



Victoria P. Morrow, President  
March 7, 2008

### **President's Report to the Board of Trustees**

My monthly report to the Board is available at <http://www.skylinecollege.edu/skynotes/> under News and Information. Regina Stanback Stroud presented it on my behalf last week.

### **WOW! Women on Writing Conference draws record-breaking attendance**

This year's WOW! conference exceeded prior registrations by 15 percent—truly a landmark, with over 400 people attending. Program Director Marijane Datson put together a stellar group of authors and workshops. Georgia Gero, coordinator, sent me this note:

"I received a lot of feedback about how welcoming and helpful our students were - beginning with the parking lot crew that greeted people as they stepped out of their cars, but including the students who were readily available throughout the campus with a smile and directions. I was impressed with the students who performed at the Poetry Slam as well as those who were active listeners in the audience."

She also pointed out one of the major benefits of WOW!--connecting our students with the written word in ways we cannot achieve in the classroom alone. A new scholarship has been established in memory of Isabelle Maynard, one of the featured authors at the first WOW! in 2003. The Isabelle Maynard Memorial Fund Scholars of 2008 are Skyline students Shannon Elliot and Ashley Manibay, pictured below. Keynote speaker Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D., author of "Kitchen Table Wisdom" and "My Grandfather's Blessing," discussed "Becoming a Blessing: Remembering the Way We Change the World." She is pictured in the second photo, with a WOW! participant.



*Photos by Shelly Hausman*

WOW! is supported by many people on and off campus. The Steering Committee includes Georgia Gero, WOW! Conference Coordinator; Marijane Datson, Program Director; Connie Beringer, Dean of Language Arts; Donna Bestock, Dean of Creative Arts/Social Sciences; Kathleen de Azevedo Feinblum, Professor of English; Katharine Harer, Professor of English; Sandra Irber, Director, College Development, Marketing and PR; all ably assisted by Kathy Fitzpatrick. There

were many others involved, too numerous to name here, but including the WOW Ambassadors, other college and district staff, and students. Please click on the following link to view the WOW! Community

<http://www.smccd.edu/accounts/skywow/about.htm>

### **Cash for College event informs students and provides \$1000 to lucky attendee**

Congratulations to Justine Whittaker, winner of a \$1,000 Skyline College Scholarship for attending the *Cash for College* event on February 26th, hosted by the Financial Aid Department. Attendees received an overview of what financial aid is and what may be available to them, along with receiving individualized assistance in completing the FAFSA (*Free Application for Federal Student Aid*). FAFSA applicants in attendance had an opportunity to win a \$1000 scholarship.

### **Trojans Season ends at Fresno**

Skyline College's Women's Basketball team, in its second season, beat Fresno in the state playoffs last Wednesday, February 27, but the run into the basketball post-season ended last Saturday as the Trojans lost to the Fresno City College Rams 78-53 in Fresno. The Rams, who are the 2<sup>nd</sup> seeded team in Northern California, shot a blistering 58% in the first half and jumped out to a 50-25 halftime lead over the 15<sup>th</sup> seeded Trojans. Skyline played a spirited second half but were never able to cut the deficit below 20 points. The Trojans were led by Adele Faataui with 16 points, Marie Colon with 13 points and Esmeralda Lopez Rivas with 11 points. Skyline finishes the season with an overall record of 19-13. On behalf of Coach Trisha Hosley, her assistants and the players, the team would like to thank the Skyline College community for their support during the season.

### **Science in Action Spring Speakers Series features Skyline Professor**

Last Thursday, Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Christine Case gave a talk entitled "Medicine Hunting" to over 70 attendees as part of the Science in Action Spring Speakers Series. Her talk focused on the rise in antibiotic-resistant bacteria and how we may find our next "miracle drugs" using hints from nature, folklore, and indigenous people. Dr. Case is co-author of the well-known and widely used textbook *Microbiology: An Introduction*. Watch for the next event in *Science in Action*.

### **Skyline student wins Literary Award**

Skyline student Andre Guiulfo won the Phi Theta Kappa Nevada/California Region Literary Award for his nonfiction essay "On Gold, Gods, and Glory." The contest was open to community college students from Nevada and California. Only one award is given.



Photo by Chris Case

### **College Council update**

The College Council met on Wednesday, February 27. Official minutes will be posted once they are approved at the next meeting. Prior minutes are posted at <http://www.skylinecollege.edu/committees/index.html>.

1. **Budget Update:** Regina Stroud provided a budget update on behalf of Eloisa Briones. Midyear funding reductions were signed by the governor. The state community college system office identified unallocated funds to meet the community college reductions. No local districts will have to make mid-year reductions during this academic year.
2. **College Hour Proposal:** Wendy Smith and Anastasia Kuzina reported that they were not able to gather all of the information needed on the College hour proposal but would like to still address the issue. The Classified Council and the Academic Senate will work with the ASSC to bring a recommendation to the College Council.
3. **Design/Build Project Update:** Regina Stroud reported that the Physical Education, Athletics and Dance Division (PEAD) has been working with the college and district to modify the programming in the upcoming Building 4N to remove the PEAD programming from the building, maintain the planned programs elsewhere and wait for the next building opportunity to plan a facility to meet the full range of PEAD programming needs.
4. **Accreditation:** The council discussed the plans for follow up on the visiting team recommendations and identified possible dates for the open forum on governance (3/24, 3/31, 4/1 and 4/7).

5. **Fall Flex Days:** The Classified Senate and Academic Senate both advocated for a Fall Flex Day format that includes attending the district event on the first morning, attending the college event on the second morning and scheduling all division meeting, organizational meetings, and faculty/staff professional development activities in the afternoons of the two days. That recommendation from the Council has been forwarded to Vicki Morrow.
6. **Select date for open forum on safety cameras:** the Council recommended using one of the date options identified for the planned Accreditation follow-up open forums (above).
7. **Lost Parking Permits:** The Council considered whether replacement parking permits should continue to be made available at discounted rates. After reviewing the data and noticing that not more than one half of 1% replacement permits have been sold over the past three years, the council did not see indications of abuse and recommended the policy remain status quo and be evaluated each year.
8. **Announcements:** Classified retreat 3/27 & 3/28. Managers are encouraged to support staff participation

### College Budget Committee (CBC) update

The College Budget Committee met on Feb. 28, 2008 and discussed the topics noted below. Prior minutes are posted at <http://www.skylinecollege.edu/committees/index.html>.

1. **District Committee on Budget & Finance (DCBF) report:** Linda Whitten shared Kathy Blackwood's budget update. The State Chancellor's Office worked with the Legislature and Administration to identify \$32 million of the \$40 million community college budget reduction for 2007-08. K-12 identified additional savings that were sufficient to cover the remaining \$8 million. With this, community colleges were spared from having to make mid-year reductions. The 2008-09 state deficit is being projected between \$16 to \$18 billion. (The Legislative Analyst's Office subsequently released its report projecting the deficit at \$16 billion). The District is scrutinizing each position so we do not automatically fill positions that become vacant. Kathy will propose to the Board that a portion of the Reserve Fund for Post-Retirement Benefits be invested in CALPERS to take advantage of higher returns. CALPERS does not have restrictions on withdrawals for as long as funds are used to pay for retirement benefit costs. Kathy met with Skyline coordinators for grants and categorical programs to discuss pros and cons of the proposal for charging the current cost of retiree benefits to grants and categorical funds. Since the Fiscal Standards Committee has not firmed up the rules on the proper accounting of these charges, implementation of this proposal will be deferred to FY 2008-09.
2. **Mid-Year Budget Report:** Eloisa Briones distributed the district's Mid-Year Budget Report which the Board approved. Eloisa highlighted the 2008-09 proposed budget that shows zero COLA, 1% growth and across the board reductions to categoricals between 4% and 11%. CBC was enthusiastic about the Skyline's phenomenal performance as indicated on the enrollment reports for the End of the First Day of Classes (7.1% FTES growth over spring 07) and Last Day to Add/Drop data showing Skyline with 10.4% growth in FTES and 4.7% increase in load. Mike Fitzgerald suggested a new motto for Skyline to "Keep Going & Keep Growing". Eloisa also pointed out that Skyline spent the least General Fund expenses per FTES among the 3 colleges (\$3,580 per FTES) as indicated in the Actual Site Expenditure Comparison by Major Account Code.
3. **Budget Planning Calendar, 2008-09:** In March, the DCBF will review the Board's budget priorities and the district wide site allocations. Eloisa will be meeting within the next 2 weeks with deans and vice presidents to review division budgets in an effort to determine areas where we can reduce costs and identify potential revenue sources. In April, Kathy will provide a budget update and review budget assumptions for the tentative budget. The colleges will be submitting updated FTES goals for 2008-09 and 2009-10 taking into consideration the growth that the colleges are experiencing.

### Coming Up ...

#### Friday, March 7

- Last day to apply for a degree/certificate

#### Saturday, March 8

- Baseball vs. DeAnza College at Skyline, noon
- Study Abroad in China Info Session, 10-11 a.m. in Room 8211

#### Tuesday, March 11

- Baseball at Monterey Peninsula, 2 p.m.
- SMCCD Retirees Annual Lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m., Doubletree Hotel, 835 Airport Blvd., Burlingame
- Gold, Gods & Glory: American Theocracy, 1:15 p.m., Room 1107

#### Wednesday, March 12

- Faculty Inquiry Groups, 2-4 p.m., varied locations

**Thursday, March 13**

- Baseball vs. Chabot College at Skyline, 2 p.m.

**Friday, March 14**

- Hermanos Leadership Retreat through March 16

You can see the event calendar at [www.smccd.net/accounts/skypio/calendar.html](http://www.smccd.net/accounts/skypio/calendar.html)

To add events to the calendar, visit [www.smccd.net/accounts/skypio/events.html](http://www.smccd.net/accounts/skypio/events.html)

**Do you have a suggestion?**

One way to submit it is through our 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/>.



For our Web Site Redesign Project, please log in your suggestions and concerns in the "Web Site Redesign Project eSuggestion Box", also on <http://www.skylinecollege.edu/> or click the box below.

**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/skynotes/>.