

# College of San Mateo

*Executive Report to the Board of Trustees • August 18, 2010*



## ***FACULTY TEAM HONORED WITH SPIRIT OF CSM AWARD***

At the college's opening day meeting, CSM President Mike Claire presented the Spirit of CSM Award for 2009-10 the **faculty team** that spearheaded the **Writing in the End Zone learning community**. The team consists of faculty members **James Carranza, Jon Kitamura, Anne Stafford, Teeka James** (English) and **Bret Pollack** (athletics). Writing in the End Zone was created to help student athletes meet their English composition requirements and provide support both on and off the playing field. The program is built on the students' interests in athletics as a means to get and

keep them focused as they successfully transition from basic and developmental composition to transfer level composition and beyond. In the five years that Writing in the End Zone courses have been offered, the success and persistence rates of the participating students in basic writing courses have rivaled the average success and persistence rates of students in the general population. *Photo: Writing in the End Zone faculty*

The Spirit of CSM award was established by College Council in 2007 to recognize individuals or groups that are outstanding in exemplifying the values of our college.

## ***NEW STUDENTS RECEIVE WARM CSM WELCOME***

On August 13, the college rolled out the "blue" carpet and warmly welcomed more than 200 new students as a prelude to formally beginning their studies at CSM. This half-day event, *Welcome Day: Meeting the News of Tomorrow Today!*, included a general information session, campus tour, workshops, a resource fair displaying CSM's instructional programs and student services and a complimentary pancake breakfast. Welcome Day was coordinated by **Aaron Schaefer and Fauzi Hamadeh** of the Office of Student Life.



### ***NURSING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTED IN HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER***

The Summer 2010 issue of the Peninsula Health Care District newsletter featured an article about the Health Care District's two initiatives designed to address the nursing shortage: the RN Loan Forgiveness Program and the grant support provided to CSM's nursing program. The article



points out that the results of the programs are tangible: more than 60 new nurses have taken advantage of the loan program and more than half of those attended CSM. A recent graduate of CSM's nursing program, **Brian Lo**, was quoted as saying, "The program at CSM has given me the most significant experiences of my career."

### ***KUDOS***

★ Paintings, prints, and mosaics by CSM art faculty **Rebecca Alex, Susan Matthews, Paddy Moran, Jude Pittman** and **Eric Sanchez** are currently on exhibit at San Mateo City Hall through September 14. The exhibit will travel to the San Mateo Library Gallery and run from September 15 through October 27.



★ **Mike Burke**, professor of mathematics, wrote a chapter for the recently published book, *Citizenship – Across the Curriculum*. Mike's chapter, "Enumeration, Evidence and Emancipation," discusses methods that teach basic math concepts through real-world problem solving and employ activities that are designed to explore far-reaching issues in local settings. The book was published by Indiana University Press.

★ CSM alum **Kyle Woodruff** who pitched for the bulldogs' baseball team, has been impressive as a reliever with the San Jose Giants, a San Francisco Giants AA affiliate. Since his call up to San Jose in May, he has posted a 2.44 ERA in 18 appearances and 44 innings. His statistics include 37 strike outs and just 12 walks. Woodruff signed with the San Francisco Giants in 2008 after playing for CSU Chico.



★ Former CSM defensive lineman **Ray Hisatake**, a rookie guard with the Carolina Panthers, made his NFL debut last week against the Baltimore Ravens.



### ***Student Success Story - Allan Young Embracing Challenges***

College wasn't in Allan Young's game plan when he graduated from high school, but following service in the Marine Corp, he thought he would give higher education a try. Although he hadn't defined his academic goal, CSM provided Allan with an affordable way to explore many different subjects and find his strengths. By his own admission, Allan had never been a good student in high school but at CSM, he found interests that challenged him to excel. His connection with the Associated Students solidified his success when he was encouraged by the student government advisor to become active in campus life.

While most community colleges are commuter schools, according to

Allan, "CSM is different. The staff work very hard to offer students many ways to get involved in the campus and local communities. They create fun and meaningful opportunities that are flexible enough to accommodate student schedules."

He also found that CSM's professional staff took genuine interest in his goals and provided authentic help, particularly his counselor, Modesta Garcia, and Dean Emeritus Al Acena. He credits Dr. Janet Black's art history class with teaching him about the rewards of learning something completely foreign and pushing through the anguish of study and practice. "I try to do this every day. It is an essential life skill for every challenge you decide to tackle."

By participating in student government, Allan learned a great deal about leadership and put his skills into practice. Allan served as student body president, president of Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society, member of the Associated Students Executive Board, Finance Committee and he also served as student representative to several institutional college committees. For his many contributions to CSM, he was honored with the Allan R. Brown Outstanding Service Award at the college's commencement in 2002. When asked how he would describe his CSM experience, Allan succinctly responds, "10 out of 10!"

Becoming engaged in student life also boosted his academic performance. When considering a transfer institution, he realized that the combination of his grades and student leadership experience provided many options. With offers of acceptance to UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, Brown University and Brigham Young University Allan ultimately chose to attend BYU as a double major in political science and philosophy.

Allan continues to take on challenges that draw on his educational and leadership background. Today, he is honing his entrepreneurial skills as co-founder of a venture capital-backed startup based in San Francisco.