



## Student Access, Diversity

### *African American Male Education Network & Development (A2MEND) Conference*

Several Umoja program students attended the annual African American Male Education Network & Development (A2MEND) conference in early March in Los Angeles. The mission of the conference was to counteract the dismal forecast of the African-American male in higher education by centrally focusing on the role of the institution. A2MEND is comprised of African American male education administrators who utilize their expertise to foster institutional change within the community college system.



### *Annual Literary Arts Festival*

On April 25 through 28, the Grossmont College Creative Writing Program will host its 20<sup>th</sup> annual Literary Arts Festival. This year's event features several writers, including Raymond M. Wong, author of "I'm Not Chinese: The Journey from Resentment to Reverence," winner of a 2015 San Diego Book Award for Best Published Memoir; Tod Goldberg, author of the acclaimed genre novels "Gangsterland" and "Living Dead Girl;" Natalie Diaz, author of the award-winning collection "When My Brother was an Aztec;" and David T. Martinez, a San Diego native and author of "Hustle," his debut collection of poems. Other events include the popular New Voices student reading and the first-ever First Book Contest, where a Creative Writing Program alumnus will have their work published in print. For more information, visit [www.grossmont.edu/laf](http://www.grossmont.edu/laf).

### *"Rosenwald" Documentary*

More than 200 faculty, students, staff and community members attended the "Rosenwald" documentary screening on March 9 in Bldg. 26, room 220. Part of the region's Equity Week programming sponsored by local community colleges, the screening also featured a Skype interview with the great-granddaughter of the film's subject, Julius Rosenwald. Rosenwald, a Jewish businessman and philanthropist, partnered with Booker T. Washington to build schools in African-American communities in the South in the early 1900s during the Jim Crow era.

## Learning and Student Success

### **National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy**

The National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy recently released the score comparisons for 2015, and 100 percent of Grossmont College's Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Program graduates passed the OTA national certification exam. Grossmont College students had the best pass rate of the four programs in the state, followed by Santa Ana College with a 94-percent pass rate. Congratulations to the OTA Program students, faculty and staff on the achievement!

### **Speech and Debate Team**

The Speech and Debate Team once again won several awards in its most recent tournament. The team placed fifth overall at the California Community College State Tournament held in March in Concord, Calif. Xavier Daniels and James Jovanovich received the Silver Award in Duo Interpretation; Esau Cortez received the Silver Award in International Parliamentary Debate and a Bronze Award in Impromptu Speaking; and James Jovanovich received a Bronze Award in Prose Interpretation. Congratulations to the Speech and Debate Team and their advisor Roxanne Tuscany!



### **Dance Students / BYU Contemporary Dance Ensemble**

Eleven dance students from Grossmont College performed with the Brigham Young University Contemporary Dance Ensemble in their production of "Viva!" on March 13 at the Poway Performing Arts Center. Grossmont College also hosted a two-hour workshop and rehearsal featuring BYU and Grossmont dancers on March 14. Congratulations to the Dance Department for this successful collaboration!

### **Student Trustee Elections**

The Office of Student Affairs hosted the Associated Students of Grossmont College and Grossmont College student trustee elections for the 2016 – 2017 academic year on April 5 and 6. The results are:

<i>Student Trustee, elect</i>	Sebastian Caparelli
<i>President, elect</i>	Kaitlin Feagin
<i>Vice President, elect</i>	Elijah Descoteaux
<i>Comptroller, elect</i>	Carol Bianchi
<i>Webmaster, elect</i>	Kitaziah Whaley
<i>Director of Publicity, elect</i>	Olga Villota
<i>Director of Campus Activities, elect</i>	D'Jonee Holmes
<i>Board of Directors, elect</i>	Mahmudali Libanhidig
	Sebastian Caparelli

### **San Diego Region Sputum Bowl**

Congratulations to the Grossmont College Respiratory Therapy students who placed first and second in the San Diego Regional Sputum Bowl competition. Grossmont won against teams from colleges that offer a Bachelor of Science degree in respiratory therapy. The Sputum Bowl is similar in format to College Bowl, where teams of three people compete against other teams, a facilitator reads a question and then team members signal a buzzer and answer the question. We are proud of the eight Grossmont students who participated and wish them well in the state competition. The winner of the California competition will then compete in the national competition in Texas.



### **Fiscal and Physical Resources**

Work is continuing on capital projects at Grossmont College, including the Arts and Communication Complex's Teaching and Performance Theater, and the Science, Math and Career Tech Complex. Construction documents for the Performing Arts Complex are fifty-five percent complete. The new 350-seat theater will feature a full stage, orchestra pit and balcony, and it will serve not only as a performance theater but also as a learning laboratory for theatrical, dance and music performers, technicians and designers. The Science, Math and Career Tech Complex will feature renovation of Bldg. 31 and replacement of Bldg. 36. Programs housed in these buildings will receive upgrades to their existing facilities. Schematic design has begun on the first phase of renovation scheduled for Bldg. 31.

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

#### **College Recognition Ceremony**

This year's College Recognition Ceremony takes place from 3 – 4:30 p.m., Thursday, May 12, in Griffin Gate. Join us as we celebrate and recognize campus colleagues for their hard work and dedication. Awards will be given out for Innovator of the Year, Excellence in Teaching, Vice President Support Staff, Distinguished Faculty, Academic Rank, Tenure, and new degrees and publications. Also, for the first time, those who have received local, regional or national recognition awards will also be acknowledged.

#### **San Diego Cake Show Competition**

Culinary Arts instructor **James Foran** served as a judge for the San Diego Cake Show Competition in March. The competition is a unique opportunity for local bakers, from children to adults, to showcase their baking and pastry skills. The San Diego Cake Show Competition is the largest event of its kind in California.

#### **Recently Published Book**

Business instructor **Paula Margulies** recently published a new book, "The Tao of Book Publicity." The book is written for authors interested in learning more about how to promote their own fiction and non-fiction works. Margulies has more than 20 years of experience in communications, marketing and public relations, and is principal of Paula Margulies Communications, which specializes in book promotion and publicity.

### **John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Awards**

Two faculty members and a campus administrator recently received national awards recognizing community college teaching and leadership. **Jeff Lehman**, chemistry professor; **Asuka Kuratani**, Japanese instructor; and **Linda Jensen**, Interim Vice President of Administrative Services, received John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Awards at a conference in Chicago, Ill., last month. Congratulations to Jeff, Asuka and Linda on their achievement!

### **San Diego Film Awards**

Susan Davis, a Media Communications major at Grossmont College, was the recipient of two awards for her film “Three Strikes” at the San Diego Film Awards 2016. Ms. Davis’ film won awards for Best Original Screenplay and Best Editing. Media Communications faculty members **William Snead** and **Silvia Luz** were the mentors for Ms. Davis’ project. The competition is a part of the Film Consortium San Diego. The Award Ceremony will be rebroadcast later this month on Cox Cable Channel 4.

## **Economic and Community Development**

### **“Grossmont Gives Back”**

This April, Grossmont College students will participate in a month of service. Dubbed “Grossmont Gives Back,” the month will feature service activities for students each Friday, including a campus beautification project on April 15, painting a public mural in Santee on April 22, and serving meals at Father Joe’s Villages on April 22. For more information, please contact Cathy Miller at [cathy.miller@gcccd.edu](mailto:cathy.miller@gcccd.edu).

### **California Native Plant Society’s Garden Native Tour**

On April 2 – 3, Grossmont College hosted the California Native Plant Society’s Garden Native Tour. Featuring the college’s native plant gardens surrounding the library building, guests learned about the colleges six different gardens from student volunteer docents. The California Native Plant Society is dedicated to celebrating California’s native plant heritage and preserving it for future generations.

### **“First Female Essay Contest”**

The English Department, in conjunction with the La Mesa-El Cajon American Association of University Women (AAUW), hosted its seventh annual “First Female Essay Contest.” The writing contest is open to young women in East County high schools. The goal is to celebrate and support young women who are breaking through barriers as a “first female.” This year’s winner is Nyereath Nhial of Mount Miguel High School. Nyereath comes from a family of refugees from South Sudan. She hopes to study neuroscience to help her become an advocate for mental health issues.



### **Creations in Chocolate Event – Culinary Arts Students**

Grossmont College Culinary Arts students helped create champagne bottle-shaped chocolate centerpieces for the ninth annual Creations in Chocolate event, a special event benefiting San Diego Youth Services. The event took place in March and helped raise more than \$100,000 for San Diego’s most vulnerable youth.

**Annual Health and Wellness Fair**

This year's annual Health and Wellness Fair, hosted by Student Health Services, takes place from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Wednesday, April 20, in the Main Quad. The event features health professionals programs on campus, several community health partners, health-related businesses and information about local resources for community members.