



**Victoria P. Morrow, President**

May 8, 2009

### **Student Recognition and Awards ceremony packs the Theater**

All of us present at yesterday's event were commenting upon the fact that this was the largest audience in anyone's memory—the Theater was filled and the crowd was excited and happy as the many students received their recognition. It takes many people to create such a large and complex event involving many dozens of students, plus donors, certificates, and all of the countless details that go into it. I would like to thank the Financial Aid Office staff and Regina Morrison whose attention to myriad details are vital; Maria Escobar, Sandy Irber, Golda Gacutan, Amory Cariadus, Lori Adrian, and Caroline Ocampo. Phyllis Taylor was, as usual, the gracious and poised mistress of ceremonies. Here is a glimpse of it.



*Photos by Caroline Ocampo*

### **Pister Scholarship winner at Skyline**

Skyline student Margarita Raquel Gutierrez has been selected by the University of California at Santa Cruz to receive the Karl S. Pister Leadership Opportunity Award. The scholarship provides \$20,000 over two years, assistance in securing additional funding to cover all additional costs, an individually tailored mentoring program, and assistance in finding paid or volunteer summer work. This scholarship was established to support transfer-eligible community college students who show exceptional achievement despite adverse socio-economic status, have demonstrated commitment to assisting and improving the lives of others, and who would not otherwise be able to attend UC Santa Cruz because of financial need.

The Karl Pister scholarship is a highly competitive scholarship because only 13 recipients are selected annually. Please join me in congratulating her.



*Photo by Caroline Ocampo*

### **New Chief Public Safety Officer to join Skyline**

Officer Brian Tupper will be the new Chief Public Safety Officer for Skyline College. Current Chief Mike Celeste has moved to a new role as Director of Public Safety for the district. Mr. Tupper has extensive training in Law Enforcement and has been working as a Public Safety Officer for the San Mateo County Community College District for the past 14 years. The first seven years were at Skyline College and then he transferred to CSM. His training and qualifications include Basic Police Academy Training (P.O.S.T.), an AA Degree (Skyline College), as well as extensive training in Administration of Justice. Please join me in welcoming Brian Tupper to Skyline College. He will begin on Monday, May 18.

### **Skyline staff member speaks at regional meeting**

Skyline's EOPS/CARE and CalWORKs staff and students attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Region III CARE/CalWORKs Retreat on Saturday, May 2 in Burlingame. This year's theme was "*Connect The Dots: The Power to Choose to Be All You Imagine*" and featured a former Skyline student speaker, Golda Gacutan, as the keynote. Ms. Gacutan is currently the administrative secretary to the Vice President of Student Services. Her personal story was inspirational and encouraged the participants to "be all you imagine." Here is Golda speaking. The group photo folks are, from left to right: Pablo Gonzalez, Angelica Castellanos (student), Yee Ying Chan (student), Javier Urena, Jan Gotera (student) and Jeff Acidera.



*Photos by John Vehikite*

### **The new Web site keeps getting better**

Thank you to everyone for your thoughtful comments and suggestions on the new Web site. We have made some recent changes:

- The *Library* and *Bookstore* links are on the top of the homepage.
- The *Contact* link is to [skyadmissions@smccd.edu](mailto:skyadmissions@smccd.edu).
- The first button on the homepage and all POD homepages is expanded to *Catalog & Schedule* which takes you to a newly designed page, which includes the new searchable *WebSchedule*.
- *WebSchedule* allows you to search schedules without having to be logged into WebSMART.
- The *Search* button on all the POD pages now gives you a choice to search either the Web site or for People (the district directory).
- At the top right of the homepage and all POD homepages, the *Apply* button takes you to a redesigned page.

Keep those cards and letters coming via the Web site e-suggestion box! The link for that and all e-suggestion boxes is on our front page: <http://www.skylinecollege.edu/>.

### **2009 Skyline College Classified Council Retreat**

On April 30 and May 1, 20 classified staff members representing 18 different departments attended the first two days of the highly successful Classified Retreat at Burlingame's Crowne Plaza. The retreat, designed to explore student challenges, identify resources, and enhance communication between students and staff, has so far featured a wide array of presenters and topics including Phyllis Taylor (On Course Board Game), Pablo González (Creating Inner Space for Maximum Effectiveness), Gerry Frassetti (Bullying in the Workplace: what you can [and can't] do about it), Carla Campillo (Early Alert) and Elizabeth Llamas (Stress and Stress Management). The last half day activities for this retreat will be held on Friday, May 8, when Phyllis will lead the group through a Follow-up CSI (College Success Initiative) Exercise. The day will conclude with William Watson presenting "Who do you Think You Are." Those who attended the first two days include, Michelle Amaral, Barbara Daley, Donna Elliott, Angelica Gorostiza, Sandra Hatzistratis, Linda Herda, Grace Kong, Nancy Lam, Barbara Lamson, Ellen Lee, Goldie Lee, Adolfo Leiva, Sylvia Martinez, Félix Pérez, Julene Rhoan, Nadia Tariq, Theresa Tentos, Minerva Velasquez, Chris Weidman, and Kennya Zepeda. Special thanks to the Retreat Organizing Task Force: Donna Elliot, Angelica Gorostiza, Linda Herda, Adolfo Leiva, Patty Mendoza, and Kennya Zepeda. This retreat was funded by a contribution from the CSI and the Classified Council in support of serving basic skills students.



### **WIT luncheon recognizes student success**

Wednesday marked the fourth annual Women in Transition (WIT) program luncheon and it was attended by dozens of current and former WIT students, along with Skyline faculty and staff. Program coordinator

Lori Slicton was responsible for the event and she brought Skyline grad and former WIT student Akillah Wali back to speak to the WIT students. Here is an excerpt from Akillah's remarks:

When I began taking classes at Skyline, I was 28, and had already endured an unsuccessful college attempt, abbreviated military service and divorce. "Failure" was something I knew all too well, and it was difficult for me to shake the feelings of inadequacy that I accumulated over the years. When I finally rediscovered my passion for education, I was still unable to fully enjoy the experience, as I was gripped with the fear that I had not learned from my mistakes, and that I was doomed to add another near-miss to my list of shortcomings. My expectations upon my return were filled with visions of being leagues older than my counterparts, and of being left to my own devices by faculty and staff. I thought that this was going to be yet another of those experiences where I would just have to close my eyes and hold on, hoping that the dizzying ride stopped moving before I lost my stomach. I was pleasantly surprised to find the staff in the counseling office were extremely accommodating and sympathetic – and that they were extremely willing to assist in whatever I needed – provided they knew that I was working harder than they were to ensure my success. The classrooms were more of the same. My tenacity and curiosity were welcomed, and the professors were always on hand to answer whatever questions arose, and it didn't seem to matter whether the questions were course related or not – it was just a matter of never being afraid to ask a question and admitting that I didn't understand or, more importantly, that I needed help. This experience gave me the confidence – and the ego boost required to transfer to Columbia University, where I would complete a BA in Sociology.

Akillah will enter a graduate program in public policy at the University of Minnesota in the fall.

### **BioBus Tour brings Carlmont High School students to Skyline**

On Wednesday, April 29, twenty-four Carlmont High School students, along with their instructors, Dan Raffa and Dr. Tina Doss, participated in a day-long BioBus experience. Activities began with a State of the Biotechnology Workshop and continued with an Outreach Presentation by Jocelyn Vila, Patty Mendoza, and Nate Nevado. Students were informed about financial aid, Priority Enrollment for High School Seniors (PEP) and general information about Skyline College's programs and services. After lunch, the tour concluded with a "hand's-on" experiment led by Dr. Melissa Michelitsch on creating a kaleidoscope with column chromatography. The same methods are used in the Biotechnology industry to purify drugs by removing contaminants. Coordinated by Adolfo Leiva, the activity is part of a grant managed by Skyline College's Center for Workforce Development and funded by the Chancellors Office California Community Colleges, to enhance Career and Technical Education connections between high schools and colleges. Special thanks to Dr. Nick Kapp, Dean Michael Williamson and the Biology 415 students for assisting with the BioBus experience.

### **CITD hosts REEM (Renewable Energy in Emerging Markets) conference**

This week, Richard Soyombo, Executive Director of Skyline's Center for International Trade Development (CITD) and his staff hosted the inaugural Renewable Energy in Emerging Markets (REEM) conference at the Hotel Nikko in San Francisco. More than 27 countries attended this unprecedented networking opportunity for renewable energy technology providers, investors, government officials, public implementers, media and renewable energy enthusiasts. The conference had the overwhelming support of luminaries from across the US, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. The distinguished Host Committee includes Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, Senator Barbara Boxer, Congresswoman Jackie Speier, and Mayor Gavin Newsome among numerous other officials, leaders and experts. Emerging markets are particularly interesting for renewable energy producers because of the ability to leap frog technologies and infrastructure. While there is an immediate need to train the workforce, as indicated by the panelists, the need to expand markets is important to provide for sustainable employment in the long run. Industry representatives who presented at the conference included SunEdison, SunPower, PG&E and other. Among the results of the conference include at least three trips that have been planned by California-based renewable energy technology companies to travel to Honduras, Guatemala and Mozambique. The CITD has planned and had the pleasure to announce the location for REEM 2010, which will be hosted by the governments of Guatemala and Honduras. Here are a few photos that illustrate the thrusts of the conference: a cross section of conference attendees at a solar site visit; Richard Soyombo with World Bank executives,; Mike Williamson, Dean, Math, Science and Technology, Richard Soyombo and Jerome Ringo, CEO, Apollo

Alliance; and Richard Soyombo, Jigar Shah, Founder/Former CEO, SunEdison, Timothy Simon, CA Public Utilities Commissioner, Jan Hamrin, CEO, HVM International, Jerome Ringo, CEO, Apollo Alliance, Karl Rabago, Executive Vice President, Austin Energy.



**Board of Governors honors Barbara Daley at May 4 meeting**

Barbara Daley received the Board of Governors (BOG) first annual Classified Employees Award at the Board's May 4 meeting. She and four other classified people from California Community Colleges were recognized with beautiful trophies and checks, and a room full of beaming supporters. I was there with Barbara as were her husband, our Library Director Tom Hewitt, our Board president Karen Schwarz, and Ulysses Guadamuz, district president of CSEA. Here is Barbara with the other four winners, BOG president Lance Izumi and the other members of the Board of Governors for the California Community Colleges.



*Photo by Vicki Morrow*

**Our new mural is now dedicated!**

Here are a couple of great shots of the event on May 4, taken by Caroline Ocampo: the artists along with Gallery coordinator Paul Bridenbaugh and me, and the mural replica cake we enjoyed at the event. The mural is a President's Innovation Fund project developed by Paul and executed by an enthusiastic group of students. The ceramic sculpture below is entitled "Octopus" and was created by student Ramses de Guzman. That evening also marked the opening of the Spring Student Art Show. Swing by and take a look at the excellent work by our students—it will be well worth your time. There are beautiful and intriguing works—paintings, photos, ceramics, sculpture and more. There is also a wonderful time lapse photo display of the creation of the mural which was the work of art student Juan M. Diaz. You can see it at this YouTube link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzJdoJ2qTVA>.



2009 SKYLINE JURIED STUDENT ART EXHIBIT  
GALLERY THEATRE                      APRIL 28 - MAY 14  
RECEPTION: APRIL 28, 5:30-7:30 PM



*Photos by Caroline Ocampo*

**Automotive program's new Building 11 groundbreaking brings out a crowd**

About 50 people joined us for the groundbreaking ceremony for Building 11. It is slated to be completed by spring 2010. Trustee Dave Mandelkern thanked the voters for their support in passing the bond measure which made this building possible and Rick Escalambre recognized the faculty and staff who have worked hard to plan the new facility. We were joined by former Skyline presidents Jim Wyatt and Linda Salter and many faculty and staff colleagues from Skyline and the district and beyond.



*Photos by Caroline Ocampo and Kanjana Srisupatpongsa*

**Coming up...**

**Friday, May 8**

- Polynesian Art and Culture Exhibit, Main Quad, 11-1pm
- Baseball Regional Playoffs vs. Cosumnes River College, 3pm
- Student Art Exhibition, Gallery Theater, now through May 14

**Saturday, May 9**

- Baseball Regional Playoffs vs. Cosumnes River College, 11am

**Friday, May 15**

- Classified Service Awards Luncheon, Gallery Theatre, 11:30- 1pm
- Butterfly Preschool Graduation, Main Theatre, 3:00 pm
- Transfer Student Success Celebration, Building 6 Cafeteria, 6:30-8pm

**Saturday, May 16**

- "The Sky's the Limit" Polynesian Youth Conference, Building 6 and Main Theater, 10-6pm
- Automotive Awards Banquet, Basque Cultural Center, South San Francisco, 6-10pm

**Do you have a suggestion?**

One way to submit it is through our general **e-Suggestion Box**, via the hyperlink in the box below, or via the same box on the front page of our website at

<http://www.skylinecollege.edu/general/surveys/index.html>



Here is the **Website Redesign Project e-Suggestion Box**, for feedback on the new website,



For suggestions specific to the **budget**, here is the link:



And for ideas about Skyline's **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** celebration next year, here is the link:



**For state level information on community colleges, see these websites:**

- The Chancellor's Office in Sacramento: <http://www.cccco.edu/>
- The Community College League of California: <http://www.ccleague.org/>
- The Research and Planning Group: <http://www.rpgroup.org/>

**Skyline Shines** is archived at <http://www.skylinecollege.edu/facstaff/PresidentsOffice/skyshines/>

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