



Commencements

54th Annual College Commencement

More than 500 students, their guests, faculty and staff celebrated the 54th annual Grossmont College Commencement Ceremony on June 3. This year's ceremony featured student and alumni commencement speakers involved in Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOPS). The student speaker, Caleb Martinez, spoke about the adversity faced by students and how they must strive to assist others who face the same; he was met with a standing ovation following his speech. EOPS Counselor Dr. Pearl Lopez provided advice to graduates, underscoring the importance of community, being creators instead of victims, and how fear leads to personal growth.



Corrections Academy

The Corrections Academy, a 14-week Adult Corrections Officer Core Course offered by the Administration of Justice Department, hosted its spring academy graduation ceremony in late May. Twenty-four graduates completed the 200 hours of instruction in specific performance and instructional objectives for local and county jails, probation institutions and community correctional facilities and federally funded private programs. The Corrections Academy is an "open-enrollment" academy with curriculum designed to prepare students for a career as a deputy sheriff, corrections officer, custodial officer, police officer and detention officer.

Grossmont Middle College High School

The Grossmont Middle College High School, a partnership of the Grossmont Union High School District and Grossmont College, hosted its graduation ceremony on June 8th. Thirty-five students will graduate from GMCHS, a Western Association of Schools and Colleges-accredited alternative high school open to junior and senior high school students. Students enrolled in the high school simultaneously complete their high school graduation requirements while earning a minimum of 24 college credits at Grossmont College.

Nurses Pinning Ceremony

Thirty-four nursing students participated in this semester's Nurses Pinning Ceremony, where Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) graduates are "pinned" to signify their successful completion of the program's requirements. Graduates will take the National Council Licensing

Examination (NCLEX) certification exam in the coming weeks. Upon passing the exam, they'll then be eligible to apply for a Registered Nurse license in California or elsewhere.

OPT

The Office Professional Training Program hosted its spring 2015 graduation ceremony on June 5 in the Main Quad. Twenty-three students graduated from the program, with specializations in accounting, banking/financial services, insurance and office/administrative support. The mission of the OPT Program is to provide unemployed students with the educational training and support services that will empower them to compete in a high technology environment.

Annual Rite of Passage Graduation

The Umoja program, which supports persistence and retention of African and African-American students, hosted its annual rite of passage graduation ceremony in late May. Faculty, staff and family members celebrated the graduation of several program participants and students received kente cloth stoles to wear at graduation.



Student Access, Diversity

Minority Male Community College Collaborative (M2C3)

Grossmont College has joined the Minority Male Community College Collaborative (M2C3) National Consortium on College Men of Color. Participation in the M2C3 Consortium will enhance the college's commitment to improving the success of historically underrepresented and underserved students, including men of color. Grossmont College's engagement in M2C3 will enhance professional development for faculty and staff, enable informed interventions for current programs serving men of color and inspire new initiatives addressing challenges facing these men.

Faculty Teaching and Learning Institute

Grossmont College Professional Development is hosting its inaugural Faculty Teaching and Learning Institute this summer, which includes 23 faculty (one new full-time faculty member, 22 part-time faculty members) in its first cohort. The institute consists of eight dynamic and engaging half-days throughout the summer to investigate and consider why and how adopting a culturally responsive teaching pedagogy in classrooms will better meet the diverse needs of Grossmont College students. The institute, planned by seven task-force members including full-time and part-time instructional and Student Services faculty, included a keynote address by Dr. Luke Wood and Dr. Frank Harris, co-directors of M2C3.

Student Success

Athletics Update

- Several Griffin Athletics teams ended the spring season with several accolades. In its inaugural season, the women's sand volleyball team finished first in the Pacific Coast Athletics Conference and second in the state. Additionally, head coach Jamie Ivers was voted PCAC Sand Volleyball Coach of the Year. Since Ivers was also named PCAC Indoor Women's Volleyball Coach of the Year, this is the first time one coach has won both honors in the same season. Men's volleyball also finished first in the PCAC and played in the state's final four. Head coach Travis Lee was voted PCAC Men's Volleyball Coach of the Year. Women's swim and dive finished first in the PCAC and finished sixth in the state. Head coach Larry Larsen was voted PCAC Women's Swim and Dive Coach of the Year.
- Current University of San Diego and former Griffin Kyle Holder was drafted by the New York Yankees in the first round of the 2015 Major League Baseball (MLB) Draft. Holder was named 2015 West Coast Conference Player of the Year for his play with Toreros. Additionally, current USD and former Griffin Jesse Jenner was also drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals as the 221st pick in the seventh round of the MLB Draft. Jenner was also named to the All West Coast Conference First Team for his extraordinary play at catcher for the Toreros this season.
- Additionally, Wesley Wallace, former Griffin and Sonoma State University player, performed well in his professional debut with the Alamogordo White Sands Pupfish, a member of the independent Pecos League. Wallace started in center and scored a run and four runs batted in (RBI), among other stats, in his first professional game on May 20.

Value and Support of Employees

- The San Diego Science Educators Association named part-time Geology instructor **Jennifer Duncan** the University Professor of the Year for her volunteer work in local K-12 school districts to help teachers develop science curriculum that meets the new Next Generation Science Standards, which represent some of the most substantive changes in science education in decades. Duncan was nominated by faculty associated with Grossmont College and Palomar College, where she also teaches. Duncan was given the award at the SDSEA 2015 Awards Dinner held on June 3.
- **Ann Durham** was recently recognized at the 17th annual "In the Company of Women" benefit luncheon hosted by the YWCA of San Diego County. Durham received the 2015 Tribute to Women & Industry Award (TWIN) Humanitarian award for her work Survivors of Torture, International; the Community Action Board; the Selective



Service Board of El Cajon and Sigma Theta Tau International, the honor society of nursing. Durham, a family nurse practitioner and attorney, is deputy sector navigator for Health for the San Diego/Imperial Region of the statewide Health Workforce Initiative, and director of the San Diego Welcome Back Center located on the Grossmont College campus.

- EOPS Associate Dean **Mario Chacon** unveiled his latest mural, “Flowers for my loved ones,” in late May at an invitation-only ceremony. The mural is installed at The Paseo at COMM22, a mixed-use, transit-oriented affordable housing development located in Logan Heights. According to Chacon, the mural is “an urban intervention designed to lift the spirits of the observer as they leave home for their daily activity and return home from a long day at work.”
- Several Business Office Technology faculty members presented breakout sessions of the Western Business Education Association’s Professional Development Institute held in late May in Scottsdale, Ariz., including **Nancy Buck, Linda Snider and Lynn Keane**. Buck and Snider presented “The Flipped Classroom: Student Engagement Strategies” and Keane presented “Using Twitter for Social Media in the Classroom.”
- Physics Instructor **Philip Blanco** will publish a co-authored article in the July issue of the peer-reviewed European Journal of Physics, an international scientific journal dedicated to boosting the quality of physics taught in higher education. The paper, titled “Satellite splat: an inelastic collision with a surface-launched projectile” and co-authored by Dr. Carl Mungan, associate professor of physics at the U.S. Naval Academy, discusses how to knock troublesome satellites out of orbit.
- English professors **Tate Hurvitz and Megan Perry, and librarian Roxane BenVau** published an article in the January issue of Learning Communities Research and Practice Journal. The article, titled “Collaborative Approaches to Deepen Student Learning: Information Literacy, Curriculum Design, and Student Learning Workshops,” discusses the collaborative work around Freshman Academy, the first-year experience program at Grossmont College.

Fiscal and Physical Resources

Facilities/Construction Projects

- Grossmont College will perform a few major construction projects during summer 2015. Projects include reconstruction of several parking lots, including portions of Parking Lots 2 and 4, and all of lots 3, 3E and 4A. Additionally, portions of Buildings 20, 27, 32A (Child Development Center) and 36 will be closed for upgrades, remodels and/or material replacement. Lastly, the pool will be closed for decking repairs and installation of new pool equipment. Construction is anticipated to be completed by mid-August.
- Last week, new pole banners were installed along the perimeter road surrounding campus. Installed by the Facilities Department with work produced by Creative Services,

the banners showcase the diversity of Grossmont College students as part of the college's "I am Grossmont College" campaign.

Economic and Community Development

Caires Hoops Co-ed Basketball Camp

Griffin Athletics will host several camps for local youth this summer, including the Caires Hoops co-ed basketball camp, June 22 – 25 (extended day option available), with women's basketball Coach Karen Caires; the Basketball Youth Camp with men's basketball Coach Doug Weber, August 4 – 7 (co-ed, half-day only); and the Fletcher Hills Tennis Camp, with weeklong camp sessions (co-ed, half-day only) taking place July 6 through August 6 with women's tennis Coach Megan Haber, who was recognized as a coach of the year by the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference. Proceeds from each camp benefit the sponsoring program. More information on athletic youth camps is available through Grossmont College Athletics.

Bike to College Day

Grossmont College hosted the annual Bike to College Day in conjunction with the countywide Bike to Work Day organized by iCommute San Diego. Taking place on May 29, about 40 bicyclists stopped by the campus pit stop located near the SR-125 and Parking Lot 7 to receive free T-shirts, snacks and bike tune-ups. Bike to College Day was sponsored by TREK La Mesa Superstore, the President's Office, Grossmont College Student Health Services, and GCCCD Campus and Parking Services (CAPS).



Science Club

Chemistry Professor Jeff Lehman and 10 members of the Grossmont College Science Club visited a classroom at Avocado Elementary. Science Club members did a lesson on DNA that included a hands-on DNA model creation with licorice, marshmallows and toothpicks, as well as a DNA extraction where they examined actual DNA from peas. In addition to the lesson, the elementary students were given Grossmont College pencils, and a pennant and Grossmont College 50th anniversary book for their classroom, courtesy of the College and Community Relations Department.