



C U Y A M A C A  
· C O L L E G E ·

Spring 2013

# Cuyamaca Chronicle

*Cuyamaca College Laying Tracks in Our Community*

The Cuyamaca Way is *Simply the Best!*

*In this issue...*

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The theme for this academic year is "**Simply the Best**". During the fall convocation, employees were encouraged, at each table, to write their thoughts on "How is Cuyamaca College Simply the Best"? Below is a list of the many, many attributes that describe Cuyamaca College. They were all submitted by the men and women who work here each day – all making our college *Simply the Best*. We are **Simply the Best** because:

"Can do" spirit

A community college with all the possibilities of a private college!  
A lot of heart  
A rockin' Continuing Ed. Office!  
Accommodating students' needs  
After Math  
All faculty dedicated to student success  
Amazing Deans  
Amazing students who go on to do great things  
American Sign Language Department  
Athletic secretary is the best I have every worked with  
Attitude – the little engine that can!  
Auto Tech program and people  
Awesome Math Department  
Beautiful campus  
Beautiful facilities, managed landscape  
Biology Technicians  
Bookstore  
Caring family that is staff and faculty  
Center for Innovation  
CEWT  
Chemistry Techs  
Child Development Center  
Classified Staff are the best! (This was not written by a classified employee!)  
Clean bathrooms with toilet paper and towels!  
Clean studios, labs and classrooms  
Collaborative environment  
Commencement  
Commitment to student success  
Congeniality between faculty and staff  
Continuing Ed and Workforce Development

Cuyamaca has a wonderful team of Vice Presidents.

Cuyamaca puts community in community college. They believe in our community and live it in all they do!

Cuyamaca's dedication to student success, concern for colleagues, and exemplary work ethic  
CuyaMatha!

Dedicated adjunct faculty  
Departments collaborate to increase student success and make things even better!

Diane Kew

Diversity

Do the best

Employees are family

Encouraging and supportive leadership

Energetic

Enthusiasm

Financial Aid

Flexible

Fluid

Focused

Following and living the Cuyamaca Way

Free food

Friendly and helpful full-time faculty

Friendly atmosphere!

Friendship and collegiality

From the community perspective, it is the dedication of everyone on campus to the mission of the college students come first  
FYE!

Gear up for success!

Get'er done attitude

Goal oriented

*There's more.....see page 2*

Grand Lawn open spaces  
 Great family-feel to our community  
 Great instructional leadership!  
 Great OH department  
 Greatest Workforce Training  
 Green Grand Lawn  
 Helpful resources  
 Hope  
 I feel very supported by all.  
 Innovative employees that seek to make a difference  
 Inter department communication and collaboration!  
 IT!  
 Jewel of East County  
 Judy and Mike in Duplicating  
 Learning communities  
 Library  
 Master planners  
 No place like home (Cuyamaca)  
 OH Nursery  
 Open minded and innovative!  
 Openness among staff and faculty  
 Operations  
 Ornamental Horticulture  
 Our Academic Senate President  
 Our Chancellor  
 Our faculty care about the whole student – their learning and their lives beyond the classroom.  
 Our President  
 Our union CSEA  
 Our use of YouTube  
 Park-like campus  
 Paul and Terry, the “Amazing Dynamic Duo” of Maintenance  
 People smile when you greet them.  
 Positive attitude  
 Quirkiness  
 Scholar-athletics who represent Cuyamaca  
 Science Department  
 Science instructors  
 Service oriented  
 Simply the most creative  
 Smiling faces

So close to home  
 Students are #1 for everyone...we all believe it!  
 Sustainable Urban Landscaping and Green Training Programs  
 Teamwork  
 The “Cuyamaca Way” is not just a slogan but reflects the genuine culture of students-centeredness and collegiality that made this college the best!  
 The amazing, dedicated and committee classified staff!  
 The awesome custodian staff  
 The best athletic trainer in the world!  
 The Coyote!  
 The Cuyamaca “culture” of “can do!”  
 The ESL program  
 The 1<sup>st</sup> ladies of Cuyamaca: Jane & Gwen!!  
 The future intergenerational Garden  
 The people, faculty, family!  
 The Student Fine Arts and Graphic Design Exhibit each spring  
 The students, staff, faculty administrators, and the Board of Trustees  
 We have an effective integrated planning model  
 We have something for everyone!  
 We have the *BEST* Student Services team!  
 The trees and wildlife  
 Tree frogs  
 Valuing employees!  
 Water Garden  
 We lead with heart, keen minds, humor and love of learning  
 We never give up  
 We truly care about students and they are central to our decisions  
 We’re green!  
 WIP – green ventures  
 Wonderful employees  
 Working as a “family” and doing the “best”

From this list, one can see that Cuyamaca College is a very special place to work and be a part of!

We are

*Simply the Best*

Here's just a few ways Cuyamaca College's faculty and staff demonstrate being

## Simply the Best

### *President's Awards*

The President's Awards are presented during each year's Fall Convocation. Each award is presented to Cuyamaca College staff members "for outstanding dedication, service and leadership to Cuyamaca College and its students."



For outstanding **Faculty**, the award was presented to **Ms. Patricia Santana**, Department Chair of World Languages. Ms. Santana began teaching part-time at Cuyamaca College in 1981, and joined the full-time faculty in 1997. She has an unwavering belief in the power of learning; through collaboration anything can be accomplished; and life is too short to be anything less than inspiring. She has been beaming since being informed that a new full-time faculty member in the Spanish department is being recruited.



**Dr. Lauren Vaknin**, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, received the President's Award as outstanding **Administrator**. Dr. Vaknin came to us with a strong academic background (having received her doctorate recently from the Community College Leadership program at SDSU), and a wealth of experience in Student Affairs. Since she has been in her position, there has been tremendous growth in the area of Student Affairs, including: student activities, student conduct and academic integrity, and Student Learning Outcomes Assessment in Student Services. Dr. Vaknin has stepped into the role as coordinator of SLOs in Student Services and is bringing her expertise to the table to bring Student Services beyond proficiency to a cycle of sustainable continuous quality improvement in the area of SLO assessment.



**Ms. Sara Suter**, Budget Analyst for Administrative Services, was presented the President's Award for **Classified Staff**. Ms. Suter was with Cuyamaca College for over 8 years, and has an MBA from National University. Most of all Ms. Suter has been commended for a "can-do" and "whatever it takes" attitude from all managers and colleagues. Because of her tremendous budgetary skills, she now serves as the Director of Administrative Services at the District Auxiliary.

### *Outstanding Faculty Member Award*

The second annual Outstanding Faculty Member Award was presented to **Ms. Donna Hajj**, Counseling Department Chair. The Outstanding Faculty Member Award was created to honor Cuyamaca College faculty members who have distinguished themselves in service to the college and its students outside of the classroom. **Mr. Michael Wangler**, Academic Senate President, presented the award. Aside from her committee work, Donna has led the Counseling Department during a time of great change, innovation and challenge. She has been involved as Lead Faculty in the development of the



online counseling system, including the online orientation and advising programs for both colleges, and working with Grossmont College to design and implement both of these programs for use next year. She created the Counseling & Transfer Center's web sites. She designed and programmed the WebAdvisor tutorials, and supervised the one that is provided in Arabic. She led a team of faculty to design and deploy the online Early Alert system.



## *Cuyamaca Way Award*

**Mr. Curtis Gagnon**, an hourly Operations staff member, was awarded the Cuyamaca Way award in a short, informal presentation in the President's Office. Curtis exhibits the following characteristics of the Cuyamaca Way: "*Friendly*", "*Student-centered*", "*Dedicated*" and "*Teamwork*". He was nominated for always having a great attitude and always responding with an enthusiastic "no problem!" when asked to perform a task.



With Curtis (L-R), Mr. Bruce Farham, Director of Facilities; Ms. Patty Branton, Facilities Clerk; and Dr. Mark J. Zacovic, President

The Cuyamaca Way Award was presented to **Ms. Rhonda Bauerlein**, Instructional Design Tech Specialist, in the LTRC. Rhonda faithfully exhibits the qualities of "*Dedicated*", "*Collaborative*", "*Teamwork*" and "*Student-Centered*" of the Cuyamaca Way. She was nominated for her work helping faculty to set up their Blackboard accounts. Rhonda's patience and ability to explain things thoroughly and succinctly makes their jobs as faculty easier when communicating with our students.



**Mr. Steve Gonzalez**, Custodial Supervisor (now retired), exhibited the qualities of *Dedicated*, *Welcoming*, *Collaborative*, *Friendly* and *Excellence* of The Cuyamaca Way, and was honored because of his enthusiasm, diligence, conscientiousness and graciousness while working here at the college. Steve was never without a smile, and his helpful attitude and can-do spirit benefited our college in innumerable ways.

**Dr. Tammi Marshall**, math instructor and co-chair of the Accreditation Steering Committee. Recognized in Tammi are the characteristics of *Teamwork*, *Integrity*, *Innovative*, *Passionate* and *Student-Centered*. Tammi's inexhaustible zeal for her students and for our college is demonstrated in many ways. In particular, the leadership that Tammi has shown in her work as co-chair of our accreditation team's Institutional Self-Evaluation report is very impressive. Tammi's passion for teaching and for mathematics is evidenced in the outstanding student evaluations of her work in the classroom.



**Ms. Patty Branton**, from Facilities, exhibits the qualities "*Beautiful*," "*Friendly*," "*Dedicated*," "*Welcoming*" and "*Teamwork*" of the Cuyamaca Way. She was nominated for always having a smile on her face and exhibiting a consistently great attitude. She loves her work here at Cuyamaca College and for that she is much appreciated.

*We are proud of and appreciate all our  
Cuyamaca Way Award recipients!*

*Simply the Best*

## *Adam's Apple Award*



**Mr. Anthony Zambelli**, J.D. was honored with the California Council on Economic Education's highest award for outstanding dedication to teaching economics. The California Council on Economic Education recently announced Anthony (Tony) Zambelli, JD the recipient of the 2012 Adam's Apple Award. Tony accepted the award at the annual California Association of School Economics Teachers Conference held in October at the Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, CA.

## *Staff Member Completes Doctorate*

University Transfer Center Counselor, **Amaliya Blyumin**, has completed her doctoral studies at Argosy University in San Diego. Dr. Blyumin received her Ed.D. in Counseling. Her dissertation was on Russian-speaking immigrants' attitude toward help-seeking behavior. We congratulate Dr. Blyumin on this milestone achievement!



## *Life Coach*

This past summer **Ms. Connie Sterling**, Multi Media Tech Senior in the LTRC, was certified as a Mindful Change Coach. She attended the National Wellness Conference at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point and obtained Laughter Yoga Leader Certification as well as a Certificate of Completion for the Coaching Academy.

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## *Our Water / Wastewater Technology Programs Make Waves*

Our Water/ Wastewater Technology Program reached a number of milestones this past month. They recently received word that the new Water Resources Management Certificate/Degree program was approved by the State Chancellor's Office. With the addition of this sixth degree, we now have the most comprehensive Water/Wastewater Technology program in the state community college system.



With our first full-time faculty member, **Mr. Joseph Young**, we are now able to offer, for the first time, daytime Water/Wastewater classes, headlined er by two brand new sustainability focused courses: "Principles & Practices of Water Conservation" and "Water Resources Management". Each of these classes has over 30 students enrolled.

In August, **Mr. Don Jones**, Director of the Water Grant, was invited to speak at the National Partnership for Environmental Technology Educator's (PETE) National Conference at Mission College in Santa Clara. The topic was *Water: The California Community Colleges Role in Training the Next Generation of Water Industry Professionals*.

In addition, **Don** delivered a presentation entitled "*The Role of Community Colleges in Training the Next Generation of Water Industry Professionals*" at the Annual Fall Conference of the

California/Nevada Section of the American Water Works Association. He served as a panelist at a session entitled "*The Internship Experience*". Those with the Water/Wastewater program also co-hosted the meeting of the Workforce Development Council at the conference. Don was also the featured presenter at a Gavilan College hosted meeting on "*Developing Internship Programs for the Water Industry*". He was the Keynote Speaker at the Instrumentation and Control Expo held at the Town and Country Convention Center - showcasing the excellent career opportunities in the water and wastewater industry for instrumentation and control specialists.

It goes to show you that our Water/Wastewater Technology program is *Simply the Best.*

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## *President's Holiday Party*

The Student Center was alight with merriment at the annual President's Holiday Party. Faculty, staff, and administrators were treated to gourmet faire provided by Sodexo. Those in the holiday spirit were also invited to participate in a new holiday party contest, decorating "live trees", AKA President's Cabinet members, a faculty member Ms. **Patricia Santana** and staff members Mr. **Ryan Shumaker** and Mr. **Ken Grimes**. Teams were given 5 minutes to create their best tree dress-up. Audience applause determined the winner. Mr. **Ken Grimes** from Counseling was the winner of what could become an annual holiday tradition.

It was *Simply the Best*



In and out of the classroom, our college's students prove that they are Simply the Best. We are very proud of our students! They demonstrate what makes Cuyamaca College *Simply the Best.*

*Simply the Best*

### *Phi Theta Kappa*

This student honor society chapter has been revitalized and is growing in membership. Many of our faculty and staff donated to help fund memberships for qualifying students.

### *Students Win Laptop Computers*

The John Burton Foundation awarded laptop computers to all three Cuyamaca College students who submitted essays as part of its Burton Scholars Laptop Challenge. This is the third year of the program, with its goal to provide foster youth attending higher education or career and vocational training with an important tool that is often cost-prohibitive for foster youth. The three deserving EOPS students, Mr. **William Felix**, Ms. **Lauren Wise**, and Ms. **Sarah Mugford**, will all receive new Dell laptop computers. The John Burton Foundation for Children Without Homes is a non-profit organization based in San Francisco dedicated to improving the quality of life for California's homeless children and developing policy solutions to prevent homelessness.

### *Student Awarded Scholarship through Essay Competition*

The California Community Colleges Extended Opportunity Programs & Services Association (CCCEOPSA) granted a \$1,000 scholarship to one Cuyamaca College EOPS student. The scholarship was awarded through an essay writing selection process to **Ms. Monica Sias**, a former foster youth student in the UP! (Unlimited Potential) Program.

### *Student Leaders Community Service Project*

Student leaders joined together with students from Grossmont College to participate in a community service project at Noah Homes in Spring Valley. The students worked alongside residents and staff from Noah Homes to clean out the garden and prepare it for the winter planting. Students also heard a presentation from Noah Homes and learned more about this non-profit group while lending a hand in their local community. Pictured (L-R) is **Mathias Gomez** (Emerging Leader), **Mohammed Alyasini** (Cuyamaca College Student Trustee), and **Diane Diehl** (Emerging Leader).



### *Running to Victory*



The Pacific Coast Athletic Conference selected Cuyamaca College cross-country runner, **Ms. Paige Hughes**, as the Women's Athlete of the Week honor student for the week of September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

For the first time Cuyamaca College has a women's cross-country track team. They really showed that they are a force to be reckoned with, finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> place at the recent Cuyamaca Invite. **Mr. Anthony Garcia** is their coach. Teammates are (from L-R) **Paige Hughes, Betty Covarrubias, Sarah Snyder, Ashley Fishman and Kailene Gini.**



In October, the cross country teams participated at the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference (PCAC) Championships. The men placed 2<sup>nd</sup> as a team and advanced to the Regional Championships. This is the

highest finish for a men's team in a decade. Individually, the men placed 5 runners on the All-Conference team with **Lee McAllister, Emmanuel Corvera, Ryan Maize, Aaron Geisel, and Jesse Beason.** The men are coached by **Tim Seaman** who is in his third season. The men have shown improvement in each of Tim's three seasons as head coach. The women's team finished 3<sup>rd</sup>, a marked improvement over the previous six years where they finished last. The women also advanced to the regional championships. Three individuals earned spots on the All-Conference team, highlighted by **Paige Hughes**, who was the conference individual champion beating every other runner by nearly a minute. The other two All-Conference selections were **Betty Covarrubias** and **Kailene Gini.** This remarkable turn-around for women's cross-country has taken place thanks to first year coach, **Anthony Garcia.**



### *Women's Soccer Team*

Our women's soccer team, under the guidance of Coach **David Cordena**, has been selected as a Qualifier for 1<sup>st</sup> Round of Pacific Coast Conference Regionals. Go Coyotes!



### *San Diego's Rising Design Star*



The International Furnishings and Design Association Educational Foundation held its annual celebration recognizing San Diego's rising design stars. Cuyamaca College student, **Mr. Jafar Deno**, was one of six area students recognized for their outstanding work in the field. Jafar is currently completing a rare feat, concentrating on both areas of emphasis for an AS degree in CADD Technology, Building Design Industry and Manufacturing Industry. The International Furnishings and

Design Association (IFDA) is a worldwide professional alliance of leaders representing the diverse industries that constitute the universe of residential and commercial furnishings and design. In the picture is **Dr. Cyrus Saghafi** (left), Department Chair of CADD Technology, and CADD student, Jafar Deno.



## *Inspiring Filmmaker*

Former Cuyamaca College student, **Mr. Dustin Kahlia**, premiered one of his latest awarding winning short film, “Valediction”, at the Gaslamp in San Diego and at the La Jolla Contemporary Arts. His fifteen-minute short film “Valediction” was the winner of the Audience Choice Award at the National Film Festival for Talented Youth in Seattle, WA. The film has uploaded to YouTube and within just a few months received over 777,000 hits. Dustin has been accepted into an advanced screenwriting program at the USC’s School of Cinematic Arts. Mr. Kahlia currently works as an intern for Village Roadshow Pictures in Beverly Hills (credits include *The Matrix*, *Oceans Eleven*, and *Sherlock Holmes*.)



## *Hispanic Heritage Celebration College Hour*



The Hispanic Heritage Celebration and festivities included a great entertainment lineup enjoyed by students, staff, and faculty. In addition to the keynote speaker Mr. Freddie Sanchez, Associate Director of the Cross Cultural Center at SDSU, there were two dance performances, including one by the Caleulli Mexihca Dancers. There was also a poem reading by Instructor **Ms. Patricia Santana** and a discussion of the display at the Library by **Ms. Maria Gearhart**, Multi-Media Assistant.

*Simply the Best*



## *College Happenings*

### *Senator Boxer Congratulates Cuyamaca College*

Cuyamaca College received a congratulatory letter from US Senator Barbara Boxer regarding the college winning the inaugural Energy and Sustainability Award from the California Community Colleges Board of Governors. In her letter, Senator Boxer applauded “Cuyamaca College’s commitment to promoting environmental awareness and conservation. Your work promoting faculty-student sustainable initiatives both on and off campus is commendable.”

### *A Friendly Place for Veterans*

The publication, *Military Times*, has included Cuyamaca College in its list of the top 23 community colleges in the nation that is friendly to veterans. Check out their website: <http://fox5sandiego.com/2012/11/20/3-local-schools-ranked-as-friendly-to-veterans/>

### *Intergenerational Garden Begins to Take Shape*



Progress is under way with the continued construction of the Intergenerational Garden site adjacent to the Child Development Center at Cuyamaca College. The garden site has been cleared, compliments of the County of San Diego, and the perimeter staked. Special thanks go to landscape architect George Mercer and the California Conservation Corps for donating a crew for site preparation and tree trimming. Community volunteer coordinator, **Ms. Judy Bishop**, along with her team of six senior volunteers, has been

working closely with **Ms. Linda Haar**, Director of the Child Development Center, in the implementation of the Farm to Pre School and YMCA Healthy Habits curriculum.

### *Annual San Diego Robotics Expo*

The San Diego Robotics Education Expo was held for the fifth year in a row at Cuyamaca College. Approximately 350 visitors attended throughout the course of the day. Exhibitors included: University of San Diego, San Diego Mesa College's robotics team, Wintress Technical Schools, High Tech High's robotics team, and of course Cuyamaca College's very own microcontroller and robotics classes. Highlights of the day included a life-size robotic giraffe and the Sea Perch, a remote controlled underwater vehicle. The event featured innovative and practical robotic applications plus information on how to follow a career in robotic programming and/or engineering, as well as fun for the whole family. Recognition goes out to faculty member, **Dr. Duncan McGehee**, who coordinates this event every year in cooperation with the San Diego Science Alliance.

## Quilting Day

### Cuyamaca College American Sign Language Association (CCASLA) International Service Project

Twice a year CCASLA Officers, ASL students, ASL Faculty Advisors, and local ASL community friends gather in the ASL Labs at Cuyamaca College to participate in their annual "Quilting Days." At the last event, held in September, approximately 20 people took part this year's project. They were able to complete 10 full quilts and 5 partial quilts that will be completed next year). The quilts will be added to those of our community partners and sent to areas devastated by disasters at home and abroad. This is our third year hosting this event, and we are very proud to be able to help people stay warm and dry around the world.



## Mole Day



Celebrated annually on October 23 (10/23) from 6:02 a.m. to 6:02 p.m., *Mole Day* commemorates Avogadro's Number ( $6.02 \times 10^{23}$ ), which is a basic measuring unit in chemistry. *Mole Day* was created as a way to foster interest in chemistry. Schools throughout the United States and around the world celebrate *Mole Day* with various activities related to chemistry and/or moles. Cuyamaca College celebrated *Mole Day* again after a hiatus of several years by inviting Severus Snape (aka **Dr. Glenn Thurman**) from Hogwarts Academy to present a series of "magical" chemistry demos for the occasion and give his

(somewhat skewed) overview of the mole, Avogadro's number and scientific thought. Along with the spectacular presentation, there were some to-die-for-giveaway chemistry items and edible goodies. This event was standing room only and the lobby of the H Building was packed!



## Diversity Dialogues

These **Diversity Dialogue** workshops, being offered on a regular basis throughout the semester, focus on a variety of diversity awareness and social justice topics. Students will receive a stamp for every workshop they

attend. Students who have completed a minimum of three workshops during the academic year will earn a "Diversity & Leadership" certificate and will be recognized for their efforts at the Student Leaders Reception in May.

Our College's Programs & Services

*Simply the Best*

## *We Like Him*

### **LIKE President Zacovic**

President Zacovic has entered the social media age with a new Facebook page. You can **LIKE** President Zacovic by going to <http://www.facebook.com/DrMarkZacovic>. President Zacovic will be posting news and his musings on his Facebook page. Stayed tuned! President Zacovic is trying to achieve 200 likes by the end of the year, so please LIKE him today!



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## *Campus Events Calendar*

For a complete list of college events happening through the semester, please visit the Campus Calendar page at <http://www.cuyamaca.edu/events/>

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### **Cuyamaca Chronicle Semester Newsletter**

Please provide news, information and updates to:

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### **Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District Governing Board:**

Greg Barr, Bill Garrett, Edwin Hiel, Debbie Justeson, Mary Kay Rosinski

**Student Members:** Mohammed Alyasini, Samantha Elliott

**Chancellor:** Cindy L. Miles, Ph.D.

**Cuyamaca College President:** Mark J. Zacovic, Ph.D.

**Grossmont College President:** Sunita Cooke, Ph.D.