

College of San Mateo

Executive Report to the Board of Trustees • September 22, 2010



BULLDOGS GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

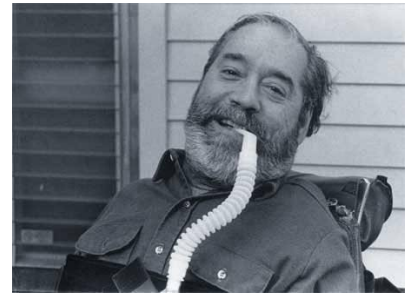
Approximately 100 members of College of San Mateo's football team took time off from Saturday training camp to participate in the 2nd Annual Bulldog Cleanup Day. This year's effort was held at Parkside Elementary School in San Mateo. Bulldog Cleanup Day is part of the Life Skills Program developed by members of CSM's coaching staff. The program requires the student athletes to volunteer their time in a community service project on an annual basis. From 9 am to noon, the student athletes helped with a number of repair projects including painting, sanding benches, planting trees and removing debris, trash and weeds, to help in getting the facility ready for the beginning of the new school year. The activity is designed to raise student athletes' awareness of their civic responsibility and to serve as positive role models for other athletes. The Life Skills Development program focuses on leadership, goal setting and mentoring to help athletes succeed both on and off the field.



CSM ALUM HONORED WITH OWN STATE DAY

CSM and UC Berkeley alum **Ed Roberts**, a pioneer of the disability rights movement, been honored with his own California day. Governor Schwarzenegger recently signed a bill creating Ed Roberts Day, to be celebrated each January 23, Robert's birthday, and encouraged schools and other organizations to use the day as an opportunity to increase disability awareness. Roberts attended CSM in the early 1960s; he had been in a wheelchair since the age of 14 when he contracted polio. He transferred to UC Berkeley in 1962 where he became an advocate for people with disabilities and special needs. Roberts was the founder of the Center for Independent Living; he passed away in 1995.

(Photo courtesy of the Ed Roberts Campus)



Ed Roberts

NEW COUNSELING SERVICE FOCUSES ON STUDENT PLANNING

Throughout the fall semester, CSM's Counseling Services is sponsoring a series of focus group activities designed to acquaint students with foundation information that will help them refine their educational goals and understand how to engage in the educational planning process. Focus groups are organized by 10 categories of interest including university transfer, associate degree and certificate; college success strategies, orientation and course selection; major specific (business, nursing, social science, humanities, engineering, CIS, science); and undeclared. After attending their focus group meeting, students are referred to a counselor to develop a personalized student education plan.



SCIENCE FACULTY NURTURING TOMORROW'S SCIENCE TEACHERS

Professor of Biology **Kathy Diamond** and Professor of Astronomy, Mathematics and Physics **Mohsen Janatpour** are beginning their third year of participation in the CalTeach/Aurora Program sponsored by UC Berkeley. CSM students in the program get first-hand experience in teaching science and math at the K-5 level. They work with a mentor teacher at a local school, observing their class, assisting the teacher and finally designing and teaching a science lesson. The program also includes 16 hours of class time at CSM. Students receive a stipend of \$700 each semester which is funded by a grant administered by UC Berkeley. Kathy and Mohsen report

that their students have been dramatically transformed by the classes and have learned so much about the reality of teaching and have grown in confidence and interest through each semester. For Kathy and Mohsen, the program has been tremendously inspiring and instructive and their interest in K-12 science education has deepened by working with mentor teachers and CSM students.

(Photo: Kathy Diamond and Mohsen Janatpour)

STUDENT SUCCESS STORY: SAMANTHA SEMINOFF

Achievement through Athletics and Academics

“My experience at the college was so positive that if I could have earned my bachelor’s degree from CSM, I would have done so.”

Enrolling at CSM was a turning point for **Samantha Seminoff**. Recruited to play water polo by CSM Coach **Randy Wright**, Samantha recognized that a wonderful opportunity had come her way. “The coaching staff showed genuine interest in me as an athlete.” This helped motivate her to work hard to develop her athletic skills, and more importantly, it marked the first time that she took school work seriously. “CSM was my transition to adulthood.” The athletic program provided Samantha with the foundation to establish goals, develop good study habits and build a strong connection with the college. “My professors were always readily available and very responsive to answering questions both in and out of the classroom; they helped draw out my potential.” Enrolling in **Jim Clifford’s** General Psychology class was another defining experience for Samantha and inspired her to major in psychology.



While thriving in her sport, Samantha also thrived in the classroom: she successfully completed her general education requirements and was academically well prepared to continue her education. “My experience at the college was so positive that if I could have earned my bachelor’s degree from CSM, I would have done so.” In 2006, she transferred to Sonoma State University (SSU) where she continued to play intercollegiate water polo. In 2008, she graduated from SSU with honors, earning a BA degree in psychology. Since graduation, Samantha has experienced the working world as a legal assistant and has earned a life insurance license. Given her ties to CSM, it’s not surprising that Samantha continues to be involved with the athletic program. In the past year, she returned to help Coach Wright as an assistant coach with the water polo and swim teams. Feeling confident in her academic ability, Samantha recently began working on her master’s degree in communication studies at Arizona State University. Her long term goal is to work as a consultant in organization development or coach at the community college level.

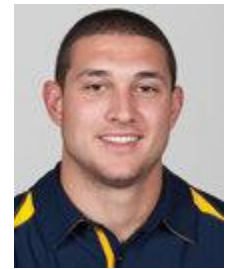
Coach Randy Wright sums up Samantha’s experience as a successful student athlete/coach, “Commitment and dedication are the backbone of our water polo program and foster confidence in our players. The confidence that Samantha developed in the pool led to achievement in the classroom and success in the world beyond CSM. “

KUDOS

★ On behalf of the San Bruno fire victims, the ASCSM has set up a webpage with information about the various ways the CSM community can assist in the relief effort. The Associated Students are continuing to accept donations that directly benefit the victims. In addition, CSM's baseball team worked out a deal with one of its vendors to donate 20 boxes of slightly blemished, new t-shirts which will be delivered by the coaches and student athletes to the Salvation Army in San Bruno. Donations were also accepted at CSM's recent home football game.

★ The work of **Ming Ren**, adjunct art faculty, is on display at the LIMN Gallery in San Francisco through September 30 in an exhibit titled, "Happy Accident, the New Work of Ming Ren." LIMN Art Gallery exhibits work of emerging to well-established artists from around the world with a strong emphasis on contemporary Chinese art.

★ The September 7 issue of the *San Jose Mercury News* carried an article, "Aknin's Dream Comes True at Cal, about **Dave Aknin** (*photo*), former CSM football player now attending UC Berkeley. Aknin, a running back for CSM, was quoted, "CSM is a great steppingstone; I learned so much down there (CSM), and the coaches did a great job developing me as a player and as a student." He will redshirt this season and keep two years of eligibility.



UPCOMING EVENTS



▶ The Astronomy Department is continuing to offer its very popular Project Star Gaze program for local elementary schools. These weekly field trips to CSM, provided free-of-charge to the schools expose children and their teachers to dynamic, hands-on science experiences. Each session includes a planetarium star show plus demonstrations of solar system basics and spectroscopy. Professors of Astronomy **Darryl Stanford** and **Mohsen Janatpour** coordinate and facilitate the program.

▶ The San Mateo County Astronomical Society and CSM will co-sponsor a lecture, "Star Formation: A Star is Born," by **Dr. Steve Stahler**, UC Berkeley research astronomer on Friday, October 1st at 7:30 pm in CSM's Planetarium.

▶ In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Diversity in Action Group will sponsor a visit by **John D. Trasviña**, assistant secretary, fair housing and equal opportunity, Housing and urban development, on September 27 at 10:10 am in the Theatre. Immediately following Mr. Trasviña's presentation, a reception will be held in the Student Life Lounge.

▶ Transfer Day will be held on September 30 from 10 am – 1 pm in the Main Quad featuring representatives from UC and CSU campuses and private colleges and universities.