



San Diego Community College District

WE *with excellence*

March 2011

City College
Mesa College
Miramar College
Continuing
Education

THINKING GLOBALLY AND ACTING LOCALLY

Thanks to the initial environmental push of faculty members at City and Mesa colleges and the embrace of their efforts by the leadership of the San Diego Community College District, the SDCCD is well on its way to becoming one of a handful of national leaders in higher education green building throughout the nation. Along with several other California community college districts, the SDCCD has designed and constructed new buildings that have greatly reduced the use of energy and other natural resources.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICTS IN CALIFORNIA LEADING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS INCLUDE: BUTTE-GLENN, FOOTHILL-DE ANZA, LOS ANGELES, SAN DIEGO, SAN MATEO, SANTA MONICA

Continued on page 3.



Chancellor's Message



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

California's Perfect Fiscal Storm

One of the most over-used metaphors in recent years is the notion of the “perfect storm.” In contemporary California, however, the metaphor is apt. As the storm clouds of financial crisis gather once again on the 2011-12 budget horizon, one is reminded that storms are not freak occurrences; they often crest as the result of weather systems far removed from the local site. The provenance of the present storm is complex, with three points of origin.

The first set of storm clouds was ushered in as the result of fears about President Franklin Roosevelt’s “New Deal” in the 1930s. Intended to ensure fiscal restraint, the California Legislature enacted a two-thirds super-majority vote requirement to pass the state budget, a rule that was strengthened in subsequent actions taken in 1962 and 1978, culminating in the Passage of Proposition 218 in 1996, which finalized the approval level and made California one of only three states in the nation to have such a rule. Decades later, the passage of California budgets has repeatedly occurred well past the Constitutional deadline of July 1. Especially in times of diminishing resources, it has become increasingly difficult for the Legislature to reach this high bar for action.

California’s Proposition 13, the “People’s Initiative to Limit Property Taxation,” provided the second serious fiscal challenge when voters passed the measure in June 1978. Although intended to be a property-tax measure, Proposition 13 carried governance changes with it, such as eliminating direct taxation by local community college boards, and removed a secure source of income for the support of public institutions and functions. There was never a successful effort to replace the lost revenue for the public sector through other taxes. The state’s resulting reliance upon individual wealth to fill the gap is the cause of an expanding chasm between ongoing expenditures and unstable revenue, since individual wealth rises and falls with the capital markets.

Last, as the third partner in this storm, is the relatively new reality of legislative term limits. In November 1990, California voters lent their support to Proposition 140, or the “Limits on Terms of Office, Legislators’ Retirement, Legislative Operating Costs Amendment.” As a result, the turnover among lawmakers in Sacramento has greatly increased, reducing the sense of both memory and context regarding current problems and possible solutions, to say nothing of discouraging the investment in long-term planning.

Any storm can be weathered with the proper equipment and protections. However, California has yet to find permanent solutions to these three challenges. It is therefore necessary for community college leaders and others to maintain frequent and effective contact with their legislative representatives, educating them regarding issues and needs, and working as their partners in resolving problems. The San Diego Community College District is fortunate in having a legislative delegation that is accessible, involved and knowledgeable, and we will continue our efforts to work with them in our joint mission of service to the public. ♦



From left: Mesa College Interim President Elizabeth Armstrong, Members of the Board of Trustees Peter Zschiesche and Mary Graham, Board President Rich Grosch, Chancellor Constance M. Carroll, Assemblymember Marty Block and Board Office Supervisor Margaret Lamb.

THINKING GLOBALLY AND ACTING LOCALLY

In the San Diego Community College District, our gas use has fallen from a high in 2005-2006 of 807,281 therms to a low of 677,337 therms in 2009-2010. In spite of the addition of thousands of square feet of new buildings with state-of-the-art electronics, the use of electricity (kWH) per square foot has remained relatively stable since 2005-2006 at 11.124 kWH to 11.810 kWH in 2009-2010. To restrain electricity use anticipated with the build out of our campuses, the District entered into a Solar Power contract with Borrego Solar Power that is now producing approximately 4,520,000 kWH and will result in considerable financial savings to the District for the next 20 years.

Additional savings are being realized from lighting retrofits that will sharply reduce the cost of lighting throughout the District.

Other changes are occurring in the behavior of members of the SDCCD community. Public regulation requires a waste diversion of 50 percent to recycling. The colleges and Continuing Education far exceed the requirements of the law. Their average is 80 percent waste diversion.

Water use has fallen from a high in 2002 of 177,482 HCF (hundred cubic feet) to a low in 2009-2010 of 75,803.

Whether it is the sale of reusable water bottles and refilling stations on campus or urban gardens and the replacement of water-guzzling lawns, members of the SDCCD are serious about environmental sustainability. Quantities of printed materials drop as electronic forms of information proliferate on campuses. Drama department staff and students are recycling and repurposing props and set pieces, and single stream recycling containers are located everywhere.

And it doesn't stop with these efforts. For 2011, smart metering initiatives, thermal energy storage and expansion of solar heating are just a couple of the expanding directions in which staff and students are seeking to save energy, lower operating costs, and do our part to make San Diego a better place in which to live. ♦

LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (LEED)

LEED
Platinum

Police Station, Miramar College

LEED
Gold

Arts & Humanities Building, City College
 Business Technology Building, City College
 Career Technology Center, City College
 Allied Health Building, Mesa College
 Police Substation, Mesa College
 Heavy Duty Advanced Transportation
 Technology Center, Miramar College
 Arts & Humanities Classroom
 Building, Miramar College
 Business & Mathematics Classroom
 Building, Miramar College
 West City Campus, Continuing Education
 Skills Center at ECC, Continuing Education
 North City Campus, Continuing Education

LEED
Silver

Math and Social Sciences, City College
 R Building (Learning Resource
 Center), City College
 Science Building, City College
 C Building, City College
 M Building, City College
 Student Services Center, Mesa College
 Math and Science Building, Mesa College
 Library Learning Resource Center
 (LLRC), Miramar College
 Automotive Technology Career Bldg.
 Expansion, Miramar College
 Student Services Center, Miramar College
 Linda Vista Campus, Continuing Education
 Cesar Chavez Center, Continuing Education
 Wing Extension at ECC, Continuing Education

LEED
Certified

Hourglass Park Field House, Miramar College
 Aviation Maintenance Tech. Center
 Expansion, Miramar College



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



Public Mental Health Academy

Great news for job seekers looking to work in social services – there’s a shortage of mental health service workers in San Diego County, and City College is preparing to train the entry-level mental health service providers of the future. Associate Professor Veronica Ortega, Assistant Professor Kristen Cole, both Ph.D. psychology instructors at City and adjunct instructor Paul Watson, Jr. of Behavioral Sciences – Human Services, applied for and were awarded a five-year grant to establish the Public Mental Health Academy on the City campus. The grant is funded by the County of San Diego through the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Workforce Education and Training.

Through the Public Mental Health Academy, Ortega, Cole and Watson are developing the Mental Health Worker Certificate of Achievement – a 19-unit certificate that can lead to entry-level employment in public mental health. It will also serve as a stepping stone to higher education in social service fields.

According to Ortega, there’s a need in San Diego County for mental health workers. “We’re way under the number of people we need to work in public mental health. (There’s also a need) to ensure those coming into the field are more diverse to better represent the populations they serve,” she said.

Ortega conveyed that her program is charged with addressing four specific underserved populations in public mental health: Latino/Latina, Asian Pacific Islander, LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) and foster youth.

What kinds of entry-level jobs will students who earn the Mental Health Worker Certificate qualify for? Kristen Cole, heading curriculum development for the Public Mental Health Academy, provided an overview: substance abuse counselor, residential counselor, rehab counselor assistant, behavioral analyst, social services assistant, crisis center worker, patient care specialist, home health aide, and more.

Cole’s main role in the Academy is to facilitate the field placement of students through the Psychology 276 class –

Field Work Psychology Services. The course was originally taught at Mesa College and activated at City in spring 2011 for the Mental Health Worker Certificate. “Students will be meeting with me once a week for about an hour and forty minutes, and then they will be out in the community at different agencies volunteering thirty-six hours during the semester,” she said.

Paul Watson, Jr., formerly the executive director of San Diego Youth and Community Services and now a consultant and instructor for Springfield College in the School of Human Services, is the outreach coordinator for the Public Mental Health Academy. His responsibility is to stay in touch with community resources and put together an advisory board for the project. “It helps me to do some recruitment as well as keeping the program and the content that we provide in the curriculum for the certificate and making sure that it’s relevant to the needs that people are experiencing in the community,” he said.

Alisa Rowland, an adjunct counselor at City, is providing counseling for students in the Mental Health Worker Certificate. Rowland is actively recruiting students and will be involved in academic and career counseling with them. “We’re hoping that our first cohort of students will be awarded their certificates in spring 2012,” Rowland said. “I’m there to guide them and do the academic side, and also career-wise, for résumés, cover letters, whatever they’re going to need help with in terms of getting a job. I really want to try to create a community for these students, to have them network and get to know each other. I think if that happens at this initial stage of their academic career, that can be so powerful.” ♦



City College Psychology Instructor Kristen Cole, Public Mental Health Academy Work Study Student Lauren Dawson, Psychology Instructor Veronica Ortega, Counselor Alisa Rowland and Human Services Instructor Paul Watson, Jr.



Elizabeth Armstrong
Interim President
San Diego Mesa College



Interning AT THE TOP

Students know the drill. If your degree program requires an internship, you'll want to be sure you land a position that integrates theory and practice, enables you to contribute, and enriches your studies and professional experience. That's true whether you're obtaining a certificate, two- or four-year degree, master's degree, or even a doctorate.

"I tend to be a possibility thinker," said Joi Lin Blake, Mesa's Dean of Student Development and Matriculation and among the 2008 student cohort enrolled in San Diego State University's Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership program.

But even Blake was astonished when her inquiry to Dr. Martha Kanter, the Under Secretary of Education, landed her a fall internship working in the nation's top educational powerhouse.

The internship lasted eight weeks and ended on October 29. Blake worked in both the Office of the Under Secretary and the Office of Vocational and Adult Education.

During her tenure, Blake attended senior executive meetings and briefings, and participated in symposiums, leadership meetings and the AACC White House Community College Summit Breakfast. The work she had done at Mesa enabled her to contribute to the discussions of the \$2 Billion Trade Adjustment Act competition, the development of Career Pathways Technical Assistance Institute, and crafting of the national strategic plan for community colleges.

"It was an amazing experience," Blake reflected. "When decisions were being made as to the future of community college in America, I was sitting at the table and able to bring to the discussion the institutional and student perspective."

In a letter of reference to SDSU professor Stephen F. Barnes, Ph.D., Dr. Kanter said Blake "earned the confidence and respect of our senior staff and brought invaluable insight that impacted our work."

"She was a true asset to our team," echoed Gail M. Schwartz, Ed.D., Senior Advisor for Community Colleges.

Now working on her dissertation, Blake will complete the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership program in May. Previous Mesa College participants include Jill Baker, Dean of Business, Computer Studies and Technologies; English professor Jill Moreno-Ikari; and Chris Sullivan, Dean of the School of Humanities. Both Drs. Baker and Sullivan advanced to their new positions following completion of the program. Mesa Communications Professor Kimberly Gerhardt is part of the 2010 cohort.

"SDSU's Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, with specializations in pre-K-12 and community college/postsecondary education, is positioned to have a major impact on the education community throughout San Diego and Imperial Counties," said Elizabeth J. Armstrong, Interim President. "I am personally proud of each and every candidate and graduate." ♦



Dean Joi Lin Blake
with U.S. Secretary of
Education, Arne Duncan.



From left: Johan Uvin, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Vocational and Adult Education; Dr. Martha Kanter, Under Secretary of Education; Mesa College Dean Joi Lin Blake; Dr. Brenda Dan-Messier, Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education and Dr. Frank Chong, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges.



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



Proud Parents

“Proud parents” Lou Ascione and Paulette Hopkins are beaming at the birth of their new children – new, state-of-the-art classroom buildings, brimming with technology and sustainable features, ready to serve thousands of students in arts, humanities, business and math. Funded by Propositions S and N, the \$34 million dual-building project provides more than 80,000 square feet of general and specialty classroom space.

Ascione, Dean of Liberal Arts, is most excited about the “community” his new facility affords. “Our school’s instructors are now together under one roof,” he says, “where they can collaborate and share. Liberal arts students will be able to congregate in student spaces in and outside the new “H” building – developing their own community, and we’ll be able to invite the external community to enjoy small-scale performances.”

Specialty classrooms accommodate the arts and music. A 60-seat, tiered classroom, features professional amenities—acoustically controlled sound system, stage lighting, and cushioned performance floor. A professional recording studio, sound-proof booths and control room will serve the music production and engineering program. In the near future, Miramar students can look forward to new music offerings and performance opportunities, from guitar classes to choral groups.

For almost 40 years, art classes were housed in bungalows. Art students will now enjoy well-lit, spacious, dedicated art labs – a 2D drawing/painting lab and 3D ceramics/sculpture lab that includes 12 potter’s wheels and 5 kilns.

The “M” building boasts its own state-of-the-art technology and unique features.

Paulette Hopkins, Dean of Business, Math and Science, is most enthused with the way teaching and learning will take place in her new facility.

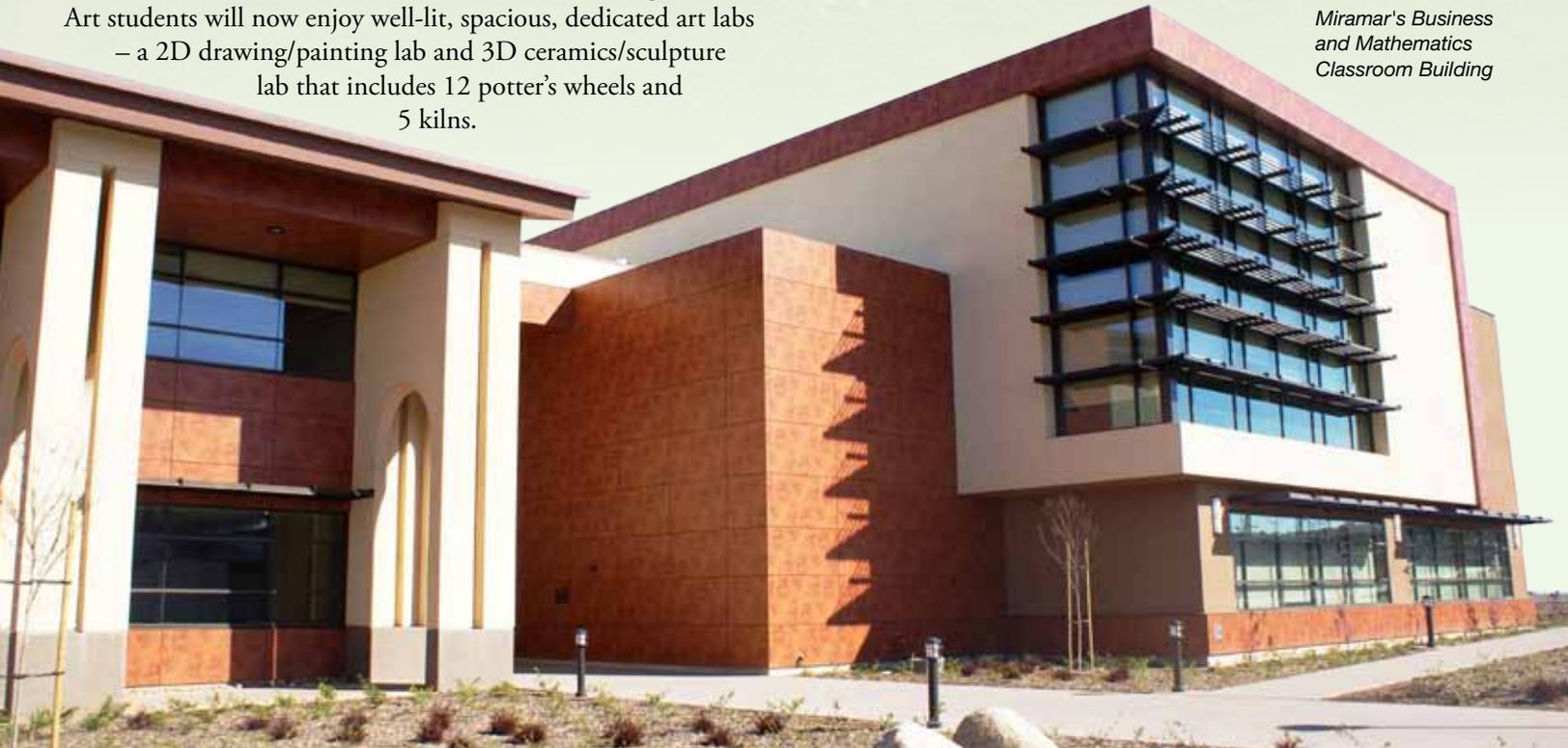
“We are facing a changing paradigm in education,” she says. “Our building is designed to provide the opportunity to teach the way students learn today – utilizing technology tools. There are no large lecture halls in this building. Instead, we have integrated technology, the latest software applications and electronic access throughout every classroom and for each student.”

By supplying the faculty with the tools they need and the students with the technology and teaching modality they desire, Hopkins believes, Miramar can best prepare its graduates to succeed in the workforce.

The first-level of the “M” building includes six business computer classrooms, each with 48 individual computer stations. The second-level boasts more classrooms and an expansive math lab. The lab, which will offer self-paced math classes, will be open nine hours a day and offer instructional assistance and tutoring as needed. The self-paced format offers the flexibility to take up to an entire academic year to progress through required classes. Small conference rooms provide areas for faculty-student meetings and peer-led study groups.

“It’s exciting to have room to grow,” says Hopkins. ♦

*Miramar’s Business
and Mathematics
Classroom Building*





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

Continuing Education

Free Training Program in Green Building and Sustainable Energy

Continuing Education began a new program in January that will help train San Diegans in green technology. President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act helped fund California's Clean Energy Workforce Training Program and it is through this effort that Continuing Education is able to offer the new green building training in the STAR Center (Sustainable Training and Resource Center) at the Educational Cultural Complex.

The STAR Center is housed in a state-of-the-art learning facility dedicated to free Job Training/Certificate Programs, and specifically designed with green technology educational areas. Construction of the STAR Center was a result of San Diego voters approving Propositions S and N, which support new construction, renovation, and infrastructure projects throughout the district.

The facility includes a weatherization simulation used for energy auditing with high-tech infrared monitors, insulation demonstrations and applications, solar panel installation and maintenance, and classroom facilities with a "tell-tail" pressure house to demonstrate energy savings and building envelope efficiencies. It also houses a mobile weatherization lab, where training can be taken off site — anywhere in Southern California.

The vision for the STAR Center is to become the regional Southern California green technology training center, promoting all aspects of energy conservation and sustainability, including wind and wave power generation. Continuing Education is collaborating with local career centers on this new green building training effort.

The San Diego Workforce Partnership has funded job training programs in the county since 1974. "We are excited to be collaborating with our local community colleges to provide entry-level education and training in the emerging green market in San Diego County," said Mark Nanzer, Youth Team Manager

at the San Diego Workforce Partnership. "This is an incredible opportunity to bring together the worlds of workforce development and higher education to provide training designed to prepare the workforce in San Diego for a clean energy future and help position San Diego as a nationwide leader in the new sustainable economy."

Upon completion of the five-week program, students are prepared for entry-level work in the field or to enroll in more specialized training in the areas of HVAC (Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning) mechanics, technicians, or installers; building performance or retrofitting specialists; building controls systems technicians; energy auditors or home energy raters; and solar photovoltaic installers.

The short-term approach to teaching makes sense in this economic environment," said Jane Signaigo-Cox, Dean of Career and Technical Education for Continuing Education. "In just five weeks, students are introduced to training in five green industry areas." Students receive direct green building and sustainable energy fundamentals through a pre-apprenticeship training program, which is funded by the San Diego Workforce Partnership.

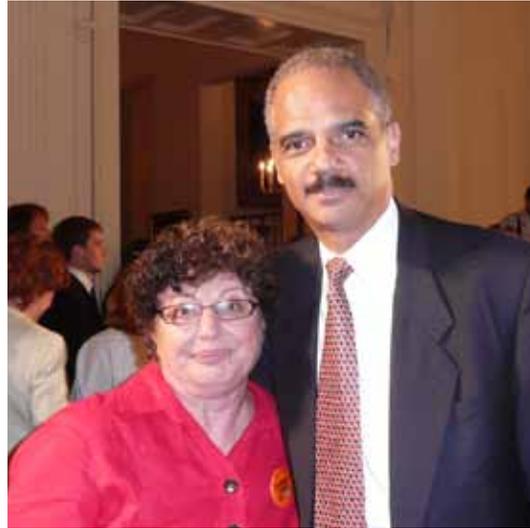
Funding for this effort, totaling \$1,600,000 from President Obama's commitment toward American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars, combines grants from the State Energy Program, Workforce Investment Act, and State Energy Sector Partnership. An additional \$700,000 has been leveraged from contributing partners.

The program aids displaced workers, the long-term unemployed, new workforce entrants, military veterans, and older, out-of-school youth in gaining the skills necessary to compete for job opportunities in the emerging Green Economy. More than 100 students are expected to complete the training within the next year. ♦

WHITE HOUSE VISIT



Continuing Education instructor **Diana Bandak** teaches in the Adult Basic Education program at West City Campus. Bandak recently visited the White House on the occasion of the United States signing the treaty for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The convention is an international human rights effort toward protecting the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. To date, 97 participants, including the U.S., have signed the treaty in agreement to promote, protect, and ensure that persons with disabilities have full equality under the law. ♦



Continuing Education instructor Diana Bandak shown with Eric H. Holder, Jr., Attorney General of the United States.

ON THE COMMITTEE

Marne Foster and **John Lindem** are two of six members serving on the Noncredit Committee for the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC). The committee serves as a resource to the President and Executive Committee on issues related to instruction, counseling, student services, and program development in noncredit education and the role of faculty in noncredit instruction as related to governance and local participation in academic and professional activities.

Committee members are selected from applications sent to the ASCCC with selection criteria based upon diversity in disciplines, school size and location, and expertise. ♦

Mesa Adjunct Appointed to California Veterinary Medical Board



Kim Williams poses with one of her patients, a cheetah. (Photo courtesy of the San Diego Zoo)

One of Arnold Schwarzenegger's final appointments as governor last December was naming the first licensed registered veterinary technician to be appointed to the California Veterinary Medical Board. He appointed **Kim Williams**, an adjunct instructor at San Diego Mesa College's animal health technology program. Williams is also a Mesa College alumna; in 1978, she was among Mesa's first cohort of registered veterinary technician graduates.

Williams serves as veterinary services manager for the Zoological Society of San Diego, working at both the San Diego Zoo and the Safari Park veterinary hospitals.

"Kim is probably one of the most dedicated people I have ever met," said Tracey Mumby, a registered veterinary technician who also works at Mesa. "There probably wasn't a better candidate for the position, and she is the one person I who I want representing me on the board." ♦



John Lindem, instructor for Adult Basic Education and I-BEST Coordinator, and Marne Foster, instructor for Adult Basic Education and Student Learning Outcome Coordinator for Continuing Education

Biochemistry Scholar



Mohamed "Moe" Musse is a Somalia refugee who could barely speak English when he came to the United States in 2005. Now, the 26-year-old Mesa College scholar has bested some of the top scientific student minds in the country to win a prestigious national science award for cancer research.

The award was based on research he conducted this summer in the UCSD Chemistry Department which may eventually stop cancer growth.

The project won Moe a biochemistry award at the 2010 National Biomedical Research

Conference for Minority Students, at which four Mesa students presented. The award marks the second time a Mesa College student has won an award in the annual competition, considered "the largest multidisciplinary conference in the United States," according to National Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students' Web site.

"To be successful at ABRCMS, students must show excellent knowledge and understanding of their scientific research, as well as very strong writing and speech skills," said Bridges program director and Chemistry professor Dr. Edward C. Alexander. He also commended Mesa faculty and UCSD partners Dr. Georgia Sadler, and Dr. Larry Alfred, and especially, Dr. Percy Russell and Anita Williams, who supervised Mohamed's research.

With his award in hand and scholarship money in his pocket, Moe says he feels like he's living the scientific and the American dream. "They called my name and I was like, 'Wow! This is unbelievable.'" ♦

On Common Ground

Common Ground Theatre (formerly the Southeast Community Theatre) presented five "Sustaining Light" Awards at its annual gala to celebrate the life and legacy of one of its founders, Dr. Floyd Gaffney. The president of Continuing Education, Dr. **Anthony E. Beebe**, was honored as one of the five "Sustaining Lights" in recognition of his support of Common Ground Theatre.

The celebration, held at the Educational Cultural Complex (ECC), featured performances by Southeast Community Theatre/ Common Ground Theatre alumni as well as a preview of upcoming productions. The group has roots at the Educational Cultural Complex that span more than a decade. ♦

REPORT SEES CLEAN TECH AS BIG JOB CREATOR LOCALLY

Clean-technology firms in San Diego County have attracted \$445 million in venture capital over the past five years, paving the way for the industry to become a major job creator for the region, said a report released recently by The San Diego Foundation.

The report said clean tech has the potential to draw \$200 million to \$1 billion in further investments, which would create between 5,400 and 27,000 jobs. Programs throughout the San

Diego Community College District and Miramar College's alternative fuels program, specifically, are featured in the report as major players in training the new workforce. Miramar Dean of Advanced Transportation Technology and Energy **Greg Newhouse**, is acknowledged for his significant contributions to the report. You can read "Economic Vitality, Clean Jobs in the San Diego Region" at <http://www.sdfoundation.org/cleanjobs>. ♦

First of its kind: Ethnic Studies Conference

Sparked by the passage of Arizona's House Bill 2281 that bans Raza Studies in the Tucson, Arizona school district, the San Diego Ethnic Studies Consortium held its first regional conference on Ethnic Studies last fall, at Mesa College. Approximately 500 educators, students and staff from throughout San Diego attended the conference. Conference co-organizers included Mesa Associate Professor **Cesar**

Lopez and Assistant Professor **Manuel Velez** of the Chicano Studies department, and Professor **Starla Lewis** and Associate Professor **Thekima Mayasa** of the Black Studies department. Workshops included topics such as the State of S.D. Ethnic Studies, Critical Race Theory, Faculty Health and Survival, Coalition Building and many others. The conference started Friday evening with opening remarks by representatives from Mesa, UCSD, Palomar, CSUSM and SDSU. Saturday was filled with education workshops and planning for the next steps. Mesa student Angel Beckwith-Malone said, "The best part of the conference was seeing all of the different kinds of people together because unifying and celebrating diversity is what Ethnic Studies represents." ♦



Hall of Fame



At last fall's SDSU Women's Studies 40th Anniversary Banquet, it was announced that **Rita Sanchez,**

Mesa College professor emerita in the English/Chicana Chicano Studies departments, will be inducted into the San Diego Women's Hall of Fame 2010 for her activism and initiation of change. Inductees are chosen based on one of five categories: Empowerment, Activism, Trail Blazing, Cultural Competence, and History. The honor will be bestowed in March at SDSU. The awards are co-sponsored by the Women's History Museum and Education Center; the Commission on the Status of Women; SDSU Women's Studies Department; and UCSD's Women's Center. ♦

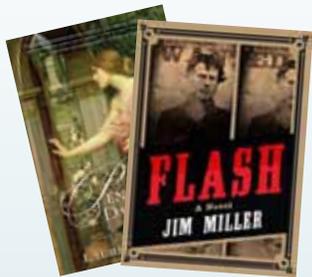
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA



Yanina Gabinsky, an immigration law professional, has been named the Miramar College 2011 Distinguished Alumna. A political refugee, Gabinsky immigrated to the United States from Ukraine in 1992 and enrolled in Miramar ESL classes to learn English. While working in a law firm, she decided to return to the college's legal assistant program and went on to receive her law degree in 2004 from Saratoga School of Law. Today, Gabinsky dedicates her life to helping other immigrants as a paralegal, specializing in immigration law and teaching in the college's paralegal program. Miramar College Foundation President Marty Hight will present the formal award at the commencement ceremonies on May 19. ♦

Teachers by Day

Authors By Night



If you're looking for a good read, check out City College's very own English instructors/authors **Jim Miller** and **Laurel Corona**. Both published novels in 2010.

Jim Miller's book, "Flash," published by AK Press is about a journalist who investigates a historical Industrial Workers of the World outlaw and revolutionary named Bobby Flash. The book takes the reader on a journey through the struggles of the working class in Mexico, Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco. What stands out for Miller in writing this book? "The most rewarding aspect was bringing the character to life and embodying history in a more personal, intimate way," Miller conveyed.

Laurel Corona's book, "Penelope's Daughter," published by Penguin/Berkley Books brings us into the world of Homer's "Odyssey" with a twist – when Odysseus takes part in the Trojan War, his young wife, Penelope, is pregnant with a daughter. This novel is the story of that daughter. For Corona, writing the book was a merging of two passions — "I am both an educator and a novelist, and what I love most about writing historical fiction is the chance to bring the two together in a 'smart read,'" Corona said. Her third novel, "Finding Emilie," about French Enlightenment mathematician and physicist Emilie du Chatelet, will be out in April from Simon and Schuster Gallery Books. ♦



New Driver Simulators Enhance Training

The San Diego Police Department, in conjunction with Miramar College, announced recently the acquisition and installation of four new Law Enforcement Driving Simulators at the San Diego Regional Public Safety Training Institute (PSTI) at the College.

According to George Beitey, Miramar Dean of Public Safety, "The support of the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, in partnership with the PSTI, will greatly enhance law enforcement emergency vehicle operations training in this region for years to come."

The FAAC Corporation, based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, received an award valued at \$10.3 million from the California Department of General Services to supply Law Enforcement Driving Simulators to the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). FAAC provided and installed 108 high-fidelity driving simulators at 24 Regional Skills Training Centers throughout the state of California. The PSTI serves as a Regional Skills Training Center for San Diego and Imperial Counties and was selected by POST to receive this equipment at no cost. ♦



California Community Colleges Task Force

SDCCCD Chancellor **Constance M. Carroll** and **Cynthia Rico Bravo**, counselor/professor and president of Mesa College's Academic Senate, are among of 21 individuals named to a California Community Colleges task force to boost completion rates over the next decade.

In 2010 Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger approved Senate Bill 1143, authored by state Senator Carol Liu. SB 1143 calls upon the California Community Colleges Board of Governors to adopt a plan for improving student success by 2012. It also authorizes the creation of a task force on student success. The state board of governors made the

appointments to the Student Success Task Force during its January 2011 meeting.

The group is tasked with developing a strategic blueprint to help community college students to succeed over the next 12 months. It will examine strategies for promoting student success, including improving student assessment, delivering remedial instruction, increasing access to financial aid and academic counseling and identifying national funding models to increase completion rates.

Members include a broad array of academic, research and business leaders, chaired by board of governors member Dr. Peter MacDougall. ♦

TOYOTA T-TEN

Miramar's Automotive Technology faculty hosted 30 Toyota Technical Education Network instructors from across the nation in early January for their third annual T-TEN Lab-sheet workshop. Best practices and writing effective competency assessments led to shared curriculum development. Participating schools included Weber State, San Juan College, Jefferson Technical College, College of Alameda, Kirkwood College, Dunwoody College, Eastfield College and lead personnel from Toyota. According to Mark Dinger, Miramar T-TEN program coordinator, Miramar's Toyota partnership is nationally recognized as a model program. ♦

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CELEBRATING *Together*



Administrators, faculty, staff and students of the San Diego Community College District joined thousands of San Diegans celebrating at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade in January.

The float entered by Continuing Education won third place in the overall competition and Mesa College placed second in the education division of the parade.

Chancellor **Constance M. Carroll**, Board President **Rich Grosch** and Trustees **Bill Schwandt** and **Peter Zschiesche** participated in the parade, along with City College President **Terry Burgess**, Mesa College Interim President **Elizabeth Armstrong**, Miramar College President **Patricia Hsieh** and Continuing Education President **Anthony Beebe.** ♦