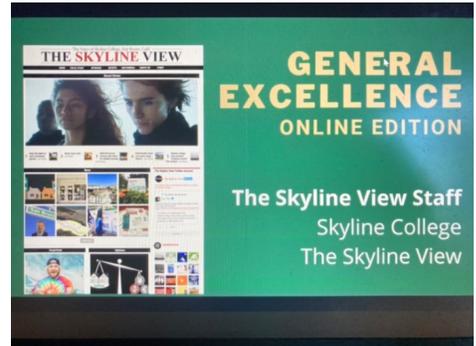
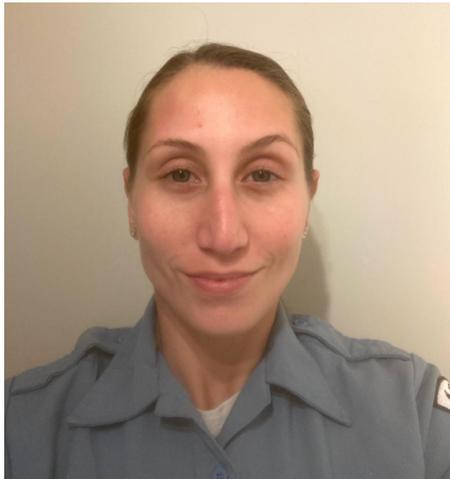




SAN MATEO COUNTY  
**COMMUNITY**  
COLLEGE DISTRICT

Cañada College • College of San Mateo • Skyline College

# Combined Report of the College Presidents





**STEM SPEAKER SERIES CONNECTS STUDENTS WITH ALUMNI & PROFESSIONALS**

 The STEM Center at Cañada College <b>STEM SPEAKER SERIES</b> FALL 2021		Wednesdays: 5:00-6:00 pm  Location: Meeting ID: 82385096317
Sept 8		<b>Speaker Series Kick Off</b> Becoming a competitive internship candidate
Sept 15		<b>Nathan Carlson - Cañada Alum</b> Associate Manufacturing Engineer Northrop Grumman "Solving Problems, Building Things, and the Art of Not Taking it All Too Seriously"
Sept 22		<b>Ameer Thompson</b> Dean of Science and Tech Cañada College Title: Currently in Development
Sept 29		<b>Roberto Ortiz-Soto</b> Mechanical Engineer Science Space Laboratories Title: Currently in Development
Oct 6		<b>Yardley Ordonez - Cañada Alum</b> Automation Engineer USS-POSCO "Taking Advantage of the Little Things During Your Academic Journey"
Oct 13		<b>Hubert Lo</b> Data Analytics Enjoy Technology Inc "Data Analyst Experience in Startups and Silicon Valley Companies"
Oct 20		<b>Brian Andrade</b> Simulation and Modeling Engineer BAE Systems Title: Currently in Development
Oct 27		<b>Kristi Longoria</b> SparkPoint Coordinator Cañada College A Lesson In Persistence
For more info: <a href="http://cañadacollege.edu/STEMcenter/SpeakerSeries">cañadacollege.edu/STEMcenter/SpeakerSeries</a>		<b>FREE and open to all</b>

Every year, the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Center at Cañada College hosts the [STEM Speaker Series](#), a series of talks from professionals and alumni in the STEM fields. This year, the Speaker Series took place over the course of two months, featuring a total of seven speakers. These

speakers generously volunteered their time to help advise and guide students on their academic journeys.

Having successfully established an online format in the 2020-2021 school year while the College transitioned into a virtual campus, students joined via online video streaming to listen and learn from a variety of speakers. Although the talks were generally focused on transferring to university and starting a career in STEM, each speaker brought a distinct voice and story to the series. They ranged from the recently graduated to long-standing professionals, and covered a variety of subjects ranging from data analysis to education.

One of the greatest benefits of the Speaker Series is the opportunity that students have to ask questions and connect with professionals working in their fields of interest. Rance Bobo, STEM Transfer Liaison and the STEM Speaker Series host, sees this as one of the critical functions of the talks. "For me, it's always the way students word their questions and how specific the questions are." Rance sees this engagement as proof of the success of the Series. "This is an indication that the students are paying attention, have been inspired or hold an interest in the matter."

The speakers that students got to learn from in this Series were eclectic and fascinating, and each brought valuable knowledge to Cañada students. There was Dr. Ameer Thompson, who serves as the Dean of Science and Technology at Cañada College and previously served as the Interim Dean of Natural, Social, and Applied Sciences at Contra Costa College. His impressive career is underpinned by years of persistence in education from which our students got to pull from. Another speaker was Yardley Ordonez-Hernandez, a Cañada alum who currently works as an Automation Engineer, and whose story reflects the journey of so many of our Latino students. In Yardley, students got to see what a potential future trajectory for a successful career could look like for themselves, an invaluable exercise in visualizing their own futures.

The STEM Speaker Series will return in the Spring 2022 semester. If students are undecided on a STEM career choice, they are encouraged to attend the STEM Speaker Series events and listen to former Cañada alumni who are now professionals. View past recorded Speaker Series [here](#). The presenter's insight and real-world experiences can and will bring much-needed enlightenment to all Cañadians!

## CAÑADA HOSTS A SERIES OF EVENTS AIMED TO SUPPORT REGISTRATION



In an effort to help students register for the Spring 2022 or Summer 2022 semesters, Cañada College has launched a series of Student Support Station events. This initiative was a result of an alliance with several on-campus program and services: Outreach, Financial Aid, Promise Scholars Program, STEM, Student Life & Leadership Development, ESO Adelante and the Counseling Department.



On December 15, the Cañada team hosted its first Student Support Station on campus where students and parents were

served. The event, held in the Outreach Office, was filled with energy and excitement as students prepared to begin their Cañada College journey.

At the Student Support Stations, prospective students and their families receive assistance in submitting Cañada College applications and help with orientation, counseling appointments, registration, financial aid and more! The January Student Support Stations were held January 10-14 and 18-21.



In addition to the Student Support Stations, the Cañada Outreach Department, in collaboration with several Cañada programs, has hosted a myriad of community partnership and registration events aimed to help prospective Cañada College students register for classes. This includes virtual workshops for general registration, Dual Enrollment and Concurrent Enrollment. The team also held a virtual forum for 30 high school counselors and community partners in November. The Outreach Department is also hosting [Daily Zoom Drop In Hours](#) for students who would like to speak with a live Campus Ambassador to receive assistance, including adding or dropping

a class. To support Spring registration, Campus Ambassadors are also making phone calls to walk students, step-by-step, through how to submit vaccine information and answer questions about registration.

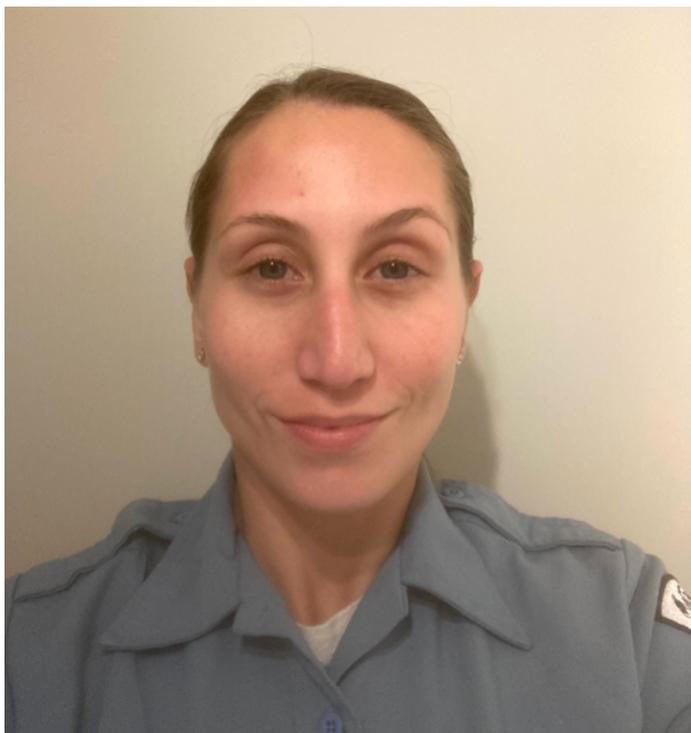
The Cañada College team looks forward to continued collaborations with its community partners to transition prospective students to register and enroll at the college.

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## College of San Mateo

### **DANIELA HAAS: FROM COMPETITIVE FIGHTER TO FIREFIGHTER**

**Peruvian-born CSM student becomes first female Fire Academy Leader**



CSM student Daniela Haas' relaxed demeanor hides an intense physical and mental toughness. The youngest of eight kids growing up in Peru, Daniela tackled any sport that happened

to draw her interest as a kid, "anything and everything that didn't involve a bat or a racket," she says. One of those sports that would introduce her to one of her callings was Japanese Jiu-Jitsu. That first taste of martial arts led her to begin training seriously as a competitive Muay Thai fighter through her teenage years. She worked hard and became good enough to join the Peruvian National Muay Thai Team, but it wasn't enough for her. She decided to move from her home country to the Bay Area at the age of 22. Asked why, she claims, "West Coast Muay Thai was where the action was. I didn't want to be a big fish in a small pond."

Daniela decided to move to San Mateo because her aunt and cousin already lived here. Her cousin attended College of San Mateo and suggested Daniela take some classes. While continuing her competitive fighting, Daniela applied to CSM and registered for kinesiology and nutrition classes being that it was a natural fit with her love of fighting. She planned to use this knowledge to work with fighters on injury prevention and cutting their weight, which was often difficult for many of them.

She continued her classes and played water polo for a year before completing her associate degrees in kinesiology and nutrition. Daniela then transferred to San Jose State University to continue her kinesiology and nutrition studies. Unfortunately, her financial aid began to run out, forcing her to contemplate her academic future. She understood that she'd need to eventually get a master's degree to secure a solid career in the nutrition field. Looking back at that moment, she says, "That was not a commitment I was ready for and adding the monetary issues, I realized it was ludicrous." While she appreciated the education she had already received, it dawned on her that she wasn't interested in continuing her learning in a formal education setting.

#### **"It's like CSM keeps calling me back."**

Daniela's continued involvement with fighting helped bring her back to CSM to join the CSM Fire Academy. "I was doing Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, and some of my friends there—I want to say about half of them—were firefighters, and they're like, why don't you go into firefighting? You will be amazing." She was worried that she might be too old for firefighting but decided to take a class anyway. "That first step was all that I needed; I dove into the pool and fell in love with it."

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She learned that just like competitive fighting, firefighting requires intense physical and mental challenges, problem-solving under pressure, and self-confidence. In addition, Daniela found that she loved the camaraderie and teamwork that's part of the program. "I've always been part of a team, whether it's in sports or as part of my large family, it's just great!" She also notes the strength of the bonds that are formed in the Academy, saying, "I feel like the bonds I'm making right now with my classmates and instructors will still be there 10, 20, and 30 years down the road, and that's a beautiful thing."

This passion and dedication led to Daniela becoming the first female Fire Academy student to be nominated as Academy Leader. According to CSM Fire Instructor and Academy Co-Director Ben'Zara Minkin, "The Academy Leader is a designation that is given to students that possess strong leadership traits, display strategic and tactical knowledge relevant to the fire service, and possess a background that can enhance their classes' learning objectives." In addition, Daniela notes that this role requires her to be a liaison between the student body and the instructors, ensuring consistency and structure among the students. "It's not glamorous, but it's fun, and I've learned so much about dealing with different personalities and my own."

Asked to summarize his experience with Daniela, Ben'Zara says, "It is rare in this world to encounter people who desire to listen to the world and those around them. Far too often we interpret people through our own internal voices. Daniela's authenticity and singularity is substantiated through her strong sense of self, and is manifested through exhausting her ability to listen."

CSM Fire Technology Program Coordinator Christy Baird adds, "We are so fortunate to have Daniela as the lead for the Fire Academy this semester. She exemplifies the word team. It is rare to find an individual who is so aware of everyone in the group. She is conscious of their lives outside of the academy and checks on the students regularly. She has done all that she can to lift others up and gone above and beyond to make sure that all 24 students that started the Academy in August finish the academy in December. She is truly an amazing individual. We can't wait to see what the world has in store for Daniela, or should we say, what Daniela has in store for the world!"

Daniela completed her third associate degree when she completed the Fire Academy at the end of the Fall 2021 semester. Looking forward, she says, "it's bittersweet because

I love the Academy, but I'm also very excited for the next chapters." She recently received the great news that she's been hired by the San Francisco Fire Department and will begin her new position January 2022.

She is considering returning to CSM in the future to teach physical training to new students in the Fire Academy. "Maybe CSM will call me back again!" Daniela says with a wry smile.

### CSM CENTENNIAL PLANNING IN FULL SWING



All hands are on deck to plan and implement College of San Mateo's Centennial Celebration. [Four committees](#) have been working hard to coordinate various components of the year-long series of events starting with the Centennial Gala on March 31, 2022, the day that CSM came into existence 100 years ago.

The [Gala](#) will be held at the historic Kohl Mansion in Burlingame, one of the first CSM campus locations when the mansion was in located in downtown San Mateo. The Centennial Gala Committee is leading the planning for the event that will include dinner, dancing, video presentations, student performances, and a variety of student, alumni, and dignitary speakers. Tickets for students and employees will go on sale in late January and community member tickets will go on sale in early February. Ticket quantities will be extremely limited as seating capacity for the venue is capped at 300 total.

The Centennial Development Committee is in charge of developing sponsorship opportunities and attracting donors. [Sponsorships](#) are available at various financial levels throughout the year with a fundraising goal of \$1 million to support CSM Promise Scholar students. It is a great opportunity for the community to support students, build a stronger partnership with the College, and connect to events throughout the year.

The Centennial Activities Planning Committee is charged with planning and executing activities throughout the year to

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celebrate the institution's history and the rich diversity of the campus and immediate community. The committee includes current and former College of San Mateo faculty and staff, and San Mateo County Community College District and Foundation employees. They are working throughout the campus to "centennialize" all annually-occurring events and inspire the college community to develop new ideas to pack the year with additional engaging events.

One notable event being planned by this committee is the return of Jazz on the Hill this summer. Last held in 2016, the day-long event draws thousands of jazz lovers to the campus to enjoy a day of fantastic music, fun, and food. Other signature events include a student-led social justice conference in April, an Athletics Hall of Fame paired with a homecoming event in fall, the Foundation's annual golf tournament, and much more.

The President's Centennial Committee is a network of dedicated community leaders who provide input, feedback, and support to the president throughout the Centennial Celebration Year. The Committee includes representatives from business, industry, government, nonprofits, and other organizations.



1954 name change from San Mateo Junior College to College of San Mateo reflected the college's breadth of course offerings and community role.

In addition to the outstanding work these committees have been doing, Centennial Writer Barbara Wilcox has been researching and writing stories tied to the history of CSM and the District. With [over 40 stories published](#) so far, there will be 100 posted before the Gala kickoff.

Planning this Centennial Celebration during a global pandemic has been a challenge, but as a campus community, we are determined to use this opportunity to reflect on our past, celebrate our present, and plan for the future. Stay tuned to the [Centennial website](#) to learn more and sign up on this [interest form](#) to get updates through the year.



### TALISMAN MAGAZINE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF PUBLISHING



In 2020, Talisman literary magazine celebrated its 50th Anniversary/50th Issue! The 50th Issue of Talisman is now available online (with print copies available at the start of Spring 2022 semester).

The very first issue, titled LIM1, short for Skyline College Literary Magazine, was published in 1970, and features twenty-four pages of student writing and art. The first faculty advisor was

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beloved Skyline College Professor Rich Yurman, who taught Creative Writing for over twenty years at Skyline College. Over the next few years, other iterations of the literary magazine were advised by Professors Samuel N. Goldman and Marvin Shaw; however, it returned to Prof. Yurman. In 1992, acclaimed poet and popular Skyline College Creative Writing Instructor Katharine Harer, became the next advisor. Professor Harer brought a special passion and unique perspective, even changing the shape of the magazine from horizontal to vertical. The covers from her years are some of the most beautiful in the history of the magazine.

Skyline College Library Archives have copies of all fifty issues available for perusing. Each issue is a fascinating literal and literary time capsule.

This magazine is about the students and it's about collaboration. The editorial team is made up of Skyline College Students from all Divisions—not just Creative Writing. Our team often includes students from Art, Math, Science, and Business, and more, in addition to English and Creative Writing. Students promote the open calls for submissions, collect the submissions, sort through them, and then read, discuss, and decide, for every issue, what pieces of writing or art, will end up in the issue. It takes students hours of dedication for every issue, working after classes, on a volunteer basis, to create the magazine.

Because of the students—for 50 years—Skyline College has produced a magazine that has vividly and uniquely recorded, through art and writing, the changing times, moods, politics, and other landscapes of our world. The name of the magazine has seen many incarnations, first LM, then expressions, Luminosity, until it finally became known as Talisman (an object held to act as a charm to avert evil and bring good fortune; something producing apparently magical or miraculous effects). The name fits. Creating the magazine brings students of different ages, histories, and backgrounds together, who work toward a common, wonderful goal: to create something beautiful, something true, something that reflects who they are and who they will become. And that's definitely magical.

If you have any feedback, the student editors and Advisor would love to hear from you.

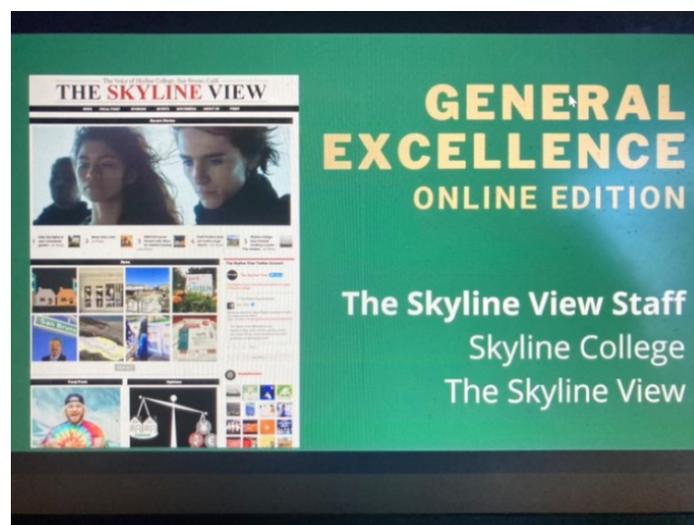
[williamsrob@smccd.edu](mailto:williamsrob@smccd.edu)

—Rob Williams, Faculty Advisor & English Professor, November, 2021

**Link to the 50th Issue of Talisman:**

<https://skylinecollege.edu/talisman/index.php>

### THE SKYLINE VIEW WRAPS UP THE SEMESTER WITH A SERIES OF WINS



The Skyline View wrapped up the semester with several wins under their collective belts. First, current Editor-in-Chief Steven Rissotto was honored with Second Place as the Associated Collegiate Press's Reporter of the Year for Two-Year Colleges.

The semester's good news continued at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges Fall Conference held virtually Nov. 5-7, 2021 where the publication won a series of awards, most notably General Excellence awards for both Online Journalism and Print Journalism.

At the event, former Skyline View Features Editor Christian Carlo Ceguerra won several individual awards, namely Third Place for Inside Page Layout, Fourth Place for Photo Illustration, and an Honorable Mention for Environmental Portrait.

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Former staffer, Hunter Feiner, won Fourth Place for Editorial Cartoon. Former Editor-in-Chief John Harrison picked up a First and Third Place for Student Designed Ad. Former Opinions Editor Marco Milani won First Place for Informational Graphic, as well as First Place for Photo Illustration. Staff collected Third Place for Front Page Layout and Third Place for Editorial. And finally, former staffer Antonio Maffei earned a Fourth Place for Webcast/Broadcast News.

The Skyline View also earned an Excellence in Writing badge from School Newspapers Online's (SNO) Best of SNO program. To do so, they had to earn at least three stories with Best of SNO designations. Current staffers Features Editor Anoush Torounian, Editor-in-Chief Steven Rissotto, and Reporter Derian Lopez all wrote stories that met the Best of SNO standard this semester.

Finally, the program was just awarded a \$15,000 grant from the California Humanities Emerging Journalist Fellowships, which will offer several students in the spring the opportunity to be mentored on some larger journalism projects.

*Article by Nancy Kaplan-Biegel, Adviser to The Skyline View*