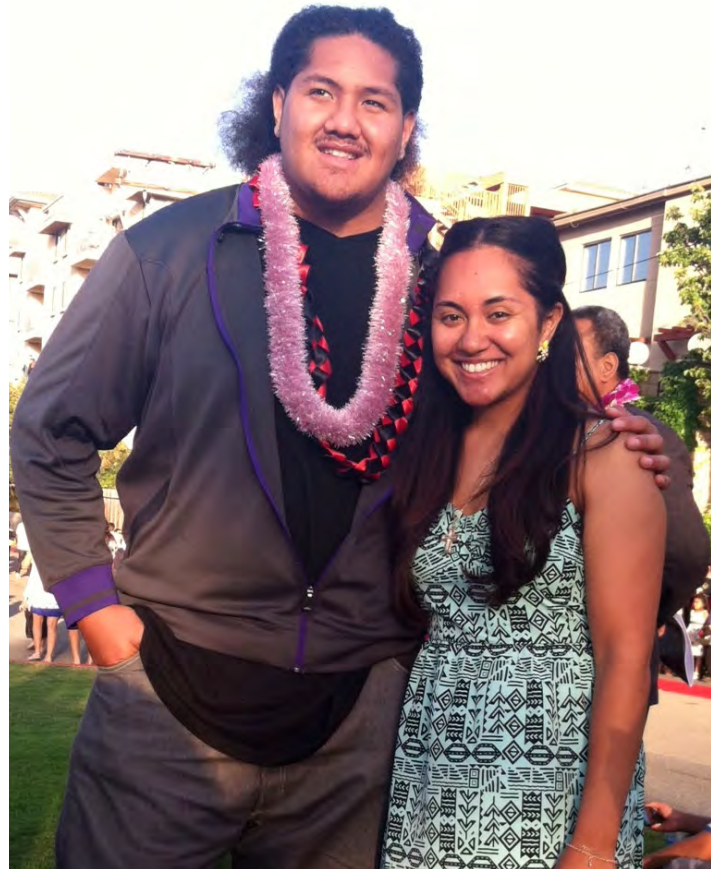
Melissa's overall involvement at CSM—through academics, extra-curricular activities and work experience—played an important role in her decision of a career path. "Since attending CSM, my life has changed for the better. I realized that I can apply my CSM experience to a career: I've decided to become a counselor and work with high school students in their transition to college," says Melissa.

In spring 2013, Melissa became the first in her immediate family to become a college graduate and did it in a big way: she earned *three* associate degrees from CSM. She also was the recipient of the prestigious UC Santa Cruz Karl S. Pister Leadership Opportunity Award. This two-year scholarship is awarded to outstanding community college transfer students who are nominated by college presidents. Melissa will transfer to UC Santa Cruz in fall 2013 to study sociology.

For Fehoko, attending CSM was a welcome opportunity for multiple reasons, as he describes, "CSM is known for having a very successful football program. It was a perfect place get a great education and to meet good people from all over the Bay Area. The camaraderie I experienced with my teammates through athletics and academics will have a lasting impact – my 'CSM brothers' are like family to me."

As a student-athlete, Fehoko gives credit to his coaches and professors for supporting and encouraging him to succeed in and out of the classroom. "**Coach Bret Pollack** and the other coaches helped me become stronger academically, physically and mentally. I also appreciated my professors who pushed me to do my best and develop strong study habits that would help me when I transferred. English Professor **Teeka James** and Math Instructor **Monsour Kalantar** gave a great deal of their time to help me understand the material in their classes. I am thankful to them for what they did for me."

Another person who provided motivation to Fehoko was his cousin Melissa. "She was the definition of hard work: she held three jobs and was enrolled as a full-time student. Melissa was a role model for me and encouraged me to do well in classes so that I could transfer to a university. She gets credit for keeping me on track."



Photos courtesy of Melissa Aliu

After two standout seasons as a guard and offensive lineman for the CSM bulldogs, Fehoko earned his associate degree from CSM and received a full-ride scholarship to play football for Louisiana State University, one of the finest football programs in the nation. Fehoko has the distinction of being the first football player in LSU history of Tongan heritage. In addition to finishing college, Fehoko hopes to play in the NFL and eventually he would like to have a career in which he can give back to his community.

Attending CSM with Fehoko also had an impact on Melissa, "Fehoko is a very optimistic person and his optimism kept me motivated. His success in football hasn't changed him. For all he has accomplished, Fehoko has remained humble and appreciative of where he is now and how he got there. I find that inspiring!"

Even though Melissa and Fehoko are attending universities thousands of miles apart, they will continue to motivate and inspire one another. Melissa explains, "Since Fehoko has moved to LSU, we have become pen pals—it's a more meaningful way to communicate because we can keep the letters and re-read them when we get homesick. And it's a good way to share our college experiences."



Photos by Alexis Madayag

CSM Hosts Valor Games

The Valor Games Far West, a three-day event, held the second of three days of competition at CSM on June 12. More than 100 disabled and wounded military veterans participated in the inaugural event that is open to any veteran with a disability who is eligible for health care through the Veterans Administration. The Valor Games started in Chicago in 2011 as a way to get disabled veterans and service members involved in paralympic sport clubs and activities and connected with community resources in their area. In addition to CSM, competitions were also held at Candlestick Park and Leo Ryan Memorial Park in Foster City.



CSM Reaches Out to Community at the County Fair

Continuing the tradition, CSM participated in the San Mateo County Fair held earlier this summer. CSM created a large presence for two days during the fair's June run with help from approximately 40 college staff and student ambassadors, a cast of student musicians, dancers and cosmetologists and the loyal Bulldog. The college showcased talented student entertainment on both days for fairgoers to enjoy. It was a wonderful opportunity for CSM students to perform for a live audience.

Adjacent to the stage, CSM hosted information tables staffed by college employees and students meeting the public and handing out college materials, giveaways, drawing prizes and candy. The CSM bulldog was on hand to greet and take photos with fair goers. College programs participating this year included electronics, reading, astronomy, dance, financial aid, cosmetology, counseling, and the Veterans Resource Center. Special thanks to the Community Relations and Marketing Department for coordinating CSM's participation.



Photos by David McLain



Athletes Reunite to Celebrate 50 Years of Aquatics



Photo courtesy of Rich Donner

A reunion of more than 60 CSM water polo, swimming & diving alumni was held in CSM's Bayview Dining Room this past June. The event, organized by **Rich Donner**, retired water polo, swimming and diving coach, commemorated the 50th anniversary of the college's first water polo team on the College Heights campus. Donner, proudly welcomed "home", his former CSM student athletes.

Kudos



Photo courtesy of Alex Guiriba

~ **Alex Guiriba**, college recruiter in Community Relations and Marketing Department, is a new graduate of the Leadership Program. As part of the program, participants are required to collaborate on a community issue and engagement group project. Alex and his group focused on the issue of childhood poverty in San Mateo County and partnered with THRIVE to create an awareness about resources available in schools, public agencies, churches and community centers. The Leadership Program is sponsored by the San Mateo Area Chamber of Commerce, Foster City Chamber of Commerce, Burlingame Chamber of Commerce, and the Town of Hillsborough.

~ **Andreas Wolf** (pictured at right), dean of kinesiology, athletics, and dance at CSM, recently completed serving as 1st vice president of the California Community College Athletic Directors Association; in that role, he coordinated the association's yearly convention which was held this past June. As of July 1, Andreas began a one-year term as president of the organization.



~ Bulldog pitcher **Zac Grotz** (pictured at left) has signed with the University of Tennessee where he will continue his education and baseball career. Grotz, a graduate of Burlingame High School, transitioned from reliever to starting pitcher in his two seasons at CSM. Last year, he posted a 2.24 ERA with a 7-3 record.

~ CSM offensive tackle **Dominick Jackson** (pictured below right), considered to be the nation's No. 1 overall junior college prospect, has flipped his verbal commitment from UCLA to University of Alabama. The 6-foot-6, 310 pound prospect is expected to be an instant-impact player for the Crimson Tide. Jackson was the focus of an intense recruiting battle that included 9 other universities: Arizona State, Florida, Kansas, Missouri, Oregon, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, USC and Washington.



Photo courtesy of 247Sports

~ CSM's **football program** continues to have great success with university transfers. Recently, six more transfers have signed with universities offering athletic scholarships, bringing the current total for the year to 26.

- Matt Vinal** University of Nevada-Las Vegas
- Aaron Criswell** University of Nevada-Las Vegas
- Sione Maile** University of Idaho
- Michael Worthen** Clark Atlanta Univeristy
- Shai Kobayashi** Arkansas Tech University
- Chris DeeJay** Weber State

~ Two former CSM baseball players were selected in this year's Major League Baseball Draft. **Clint Terry**, left handed pitcher (CSM/Lee University) was selected in the 18th round (542 overall) by the Milwaukee Brewers and **Justin Maffei**, outfielder (CSM/ University of San Francisco) was selected in the 25th round (749 overall) by the Pittsburg Pirates.



Clint Terry (photo courtesy of CSM Baseball)



Justin Maffei (photo courtesy of USF Baseball)



From left to right: Coach Larry Owens, Coach Mike Nolan, Coach Tim Tulloch, Coach Omari Green (photo courtesy of Andreas Wolf)

~ Assistant Head Football Coach **Tim Tulloch** and his defensive staff—**Larry Owens**, **Omari Green** and **Hanson Sekona**—were invited to visit University of Georgia, University Alabama, and the Atlanta Falcons to meet with their respective coaching staffs. CSM's coaches received an opportunity to sit in on their coaches meetings and were afforded the opportunity to engage with their coaches

individually. The CSM coaches met with Mark Richt (University of Georgia), Nick Saban (University of Alabama), and Mike Nolan (Atlanta Falcons). The behind the scenes look was a unique professional development opportunity with coaches that are at the top of their professions and will ultimately benefit the CSM football program and our student-athletes. *(Article contributed by Andreas Wolf)*