President’s Report to the Board of Trustees

Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud

Skyline College students in Paris, Study Abroad
Photo Credit: Gary Fleener
“Network at Night” Community Mixer Brings Community Leaders to Skyline College

Skyline College hosted a successful “Network at Night” Community Mixer Thursday evening, October 23 for about 50 attendees. Community members from around San Mateo County, along with Skyline College faculty and staff, came together to mix and mingle over wine and food, connect with other educational and business leaders and visit the beautiful campus that serves as a resource for so many in our community. For some of the attendees, this was a chance to revisit Skyline College after a long absence, and they were pleasantly surprised by the progress the college has made with its campus and facilities – progress made possible thanks to several bond measures passed over the last 15 years.

With past progress in mind, and an eye toward the future, Jose D. Nunez, Vice Chancellor of Facilities Planning, Maintenance & Operations for SMCCD, gave a brief presentation that highlighted the distinct need for continued improvements throughout all three SMCCD campuses, including Skyline College. An upcoming bond measure on the November ballot would raise $388 million, and if passed, would provide funds to make further improvements for the colleges across the district*. Nunez outlined how these funds would be used, including completely demolishing and rebuilding Building 1, revamping the interior of Building 2, expanding parking lots, and creating a new Energy Systems Technology building on the current site of Pacific Heights.

The networking event was a great chance for participants to reacquaint themselves with the Skyline College campus, connect with other local leaders and learn about how existing resources at Skyline College may be improved in the future.

Article by Connor Fitzpatrick. Photos by Maryam Ali.

Skyline College Student Shines in Paris

Skyline College student Darwin Velasquez is studying in Paris this semester. Along with 70 other students from around Northern California he is participating in a unique program that allows him to earn community college credits while studying abroad. Not only will he earn 12 units of college credit that are pre-approved for transfer - he is also building the global perspective needed for success in our globalized economy.

In a recent letter Darwin says:

“After all the struggles, stress and uncomfortable situations, I learned that impossible dreams come true regardless of your immigration status or financial situation. It has been an extraordinary experience that I will never forget. Studying in Paris has benefited me academically and in my personal life. Don't be afraid to pursue your impossible dreams.”

Article and photo submitted by Gary Fleener.

* Update: the bond measure passed on November 4, 2014.
Skyline College to Host Conversation on Race and Gender with Lee Mun Wah

Wednesday, November 26, from 9:00-12:00 p.m., Skyline College CTTL is proud to host “Cultural Competency: A Cross Race/Gender Conversation” facilitated by award-winning filmmaker Lee Mun Wah. Diverse institutions offer tremendous potential for learning and enrichment, yet there are also moments of conflict and tension over differences in perspective. Using a combination of films, personal stories, experiential exercises, discussion and lectures, the program will offer:

- a deeper understanding of how gender and race can enhance and stimulate a stronger sense of community and cooperation
- a deeper understanding of divergent communication styles, perspectives, and expectations
- ways to mediate gender and race issues cross-culturally
- strategies for beginning conversations about gender and race.

Lee Mun Wah believes when we value others for their uniqueness and differences, then we enhance the possibilities for our children and ourselves. Lee Mun Wah is the Executive Director of Stirfry Seminars & Consulting, an agency that provides educational tools and workshops on issues pertaining to cross-cultural communication and awareness, mindful facilitation, and conflict mediation techniques. Lee Mun Wah's award-winning films include The Color of Fear, Stolen Ground, and Walking Each Other Home. Other films include Last Chance for Eden and, most recently, If These Halls Could Talk.

The conversation will take place in building 6, Rm. 6202, lunch to follow.

Colors of the Wind Delights Children and Adults at Skyline College

What color is the wind? That is the question that drove George Mendoza to paint what he saw, although he is blind. George brought his unique talents to Skyline College to close out Disability Awareness Month. In addition to an amazing painting demonstration by George, author JL Powers read her children’s book Colors of the Wind.

Colors of the Wind is the story of how George Mendoza became blind as a young teen and used his disability as the source of his creativity and beautiful paintings. George is a renowned artist whose paintings have been displayed across the globe; he is also an award winning runner.

The special “Colors of the Wind” event was enjoyed by children from the Loma Chica Center and Skyline College students, faculty, and staff. Audience members were invited to interact with George as he painted a canvas which will be donated to Skyline College.

At the conclusion of the event, JL Powers and George Mendoza signed copies of Colors of the Wind and met with members of
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NOVEMBER 24, 2014

Skyline College and Capuchino High School Celebrate Friendship Through Music

On October 16, 2014, the Capuchino High School Band and the Skyline College Concert Band joined together to present an exciting concert of classical and popular music in the Skyline College Theater.

The 28-member ensemble from San Bruno's public schools, under the direction of veteran music teacher Justin Cottrell, began the night with a set of diverse selections, from a Henry Fillmore march to an arrangement of the Jackson Five’s “I Want You Back.”

Following a brief intermission, the 47-member Skyline College ensemble took the stage and performed pieces celebrating friendship: “Old Friends” march, Shostakovich’s Festive Overture, Elgar’s Enigma Variations, and a medley of tunes from Disney’s Aladdin (including “Friend Like Me”).

The Capuchino Band then joined the Skyline College Band on stage, forming a massive combined band. The joint ensemble performed Karrick’s “Companions on the Journey,” the Skyline College “Alma Mater,” and a surprise encore piece, the Capuchino High School fight song, “Cheer Cap.”

The next concert to feature the Skyline College Concert Band will also feature the brand new Skyline College Symphony Orchestra in December 2014.

Article and photo submitted by Zack Bruno.

TRiO Visits Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

On Friday, October 24, over twenty-five TRiO students participated in the second campus visit of the semester to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (SLO) organized by the TRiO SSS Program. The campus visit kicked off with a campus tour where TRiO students learned about Cal Poly’s student demographics, its history, interesting facts, and wide selection of majors.

TRiO students had an opportunity to participate in an Educational Opportunity Program presentation and learn about this program’s eligibility requirements, its services, and its admissions criteria. In addition, TRiO students met current and former Cal Poly SLO students who shared their personal experiences at Cal Poly SLO.

The campus visit to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo was a tremendous success, which served to promote transfer goals among TRiO students at Skyline College.

Article and photos submitted by Jessica Lopez.
Bécalos Students Celebrate Día de los Muertos

Students in the Bécalos Program took part in Día de los Muertos celebrations at Skyline College on Wednesday, November 5. Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a holiday widely celebrated in Mexico and in various other countries around the world to honor and remember those who have passed away. Bécalos students fundraised on campus and used their earnings to create an altar for the Día de los Muertos gallery exhibit. The altar was a tribute to the memory and life of Frida Kahlo, the Mexican painter. The students worked diligently to create a platform that exhibited cultural significance and representation while reflecting their own personal artistic preferences.

Aside from altar showpieces, the gallery also showcased paintings, sculptures and various forms of artistic expression in honor of this holiday. Traditional refreshments included pan de muerto, or bread of the dead, and pan dulce, or sweet bread. Bécalos students provided entertainment for the event by playing instruments and singing cultural Mexican and popular contemporary English songs. A true exchange of cultures was witnessed by the many campus community members who viewed the art gallery, mingled, and enjoyed the seasonal festivities through food, music, art, and cultural dialogue.

Article and photo submitted by Alessandra Zanassi.

The Learning Center (TLC) Promotes Services to Students at Skylloween

Under the leadership of Learning Center Manager David Reed, Skyline College Learning Center Student Assistants greeted the students attending this year’s Skylloween event to promote TLC services and share information. Students learned that TLC provides free services such as tutoring, skill-building workshops, and computer lab access to help students in all Skyline College courses succeed.

The Learning Center was identified as one of the key strategic priorities in the 2012 – 2017 Strategic Plan. Part of that plan is focused on supporting students’ learning experiences by expanding their technological capacity, such as offering online tutoring. An online tutoring platform is currently being piloted in several Math and English courses this semester, with plans for expansion in the coming semesters. David Reed will be working with faculty and staff to further design a vision for the future of the Learning Center and how it aligns with the strategic priorities.

Article by David Reed. Photo by Regina Stanback Stroud.

Skyline College Students Shine at SACNAS Once Again

At the SACNAS (Advancing Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science) Conference on October 16-18, eight Skyline College students presented their original scientific research alongside students from University of Texas, Princeton University, Yale University, University of California, Brown University, Stanford University, and many others. The conference was held in Los Angeles and sponsored by UCLA and USC. Over 4000 graduate and undergraduate students from across the country attended the conference.

Papers were selected for the conference in a competitive judging from abstracts submitted in July. Skyline College students started their research last spring with Christine Case in BIOL 230 or BIOL 690. The students spent the summer in the lab to continue and
complete their research. Stephen Fredricks worked with the students to register and prepare them for presenting at a national conference. At the conference, students were knowledgeable and professional, and represented Skyline College well.

All of these students now have their first publication. You can see the students and their posters at [http://skylinecollege.edu/case/biol690/students14.html](http://skylinecollege.edu/case/biol690/students14.html). Here are their research topics:

- Photosynthetic Characteristics of Invasive Delairea odorata and Native Coastal Sage Scrub Plants - Jean Luke Campos
- Evaluation of the Antimicrobial Activity of Rhodiola rosea, a Medicinal Plant - Sweta Sharma and Wafa Zeidan
- Antimicrobial Properties of a Traditional Medicinal Plant, Lupinus varicolor - Jia Gwee
- Antimicrobial Properties of a Traditional Medicinal Plant, Mimulus aurantiacus - Jackson S. Womack and Keefah Khalil
- Antibacterial Activity of Coffeeberry (Rhamnus californica), a Traditional Native American Herbal Medicine - Anna Portelli and Jashwin Sagoo

Pictured in the photo are: Top row from left: Jackson Womack, Anna Portelli, Jean Luke Campus, Wafa Zeidan, Keefah Khalil, Front from left: Sweta Swarma, Jia Gwee

Article and photo submitted by Christine Case.

**Skyline College Professor Dr. Tony Jackson Presents at “Teachers 4 Social Justice” Conference**

On October 11, 2014 Dr. Tony Jackson and Cephus, “Uncle Bobby” and Beatrice Johnson (Oscar Grant’s uncle and aunt) facilitated and presented a workshop titled “Police Terrorism, Mass Incarceration, and The Criminalization of Black and Brown Youth.” The workshop was presented to an overflow audience. Participants were introduced to the last day of young Oscar Grant’s life, the importance of understanding the impact that police encounters can have on the lives of young people, and what young people of color need to know when dealing with the police. The film, *Fruitvale Station*, and the accompanying survival workbook for African American Males, *Dare To Be King, What If the Prince Lives?* served as an outline for the workshop. Participants were largely educators focused on social justice and community members and activists.

The workshop raised awareness, provided meaningful dialogue and engaged educational experiences on police detainment using the film *Fruitvale Station* as a starting point. The facilitators provide this workshop and training for youth on behalf of the Love Not Blood Campaign. During the session participants received information that they will be able to apply directly when dealing with the police, video recording the police, and understanding their Constitutional Rights.

The *Dare to Be King, What If the Prince Lives?* workbook that accompanies the film, *Fruitvale Station*, is written for use in a diverse range of educational settings: schools, youth centers, activist organizations, and for anyone in those environments interested in educating young people of color about police detainment, mass incarceration, and the criminalization of young people in the United States and using *Fruitvale Station* as a tool for social justice.

Article and photo submitted by Dr. Tony Jackson.

**Former Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) Student Wins $1000 California Community Colleges Extended Opportunity Programs and Services Association Scholarship (CCCEOPSA)**

Pyae Sone, a former Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) student, was awarded a $1,000 scholarship by the California Community Colleges Extended Opportunity Programs and Services Association (CCCEOPSA). He recently graduated summa cum laude with two Associate Degrees, and is continuing his studies in Biochemistry and Molecular
Biology at the University of California, Davis. Pyae was also accepted at UCs Berkeley, San Diego and Santa Cruz; and CSUs San Jose and Sacramento.

“Personally, EOPS counseling, book grants, and calculator loan programs have been vital. Indeed, I would not be who I am today without EOPS support,” he acknowledged.

Article by Imelda Hermosillo. Photo by Pyae Sone.

**LEARNING DIFFERENCES DEMYSTIFIED**

“Wee reed in vairree disfrint waez frum hou wee see werdz” – Sam Barclay

The Disability Resource Center continued its celebration of Disability Awareness Month in October with Learning Differences Demystified, a tabling event in Building 6 on Tuesday and Wednesday. Students, faculty and staff were able to interact with learning disability (reading and math) simulations and experience how individuals with learning disabilities process information. DRC’s Learning Disability Specialist, Carol Newkirk, was on hand to answer questions about learning disabilities.

The Skyline College community also learned that having a learning disability is not a barrier to success. Quotes from successful individuals with dyslexia like Richard Branson, Charles Schwab, Magic Johnson, Erin Brockovich, Keira Knightly, and Whoopi Goldberg were also on display. DRC’s Assistive Technology Specialist, Judy Lariviere, demonstrated iPad apps that promote student success, regardless of disability status. This event was a great opportunity for student, faculty, and staff to engage with DRC staff members and learn about the wide variety of services provided to students.

Article by Melissa Matthews. Photos by Claudia Paz.

**Beta Theta Omicron (BOO) Officers Highlight Accomplishments to the Board of Trustees**

Beta Theta Omicron (BOO) officers made a presentation to the Board of Trustees at the October 22 meeting. Everyone present commented on the professionalism of the officers and the quality of their presentation. Involvement in Phi Theta Kappa encourages members to grow as scholars and servant-leaders. The officers highlighted accomplishments since the chapter was chartered in 1999 and reported on their current projects. The Skyline College BOO chapter has earned five-star status, the highest ranking awarded by Phi Theta Kappa, every year. This ranking required that Chapter officers submit written reports on their Honors in Action and College Projects.

The written reports are judged, and scores are ranked against the 1400 other chapters. Beta Theta Omicron is currently the highest ranked chapter in the Nevada/California Region and one of the 10 distinguished chapters in the world. BOO members have won nearly one million dollars in scholarships, and every year, two chapter members have earned the All-California Academic team scholarship.

The Honors in Action project must address a question in the annual Honors Study Topic, which involves academic research.
and a service project. The Chapter’s 2014 winning Honors in Action project involved doing original scientific research on Cape Ivy, an invasive plant on the Skyline College campus. Members investigated both the effects and the biology of this plant – information that is not available in the literature. Members and non-members from a variety of majors were involved in mapping, field collecting, and laboratory research.

For the service component of the current Honors Study Topic, members are teaching senior citizens how to use their laptops, tablets, and smartphones. The current College Project is teaching science laboratories at local middle schools.

Since 2003, USA Today has sponsored a Case Study Challenge on the Honors Study Topic. Chapter members develop the essay, study questions and future implications to address an issue within the Honors Study Topic. Beta Theta Omicron has won the Case Study Challenge eight times.

Shown in the photo, from left: Christian Galang, Livius D, Jaimelynn Alvarez, Susan Wu, Aulani Saizon, Regina Stanback Stroud, Christine Case

Article by Christine Case. Photo by Sarah Perkins.

THE SKYLINE VIEW WINS MULTIPLE AWARDS AT JOURNALISM CONFERENCE

Several current students clinched awards at the most recent Journalism Association of Community Colleges NorCal Conference held November 8 at CSU Sacramento.

Skyline View Editor in Chief Michelle Kelly and Features Editor Dave Newlands shared third place for news story for an article they wrote about the media policy last semester. Dave Newlands also picked up third place for photo illustration. Lea Naqishbendi, former TSV features editor, snagged second place for online photo story while News Editor Jeanita Lyman won second place for on-the-spot copy editing.

The 11 students who attended from Skyline College spanned a range of journalism courses and took workshops from a variety of professionals in media. They learned more about entrepreneurial journalism, sports writing outside of game play, social media to spread content, and current media law. Ian Hill, of Sacramento’s ABC News 10, gave the keynote. Joining Skyline College were community colleges from all over Northern California for the day-long conference.

Article and photo submitted by Nancy Kaplan-Biegel.
Events

Sixth Annual Performing Arts Showcase
Saturday, November 22, 2014
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Building 1, Theater

Student Digital Art Exhibition
November 24 - December 12
Reception:
Wednesday, December 3, 2014
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Skyline College Art Gallery

Cultural Competency - A Cross Race/Gender Conversation with Lee Mun Wah
November 26, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Building 6, Room 6202

Vocal Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Band
Monday, December 1, 2014
7:30 p.m.
Building 1, Theater

Concert Band and Symphony Orchestra
Tuesday, December 2, 2014
7:30 p.m.
Building 1, Theater

Skyline College Concert Choir Presents: A Musical Feast for the Holidays
Friday, December 5, 2014
7:30 p.m.
Building 1, Theater

An Afternoon of Monologues, Scenes, and Maybe a Song or Two (Drama 200, 201, 202, and 208 classes)
Sunday, December 7, 2014
4:00 p.m.
Building 3, Dance Studio

Fall Dance Show
Friday, December 12, 2014
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
and
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Building 1, Theater