



President’s Report to the SMCCCD Board of Trustees

President Michael Claire ~ June 15, 2018

“I don’t know how I’d ever come close to repaying you for all you’ve done for me. I learned and grew so much in the past two years, and a huge percentage of that is because of you.”

- *Student letter to CSM professor*

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CSM Holds 2018 Commencement Ceremony

On May 25, 2018, over 250 CSM graduates and their loved ones crowded CSM’s gymnasium for the best-attended commencement ceremonies in recent history. This milestone in their lives will pay off professionally, personally and financially for them as they are being prepared for the jobs of today and the careers of tomorrow.

“Students receiving associates degrees from CSM have more than doubled over the last ten years. This is no accident. Our college has been deliberate in creating an environment where all students can succeed. Most importantly, our data show that students are enjoying success in the workforce or at their transfer institution after they graduate from CSM. To me, this is an indication of the quality of the education and services we provide to our students.”



College of San Mateo

During the 2017-2018 school year, students earned 1,730 degrees and certificates.

- 937 AA, AA-T, AS, AS-T degrees were earned from summer, 2017 through spring, 2018, and 795 Certificates were earned during the same time period.
- 52 distinct certificate programs are represented among the 795 certificates.
- 77 distinct majors are represented among these 937 degrees, which is a 12% increase from 2017. In addition, 80 International students (F-1 visa) are among CSM's 2017-2018 degree recipients. ■

Celebrating the Class of 2018

College of San Mateo celebrated the success of its students throughout the month of May with a lineup of year-end events. More than 1,000 CSM students earned 2,000 degrees and certificates, helping to launch them on their way to successful careers.

The celebrations kicked off with a Puente LatinX Club celebration in early May. Hundreds of proud scholarship recipients were honored at the annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony on May 11. Students transferring to four-year universities were recognized at Stepping Out: A Transfer Tribute, on May 24. Individual recognition ceremonies were held for Dental Assisting, Nursing, Cosmetology, Mana, Umoja, Middle College, and EOPs graduates.

The year culminated on May 25 with CSM's 96th annual Commencement, when thousands of graduates, friends and families gathered in the gymnasium to celebrate years of hard work and academic achievement. Graduates heard from keynote speaker Boryana Straubel, a CSM grad who now heads a charitable foundation.

The photos here capture some of the energy from CSM's 2018 celebrations.





CSM Celebrates 11 Years of Providing Free Income Tax Preparation

In partnership with the IRS and United Way of the Bay Area, CSM students enrolled in Accounting 175 prepared and e-filed federal and state tax returns for both students and community members for free. The first CSM site opened in 2008 with the preparation of about 90 returns. This year, 522 tax returns were prepared and 502 were e-filed during 7 class meetings by 25 students. The students were assisted by 25 experienced volunteers who answered questions and reviewed every return that was completed. CSM has e-filed the most returns of any VITA site in San Mateo County for the past two years.

The returns generated \$653,000 in IRS and \$161,000 in California refunds to the community. Of the IRS refunds, \$121,000 was Earned Income Credit (EIC) received by 79 low income wage-earners and \$76,000 was child tax credits received for dependent children under the age of 17. Of the California refunds, \$11,600 was Earned Income Credit received by 53 very low income wage-earners. These amounts are free money provided to the taxpayers over and above what they had withheld from their wages.

Returns were prepared for both students and members of the community. A majority of the clients had their returns prepared at CSM in prior years. Many have returned year after year to have their returns prepared for free – a credit to their confidence in the service provided.

The students and the college have provided a valuable service both to its students and to the community. The class serves as an internship where the students learn basic income tax law and interact with real-life clients. Students have an opportunity to use classroom skills in real situations, to determine if the income tax preparation field is of interest to them as they, and to assist low-income individuals in receiving accurate tax returns without cost. ■

CSM and San Francisco State University to Offer Associate's to Bachelor's Bridge Program in Nursing

The path to a BS in nursing has just gotten easier with a new partnership between College of San Mateo and San Francisco State University. Qualified students may now earn a concurrent associate's and a bachelor's of science in nursing in two and a half years.

The Bridge ADN to BSN Program makes it faster and more economical to prepare for a career in nursing. Taken individually, CSM's ADN program takes two years and SFSU's BSN degree takes four years, for a total of six years. The new concurrent

program saves significant time by combining coursework and lab work into a rigorous year-round curriculum.

“The bachelor’s degree has become increasingly mandatory for those building a career in nursing,” said Jane McAteer, director of the Nursing Program at CSM. “With both our nursing programs in such high demand, this helps to meet the needs of the healthcare community while allowing students to meet their career goals more efficiently.”

Median starting salary in the Bay Area for a new nursing graduate is about \$49.16/hour. The Institute of Medicine has set a goal for 80% of RNs to have bachelor’s degrees by the year 2020.

Students must apply jointly to the ADN program at College of San Mateo and the BSN program at San Francisco State. Applicants must meet the entrance requirements of both programs. Space in the accelerated joint program is limited to 40 students per cohort.

Students will participate in extra courses in order to meet the accelerated timeline. After two years, students who pass a licensing exam will take one semester of SFSU coursework on the CSM campus in order to complete their BSN. All courses for the combined program are taught at College of San Mateo.

To learn more about the concurrent ADN-BSN program at CSM and SFSU, visit collegeofsanmateo.edu/nursing. ■

KDOG Radio is On the Air! College of San Mateo Launches KDOG Student Radio

Students in CSM’s Digital Media department have created a brand new digital radio station. The new station, KDOG (a play off CSM’s Bulldog mascot), is streaming online, 24/7, at collegeofsanmateo.edu/kdog.

The new station was created by students in CSM’s Digital Media (DGME) 119 Radio Production class, taught by Digital Media adjunct professor Donna Eyestone, and is entirely student-run. The station aims to provide locally produced, varied audio programming that reflects the diversity of voices at College of San Mateo and the surrounding area.

Using the state-of-the-art DGME Studios, students create their own shows, record public service announcements (PSAs) and station IDs, engage with local bands, and record interviews with students, faculty and staff around campus. The station provides a real-world opportunity for students interested in careers in broadcasting.

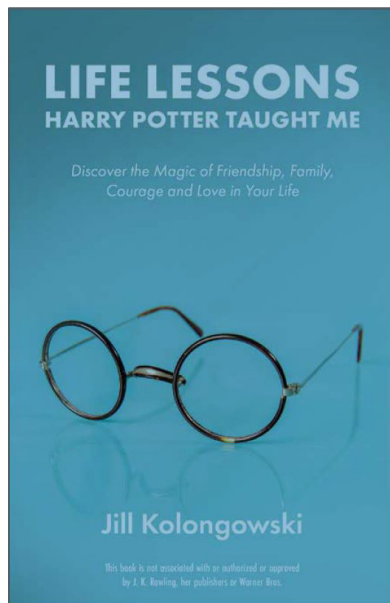


KDOG's popular new logo was designed by CSM DGME student Parastoo Meghdadi, who won a CSM student logo design contest this spring. Digital Media faculty teamed up with CSM's marketing department to organize the contest, which generated more than 20 entries. The entries were judged by radio instructor Donna Eystone, graphic design professor Vera Fainshtein, and marketing director Richard Rojo, and narrowed down to three finalists. Digital Media students then voted on the winning design.

KDOG will continue to develop under the guidance of radio courses in the 2018-19 academic year. The new station was created with support from the CSM Strong Workforce Initiative and the CSM Innovation Grant.

Listen to KDOG Student Radio at collegeofsanmateo.edu/kdog. ■

CSM Faculty Member Publishes New Book



Jill Kolongowski, assistant professor of writing and literature at CSM, has become the second faculty member to publish a book within the last couple of months. "Life Lessons Harry Potter Taught Me", published by Ulysses Press, is a collection of essays themed around the Harry Potter series on its 20th anniversary.

From Ulysses' press release: "For many, older millennials especially, it is not unreasonable to say that the Harry Potter series has become the go-to secular source of moral instruction and strength for the rapidly shifting landscape of the post-9/11 world. With its universal themes of good versus evil and love over hatred, the arc of the series is detailed with surprising

complexity, complete with a road map for speaking truth to power, forming community in dire

circumstances, and, perhaps most improbably, maintaining a sense of wonder."

Essays include:

Riddikulus: On Laughter in Darkness; Evanesco: On Losing Our Heroes; Lumos: On Discovery, Wonder, and Cynicism; Legilimens: On Good People and Death Eaters; and Sonorus: On the Power of Words.

Jill received her BA in Creative Writing and Spanish in 2009 from Michigan State University, and her MFA in Creative Writing: Creative Nonfiction in 2014 from St. Mary's College of California. She has been an assistant professor at CSM since 2015. ■

CSM Student Wins Grand Prize for Math League

The American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC), the professional organization for 2-year college mathematics, held its Student Math League contest for the 2017- 2018 on March 18. This year, CSM student Shuai Xue had

the number three combined score for fall and spring Math League. CSM's team score was fifth out of 179 schools.

Shuai was the only finalist to qualify for and win the Grand Prize. The national grand prize for the qualified individual with the high total score is a \$3000 scholarship to go toward the continuation of his or her education at an accredited four-year institution.



Former Bulldog Named NAIA Softball Player of the Year

Former CSM Softball star Harlee Donovan has continued her stellar collegiate career, having been named 2018 Player of the Year by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). Donovan played for CSM on its successful 2015 and 2016 teams, earning the California Community College Fastpitch Coaches Association Northern California Player of the Year Award in 2016.

The Half Moon Bay native played the past two seasons for Southern Oregon University. See Donovan's story as reported in the San Mateo Daily Journal at: <https://news.collegeofsanmateo.edu/>.