



President’s Report to the SMCCCD Board of Trustees

President Michael Claire ~ October 23, 2013

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Family Science & Astronomy Festival: A Day of Education and Entertainment for All Ages



Photo by Dean Drumheller

On October 12, the college welcomed approximately 700 science enthusiasts of all ages to CSM’s third annual Family Science & Astronomy Festival. The festival, which is open to the community and admission free, featured a lineup of activities designed to encourage people to learn about the science of the world around them. According to Professor **Mohsen Janatpour**, coordinator of the event, “Children had a lot of fun learning biology by making models of molecules and petting a bearded dragon, and adults were enjoying geology in contests about naming dinosaurs (read more in, Faculty Create Learning Environment on Science Building Walls, on page 3). Some of the best-attended workshops and hand’s on activities included “Whodunit? CSI at CSM,” “What’s on Your Tectonic Plate,” “Got Physics?” (a demonstration of conservation of angular momentum), “Chemistry Creation,” building Galileoscopes (telescopes similar to those used by early astronomers), making comets, and constructing planispheres (maps of the night sky). Another big draw was the presentation by keynote speaker and Planetary Scientist **Chris McKay** from NASA Ames Research Center who discussed his current Mars Curiosity Rover Mission.



College of San Mateo

As always, the very popular planetarium shows, led by Professor **Darryl Stanford**, were filled to capacity. The festivities concluded with Jazz Under the Stars, the college's monthly "star party." About 100 attendees remained for Jazz Under the Stars viewing the night sky using telescopes on the rooftop observatory while listening to great jazz music broadcast by KCSM-91.1FM.

The Family Science & Astronomy Festival is co-sponsored with the **San Mateo County Astronomical Society (SMCAS)**. Janatpour recognizes the efforts of many who contributed to the success of the event: "our dedicated CSM faculty and staff and devoted SMCAS members were instrumental in bringing the joy of science to our community. Moreover, it is the energy and enthusiasm of our team of approximately 30 student volunteers that made the program run smoothly. Two of those students, in particular, who went far beyond the call of duty, were **Ali Emami** and **Michael Ryan**."



Photo by Catherine Ciesla

CSM Student Commended for Saving a Life



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Luders

CSM student and veteran **Michael "Coty" Hedgecock** received a certificate of appreciation and a Sheriff's Community Appreciation medal from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office for saving a person who was involved in a car accident. The driver of the vehicle was suffering from a lack of oxygen and was unconscious. The deputies at the scene indicated that given the circumstances, if Coty had not stepped in to assist, the man would not have made it out alive.

Jeremy Ball Offers Advice on Careers in Academia

Professor of Philosophy **Jeremy Ball** was interviewed for an article on careers in higher education that appeared on CBS SF Bay Area on October 7, 2013. In the interview, Jeremy talks about his educational background, the career steps he took to become a tenured college professor, why he decided to teach at a community college, and advice for graduate students seeking careers in academia. The interview appears on CSM's homepage in the News section, collegeofsanmateo.edu/news.

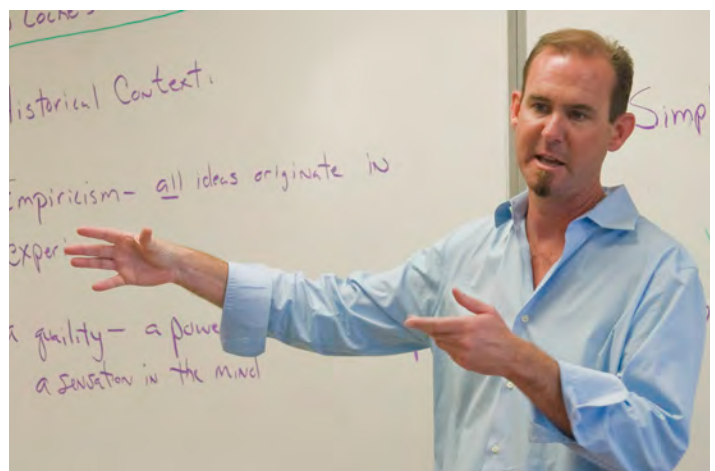


Photo by CSM Community Relations and Marketing

The Bulldog Bulletin Unleashed

At the beginning of the fall semester, a new weekly online update, The Bulldog Bulletin, made its debut. Penned by President **Mike Claire**, the Bulletin is intended to strengthen communication throughout the campus. Each issue focuses on a single topic, often including links for readers to explore more details. There is also a “Get to Know” section which features a different employee each week, “Upcoming Meetings and Events,” and the “Question of the Week.” Mike provides employees with an incentive to submit questions: those who have their question selected receive a \$10 Paws for Coffee gift certificate. So far, The Bulldog Bulletin has received favorable response. Issues are posted on the President’s Office website: collegeofsanmateo.edu/president/bulletin.asp.

Faculty Create Learning Environment on Science Building Walls

Faculty in the Science Building have gone beyond the classroom walls to create fun and interesting learning environments. Professors **Linda Hand** and **Kate Deline** painted a mural of a dinosaur family tree on a wall in the 1st floor lobby. It shows the order and ancestry of the different groups of dinosaurs using dinosaur silhouettes. According to Linda, “Since dinosaurs are one of the favorite subjects in General Paleontology, I thought a mural that went beyond the layperson’s knowledge of well-known dinosaurs might peak some interest. It also serves as a resource for the students in my course and the community at large. Visitors to this year’s Family Science & Astronomy Festival were challenged to test their dinosaur knowledge by matching the silhouettes to the dinosaur names.

Also located in the 1st floor lobby is a seismograph that displays real-time earthquake data that is continuously recorded by the department’s vertical seismograph. Linda explains its value as a learning tool: “CSM’s equipment can record earthquakes from all over the world so that students can see that an earthquake has occurred and they can go to the Internet to find out where it happened and how big.”

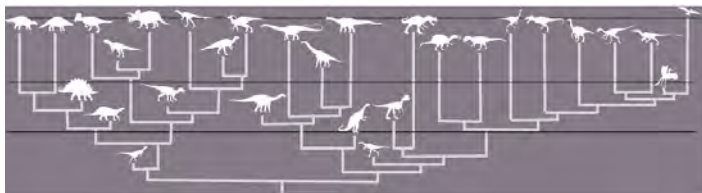


Photo courtesy of Linda Hand

Middle College Raises Funds & Awareness with Screening of “Girl Rising”



Photo courtesy of Greg Quigley

Middle College students sponsored a free screening of “Girl Rising,” a groundbreaking film, directed by Academy Award nominee Richard Robbins, which promotes a powerful truth: educating girls in developing countries can transform families, communities, entire countries – and break the cycle of poverty in just one generation. Having learned about this issue in class, Middle College students wanted to call attention to the International Day of the Girl and to raise funds to help impoverished women in Guatemala start small businesses and keep their children in school. By selling baked goods, raffle tickets for dinners at local restaurants and a GoPro camera the students raised \$2,000. The funds were donated to Namaste-Direct, in partnership with San Mateo Rotary Club, for \$200-400 microloans to the Guatemalan women.

The October 12 issue of the *Daily Journal* carried an article about the fund raiser; it can be read by visiting <http://www.smdailyjournal.com/articles/Inews/2013-10-12/middle-college-students-raise-money-for-guatemalan-women-microloans-help-impoverished-women-jump-start-business-ventures/1776425111552.html>.

Meet the Ambassadors



Photo by Alexis Madayag

CSM's 2013-14 student ambassadors were introduced to the college community at an ice cream social, Meet the Ambassadors, held on October 14. This year's team of 12 students includes first- and second-year ambassadors; they serve as liaisons between the college and local high schools and represent the college at community events. Ambassadors also assist with on-campus events and activities such as leading campus tours, staffing the information desk in College Center, Operation Welcome Mat and Connect to College. Welcome this year's ambassadors:

Estela Garcia (lead ambassador), Rupinder Bajwa, Jason Dutton, Jasmine Flores, Eleni Jacobson, Divi Kumar, Sarah Lowe, Peter Pitetta, Sean Pounder, Janelle Raymundo, Mario Rosetti, Michael Ryan

Let's Chat! Brings Students Together

The International Student Center recently launched Let's Chat!, a language partner program that pairs a native English speaker with a non-native speaker to engage in English language conversation throughout the semester. Partners meet on campus for 30 minutes every week during the semester. Let's Chat! Is an opportunity for international and American students to connect and it encourages both parties to develop communication skills and become familiar with other cultures. Anyone from the college community is welcome to participate in the program.

Architecture Project Displayed at Library

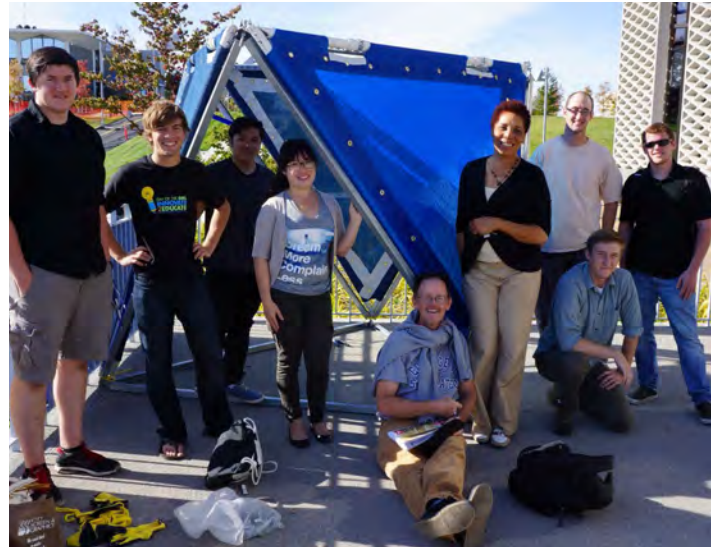


Photo courtesy of Lorrita Ford

Structures created by Architecture Club students are currently on display in front of CSM's Library. The structures were entered into a design competition held at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo last spring. **John Lucchesi**, a member of the architecture faculty, reports that "CSM students pursuing a future in design and architecture are very enthusiastic about these building projects."

CSM's Middle College Host Tri-Valley Schools

Middle College hosted a group of high school educators who are interested in designing a Middle College program at Las Positas College in Livermore. The educators, representing high school districts in the Tri-Valley region of Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin, met on Sept. 25 with Middle College Principal **Greg Quigley**, CSM Interim Vice President **Gary Dilley**, CSM/Middle College Counselor **Jesenia Diaz**, CSM President **Michael Claire** as well as Middle College students and staff and toured the CSM campus.

Bulldog Football Goes Live!



Photo courtesy of CSM Football Facebook page

All CSM football games are now broadcast on the internet and live, in-game statistics are also available. Broadcasts and live in-game stats can be accessed by going to collegeofsanmateo.edu/football/webcasts.

Student Success Story: Gizem Basar International Relations, UC Davis

I chose to attend CSM because my parents and I decided that attending a community college for my general education was the best decision for me financially. I also did not mind staying home for a couple more years to truly learn more about myself before I moved out. At first it was difficult to get used to the idea of still being home when most people I knew were going away to college. When I look back, I know I made the right decision by attending a community college. My goal was to figure out what I wanted to study. I started CSM as a biology major and now I am transferring as an international relations major; and I changed my major many times in between. Because I was at a community college, I had the luxury of learning about different subjects and careers until I found what was right for me. I also joined the Transfer Club and Alpha Gamma Sigma to meet other students like myself. I have gained a lot at CSM and am thankful to have had three great years with the most amazing professors on campus.



Photo by CSM Community Relations and Marketing

Upcoming Events

Fall Health Fair

October 30, 10 am – 2 pm, College Center, Bayview Dining Room

Makerspace Workshop: Ghostly Glow - LED jack o'lantern paper pumpkins

October 31, 1:30–3:30 pm, Library

KODAIMOJI- Japanese ancient characters calligraphy demonstration and lecture

October 31, noon–2 pm, Quad near College Center.

Blood Drive

November 6, 10 am – 2 pm, DaVinci Lot 3

New Employee Reception

November 7, 2:15 pm, Center for Student Life and Leadership Development, Bldg. 17, Room 112

“Sounds from the Streets: A Historical and Musical Presentation on the Emergence of Latin Rock”

November 13, 7–9 pm, Theatre