



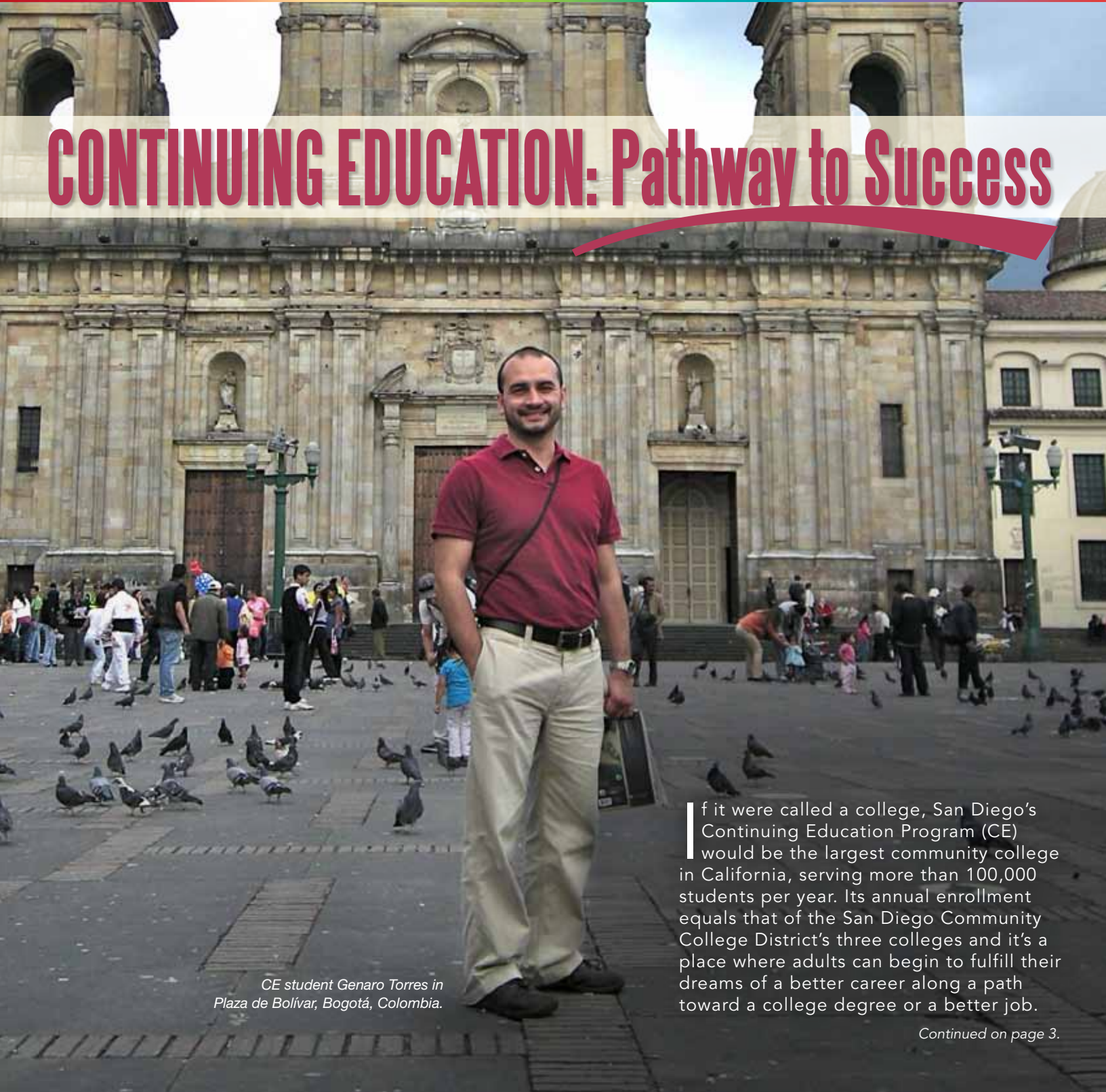
San Diego Community College District

City College
Mesa College
Miramar College
Continuing
Education

WE *with excellence*

May 2011

CONTINUING EDUCATION: Pathway to Success



CE student Genaro Torres in Plaza de Bolívar, Bogotá, Colombia.

If it were called a college, San Diego's Continuing Education Program (CE) would be the largest community college in California, serving more than 100,000 students per year. Its annual enrollment equals that of the San Diego Community College District's three colleges and it's a place where adults can begin to fulfill their dreams of a better career along a path toward a college degree or a better job.

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Chancellor's Message



Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D.
Chancellor, SDCCD

Dreams and Deferrals

The Harlem Renaissance, as it came to be called, was an explosion of African-American literature and art. Centered in the Harlem community of New York during the 1920s and 1930s, this artistic movement saw many new talents enter the mosaic of American creativity. The poet Langston Hughes rose quickly among these new voices, with his best-known poem, *A Dream Deferred*.

The poem's most famous phrase, "a raisin in the sun," is an apt metaphor for what happens when nurture is withheld from young or fragile entities. 21st Century California fits this bill quite well. Because of its refusal to provide the level of funding needed to support social justice and its own economic future, the results have been catastrophic.

State funding has been slashed for community colleges, universities, and K-12 schools, as well as for health and social

services. In community colleges, as many as 200,000 students have already been turned away statewide and the prospect of turning away another 400,000 students lurks on the immediate horizon. And all of this is taking place at a time when California high schools have graduated a record number of students, when unemployment rates are still at double-digit levels, and when new jobs require at least one year of college study.

Before even more dreams of individual and community progress are deferred, before the fabric of social justice is shredded, and before California's economy simply implodes, we urge our legislators to do what's right, to do what's best: provide the revenue needed to restabilize California's educational systems and invest in the people who need them. Let's get back to funding dreams, not deferring them.

A Dream Deferred

*What happens
to a dream deferred?*

*Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore--
And then run?*

*Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over--
Like a syrupy sweet?*

*Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.*

Or does it explode?



Langston Hughes



CONTINUING EDUCATION: Pathway to Success

CE is big and it's a well-known face of the District across San Diego – classes are offered at six campuses and in 250 other locations throughout the city. Its students reflect the evolving multicultural face of the United States and exhibit the gamut of economic, social, age, ethnic, occupational, and educational characteristics found throughout California. Many are new immigrants and others are *New Americans* who gained their citizenship with the help of classes offered at CE.

Whether native-born or immigrant, employed or unemployed, Continuing Education helps all San Diegans find or regain their footing on the way to the American Dream.

GENARO TORRES – CE IMMIGRANT PROFESSIONAL TRANSFER ACADEMY ALUMNI

Meeting Genaro Torres (pictured above) is like getting caught in an intellectual whirling dervish of ideas, plans, and actions. He is always thinking, conceptualizing, ruminating, and then expressing himself in crisp well-ordered phrases in Spanish and English.

Genaro graduated with honors and earned a Master's Degree in Systems Engineering from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in Mexico City. He excelled in business operating strategies and operational planning. Still, he felt ignorant not knowing how to speak English.

After immigrating to the U.S., Genaro found that English as a Second Language classes were offered free of charge at Continuing Education. With the encouragement of CE Counselor, Sheyla Castillo, an immigrant from Ecuador, Genaro learned English in a culturally and linguistically diverse environment. Everything was new and challenging. "It was," he said, "an amazing experience. I had never been exposed to new cultures in Mexico City. Learning in a diverse setting changed me."

Genaro enrolled in the Immigrant Professional Transfer Academy and there, he was able to sort out cultural and linguistic differences between the U.S. and Latin America, and develop the basis to grow a multinational consulting business. He now teaches a General Education Diploma (GED) class at CE. "I want to plant seeds so they can grow in others," he said.

What is ahead for Genaro's business? "I don't know for sure," he says, "but I am sure it will be good." "Continuing Education has helped me in ways I could not imagine before I came to California," he observed. "It has added important elements to my professional tools and a commitment to helping others become successful."

Fernando Quispez, an attorney who immigrated from Peru and an instructor in the Immigrant Professional Academy, sees his connection with CE in the same way. His students study American culture, business, and the education system. It is essential for these professionals to "understand these topics if they are to be part of their new country," he says.

What began for Genaro and Fernando as steps along the road to successful immigration to the U.S. has taken an unexpected turn. They find that they are also advising Americans who would like to seek business and other opportunities in Latin America. "That is something I did not expect in coming to the U.S.," commented Genaro. Fernando agrees.

"The Immigrant Professional Transfer Academy is playing an important role in preparing professionals from other countries to become successful in the U.S.," Continuing Education President Anthony Beebe explained. "In turn, these professionals are adding to the reservoir of talent needed to keep San Diego a prosperous community." ♦



Terrence J. Burgess, Ph.D.
President
San Diego City College



FULFILLING A DREAM

City College Opens Doors



Javier Yeppez-Vargas is 23. Javier dreamed of going to college, as universities in Mexico are competitive and expensive. To make his dream a reality, Javier parted from his family to obtain an education. He immigrated to America in 2005 knowing little English.

Starting life in a new country, one of the most difficult challenges is adapting to a new culture and language. Javier knew he would need to improve his English to

achieve his dream. In 2005, he studied English as a Second Language (ESL) at the Centre City Campus. After six months, he was working as a teacher's assistant in ESL classes. He soon began attending City College with the goal of transferring to San Diego State University (SDSU).

That's where he encountered English Professor Virginia Escalante, a teacher who made a difference in his life. Javier took English and Chicano Studies with Escalante. "She was one of the most encouraging professors I have ever had. She helped me a lot with my writing," Javier conveyed.

Escalante praised her former pupil. "Javier is not only a super intelligent student, but also a humanist whose feet are firmly planted in the reality of his community on both sides of the border, whether he is involved in solutions to environmental pollution in Mexico or addressing literacy needs in San Diego," she said.

City College Counselor and Club IDEAS Advisor Rudy Zamora also influenced Javier. Club IDEAS is a student organization that helps AB 540 students, those who graduated from a California high school but, due to their residency status, can't qualify for financial education assistance. "(Zamora) was really supportive. He encouraged us and was always there to help us," Javier said.

Zamora appreciated Javier's altruism. "Javier is a young man with a huge heart. He was one of the founders of Club IDEAS," Zamora related.

Javier graduated with a Chicano Studies degree and a 3.77 GPA from City College in 2009. He's in his last semester at SDSU to obtain a B.A. degree in social work. He has an internship at juvenile hall and speaks to youth offenders because

he wants to open the door for them to a positive future.

Javier is currently working at Mid-City Campus as an administrative assistant to help immigrants develop life skills.

What are his goals for the future? Short-term: joining AmeriCorps in

...a humanist whose feet are firmly planted in the reality of his community...

Washington D.C., assisting the homeless in New York, teaching English to children in rural China. Long-term: attending Columbia University for a master's degree in public relations and earning a Ph.D. in international relations.

The keys to his remarkable success? "Having a goal, being involved in the community, and having the energy and courage to continue," he said. ♦



Elizabeth Armstrong
Interim President
San Diego Mesa College



Quality & Value Drive Immigrant Professionals to Mesa



Tewodros "Teddy" Wakie

For Tewodros "Teddy" Wakie, coming to the United States (U.S.) was like winning the lottery. In fact, it was.

The forestry professional from Ethiopia was a 2006 recipient of the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program, which grants visas to select individuals from countries with low immigration rates to the U.S.

Teddy wanted to come to America to study GIS, or Geographic Information Systems and, eventually, earn an advanced degree. "GIS is a growing field that is vital for research and has applications in numerous fields," Teddy explains.

He selected Mesa for the quality reputation of its GIS certificate and A.S. degree programs, but admits that the relatively inexpensive education costs factored in as well.

He has not been disappointed in his choice.

"I have learned so much from my professors," he says. "I am one step closer to achieving my bigger goal of becoming a doctoral student. With the help of my professors, I've succeeded in achieving what I planned to achieve." Teddy graduates this month with an A.S. degree and GIS Specialist Certificate.

Noriko Kiyomura had her bachelor's degree in international relations from Daito Bunka University and was working in Japan as a marketing administrator for an international firm. Even though she spoke English, she had a difficult time communicating with colleagues in other international offices. "To explain the trends of Japanese markets or business practices in English



Noriko Kiyomura

was challenging," explained Noriko. So the independent, 29-year-old woman saved for five years and applied at Mesa through the college's international student program. She's studying for an accounting degree, but says she's learning so much more. "In the classroom, there are diverse students of different age, ethnicity and work experience. I'm learning new ideas from other students, and expanding my cultural and educational horizons."



Tatiana de Nes

Tatiana de Nes thrives on challenge. She already had a five-year degree from the Vladivostok State University, owned a business, and worked in the competitive European fashion industry before immigrating to the U.S. a decade ago. She married, learned English, and loved her new life. But rather than settling in, she decided to become an interior designer at age 39. "I had no

clue where to start," remembers Tatiana. After hours researching the internet and asking people in the field who they knew and who the best instructors were, she says, "Mesa College kept on coming up." Now ready to graduate, she says, "I gained so much knowledge and I'm excited and confident about going into this business. Mesa was perfect, and at the perfect price, too."

Price and location were also important for Hong Nguyen. When the

Clairemont resident arrived in the U.S. from Vietnam in 2006 with her new husband, she was already a practicing veterinarian and had even owned a hotel. Like many immigrants, Hong did not speak a word of English, so she enrolled in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes at City, and later, Mesa. Those classes led her to enroll in one of Mesa's most popular career technical programs, medical assisting. "I study all the time when I'm not in class," admits Hong, "I am 46 years old, so learning in English and learning a new technical field isn't easy for me." Still she doesn't want to stop learning. "I want to learn the H'mong language, so I can help even more people." ♦



Hong Nguyen





Patricia Hsieh, Ed.D.
President
San Diego Miramar College

Miramar

Distinguished Alumni Faced Language Barriers to Succeed

Two former Miramar College students share more than their Distinguished Alumni honors and a passion to help others in their professional lives today. 2008 Distinguished Alumna Monika Fitzsimmons (pictured) and recently named 2011 Distinguished Alumna Yanina Gabinskaya each stepped onto United States soil as immigrants who could not speak English, followed similar educational paths through English as a Second Language (ESL) classes offered by the San Diego Community College District before obtaining multiple college degrees, and each now dedicates their careers to helping others in need.

With a life story that showcases the triumphs of an immigrant seeking the “American dream,” Monika Fitzsimmons, a Registered Nurse at Sharp Grossmont Hospital ER, was selected as the 2008 Miramar College Distinguished Alumni Award recipient and continues to reach goals.

Fitzsimmons emigrated from Warsaw, Poland to the U.S. in 1989. She took ESL classes at Miramar College and worked at a dry cleaners. In 1999, she returned to Miramar and enrolled in night classes, while continuing to work during the day.

“In Poland, I did not have the opportunity for higher education, so I’m thirsty for knowledge and passionate about learning,” she said. She formed study groups, informally began to tutor and loved the difference she made by sharing her newly acquired knowledge with others. Her hard work paid off. While at Miramar, Monika earned multiple scholarships, maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA, and graduated with an Associate Degree in Transfer Studies with High Honors.

Monika transferred to San Diego State University (SDSU)

in 2004 and graduated Summa Cum Laude as the valedictorian of the School of Nursing’s 2007 class. She received the Health Care Nursing Scholarship from SDSU and was on the Dean’s Honor List since 2004.

Three years after earning Distinguished Alumni honors, Fitzsimmons still loves her job and helping people in need. “Yes, I help to save lives during CPR, but I especially enjoy taking care of homeless patients. I love seeing the difference in how they look and feel from the time they arrive in our ER to when they depart it. It’s amazing what a shower, food, clean clothes, and IV fluids can do to improve a person’s well being. It often falls on the ER shoulders to meet these people’s basic needs,” she said. And she’s still passionate about learning. “I strive to learn something new every shift...anything new...it can be about nursing or human nature. With new knowledge, I know I’m not stagnating.”

Gabinskaya, a political refugee, immigrated to the United States from Ukraine in 1992 and enrolled in Miramar ESL classes to learn English. She went on to complete the college’s paralegal program and receive her law degree in 2004 from Saratoga School of Law. Today, Gabinskaya dedicates her life to helping other immigrants as a paralegal, specializing in immigration law. Gabinskaya was profiled in the March 2011 issue of the WE—With Excellence newsletter. ♦





Anthony E. Beebe, Ed.D.
President
San Diego Continuing Education

Continuing Education

Helping English Language Learners from San Diego to Singapore

Fifteen delegates from the Singapore WDA (Workforce Development Agency) toured Continuing Education (CE) classes in January to learn about an innovative teaching approach that integrates basic skills, including ESL (English as a Second Language), with job-specific training.

The Singapore WDA enhances the competitiveness of their workforce by encouraging workers to advance with education and skills. Since 2005, CASAS (Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System; a local, national and international non-profit assessment organization in San Diego) has been working closely with the Singapore WDA to customize an assessment system to measure the literacy and numeracy skills of their workforce.

CASAS identified the I-BEST (Integrated Basic Education Skills Training) approach at Continuing Education as a program in the United States that exemplified best practices for setting up literacy classes to directly meet business and industry needs. As a result, the delegation came to see first-hand how the modern approach works in classrooms, and hear about student success.

“The delegates were looking for the best way to help prepare low literate students in Singapore for the workforce and higher-skilled jobs,” said CE Dean Robin Carvajal. “We have a model of the best approach here, in our I-BEST classes, and our students are wonderful examples of the program’s success.”

I-BEST is contextualized learning and Continuing Education has implemented I-BEST in nursing assistant training, welding, and a VESL (Vocational ESL) personal assistant/caregiver class.

In the nursing assistant training classes, from pre-test to post-test, students have shown an increase of 15% or 1.5 letter grades in as little as six weeks. Additionally, after I-BEST was implemented, one in every six students moved from below 60% (a grade F) to above 90% (a grade A).

“Student success rates have increased for the majority of students in these classes,” said CE Dean Alma McGee. “Maria Elena Hernandez is an example of how teaching relevant learning experiences in vocational classrooms can transition students to employment quickly.”

Maria began studying at CE in 2008. She completed several ESL classes, transitioned to the VESL personal assistant/



Delegates from the Singapore WDA (Workforce Development Agency) touring Continuing Education's Educational Cultural Complex.

caregiver class, then completed the free job training/certificate program for nursing assistant. Both classes use I-BEST as an approach to maximize the student’s learning potential. Next, Maria passed the state certification test and became a licensed Certified Nursing Assistant in 2010. She is currently enrolled in classes to complete her GED and her next step will be the licensed vocational nursing program at Mesa College.

“Having all the tools together was the best thing,” said Maria while making an open motion with her hands. “It was like opening a door for a new world.”

“In today’s economy, most jobs require not just knowledge, but also skills,” said Jane Eguez, Workforce Learning Systems Program Manager at CASAS. “WDA will be able to better meet the needs of Singapore companies if they follow the Continuing Education model of customized literacy training.”

The foundation of basic skills training includes reading, math, language, employability and service skills necessary to compete in any workforce and CE is leading the way for building this foundation. “Having education is having power over your life,” said Maria. “You can make goals, and you can do new things for yourself with education. Education is the key to a better life.” ♦

Foundation Welcomes New Director

At their January quarterly meeting, the Miramar College Foundation board of directors voted to enthusiastically appoint **Sarah Yang**, Vice President and Senior Business Relationship Manager, Business Banking Division, Wells Fargo to fill the post vacated by long-time director Bob Dingeman, who resigned from the board to spend more time with his wife and family.

Yang, a 23 year financial services veteran, holds a B.A. in Finance from the People's University in China. She immigrated to the United States in 1986 from Beijing, and she has served in various banking and lending positions with a primary focus on commercial lending.

Active in the San Diego community, Yang is currently involved with the Hong Kong Association, the Asian Business Association and has served on the Board of Directors of the Asian Film Foundation for the last five years. She is the former president of the Orange County Chinese-American Chamber of Commerce and was the Co-Chair of the Wells Fargo Asian Connection team member resource group. Sarah has a strong passion for youth and education and will bring her business background and personal experiences to the Miramar College Foundation. ♦

Dr. Sandra Slivka was one of five featured panelists discussing the future of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) education at UCSD during "Celebrating 50 Years of Science," an activity of San Diego Science Festival month. ♦

Women in Business



Nancy Fredericks (center, with students), an adjunct professor in the School of Business at City College was named the Small Business Association's 2011 San Diego District Woman in Business Champion. Nancy teaches marketing, managing a business, human relations, and Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE). Nancy also has had her own marketing consulting practice for 14 years called Sales Link.

Nancy responded, "This is a wonderful honor, and also a great fit with our 2012 City College SIFE goals for expanding our activities and support with women business owners (students and staff) on our campus.

Speaking of champions, last year the Small Business Development Center and Nancy nominated Rachel Burger Welland, an event planner and former City College student as Woman Owned Business of the Year, and she won! This year the Small Business Development Center and Nancy nominated Maria Camacho, owner of The Little Yoga Studio at Ash & 8th, and also a former City College student, for the Woman Owned Business of the Year. Maria was honored to be nominated. ♦

Building Smart Classrooms

Four Continuing Education instructors attended the Technology & Distance Learning Symposium, sponsored by OTAN (Outreach and Technical Assistance Network) in February. Instructors were introduced to integrating concepts of digital technologies into traditional classroom education.

The use of digital learning modules, interactive whiteboards (e.g. Smartboards), and open-source course management systems such as Moodle, are technologies used to develop new ways of not only learning, but also teaching, especially in a complex and rapidly changing technological society.

Several adult education programs in California are successfully piloting more basic skills content online, as a compliment to traditional classroom instruction. As 78% of U.S. adults access the Internet, and 82% own a cell phone or smart phone, it's critical that technology is integrated into every class to keep students connected and make the educational experience relevant. ♦



(From clockwise, from left)
Instructors Holly Rodriguez (Adult Basic Education; ABE), Donna Price (Vocational ESL), Cindy Wislofsky (ESL) and Leticia Flores (ABE)

Accomplishments & Achievements

KUDOS

Mesa Professor named "2011 Chef of the Year"

He's a popular teacher, an accomplished baker and chef, a giving volunteer, and friend to many. He's cooked for family and friends, and customers at his own bakery. In 2010, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors named his bakery the "Business of the Year" and even proclaimed October 10th as "Tom Adams Day." But the fatherly Mesa College culinary professor was still humbled and delighted to be named "Chef of the Year 2011" by the Chef de Cuisine Association of San Diego in February.

The distinguished American Culinary Federation chapter considers a variety of factors in awarding the honor, but admit they factored in Adams' extensive background and contributions to culinary arts in San Diego in selecting him for the award. Ask Professor Adams about his award, and he'll instead tell you about his volunteer work. For ten years, he has created gingerbread houses to benefit the Epilepsy Foundation in San Diego. He was given the honorary title "Jessie's Angel" for his volunteer work at the Polinsky Children's Center, where he arrives each holiday with treats and bakes a cake for birthday celebrations each month. Chef Adams is also a proud Mesa College graduate, and content to pass on 40 years of experience to his students. ♦



PROJECT UNITY A FIRST ON MANY FRONTS

Blood donated by Mesa College students, faculty and staff during Project Unity is making its way to the troops on the battlefield and to the hospital patients at Naval Medical Center San Diego (NSCMD). The barrier-breaking joint project led by two seemingly disparate groups at Mesa College – the Student Veterans Union and the Muslim Student Association – drew more than 87 donors to the NMCSDBlood mobile on February 25.

NMCSDBlood Recruiter Doreen Rekoski reports that they saw more than 87 donors with 66 people clearing the process (21 people tried to donate, but were deferred for a number of common reasons, such as low iron). Since each unit collected can benefit up to three patients, some 198 people will benefit from lifesaving donations made during Project Unity.

"It was a very successful blood drive!" wrote Rekoski in her recap report to veteran organizer Edward Higuera. "It was a pleasure to work with all of you, truly...and so much fun to see all that energy and enthusiasm."

That energy and enthusiasm came from event organizers, veterans Edward Higuera and Richard Gilbert, and Huda Dosii and Noorsaba Bahramzi, leaders of the Associated Student Muslims group. All were pleased with the drive's success, and the joint experience.

"Working on the Project Unity blood drive has had a tremendous impact on my life," said Huda. "I didn't realize it at the beginning but looking back, my perspectives have changed. Not only have I learned more about the veterans, I've learned more about myself...I would do it all over again in a heartbeat."

Watch the Project Unity YouTube video (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksK7Apv6J3I&feature=youtube_gdata_player). ♦



FORMER CITY STUDENT/ATHLETES Hit it BIG in BUSINESS

Jesse LeBeau played basketball for two years at City for Coach Mitch Charlens. He made the honor roll, was selected as an All Conference guard, and received the Harry West Memorial Scholarship Award in 2008. LeBeau earned a B.A. in Business from San Diego Christian College in 2010. Now he's continuing his success by starring in a Footlocker commercial with Kobe Bryant!

Andre Cooper also played for Charlens at City. He red-shirted his first year and played two years – also making the honor roll before transferring to SDSU as a Business major. Cooper has carried on his creativity off the court by developing the “Deuce Brand” ionic watches. Cooper has a business office in Downtown San Diego and distributes his watches through the Brookstone stores. His products are promoted by celebrities such as singer Ashanti and professional athletes such as Pro Bowl Green Bay Packers safety Nick Collins and baseball All Star Manny Ramirez. ♦



Darrel Harrison, Miramar College professor and former Academic Senate president, was recently appointed to the State Academic Senate Cooperative Work Experience and Placement Advisory Board for a one-year term. ♦

Miramar Fire Tech Professor Honored

An Explorer program and a big fire ignited **Darren Hall**'s passion for firefighting and teaching — two skills that led the Coronado fire captain and Miramar fire technology professor to receive a statewide award this week as Training Officer of the Year.

Hall credited one of his Hilltop High School teachers in Chula Vista for suggesting a firefighting career. He joined the Chula Vista Fire Department Explorer Program, which was how he happened to help on a hose line the night an arsonist torched four classrooms at Castle Park Elementary School in Chula Vista in 1991.

Hall, who lives in Carlsbad, accepted the training officer award on February 28 at the Firehouse World conference, a national gathering of fire services professionals at the San Diego Convention Center. Hall, who joined the Coronado Fire Department in 1996, has been an associate professor for five years at the San Diego Miramar College Fire Technology Program and the program director for the past two years.

“I love teaching,” Hall said. “I’m living my dream. My favorite class is teaching firefighters how to drive. I haven’t taught every firefighter in the county how to drive, but I’ve taught a whole bunch of them.”

Capt. Kendal Bortisser of the San Miguel Fire Protection District nominated Hall for the California State Firefighters’ Association Training Officer of the Year Award. “He is constantly thinking of new ideas and ways to improve the firefighting profession,” Bortisser wrote in his nomination letter. ♦



HONORS EXCELS



On the last Saturday of March, 26 Mesa College honor students presented their research at the 11th Annual Honors Transfer Council of California Research Conference at UC Irvine. “The level of professionalism of all presenters at the conference was impressive,” said SDCCD District Honors Transfer Coordinator Alison Primoza, “but especially that of the Mesa students!” Student **Valeria Ruiz** (pictured here with Dr. Juan

Lara) was named the recipient of the prestigious Juan Lara Award, which is given to a single honors student “who has demonstrated outstanding growth and academic success brought about by involvement in a community college honors program.” Honors Student **Jessica Lee Wells** won an Exemplary Achievement Award. Six Mesa students served as volunteer moderators, and six Mesa professors attended to support their students. “My hearty congratulations to all our Mesa presenters, their mentors, and our scholarship winners!” adds Professor Primoza. ♦



Marina Monta, Parent Education instructor at Continuing Education, stands far left with her Parent Education class at North City Campus as the class prepares to send books to Ecuador.

A Global Impact

A Parent Education class at Continuing Education is making a global impact. The class sent a gift of books published in Spanish to the Working Boys' Center in Quito, Ecuador. The Center is a school for working children and their families. Younger ages attend school and older children learn a trade that will lift their families out of poverty.

The Working Boys' Center has been in operation for 42 years and boasts 100% job placement. Similar to adult students who complete a Job Training/Certificate Program at Continuing Education, students at the Working Boys' Center graduate with skills in sewing, auto mechanics, electrical, plumbing, metal machinery, culinary, or computers. ♦

Giving Back — City College Launches a Medical Career

(Lynn) Bouaphone Siripanyo was three when she immigrated to the U.S. in 1985. Her family fled Laos through refugee camps in Thailand and the Philippines. If caught by Laotian Communists, her family would have been killed for trying to escape.

In school, Lynn took some detours, worked as a cosmetologist, and found she needed something more – to become an anesthesiologist. There are obstacles. “Being Laotian, we’re not really dominant in that (medical practice) area,” she related. “Being a woman and a minority, I want to challenge myself to do what I can do.”

This includes studying at City and Miramar College, becoming a nurse, and joining the Navy for medical school. She volunteers in the tutoring center at City College to help students in math and sciences. It’s a part of giving back to her community, something she will continue to do as a doctor. ♦



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Grand Opening

More than 100 faculty, staff and students in commemorative red t-shirts formed a "human ribbon" linking two new classroom facilities at San Diego Miramar College on Tuesday, February 22 to celebrate the buildings' grand opening. Humanities & Arts and Math & Business buildings, a \$34.4 million dual-classroom project funded by Propositions S and N, provide more than 80,000 square feet state-of-the-art classroom space, computer, art and music labs. Cutting a formal ribbon were Arts & Humanities Department Chair **Bob Fritsch**, San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) Trustees **Bill Schwandt**, **Maria Nieto Senour** and **Rich Grosch**, Miramar College President **Patricia Hsieh**, SDCCD Chancellor **Constance Carroll**, SDCCD Facilities Management Vice Chancellor **David Umstot**, and Miramar College Academic Senate President **Daphne Figueroa**. ♦

