

College of San Mateo

Executive Report to the Board of Trustees • December 15, 2010



FLAG RAISING CEREMONY HONORS VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS

CSM saluted its veterans, service members and their families on Veterans Day with a very distinguished and poignant flag raising ceremony. The ceremony was attended by an audience of approximately 300 that included many veterans, active duty military, local dignitaries and members of the college community. The cornerstone of the event featured a U.S. Army unit color guard raising an American flag that had been flown during active duty. The flag was donated by Foster City resident **Captain Justin C. Erickson**, son of CSM business instructor **Cynthia Erickson**.

The program included three speakers, **Richard Steffen**, a Vietnam veteran representing Congresswoman Jackie Speier's office, **Kathy Yeung**, a CSM student veteran, and Captain Erickson; each spoke about their individual military experiences. Following the flag raising, the audience participated in a moment of silence for those who died in service to the country. To set the tone for the event, a quartet of voice students performed *America the Beautiful* and the *Star Spangled Banner* a cappella. The children from the Child Development Center added a heartwarming touch as they carried small American flags and sat throughout the ceremony on best behavior. A reception sponsored by the Associated Students followed the ceremony. Thanks to **Mario Mihelcic**, admissions assistant, for coordinating the event.



CSM LEADERS HELP SAN MATEO KICK OFF HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

On December 3, President **Mike Claire** and KCSM General Manager **Marilyn Lawrence** served as masters of ceremonies at the annual City of San Mateo Tree Lighting Ceremony held at the Century Theatre Plaza. The audience was entertained by several local choral groups and dance troupes. The event was hosted by the San Mateo Downtown Association in conjunction with the SM Fire Department.



CSM STUDENT BECOMES CHAMPION FOR DISABLED YOUTH

The November 29 edition of the *Daily Journal* carried a feature story about CSM student **Sarah Funes** who turned her own experience with disability into advocacy for disability rights. In high school, she joined the Youth Commission of San Mateo County, worked with the Commission on Disabilities and YO! Disabled & Proud. This past August, Sarah and a small group of American teens traveled to Syria to work with disabled youth through the Open Hand Initiative. The goal was to share the message that people with disabilities want to be treated just like everyone. They accomplished this by creating a Muslim superhero with a disability, the Silver Scorpion; Liquid Comics has reported working on a storyline for the character. Funes plans to continue her college education and become a civil rights attorney.



CLASSIFIED GROUP RAFFLE PARKING SPACES FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The **Classified Staff Events Committee** held its annual raffle/fund raiser for student scholarships which netted \$520, an increase of 40 percent over the previous year's raffle. While the most sought-after prizes were the monthly parking spaces in the DaVinci Staff Parking Lot, winners were also pleased to receive gift certificates and items donated by **Rick McMahon** of Pacific Dining, **Bobby Coyle** of Drip Coffee, **CSM Bookstore**, **San Mateo Athletic Club** and members of the Classified Staff Events Planning Committee. Committee members are: **Nick Dellaporta**, **Dean Drumheller**, **Fauzi Hamadeh**, **Kathy McEachron**, **Mario Mihelcic**, **Ann Mitchell Calija**, **Munendra Sharma** and **Jane Wong**.

CSM PARTNERS WITH HILLSDALE HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION

During the 2010-11 academic year, CSM has partnered with the Hillside High School Foundation to provide 18 classes in art (ceramics, sculpture); music (advanced choir, orchestra, intermediate and advanced band); and American sign language at the high school site. This agreement restores many of the classes that had been eliminated due to the high school district's budget cuts. The college will receive approximately \$120,000 to cover the cost of salaries and benefits.



MIDDLE COLLEGE WELCOMES DANISH EDUCATORS

College of San Mateo and Middle College High School recently hosted a visit by two Danish educators who were interested in learning about community colleges and Middle College programs. The visitors were Kim Clausen, counselor, and Morten Overgard Nielson, math instructor, who work at the KVUC Adult School in Copenhagen, Denmark. *(Photo from left: Morten Overgard Nielsen, Middle College Principal Greg Quigley, Vice-President of Instruction Susan Estes., Kim Clausen and San Mateo Adult School Administrator Fred Thompson)*

HIGH SCHOOL BANDS HEADLINE AT CSM JAZZ FESTIVAL

The Music Department recently hosted the 14th Annual Jazz Festival featuring performances by 18 high school jazz ensembles and approximately 400 student-musicians from throughout the Bay Area. Following each performance the students received constructive feedback provided by guest adjudicators. Workshops on trumpet, saxophone, trombone and rhythm section were conducted by local professional musicians. International jazz guitarist **Bruce Forman** was special guest artist for this year's festival. Professor of Music **Mike Galisatus** coordinated the event.

KUDOS

★ The **Nursing Department** was recently informed that the Board of Registered Nursing has confirmed the program's continuing approval.

★ Sophomore **Najelah Najdawi** (photo) has become the most decorated female in CSM aquatics. A state qualifier as a swimmer in the spring, Najdawi became the first-ever All-American water polo player to play for the Bulldogs. Quite impressive for someone whose high school, El Camino in South San Francisco, didn't offer water polo.



★ The work of **CSM photography students** is on display in the exhibit, Many Lenses – Diverse Perspectives at Avenue 25 Gallery on 25th Avenue in San Mateo. It will run through January 7.

★ Congratulations to the **DSPS staff** for a very successful raffle that raised \$1,220 for the Assistive Technology Equipment Scholarship Fund as part of the celebration of Disability Awareness Month. Prizes included a beautiful handmade quilt, dinner for two to Broadway Grill, and a number of gift baskets.

★ **Head Baseball Coach Doug Williams** has been named 2009 Diamond Sports ABCA Regional Coach of the Year for Pacific Association Division. Doug will be recognized at the American Baseball Coaches Association's Hall of Fame Coach of the Year Banquet in January 2011 in Nashville, Tennessee. Congratulations Doug!

BULLDOGS CARRY ON THE TRADITION OF SUCCESS IN MLB

Over the years, numerous CSM baseball players have made their mark in the major leagues and the tradition continued during the 2010 season. Among the many CSM alums in professional baseball, three in particular have had notable accomplishments this season.



Scott Feldman is a pitcher with the reigning American League Champion Texas Rangers. He played for CSM during the 2002-03 seasons and posted a remarkable 25-2 cumulative record, with his only two losses coming in the State Championship tournament. Feldman signed with the Rangers in the 30th round in 2003. Despite dealing with major injuries, he made his debut in late 2005. In 2008 he was converted from reliever to starter and in 2009 he was named the Rangers' Pitcher of the Year with a 17-8 record. Although Feldman did not make his team's active roster for the 2010 postseason, he was part of the pitching staff throughout the regular season, helping the Rangers reach the playoffs. He started 22 games in 2010 and made seven bullpen appearances, contributing wherever he could.

Daniel Nava who was an All-State player at CSM made an impression in his MLB debut with the Boston Red Sox earlier this year. The first pitch Nava saw as a big leaguer was hit for a grand slam off of Phillies right hander Joe Blanton, becoming just the second person to accomplish this feat off the first pitch of their major league career.



Although not a player, another CSM alum received baseball broadcasting's most prestigious honor in 2010. **Jon Miller**, the play-by-play announcer for the World Series Champion San Francisco Giants and ESPN was this year's Ford C. Frick award recipient. Miller has been delighting local baseball fans for more than two decades. This past spring, Miller took time from his busy schedule to return to CSM to tape a video clip for the college's Support CSM campaign and be interviewed by broadcasting students for a segment of the student-produced newsmagazine *The Bay Today* (photo).

HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES AROUND CAMPUS

► In the spirit of community, the **CalWORKS, CARE, Child Development Center** programs and **EOPS Club** joined forces to organize a holiday gift basket drive to support thirty CSM students and their families. Gift baskets each with a minimum of \$75 worth of gift certificates to local stores will be distributed to the students during finals week.

► Food, music and plenty of good cheer were on hand yesterday as the college hosted a campus wide holiday reception and drawing. Various departments and programs throughout the college created and donated gift baskets which were prizes for the drawing. All of the funds raised will support a student scholarship.

► After a year off, the Horticulture and Floristry Department's very popular Floristry Holiday Sale returned to campus with arrangements, wreathes and fresh plants. The proceeds support the Floristry Club.

SOFTBALL TEAM ADOPTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Lady Bulldog softball team recently made news when it adopted Taft Elementary School in Redwood City through the Bay Area Women's Sports Initiative (BAWSI). BAWSI is a nonprofit group founded to partner collegiate student athletes with primarily low income elementary schools. Their mission is to get girls to play, interact and develop self-esteem. CSM's student athletes worked with sixty third through fifth graders on a variety of activities from hula hoop and jump rope games to relay races. Each week they featured a new Word of the Week; words included "commitment," "responsibility," "teamwork," and "respect" and they were incorporated into the activities. The players also gave each student journal for capturing their weekly learning experiences.



HEALTH & WELLNESS BUILDING RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS LEED-GOLD RATING

CSM's Health and Wellness Building earned a coveted LEED-Gold designation by the U.S. Green Building Council and verified by the Green Building Institute. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the nation's preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. The 88,000 square foot building, completed earlier this year, incorporated a number of sustainable design and construction elements which qualified it for LEED-Gold rating.



In other construction related news, the design of CSM's new College Center received an Award of Excellence, from the Community College Facility Coalition's Professional Design Awards Program. President Mike Claire was presented with the award at the Coalition's reception held in Sacramento last month.

ALASKAN STUDENTS TREK TO CSM

Earlier this semester, CSM hosted a group of 18 high school students and their advisor came all the way from Alaska to visit and learn about the college. According to Alex Guiriba, program services coordinator, who led the group's tour, the students were especially interested in the new pool complex, something they don't often see in their home state!





Student Success Story: Jeff Lowenstein ***CSM provided path to his first choice university***

As a graduating senior at Serra High School, **Jeff Lowenstein** had been accepted to a number of colleges, including Loyola Marymount and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo but decided to attend CSM. His plan was to stay close to home and save money so that he could transfer to Santa Clara University (SCU), which was his top choice in a four-year university. At CSM, Jeff challenged himself by enrolling in tough classes. One of those classes turned out to be what he considers his most interesting subject: statistics, taught by **Professor Linda Phipps**. For many

students, an individual professor stands out as a favorite, and for Jeff, it was Professor Phipps.

“I would say looking back from high school through college, I do not remember a lot of my professors, but Linda Phipps stands out as the best one. Most people cringe when they hear the word statistics, but she made the class enjoyable and applicable and I often reference it as my best class in college. In my second semester Professor Phipps was my calculus instructor, and once again she did not let down; she challenged the class and each student, but taught the material so that it was understandable.”

After a year of study at CSM, Jeff was accepted to SCU as an economics major. He gives credit to Professor Phipps for the excellent preparation and foundation in statistics that proved to be a tremendous help in the many economics classes he took at SCU. “I still use what she taught me today, which is a credit to CSM and the caliber of faculty they have teaching.”

An additional benefit of Jeff’s community college experience is that CSM made it possible for him to attend the university that was his number one choice, even though he did not get accepted from high school. “That one year at CSM was so valuable that it allowed me to springboard on to my planned four-year institution and hit the ground running when I arrived.”

Jeff graduated from SCU with a B.S degree in economics. He currently owns his own business, Outsourcetit, a business processing outsourcing company working with corporate and government clients.

Addendum

Jeff has an additional connection with CSM: his father worked for the college in the early 1960s when it was located at Coyote Point. As a member of the facilities staff, Jeff’s dad helped the college move into its new College Heights campus in 1963, CSM’s current site. He worked for the college district until he passed away in 1980. For his years of service, the college district dedicated a special tree and plaque in his honor at Cañada College, where he also worked.