



President's Report to the Governing Board April 16, 2019

Student All Stars

Two Cuyamaca College students, Valorie Glasser and Benjamin Hart (pictured second from left and second from right, respectively), have been named to the Phi Theta Kappa All-California Academic Team and were among some of the top community college students in the state attending a March 25 awards luncheon in Sacramento. Valorie, who has a 4.0 GPA while majoring in physics and mathematics, has been committed to pursuing her doctorate in physics since the age of 13. She engaged in research at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory near Chicago during the summer of 2018, collaborating on a project developing new detector systems for muon tomography in homeland security. Currently, she works as a physics tutor at Cuyamaca College. She's also an accomplished musician. After being involved with classical piano for more than 12 years, she has recently taken up voice lessons and sings in the Grossmont Master Chorale. Valorie, 21, is a first-generation college student and will be transferring this fall to a four-year institution. Benjamin, who has a 3.97 GPA while majoring in automotive technology, is the father of four beautiful children and husband to a wonderful wife. Understanding electricity and electrical components has always fascinated Benjamin, and his long-term goal is to earn a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He is a very driven individual who hopes to own his businesses in the not-too-distant future. Benjamin, 34, is well on his way, as he already has acquired two of his ASE certifications since beginning school and plans to obtain his master certification within the next four years.



SDSU Bound



Cuyamaca College's UP! and NextUp programs collaborated with San Diego State University's Guardian Scholars Student Advisory Board to host a recent tour of SDSU for prospective students. Eleven students from Cuyamaca College took part in the March 20 tour that included visits to various departments and on-campus housing (housing fees are covered by the Guardian Scholars program). Presenters from Guardian Scholars spoke about the application process, requirements, benefits and supportive services. SDSU also included a student panel that provided insights about school life, the importance of getting involved, and techniques for composing a successful application essay for the program. To date,

5 of the 11 attendees have been accepted into SDSU and will be attending this fall. Let us give a big congratulations to these amazing, hard-working, and resilient students.

Navy Veteran Honored

Navy veteran and Cuyamaca College student Erick Dorsey was [featured on a 10News segment](#) after he became the proud new owner of a restored



2015 Toyota Tacoma, a donation that is part of the National Auto Body Council's Recycled Rides program.

Biology Class Creates Seed Bombs



In order to tie their photosynthesis unit to plants more directly in Biology 130, Instructor Crystal Schalmo had the students make seed "bombs" out of clay, potting soil and native seeds. They talked about the importance of local plants and habitat and how they can take responsibility for beautifying their own neighborhoods by planting native plants. The seed bombs were a good way to do this. The students enjoyed the hands-on activities so much that Crystal has decided to continue doing this every semester in her Biology 130 class.



A World to Explore in Earth Science Disciplines



It's been a busy semester in the Earth Science Disciplines this spring at Cuyamaca College. The Earth Science Program encompasses geology, oceanography and geography and are centered on understanding how the earth functions as a system. An integral component of Earth Science is being able to apply what students learn in the classroom to the field environment. Each semester all courses integrate field trips to local San Diego County sites to give students that first-hand experience. For the first time in 10 years, a class fully centered on the learning in the field environment was offered. The course, GEOL/GEOG 122 Regional Field Studies of Desert Environments, gave the student the opportunity to learn about geology and geography in Joshua Tree National Park and the Laguna Mountains. Students investigated the regional

history of plate tectonics and how tectonics shaped the landscapes that we see today, the desert features of the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts, how to identify rocks and minerals, and how humans have influenced the region. The students gained a better understanding of how to learn and research in a field environment while also developing an appreciation of regional Southern California geologic history. Students taking the courses that are primarily based in the classroom will also have the opportunity to learn in the field this semester. Oceanography classes will explore nearshore processes at Sunset Cliffs, intertidal zonation at Cabrillo National Monument, and marine life at Birch Aquarium. Geology classes will explore local geology and landscape development at Mission Trails Regional Park and Torrey Pines State Reserve, and the geologic history of San Diego County at the Natural History Museum. Geography classes have already taken field trips to Mission Trails to explore the local geology and geography.

Middle Eastern Heritage Month

Middle Eastern Heritage Month came to Cuyamaca College in April with a menu of cultural events highlighted by an all-day Syriac House Exhibition and an afternoon theatrical performance of storytelling and music reminiscent of a historic Baghdad coffee house. The Syriac House was held on Wednesday, April 3, on the second floor of the Student Center. Art, antiques and collectibles were on display. The presentation was hosted by the Middle Eastern Students Club and sponsored by Cuyamaca College's Student Affairs, Engagement & Equity, Associated Student Government and Our Mother of Perpetual Help Syriac Catholic Church.



Khan Jghan خان جغان

Another highlight of the month is *Khan Jghan*, scheduled for April 24 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. in the Samuel M. Ciccati Theatre. *Khan Jghan* is said to have been the first coffee house in Baghdad in the early 20th century, and it would grow into a popular local gathering place, a place that hosted a storyteller named Al-Qasakhoon, who was considered a celebrity because of his ability to entertain people for hours and guide them with words of wisdom. *Khan Jghan* will include musicians, storytelling, and more in a setting reminiscent of the historic coffee house.

Part Time Faculty Member Shows another Side

Part time Paralegal Studies instructor Jess Bennion's art work was recently displayed on the SDVoyager website. In the article he shares his story on how he got to where he is today both personally and as an artist. You can check out the article here: <http://sdvoyager.com/interview/check-jeff-bennions-artwork/>.

Professor Emeritus Shares his Expertise



Anthony (Tony) Zambelli, Director of the San Diego Center for Economic Education at Cuyamaca College and Professor Emeritus of Economics at Cuyamaca College, has been busy conducting breakout sessions at annual conferences throughout the state and region. In February of this year, he lead a breakout session on *How to Use Economics in Your Middle and High School History Classes* at the San Diego County Office of Education Annual Social Studies Conference and a breakout session on *Using YouTube and Social Media to Teach Economics and Personal Finance* at the Western Business Education conference in Tucson. In March, he conducted three breakout sessions at the California Council on the Social Studies annual conference in San Jose, CA.

San Diego Center for Economic Education Sponsors Financial Literacy Month Event

April is nationally recognized as Financial Literacy Month. Recognizing that students and their families at Monte Vista High School should be financially literate, Cuyamaca College Department of Business and Professional Studies and the San Diego Center for Economic Education at Cuyamaca College worked with Kenneth Palmer, Personal Finance Instructor at Monte Vista High School, to conduct a



Financial Literacy Month activity at the Heritage of the Americas Museum on April 9. Forty parents and students attended a financial literacy workshop which was primarily conducted by students in Mr. Palmer's class. Topics discussed included finance, credit, and debt. The San Diego Center for Economic Education provided funding for the event.

San Diego Center for Economic Education Advisory Board Member Awarded 2019 Senior High Outstanding Teacher Award



Gifford Asimos, advisory board member of the San Diego Center for Economic Education at Cuyamaca College and treasurer of the EconEd Foundation, was awarded the 2019 Senior High School Outstanding Teacher Award by the California Council on Social Studies at its annual conference in San Jose in March this year. Giff is a teacher and School-to-Career Coordinator at Helix Charter High School and teaches in the dual enrollment program with both Cuyamaca and Grossmont Colleges. Giff was nominated by the President of the EconEd Foundation, Rohn Trieglaff, who wrote: "Giff guides his students to see how their diploma and subsequent training and college degrees serve to separate them from the rest of the population and that this in turn equates to a higher salary. He points out to his students that they have the opportunity to take their family to the next level, and that is truly what achieving the American dream is all about."

The Spring Garden & Butterfly Festival Coming later in April

Thousands of house and garden plants, landscape design consultations, butterfly releases, museum tours and more are on tap when the Spring Garden & Butterfly Festival returns to the Cuyamaca College campus for its 26th year on April 27. Several thousand visitors from throughout the region and beyond are expected to be on hand. Old Town



Trolley Tours of San Diego will provide free narrated rides to and from the garden, museum, and college. Making this year's festival especially noteworthy: Cuyamaca College is celebrating its 40th anniversary and The Water Conservation is celebrating its 20th year anniversary. Both will be hosting displays recalling their histories.