

College of San Mateo

Executive Report to the Board of Trustees • January 26, 2011

HEALTH & WELLNESS BUILDING HONORED WITH SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

The college's Health and Wellness Building has been honored with the 2011 Sustainable San Mateo County Green Building Award for Non Residential. Sponsored by Sustainable San Mateo County (SSMC), San Mateo County RecycleWorks and the San Mateo County Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the award recognizes outstanding construction projects designed and built in accordance with principles of sustainable resource use and environmental sensitivity. CSM will be presented with the award on March 10 at the 12th annual sustainable San Mateo County Awards Event and Dinner. At the event, a SSMC produced video highlighting the green and sustainable features of the Health and Wellness Building will be shown.



W. S. Merwin

PRESIDENT'S LECTURE SERIES WELCOMES U. S. POET LAUREATE

On Tuesday, February 15, the President's Lecture Series is proud to present the current United States Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and essayist **W. S. Merwin**. During a career that has spanned five decades, Merwin has become one of the most widely read – and imitated – poets in America. He is author of more than 40 books of poetry, prose and translation and the recipient of nearly every major award bestowed on American poets. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize twice, for the *Carrier of Ladders* and *The Shadow of Sirius*, and received the National Book Award for *Migration: Selected Poems 1951-2001*. The lecture begins at noon in the Theatre; a reception and book signing will immediately follow the presentation. The lecture series is made possible by a generous contribution from the Lane Family Charitable Trust. *(Photo credit: Tom Sewell)*

STATE'S TOP EDUCATOR A CSM ALUM

California's top educator, State Superintendent of Public Instruction **Tom Torlakson** (photo), is a CSM alum and graduate of Westmoor High School. He attended the college in 1968-69 and transferred to UC Berkeley where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees and a teaching credential. Superintendent Torlakson served in the California Senate from 2000-08 and in the Assembly from 2009-2010. He is a former high school teacher and coach and presently an adjunct faculty member at Los Medanos College.



BOSTON RED SOX OUTFIELDER GIVES BACK TO CSM

Boston Red Sox outfielder and CSM alum **Daniel Nava** showed up at College of San Mateo earlier this month and presented each CSM baseball position player with two pairs of Cutters batting gloves. Nava, who is sponsored by Cutters, worked out a deal with the company agreeing to forego his signing bonus in exchange for gloves which were custom made for the CSM Baseball team. The total package is worth over \$1,000. Cutters' sales manager Chris Miller said, "Daniel has been a huge supporter of Cutters over the last few years, and it is only appropriate for us to help out a program that clearly means so much to him."

While Nava was handing out the gloves, he spoke to CSM's players about the importance of his path to the major leagues and advised the group "to always remember where you came from." Coach **Doug Williams** was not surprised by Nava's generosity. Williams noted, "Daniel was as classy a kid as I have ever coached and this act just falls in line with who he is and what he is all about."

Nava made national headlines this past summer when he came to the plate at Fenway Park with the bases loaded in his first ever major league at bat. Daniel hit the first pitch for a grand slam homerun, becoming only the fourth player in major league history to accomplish that feat. Nava reports to spring training in Florida this February.



CSM LINEMAN USC-BOUND

CSM football standout **Jeremy Galten** has accepted a scholarship offer from University of Southern California where he will begin classes this semester. Upon graduating from Hillsdale High School, the offensive lineman had passed on the opportunity to play for a NCSS Division III school and decided to play for CSM where he was an all-state athlete. The decision turned out to be advantageous for both CSM and Galten. In an article in the *San Mateo County Times*, Galten credits the college for his success, "CSM prepared me for the next level as a player and as a man. I think it's one of the best staffs in the country." The article also highlighted CSM's football leadership program, developed by CSM Coach Bret Pollack and his staff, which includes guest speakers on timely and relevant issues such as domestic violence, drug abuse, alcohol abuse and team building.

KUDOS

★ According to the Office of the Vice President of Student Services, a fund raising raffle for student scholarships held during the college's holiday reception in December netted a grand total of \$920 -- a very good return for \$2 raffle tickets. Each division and many departments donated themed gift baskets which ran the gamut from yoga, cats, New Year's Eve, do it yourself home improvement, chocolate, Italian cuisine, music, and many others.



BULLDOG LENDS A PAW TO WELCOME MAT ACTIVITIES

CSM's once again rolled out Operation Welcome Mat to help students during the first week of the semester. With staff positioned at key high traffic areas around campus, students found friendly and helpful assistance as they maneuvered their way to classes. The start of the semester also brought out CSM's **Bulldog** who meandered through the campus greeting students, posing for photos and providing a fun and entertaining tone during the first week of classes. Operation Welcome Mat is coordinated by the Community Relations and Marketing Department.

CSM GRADUATE RETURNS TO BAY AREA FOR POST AT STANFORD

CSM graduate **Tommy Lee Woon** has been appointed as Stanford University's first director of diversity and first-gen programs. Since 2006, he has served as the dean of multicultural life at Macalester College in St. Paul Minnesota; previous positions include associate dean of student life and director of pluralism and leadership at Dartmouth College and assistant dean of students/multicultural educator at Stanford University and in student and diversity affairs at Brown University and Oberlin College. Woon earned his associate degree from CSM in 1970; he holds a bachelor's degree from UC Davis and a master's degree from Cal State University, Sacramento. In 2002, he returned to CSM as the commencement speaker. In a conversation with the college administration, he mentioned that he had overlooked completing the paperwork for the degree; at the commencement ceremony, Woon was officially presented with his associate degree from College of San Mateo.



Tommy Lee Woon

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ On Saturday, February 5, Congresswoman **Jackie Speier** will be at CSM to conduct a kick off news conference to publicize the college's Volunteer Income Tax Preparation service. The news conference will take place in the lobby of Building 14 at 10 am. The free service is provided by students in the Volunteer Income Tax Preparation class for members of the community on most Saturdays between February 5 through March 26, from 9 am – 1 pm each date in Building 14, Room 104. To qualify, individuals need to have earned less than \$50,000 in 2010. Last year, CSM's tax preparation students prepared 239 returns.
- ▶ On Monday, February 7, the Diversity In Action Group and Office of Student Life will co-sponsor a presentation featuring **Karen Ande** and **Ruthann Richter**, authors of *Face to Face: Children of the AIDS Crisis in Africa*, at 11 am in the Theatre. The book offers a moving portrayal of life in Africa in the shadow of HIV/AIDS. A reception and book signing will follow immediately following the presentation.
- ▶ It's become a tradition that CSM's 17-piece Big Band, led by trumpeter and Professor of Music **Mike Galisatus**, performs standards and jazz at the Oak City Bar and Grill in Menlo Park on the third Monday of every month. Oak City Bar and Grill's website hails the musicians as "superb talents with an awesome mix of instruments. The band's next performance is February 21 at 8 pm.

IN MEMORIAM

CSM alum, **Ed Macaulay**, best known as the “Voice of Stanford Stadium” recently passed away. Macaulay, who attended CSM in the late 1930’s, was a pioneering Bay Area sports television producer and ad executive who served as the public-address voice for Stanford football games for 40 years, from 1952 through 1990



CSM STUDENT SUCCESS STORY:

CATHERINE RAYE-WONG

Perseverance pays off for working student

By day, **Catherine Raye-Wong** worked full time as a legal secretary; in the evening, she transitioned to college student. Catherine arrived at CSM equipped with ambition and drive to pursue her lifelong career goal of becoming a lawyer. Having a full time job presents an extra set of challenges for many students but Catherine found that CSM addressed multiple needs involved in balancing work and school.

As a working student, Catherine valued the flexibility that CSM’s class schedule offered which allowed her to continue to work and support her education. In addition, the college provided comfortable surroundings and a variety of resources that allowed her to complete all of her general education requirements. Catherine also appreciated CSM’s professional staff members who advised her in the selection of transfer track classes which would facilitate a smooth transition to Notre Dame de Namur University where she completed her bachelor’s degree.

Affordability also figured into Catherine’s decision to attend CSM. The payoff came once she earned her bachelor’s degree and realized that she wasn’t saddled with large loans to pay back that her friends experienced when they completed college. What she saved by attending CSM for the first two years and working her way through college helped make it possible to afford graduate school. She continued working toward her career goal by enrolling in San Francisco Law School where she earned a Juris Doctorate and an LL.M. degree in taxation from Golden Gate University’s School of Law. Fulfilling her career goal, Catherine currently operates her own law firm, Raye-Wong & Associates, specializing in estate law in downtown San Carlos.

“CSM prepared me by offering excellent English courses that challenged me to become a decent writer. Writing skills are of the utmost importance in a legal career.” She offers this advice about attending CSM: “I always encourage potential college student to look at CSM, visit the campus and observe what is going on. I think they will find it a welcoming, high caliber institution, as I did.”

“My favorite memories of CSM involved my writing classes which gave me more experience in essays and poetry.” While at CSM, Catherine had the opportunity to participate in the London Semester, part of the college’s Study Abroad Program which she recalls as a “wonderful experience” and resulted in several lifelong friendships.