



President’s Report to the SMCCCD Board of Trustees

President Michael Claire ~ May 13, 2015

Inside...

- A Celebration of Scholarship1
- Eight Retiring Faculty Honored 2
- CSM Alumna & Former Student Trustee Selected as Commencement Speaker 3
- Jeff Duncan-Andrade Visits Campus 4
- Honors Project Hosts Learning Community Mixer 5
- Yogis Gather at CSM’s Open Heart Festival 6
- CDC Shares Best Practices with Graduate Students from Shanghai 6
- Kudos. 7
 - Honors Project students
 - Fi Tovo
 - Mike Claire & Beverley Madden
 - Baseball team
 - Softball team & Coach Nicole Borg
- Upcoming Events 9
- Student Success Story: Julianne Hough 10

A Celebration of Scholarship

On May 1, the college honored 330 students with scholarship awards at the 2015 Scholarship Awards Reception. According to the Financial Aid Office, scholarships were awarded to 282 CSM students and 48 high school students; collectively, they received 455 scholarship awards totaling \$298,166. A crowd of approximately 500 students, family members, faculty, staff and donors attended the celebration in CSM’s Bayview Dining Room.



Photo by Luis Carranza

The ceremony began with remarks by President **Mike Claire**, Academic Senate President **David Laderman**, ASCSM President **Maggie Garcia** and SMCCC Foundation Executive Director **Stephani Scott**. Vice President **Jennifer Hughes** individually recognized the many donors who made the scholarships possible and then, with the assistance of Mike Claire,

“CSM’s Scholarship Ceremony is a highlight of the academic year for me. It marks the beginning of numerous events that take place in May which recognize the accomplishments of our students. CSM’s scholars have dedicated themselves to their studies while at CSM and it is paying off. Not only are they receiving monetary awards, but their accomplishments have earned them admission to outstanding four year institutions. It is wonderful to celebrate their accomplishments with their family and friends who attend the ceremony and have them personally meet with the donors of their specific scholarship. We know that many of our students would not be able to continue their education without the generous support of the donors.” -Jennifer Hughes, vice president of student services

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. Representative from the SMCCC Foundation staffed a table where students were able to pick up complimentary swag, write thank you notes to donors and make six-second video clips to say “thank you.” Musical entertainment was provided by CSM’s Reggae Band featuring Assistant Professor Rudy Ramirez; President Mike Claire joined the band for one number on the drums.

Members of the CSM Scholarship Planning Committee included **Karen Chadwick** (coordinator), **Jennifer Hughes**, **Claudia Menjivar**, **Dennis Tordesillas** and **Henry Villareal**; volunteer assistance was provided by staff from the Financial Aid Office, Admissions & Records, Counseling, Community Relations & Marketing and the student ambassadors. ■

Eight Retiring Faculty Honored



Photo by David McLain

CSM honored eight retiring faculty members at a reception hosted by the Academic Senate on May 5. Surrounded by colleagues and other members of the college community, the following 2015 retirees were acknowledged for their many contributions to the college:

Rick Ambrose, professor of accounting, 30 years of service

Patti Appel, professor of digital media, 24 years of service

Ken Brown, professor of mathematics, 30 years of service

Merle Cutler, professor of English, 35 years of service

Lyle Gomes, professor of art and photography, 35 years of service

James Robertson, professor of history, 15 years of service

Ed Seubert, professor of digital media, 36 years of service

Brandon Smith, professor of ESL, 13 years of service ■

CSM Alumna & Former Student Trustee Selected as Commencement Speaker

The college is pleased to announce that **Richael Young**, CSM alumna and former SMCCCD student trustee will serve as the keynote speaker at the 93rd commencement exercises on Friday, May 28. Richael holds a B.S. degree in civil and environmental engineering and an M.S. degree in agricultural and applied economics from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; she is currently completing a second master's degree in environmental engineering.

Richael Young began her college education at the age of 14. Homeschooled during her high school years, Richael enriched her education by attending CSM's

Concurrent Enrollment Program. Taking classes at CSM allowed her to fulfill high school requirements and get an early start on her college education. Richael continued at CSM as a full-time student; she excelled in academics and became active in student governance. In 2006-08, she served as an officer in CSM's chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society as well as the student trustee of the San Mateo County Community College District Board.

While attending CSM, Richael was elected president of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges. In this role, she was the official spokesperson for California's 2.8 million community college students, voicing student needs and concerns at state conferences, legislative hearings and to the Board of Governors for California Community Colleges. She was one of only 30 community college students nationwide to be awarded the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship honoring her academic achievement and leadership contributions to the college, district and the state.

Today, Richael is the president and co-founder of Mammoth Trading, a company that develops customized trading platforms for the exchange of natural resource rights. In 2014, she developed and launched the first active smart market for groundwater in the United States, which is helping agricultural producers in Nebraska to put limited groundwater to its best use. She is a true community college success story. ■



Photo courtesy of Richael Young

Jeff Duncan-Andrade Visits Campus



Notable educator, author and speaker **Dr. Jeff Duncan-Andrade** visited CSM on April 29 to present “Education: It’s Not Rocket Science” to the campus community. Andrade shared his experiences as a student growing up in East Oakland and later as a highly successful high school teacher there to discuss what he has learned along the way. He encouraged the CSM community to “reach for the heart before the head.” Not only is this the humane thing to do, but the presence of a caring adult is the most protective factor against toxic stress. This is especially important for our students dealing with trauma of any kind, whether it be homelessness, hunger, violence, or loss.

Professor of ESL **Kristi Ridgway** commented on Duncan-Andrade’s visit: “We were so appreciative that he spoke overtime and stayed longer than scheduled for the question and answer session and to speak with students individually afterward. He really models what he preaches—the importance of human connection, of humanity. Jeff is such an amazing speaker because he can connect with so many different people on different levels. I keep hearing students, faculty and staff talking about how his message really resonated with them, and I hope our conversations continue in the days, weeks and months to come to help us better connect with one another and combat of the barriers to our students’ health, safety and education.”



Photos by David McLain

Duncan-Andrade has taught in East Oakland high schools for more than 20 years and teaches Raza studies and education at San Francisco State University. He has published several books and journal articles on effective pedagogy, including: *What a Coach Can Teach a Teacher* and *The Art of Critical Pedagogy: Possibilities for Moving from Theory to Practice in Urban Schools*. He is co-founder of TEN, the Teaching Excellent Network. ■

Honors Project Hosts Learning Community Mixer



Photo by Alexis Madayag

On Friday afternoon, April 3, the Honors Project hosted a Learning Community mixer in the Learning Center, in an effort to join hands with all CSM learning communities. The Honors Project usually holds a midterm mixer, but this term wanted to celebrate the spirit of the new Academic Support and Learning Technologies Division, which now houses all learning communities. Accompanied by tasty snacks and alluring live music (courtesy of Rudy Ramirez, Charles Jones, and others), the mixer was well attended by students, staff and faculty from Umoja, Puente, Mana (a new learning community for Pacific Islander students), Project Change, Pathway to College and Writing in the End Zone. Students from each program gave a few words about the special qualities of their learning community. In the spirit of the event's themes—networking and cross-cultural support—most comments included an invitation to any student to become involved in the various learning communities. (Article contributed by David Laderman) ■

Yogis Gather at CSM's Open Heart Festival

More than 300 members of the yoga community attended the Open Heart Yoga Festival over the weekend of May 2–3. Hosted by Open Heart Yoga, a student club at CSM, the festival united members from yoga studios, schools, and health clubs from all around the San Mateo area. The festival provided a fabulous opportunity for yogis of all levels and experience to practice with top Bay Area teachers and educators and connect with other yogis.

The two-day event featured a full range of yoga workshops (including Samtana Flow, Ayurveda, Hot Stone Restorative, Chakra Journey and Illuminated Heart) and a festival market with more than 25 vendors representing health clubs, CSM clubs, organic foods and products, active wear companies and much more.



Photo source: Open Heart Yoga website

Denaya Dailey, CSM associate professor of dance, explains how the festival has also resulted in some wonderful benefits for CSM, “We partnered with 15 local yoga studios and health clubs; each studio sent a teacher to lead a workshop. Partnering with these studios has opened up doors for CSM students: two soon-to-be graduates of the Yoga Teacher Training Certificate Program left the festival with jobs—a teaching opportunity and an internship opportunity. I have also had a flurry of students now interested in the CSM Yoga Teacher Training Certificate Program.” ■

CDC Shares Best Practices with Graduate Students from Shanghai



Photo courtesy of Louise Piper

For the past three years, delegations of between 10–30 educators at a time have visited CSM's Child Development Center to engage in professional development through CSM's program. **Louise Piper**, coordinator of child care services, and **Karen Wiggins-**

Dowler, assistant professor in the CDC, have presented to the group on subjects related to teaching practices, curriculum development, assessment, family engagement and administration/leadership. The graduate students are from Shanghai University working on their theses in early education/child development through University of Pacific. The most recent visit took place on April 24 when the CDC was visited by a group of 10 students and professors. ■

Kudos

~ Four CSM Honors Project students presented their research at Stanford University on Saturday, May 2. It was all part of the 8th Annual Bay Honors Research Symposium, which occurs each spring at either Stanford or UC Berkeley and spotlights Bay Area community college honors students presenting on a wide array of subjects. Since its inception three years ago, CSM's program has had students present at the conference every year. This year was the largest conference ever, with attendance surpassing 350. From CSM, several other students, faculty, staff and a dean made a strong show of support for the Honors Project presenters

(pictured from left to right): **Dionne Pickard, Divyashish Kumar, Eleni Jacobson** and **Robert Cecchi**. Topics this year all possessed a science angle: extra-terrestrial colonization; science fiction literature and film; women in the STEM workplace. The event was both festive and, of course, intellectually stimulating. (Article contributed by David Laderman)



Photo courtesy of David Laderman

~ **Fi (Finausina) Tovo**, admissions and records assistant, was recently honored by the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center (PCRC) with the center's Unique Contribution Award. The award recognizes Fi's work on the Pacific Islander Violence Prevention Conference (PIVPC), part of a national conference that focuses on breaking the silence on issues regarding violence in Pacific Islander communities and the role that culture plays in the process of healing. In addition, Fi has provided the link between the two organizations which has led to CSM's support and co-sponsorship for PCRC events such as the MANA Conference. San Mateo County Supervisor Warren Slocum, who is also a PCRC board member, presented Fi with her award. Fi also serves as a volunteer on the planning board for both the PIVPC and MANA conferences.



Photo courtesy of Fi Tovo, pictured at center

~ **Mike Claire** and **Beverley Madden** presented a workshop titled “Shifting the Model!” at the California Community College Public Relations Organization on April 23. They addressed how CSM has successfully incorporated the day-to-day activities of college outreach with public relations and marketing to provide a fully integrated approach to college recruitment and marketing.

~ CSM’s baseball team captured the Coast Golden Gate Conference title with a final record of 17-5 in the conference and 25-11 overall.

~ On the heels of the softball team’s perfect record for the regular season, all full season players and their coach have been honored with recognition by the Coast Conference. Most notable awards went to **Melina Rodriguez**, Player of the Year, and **Lauren Berriatua**, Pitcher of Year, while Head Coach **Nicole Borg** captured Coach of the Year for the fourth time in five years.

Additional CSM first team all-conference selections included **Leilani Akai**, **Kaitlin Chang**, **Harlee Donovan**, **Christy Peterson**, **Kayleen Smith** and **Lacie Crawford**. Second team selections were **Riley Wells**, **Brittany Wilkerson**, **Janelle Rubio**, and **Kacy Edwards**.

Rodriguez, a graduate of James Logan High School had the state’s highest batting average, .618 while Berriatua from Notre Dame-Belmont, amassed the state’s best pitching record, 23-0, and led the state in earned run average with a miniscule 0.28; her batting average of .567 is the third best in the State.



Photo by Terry Bernal, San Mateo Daily Journal

The team’s extraordinary season has received significant media coverage, including a front page story in the *San Mateo Daily Journal* on April 22, 2015. Also on Channel 5, the 6 pm newscast carried a story about the team’s success on May 1 which included comments by Coach Borg and a number of her players. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

Master Class with Kara Davis

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

ASCSM Film Student Film Festival Awards Ceremony

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

Master Class with Robert Dekkers in Ballet

Tuesday, May 19 • 3–4:30 pm
Gymnasium, Room 203, Dance Studio

Pitch Your WOW! to Bill Reichert, Managing Director, Garage Technology Ventures

Wednesday, May 20 • 6–9:30 pm
College Center Bayview Dining Room

Honors Showcase

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

Umoja: End of the Year Celebration

Thursday, May 21 • 6–8 pm
College Center, College Heights Conference Room

Spring Electronic Music Concert

Thursday, May 21 • 7 pm • CSM Theatre

CSM Concert Choir Performance

Excerpts from Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria"
Wednesday, May 27 • 4:30 pm
Building 2, Room 110

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

Nursing Open House

CSM's Nursing Program celebrates the 50th graduating class
Tuesday, June 2 • 1:30–4:30 pm
Health & Wellness Building, Third Floor

Middle College Graduation

Tuesday, June 2 • 6–8 pm • CSM Theatre

Jazz On the Hill

Saturday, June 6 • 11 am – 6 pm

CSM Presents at San Mateo County Fair

Monday, June 8 • 10 am – 7 pm
Blues & Brews Stage
CSM's students, faculty, staff and alumni will be presenting a variety of musical performances between 2–5 pm. Outreach continues until 7 pm.

Student Success Story: Julianne Hough

Dance & Communication Studies

Since the age of five when Julianne Hough slipped into her first pair of dance shoes, dance has been a consistent thread in her life. Throughout her elementary and high schools years, she studied dance at ODC - Oberlin Dance Collective in San Francisco. Later, her path led to CSM where she continued to cultivate her passion for dance.

Julianne first arrived on CSM's campus as a high school student. Since her high school didn't offer dance, she enrolled in a modern dance class at CSM through the College Connection – Concurrent Enrollment Program. "In addition to a variety of dance classes, CSM offers a Performance Dance Ensemble (PDE), a student group that produces student dance concerts

every semester. I knew I wanted to be involved in PDE. I found a nurturing dance community at CSM, so it was only natural that I would continue my education there. It has been the right place for me to further develop as a dancer while I discovered what I wanted to do with my life."

As a full-time college student at CSM, Julianne took full advantage of the college's dance offering focusing on modern, jazz, ballet and social dance. CSM's dance department provided opportunities for Julianne to further develop her talent and build her confidence as a dancer. "Coming to CSM has given focus to my life. I feel so lucky to have had Professor Denaya Daily as my dance instructor; she helped guide me to improve my technique and self-discipline. I look up to Denaya as a dancer and a teacher—she is very approachable. Taking her classes helped me to grow as a dancer and a student."

Julianne found CSM's dance instructors were very encouraging. "When I began at CSM, I was very shy but thanks to my dance classes and the faculty, my social and academic growth was nourished. I also met my closest friends in the dance classes I took at CSM." During her years at the college, Julianne not only expanded her repertoire of dance but she also developed new and related skills. "I learned how to choreograph dances for our PDE concert where dance students showcase their skills.



Photo by David McLain

I also performed my first solo dance.”

Through her participation in CSM’s dance community, Julianne learned about another opportunity that would diversify her dance background. Laurel Elementary School in San Mateo needed volunteers to teach dance to special education students. It was new territory for Julianne but she was excited about the challenge. “Teaching dance to the children turned out to be a wonderful experience as I learned about working with children. It warmed my heart to watch them grow through the dance process.” she says.

While she was enjoying her pursuit of dance, Julianne also concentrated on her general education coursework to prepare to transfer to a university. She found supportive instructors throughout her classes. “Rudy Ramirez, my ethnic studies professor was inspiring. Besides teaching, he produces a rhythm and blues show each semester at CSM and he gave me the opportunity to perform in his productions.”

Despite her passion for dance, Julianne wasn’t necessarily looking to pursue a professional dance career. However, she wanted to find a major which would provide career opportunities that could apply to the field of dance. She made that connection in her communication studies classes. “My favorite class was Intercultural Communications. Learning how different cultures communicate has been fascinating.”

Julianne will graduate with her AA degree in communication studies this May and transfer to an out-of-state university to continue to study dance and communications. “I don’t know exactly where it will lead me but I want to blend my interests in dance and communications. I hope to work with people in various parts of the world, perhaps as a dance therapist or dance instructor for children.”

“I’ve enjoyed my experience at CSM and now I feel ready to move on to a university. By attending CSM, I’ve had the opportunity to broaden my knowledge in many different areas. I made important decisions about my major and minor and where I want to continue my education. I have a much clearer vision for my life.” ■