

COLLEGE of SAN MATEO

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

JANUARY 28, 2009



ELECTED OFFICIALS VISIT POLITICAL SCIENCE CLASSES

At the close of the fall semester, newly elected State Assemblyman **Jerry Hill** and Congresswoman **Jackie Speier** paid visits to **Frank Damon**'s National State and Local Government class. During Hill's visit, students posed a number of questions on a variety of timely topics, including the budget stalemate, the recent election, the selection process for his replacement on the Board of Supervisors, his priorities as a state assemblyman and how he can protect education funding. While Speier was on campus, she fielded questions from students on topics such as including federal



tax cuts over the past eight years, pork barrel legislation, defense spending, and her appointment to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the new administration.

PRESIDENT'S LECTURE SERIES ANNOUNCES SPRING SPEAKERS

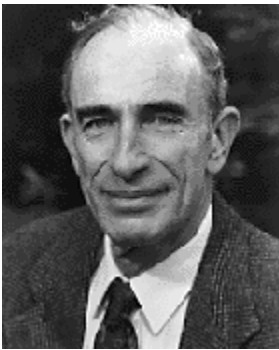
In Spring 2009, the President's Lecture Series: Diverse Voices in Writing will welcome three notable authors to campus: **Andrew Lam**, February 19; **Harriet Chessman**, March 25; and **Paul Ehrlich**, April 22.



Andrew Lam (left) is a syndicated writer and an editor with the Pacific News Service, a short story writer and commentator on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered." He is co-founder of New America Media, an association of over 2000 ethnic media in the U.S. His book, *Perfume Dreams: Reflections on the Vietnamese Diaspora*, recently won the Pen American Beyond the Margins Award and short listed for the Asian American Literature Award. He was featured in the PBS documentary, "My Journey Home," where a film crew followed him back to his native Vietnam.

Harriet Chessman (right) is the author of three acclaimed novels: *Lydia Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper*, published in eight foreign countries and chosen as a #1 Booksense Pick in 2001; *Someone Not Really Her Mother*, a Good Morning America *Read This!* book club pick, translated into Japanese and Dutch, and voted one of the *San Francisco Chronicle's* Best Books of 2004; and *Ohio Angels*, called "a poetic and moving first novel," "a lyrical debut." Two of her children's stories have been published in *Ladybug* and *Spider*. Before becoming a fiction writer, she taught English and American literature at Yale University and published *The Public Is Invited to Dance*, an interpretation of Gertrude Stein's experimental writings.





Paul Ehrlich (left), president of the Center for Conservation Biology and Bing professor of population studies at Stanford University, will make a return visit to CSM on April 22. Dr. Ehrlich is the co-founder of the field of co-evolution and he has pursued long-term studies of the structure, dynamics and genetics of natural butterfly populations. He has also been a pioneer in alerting the public to the problems of overpopulation and in raising issues of population, resources, and the environment as matters of public policy. Professor Ehrlich is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society and a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

RENOVATED CAMPUS BUILDINGS REOPEN FOR SPRING

To coincide with the beginning of the spring semester, Buildings 2, 4, 14 and 16 have reopened for business! Building improvements include new flooring, paint, lighting, electrical and data systems. All existing restrooms have been completely renovated to meet code and be fully accessible. Classrooms in all of these buildings have been updated to include Smart classroom amenities. In Buildings 2 and 4, acoustical treatments were improved to enhance the playing and listening atmosphere while the art facilities feature greatly improved lighting, oriented toward provide a superior environment for the visual arts classes. Building 16 received a new lift, making the 2nd floor accessible to all students; B14; has three greatly modernized computer labs and both 14 and 16 have exciting new break rooms for students.

A member of the fine arts faculty relayed the following message: *“Yesterday I saw and taught in the new Creative Art studios. I can't thank you and everyone else involved in this project enough! The facilities are just wonderful. Everything has been so well thought-out. After teaching at CSM for 14 years, I feel reinvigorated and inspired by these new facilities. My students feel the same and asked me to relay this to you. We greatly appreciate the message the college sends with this project that the arts are important and valued.”*



CSM ROLLS OUT OPERATION WELCOME MAT

Operation Welcome Mat (OWM) has once again been deployed to assist students in navigating the campus during the first week of classes. Since being launched in Fall 2006, OWM volunteers staffing strategically-placed information booths, have literally answered thousands of student questions. The effort is coordinated by the PR & Marketing Office.

OCTOGENARIAN STUDENT PUBLISHES LIFE STORY

Eighty-one year old **Marion Mostny**, a student in Professor Roberta Reynolds' English class, recently published *Conversations with My Children: A Journey Through Three Continents*, a book about her immigration experience which began with her escape from Nazi Germany. Mostny enrolled at CSM eight years ago to improve her English so that she could memorialize her life experiences for her family. It was Reynolds who suggested that Mostny put her stories in a book. Her book was recently added to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection in Washington, D.C. The San Mateo County Times carried an article about Mostny and her book on December 26; it can be viewed at http://www.insidebayarea.com/search/ci_11317428?IADID=Search-www.insidebayarea.com-www.insidebayarea.com

CSM IS SITE OF MULTI AGENCY EMERGENCY EXERCISE

In mid-January, the college collaborated with the Search and Rescue Task Force for the Larger Bay Area and the San Mateo Police and Fire Departments in a 2-day FEMA response mock search and rescue operation held at CSM. The drill simulated a structural collapse with trapped victims, resulting from an 8.2 earthquake. This training activity provided a valuable opportunity to evaluate the readiness of local regional and state/federal urban search and rescue task forces, its ability to mobilize personnel and equipment and respond to a complex rescue operation in actual college buildings. Holding scenario-type training is designed to improve the capability of our public safety agencies in responding to and saving lives and property should there be an actual emergency.



KUDOS

★ Dean of Admissions **Henry Villareal** (left), as a board member of the National Council of Student Development (NCSA), is participating in a planning group to develop a Welcoming Community Colleges Initiative which focuses on helping community colleges become more aware and responsive to GLBT student issues and concerns. He attended a NCSA conference in New York in which his group conducted a presentation that focused on the purpose and goals of the initiative. They will also present a similar workshop at the American Association of Community Colleges convention in April, 2009.

★ CSM graduate **Bill Wagner** has been named production manager of the renowned Monterey Jazz Festival. Wagner, who earned his degree from CSM in electronics, has been involved in music performance since an early age, studied several instruments and voice, and has experience in community theatre, lighting, sound staging and special effects. He has served as production manager for the Fox Theatre in Redwood City, Montalvo Arts Center in Saratoga and Ironstone Vineyards in Murphys.



★ Former bulldog **Ryan Boschetti** (left) earned All American honors during his years as CSM's defensive tackle and led the college to a Coast Conference Championship in 2001. After signing with UCLA and starting for the Bruins, he signed as a free agent with the Washington Redskins in 2004 where he spent four years as backup defensive lineman until last August when he was cut from the team. Since that time, he moved back to his home in Redwood City, continued to work out and audition for several teams on the East Coast. Three months later, Boschetti received good news: the Redskins wanted to resign him.

* CSM's Holiday Reception and Scholarship Auction was a great success. According to **Jennifer Hughes**, vice president of Student Services, proceeds from the live and silent auctions garnered \$3,002, all of which will fund student scholarships. This was the first time the holiday reception and scholarship auction were combined into one event and the hope is to continue the tradition. Last year, student services held the first scholarship auction which raised \$2100. It was a festive and entertaining afternoon which included great food, compliments of Pacific Café, live music provided by CSM students, good cheer and a panoramic view of the Bay from our own Library.



EVENTS

► Nearly 150 students from CSM, Diablo Valley College, Santa Rosa Junior College, and Consumnes River College met Saturday for their study abroad departure meeting. This spring these students will spend 10 weeks studying biology, art, music, Italian, and the Italian culture in Florence. By the year's end, CSM, working with the American Institute of Foreign Studies and the Northern California Study Abroad Consortium, will send students to South Africa, London, and Paris.

► CSM's Financial Aid Office recently sponsored two Cash for College Workshops at the San Mateo Main Public Library for high school seniors and college students. The workshops were designed to provide assistance in completing the FAFSA form and inform attendees about other sources of available funds to help pay for college. There was also an opportunity for one lucky participant to win a \$1,000 scholarship. Complimentary refreshments were included.



► CSM's Tax Preparation Program is sponsoring free income tax preparation service on Saturdays between February 7 through April 4 (except for February 14). Tax returns are prepared by CSM students as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. This service is available for individuals as well as married couples with incomes of \$45,000 or less; it is open to students as well as members of the community. No appointments are necessary. Additional information is available at VITA@smccd.edu.