



### Student Access, Diversity

#### *Transfer Center and Umoja Bus Trip to SDSU*

The Transfer Center and Umoja, a program designed to support the persistence and retention of African and African-American students, hosted a bus trip to San Diego State University last month. While there, students took a tour of the campus, met with an admissions officer regarding requirements for admission and learned about the university's Office of Educational Opportunity Programs and Ethnic Affairs (EOPS).



#### *Safe Zones Training*

Grossmont College hosted its second Safe Zones training, designed to raise awareness and understanding of issues affecting members of the campus community who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. Two dozen attendees, including students, faculty, staff and administrators, participated in various exercises and, following the training, were certified as Safe Zones allies. Safe Zones training is funded through a grant provided by the World Arts & Cultures Committee.

#### *Cinco de Mayo Events*

The campus community celebrated and learned about Mexican and Mexican-American culture at three Cinco de Mayo events on May 5. At mid-day, the Main Quad hosted a mariachi performance, folklorico fashion show and History Professor Carlos Contreras spoke about the historical significance of Cinco de Mayo. That afternoon, SDSU Professor William Nericcio presented a guest lecture about the stereotypes and myths of Mexican Americans in American pop culture. Nericcio's lecture is accompanied by an exhibit in the Grossmont College Library through June. That evening, the Critical Theory Film Club hosted a free screening and discussion of the film, "Cesar Chavez." Both the Main Quad and guest lecture were sponsored by the World Arts & Cultures Committee.

### **“The Hapa Project”**

Earlier this month, the Grossmont College Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee presented a multimedia presentation, “The Hapa Project,” by Kip Fulbeck, University of California Santa Barbara art professor. Fulbeck spoke about his research, books and exhibits that explore multi-racial identity. Following the presentation, Fulbeck took the time to speak with students, faculty and staff, and to sign his books. Fulbeck’s presentation was also sponsored by the World Arts & Cultures Committee.



### **19<sup>th</sup> Literary Arts Festival**

The 19<sup>th</sup> Literary Arts Festival took place in late April, hosting a wide variety of events featuring student, alumni and guest authors. Writer and blogger Roxanne Gay, author of “Bad Feminist” among other books, was well received by a standing room-only audience in Griffin Gate; her visit was sponsored by the World Arts & Cultures Committee. Other events included poet, memoirist and veteran Brian Turner; an alumni book launch with Marianne Johnson and Lee Ben-Yehuda; local author Tamara Johnson; “New Voices” featuring students from the Creative Writing Program; and a screening of the film, “Winter in the Blood,” an adaptation of the classic Native American Novel; among others.

### **Cultural Event**

In early May, the Grossmont College Nursing Department hosted a cultural event that addressed issues of domestic violence and elder abuse. In addition to presentations, attendees were provided information on warning signs of abuse and currently available resources. The goal of the event was to raise awareness and to help students gain knowledge about how to best assist family members, friends or loved ones.

### **Student Success**

#### **Earth Science**

The Earth science class, “Field Study of the Natural History of the San Diego Region,” visited the San Diego State University Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve following their eight-hour final exam. The course is an interdisciplinary course offering in the Biology, Geography, Geology and Oceanography departments, and it explores the natural environment of the San Diego region, including parts of Imperial, Riverside and Orange counties. The class is held on four weekends throughout the spring semester, including overnight campouts.



### **International Tutor Training Program Certification**

In late April, the English Writing Center's tutor training program received International Tutor Training Program Certification from the College Reading & Learning Association. CRLA certification provides recognition and positive reinforcement for tutors' successful work, and is designed to set an internationally accepted standard of skills and training for tutors. Program certification also grants the English Writing Center's tutor training program the ability to certify their tutors who have met the approved program requirements and high standards.

### **ACE granted Accreditation**

Also in late April, Grossmont College's American Collegiate English program was granted one-year initial accreditation through the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA). This is a first for the program and follows a visit from the CEA accrediting team in September 2016. The program hopes to receive continued four-year accreditation in February 2016.

### **Spring Water Fair**

As part of the One Theme, One Campus project, more than 150 students contributed to the spring water fair by submitting work focused on the theme of water. More than 450 judging forms were submitted, many of them from students. Judging involved about 45 minutes of activity and included a written evaluation of entries. Participating students also represented their projects during the fair, allowing them to engage, inspire and educate their peer judges.

### **Speech and Debate Team**

The Grossmont College Speech and Debate Team returned victorious from the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament, held in Cleveland last month, with a Bronze Award in Team Sweepstakes as a result of the numerous individual awards students garnered. Five students participated in the tournament, with Hannah Conway and Cameron Martin each receiving a Gold Award in Prose Interpretation, Kian Kline receiving a Bronze Award in Program Oral Interpretation and Melissa Lewis receiving a Bronze Award in International Public Debate. Congratulations to the students and Roxanne Tuscany, program director and communication professor.



### **Value and Support of Employees**

#### **College Recognition Ceremony**

Faculty and staff were celebrated at the annual College Recognition Ceremony on May 14 in Griffin Gate. Recognition and awards announced at the event included faculty rank, retiring faculty and staff, Excellence in Teaching Awards for several faculty members; Vice President Support Staff Awards for Student Services, Administrative Services and Academic Affairs; Kudos Awards and faculty publications, creative works and degrees; President's Leadership award; and Innovator of the Year award.

### **Men's Tennis Coach**

The California Community College Athletic Association honored Grossmont College men's tennis coach Scott Strange as the statewide Coach of the Year for men's tennis. The association honors coaches who show exemplary participation, dedication and contributions to their sport. Coaches who receive awards exhibit leadership and high ethical values in addition to providing an outstanding role model for student-athletes and future professionals.

### **Fiscal and Physical Resources**

#### **Facilities Update**

Last month, the Campus Facilities Department renovated the Assistive Technology Center. Renovations included both a physical transformation of the space and new furniture designed to meet the diverse needs of students using the center. The Assistive Technology Center empowers students with disabilities to achieve their goals and independence on the computer. To view the renovations, visit the center in the Learning and Technology Resource Center (Building 70), room 135.

### **Economic and Community Development**

#### **Alumni Dance Concert**

The Grossmont College Dance Department hosted its first-ever Alumni Dance Concert on Thursday, May 7, at the Joan B. Kroc Theater. The concert featured choreography from 17 alumni choreographers and more than 30 alumni dancers who currently work as professional dancers and choreographers throughout the country. More than 400 students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members attended the event, which was designed to showcase tangible examples of student success in the arts.

#### **Theater Arts Department "Cinderella"**

The Grossmont College Theatre Arts Department recently held its audition for this year's Summer Conservatory production of "Cinderella." Due to high interest, auditions were expanded to two days. More than 100 students auditioned for this year's production, which includes local high school and Grossmont College students, and allows high school students to earn college credit for their participation behind the scenes or on the stage. About half of the students who auditioned were local high school students.

#### **"First Female" Essay Contest**

Granite Hills High School student Anger Agoth is this year's winner of the "First Female" essay contest hosted by the La Mesa-El Cajon American Association of University Women in conjunction with the Grossmont College English Department and Creative Writing Program. English Department Chair Oralee Holder and Professor Sydney Brown presented Agoth with the award. Agoth then read her essay, "Creating the Future," bringing the audience of more than 300 attendees to their feet.



### **SeaPerch San Diego Regional Qualifier**

Last month, the Grossmont College pool hosted the SeaPerch San Diego Regional Qualifier, an underwater robotics competition with more than 30 elementary, middle and high school student contestants from dozens of programs and schools throughout the region. As part of the program, student teams build remotely controlled vehicles (ROVs) that demonstrate their understanding of buoyancy and marine engineering.

### **Student Health Services Recognized**

Grossmont College Student Health Services was recently recognized by the San Diego Blood Bank in recognition of their dedication, commitment and support to the community; and outstanding performance and over-achievement of blood collection goal for 2014. Student Health Services worked with the San Diego Blood Bank to host approximately eight blood drives on campus last year, and has helped the college consistently reach its collection goals.

### **Other**

#### **President Forums**

In late April, Grossmont College hosted four forums for finalists for the open position of president. Finalists included Dr. Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh, Dr. Julianna Barnes, Dr. Lynn Neault and Dr. Katrina VanderWoude. Dozens of students, faculty and staff attended the forums, where candidates were asked pre-approved and submitted questions. Following each forum, attendees were able to submit a feedback form for consideration.