



President’s Report to the SMCCCD Board of Trustees

President Michael Claire ~ May 13, 2014

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Mike Mitchell Receives Statewide Honor



Photo credit: Sean Arbabi

Congratulations to **Mike Mitchell**, program supervisor in CSM’s Transfer Services who is one of four 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. On receiving the award, Mike commented, “ I am deeply honored and humbled to receive the State community college award and proud to be serving alongside dedicated colleagues at College of San Mateo and working with the finest transfer students any community college would be proud to serve.” Mike will receive the award at the Board of Governors meeting on May 20. This is the second consecutive year that a CSM employee has received the state award; in 2013, Kathy Chaika, senior accounting technician in Administrative Services, was honored. ■

CSM to Host the US Paralympics Track & Field Championships



Photo credit: G. Picout

The U.S. Olympic Committee announced that CSM has been awarded to host the U.S. Paralympics Track and Field Championships to be held on June 20-22, bringing the event to California for the first time. The announcement was made at a press conference which was attended by Rep. **Jackie Speier**, U.S. Paralympics officials as well as two local athletes who have qualified to compete in the event.

Congresswoman Speier spoke about holding the event at CSM: "We have a million-dollar view and a multimillion-dollar facility." The college was selected



Photo source: San Mateo Daily Journal

partly because of its Mondo track which meets the highest international standards for performance. Because of its firmness, it's ideal for athletes using wheelchairs.

The athletes who compete at this event are preparing for the 2015 championships in Doha, Qatar, and the 2016 Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The three-day event is expected to draw more than 150 of the top Paralympic athletes from the U.S. In addition to established athletes, including world champions, new, up-and-coming challengers will also compete. One of the local athletes attending the press conference was Steven Toyoji, of San Francisco, who won three medals for the U.S. team at last year's world championships in Lyon, France. He is partially paralyzed below the shoulders due to an autoimmune disease; he races the 400, 800 and 1,500 meters in a specialized wheelchair. Also in attendance was new challenger, Ranjit Steiner, a former football player at Gunn High School in Palo Alto who lost his leg to bone cancer and now races using prosthesis. ■

CSM Architecture Students Win Top Award at Statewide Competition



Photo courtesy of John Lucchesi

A team of CSM architecture students was awarded the “Biologic Award” for Best of Show at the prestigious Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Design Village 2014 Competition. Design Village, a weekend-long event, challenges students to design and construct a theme-based temporary structure to house their teammates for the duration of the weekend. This year’s theme, “Biologics,” inspired teams to take their designs from nature. The competition draws architecture students from colleges and universities from throughout the State. CSM is honored to have captured one of only five awards that are presented at the event.

CSM’s winning design featured a canopy cover of folded and stitched plastic-potting flats and a structural frame of mechanically-joined galvanized steel pipes used in chain link fence construction. Members of CSM’s team were: **Fede Albarracin, Ricki Andersen, Krongkan Klabkaeo, Gino Orlando, Guillermo San Miguel, and Joaquin Tobar.**

CSM Architecture Instructor **John Lucchesi** describes how the projects evolve, “Conceptual designs for the competition are initiated in CSM’s Architecture Studio course. Student teams then develop rough models and drawings into buildable full-scale shelters, guided by Studio Instructor **George Sun.**” The competition presents students with additional complexity related to the site of the event. Teams are required to transport their materials approximately 1.5 miles down a narrow dirt road in Poly Canyon, build their structure on the site—a hill with a slope that varies from 10 to 30 degrees—and then live in it for the weekend. Lucchesi adds, “The challenges of the site encourage teams to design lightweight structures and to employ innovative solutions to transporting the materials.” ■

Scholarship Awards Ceremony Honors 308 Students



On April 25, the college honored 308 students with scholarship awards at the 2014 Scholarship Awards Reception. According to the Financial Aid Office, scholarships were awarded to 263 CSM students and 45 high school students; collectively, they received 413 scholarship awards totaling \$239,668. A crowd of more than 550 students, family members, faculty and staff attended the celebration in CSM's Bayview Dining Room. The ceremony began with remarks by President



Photos by Gino De Grandis

Mike Claire, Academic Senate President **David Laderman** and ASCSM President **Hayley Sharpe**. Vice President **Jennifer Hughes** individually recognized the many donors who made the scholarships possible and then, with the assistance of Mike Claire, they 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 and thank the donors who contributed to their scholarships. The SMCCC Foundation provided the opportunity for students, donors and families to take memorable keepsake photos for free. Members of the CSM Scholarship Planning Committee were: **Karen Chadwick** (coordinator), **Jennifer Hughes**, **Claudia Menjivar**, **Dennis Tordesillas** and **Henry Villareal**; volunteer assistance was provided by staff from the Financial Aid Office, A & R, Community Relations & Marketing and the student ambassadors. ■

Great Turnout for Connect to College



Photos by Saru Tabu and Alexis Madayag



Approximately 500 students and parents gathered at College Center for Connect to College on Thursday, April 17. This major outreach event began with a welcome from President **Mike Claire** followed by a transfer overview from Transfer Program Supervisor **Mike Mitchell** and a student panel led by Dean of Counseling **Marsha Ramezane**. The panel featured alumni **Melissa Aliu** and **Christopher Seminoff** as well as SMCCCD Student Trustee **Rupinder Bajwa** and nursing students Joy **Martin-Spriggs** and **Marcos Mayorga**. Prospective students and their parents had the opportunity to speak one-on-one with college staff, faculty and student and university representatives during the meet and greet portion of the event. Finally, at the close of the evening six scholarships were presented to attendees; the donors included PG&E, San Mateo Athletic Club, San Mateo Credit Union and CSM. The event was a great example of CSM's commitment to student success and made for a welcoming experience. (Article contributed by Alex Guiriba) ■

College Celebrates Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month



Photos courtesy of Tamara Horn

An array of activities celebrating Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month 2014 is currently underway throughout the campus. Events included the Fifth Annual Asian Pacific American Film Festival; Poetry & Power, a workshop led by Eddy Zheng, an activist, community organizer and former prisoner; a Makerspace lei-making workshop; a Speaker Series that featured a screening of “When the Man Went South,” and Hawaiian literature performances by communications studies students. Student groups across campus have been actively involved in month-long celebration including the Polynesian Club, International Club, Fashion Club, Filipino Student Alliance, Chinese Student Alliance, ASCSM, CSM Office of Student Life & Leadership, Cultural Awareness Board and Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month Planning Committee. ■



President's Forum for Academic Excellence Hosts Laura Rendón



Photo courtesy of Lorena Gonzalez

Laura Rendon, a professor in University of Texas - San Antonio's Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Program, joined CSM faculty, staff, administrators, and students as part of the President's Forum for Academic Excellence: Pathways to Student Success. Her presentation, titled "Leveraging Student Strengths to Foster Success," covered several practical classroom methodologies that use students' "cultural wealth" as a basis for academic commitment, persistence, and success. Of particular note was her "Validation Theory," an institutional practice where college staff, faculty, and administrators foster academic and personal development as a means of boosting students' confidence in learning. Dr. Rendon also discussed her experiences as a Latina in higher education, which resonated with the Puente students in attendance. Her presentation was an engaging and "validating" end to a year of fantastic speakers in the forum. (Article contributed by Jeremy Wallace) ■

Kudos

~ CSM swimmer **Kawei Tan**, won the state championship in the 100-meter backstroke in Los Angeles on May 2. He is the first CSM state champion in swimming since Don Gray won the 50 freestyle in 1966! Tan is a graduate of Burlingame High School.

~ **CSM's Softball Team** completed the regular 2014 season as Coast Conference North champions with a 17-1 record. The Lady Bulldogs are the winningest of the state's 84 teams at 37-2 overall, which is also the best won-loss record. At the end of regular season play, the team had won 33 of its last 34 games, and in its final seven games, outscored opponents by a remarkable 74-1 margin, including six "mercy-rule" five-inning contests.

Twelve softball player received post season honors the Coast Conference and state softball coaches association:

- Ashlynn Neil** - Coast Conference Pitcher of the Year; All-State Player
- Raquel Martinez** – Coast Conference Player of the Year; All-State Player
- Kayleen Smith** – 1st Team All-Conference; All-State Team
- Talissa Fiame** – 1st Team All-Conference; All-State Team
- Brooke Ramsey** – 1st Team All-Conference; All-State Team
- Natalie Saucedo** - 1st Team All-Conference; All-State Team
- Skania Lemus** – 1st Team All-Conference; All NorCal Team
- Melina Rodriguez** – 1st Team Conference
- Ashley Miller** – 2nd Team All-Conference
- Lauren Berriatua** – 2nd Team All-Conference
- Leilani Akai** - 2nd Team All-Conference
- Taylor Cruse** - 2nd Team All-Conference



In post-season play, which is currently underway, CSM swept Yuba College by a 39-1 margin in two games in the Northern California regionals. The Lady Bulldogs advance to the Super Regional hosted by CSM, and if they are victorious, they will play for the State championship.

~ Two CSM track and field athletes captured titles for throwing on the final day of the Coast Conference Track and Field Championships held on April 26 at CSM. **Maureen Pahulu**, a graduate of Mills High School, won the women's discus throw by more than nine feet for a throw measuring 135-9. She also placed third in the javelin throw at 105-6. **Scott Chiesa**, who graduated from St. Francis High School, took the men's javelin by nearly a 30-foot margin with a winning throw of 196-7. Chiesa's best throw this season of 205-10 places his No. 2 in California and No. 5 nationally.

~ Assistant Professor of ESL **Lisa Melnick** has written two articles "Agtawid" and "Out the Back Door" that will be published in the anthology, *Beyond Lumpia, Pancit, and Seven Manangs Wild* in June 2014. This collection is a sequel to the successful first anthology entitled *Seven Card Stud with Seven Manangs Wild*, (FANHS, 2002).



~ On Saturday, May 3, six Honors Project students presented their projects at the competitive 7th Annual Honors Research Symposium, held at UC Berkeley. The all-day event, which drew honors students, their faculty, and their family from all over California, was truly a celebration of scholarship. Honors student **Bernie Leung** was nominated for the Heslet Award. **Andrew Gleeson, Ryan Garrett, Erin Harris, Divy Kumar, and Laila Talpur** also presented. CSM sent the largest delegation of any college to the event.



Photo courtesy of Tim Maxwell

~ Professor of English and Advisor to Alpha Gamma Sigma **Tim Maxwell** was awarded the Alpha Gamma Sigma Outstanding Advisor Award at the statewide convention in San Jose on April 16. He has served as an advisor to the Honors Society since 2007, a period during which the club has grown from six to more than 60 active members. In his nomination letter, AGS Vice President of Student Services Dee Dee Pickard, writes, "Not only does Tim exceed the standards of an outstanding club advisor, he is a mentor to AGS students in all their academic affairs. Through his intense involvement with the AGS club, Tim has truly been an example of the service and dedication which the AGS honors society strives to uphold." He currently shares his duties as an advisor with David Laderman and Jeramy Wallace.



Photo credit: Laila Talpur

Tim, who also serves as Honors Project co-coordinator, also received the Bay Honors Consortium's Honors Faculty of the Year Award. Maxwell was recognized for "professional contributions that go above and beyond" in his role as an architect of CSM's innovative Honors Project and as a dedicated teacher in the program. ■

Student Success Story: Mario Ayala

A.A., Broadcasting & Electronic Media

CSM is educating the next generation of media makers and Mario Ayala is a perfect example of that college-to-career connection.

When Mario arrived in U.S. from Mexico in 2002, he couldn't imagine that he would earn a college degree and that the degree would lead to a broadcasting career with a world-class media company. "My English was limited, I had a six-month old daughter and I didn't have a job." But Mario knew what he had to do, "I realized that I needed to develop my English skills to make advances in life for my family, so I made an important decision: to work on my education." First, he began by taking classes to improve his English skills, and then he enrolled in CSM's broadcasting program.



Photo credit: Gloria Mendoza

As a student in the program, Mario was given "real world" experiences. His classes provided professional hands on training in studio and field production, camera production, audio recording and lighting. Furthermore, the program's interdisciplinary approach allowed Mario to explore a variety of possible career choices within the broadcasting industry. Mario credits Associate Professor of Digital Media Michelle Brown as the person who inspired him, "...she is an exceptional teacher and mentor – she encouraged me to go the extra mile."

He took that encouragement to heart and jumped at the opportunity to be part of the production crew for 'The Bay Today' and "Bay Area Vista," weekly student-produced shows for KCSM-TV. Ambitious and hardworking, Mario managed multiple roles: he served as producer, studio camera operator, director of photography and technical director! Professor Brown says of Mario, "He got involved every time the station offered opportunities for the students to be on the crew and he always made significant contributions to those projects."

She adds, "In my Digital Video class Mario's leadership and solid production skills were essential to his team's successful production of high-quality supplemental programming about Half Moon Bay and the De Young Museum for KCSM-TV. Mario is such a committed and mature director of photography that when he lost his own

HD camera to the wild waves at Mavericks while reporting for our student show, he didn't even complain! He also demonstrated that he can research, schedule, and produce programming that serves the local community."

Soon after Mario earned his AA degree in Broadcasting and Electronic Media, he was hired by Telemundo, a division of NBC Universal Television Network, as a commercial producer. His degree and the program's broad-based curriculum prepared him for a career in a highly competitive industry. Mario explains, "I found the broadcasting program offered amazing hand's-on learning experiences. The college facilities have the same professional state-of-the-art equipment and software that I am using at work. I had the opportunity to participate in real TV



Photo credit: Gino De Grandis

productions. And, when I applied for my current position, I felt confident that I had the skills and knowledge that the company was looking for."

As a commercial producer, Mario writes, shoot and edits promotional media for Telemundo, including event "promos" image spots and entertainment, cultural and travel segments. "Mario is a gifted storyteller. He isn't just technically-skilled. He knows how to use audio and video to tell an effective story. I'm not surprised he's producing for a network affiliate. He's just getting started, in my opinion," says Professor Brown.

Mario's hard work and motivation were rewarded – he was the recipient of several scholarship awards including the Steve Davis Undergraduate Overall Excellent Scholarship from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Professor Brown recalls the ceremony: "It was so exciting to be in a room full of local broadcasters and media professionals who were all watching Mario's video as the award was announced! I was so proud!" ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Electronic Music Concert

Thursday, May 15 • 7 pm • Theatre
\$5 admission

Reading Apprenticeship Luncheon

Reading matters for student success

Friday, May 16 • 11:30 am – 1:30 pm
Building 12, Room 102

Honors Project Showcase

Honors Project students present their final projects. Refreshments, music and presentations.

Friday, May 16 • 4–7 pm
College Center, Bayview Dining Room

4th Annual WTFilm Student Film Festival Screening and Awards Ceremony

Friday, May 16 • 6–9 pm • Theatre

Classified Staff Appreciation Day Breakfast

Tuesday, May 20 • 8:30–10:30 am
College Heights Conference Room

Stepping Up: A Transfer Tribute

A celebration of CSM's Transfer Students

Thursday, May 22 • 4–6:30 pm
College Center, Bayview Dining Room

CSM's 92nd Commencement

Friday, May 23 • 5–7 pm • Gymnasium

Jazz on the Hill 2014 • Saturday, June 7 • 11 am – 6pm

A day-long celebration featuring a great line up of musicians performing many genres of jazz. Food vendors, arts and crafts, classic cars! The main stage will be located on the lower mezzanine in front of the library; the theatre will provide another stage for some of the most talented high school and college jazz musicians in the Bay Area. Bring a lawn chair or picnic blanket. This free event is KCSM and CSM's gift to the community.



PRESENTED BY KCSM JAZZ 91

Jazz on the Hill

SATURDAY, JUNE 7
11AM-6:00PM
AT COLLEGE OF SAN MATEO

GREAT JAZZ | ARTS & CRAFTS | FOOD

JAZZONTHEHILL.ORG 650.524.6921

A FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

The poster features a large, stylized yellow musical note on a dark blue background with white stars. Inside the note, there are colorful illustrations of jazz musicians playing various instruments like saxophones, trumpets, and a double bass. The text is in various colors and fonts, including red, yellow, and white.