



President’s Report to the SMCCCD Board of Trustees

President Michael Claire ~ June 27, 2012

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Astronomy Department Participates in Extraordinary Celestial Events

Students Capture Images of Solar Eclipse

The solar eclipse on May 20 provided some spectacular images captured by **CSM astronomy students, Professor Darryl Stanford, and Ed Pieret** from the San Mateo County Astronomical Society. The group set up a viewing station at Pacifica Pier with roughly 100 community members participating in the “viewing party.” Prior to the eclipse, Stanford prepared his students for the viewing and photo shoot by encouraging them to be creative. Consequently, the group used a variety of devices and imaginative techniques—from a Sunspotter to welder’s glasses to cell phones to a pizza pan—to shoot images of the eclipse at various stages. The stunning results can be viewed by visiting CSM’s astronomy website: collegeofsanmateo.edu/astronomy. *(Photo credit: CSM Astronomy Dept.)*



Tracking the Transit of Venus

Earlier this month, CSM’s Astronomy Department hosted a viewing of the extremely rare occurrence known as the transit of Venus. As Venus passes directly between the Earth and the Sun, Venus appears as a small, dark dot slowly gliding across the sun; it is from this alignment that scientists measure the size of our solar system. The transit of Venus is considered a once-in-a-lifetime astronomical event. Led by **Professors of Astronomy Darryl Stanford and Mohsen Janatpour**, visitors observed the transit through solar filters on telescopes from the Science Building’s rooftop Observatory. *(Photo credit: CSM Astronomy Dept.)*



A Celebration of Faculty Retirements

As the spring semester ended, the Academic Senate hosted a reception to honor four retiring faculty members. CSM's 2011-12 retirees were **Carolyn Fiori**, assistive technology specialist in DSPS (21 years of service); **Bernard Gershenson**, professor of English (28 years of service); **Steve Morehouse**, counselor (36 years of service); and **Patricia Paoli**, professor of communication studies (33 years of service).

During the ceremony, **President Mike Claire** spoke about the myriad of contributions each retiree has made to the college and presented each with a specially engraved pen and a certificate. The reception also included recognition of newly tenured faculty member **Lee Miller**, professor of political science. *(Photo credit: CSM Community Relations and Marketing)*



CSM Student Goes from the Arctic to Stanford

Twenty-year-old CSM student **Luis Alvarez**, who served as an intern in the Arctic Circle last summer as part of the San Mateo Arctic Research Telescope (SMART) Project, can add a new destination to his resume: Stanford University. Receiving a full-ride scholarship, Luis will transfer to Stanford in fall 2012 as an astrophysics major. His overall educational goal is to pursue a Ph.D. and lead research in the area of extra-solar planets – planets outside our solar system. Of his experience at CSM, Luis says, “CSM laid the foundation for my success...with so much assistance, wonderful professors and a supportive administration, CSM became the place I grew academically, intellectually and personally.”



Luis was the first in his family to earn a high school diploma (he is a graduate of San Mateo Middle College), and to attend college. *(Photo provided by: Luis Alvarez)*

MYTHBUSTERS Show Tapes Segment at CSM

The Emmy®-nominated television series **MYTHBUSTERS** taped a segment of the show at CSM's Bulldog Stadium and track (and identified the college in the narration). The premise of the show is to uncover the truth behind popular myths and legends by mixing scientific method with gleeful curiosity and plain old-fashioned ingenuity to create a signature style of experimentation. At CSM's track, the show's hosts set out to determine the average distance and hang time of a regular long jump and test the myth that the shock wave from a bomb can actually extend the jump. The segment aired several times during the month of May.

Middle College Graduate News



San Mateo Middle College High School celebrated its 14th graduating class at its May 29 commencement. While some of the 26 Middle College graduates will be attending community colleges, a number have accepted admission at the following four-year colleges and universities: University of San Francisco, Mount Holyoke (MA), UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC Davis and Notre Dame de Namur University.

One of San Mateo Middle College High School graduates, **Jackie Prager**, was profiled in The Daily Journal's "Great Grads" series. Jackie's story, titled, "Becoming a Superhero for Others," describes how she plans to turn her love of superheroes who fight for the rights of others into a career in law that will allow her to help others. She is headed to University of San Francisco where she will double major in English and psychology and minor in legal studies. (Middle College graduation photo source: Foster City Patch. Jackie Prager image source: SM Daily Journal.)



Students Host Human Rights Day

At the end of the spring semester, CSM held the First Bi-Annual Human Rights Day, an event produced by **Professor Tim Maxwell's English 100 class** and the **Human Rights Committee of Alpha Gamma Sigma** to call attention to human rights abuses worldwide. The students took the initiative to go far beyond what was required in class and developed creative and inspiring actions as a way to reach out to the study body. Topics of discussion included human trafficking, child marriage, corporate abuses of labor, invasions of privacy and the suffering of the Tibetan people. The special guest speaker was **Giovanni Vassalo** of Friends of Tibet in the Bay Area. (Photo source: CSM website)



CSM Swimmers Named All-Americans

Seven CSM swimmers were named junior college All-Americans, an honor they earned by placing in the top 16 in an event nationally. **Miya Oto** placed in three individual events: the women's 50, 100 and 200 freestyle. **Shelbi Oskolkoff-Campbell** qualified in the women's 100 individual medley, 50 butterfly and the 200 medley relay; other 200 medley relay team members include **Gianna Davino**, **Kellsey Mercado** and **Miya Oto**. Among the men, the Bulldogs' **Masa Oto** was named All-American in the 100 and 200 butterfly, while **Alex Navarro** made it in the 200 freestyle. **CSM Swim Coach Randy Wright** commented, "It's a tremendous honor to become an All-American. CSM is proud to have athletes that rank among the best in the United States."

CSM Field Athletes Score Big in State Championship

CSM freshman **Evan McDaniel** achieved a second place in the shot put at the state community college track and field championships. His throw of 55 feet, 2 ¼ inches trailed only the national junior college leader from Sacramento City College.



In the hammer throw, CSM's **Josh Uikilifi** finished fourth in the state, and his sister, **Nikki Uikilifi**, took fourth in the women's shot put and sixth in the hammer. *(Evan McDaniel photo source: Belmont Patch)*

Kudos

~ CSM graduate **Michael Keefe** has been named fire chief of the San Mateo-Foster City Fire Department. Keefe joined the SMFD in 1986 as a firefighter/engineer. Since 2011, he has been the deputy fire chief; he also served as captain and battalion chief. After earning his AA in fire science at CSM, Keefe transferred to Saint Mary's College and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration. *(Photo source: SM Daily Journal)*



~ The Arizona Cardinals signed CSM alum **Eddie Elder**. Elder, a safety, played two seasons at CSM and was the Defensive Player of the Year for California Community Colleges. He transferred to Arizona State University where he had two outstanding seasons; in 2011, he recorded a career-high 66 tackles and four passes defended while starting 11 games.

~ **Keith Holden**, a CSM alum who played football for the bulldogs, has been named head football coach at Half Moon Bay High School. Holden attended CSM for two years before transferring to Whittier College; he played offensive line for all four years of college. He has served as offensive coordinator and special education teacher at Half Moon Bay High.

~ CSM 2012 standout players **Daniel Grazzini** and **Clint Terry**, were picked in back-to-back rounds of Major League Baseball's professional draft by the San Francisco Giants. Both pitchers will soon make the decision to sign a professional contract or play at the university level. Prior to the draft, Grazzini accepted a scholarship to play at U.C. Davis next year and Terry accepted a scholarship to play at Lee University in Tennessee for the 2012/2013 season.



Student Success Story: Vanessa Castro

B. A., English, U.C. Berkeley

As a first-time freshman at CSM, **Vanessa Castro** knew hardly anyone on campus which could have been a tough transition for most people, but not Vanessa. She quickly realized that she needed to reach out and meet new people. As a disabled student, that task was not simple. Vanessa has navigated through daily life with the assistance of a power wheelchair and a communication device to type out what she wants to say. "I would ask random people on campus for help in getting items out of my backpack, and speaking through my communications device, you can imagine that I got many strange looks." However, she was always able to find someone willing to help—and that's how she began to meet new people and make new friends at CSM.

Vanessa became involved with the Disabled Students Program (DSPS) where she received services that were critical to her success in college: access to computers for assignments and tests, mobility assistance, test proctoring, disability management counseling, priority registration scribe for math. "The DSPS staff was always very helpful to me and everyone else who visited the program," says Vanessa.

During her years at CSM, Vanessa was encouraged to run for student body office as a senator. While she hadn't planned on getting involved in student government, her friends made her realize that she could educate students about people with disabilities. "I wanted to show others that despite my disability, I am capable of accomplishing so much. It just takes me a little longer, but when I set my mind to do something, I do it." says Vanessa. She did indeed win the election and spent an exciting year participating in the student leadership process. As a senator, she represented the student voice in college decision making and helped to plan student events. According to Vanessa, "My year as student senator was definitely the best time I spent at CSM."

After graduating from CSM, Vanessa transferred to UC Berkeley where she earned a B.A. degree in English with a minor in education. She co-taught classes for disabled



students in independent living skills at the university and later became an instructor for the Center for Independent Living in Berkeley and San Francisco.

Recently, Vanessa has launched her own business, Ness Ness Va's Art. She writes and illustrates children's books and creates greeting cards and prints of her artwork. Through her books, she continues to educate others about the disabled, particularly children. She has self-published two of her books, *Gloria, the Gecko Attendant*, and *Goes Back to Soccer*; both stories teach children about young people living with disabilities. *(Photo provided by: Vanessa Castro)*

CSM's 90th Commencement: May 25, 2012



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