



President's Report to the SMCCCD Board of Trustees

President Michael Claire ~ April 27, 2011

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CSM Showcases New College Center



April 14, 2011 was a milestone day for CSM as its new flagship building, College Center, was officially unveiled to the college community. Beginning with a ceremony in the College Center Plaza, more than 300 people gathered for a program that featured speakers representing the Board of Trustees, college and district administration, faculty, staff and students as well as the contractors and design firm. The program concluded with a dance performance by members of CSM's Polynesian Club and a ribbon cutting. Following the ceremony, guests were invited to explore the new building and speak with staff in many of the offices and program areas. Musical entertainment was provided by CSM's own Jazz Band and Electronic Music Ensemble. Refreshments were generously funded by McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.

College of San Mateo

CSM Showcases New College Center



Pass Rates Give Dental Assisting Students Reason to Smile

According to statistics released by the Dental Board of California, CSM dental assisting students taking state board exams have achieved outstanding pass rates on both components (practical and written) of the Registered Dental Assistant exam. CSM students who sat for the Registered Dental Assistant examinations in August 2010 had a 100% pass rate on the practical exam portion and an 89% pass rate on the written portion of the exam. In addition, from October 2006 – November 2010, the cumulative pass rate for CSM dental students was 85% which is 20 percentage points higher than the state average and up from the previous report released in 2007.

CSM Journalism Students Honored with Statewide Awards

CSM journalism students were honored by the California College Media Association (CCMA) with a trio of prestigious awards for their coverage of several local stories. A team of CSM students that included **Margaret Baum**, **Roger Boucher**, **Raymond Cheung**, **Alex Farr**, **Jeffrey Gonzalez**, **Tyler Huffman**, **Bruno Manrique**, **Jason Pun** and **Sylvia Vasquez** captured the first place award for Best Special Section for coverage last September's San Bruno fire. The students published an array of stories and photographs covering the event in a four-page section of *The San Matean*. Students **Alex Farr** and **Bruno Manrique** also collected first place honors in the Best Breaking News Story category for coverage in February 2010 of a plane that crashed into an East Palo Alto home that was the residence of a CSM student. Former CSM student **Margaret Baum**, now a journalism major at San Jose State University, received a third place in the Best Editorial category for her writing about a First Amendment issue. The CCMA, which serves four-year colleges and universities, began allowing community college journalists to compete against its members in 2010.

In The News: CSM Instructor/Musician John Santos



Internationally renowned musician and CSM instructor **John Santos**, is featured in an article in the April 2011 issue of *DRUM! Magazine*. The five-page article follows the evolution of Santos' music from his early days in San Francisco's Mission District to his rise as one of the Bay Area's most versatile Latin musicians. In the article, Santos is described as a "conguero, percussionist, historian, record producer, composer, writer, vocalist, lecturer, teacher and an in-demand session player." He also runs his own label, manages and books his bands and produced concerts. Santos is the instructor of CSM's Afro-Latin Percussion Ensemble class.

Santos was also the subject of an article in the *San Jose Mercury* (3/28/11) that highlighted his two news CDs. *La Esperanza*, which features an expansive cast of percussionists, singers and string players was released last month and will be followed by a May 1 release of *Filosofia Caribeña* featuring music of the Caribbean with Iberian and African influences. He recently presented the world premiere of *Filosofia Caribeña* at the Herbst Theatre as part of San Francisco Jazz's spring program

Recognizing Athletes as Leaders and Readers



CSM's Athletes as Leaders and Readers (ARL) program recently hosted a reception and awards ceremony to acknowledge the student athletes who have participated in the program during the past year. Eleven student athletes, from football, track and field and women's basketball and softball have been visiting the Child Development Center to read aloud to the children. The athletes carefully select just the right books to bring to read; during the readings, they work hard to encourage the children to actively participate in the story reading experience, listening to their questions, encouraging them to predict what might happen next in the story and helping them to relate story and characters in the book to their own experiences.



According to the Center's coordinator, Louise Piper, "It has been impressive to see the athletes commitment to helping shape children's learning and it's clear they now see themselves as the valuable roles model they are." At the reception, the athletes were presented with certificates from Congresswoman Jackie Speier's office and the ARL program. They also received a letter of recognition from the San Francisco Giants organization, tickets to an Oakland A's game and an ARL sweatshirt. Attendees included parents, children and staff from the Child Development Center as well as faculty and staff from the library, athletics, and many other areas on campus.

Pediatrician Serves as Middle College's Principal for a Day

Dr. Harvey S. Kaplan, a well-established local pediatrician and chair of the First 5 San Mateo County Commission, recently spent a day visiting CSM as a participant in the "Principal for the Day" program sponsored by the San Mateo County Office of Education. Dr. Kaplan was "Principal for the Day" at CSM's Middle College High School, shadowing Middle College Principal Greg Quigley. During his visit, Dr. Kaplan toured the campus and met with current and prospective Middle College students, the Middle College staff and had lunch with President Mike Claire.

The First 5 program, which emerged from the passage of Proposition 10 in 1998, provides early childhood development, health care, parent education, and other programs that improve services for children from a prenatal stage through age five and their families. Dr. Kaplan previously served as Chief of Pediatrics at San Mateo Medical Center.

Congresswoman Speier Hosts Boot Camp for Job Seekers at CSM

On April 8, Congresswoman Jackie Speier held a free Job Hunter's Boot Camp, at CSM's new College Center that was attended by more than 600 job seekers. The event, offered to 12th Congressional District and San Mateo County residents, included workshops, panels, internship opportunities, and résumé and interview consultations. Approximately 30 local employers, representing a wide variety of careers, participated in the event.



500 Show Up for Astronomy Day



Astronomy Day continues to draw crowds and interest from the community. Earlier this month, five hundred people showed up for the event which featured planetarium shows, workshops and rooftop observations. Thanks to the San Mateo County Astronomical Society, members of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific and CSM, guests were educated and entertained throughout the day.

College Holds Emergency Exercise



On April 13, the college held an emergency evacuation drill as part of its public safety effort. According to Vice President of Student Services Jennifer Hughes, the exercise was very successful in that the entire campus was able to evacuate in approximately seven minutes. The Emergency Annunciation System was used to announce the beginning of the evacuation and the "all clear" message when the test was complete. The college informed students about the drill several days in advance using the district's emergency text messaging system.


Concert to Benefit Child Development Center

On Saturday, May 7 from 12:00 - 3:00 pm, the Child Development Center will sponsor a Spring Benefit Concert featuring the Reggae sounds of Bay Area band, Native Elements and the World Beat sounds of Zanzibar on the CSM Plaza next to the Health and Wellness Building. The concert is a celebration of children and families and all proceeds will go directly to benefit the Child Development Center. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for students and free for children under 13 years old. The event will include children's activities and drawing prizes. Attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket and picnic lunch. Beverages will be provided; alcohol is not permitted on the campus. Tickets may be purchased in advance by calling (650) 574-6279; they may also be purchased at the concert.

CSM Celebrates the Vibrant Rhythms of Latin Music

LATIN MUSIC EXPERIENCE

a night of edu-tainment



Presented by Rudy "El Profesor" Ramirez
featuring Alexa Weber Morales and her band
also with Rondalla Zap y Roma

Wednesday, May 4, 2011 ~ 7-9 pm ~ CSM Theatre
\$5 suggested donation (no one turned away for lack of funds)
Want more info? Contact (650) 574-6372

Sponsored by Diversity in Action Group (DIAG), Latinos Unidos, CSM Ethnic Studies Department, Student Life and Leadership, ASCSM, EOPS, and the MultiCultural Center.

CSM will present *The Latin Music Experience - A Night of Edu-tainment*, on May 4 at 7 pm, featuring **Rudy "El Profesor" Ramirez**, instructor in the ethnic studies department. Ramirez will give a presentation on the initial encounter between the Spaniards, Arawaks and African slaves which led to the creation of what is now called Latin music. The show also includes Alexa Weber Morales, noted Bay Area jazz singer, who will perform with her band. The event is sponsored by the Diversity in Action Group, Latinos Unidos and the Office of Student Life. It will be held in the Theatre and there is a \$5 suggested donation in lieu of an admission fee.

CSM Welcomes Farewell to Manzanar Author to Film Screening

On Monday, May 2 at 12 noon, the college will host a free screening of the movie *Farewell to Manzanar* with special guest and award winning author **Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston**. Houston is the author of *Farewell to Manzanar* and also wrote the screenplay for the film. This event is funded by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program/California State Library and CSM's Ethnic Studies Department. It will be held in the Theatre.

Architecture Students Compete in Cal Poly's Design Village

Ten architecture students from CSM's American Institute of Architects Club participated in the annual Design Village at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo earlier this month. The theme of this year's competition was Social Parametrics. Students designed and built temporary structures with three portals and two of the portals connecting to other structures. The CSM students formed two teams of five with each team required to sleep in their structure for during Design Village weekend. **John Lucchesi**, architecture instructor, described the competition as "a great experience for the students as it promotes the design and making aspects of architecture as well as collaboration."



Kudos

~ **Middle College High School students** have recently completed their community service requirements for the academic year. They volunteered at the following locations: San Mateo Boys and Girls Club; Humanimal Connection; San Mateo County Office of Education's Outdoor Education Program; Mills-Peninsula Hospital,



Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention; Sons of Norway; Fiesta Gardens International School; Palcare Daycare Center; El Granada After School Education and Safety Program; City of San Mateo Police Activities League; Second Harvest Food Bank; and San Mateo County Health System. Each student must complete 24 hours during the school year.

~ **Michelle Brown**, assistant professor of broadcasting, had her short film, *Tyranny of the Mirror*, named an Official Selection of the 2011 Sacramento International Film Festival. It is one film in a series of cinematic poetry produced with local poet LaDonna Witmer. Earlier this month, Brown and Witmer were inducted into a prestigious group of eight filmmakers known as the "Nor-Cal All Stars" at the new Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento.



~ Congratulations to College of San Mateo student **Cecilie Sorensen** who was awarded the prestigious Kathleen D. Loly Scholarship by Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS), the academic honor society and service organization of the California Community Colleges. Sorensen was one of only 47 student members of AGS that received scholarships at the organization's statewide convention recently held in Ontario, California. The Loly Award was named for Kathleen D. Loly who taught Spanish at Pasadena City College and was one of the founders of AGS in 1926; the award recognizes academic excellence.



~ Four CSM students have been selected as scholarship recipients by the Foster City Lions Club. **Ahmad Albawayah, Aiman Al Shamari, Margaret Astorga and Trisha Vizconde** will receive each a \$1,250 scholarship to cover registration, books and supplies for the 2011-12 academic year. Eleanor Lindquist, president of the Foster City Lions Club along with other board members visited CSM to congratulate the students in person.

~ **Dan Ghorso**, an alum of CSM's fire technology program, has been name fire chief of the Woodside Fire Protection District. In his 30s Ghorso decided to make a career change from auto mechanic to firefighter and enrolled in CSM's program. He began in Woodside as a cadet in 1991 and became a full time firefighter in 1993. He rose in the ranks from paramedic, captain and battalion chief.

~ **Lady Bulldog softball team** made college history earlier this season with a stunning twelve-game winning streak.

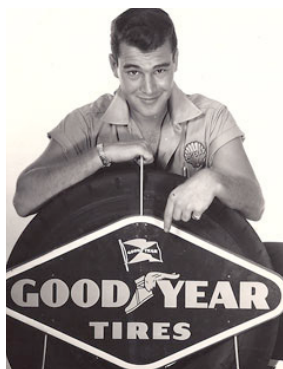
Student Success Story: Avigdor (Vic) Ronn

UC Berkeley – B.S.

Harvard University - A.M., Ph.D.

**Prestigious Alum Returns to CSM
after 50 Years**

Fifty years after he left CSM as a transfer student, **Dr. Avigdor (Vic) Ronn** returned in January 2011 to reconnect with the institution where he began his college education.



In 1959, 20-year old Vic arrived in the United States from Tel Aviv, Israel, in his pursuit to “see the world.” Vic found his way to San Mateo, California, where he decided to join the ranks of college students; he enrolled at College of San Mateo when it was located at Coyote Point.

As a foreign student, Vic was referred to ESL courses and a limited curriculum by CSM’s registrar. However, ambitious and bright, he attempted to enroll in 20 units of the college’s most challenging courses (chemistry, physics, calculus, civics and English composition). He was told he needed permission from the dean to enroll in such a large class load. Vic recalls meeting the dean who was concerned not only with the number of heavy duty classes, but he doubted Vic’s English skills. Adding to the dean’s apprehension was Vic’s lack of family in the country and that he was completely self-supporting. *(The photo above shows Vic in 1959 when he worked as a “service station” attendant while attending CSM.)*

Vic recalls, “I made a deal with the dean. I told him if I didn’t earn A’s or B’s in every class, I would reduce my load to 12 units.” He lived up to his bargain and earned the predicted 4.0 grade point average. Realizing that Vic was a high achiever and hardworking student, the dean helped him secure scholarships to pay for college expenses and, in 1961, Vic completed the transfer curriculum for UC Berkeley.

At Cal he earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry with honors and a Phi Beta Kappa. He went on to graduate school at Harvard University in 1963 where he earned a master’s and Ph.D. degrees in chemical physics; he then completed his academic training with a two year post-doctoral stint at the National Bureau of Standards in Washington D.C.

This young Israeli student who began his college education at CSM went on to become an associate professor of chemistry at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, New York’s premier engineering school at the time. The next

step in his academic career was a faculty appointment at Brooklyn College, the elite campus of the City University of New York (CUNY) system, where he would spend the next three decades as a professor of chemical physics specializing in laser photophysics and chemistry. Throughout his academic career, Vic received a number of prestigious honors, including being named a Fulbright Senior Scholar (1983-84) and an Alfred P. Sloan Fellow (1971-73) and was offered visiting professorships at University of Sao Paulo in Brazil and University of Tel Aviv, Israel.

Vic retired from CUNY in 2000 after a 32-year career in academia. He continued to pursue numerous research projects at Long Island Jewish Medical Center, where, as the director of laser studies, he pioneered novel cancer treatments using laser driven photodynamic therapy and introduced the Department of Otolaryngology to laser pain therapy. To say he is an accomplished scientist is an understatement. His career has been punctuated with an extensive bibliography of his published work and he has been granted ten patents for scientific technologies.

Vic had never set foot on CSM in its present College Heights location. However, on a beautiful sunny day in January 2011, President Mike Claire gave this emeritus science professor a tour of the campus, pointing out new and renovated facilities, which of course, included a visit to the Science Building and Planetarium. It was a pleasant and informative afternoon for both men culminating with a visit to the KCSM facilities where he had his photo taken with Melanie Berzon, KCSM program director, and Chris Cortez, station announcer. As it turns out, Vic has been a fan of the radio station for years without realizing that the great jazz emanated from the campus of his alma mater!

When asked to comment on CSM past and present Vic says, “The present campus is lovely, modern, spacious, has million dollar amenities and even better views from almost any corner. But, Coyote Point was charming, quaint, intimate and pungent with the smell of eucalyptus.”

