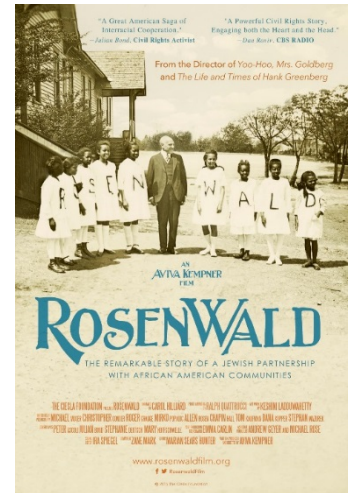




Student Access, Diversity

Screening of “Rosenwald: The Remarkable Story of a Jewish Partnership with African American Communities”

The Black History Month Committee, and the Cross Cultural Studies and History Department presented a screening of “Rosenwald: The Remarkable Story of a Jewish Partnership with African American Communities” last Wednesday, March 9. The documentary focused on the partnership between Booker T. Washington and Julius Rosenwald, who helped establish challenge grants to fund public education for poor, rural African-American children.



“Multicultural Conversations”

Student Affairs and the Foundation for Grossmont & Cuyamaca Colleges presents, “Multicultural Conversations,” a special workshop series for students that will include discussions on multiculturalism, class and gender. Sessions will build upon each other and be held from 2-3 p.m., Wednesdays, March 30, and April 6 and 13, in 31-373. Workshops are open and free to Grossmont College students. [Students must RSVP online.](#)

DREAM 2016

District representatives from the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District recently were among more than 2,000 participants at DREAM 2016, Achieving the Dream’s Annual Institute on Student Success held in Atlanta, Georgia. Dozens of workshops were held to offer knowledge and resources that colleges need to build to cultivate systemic institutional change.



Black History Month Events

Last month, Grossmont College celebrated Black History Month with several events, including Jazz Kitchen, featuring a special menu in Griffin Grill and Jazz Studies student performers; free film screenings of documentaries, including “Black Latin America” and “Black Power Mixtape;” transfer workshops for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and the African American Read-In. Hundreds of attendees enjoyed all of these events that celebrated the achievements and contributions of African Americans.

Learning and Student Success

Speech and Debate Team

The Grossmont College Speech and Debate team scored big at the Western States Communication Association, held in late February at San Diego State University. The team placed second among community colleges, with individual awards going to several team members. Xavier Daniels and James Jovanovich placed first in the Open Division Duo category; Jovanovich also placed second in Open Prose and second in Open Program Oral Interpretation, and Daniels placed third in Open Division Prose and second place in Jr. Impromptu. Additionally, Jonah Naoum placed first in Jr. Division Impromptu and second in Jr. Division Extemporaneous; first-time competitor Alexis Grosves placed third in Jr. Division Impromptu; Daniel Zaragoza placed sixth in Jr. Division Impromptu; Ali Majed placed first in Open Division Impromptu and second in Open Division Extemporaneous; and Esau Cortez placed third in Open Division Impromptu and fourth in Open Division Extemporaneous. Congratulations to the Speech and Debate Team!



Strategic Planning Forum

On Friday, March 4, the campus hosted its annual strategic planning forum. This year's focus aligned with new initiatives based on the college's participation in Achieving the Dream (AtD), a national reform network focused on improving the success of community college students. Attendees reviewed the recent history of AtD efforts since the college joined the network in fall 2015, and participated in breakout sessions focused on the college's AtD initiatives, including outreach, student engagement and retention. A strategic plan is currently being created in parallel with the college's AtD plan, and the strategic plan will go through consultation with Planning & Resources Council and Academic Senate before going to the governing board for approval.

Financial Aid Awareness Month

Financial Aid and Scholarships hosted Financial Aid Awareness Month in February. Events included weekly campus workshops to assist students in completing the FAFSA and events at the El Cajon Branch Library, including financial aid basics, California Dream Act application, and how to file for financial aid.

Commencement

Students must apply for spring graduation by March 18. Students can find more information about commencement and how to apply on the [commencement website](#). This year's commencement takes place at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, June 2.

Spring General Elections

Spring General Elections packets are now available in the Student Affairs Office (60-204) in Griffin Center. Applications to run in the Associated Students of Grossmont College elections for the 2016 – 17 academic year are due March 17 at 1 p.m. Online elections are April 5 through 6.

Fiscal and Physical Resources

- Budget planning documents have been distributed across campus, including the tentative budget calendar and payroll forecasts, and budget worksheets. Please note that tentative budget worksheets are due to vice presidents by March 31.
- Prop. V projects continue to reach new benchmarks. Half of the design work for phase one of the Arts & Communication Complex Teaching and Performance Theater is complete. The Science, Math & Career Complex, which includes renovation of Bldg. 31 and Bldg. 36, is currently in the coordination and programming stage.

Value and Support of Employees

Tennis coach Megan Haber was prominently featured in the San Diego Union-Tribune in late February. The profile details her enthusiasm for teaching and coaching tennis at Grossmont College, and the positive changes experienced by her students. The profile can be read online via the www.SanDiegoUnionTribune.com

Economic and Community Development

Music Department

Music professor **Fred Benedetti** recently joined the non-profit Classics 4 Kids Philharmonic Orchestra for a special performance of Munro Leaf's iconic tale, "Ferdinand and the Bull," last month at the Balboa Theatre in downtown San Diego. Benedetti provided a special introduction to classical guitar and played Spanish guitar as part of the concert that also included Malashock Dance Company, narrator Carlos Mendoza and conductor Dana Zimbric.

Open House

Grossmont College hosted its second annual Open House on Saturday, March 5. The event featured an information fair featuring student services and academic departments and programs; open labs and classrooms from Administration of Justice's forensic science program to Biology's Anatomy Learning Center; workshops designed to assist prospective students, and musical entertainment that was provided by the Music Department student ensembles.

You're Invited

- Grossmont College Theatre Arts will present “Lucky Stiff,” a play that features zany, offbeat, hilarious murder mystery farce with a tuneful score, well-oiled plot, diamond thieves and budding romance. The Stagehouse Theatre features 7:30 p.m. performances of “Lucky Stiff” on March 17 – 19, and 2 p.m. performances on March 19. Tickets are available online or at the Stagehouse Theatre Box Office.
- Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with the Inter-Club Council! On Wednesday, March 17, ICC will host a St. Patrick’s Day Festival from noon to 5 p.m. near Griffin Center and the Bookstore. The event will feature live music, prizes and student organizations. This event is free and open to the public.
- The Grossmont College Dance Department will present their annual spring dance concert at 7:30 p.m., April 21, 22, and 23. Performances will be held at the Joan B. Kroc Theatre, 6611 University Avenue, San Diego 92115. The concert will feature artistic work from eight Grossmont College Dance Department faculty, including **David Mullen, Kathy Meyer, Colleen Shipkowski, Marta Jiacoletti, Debi Toth-Ward, Nancy Boskin-Mullen, Melissa Adao and Lesa Green**, as well as guest choreographer and local San Diego artist Blythe Barton. This year’s show will feature a variety of dance genres including hip-hop, modern, ballet, jazz, and tap. General admission ticket prices: \$12 pre-sale (through April 20); \$15 at the door. Pre-sale tickets may be purchased at the Grossmont College ASGC Student Activities Window in Bldg. 60 and through the Grossmont College Dance Department at ext. 7766.

