

COLLEGE of SAN MATEO

Office of the President • Executive Report to the Board of Trustees

JULY 23, 2008

CSM'S SCIENCE BUILDING & PLANETARIUM WINS ANOTHER DESIGN BUILD AWARD

CSM's Science Building and Planetarium has garnered yet another prestigious honor. The Design Build Institute of America Western Pacific Region Awards Committee has selected the Science Building and Planetarium as the winner of the Excellence Award in the second annual "Magic of Design Build" Awards Program. It was highlighted in a special slide show presentation and awards program book presented at the awards ceremony which was held in Newport Beach.



CSM WORKING TO ASSIST RETURNING VETERANS

The Associated Students of CSM are funding an emergency mercy loan program to help student veterans purchase books and supplies. The ASCSM is providing \$2,500 toward interest-free loans to qualifying veterans who apply for financial aid and expect to receive GI Bill benefits but don't begin receiving their monthly stipend in time to purchase books. **Mario Mihelcic**, admissions and records assistant/certifying specialist for veterans' benefits, as part of a dedicated veterans team made up of staff, faculty and administrators, was instrumental in working with the students to secure funding for the loan program.

As troops return from Iraq and Afghanistan, CSM is experiencing an increase in the number of veterans enrolling at the college. In spring 2008, CSM certified approximately 90 student veterans. In response to this increase, the college has enhanced services to veterans by providing a dedicated academic counselor, developing an email distribution list to communicate updates and events, and forming a veterans club.



In a related development, CSM has recently announced a new career course which will focus specifically on veterans and will begin in Spring 2009. The course, Planning for Student Success (Career 120), is designed to assist student veterans in their transition to college and their return to civilian life.

COLLEGE PREPARES FOR COUNTY FAIR

CSM returns to the San Mateo County Fair for the second consecutive year on August 8-10 and 15-17. The college is looking to repeat the success of last year when it provided information to hundreds of fairgoers. After reviewing contact information collected at the fair in 2007, staff learned that a number of visitors to CSM's exhibits became first-time enrollees at the college in the fall. This year the goal has been to expand the college's presence with even more exhibits and activities.

Occupying a large room in Fiesta Hall, the lineup of exhibitors will include art, astronomy, broadcasting, ceramics, cosmetology, electronics, horticulture, music, photography and science programs. Student services will also be represented by financial aid and EOPS. Showings of looping DVD's on the colleges' programs and services will augment the exhibits. CSM's participation will also feature performances by the college's jazz band, its all-employee Bulldog band, its electronic music students and other musical groups associated with CSM. Complimentary popcorn, candy and CSM balloons will be given to visitors. Those participating in games and activities can receive free CSM items such as "logoed" pens. There will also be free raffle drawings for prizes. The bulldog mascot will also make an appearance.

In addition, CSM will be advertising in a special insert section of the *S.F. Examiner* which will be delivered to residences and circulated at the event. Overall distribution is expected at about 77,000 copies.



CSM at 2007 SM County Fair



2008-09 CATALOG NOW AVAILABLE

CSM's 2008-09 Catalog arrived on campus last week, featuring on its cover a rendering of what will be the college's new Allied Health and Wellness Building. Over the last two years, content, design and layout changes have made the catalog more use-friendly for students, counselors, staff and all who refer to it for important information.

KUDOS

★CSM alum **Nicole Guttormsen** (right) has been selected for the USA Athletes International team taking part in the 2008 annual Robur '58 Apeldoorn Series, a softball tournament that takes place July 19-28 in Apeldoorn, Netherlands. A 2005 graduate of Half Moon Bay High School, Guttormsen played for two years at CSM where she was an all-conference selection in 2007. From CSM, she transferred to Holy Names University in Oakland where she continued to play; she also had the opportunity to coach the junior varsity team at Skyline High School.



★CSM student **Daniel Nopuente** was the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship awarded by the Al Teglia Jobs for Youth Endowment Fund.

★A total of 23 CSM employees participated in the M.E.E.T. on Common Ground: Speaking Up for Respect in the Workplace workshop held at the college in June.



Mars Phoenix Lander

★**Matt Finch**, a CSM chemistry major has jump-started his career as a participant in the SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Institute's Astrobiology Research Experience for Undergraduates program (funded by the NSF and NASA). As a result of that experience, Matt was invited to work on a project assisting NASA scientists working on the Mars Phoenix Lander project, which arrived at Mars this past May. Matt is part of a lab team that is testing terrestrial analog soils. They will attempt to duplicate the results from Mars with samples from Earth using the same equipment in the lab that is installed in the Phoenix Lander. The tests might reveal whether there's life on Mars.