

College of San Mateo

Executive Report to the Board of Trustees • March 23, 2011



SAVE THE DATE - APRIL 14 COLLEGE CENTER RIBBON CUTTING

Excitement is mounting on CSM's campus in anticipation of the opening of the new flagship building, College Center. Although the building will open for business on April 11, the official Ribbon Cutting and Open House is scheduled for April 14, 2011 at 2:30 pm in College Center Plaza.

Festivities include performances by the jazz band, student dance troupes, student club displays and demonstrations. Guests will be invited to take

self-guided tours of the building with program staff stationed in each area to speak with guests and answer questions about their new location. Refreshments will be funded by a generous donation from McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.

CSM ESTABLISHES ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME – 1ST INDUCTEES TO BE HONORED IN FALL

In fall 2011, the college will unveil CSM's Athletic Hall of Fame to honor generations of men and women who have contributed to the college's rich athletic history. The Hall of Fame Plaza, currently being designed, will be located just outside the Gymnasium. Nominations are currently being accepted for the first class of inductees through May 1. A ribbon cutting ceremony for the new hall will take place on the afternoon following a home football game and will be combined with the first induction ceremony.

Members of the planning committee responsible for developing the nomination criteria and process are: **Andreas Wolf**, dean; **Nicole Borg**, head softball coach; **Tim Tulloch**, assistant football coach; and **Fred Baer**, sports information director. The photo at right is a conceptual image of the Plaza.





CSM STUDENT SLATED FOR INTERNSHIP IN ARCTIC

CSM student **Luis Alvarez** (photo) has been selected as an intern for the San Mateo Arctic Research Telescope (SMART) Project to participate in an astronomy research project that will include field travel to the High Arctic. SMART Project is a collaboration of four organizations: Mars Institute, SETI Institute, San Mateo County Astronomical Society and CSM. Luis's initial project is to assist in a feasibility study at a remotely operative astronomical observatory located at the Haughton Crater, Devon Island, Nunavut (High Arctic), Canada. His passion for science is clearly expressed in his reaction to this outstanding opportunity, "This project is my first step into the realm of research, and the real world in regards to my career so I want to make this,

along with every other venture I go into, a project that I give 150 percent of myself plus more!" He is majoring in astrophysics and chemistry and currently enrolled in 21 units.

CSM CREATES PRESENCE IN DOWNTOWN SAN MATEO

As part of the college's community outreach efforts, the **Community Relations & Marketing Department** has partnered with the San Mateo Downtown Association to develop a CSM presence in the downtown business area. One of the most recent developments is a college display in the window of the Walgreens storefront on East 3rd Avenue. The window display, which rotates among various groups, currently features six CSM alumni (including Claire Mack and Jon Miller) and their profiles. Other items in the display include a laptop showing scenes of the college, marketing materials promoting college events and CSM sports memorabilia. CSM's display will run through April 11. *(Note: a sample of an alumni feature in the display accompanies this report)*



COLLEGE RECEIVES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS FOR ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

CSM has been awarded two grants through the California Community Colleges State Chancellor's Office for \$300,000 and \$148,000 respectively, under the Economic and Workforce Development Program. These funds were part of a statewide pool targeting training for employment in the utility industry. The CSM portion of the pool was designated for use in refurbishing one of the electronics labs in Building 19 in support of the Electrical Power Systems and Instrumentation (EPSI) program launched in January 2010. Although the EPSI is still a relatively new program, it has received endorsements from PG&E, East Bay Municipal Utility District and San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. The college is currently working on creating "stackable credentials" that will include current certificate of achievement, associate degree and eventually a bachelor's degree.



COLLEGE CENTER HOSTS BUSINESS SUMMIT AS FIRST OFFICIAL EVENT

On March 19, the second annual business summit sponsored by The EDGE (Economic Development Growth Enterprise) became the first official event held in the new College Center. The summit brought together leaders from the business community to provide feedback and input that will be incorporated into The EDGE's priorities. The EDGE is an initiative of the San Mateo Area Chamber of Commerce formed in 2010 to drive the sustained vitality of the business community located on the Peninsula.



COLLEGE WELCOMES HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND PARENTS TO CONNECT TO COLLEGE

On April 22, CSM will host Connect to College: A Night of Information for High School Seniors and Parents from 6-8:30 pm in the Theatre. This very popular annual event will feature presentations and perspectives by students, faculty and university representatives and an engaging panel of successful CSM transfers and graduates. It includes refreshments and drawings for prizes. The college received generous support from local businesses for refreshments and other resources for the event. Connect to College is coordinated by CSM's Community Relations & Marketing Department.

KUDOS

★ **Andres Gonzales**, Professor of ESL and anthropology and a specialist in pre-Columbian Mesoamerican civilizations, will lead 10-person tours on March 20, 27 and April 10 at the de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park. Professor Gonzales will conduct tours of *Olmec: Colossal Masterworks of Ancient Mexico*, featuring over 1000 objects drawn primarily from Mexican national collections. The Olmec are best known for the creation of colossal heads carved from giant boulders that have fascinated the public and archaeologists alike since they were discovered in the mid-19th century. The monumental heads remain among ancient America's most awe-inspiring and beautiful masterpieces today.



★ CSM alum **Chris Delaney** who played baseball for the bulldogs in 1997-99, will be inducted into the San Francisco Prep Hall of Fame on May 21. Delaney, a graduate of San Francisco's George Washington High School, is currently a teacher/moderator at St. Ignatius College Preparatory.

★ CSM student-athlete **Andrea Chan** won three of five events to capture the overall championship in the Northern California Women's Swimming Pentathlon at Ohlone College on February 26. Chan is a graduate of Mills High School.

★ Brother and sister duo **Josh** and **Nikki Uikilifi**, graduates of Mills High School, helped CSM to dominate the throwing events at CSM's home track opener on February 24. Nikki won three throwing events – shot, discus and hammer – and placed third in the javelin. Josh took first in the hammer throw, and second in the shot put and discus throw.

★ In response to the devastating earthquake and tsunami, the **Associated Students of CSM** is sponsoring a "Japan Disaster Relief" effort. ASCSM is collecting monetary donations (cash and check); all proceeds will be forwarded to International Medical Corps.



STUDENT SUCCESS STORY: ALEX GUIRIBA ***PART BEAR, PART BULLDOG***

On the advice of his high school counselor, **Alex Guiriba** scrapped the idea of going to a local state university and enrolled at CSM. According to Alex, that was some of the best advice he ever received.

For Alex, a graduate of Terra Nova High School, attending CSM proved to be a defining experience in his life. CSM helped him to develop from a mediocre high school student to a highly successful college student. As with many college freshmen, Alex was undecided about his career goal, but was inspired by the great variety of courses that he could take at CSM and eagerly began to choose classes that interested him while fulfilling his general education requirements. Propelled by his new-found interest in school and the motivation to do well in classes, Alex found his GPA was rising.

“The people who work at CSM made a huge difference in my life – they want students to be successful. My professors believed in my ability and they challenged me to aspire to a higher level. It really helped to know that I had their support.” When the time came to decide on a transfer institution, his counselor suggested that he consider UC campuses. Alex aimed high and made UC Berkeley his number one choice. For his hard work at CSM Alex was rewarded with a letter of acceptance to Berkeley.

“CSM gave me the opportunity of a lifetime, making it possible for me to attend UC Berkeley, and, it prepared me to compete academically and be a successful UC student.” By spending his first two years at CSM, Alex found he had many more college options open to him than when he graduated from high school and he admits he made a more educated choice. As he looks back over the course of his college education, Alex says, “While I was privileged to have the chance to attend Berkeley, a world class institution, it was at CSM that I experienced the most academic growth; CSM made it all possible.”

While attending UC Berkeley, Alex was a student volunteer in the University’s Office of Multicultural Recruitment and Retention where he was involved in outreach to local schools and community colleges. Based on his successful transfer experience, Alex understood the value of attending a community college. He was effective in convincing his supervisor that UC Berkeley needed to expand its outreach efforts to community colleges, a practice which continues today.

After earning his B.A. degree in sociology from Berkeley, Alex returned to CSM as a full time employee in the Public Relations Office where he continues to work in outreach and recruitment as a liaison with high schools and the community. Alex’s passion for his work is evident. When speaking with members of the community, he does so as someone who has ‘been there’ and shares his first-hand experience explaining how CSM can make a huge difference in the lives of students. Alex’s enthusiasm about CSM is compelling; in fact, some of his co-workers refer to him as “Mr. CSM.”

Sitting down for this interview, Alex wore his typical work attire: CSM shirt with a “Cal” cap. When asked if he is a Cal bear or CSM bulldog at heart, he is very much the diplomat: with a big smile, he responds, “Don’t ask me to choose. I love both institutions!”

