On June 18, the college held a “topping out” ceremony to celebrate the completion of a major milestone in the construction of Building 10N, the Student Center. A large turnout of the college community, including trustees, and contractors were in attendance to sign and observe the last beam to be placed on the structure. Following the signing, the crowd moved from the construction site to the Softball Plaza for the program which included remarks by representatives of the college, district and construction companies. For the finale, a crane lifted the beam to the top of the structure where it was secured in place. Topping out is one of the oldest traditions in the construction industry, and, for Building 10, it signifies that 90 percent of the steel and 28 percent of the overall building construction work has been accomplished. McCarthy Building Companies, Inc., the design-build contractor for the project, hosted the event which included a catered lunch.
In early June, San Mateo Middle College High School (SMMCHS) held its 11th graduation ceremony which included a number of former graduates in attendance to honor the class of 2009. This year’s graduating class of 29 students was celebrated by SMMCHS alumni Alon Gotesman and Sergi Goldman-Hull (1999) and Maria Varelas (2004), now a science teacher at San Leandro High School. One of this year’s graduates, Oren Gotesman, was the third member of his family to graduate from SMMCHS. In addition, 2009 graduate Devin Dee, who will be attending MIT in the fall, was presented with a NROTC Scholarship. NROTC scholarships are awarded through a highly competitive national selection process and pay for tuition and other financial benefits up to as much as $80,000 at many of the leading colleges and universities in the nation.

**College for Kids Wraps Up its 17th Year**

College for Kids celebrated its 17th year this summer holding programs on all three campuses. With staggered sessions, College for Kids was held at Cañada and Skyline from mid-June through early July while the CSM program began on July 6 and wraps up on July 23. This year, enrollment at CSM’s camp peaked at 328, the highest in more than 10 years. Thirty different classes were offered in various areas of the curriculum: language arts, math and science, creative arts and multimedia, computer skills and physical education. A sample of some of the offerings include Sushi, Manga and Japanese; Awesome Astronomy; CSI Detective Lab; Ooey Gooey Science Lab; 2-D Animation; The Joys of Knitting; Television Newscasting; Virtual World Discovery; and Tennis Anyone?

The districtwide program was recently voted the “2009 Best After-School Enrichment Program” and the “Enrichment Program That Most Inspired My Child” by readers of Bay Area Parent Magazine. Student and family testimonials about the program are posted on the Community Education website: http://www.smccd.net/ccc/kids/testimonials.asp
ASCMS Leaders Get Organized for 2009-20

In spring elections, the Associated Students of CSM elected Steffi Santana as student body president and George Frias as vice president for the 2009-10 academic year. Student senators include Jennifer Atherton, Ho Long Fung, Jose Gomez, Natassia Kapuniai, Xiaoyan Li, Ginamaria Powel, Ihor Proskurin, Alex Quintana, Kiana Rezaei and Jade Nichole Zoghbi.

Earlier this summer, the students attended a leadership retreat at the Monte Toyon Camp and Conference Center in Aptos. Students participated in team building, leadership development and communication activities. On the final day, they took part in a ropes challenge course (photo), an activity based on team building with the overall goal of improving one’s self-concept.

A Celebration of Classified Staff

On June 1, CSM officially welcomed summer by celebrating Classified Appreciation Day in the newly renovated Fine Arts Courtyard. This year’s event featured a “green” theme with recycled paper products, decorations, educational materials provided by Sustainable San Mateo County, green tunes. It also included a delicious lunch that was catered by our own Pacific Café and served by the managers. President Mike Claire emceed the annual awards ceremony honoring 10 employees celebrating 10, 15 and 20 years of service to the district. This year’s honorees included: Jacqueline Collado, Bookstore; Sinclair Crockett, KCSM; Russell Cunningham, Business; Ulysses Guadamuz, Security; Michele Muller, KCSM; Theresa Vigilia, Library; Melanie Berzon, KCSM; Bryan Gerbig, Library; Maggie Skaff, Student Services; and Jane Wong, Business Services. Karen Schwarz, president of the Board of Trustees, attended on behalf of the Board. Live entertainment was provided by the CSM Bulldawg Band featuring Virgil Stanford, Helen Souranoff, Sam Haun, Rudy Ramirez and Dave Parkinson.

CSM Plays the County Fair

On August 16 and 22, CSM will once again participate in the San Mateo County Fair with an information booth located near the "Brews and Blues" stage. In addition, the college will be providing some of the musical talent on the stage, including the all-employee CSM Bulldawg Band. Also, Chris Cortez (Native Elements) and Sam Haun (Luvhed) of KCSM and instructor Rudy Ramirez (Thrill Seekers) will play with their bands. Mike Claire (Along for the Ride) and present and former students (Rock Candy and San Franz) will perform. Our booth will feature the bulldog mascot, available for photo opportunities, complimentary CSM balloons for the kids and several free drawings. Faculty, staff, students and board members are invited to come out and support CSM; the booth is open from 11:30am-5pm on both days. The PR & Marketing Office is coordinating this activity. Thanks to Helen Souranoff, theatre events manager, for assisting with our "CSM Presents" program.
HORTICULTURE STUDENTS DESIGN PLANTSCAPE FOR ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Students in Instructor Lin Bowie’s spring Horticulture 325 (Interior Plantscaping) took on a campus-based class project which involved creating a plantscape in the lobby of CSM’s Administration Building and the President’s Office. Following an assessment of the areas and consultation with staff, the students proposed a design that would not only enhance the areas but require minimal maintenance. The project was completed toward the end of the semester and it provides a welcoming fresh look to the spaces. CSM graduate Carol Peterson-Webber who now has her own interior landscape design business, donated most of the materials.

KUDOS

Adjunct professor of music Shulamit Hoffmann conducted a performance of Vivaldi’s Gloria, for orchestra, choir and soloists at Carnegie Hall in New York. In a communication to the college, she commented that, “My Carnegie conducting debut was a fabulous, rich, profoundly fulfilling experience.” The New England Symphonic Ensemble and soloists Patricia Johnson, Soprano, and Gabriella Garcia, mezzo-soprano, were joined by a 175-voice massed choir comprised of 7 ensembles. Four ensembles hail from the Bay Area: Viva la Musica, the community choir of which Shulamit is founder and artistic director, Los Altos United Methodist Church, of which Shulamit is also director, West Valley College Chorale, Lou de la Rosa, director, and Hillsdale High School Chamber Singers, Mark Fish, director. Shulamit, who teaches fall and spring semesters at CSM, is in New York for the summer, pursuing a doctoral degree in music and music education at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Three CSM students were recently honored with scholarships by Soroptimist International of Burlingame, San Mateo and the Mid-Peninsula at the group’s 23rd annual awards ceremony. Honored for outstanding achievement in community service were Luis Enrique Carrillo of Half Moon Bay received the Ada R. Beveridge Award; Sherri Swanson, a single parent from Burlingame, won the Anne Brubaker Award; and Michelle Periera, a resident of Burlingame, won the Ruth H. Weston Award.

Tom Martinez (photo), retired professor of physical education and athletics and coach extraordinary, has received yet another career honor. At the end of May, he was inducted into the California Community College Softball Hall of Fame; the award was presented at the state softball finals. With more than 1100 career wins in the three sports he coached, more than half of his victories (563) were in softball.
Former CSM baseball player **Tyler Heil**, a transfer student to San Jose State University, was recipient of the university’s first ever Leona Menges Award. Heil originally played third base and shortstop but accepted a midyear invitation to pitch. He made a seamless transition and pitched in several clutch situations that assisted the team in post season play. He posted a 4-2 record in 10 pitching appearances with 26 strikeouts in 35 innings. The Menges Award is named in honor of the late wife of SJSU’s legendary head baseball coach Gene Menges. Heil played at CSM from 2006-07 and received a baseball scholarship to SJSU.

Former CSM offensive lineman **Jacob Orth** has accepted an offer from San Jose State University as a preferred walk-on. A preferred walk-on means that Orth has been invited to join the Spartan football team now, with the possibility of earning scholarship at a later date. He will join his younger brother, James, an incoming freshman safety, on the team.

Former alum **Ryan Scoma**, who played baseball for CSM during the 2006 and 2007 seasons before transferring to UC Davis, was drafted by the San Francisco Giants in the Major League Baseball Draft in the 36th round. It seems that Scoma’s timing couldn’t be better: the call from the majors came as he was finishing his senior year of college. A centerfielder, Scoma had standout years at Carlmont High School, CSM and Davis. During his days a bulldog, he was part of teams that won two conference titles and he took All-Conference honors in 2007. For the UC Davis Aggies, Scoma’s battering average was .358 in 54 games.

**Craig Gianinno** (photo), an assistant baseball coach at CSM since 2003, has been named head baseball coach at Serra High School. Gianinno takes the helm of the Padres team replacing **Pete Jensen** (CSM alum and former baseball coach), who retired after 23 years at Serra. Gianinno also serves as camp director of the Preparing Legends Baseball Camp held each summer at CSM and he is a motivational speaker and team consultant.