



# President's Report to the SMCCCD Board of Trustees

President Michael Claire ~ April 29, 2015

## Inside...

CSM Hosts MANA Youth Conference . . . . .	1
Grand Opening of The Village . . . . .	2
400 Attend Connect to College . . . . .	3
Community Partners Applaud Project Change . . . . .	4
College Gets Crafty for National Library Week . . . . .	5
International Students Lead World Chat . . . . .	6
Earth Day Celebration Promotes Awareness & Learning . . . . .	6
CSM's Nursing Program Celebrates 50 Years . . . . .	7
ASCSM Goes to Washington . . . . .	7
Kudos . . . . .	8
Softball Team & Coach Nicole Borg	
Swim Team, Kawei Tan	
Ryan Boschetti	
Mark Reischling	
Bob Rush	
Upcoming Events . . . . .	9
Student Success Story: Jennifer Vara . . . . .	10

## CSM Hosts MANA Youth Conference



Photo courtesy of the MANA Committee

On April 18, approximately 350 students from middle schools, high schools and community colleges and members of the Pacific Islander community united at CSM to attend the 3rd annual MANA Youth Conference 2015, titled, "Speak! Outside the Box." By all accounts, it was a major success. The conference promoted the importance of staying in school, graduating from high school and attending college. After a welcome by **President Mike Claire** the students moved on to attend workshops designed to foster student success for the Polynesian community. The conference included tours of the campus and a panel of successful Pacific Islanders serving in leadership positions. The evening wrapped up with entertainment that featured traditional dances from Samoa, Tonga and Fiji. American Idol contestant Reno Anoa'i, CSM Reggae Band and Finn Gruva and the United Districtz showcased their musical talents. DJ Danny Boy provided the music for the entire event.

The event is co-sponsored by CSM (DIAG, Student Equity Committee and the Polynesian Club), Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center (PCRC), 180 Degree Foundation, LOA Clothing, RudeBwoy 3nt and Pacific Savegez. Planning committee members from CSM included **Henry Villareal, Fi Tovo, Deborah Laulusa, Karen Chadwick**, and from the PCRC: **Keisarina Hofoka, Brittany Tonga, Malissa Netane, Juliet Vimahi** and **Ailao Eliapo**. (Content contributed by Deb Laulusa) ■

## Grand Opening of The Village



*Photos by Alexis Madayag*

On April 16, CSM hosted a ribbon-cutting celebration at The Village for Puente and Umoja students located in Building 18, Room 112. The Village was created to provide a positive social, academic and cultural space where cultural diversity is not only honored, valued and welcomed but recognized as an essential fabric of the CSM community.



This inviting space has been designed for multiple purposes—as a quiet academic study space, meeting area for the Puente and Umoja clubs, a social area, and there is also private office space for students to meet with their advisors.

The centerpiece of the The Village is a stunning mural collaboratively designed by members of the Fine Arts Club, Umoja, Puente and MANA clubs and funded by the ASCSM Inter-Club Council. The mural traces the roots of each group using important cultural and historical figures and symbols up to the present day, which culminates in education, graduation and celebration. The design team spent approximately 1,000 hours drawing and painting the mural over the past several months. The muralists are **Tom Dude, Teresa Emory, Parvin Falahpour, Hannah Martinez, and Briana Watts**; all are CSM art students. ■

## 400 Attend Connect to College



CSM welcomed approximately 400 students and parents for Connect to College on Thursday, April 16. CSM's premier outreach event began with a greeting and overview by **President Mike Claire** followed by a presentation about transfer by **Mike Mitchell**, transfer manager. The program also included a student panel led by **Vice President Jennifer Hughes**; the panel consisted of alumni **Melissa Aliu** and **Victoria Anderson** as well as current students **Marco Amezcua**, **Taniela Mapa** and **DJ Peluso**. Prospective students and their parents had the opportunity to speak one-on-one with college staff, faculty and students and university representatives during the "meet and greet" portion of the event. At the end of the evening, 10 scholarships totaling \$3,000 were presented to attendees; the scholarship donors included PG&E, San Mateo Athletic Club, San Mateo Credit Union and CSM. The event was sponsored by Pacific Dining, Bulldog Bookstore, Center for Student Life and Leadership Development, Financial Aid, San Mateo Athletic Club and SMCCCD Auxiliary Services. ■



*Photos by Alexis Madayag*



## Community Partners Applaud Project Change



*Photo by Gino de Grandis*

On Friday, April 10, representatives from justice department organizations, educational institutions, nonprofits and government agencies from throughout the County attended a special event at CSM to celebrate Project Change. The evening highlighted the important work being done through Project Change to provide access to higher education to one of the most at-risk and vulnerable populations in the county: incarcerated and court-involved youth.

Speakers at the event included members from the Justice Department, the San Mateo County Community College District and students in the program.

**CSM President Mike Claire** emphasized, “Save a life; save a family,” and the significant impact that providing education to one individual can have on an entire family and generation. **Chancellor Ron Galatolo** highlighted the value of the community college extending far past obtaining degrees and jobs. He spoke of the essence of community colleges being “second-chance institutions,” where people can have a fresh start and a new pathway to success. He proclaimed that the students in Project Change are excellent representations of this. **Trustee Tom Mohr** passionately advocated for the need for community colleges and county organizations to be involved in serving these at-risk students. He said that, “an institution can be judged by how it treats its most vulnerable population.”

**The Honorable Judge Clifford Cretan** and **Deputy Chief Christine Villanis** shared the enthusiasm they have for the collaboration between the Justice Department and the district to provide access to higher education to incarcerated youth in the county. This is a goal they have had for many years, and Project Change is allowing this to become a reality.

Students from Project Change described the impact the program has had on their lives. A student currently finishing her first year at CSM thanked the college and the district for providing a program that helped support and guide her. She expressed great thanks to her faculty mentor, **Cynthia Erickson**, who has been instrumental in her success

at the college. Another student shared how he never thought he would go to college because he struggled in high school and was in and out of juvenile hall. He was working a dead-end job for minimum wage and felt like he was going nowhere. Then, he heard about Project Change at CSM from a fellow student and decided to give it a shot. He is now successfully finishing his first semester in college. He said that he now has “hope.”

Project Change is the first community college-supported program in California to provide wrap-around student support services, direct access to postsecondary education for incarcerated youth, and in-person college instruction inside juvenile youth facilities. This unique and innovative program is paving the way for social justice and social change in the community. (Article contributed by Katie Bliss) ■

## College Gets Crafty for National Library Week



*Photo courtesy of CSM Library*

CSM celebrated National Library Week, April 13–17, with a schedule of fun and educational crafting and tinkering workshops as well as the launch of the Library’s Makerspace Tool Lending Library. The college community enjoyed participating in workshops that included READ Photos—selfies with favorite books; Question-a-Day Board, Let Loose with Legos, the Knitting Factory and Hour of Code.

The Tool Lending Library allows CSM students, faculty and staff to borrow tools such as cordless drills, soldering irons, electronic kits, knitting looms and glue guns, among others, to use for projects at school or at home. ■

## International Students Lead World Chat

Every Wednesday from April 1 through May 6, the International Student Center hosts World Chat – Six Weeks, Six Languages. Each week, the students lead a 30-minute language lesson that includes an introduction to the language and some key facts about its history and development. With the help of language cards, designed by **Janice Widodo**, an international student from Indonesia, students learn key words and phrases with indigenous script and English transliteration to help them with pronunciation. Six languages are being explored during the sessions: Korean, Arabic, Japanese, Shona, Russian and French. Response has been very positive: more than 40 students attended each of first two sessions—Korean and Arabic.

The idea for World Chat was developed by **Zhen (Jane) Lu**, International Club president and her peers. Their goal is to share the variety of languages and cultures of CSM's student population with the entire campus community. (Content contributed by Danni Redding Lapuz) ■

## Earth Day Celebration Promotes Awareness & Learning



*Photo courtesy of Lin Bowie*

CSM Celebrated Earth Day, April 22, with an extravaganza on the College Center Plaza. As part of the CSM Sustainability Plan, this year's event focused on building awareness and student learning. The main themes this year were biodiversity and water conservation. Students visited a variety of organizations in four categories: biodiversity, water, waste and energy. Exhibitors included live animal ambassadors, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California State Parks, San Mateo County Sustainability Office, PG&E, Recology and San Mateo RecycleWorks, among many others. The students discussed sustainability ideas with each organization. After learning from these conversations, they collected a stamp. When they had collected four stamps of each type, they wrote a pledge that they thought they could accomplish on

sustainable living. In exchange for the pledges, they received a veggie wrap for lunch, and a raffle ticket for donated prizes. Over 600 students completed the activity at the event. A fun day was had by all! (Article contributed by Lin Bowie and Paul Hankamp) ■

## CSM's Nursing Program Celebrates 50 Years

On Tuesday, June 2 from 1:30–4:30 pm, the Nursing Program will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> graduating class with an Open House on the third floor of the Health and Wellness Building. Highlights include tours of the nursing facilities led by CSM nursing students, historical photo display of the nursing program through the years, networking opportunities and refreshments. In 1965, 18 students made up the first graduating class, and all were women. This year's class will graduate 44 students, 7 of whom are men. Over the past 50 years, a total of 2,158 student have graduated from the program. The Open House will be followed by the Nursing Pinning Ceremony at 6:15 pm at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center. ■



## ASCSM Goes to Washington



During the last week of March, members of the ASCSM Senate traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate on behalf of students. The students from CSM met with local representatives, including **Congresswoman Jackie Speier**, and spoke about legislation that will impact community college students. The students also attended the United States Student Association National Grassroots Legislative Convention to network with other students and discuss issues of common concern with students from across the country. (Article and photo contributed by Fauzi Hamadeh) ■

## Kudos

~ Congratulations to CSM's **softball team** and **Head Coach Nicole Borg**. On April 21, they made athletic history by defeating Foothill with a 20-0 mercy rule victory; the lady Bulldogs completed the regular season with a perfect record of 34-0 and the number one ranking in the State. They will host the first round of post-season play on May 2 and 3. This team will go down in CSM history for achieving the best record by the softball program.



*Photo courtesy of CSM Softball*

~ Members of CSM's **swim team** turned in outstanding performances at the Coast Conference Swim and Dive Championships on April 16–18 at DeAnza College. The team took home 13 gold medals; 9 by the men and 4 by the women. The Bulldogs were led by **Kawei Tan** who captured a total of seven gold medals, more than any other swimmer at the meet. Last season, Tan was the state champion in the 100-yard backstroke and CSM's first state swim champion in 50 years. Tan was named the meet's Most Outstanding Swimmer for the second year in a row. He will end his historic two-year career at CSM when he competes in the state championships April 30–May 2 at East Los Angeles College.

~ **Ryan Boschetti**, a former CSM football player and NFL lineman, will be inducted into the 2015 class of the Peninsula Sports Hall of Fame on July 23. Boschetti, a graduate of Carlmont High School played six seasons for the Washington Redskins as defensive tackle.

~ A former CSM coach and a former athlete were recently inducted as members of the Northern California Sports Association Hall of Fame. **Mark Reischling** was a standout basketball player at Hillsdale High School, CSM and Chico State; he went on to have a decorated collegiate officiating career. **Bob Rush**, former track and field coach and member of CSM's Athletic Hall of Fame participated in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. While at CSM, he coached Olympic athlete Nicole Carroll and comedian Dana Carvey; Bob invented the Chronomix, the first electronic recording timer for track. ■



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 2015 Scholarship Awards Ceremony

*A Celebration of Achievement through Scholarship*

**Friday, May 1, 6–8:30 pm**  
College Center, Bayview Dining Room

## 6th Annual CSM Asian Pacific American Film Festival

**Friday, May 1, 6:30–9:30 pm**  
White Light, Black Rain  
**Saturday, May 2, Afternoon Matinee, 1 pm**  
UPAJ: Improvise  
**Saturday Evening Program, May 2, 7 pm**  
Cruisin' J-Town  
Workshop Performance by Hiroshima.

## Open Heart Yoga Festival

**Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3**  
9 am – 8 pm • College Center, Bayview Dining Room

## ASCSM Spring Fling

**Tuesday, May 5 – Thursday, May 7**  
11 am – 2 pm • CSM College Center Plaza

## Innovators Forum 2015

**Thursday, May 7, 6–10 pm**  
Join the CSM Business Club for a night of networking with local startups and tech companies.  
College Center, Bayview Dining Room

## CSM Dance Concert

*Ready. Set. FIERCE!*  
**Friday, May 8 • 1:30–3 pm and 7–9 pm**  
CSM Theatre



## One Love

*A Musical Adventure in Unity, Peace and Music!*  
**Wednesday, May 13 • 7:30–9 pm**  
CSM Theatre

## Master Class with Kara Davis

**Thursday, May 14 • 12:45–2:45 pm**  
CSM Gymnasium Room 203, Dance Studio

## ASCSM Film Student Film Festival Awards Ceremony

**Thursday, May 14 • 6–8:30 pm**  
CSM Theatre

## Honors Showcase

**Thursday, May 21 • 4–6:30 pm**  
College Center, Bayview Dining Room

## Stepping Up: A Transfer Tribute

*Reception for students who are transferring in fall 2015*  
**Thursday, May 28 • 4–6:30 pm**  
College Center, Bayview Dining Room



## CSM Commencement

**May 29 • 5:30 pm • Gymnasium**

## Jazz On the Hill

**Saturday, June 6 • 11 am – 6 pm**



## Student Success Story: Jennifer Vara

**UC Santa Barbara**

**Majors: Psychology & Sociology**

As a student at San Mateo High School, Jennifer Vara put her summers to good use. She attended summer session at College of San Mateo through the College Connection - Concurrent Enrollment Program. Over the course of two summers, Jennifer completed classes in U.S. history, ethnic studies, psychology and yoga. In addition to receiving credit toward high school graduation, she earned 13 units of college credit and gained a big jump on her college education. "Attending CSM when I was still in high school was a good experience all the way around. I liked the classes, the professors and campus, and I completed several college requirements," says Jennifer.



*Photo courtesy of Jennifer Vara*

Jennifer's experience as a concurrent enrollment student influenced her decision to attend CSM for her first two years of college. She explains, "I was familiar with the college and I knew the courses at CSM were equivalent to those I would have taken had I gone straight to the university as a freshman. I also knew that I could transfer to an excellent university. Another consideration was my future: I didn't want to spend my life working to pay off student loans. By attending CSM, I was able to graduate without owing any money, and all that I saved while living at home has helped to pay for my education at UC Santa Barbara."

She entered her first semester as a college freshman at CSM with confidence and a sense of accomplishment. "I knew what professors expected of me, so I had a smooth transition." Because she had already completed a full semester of college work while she was in high school, she had flexibility in choosing courses and exploring different majors. "In addition to completing all my general education requirements, I completed the prerequisites for a double major in sociology and psychology for UC Santa Barbara."

Jennifer was familiar with CSM's campus and knew where to go when she needed assistance. "Before college, math wasn't my favorite subject, but once I found the Math Resource Center where I received one-on-one tutoring in statistics and calculus, I actually started to enjoy math. I also went to the Learning Center whenever I needed a quiet place to study or work on assignments, and I spent time in the Integrated Science Center meeting with classmates and studying."

"As it turned out, CSM was a great place for me to begin my college education," says Jennifer. "I had some really good professors at CSM. They were engaging and passionate about their subjects and they were caring about the students. Each professor I had at CSM influenced me to become a better student. **Professor Frederick Gaines**, my ethnic studies teacher, was always encouraging us to strive to be the best in working toward our personal goals."

Looking back, Jennifer credits her experience in the Concurrent Enrollment Program for giving her a solid foundation for college. "The classes I took while in high school really helped me get ahead. In addition to the academics, CSM helped me to improve my work ethic and develop skills that made me a stronger student."

In 2014, Jennifer earned associate degrees from CSM in psychology and sociology and transferred to UC Santa Barbara where she is currently pursuing a double major in the same disciplines. She plans to attend graduate school to become a therapist or psychologist. ■