



President's Report to the SMCCCD Board of Trustees

President Michael Claire ~ September 25, 2013

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Reading Apprenticeship Program Focuses on Student Success



Photo by Sarah Lowe

During CSM's August Flex Day, 36 faculty, staff, and administrators met for two and a half hours to learn about the Reading Apprenticeship Program, a strategic literacy initiative that improves discipline-specific literacy by embedding reading instruction into classes, labs and tutoring sessions. Participants learned about Reading Apprenticeship routines as they explored their own reading processes and developed ideas for incorporating Reading Apprenticeship Program principles into their own practice.

The aim of CSM's Reading Apprenticeship Program, based on models by the California Community College Success Network (3CSN) and WestEd's Strategic Literacy Initiative, is to give CSM students multiple exposures to the Reading Apprenticeship strategies through a variety of avenues. These avenues include discipline-specific courses, labs and learning centers, and student tutoring sessions and student workshops. Randomized controlled studies of the impact of the program on students have shown Reading Apprenticeship exposure leads to gains in literacy and content knowledge, as well as gains in motivation and academic identity. *(continued on next page)*



The workshop was presented by CSM’s Center for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Facilitators included biology professors **Theresa Martin** and **Kathy Diamond**, **Learning Center Director Jennifer Mendoza**, and **Dean of Math/**

Science Charlene Frontiera. Participants were encouraged to join inquiry groups to support their ongoing development of Reading Apprenticeship routines and strategies. *(Article contributed by Theresa Martin)*

CSM Baseball Program’s Winning Formula for Transfers

The CSM baseball team’s 2013 transfer class achieved a new record: 17 of 18 sophomores transferred and were awarded 14 scholarship totaling \$243,000. (The 18th sophomore, Joe Armstrong, will transfer at the end of fall 2013.) The universities represented 11 division-one schools.

According to **Head Baseball Coach Doug Williams**, the program’s success is based on “commitment and focus on creating and cultivating intrinsic motivation....as it pertains to academics, baseball and life within an individual and team concept.” **Assistant Coach Brett Thomas** was very instrumental in facilitating the process for this year’s transfer students.



College of San Mateo
BASEBALL

2013 College of San Mateo Transfers

Joe Armstrong	Lewis-Clark State	NAIA	\$28,000
Ryan Atlas	University of San Francisco	NCAA Division I	\$0
Jarrett Costa	UC Santa Barbara	NCAA Division I	\$0
Trevin Craig	Missouri Baptist	NAIA	\$14,000
Brandon DeFazio	University of San Diego	NCAA Division I	\$25,000
Zac Grotz	University of Tennessee	NCAA Division I	\$30,000
Andrew Herrera	Sterling College	NAIA	\$40,000
Cooper Johnson	Missouri Baptist	NAIA	\$14,000
Gavin Long	Eastern New Mexico St	NCAA Division II	\$1,500
Luke McCreesh	North Carolina A & T	NCAA Division I	\$7,000
Ryan O’Malley	Florida Gulf Coast	NCAA Division I	\$25,000
Alex Palsha	Sacramento State	NCAA Division I	\$10,000
DJ Sharabi	San Jose State	NCAA Division I	\$0
Ben Straka	Corbin University	NAIA	\$22,000
Parker Swindell	UNC Asheville	NCAA Division I	\$7,500
Preston Tarter	San Francisco State	NCAA Division II	\$0
Logan Trowbridge	Cal State Bakersfield	NCAA Division I	\$14,000
Jeff VonMoser	Albany University	NCAA Division I	\$15,000
Total Scholarship Awards			\$243,000

Fire Science Program Top Ranked for Return on Investment



CSM's Fire Science Program has been ranked as number five in the country by FireScience.org (Fire Science Online) in the organization's list of 90 Fire Science Degree Programs That Really Pay Off. According to FireScience.org, graduates from these colleges and universities who become fire service professionals can expect annual incomes five times the cost of one year of school. Matt Davis, Managing Director of Fire Science Online, explains the value of the list, 'With the cost of college a concern for many students and their families, it's important for students to find a school that produces successful, well-paid graduates. Therefore, it's equally

important to recognize the colleges and universities that offer both quality and affordable post-secondary fire science education options."

There are nearly 900 colleges in the nation that offer fire science programs; this list recognizes those institutions with significantly lower-than-average tuition rates in states where firefighters are paid very well. (CSM's annual tuition is listed as \$624.) Fire Science Online is a not-for profit organization that provides free information about fire science, firefighting and other first responder education and careers.

Fair Provides a Connection for Success

To assist students get connected early with the right support services and resources, the Office of Counseling, Advising and Matriculation and the ASCSM co-sponsored the Student Connections Fair. The fair included a variety of workshops designed to improve student success: preparing for transfer,

developing a student educational plan, choosing a major, exploring careers and balancing work and play. Students also had the opportunity to speak one-on-one with college representatives from support services and resources.

Transfer Day Draws a Huge Crowd



Photos by Alexis Madayag

By all accounts, Transfer Day 2013 was an overwhelming success. According to **Mike Mitchell**, program services coordinator of Transfer Services, approximately 1,000 students attended, which topped last year's numbers, and the participation by students was non-stop from the beginning to the end of the event. University participation was also extremely high with 60 institutions attending from UC and CSU campuses and private and out-of-state colleges and universities. Many university representatives remained on campus long after the event to personally answer the large number of student questions. A UC Admissions/Application/ Personal Statement Workshop was held in the afternoon and was attended by more than 55 students; it too went longer than scheduled due to the volume of student interest. Students remained after the workshop for answers to individual admissions/application questions.



Student Ambassadors Attend Retreat

On Tuesday, August 13, the student ambassadors at CSM held their first annual retreat at Beresford Park in San Mateo. The day consisted of service training and team building activities. **Kelsey Harrison**, former lead ambassador, served as the keynote speaker. She highlighted her experience and what the program means to CSM and the community. New and continuing ambassadors learned much about each other and of the expectations and responsibilities that come with the position. Student ambassadors for 2013-14 are **Jason Dutton**, **Jasmine Flores**, **Estela Garcia**, **Eleni Jacobson**, **Sarah Lowe**, **Janelle Raymundo**, **Mario Rossetti** and **Michael Ryan**. (Article contributed by Alex Guiriba)



Photo by Kelsey Harrison

Makerspace Projects Inspire Creativity

Back by popular demand, the Library is continuing to offer makerspace events throughout the year. Upcoming sessions include making a geodesic dome out of soda straws led by CSM's **Architecture Club** (9/6); turning old shopping bag into a unique stitch-bound blank book, co-hosted by CSM Library staff and a student (9/17); making a paper Halloween Lantern (10/30) and creating a "sestina" by CSM instructor **Autumn Newman** (10/30).

College Hosts "Tapestry of Well Being" Conference

The CSM Cares Project recently held its fall conference, "The Tapestry of Well Being: The Fabric of Inclusion in Mental Health," for faculty, staff and students. The two-day event included a lineup of impressive speakers who addressed a number of mental health topics, a CSM faculty panel discussion on best practices for working with diverse students and doing so with holistic approaches, improvisational theatre and free food and live music.

Yogis Converge at CSM



Photo provided by Open Heart Yoga

In early September, the college was the site of the Open Heart Yoga Conference providing an opportunity for yogis and educators from throughout the Bay Area to connect with others in the yoga community. The conference featured classes, presentations and music sessions from 8 am through 9:30 pm. CSM's **Instructor of Kinesiology, Athletics and Dance Denaya Dailey** served as one of the conference leaders.

A Welcoming Start to the Semester



Operation Welcome Mat helped in launching a smooth start to the new academic year. Faculty and staff volunteers and student ambassadors were stationed at key locations on campus to help both day and evening students navigate the campus during the first week of classes. The Bulldog was also on hand to welcome students back to school. The Community Relations and Marketing Department coordinated the effort.

Coach Williams Reunited with Player at Yankee Stadium



Photo provided by Doug Williams

CSM Baseball Coach **Doug Williams** found that he had great timing while in New York recently; it so happened that the Boston Red Sox were also in town to play their rival, the Yankees. Doug made contact with Red Sox leftfielder and **CSM alum Daniel Nava** and the two met on the field for a photo op. Nava is thriving in his first season as an everyday player in the majors. With a batting average at or near .300 for most of the season, Nava has contributed to the Sox's first place standing in the American League East Division. Watch for him in the post-season!

Emergency Preparedness Involves Campuswide Effort

As part of CSM's ongoing emergency preparedness program, the college held safety meetings in September to provide faculty and staff with updated information about emergency procedures. Meetings were also held with key staff to prepare for the Great Shake Out drill schedule for October 17th. In addition, CSM's Safety Committee has developed an Emergency Preparedness website with comprehensive safety information, collegeofsanmateo.edu/emergency.

Former Bulldogs Become Rivals In MLB and NFL

In the past week, two former CSM baseball players competed against each other when the Baltimore Orioles played the Boston Red Sox. **Scott Feldman**, a pitcher with Orioles faced **Daniel Nava**, a left fielder with the Sox. Baltimore won 3-2; Feldman pitched 5 innings but missed out on getting a win.



Photo courtesy of Bryan Faulds

In football, CSM alum **Julian Edelman**, currently in his fifth year as wide receiver with the New England Patriots, played against another former bulldog, **Rahsaan Vaughn**, a wide receiver with the New York Jets in his rookie year in the NFL. The Patriots prevailed 10-3.

Kudos

~ Three CSM Honors Program students who participated in the 2013 Bay Honors Research Symposium held at Stanford University were recently notified that their research papers have been published on Think You?!, the online Journal of the Bay Area Honors Consortium. The students, their projects and faculty mentors:

Jenoah Timko "For Better or Worse: Questioning Marriage from a Queer Perspective" (Faculty Mentors: David Laderman & Minu Mathur)

Melody Mayer "Torn Apart: The Struggle for Reunification in Mixed-Status Families" (Faculty mentors: David Laderman & Minu Mathur)

Rupinder Pal Singh "Undocumented Workers in the U.S. Economy" (Faculty Mentors: Mohsen Janatpour and Steven Lehigh)

~ CSM's **Dental Assisting Program** has received accreditation status of "approval without reporting requirements" by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). This status represents the highest level of accreditation classification granted by CODA.

~ **Professor of Kinesiology and Track and Field Coach Joe Mangan** has been named California Community College track and field coach of the year by the CCC Cross Country and Track and Field Coaches Association. Joe served as the meet director of the 2013 State Track and Field Championships held at CSM in May as



well as for the State championships in 2007 and 2009. He has been a leader in the state and Northern California track and field community serving as the NorCal chairman for several years.

Upcoming Events

CSM Football vs. Modesto

September 28; 1 pm, College Heights Stadium

All-College Meeting - CSM's Accreditation Visit

October 2; 2:15 pm, 10-195

CSM Jazz Ensemble Concert

October 7; 7:30-9:30 pm, Theatre

Family Science & Astronomy Festival

October 12; 2-11 pm, Science Building & Theatre

CSM Symphonic Band Concert

October 16; 7:30-9 pm, Theatre

Accreditation External Evaluation Visit

October 21-24

Student Success Story: Gabriel Denham

Columbia University, physics major

"I saw Gabe's remarkable talent and dedication in his first semester back to school after 10 years away. I watched him grow personally and academically in the years at CSM that followed. It is impossible not to be very excited about his future. Gabe's potential is unlimited."

– Professor of Mathematics, Rob Komas

Gabriel Denham's journey to college was anything but traditional. After attending four different high schools, he came to the conclusion that school just wasn't for him. In his junior year, Gabriel left school, took the state proficiency exam and earned his GED. At age 17 and out of school, he never considered going to college. Instead, Gabriel spent 10 years in the workforce employed at various jobs and gaining life experience. After being sidelined from work due to illness, he reconsidered education.

"I decided to step outside my comfort zone and give college a chance," says Gabriel. "I have always like math and when I took CSM's math placement test, I tested into calculus. In my first semester, I enrolled in 18 units, including a calculus class with Professor Rob Komas. Rob's class was a catalyst for me – it changed my life. It was the first time I realized the importance of education and could see how much fun learning could be. At that point, I decided I wanted to become a teacher. Being at CSM affected me deeply. I was thrilled to be back in school and to have finally found my place."

Despite carrying a heavy course load, Gabriel began looking for ways to get involved in college life beyond the classroom. He decided to attend an Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS) Honor Society meeting and, shortly thereafter, he was nominated and elected to be president of AGS. Presiding over meetings of 50-60 students was a daunting prospect for Gabriel who had fear of public speaking. "But the students were counting on me so I had to push myself and eventually, I overcame my anxiety." Through his participation in AGS, Gabriel developed a social network at CSM and he also found a pathway to some wonderful opportunities.



Photo courtesy of Gabriel Denham

"At CSM, I realized that the place I had avoided for so long—school—was exactly where I was supposed to be. I think there is an unfair stigma attached to attending a community college. It was easy for me to find other students who shared my motivation and ambition. Also, I was impressed that Mike Claire, the college president, made time to attend AGS events which showed that he genuinely supported us and was interested in what we were doing.

Due to his academic success and student leadership participation Gabriel received a number of scholarships at CSM. In addition, he was selected for a coveted internship with UC Berkeley's Physics Department to assist with research projects during summer of 2012.

In spring 2013, Gabriel graduated from CSM Summa Cum Laude, with highest honors – earning a perfect 4.0 GPA—and received A.S. degrees in both math and physics. As a follow-up, he is participating in a 10-week summer internship at Cornell University working on accelerator physics and material science which he described as "amazing!"

Based on his achievements at CSM, Gabriel had his choice of attending a number of the most respected universities in the nation. It made for a tough decision as he received

acceptances to UC Berkeley with a full scholarship as a physics major, and to UCLA, which offered him its most prestigious scholarship. However, it was Columbia University's offer of a full-ride scholarship to study physics that clinched the decision for Gabriel.

"It is hard to put into words how much CSM has done for me and how appreciative I am. I came into CSM with terrible high school transcripts and little confidence I could succeed in school, and I left to attend an Ivy League university as one of Columbia's PALS Scholars (Program for Academic Leadership and Service) which is the highest award they offer transfer students. I am equal parts excited and nervous to be

attending such a prestigious university, but I have no doubt that my work at CSM as prepared me to succeed."

Since discovering his passion for learning, Gabriel is planning on a career in academia. His long-range plans include earning a Ph.D. in physics and becoming a university professor and researcher. "It's important to me that I try to pay forward the tremendous gift that CSM and Rob Komars, my calculus teacher, have given me, but it's also important to me that I keep learning. CSM completely changed my perspective of education and, more importantly, of myself, and I will be forever grateful to the college. I am extremely proud of the time I spent there and to be a CSM alum."