



President's Report to the SMCCCD Board of Trustees

President Michael Claire ~ June 24, 2015

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Commencement 2015 Highlights



Photo by Gino de Grandis

- 195 graduates participated in the ceremony
- 673 associate degrees awarded
- 1,184 two-year career and technical certificates awarded
- 1,857 total degrees and certificates awarded
- 63 distinct majors represented among associate degree recipients
- 53 distinct certificate programs represented among certificate recipients
- Commencement Speaker: **Richael Young**, CSM alum, former SMCCCD student trustee, former president of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges; M.S, B.S, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; environmental entrepreneur.
- Summa Cum Laude Graduates: **Suet Yan Choi, David Robert Greene, Ngan Le Shanahan and Tiffiani Jane Pak**
- Allan R. Brown Outstanding Student Service Award recipients: **Rupinder Bajwa, Maggie Garcia, Marissa Garcia, Julianne Hough, Alberto Palma and James Roe** ■

College of San Mateo



Photos by Gino de Grandis

Jazz Fans Unite at KCSM's Jazz on the Hill



Photo by Rupinder Bajwa

A fantastic musical line up, an exuberant crowd, delicious food and drink and great weather combined to make Jazz on the Hill (JOTH) 2015 a major success. Approximately 3,500 jazz fans of all ages from around the Bay Area and beyond showed up for KCSM-FM's signature community event.

JOTH was kicked off with welcoming words from SMCCCD Trustee **Karen Schwarz** and Station Manager **Dante Betteo**. Program Director **Alisa Clancy** and weekend host of *A Morning Cup of Jazz*, **Keith Hines**, introduced the musical line up throughout the day. Headliners on the Main Stage included **Poncho Sanchez**, **Maria Muldaur**, the **Jamie Davis Big Band**, **Dirty Cello** and the **Anton Schwartz Quintet**. The Youth Stage in the Theatre showcased some of the finest high school (and one middle school) musical talent from around the Bay.

Because JOTH is an admission-free event, sponsorships were critical to its success. Key sponsors included the McRoskey Mattress Company, Whole Foods-San Mateo, McDonald's-Stanford Shopping Center, San Mateo Credit Union, and a number of individual sponsors, including a very generous donor couple from San Francisco who supported headliner Poncho Sanchez.

Fine beer and wine purveyors Matagrano, Inc. and local Domenico Winery and gourmet food trucks such as Hiyaaa and Whisk on Wheels provided delicious food and drink to keep jazz fans content throughout the festival. KCSM's fellow jazz organizations, SFJAZZ, San Jose Jazz, and Stanford Jazz staffed booths in "jazz alley." Local artisans showcased their wares at vendor booths and CSM and other community groups staffed information tables. The event included giveaways of a premium gift basket and Stanford Jazz Festival tickets, and an exhibit of four vehicles from BMW of San Francisco, which joined hands with SFJAZZ for its upcoming raffle of a brand new, all-electric BMW i3. (Content contributed by Barbara Lamb-Hall) ■

Business Club Launches Innovators Forum



Photos provided by Bernie Leung

On May 7, CSM's Business Club hosted Innovators Forum 2015. This first-time event attracted more than 300 attendees, 25 startup companies, four high-powered keynote speakers, and an impressive angel investor panel. According to CSM business student and co-president of the Business Club **Bernie Leung**,



“Innovator’s Forum is the Bay Area’s first community college student-run business and tech startup conference. We created an opportunity for students to learn from experts how to start a company, learn about the latest technology from select startups and connect with fellow dreamers.” The forum also provided plenty of opportunities for attendees to network with representatives from more than 25 cutting-edge startups and other companies, view demonstrations and discuss innovative solutions to everyday problems.

CSM President **Mike Claire** kicked off the event with a welcome and introductions. Four prominent industry leaders spoke on topics such as sharing economy, crowdfunding, how to build a minimum viable product, and company valuation. Featured speakers included **Arsen Ari Kalfayan**, founder and board member of Startup & Tech Mixer; **Mason Blake**, co-founder and CTO of UpCounsel; **Stephen**

Forte, managing director of Fresco Capital; and **Jeff Faust**, director of valuation services for Abbot Stringham & Lynch. The night was capped off with a pitch to an investor panel comprised of three angel investors, two of which were angel organization founders: **Gary Jinks** of South Valley Angels and **Manny Fernandez** of San Francisco Angels Group.

The core team of students who developed and coordinated the event were **Bernie Leung**, **Kent Lin**, **Eileen Reyes** and **Ferjohn Maglalang**. Faculty advisors for the club are accounting professors **Rosemary Nurre** and **Rick Ambrose**. (Content contributed by Bernie Leung.) ■

Nursing Program Celebrates 50 Years



On June 2, CSM's Nursing Program celebrated its 50th anniversary with a festive open house followed by the annual pinning ceremony. The open house brought together nursing program alumni, current students, former and current nursing faculty and members of the college and medical community. Guests had the opportunity to tour the nursing skills lab, view a historical photo display of the program through the years, and spend time networking and reconnecting with former colleagues. The SMCCC Foundation staffed an alumni table with a raffle and giveaways. Later that day, the nursing program held its 50th graduation/pinning ceremony at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center. ■

Middle College Holds 17th Commencement



Photos provided by Greg Quigley



Twenty-two San Mateo Middle College students participated in the 17th graduation on June 2 to an audience of more than 200 family members and friends. Middle College graduate of 2010, Jennifer Soto, now working as a youth outreach coordinator at Star Vista, delivered the alumni speech.

Several Middle College graduates will continue their education at CSM or other community colleges while others will be attending the following four-year colleges and universities: UC Berkeley, San Jose State University, Santa Clara University, University of the Pacific, NYU, California Maritime Academy, Portland State University and University of British Columbia. Twenty-one of the graduates previously attended schools in the San Mateo Union High School District and one previously attended Half Moon Bay High School. ■

12 Instructors Complete New Faculty Institute



Photo by David McLain

In collaboration with the Center for Academic Excellence and the Academic Support Learning Technologies division, CSM launched a New Faculty Institute (NFI) for twelve new full-time faculty members. The goals of NFI were to:

Promote student-centered pedagogy

Increase faculty's sense of institutional agency

Provide training to effectively use relevant technology

(smart classrooms, learning management systems, social media)

Enhance cross-disciplinary dialogue and collaboration

The new faculty participated in a day-long orientation prior to the beginning of the school year. This activity was followed by monthly workshops in which they learned about topics such as professional development opportunities, committees and leadership, utilization of WebAccess, curriculum, and articulation. Each new faculty member was also charged with presenting an action research project from their work with students. The research projects varied from classroom interventions incorporating directed writing or discussion, to case-based learning approaches, to use of technology solutions to provide support for students.

The new faculty members are a dynamic forward-thinking bunch who found the institute very valuable for helping them make connections to each other and other faculty across various disciplines. They worked well together in the institute and each one of them contributed to campus life by getting involved in their departments or serving on committees or initiatives. The NFI served as a supportive launching pad for their careers at CSM.

These faculty received acknowledgement at the NFI Recognition Ceremony on May 21. During the reception with their deans and mentors, new faculty received certificates of completion, business cards, and gift cards. Completing the institute were **Renee Bu** (Library), **Denaya Dailey** (Kinesiology, Athletics, and Dance), **Jesenia Diaz** (Counseling), **Emily Kurland** (ESL), **Sara Lawrence** (English), **Colby Nixon** (Spanish), Santiago Perez (Biology), **Stephanie Roach** (Library), **Christopher Walker** (Math), **Shawn Westmoreland** (Math). A new and improved version of New Faculty Institute will continue next year with the next crop of full-time faculty. (Article contributed by Theresa Martin) ■

AGS Exhibits Strength in Numbers



Photo provided by Tim Maxwell

College of San Mateo's Eta Chapter of Alpha Gamma Sigma sent 35 students to the state conference in Ontario. CSM had the largest contingent from any single college, testifying to the club's unity and commitment. To make the trip possible, club members succeeded in raising more than \$3,500 from outside sources. Currently, AGS has more than 80 active members, who meet weekly to coordinate and carry out a wide range of campus and community service events, including helping underprivileged children to read, cleaning up beaches, building trails, volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, and serving in many other ways. The club has subcommittees focused on fundraising, community service, campus service, membership, and human rights, all of which are demonstrating unprecedented levels of success.

Much of this can be credited to the leadership of **Dee Dee Pickard**, winner of the Walsh Award for Service, who stepped into the presidency this semester after the previous president was forced to resign due to family issues. Working with a

fine team of officers, including **Eric Argamaso**, **Danielle Pulizzano**, and Michelle Alvarez, Dee Dee has helped the club grow as an organization that both serves the community in positive ways and provides a diverse group of opportunities for personal growth and learning. At the conference and in all that they do, AGS members form a cohesive and positive community. AGS advisors **Sara Lawrence**, **Tim Maxwell**, and **Jeremy Wallace** also attended the conference. (Article contributed by Tim Maxwell) ■

CSM Co-Hosts Pacific Islander Violence Prevention Conference



CSM served as a co-sponsor and provided the venue for the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center’s second annual Pacific Islander (PI) Violence Prevention Conference held over three days earlier this month. This year’s conference, titled “Restoring Culture and Spirituality to Heal Communities” attracted approximately 200 attendees and drew speakers from New Zealand, Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, Utah and throughout California. **Mike Claire** provided the welcome and spoke about the positive work the college is doing with the PI community. Workshops included information about gang violence, community policing, religion in the prison system, restorative justice, healing, parenting and ties between culture and violence. Keynote speaker **Herewini Jones**, a cultural expert from New Zealand, emphasized identity as the key to healing. Other speakers included **Shawn Gordon**, a pastor and director of Project Bayview in San Francisco; **Ofa Mann**, who serves on the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs, and Maui Police Chief Tivoli Faaumu, among others. In addition, the conference included the screening of “In Football We Trust,” a documentary about gang violence which was shown at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival. CSM classified staff members **Finausina “Fi” Tovo** and **Deb Laulusa** serve on the advisory board for the conference. ■

New Resource Promotes Student Health

CSM has recently subscribed to a nationally distributed e-magazine, *Student Health 101*, a publication designed specifically for college students. CSM students received an initial email message, introducing *Student Health 101* and the link to the current and archived issues and information about receiving monthly updates. This resource,

free to students, is intended to provide the tools they need to maintain optimal health. *Student Health 101* can be accessed through the Health Services Center website at collegeofsanmateo.readsh101.com. ■

Kudos

~ Five students from CSM's Cosmetology Club recently participated in the Rise Above Empowerment Conference sponsored by San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. The conference focused on women and girls at risk of being sexually exploited or already receiving assistance for this issue. The event featured special workshops and break-out events that reinforced self-esteem and self-worth. It included inspiring speakers, therapists, social workers, and survivors that made this event unprecedented in its reach to approximately eighty women and girls that attended.



Photo provided by Cindy James

CSM cosmetology students **Stephanie Carus, Karissa Gomes, Ingrid Gonzalez, Maria Martinez, Marielos Rodriguez, and Sarah Wren** participated in a break-out session in which they showed the girls how to apply fresh daytime make-up appropriate for work or school. Additionally, all attendees were given coupons to CSM's Cosmetology Department for free services with an invitation to visit the college for vocational training or degree programs; the program also donated a variety of cosmetic supplies for attendees to take home. The cosmetology students all voiced the importance of giving back to the community and were proud to be a part of this event. Instructor and Cosmetology Club Advisor **Aurora Medrano**, coordinated CSM's participation, with assistance from Professor **Andria Nalls** and Program Services Coordinator **Cindy James**. (Content provided by Cindy James)

~ San Mateo Middle College junior **Zoe Alarcon** was recently acknowledged by the San Mateo County Office of Education as the Outdoor Education Cabin Leader of the Year. She served as a volunteer cabin leader two weeks this year working with fifth- and sixth graders at the YMCA Camp at Jones Gulch near Pescadero.

~ **Shulamit Hoffmann**, adjunct music faculty, served as conductor for "Facets of Love," Fauré Requeim and American Lyricists program presented by Viva la Musica! Shulamit has served as Viva la Musica's artistic and executive director since she founded the organization in 2001. The performances took place at the Congregational Church in San Mateo and at the Rossmoor Event Center.



Photo source: Shulamit Hoffmann: Viva la Musica!

~ CSM's **softball team** accomplished a historic feat by achieving a perfect record (37-0) in regular season play and capturing their fourth consecutive Coast Conference North championship. The Lady Bulldogs continued their undefeated streak in post-season regional and super regional play by collecting seven more wins. They took their 44-0 record into the State Final Four only to lose in the very last round to perennial softball powerhouse Palomar College.

More softball news...

CSM topped all schools with four selections to the 2015 National Fast Pitch Coaches Association CalJC All-American teams. In the North Region, CSM led the way with four players named to the prestigious listing: pitcher **Lauren Berriatua**, infielder **Melina Rodriguez**, catcher **Leilani Akai** and utility player **Harlee Donovan**. Berriatua was a perfect 24-0 with a CCCAA leading 0.43 ERA and also struck out 155 with just 23 walks and one home run allowed in 130.2 innings of work. On top of that, she hit .552 with 46 RBI. Donovan provided the power for the Bulldogs with a CCCAA leading 18 home runs (tie) and 70 RBI, was second in runs scored (60) and also batted .543 with 10 doubles, a .609 OBP and a 1.095 slugging percentage. Her teammate, Akai, was not far behind her with 16 long balls and 62 RBI, a .527 batting average, .600 OBP and 1.129 slugging percentage. Rodriguez batted .581 with 45 runs scored and a .663 on base percentage.

~ One of the Bay Meadows' new parks, Landing Green, features a sculpture by noted artist **Chuck Ginnever**, a CSM alum. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jazz Under the Stars

CSM Observatory Star Party

Saturday, June 27, 8–10 pm

(weather permitting)

Bldg. 36, Rooftop Observatory

collegeofsanmateo.edu/astronomy/jazz

The Sky Tonight - 'Experience the Aurora'

Planetarium Show

Friday, July 10, 7:30–9:00 pm

Bldg. 36, Planetarium

collegeofsanmateo.edu/astronomy/planetarium

Classified Appreciation Lunch & Service Awards

Tuesday, July 14, 12:30–2 pm

College Center, Terrace

Student Success Story: James Howard

A.A, CSM

Veterans Outreach Specialist James Howard applies what he learned in classes at CSM to his work for the Department of Veterans Affairs on a daily basis. Equipped with a degree from CSM and major life experiences, James was able to fulfill his career goal of helping his fellow veterans.



Photo by David McLain

Soon after graduating from Aragon High School in 2001, James enrolled at Cañada College; however, within two weeks, his education was promptly disrupted by the events of 9-11. By October 2001, James enlisted in the U.S. Navy and began the first of two tours of duty which would take him to the Asian Pacific and the Persian Gulf. Following his honorable discharge, James decided to put his newly acquired veteran benefits to use and continue his education, this time at College of San Mateo.

With a young family to support, James's transition back to college was gradual. He started out with the minimum number of units that allowed him to receive his veteran benefits, and as time permitted, he increased his class load until he became a full-time student. "My counselor, Kevin Sinarle, helped me to put together an educational plan and encouraged me to take an extra class each semester so I could finish my degree sooner rather than later."

According to James, taking classes at CSM opened his eyes to many different subjects, ideas and perspectives. Two subjects that had particular impact were communication studies and ethnic studies. "I took interpersonal communication with Professor George Kramm; he is an excellent teacher and the skills I developed in his class were so practical to the working world." James eventually took all four courses in the program and earned a certificate in communications studies. "From my ethnic studies classes, I learned a great deal about other cultures which has been very helpful in my work with veterans. My professor Frederick Gaines was very supportive and encouraged us to achieve at the highest level of our ability." "Those classes have been very helpful to me as an outreach specialist for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). My work involves a great deal of public speaking and interpersonal communication with a very diverse veterans community."

James was also able to take advantage of CSM's brand new Veteran's Resource and Opportunity Center (VROC), a central location for veteran students to congregate, study and relax. "CSM has made the center a welcoming space for veterans to spend time outside the classroom. I would go there to study and use the computers, work on homework assignments or just meet with other veterans. The comfortable atmosphere of the Center allows vets to spend time with others who understand the challenges that we have faced. By spending time in the Center, I also made some very good friends."

In 2013, James received his associate degree in social science and a certificate in communication studies— making him the first in his family to earn a college degree. Graduation was memorable for James as he and the good friends he met in the Veterans Center walked across the stage together to receive their degrees.

Through his exposure to other veterans at CSM and as a part-time employee for the VA at the Peninsula Veterans Center, James realized that he wanted to be an advocate for veterans. "I want to continue to work with veterans to make sure they are using their benefits." As part of his outreach work for the VA, James has returned to CSM on a weekly basis to meet with veteran students in the VROC.

"Attending CSM was a really good experience. I liked my professors, received good counseling and found helpful resources that supported and guided my education. And, I found a job I love that allows me to use what I learned at CSM. I realized my passion is to help out my fellow veterans." ■