



# President’s Report to the SMCCCD Board of Trustees

President Michael Claire ~ March 26, 2014

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## Mike Mitchell Selected as SMCCCD Classified Employee of the Year



Photo credit: Sean Arbabi

President Mike Claire recently had the honor of announcing to the college community that **Mike Mitchell**, director of Transfer Services, has been selected as the District’s Classified Employee of the Year. In his 24 years at CSM, Mike has worked in numerous areas of student services, including counseling, career services, Cooperative Education and transfer services. In each area, Mike has provided exemplary service to students and the college and has demonstrated a strong commitment to student success. He has consistently gone “over and above” his job duties and responsibilities and maintains outstanding work standards.

In addition to his service to the college, Mike is active in the community. From 2006–13, he was been a weekly volunteer at Hillcrest Juvenile Hall/ Youth Services Center. He is an active participant in his church where he

assists with service projects including “Restore Our Library,” “Care Kits for AIDS Patients” and various disaster relief efforts; he also participates in Teach the Youth program for first through fifth grade students at his church. Mike provides financial support to Mentoring Young Lives, a program to help students complete high school and consider college, and he participates in World Vision by supporting a child in the Congo. Mike demonstrates through his work and personal life that he is a true ambassador for youth, community colleges and education in general. His nomination will be forwarded to the State Chancellor’s Office for consideration as the Community College Classified Employee of the Year. ■

## College Hosts Pacific Islander Youth Conference



On March 14–15, approximately 750 high school students and members of the Pacific Islander Community united at CSM to attend the MANA Youth Conference, titled, “Educating Polynesia.” By all accounts, it was a major success! The annual conference promotes the importance of staying in school, graduating from high school and attending college. An audience of approximately 200 attended



the Friday event which began with a welcome from President **Mike Claire**, followed by presentations from **Finausina “Fi” Tovo**, a staff member from CSM’s Admissions Office, and keynote speaker **Ursula-Ann Siataga** from United Playaz. Students spent the remainder of the day in workshops which focused on topics that promote student success, especially those impacting the Polynesian community.



Health and wellness provided the theme for the second day of the event, which was held on the football field, and brought out approximately 550 students. Activities included a Zumba session and a traditional Tongan dance performed by MANA kids along with some of CSM's football players. The event was co-sponsored by CSM (DIAG and Polynesian Club) and the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center (PCRC). Planning committee members from CSM include **Henry Villareal, Fi Tovo, Deborah Laulusa** and from the PCRC: **Keisarina Hofoka, Brittany Tonga and Malissa Netane.** ■



*Photos by Sarah Lowe, MANA Official photographer and Fi Tovo*

## Middle College Hosts Gatsby-Themed Event



On March 1, **Middle College** students hosted a Gatsby-themed party in College Center as a follow-up to the reading of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. Dressed in 1920's style costumes students danced to Jazz Age music, held a costume contest and played games. An important theme in *The Great Gatsby* is how those less fortunate are too often forgotten and left in the wake of our dreams. The Gatsby event was a fundraiser for an organization the students voted on, "Love Never Fails," a non-profit that works with victims of human trafficking. The students raised \$641 and a local Rotarian donated \$500. ■



Photos provided by Greg Quigley



## ASCSM Hosts Spring Club Fair



Club activities are on the upswing at CSM as more than 30 student clubs and organizations participated in February's Spring Club Fair. The fair was an opportunity for new and returning clubs to publicize their organizations to the campus community and encourage students to get involved. During the fair, club representatives participated in a fashion show organized by the Fashion Club, which highlighted each club's unique qualities. Some of the clubs participating in the fair included the Active Minds Club, Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS) Honor Society, Chess Club, Chinese Students Association, Filipino Students Association, Gay-Straight Alliance, International Students Club, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Makerspace Club, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Puente Club, and Transfer Club. *(Article and photo contributed by Fauzi Hamadeh)* ■

## Panel Judges Statewide PR Awards

CSM's Community Relations and Marketing Department recently assisted with the judging of the Community College Public Relations Organization (CCPRO) awards.

**Beverley Madden**, director of marketing, who is the northern representative on the CCPRO Board, coordinated a panel of judges that included CSM Digital Media Professor **Ed Seubert**, SMCCCD Director of Governmental Affairs **Barbara**



*Photo credit: CSM Community Relations and Marketing*


**Christiansen**, Cañada Business Instructor **Catherine Fraser**, **David McLain** and herself. More than 100 entries were received for the following print categories: Annual Report, Brochure, Catalog, Class Schedule, Commencement Program, Folder, newsletter, Sports Media Guide and Viewbook/Student Recruitment Book. The finalists will be announced at the CCPRO conference held this April in Santa Cruz. ■

## ASCSM Sponsors Hunger Banquet


On March 12, the **ASCSM Cultural Awareness Board** sponsored a Hunger Banquet on campus. The Hunger Banquet is an event designed to highlight the inequities in access to food across the world. Participants were randomly assigned to first class, second class, or third class roles. Those in first class received a full meal served by waiters. Those in second class were served a buffet style lunch, but had to pick up their own plates and were given the option of water or soda. Those in third class—the largest group—were given rice, beans, and water. After this stark example of what millions of people across the planet face every day, participants engaged in a discussion about hunger and how it can be addressed in our community. *(Article contributed by Fauzi Hamadeh) ■*

## Kudos

~ **CSM photography students** exhibited their work at the Peninsula Art Institute in a show titled, 'The Song Inside My Head.' In addition to producing the work, the students also organized the exhibit.



Untitled 1 from Emerge Martha Ketterer



**The Peninsula Art Institute**  
presents the opening of  
*The Song Inside My Head*

A Fine Art Photography Exhibit by the  
Peninsula Photographic Arts Guild


**February 6 - March 16, 2014**

**Reception**  
**Sunday, February 9**  
**1-4pm**

The Peninsula Art Institute is on the site of the  
Peninsula Museum of Art  
1777 California Drive  
Burlingame

Gallery Hours:  
Wednesday through Sunday  
11am to 5pm

**Photographers**  
Jerry Barrack | Linda Barsotti | Barry Fleisher  
Nancy Garcia | Martha Ketterer | David Massolo  
Mary Scarpetti | Tom Watson



Peninsula Photographic Arts Guild

~ Avenue 25 Gallery is currently hosting a solo exhibit of the work of **Nico van Dongen**, CSM instructor of photography. van Dongen's work celebrates common object's personification through magnification. Avenue 25 Gallery is located at 32 West 25th Avenue in San Mateo.



Photo credit: Nico van Dongen

~ Middle College student **Nina Luo** has been selected as the 2014 Young Woman of Excellence in the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame. She was inducted at a ceremony held on March 21, which included Supreme Court Justice **Sandra Day O'Connor** (ret.) as an inductee. Nina was an honor student at Mills High School where she attended prior



Photo provided by Nina Luo

to Middle College. She has been a volunteer at a convalescent hospital and for the San Mateo Area Chamber of Commerce, an intern at a youth services group, a newsletter editor for Assemblywoman Fiona Ma and a contributor to *Visions Magazine* and the Mills High School newspaper. (See the Student Success Story on page 8, written by Nina.)

~ CSM defensive lineman **Pio Vatuvei** has signed a national letter of intent with the University of Louisville. Vatuvei played for Washington State University before joining the Bulldogs; at CSM, he had a standout year in 2013 and earned All-Conference honors.

~ CSM sophomore **Bryant Hayes** who played cornerback for the Bulldogs, has signed a National Letter of Intent to play for Utah State University. Hayes, earned First-Team All-State and First-Team All-Nor Cal Conference honors for his play during the 2013 season.

~ **Angela Stocker**, professor emeritus of physical education and social science, has been appointed to serve on the Statewide Workforce Education and Training Consumer and Family Committee. The committee is comprised of experts and stakeholders in the California Community Public Mental Health System which advise the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development on all aspects related to statewide mental health workforce education. ■

## Student Success Story: Ani Chechopoulos

### San Mateo Middle College

When **Ani Chechopoulos** entered Middle College at CSM as a junior, she was in search of a greater variety of courses and a unique education unavailable at a traditional high school. Her older sister, Eleni, also graduated from Middle College, so Ani had a good sense of what the program offered.

Ani immediately saw differences between students in high school and those in Middle College. She found Middle College students to be more independent and mature than students who were in a typical high school. Also, being in college classes allowed Ani to develop effective study skills which enabled her to thrive as a Middle College student. She describes the academic environment: “The college campus scene teaches students time management and accountability; it gives students much more freedom than traditional high schools.”

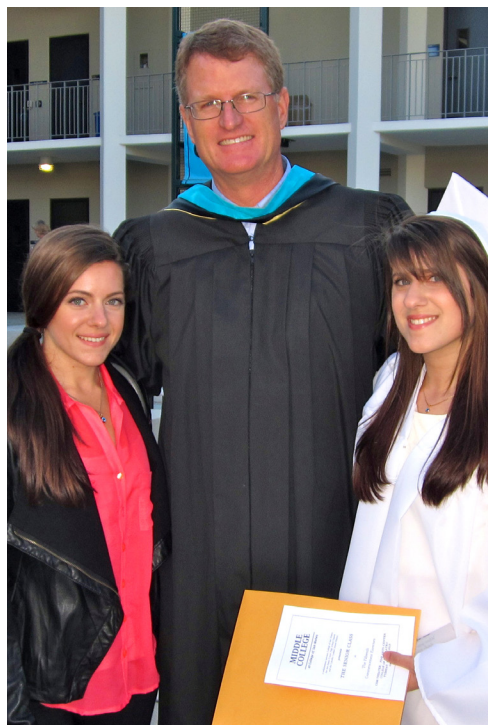
Middle College allowed Ani to step outside of her comfort zone by participating in the senior internship and the junior volunteer projects which presented real-world situations including finding volunteer and internship opportunities for herself at various organizations. These experiences taught her to challenge herself by “operating in unknown territory.” Ani frequently applies the lessons she learned from her internship to her job in a loan consulting company.

To boost her academic skills, Ani took advantage of CSM’s wide variety of resources such as the Learning Center and learning resource centers—services that were not available at her high school. These support services provided important support to help Ani and other Middle College students succeed. In addition, because Middle College is a small community within CSM, Ani says, “The teachers know and understand the students very well and are able to work with them individually to help build their education.”

Ani’s advice to prospective students: “Be ready for a more challenging education than traditional high school at Middle College. Students must be willing to work hard to meet the high demands of the program.” She adds, “Middle College gave me the push I needed to desire something better for myself.”

Ani graduated from Middle College in 2013 and is currently taking general education courses at CSM. She has one more year at the college before transferring to major in professional and technical writing at either San Francisco State University or an out-of-state college.

*(Story contributed by Nina Luo, Middle College student and edited by Valerie Anderson) ■*



*Ani (right) at her Middle College graduation with her sister, Eleni (left) and Principal Greg Quigley. (Photo provided by Greg Quigley)*



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Forum Music Festivals  
Saturdays, April 12 and 26  
8 am – 2 pm, Theatre

Fifth Semi-Annual  
Human Rights Day  
Wednesday, April 16  
10 am – 1 pm  
Bayview Dining Room

Connect to College (*see below*)  
Thursday, April 17, 6–8 pm  
Bayview Dining Room

Symvisio: A Visual Study  
of Time, Space & Emotion  
Friday, April 18  
7:30–10 pm, Theatre

CSM Track and Field –  
Coast Conference Meets  
Wednesday, April 23 & Monday  
April 28, noon, CSM Track

Scholarship Awards Ceremony  
Friday, April 25, 6–8:30 pm  
Bayview Dining Room

## Connect to College

*A Night of Information for High School Seniors and Parents*

**Thursday, April 17**  
**6–8 pm**

*Free and open to the public*

College Center Building 10, College of San Mateo  
1700 W. Hillsdale Blvd., San Mateo, California

**RSVPs received by March 31 will be eligible  
for a scholarship drawing.**

RSVP one of three ways: Facebook event page  
[collegeofsanmateo.edu/connectsvp](http://collegeofsanmateo.edu/connectsvp);  
email [csmoutreach@smccd.edu](mailto:csmoutreach@smccd.edu);  
or call (650) 574-6644.

College of San Mateo

