



C U Y A M A C A  
· C O L L E G E ·

## President's Report to the Governing Board June 19, 2012

### 🐾 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Commencement Celebration

Under a bright spring sky, students celebrated their achievements at the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Cuyamaca College Commencement Ceremony held on Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. Hundreds of family members, friends, and colleagues filled the Student Center Plaza and cheered for all the students who earned associate's degrees and certificates this year. This year, 498 Associate degrees were awarded, along with 197 Certificates. Graduates ranged in age from 18 to 72 years old. This year's commencement keynote speaker was Mr. Greg Koch, CEO and Co-Founder of Stone Brewing Company. The Valedictorian for the Class of 2012 was **Ms. Sahira Dawod**, who earned a 4.0 GPA in Engineering, while raising 3 children and caring for a disabled husband.



Valedictorian Sahira Dawod  
with Engineering Instructor Dr.  
Duncan McGehee



### 🐾 Ornamental Horticulture's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner

On Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, the Ornamental Horticulture department held its annual scholarship and awards dinner. The elegant affair, held at the Estancia Hotel in La Jolla, welcomed many of OH's sponsors and supporters along with OH alumni and current students. Adjunct instructor **Mr. Steve Jacobs**, who teaches Landscaping Contracting, announced each of the scholarship winners who were presented their award by representatives of each scholarship donor. Over \$30,000 in scholarship awards were presented to 35 students involved with the Ornamental Horticulture program. **Mr. Brad Monroe**, OH chair and instructor, reported that over the past 30 years more than \$435,000 in scholarship funds has been awarded through the OH program at Cuyamaca College to students in the Ornamental Horticulture program.

### 🐾 EOPS Student Recognition

Graduates from Cuyamaca College's EOPS program received a special treat. For the first time this year's Recognition Luncheon was hosted by the students in the EOPS Club. The EOPS Club members coordinated the details of the event as well setting up the special occasion and staffing the registration tables. It was truly a student-centered event. This event honored 37 EOPS students who have completed their educational goals during the 2011-2012 academic year. Among the honorees, 17 will transfer to four-year institutions. The luncheon was held at the Water Conservation Garden, with all

the students receiving certificate awards to highlight their achievement. Honorees were also treated to a lunch and the opportunity to hear from EOPS alumni who served as special guest speakers.

#### 🐾 **Finals Week Pancake Breakfast**

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Associated Student Government sponsored a free catered Pancake Breakfast that was open to all Cuyamaca students. While taking a study break from the stress of finals, students were not only treated to great food served by administrators and staff, including Guest Chef, **Dr. Julianna Barnes**, but also received free bluebooks and scantrons.



#### 🐾 **Child Development Center Art Show & Auction**



“Circles”

For the fifth year in a row, the Child Development Center sponsored an art show and silent auction. Each piece of artwork was created by the students, ages 18 months to 5 years, who attend the CDC.



“Self Portrait”

#### 🐾 **Students' Photography to be Displayed at the San Diego County Fair**

**Mr. Ian Cummings**, local professional photographer and adjunct instructor, is pleased to announce that six Cuyamaca College photography students have had their photographs accepted into the San Diego County Fair. The photographs are entered in the main international competition, open to professional photographers as well as advanced amateurs. The competition is vigorous, and simply being accepted into the show is an honor. The students hoping for blue ribbons are: **Ms. Lillian Barnes** (1 photo), **Mr. Sergey Martinovich** (1 photo), **Mr. Jay Renard** (1 photo), **Ms. Erin Wishek** (4 photos), **Mr. Fausto Palafox** (5 photos), and **Ms. Andrea Poleszak** (1 photo).



#### 🐾 **State Championship Bound**

Congratulations to students **Mr. Fereon Meferia**, 800 Runner, and **Ms. Jacy Epperson**, High Jump, who are on their way to the California Community College State Championships hosted at Cerritos College!



#### 🐾 **New Student Group is Environmentally Friendly**

The Blue Coyotes Oceanography Club is a new student organization that will start in the fall, and is being sponsored by professors **Mr. Raz Rasmussen** and **Dr. Duncan McGehee**. The club was inspired by oceanography students from Mr. Rasmussen's classes. For class projects this spring students tried to find "Something We Can Do to Help the Ocean." Among the dozen or so projects many involved trying to reduce the impact of plastics and trash which can make their way into rivers, estuaries and eventually the ocean. Students organized beach cleanups, taught after-school

groups about ocean pollution, and even persuaded and helped a cafe owner in Lakeside to convert from styrofoam to paper cups and give a hefty discount if customers brought their own mugs. Another group of students met with Vice President **Dr. Arleen Satele** and food services manager, **Mr. Manuel Lorenzo**, about eliminating styrofoam cups from the Coyote Grill and publicizing discounts for bringing your own cup. Look for new signs at the Coyote Grill encouraging bringing your own cup for a discount, paper cups instead of styrofoam, and our own Cuyamaca Blue Coyotes travel mugs the club will sell to raise funds for lab and extra-curricular activities. The club will also help with the new Coral Reef Tank, set up in the classroom this semester with assistance and donations from the Birch Aquarium. We hope to do more community activities and ocean outings while taking advantage of our proximity to Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

#### **🐾 The LTRC Honors One of Their Own**

The Learning & Technology Resources Center honored **Ms. Sandy Beasley** at their bi-annual end of semester potluck. Sandy was a student at Cuyamaca College when it opened in 1978, and has been employed at the college for 38 years. Every Library Director/Dean since the college opened attended the celebration as did representatives from the District, Grossmont College, and a wide variety of departments.

#### **🐾 Faculty and Staff Earn Their Doctorate Degrees**

We congratulate these dedicated faculty and staff for their academic perseverance and achievements:

**Dr. Arleen Satele**, Vice President of Administrative Services, completed the requirements for her doctoral degree. Dr. Satele's Ed.D. is from Fielding Graduate University, School of Education Leadership and Change. Her area of study was leadership through the eyes of the followers, with her qualitative question to participants being "tell me about your relationship with someone who has influenced your life." Dr. Satele wishes to thank her family, colleagues and the Cuyamaca family for their support.

**Dr. Michael Aubry**, Instructor of Business and Professional Studies, also completed his doctoral studies. Dr. Aubry will have a Doctorate in Business Administration, with an emphasis in International Marketing through Alliant International University. The title of his dissertation was "*The Relationship Between Customer Relationship Management, Cultural Characteristics, and the Adoption of Innovative Golf Products*".

**Dr. Scott Herrin**, Associate Dean, Athletics, recently completed his doctoral studies. Dr. Herrin earned a Doctorate in Educational Leadership, focusing on Community College/Postsecondary Education from San Diego State University. The title of his dissertation was "*An Evaluation of the Athletic Academic Support Office and its Ability to Provide Effective Support for Student-Athletes at County College*".

#### **🐾 4<sup>th</sup> Annual After Commencement Party**

Following commencement, faculty, staff, administrators, and District personnel were invited to the annual After Commencement Party at the Water Conservation Garden. To celebrate the end of the academic year, approximately 100 people came and relaxed under the twinkling lights while enjoying great refreshments, drinks, lively conversation and music. One of the large stones on the patio became the platform from which **President Mark Zacovic**, Academic Senate President **Michael Wangler** and

**Chancellor Cindy Miles** addressed the crowd. Upcoming retirees **Mr. Brad Monroe**, **Mr. Jim Custeau**, and **Dr. Madelaine Wolfe** were recognized for contributions to the college and years of service and dedication to the Cuyamaca College family.



#### 🐾 **Center for Innovation Activities**

The Center for Innovation within the Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Training serves as the umbrella for many of the contract and grant-funded professional and vocational programs housed at Cuyamaca College. Many are regional programs funded to serve all of San Diego and Imperial counties. Below is a brief summary of some of their recent activities:

- The Environmental Training Center grant has been renewed for 2012-2013, in the amount of \$205,000. Additionally, as a highly acclaimed Economic and Workforce Development Center in the area of sustainability, the ETC was awarded an additional \$50,000 to facilitate the development of a “Skills Panel” for the water industry with the goal of identifying pathways and micro credentials.
- Thirty eight (38) educators and industry representatives participated in an advisory committee meeting at Cuyamaca College to focus on industry needs and skills required for students/ graduates to be successful in the green workforce.
- The “Green Ventures” website was launched. This great resource for students, parents and counselors will guide exploration about career and educational pathways in green industries; with links to curriculum, industry scans, where to obtain education, labor market information, financial aid and free interest inventory assessments. Visit [www.cuyamaca.edu/greenventures](http://www.cuyamaca.edu/greenventures).
- Classes for the six-week Summer Bridge Green Ventures course will start June 25<sup>th</sup> at Santana High School, supporting students enrolled in the Environmental Design Academy to successfully matriculate to the variety of green training programs available at Cuyamaca College.
- Program Manager **Ms. Simi Rush** and Technical Expert **Mr. Don Jones**, presented information about Cuyamaca College’s internship program at the North County operator heads meeting at the San Diego County Water Authority office. The internship program, beginning fall 2012, is expected to include a number of partnering water districts in San Diego and to include 8 interns from Cuyamaca College.
- Continuing Education and Workforce Training has negotiated the extension of a training contract with the County of San Diego to provide intensive vocational ESL classes in the areas of hospitality, retail and office technology for our refugee and immigrant population in East County. This extension will deliver supplementary funds to train 60 additional students in the fall. The goal of this project is to provide contextualized intensive language development to raise the English comprehension and speaking levels of participants so they can enter the workforce and obtain gainful employment.

🐾 **Staff Member Recognized for Service on Former Foundation Board**  
**Ms. Gwen Nix**, Administrative Assistant for the Vice President of Student Services, along with other members of the former Cuyamaca College Foundation Board, was honored at the recent meeting of the Foundation for Grossmont and Community Colleges. Ms. Nix served on the Foundation Board from 2008 until the development of the new Foundation. She was presented with a memento gift for her “dedicated services to Grossmont and Cuyamaca College”.



🐾 **Water and Wastewater Program to Participate in Department of Labor Grant Proposal**

The Water and Wastewater Program has been invited to participate in an eight-college, \$15 million Department of Labor grant proposal. If selected, Cuyamaca will provide an intensive “fast-track” schedule of classes which will assist 50 students in Water Distribution Systems and 50 students in Wastewater Collection Systems earn a Certificate of Achievement and several industry-recognized technical certifications. These certifications will prepare each student for entry level jobs in the water and wastewater field.

🐾 **Faculty Member Elected to San Diego Board of Education**

During the recent election, **Dr. Lyn Neylon** was elected to serve on the San Diego County Board of Education for District 2.

~~ **Upcoming College Events** ~~



**College for Kids**

The College for Kids summer program begins July 9<sup>th</sup> and runs through August 9<sup>th</sup>. We are offering 39 different classes for children ages 8-14, which include classes in art, dance, fitness, science, media, and more.

College for Kids registration began May 1<sup>st</sup>

at [www.cuyamaca.edu/preview/CFK/](http://www.cuyamaca.edu/preview/CFK/).

**Fall 2012 Convocation**

Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>

Communication Arts Theatre

**Post-Convocation Reception**

Immediately following Convocation, Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>

Water Conservation Garden