



President's Report to the SMCCCD Board of Trustees

President Michael Claire ~ August 13, 2014

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Pathway to College Preps Students for Success



Photo provided by Ron Andrade

CSM's *Pathway to College*, a two-week summer program, wrapped up on July 18. This program is specifically designed to provide recent high school graduates, who place into basic skills level math or English classes, the opportunity to become familiar with college resources, practice valuable study skills, and better understand college expectations.

This was the second year that *Pathway to College* brought in a group of new students and equipped them with resources and information for college success. College success strategies were presented by Learning Center staff **Fi Tovo** and **Ron Andrade** and instruction in math and English provided by **Vinh Nguyen** and **Autumn Newman**, respectively. With support from several peer tutors, 22 *Pathway* students completed work on critical math and writing skills. At the end of the program, 17 students chose to retake at least one of their placement exams and about 40 percent of them placed higher in their math or English scores thereby reducing the need to take extra courses.

College of San Mateo

Assistance provided to *Pathway to College* students does not end with the program as they will continue to receive support from mentors, through learning communities and from each other. As one student commented, "I think I will go into college feeling more prepared. I feel like this class did a wonderful job of exposing us to all sorts of resources we have when we start in the fall." (Content for article contributed by Ron Andrade) ■

CSM Student Launches Second Career in Photography



Photo by Scott R. Kline

Barry Fleisher, a CSM photography student and retired neonatologist, was highlighted in a feature article appearing in the online news site *InMenlo* (July 25). In the article titled, "Photographer Barry Fleisher is drawn to street photography and construction sites," Barry describes that his renewed interest in photography has been nurtured by CSM Professor of Photography **Richard Lohmann**. He says of Lohmann, "He's an absolutely remarkable teacher and superb photographer." Some of Fleisher's photos are currently on display at the Caldwell Gallery in Redwood City in an exhibit titled *Luminous Essays*. The show features fine art photography from members of the Peninsula Photographic Arts Guild. The article can be viewed by visiting inmenlo.com/2014/07/25 ■

Managers Attend Planning Retreat

On August 11, CSM's Managers kicked off the start to the new academic year by participating in an all-day retreat held at the Woodside Community Church. The group spent their time discussing goals for 2014/15, including the development of the first-year experience program for graduating seniors, the upcoming bond and the proposed facilities projects that are slated for CSM; and updates on the Student Equity and Student Success and Support Program Plans. ■

ASCSM Extends Warm Welcome to New Students

On August 12, the ASCSM and Center for Student Life and Leadership hosted Welcome Day for new students. Approximately 350 students and members of their families started the day with a complimentary pancake breakfast and listened to a brief presentation on what to expect at the start of the semester. For the remainder of the event, students toured the campus, visited the Bookstore, and picked up their student ID cards. Students also attended a Student Services Fair in the College Center Plaza to learn about the college's different programs and services.

In addition, ASCSM members are busy planning Welcome Week which will take place throughout the first week of the semester and will include complimentary food, music, and a variety of activities. ■

Welcome Day
Tuesday, August 12, 2014

Success Starts on the Hill

College of San Mateo

Kudos

~ **Aaron Schaefer**, student life and leadership manager, recently completed a four-day intensive certification in the use of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. As a certified trainer, Aaron will use the instrument in workshops and trainings for members of student government and clubs to help increase student knowledge regarding teamwork, communication, and conflict resolution.

~ **Fi Tovo**, program services coordinator in the Learning Center recently earned a master's degree in education from San Jose State University. ■



Aaron Schaefer

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jazz Under The Stars

Observatory Star Party
Saturday, August 30 • 8–10 pm

CSM Football vs. Siskiyou

Saturday, September 6
1:00 pm • College Heights Stadium

The Sky Tonight - Planetarium Show

Friday, September 12 • 7:30–9:30 pm
CSM Science Building 36, Planetarium

CSM Transfer Day

Monday, September 15 • 10 am – 1 pm
Bayview Dining Room, College Center

Family Science & Astronomy Festival

Featuring CSM Library Makerspace Workshops
Saturday, October 4 • 2–11 pm
CSM Science Building 39 & Planetarium

Student Success Story: Efrosini Proios

BA, UC Berkeley, Molecular and Cell Biology

After completing high school in Greece, **Efrosini Proios** decided that California was where she wanted to continue her education. Arriving in the Bay Area, she began exploring the wealth of college and university options the region offered. Efrosini recalls, “I visited CSM’s campus and it seemed like a beautiful place to go to school. And, I learned the college offered many different majors, lots of activities and had some of the best professors in the Bay Area. Initially I didn’t know what I wanted to study, but I knew I would have the opportunity to experience many different subjects at CSM.” As she fulfilled her general education requirements, Efrosini learned about subjects that she had never studied before and found that her interest was piqued!



Photo provided by Efrosini Proios

Efrosini discovered her professors to be good sources of inspiration and motivation, and she acknowledges several for helping her to realize her academic potential and finalize her major. “It’s difficult to pick one professor because there were so many, but **Dr. Kathy Diamond** was an amazing biology professor. She instigated my interest in molecular biology and she also encouraged my desire to teach through CalTeach, a program that she coordinated. Also, **Dr. Frederick Gaines** was another very inspirational professor—he teaches with passion and open-mindedness. He sparked my interest in U.S. history and, in particular, the African American community. I also have to mention **Kate Deline** who was the best chemistry professor I ever had! If it weren’t for her, I would never have enjoyed chemistry. Finally, **Dr. Dave Danielson**, my philosophy professor, was yet another inspirational instructor. His classes were always very interesting...I was lucky to take his course.”

The time Efrosini spent with counselors proved to be time well spent. She received guidance to ensure that she completed all the requirements needed to transfer to the university level as a junior. “My CSM experience enabled me to transfer to one of the best universities in the world—UC Berkeley—to continue my education,” she says. Once at UC Berkeley, Efrosini saw the contrast between CSM and the university: she actually missed the small classes offered at CSM and the close rapport she had with her professors. “I feel that CSM offered a lot academically to prepare me for the university.”

In 2011, Efrosini received her bachelor’s degree in molecular and cell biology and is currently working as a clinical research associate for a clinical research organization in Seattle, Washington.

Looking back, Efrosini says “CSM was the best decision I have ever made in my academic life! At CSM, I participated in many clubs and took as many classes as I could. This gave me the opportunity to find my interests in subjects that I never thought I would like. I met great professors that motivated me to follow my career dreams—and that’s what I’m doing now!” ■