

# COLLEGE of SAN MATEO

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

**DECEMBER 10, 2008**

## ***NOTED AUTHOR VISITS CSM***

On November 21, **Sister Helen Prejean**, internationally acclaimed anti-death penalty activist and author, visited campus as part of the President's Lecture Series. She spoke to a standing-room-only crowd in the gymnasium about the experiences that led her to advocate against the death penalty.



Her best-selling book, "Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States," was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, developed into an Oscar-winning movie and served as the basis of an internationally-acclaimed opera. "The Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions" is her second book. In addition to faculty, staff and students from CSM, students from Serra, Notre Dame and Mercy attended the event; the three local high schools recently put on a production of "Dead Man Walking" and many of the student actors were present to hear and meet Sister Prejean. A reception followed the lecture, during which Sister Prejean signed copies of her books and took photos with students. The series is funded by a generous grant from the Lane Family Charitable Trust. *(Photo: Sandra Comerford, Sister Prejean, Muriel Brennan and Mike Claire)*

## ***MANAGERS ATTEND RETREAT AT COASTSIDE***

CSM's Management Council held a retreat on November 14 at CSM Coastside in Half Moon Bay. Because many of the managers had not visited Coastside, it provided an opportunity to tour the facility and view a video celebrating the opening of the Coastside office. The purpose of the retreat was to continue to build the management team, which is still relatively new, establish goals for the coming year and identify ways in which to move CSM from a "very good" institution to a "great" institution. "The managers worked in small groups to identify barriers that may impede progress to "greatness" and identified strategies for addressing them. The day was interspersed with a variety of team building exercises and a fun rendition of CSM Jeopardy, which provided an avenue for managers to learn more about the history of CSM. The planning committee included **Marsha Ramezane, Sandra Comerford, Marilyn Lawrence, Bev Madden** and **Jennifer Hughes**.



## COLLEGE HOSTS HOLIDAY RECEPTION & SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION

In a departure from tradition, the planners of CSM's holiday reception have joined forces with Student Services to host a Holiday Reception/Scholarship Auction to be held on Thursday, December 11, from 2-4:30 pm in the Library. This college wide event, open to all faculty, staff and administrators, will celebrate the season and support CSM students. It will include both a live and silent auction; 100% of the proceeds will fund student scholarships. Over the past few weeks, college faculty and staff have donated new and gently used items for the auction. Pacific Dining, our district food service vendor, has generously donated refreshments for this event. The silent auction begins at 2 pm and attendees will be able to preview auction items at that time. The live auction begins at 3 pm. Please join us for an exciting and entertaining holiday event.



### KUDOS



J. Craig Venter

\*Scientist and genome pioneer **J. Craig Venter**, who is also a CSM alum, was the subject of a December 1 article appearing in the *San Diego Weekly Reader*, titled "The Incredible Craig Venter." The lengthy article focuses on Venter's latest endeavor -- to build a permanent headquarters for his J. Craig Venter Institute as home base for the institute's controversial plan to create new life using artificial chromosomes. It describes Venter's early years growing up in Millbrae and serving as a medic in Vietnam, his return to the Peninsula to attend CSM for a year and a half, followed by transfer to the University of California at San Diego where he studied under renowned biochemist Nathan Kaplan. To read the entire article, go to

<http://www.sandiegoreader.com/news/2008/nov/25/cover/>

\* For the second time in the last three weeks, former CSM quarterback **Julian Edelman** (photo) was named Mid American Conference (MAC) Player of the Week. Edelman, now Kent State's senior quarterback, led his team to a 24-21 victory over the MAC East champion State University of New York at Buffalo. He posted his seventh consecutive 100-yard rushing game tallying 167 yards on 19 carries against Buffalo. This is the fourth time Edelman received the MAC honor.



\* **CSM's football team** won its finale over Diablo Valley, 42-23, on November 14. The Bulldogs finished the regular season ranked 13 in Northern CA, 23 in the state. Their overall record was 5-5, however, the five losses were to five of the top seven ranked teams in Northern CA, all of which were in the top 13 in the state. Two of those losses were in overtime and four were by seven points or fewer.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ December 11, 2-4:30 pm      CSM Holiday Reception and Scholarship Auction, CSM Library
- ▶ December 12, 7:30 pm      "The Sky Tonight" Planetarium Show
- ▶ December 10, 8 pm      Masterworks Chorale Presents "Holiday Candlelight Concert  
Transfiguration Episcopal Church, San Mateo
- ▶ December 13, 8 pm      Masterworks Chorale Presents "Messiah Sing-Along/Festival of  
Carols, Hillsdale High School
- ▶ December 14, 2 pm      CSM Symphonic Band Concert with Mills High School Symphonic  
Band, Cañada College Theatre