



C U Y A M A C A
· C O L L E G E ·

Fall 2014

Cuyamaca Chronicle

Cuyamaca College Laying Tracks in Our Community

Our focus is
Student
Success

In this issue...

- El Cajon Elks Donate to Foster Youth Program
- Paying it Forward
- All American Student Athletes
- Cuyamaca Way Award Recipients
- Assistant Coach of the Year
- Cuyamaca College's Newest Student Trustee
- Cuyamaca College recognized as a veterans friendly college

El Cajon Elks Aiding Cuyamaca College Students

The El Cajon Elks Lodge recently presented school supplies and vouchers for books and transportation to 30 students in a Cuyamaca College program that provides a measure of support often missing in their lives as former foster youth.

Cuyamaca College Professor Emeritus **Anthony Zambelli**, who continues to work on campus, said the event evolved from a forum where he heard the plight of foster youth as they age out of the county system.

“All the financial and other support they receive ends and they are basically put out on the street and that’s so wrong,” Zambelli said. He decided to put his longtime membership with the El Cajon Elks Lodge to use to support former foster youth through Cuyamaca’s Unlimited Potential, or UP!, program. A \$2,000 grant from the Elks National Foundation paid for the backpacks, school supplies and vouchers, along with a lunch of pizza to the UP! students who benefitted from the Elks’ largesse.

About 100 former foster youth and students raised by guardians take part each semester in the program, said **Ms. Pam Fleming**, the college’s foster youth liaison and financial aid adviser. The goal is to provide support and services to help the students overcome the extra obstacles they face and to keep them focused on their studies.

“Their biggest challenge is lack of parental or family support while attending college,” Fleming said. “They usually have low income and no additional support in case the car breaks down, or they have an extra expense. They also have no trusted and caring adult to help them make decisions. Many of our UP! students become homeless during their college career, so housing and transportation are huge issues for them.”

Jasmin Jimenez, 19, a Cuyamaca College student who plans to attend Grossmont College in the fall to begin her major in Administration of Justice, said UP! has provided invaluable support, such as food from the onsite pantry. Born to a mother in prison who continued to be in and out of incarceration for many years, Jasmin is living with an older brother in El Cajon. Both she and her boyfriend, who was raised by his grandmother, were among those receiving backpacks.

Jasmin said she plans to transfer to San Diego State University to obtain a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and eventually become a parole officer. She said her mother was deported to Mexico after her last stint behind bars.

More than the school supplies, the students also received words of encouragement and kudos from lodge members and associates, including Paul Kassel, the former head of the Elks Lodge in Poway, an alum of Cuyamaca and Grossmont colleges.

Kassel described a childhood of limited means growing up in El Cajon, as one of eight siblings and two foster youth. He said his parents worked so hard to make ends meet that they rarely had time to talk to their children, and he often had little more than half a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for his lunch at school.

“I sometimes felt abandoned in many ways,” said Kassel, the 2013 President of Elks Lodge 2543 in Poway and an associate member of the Elks Lodge 1812 in El Cajon.

It was at the Elks Lodge, Kassel said, where he found sustenance, not just for his body, but for his soul. The mother of a friend worked at the El Cajon Lodge, and he visited there about three times a week from the time he was 10 until he became a teenager.

“I was given sandwiches and lemonade, but it didn’t take long for the group of Elks members to realize I needed more than just food, I was hungry for more love and support,” said Kassel, who attended Cuyamaca and Grossmont colleges during the early 1980s, majoring in business and criminal justice.

About six years ago, the general contractor and owner of Property Services Plus and Paul Kassel Inc. for the last 20 years was encouraged to visit and participate in a community service group and was reminded of the kindness and support he had received as a youngster from the Elks.

“My mission here today is to spread a message of looking to the future,” Kassel said. “Something may have happened to you as a kid, but the key is not to

look back and live in the past, but to know where you are going. Put your heart into what you want to do with your life. Find something you want to do and then get up and start going.”

Zambelli said because of its primary charitable mission of helping children and veterans, the El Cajon Elks Lodge plans to expand its connection to Cuyamaca College with a grant to assist its veteran student population.

“One of my goals as president of the lodge is to connect more with the community,” said Zambelli, who continues to teach economics and is also the director of the San Diego Center for Economic Education at Cuyamaca College. “This is certainly a great relationship to nurture.”



Cuyamaca College Student Pays It Forward

Cuyamaca College student **Derrek Gudino** hasn’t forgotten his roots.



The product of an impoverished San Diego neighborhood, Gudino now spends many hours helping youth there at the Malcolm X Library in southeastern San Diego and at an Encanto middle school.

“I just want to do what I can to help kids who are in the same situation I was in when I was growing up,” said Derrek, who still lives in the neighborhood with his family. “I want to have an impact.”

Derrek’s road to Cuyamaca College was a meandering one filled with myriad challenges, but he is determined to set an example.

It isn’t easy. Gang members are ubiquitous. “Graffiti is everywhere. Broken windows, shootings; it’s normal to see stuff like that in my neighborhood all the time,” he said.

Derrek’s family, though, supported his education. In his senior year at the prestigious High Tech High School in Point Loma, Derrek was accepted to several universities, including Cal State Fullerton and Cal State Chico, but opted to start working instead.

“I wasn’t that serious about getting a college education at the time,” Derrek said.

But after working several low-paying jobs, Derrek decided to focus on his education. He is on pace to earn his Associate of Arts degree this fall with a major in humanities and fine arts. He plans to transfer to a University of California or California State University campus next spring. He's leaving his career options open for now.

In the meantime, he continues to volunteer. He also works weekends to help finance his education. And he remains devoted to the opportunity he had at Cuyamaca College.

"Cuyamaca has incredible counselors and fantastic professors, and everybody there is working for the students," Derrek said. "It is just a great community college."

Cuyamaca College's New Student Trustee



Ms. Jocelyn Estrada, a business administration major, is the new Cuyamaca College student trustee on the Governing Board of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District.

Jocelyn, elected by her fellow students for the yearlong term, replaces Ms. Elsa Hernandez, who will take on a new post in the fall as president of Cuyamaca College's student government.

The oldest of seven children, Jocelyn is the first in her family to attend college and said she wants to set an example for her siblings. The Spring Valley resident, who has lived in Southern California throughout her 19 years, has her eyes set on transferring to San Diego State University in the fall of 2015 to pursue a degree in accounting. She began taking classes at Cuyamaca College in the fall of 2012 after graduating from Mount Miguel High School in Spring Valley.

"I attend college because I believe that education is such an important part of life and I want to encourage my younger siblings to do the same," Jocelyn said.

Dr. Mark Zacovic, Cuyamaca College President, said he is delighted to see someone with Jocelyn's enthusiasm and commitment to the college serve as a student trustee on the board. "I am confident our Cuyamaca College students will be well represented," Zacovic said.

Jocelyn said her interest in student government was launched while she was a participant in Cuyamaca College's First Year Experience, a program providing guidance and assistance to freshmen to help them stay in school. She said FYE advisers encouraged her to take an active role at the college. Jocelyn said she views the student trustee post as a valuable learning opportunity and a way to encourage students to become more engaged in campus activities and events.

"I joined ASGCC (Associated Student Government of Cuyamaca College) and I really liked it," said Jocelyn, who will retain membership on the board as a senator concurrent to her one-year post as a student trustee. "I like that we can help students and make the campus more lively."

Jocelyn estimates that she has been involved in putting on some 25 events at the college over the past year. Cuyamaca College Associate Dean of Student Affairs Lauren Vaknin said Jocelyn's efforts helped increase student attendance at numerous events. "Since her first year at Cuyamaca, Jocelyn has been an incredible student leader," Vaknin said. "She has played an integral role in the success of many of the Student Government programs."

Cuyamaca College at the Fair

Eight artists from Cuyamaca College were on display at the San Diego County Fair. Part time instructor, **Mary Ford**, won an award for her landscape, *Inspirational Light*, and **Eva D'Aminco**, former art student, won first place in the non-representational all media category. Other participants were **Dr. Marie Ramos** (Department Chair); students **Christine Daniels**, **Charlene Mosley**, **Ashley Soto**, **Yvonne Trottier**, and **Darlene Watson**. Hundreds of pieces of art were submitted and a select few received awards. This speaks very highly of our strong Art Department and those who instruct our students.

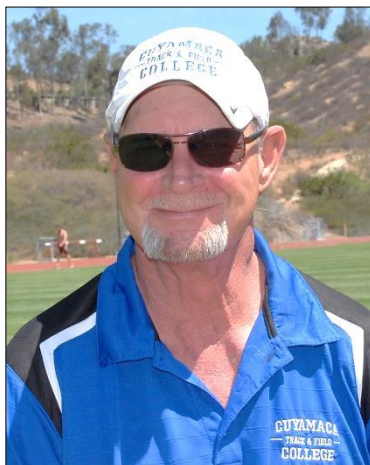


All-American Status

Cuyamaca College Track and Field student-athletes shined at the California Community College State Championships in July. Sophomore **Ryan Maize** won the state title and earned All-American status in the 3,000 meter steeple chase. In addition to Ryan, Cuyamaca College pole vaulters **Shane Hoagland** and **Xander Law** placed second and fourth, respectively, earning both All-American honors. **Dana Hosley** had her lifetime best throw in the discus, placing third, while earning All-American status. Other competitors, **Nikki Buck** (1500 meters) and **Fereon Meferia** (800 meters), each had fine performances to complete the 2014 season.



Coach Lyle Barton: Vaulting into Recognition



Mr. Lyle Barton has a simple answer when asked why he became a track and field coach more than two decades ago. "I was a former athlete and I never had any coaching to help me get to that next level," he said. "That always bothered me. I always felt that if I would ever get the chance to help somebody else, I'd jump at the opportunity."

Good thing. Barton, who has been Cuyamaca College's pole vault and decathlon coach the past 14 years, was recently selected as the 2014 Assistant Coach of the Year for Men's Track and Field by the California Community College Cross Country and Track Coaches Association. "It's a great honor to be recognized by your peers," Barton said. "It really means a lot to me."

Barton has found success everywhere he's coached, which includes West Hills, Grossmont, El Capitan, and El Cajon high schools and Cuyamaca College. One of the first athletes he coached at Cuyamaca College, Brian McLaughlin, still holds the school record with a vault of 16 feet, 10 and $\frac{3}{4}$ inches and later had a successful run at UCLA. At El Capitan High School, Barton led the boys' and girls' pole vault teams to the CIF Division 2 championships two consecutive years each.

Barton grew up in Chula Vista and competed in track and field at Chula Vista High School and Southwestern College before being stricken with Reiter's Syndrome, a form of arthritis that leads to pain, swelling and stiffness. He stopped competing at age 19 and later worked in the construction industry.

Because of his disability, he has had plenty of time to volunteer. And that's what he does at Cuyamaca College. He is not paid for his time, which can reach up to 20 hours or more per week.

"Becoming a good vaulter is something that is developed," Barton said. "It's not natural to run as fast as you can, throw your hands over your head, and jump straight up. Then, if you think about it, you're putting your faith in a pole that is less than two inches in diameter. It really takes a unique person to do it," Barton added.

Barton said the key to coaching is being able to analyze an athlete's vault and identify areas that need work. He says it typically takes him a year to break vaulters of the bad habits they've learned over the years.

"He's been really helpful to all the vaulters," Cuyamaca College pole vaulter Shane Hoagland told *The Star-News* of Chula Vista after placing second at the 2014 state championships. Teammate Xander Law, a freshman who returns in the fall, placed fourth. "We've really gotten our plants down and got good jumping momentum. We do a lot of drills in the preseason before we even have our first meet."

The California Community College Cross Country and Track Coaches Association cited more than just Barton's coaching ability when honoring him with its Assistant Coach of the Year Award. It also recognized him for his collegiality and willingness to coach other athletes when their institutions were unable to provide qualified personnel.

"Lyle Barton exemplifies the commitment to excellence that teachers, faculty and staff have toward our students," said Cuyamaca College President Mark Zacovic. "We are proud that he been named Assistant Coach of the Year for 2013-14."

Barton says he is thankful to be at Cuyamaca College. "I love Cuyamaca College," he said. "The administration has always supported the track and field program, and it makes a big difference."



The Cuyamaca Way Award

Dr. Lauren Vaknin: Her Job is Never Done



The largest commencement in Cuyamaca College's 36-year history had barely concluded and already **Dr. Lauren Vaknin**, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, was setting in motion plans for the 2015 graduation ceremony.

"It's a year-long process," said Vaknin, noting the logistics involved in ensuring a celebration with approximately 1,900 guests, nearly 250 participating graduates, dozens of volunteers and several VIPs, including keynote speaker Ms. Mae Brown, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Admissions and Enrollment at UC San Diego.

It is because of her dedication to detail – and her commitment to a job that includes oversight of student organizations, student government, student events and student discipline – that Vaknin has been named the latest recipient of the "Cuyamaca Way Award." Vaknin is the 22nd recipient of the award, which honors staff, faculty members or students who best exemplify the values of Cuyamaca College.

"Lauren's vision, leadership and dedication to students embody the Cuyamaca Way," said Cuyamaca College President Mark Zacovic. "Lauren continually goes above and beyond the call to assist our students in any way possible, and to organize programs and activities to help keep them engaged in college life. Each year she manages to organize a commencement ceremony and activities our graduates will not soon forget."

Vaknin says working as associate dean of student affairs at Cuyamaca College is her dream job. A native of San Diego who grew up in Rancho Bernardo, Vaknin was set on her course while attending Pepperdine University in Malibu. She wanted to become a teacher, but that changed when she landed a job in the university's student life office. Her roles included helping with homecoming, organizing parents' weekends and working with advisors.

"I realized that this was an area that really appealed to me," Vaknin said.

With a Bachelor's degree in liberal arts from Pepperdine in hand, Vaknin set out for Santa Clara University to earn a Master's in Educational Administration with an emphasis in Higher Education. After a brief stint at Palomar College, Vaknin went to work at UC San Diego, first as a student organization advisor and student leadership coordinator, then as director of Associated Student Government. Meanwhile, she was earning a doctorate in education from San Diego State University in educational leadership, with a focus on community colleges.

She came to Cuyamaca College three years ago. "Student Affairs is a passion of mine," Vaknin said. "I love what I do. This is a great campus and we have some fantastic student leaders."



Ms. Kim Dudzik: Cuyamaca College Professor Honored for Habitat Restoration



Ms. Kim Dudzik has spent much of her life working on conservation projects in different parts of the world. So it only made sense that the biology professor would play a leading role in an effort to restore damaged habitat on a 53-acre nature reserve at the Cuyamaca College campus.

Dudzik got involved after the California Department of Fish and Wildlife ordered the college to restore habitat that is home to the threatened California gnatcatcher. Cuyamaca College was charged with protecting the area when it secured approval to build its gymnasium, but several acres had been badly damaged following years of illegal use by off-road mountain bikers and dirt jumpers. Dudzik and colleague Michelle Garcia crafted plans for a long-term restoration project that included meeting with the dirt jumpers, posting no-trespassing signs, eliminating man-made dirt ramps, and removing invasive vegetation, such as arundo and pampas grass that thrived in the altered landscape.

Improvements have been noticeable. And her efforts recently earned Dudzik a Cuyamaca Way Award, which honors staff, faculty members or students who best exemplify the values of Cuyamaca College.

"Kim has gone above and beyond what is expected of her, putting in countless hours of her own time, to make Cuyamaca College a leading center of higher education in San Diego County," said Cuyamaca College President Mark Zacovic.

Dudzik also has a reputation as an excellent professor. "She is a great teacher," wrote one recent student on the website RateMyProfessors.com. "She is very enthusiastic about her subject and manages to make complicated topics understandable," wrote another student. "I recommend for everyone to take her class," wrote a third.

Dudzik took a circuitous path to get to Cuyamaca College. A native of Brighton, Michigan, Dudzik wasn't certain about her career plans upon graduating from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in zoology. She opted to spend two years in Costa Rica as an assistant to a Ph.D. candidate doing research on the social structures and foraging patterns of the area's dolphin population. In 1994, she returned to the United States, enrolling at San Diego State University to earn a master's degree in animal behavior.

While attending SDSU, Dudzik worked in the behavior management department at the San Diego Zoo. Her job? Figuring out ways to improve upon the environmental enrichment efforts for animals at the zoo. That meant endless hours researching behavior patterns and making displays more intriguing for the inhabitants. With jaguars being so scent oriented, for example, Dudzik asked colleagues flush with cologne given as Christmas gifts if she could have the unwanted items. Then she placed dabs of the fragrances around the enclosure.

“All of a sudden, a jaguar that would maybe come out for a few minutes before getting bored would stay out for an hour or more investigating the scents around the enclosure.”

In 2001, Dudzik, looking for a change, moved to Florida and worked for an environmental firm contracted to monitor manatees and sea turtles and their environment while a company dug trenches in which to place natural gas pipelines.

Within a year, Dudzik decided to return to California and try her hand at teaching. From 2003 to 2006, she was a “freeway flyer,” a contract instructor employed part time at several area community colleges. That ended when Cuyamaca College hired her full time.

She has no regrets about her decision, and her experiences in the field help bring her lessons in the classroom to life. “I love taking a simple lesson in biology and making it more fascinating,” Dudzik said.

Though thankful for the accolades related to her work restoring the nature preserve, Dudzik says much must be done. “It’s going to take years,” she said. “We’re just getting started. The arundo alone will take 10 years to eradicate. But it is very rewarding work.”



Ms. Michelle Garcia: Biology Professor’s Impact Extends Far Beyond the Classroom

When **Ms. Michelle Garcia** enrolled at San Diego State University as freshman back in 2002, she had her sights set on becoming an author and illustrator of children’s books.

Good thing for Cuyamaca College that she changed her mind.

A biology professor since 2008, Garcia is a member of a college committee that has been developing a Sustainability Strategic Plan to guide Cuyamaca College in its commitment to developing a sustainable campus. She also has been working with faculty and staff in developing an Associate Degree program in Kumeyaay Studies, which would make Cuyamaca College among the only community colleges in the nation to offer a degree focused on the study of a local Indian tribe. And Garcia has played a pivotal role in an ongoing effort to restore damaged habitat on a 53-acre nature reserve on the edge of the Cuyamaca College campus. It was these efforts that earned Garcia the coveted Cuyamaca Way Award.

“Michelle Garcia’s contributions to Cuyamaca College both inside and outside of the classroom have been instrumental in strengthening Cuyamaca as a leading institution of higher education in the region,” said Cuyamaca College President Mark Zacovic. “She is indicative of the dedicated people working here and we are fortunate to have her.”

Garcia was born and raised in San Diego and enrolled at San Diego State after graduating from what was then known as University of San Diego High School in Linda Vista, which has since relocated to Carmel Valley and renamed Cathedral Catholic High School. She began college as an art major, but changed her mind after taking a ‘World of Animals’ general education course. She found herself hooked on biology and she has not looked back since.

“It was fascinating,” said Garcia, who is married and has two young children. “I decided that biology was where I need to be.”

Biology has become Garcia’s passion. She graduated with the highest GPA of any Biology major at SDSU in 2002 and spoke as the Biology valedictorian during commencement that spring. After working as a chemist a San Diego biotech company, Garcia opted to enroll at UC Berkeley to earn her master’s degree. It was while working as a teaching assistant and doing educational workshops while at Berkeley that Garcia realized teaching was her true calling. She was hired as a part-time instructor at Cuyamaca College in 2008 and a full-time professor the following spring.

“Cuyamaca College is such a hidden jewel,” Garcia said. “It is such a beautiful campus, the people here are so nice and friendly, and the students are bright and passionate. It’s just been a wonderful experience.”

Garcia has been favorably reviewed on the website RateMyProfessors.com. “Probably my favorite professor so far in my college experience,” wrote one student. “Very clear and extremely enthusiastic about her material. “I really enjoyed this class,” wrote another student. “Michelle is a great instructor. Her lectures are interesting and she makes you laugh. As long as you show up, study, and do the homework you will be fine.”

Garcia became involved in the nature reserve after the California Department of Fish and Wildlife ordered the college to restore habitat that is home to the threatened California gnatcatcher. Cuyamaca College was charged with protecting the area when it secured approval to build its gymnasium, but several acres had been badly damaged following years of illegal use by off-road mountain bikers and dirt jumpers. Garcia and colleague **Ms. Kim Dudzik** crafted plans for a long-term restoration project that included meeting with the dirt jumpers, posting no-trespassing signs, eliminating man-made dirt ramps, and removing invasive vegetation, such as arundo and pampas grass that thrived in the altered landscape.

Improvements have been noticeable. But it will take decades before the area is back to its natural state. In the meantime, Garcia takes her students to the reserve for lessons on invasive plants and environmental damage.

“It is a powerful teaching tool, a wonderful example of a large-scale disturbance and how it destroys native habitat,” Garcia said.



Cuyamaca College Expanding Online Spanish Course Offerings

Just a year after it first offered online Spanish classes, **Cuyamaca College’s Department of World Languages** will more than double the number of such courses when the upcoming fall semester begins.

The Department of World Languages last fall offered two sections of Spanish 120 (first-semester Spanish), in which a total of 60 students were enrolled. That expanded to three sections of Spanish 120 and one section of Spanish 121 this spring, in which a total of 120 students were enrolled.

During the upcoming the fall semester, a total of 150 students are projected to enroll in two sections of Spanish 120, one section of Spanish 121 and one section of Spanish 220. The first three semesters of Spanish are what most four-year universities require for transfer, and Cuyamaca College students will now have the option of taking all the courses online.

Department of World Languages Chair **Patricia Santana** said the online program was crafted to meet a growing need. “We are serving so many people who are working and doing other things that they wouldn’t otherwise be able to take these classes,” Santana said.

Students who have taken the classes say they are pleased with the offerings. “It is very well structured and everything is pretty clear,” said student Christian Rangel. Busy working up to 40 hours per week, Rangel said online courses offer “a huge advantage. I could do this on my own time.”

Student Orit Holmberg agrees. “I am a stay at home mother to two young children and my husband works full time. Child care is very expensive, and quite frankly, I want to raise my own kids, not put them in child care, so finding alternative ways to go to school and work from home are very important to me,” Holmberg said.

Those considering taking the online courses need to be aware of the demands. As online Spanish Professor **Donna Marques** notes on her webpage: “Some students have the misconception that it is better to take an online course if you are too busy and don’t have the time to dedicate to a college class. This could not be further from the truth! If you make the commitment to take a college course, you should be honest and ask yourself if you really have the time it requires being successful. If you don’t, this does not mean that an online course is the solution to your problem; you should enroll at another time.

“Another misconception,” Marques adds, “is that when you take an online course, you go at your own pace. This is not true. This course follows a detailed course calendar with due dates to which students must adhere.”

Holmberg said online courses are anything but a breeze. “Personally, I think that online classes are much more work than their in-class counterparts,” Holmberg said.

Students can have conversations with the instructor via Skype, but Marques said one of the challenges in teaching an online course is “keeping the student engaged.” Marques sends out weekly video announcements that cover what students should be working on, complete with due dates. A website has links to reading and writing assignments. And courses make heavy use of videos in which students watch and listen to native speakers of the language.

“She provides a lot of direction, a lot of updates, a lot of communication,” said Rangel.

Marques said the Department of World Languages will monitor the needs of Cuyamaca College students before deciding to expand the online program to include Spanish 221 and beyond.

EOPS Students Prepare for the Fall Semester

On July 9 and 10, Cuyamaca College Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) piloted an “EOPS PREP” (Priority Registration Enrollment Program) in the Student Services Quad so that EOPS students were prepared to register for fall classes on their Priority Registration days. Some 123 students created their fall semester class schedules and had them approved by their EOPS counselors. EOPS piloted the program in advance so that all five priority registration groups (EOPS, DSPS, CalWORKs, former foster youth, and active military/veterans) can participate in a similar event for future registration dates.

Despite the heat, students enjoyed themselves with snacks, free water bottles, pens, and EOPS gas cards or bus pass vouchers. Many counselors and staff from Student Services participated in making the event a success, as did the Associated Students ambassadors and other students who volunteered.

Counseling Services Planning Retreat

Counseling Services held a planning retreat at the San Diego State University Alumni Center on June 10. The theme for the day was “In the Spotlight” and it included administrators, faculty and classified staff. All Counseling Services employees were trained by counseling faculty member **Ms. Donna Hajj** on the DiSC Profile, which is a work-style inventory tool used to improve productivity, teamwork, and communication. The

DiSC Profile assessments were completed compliments of a partnership with Counseling and **Ms. Linda Waring**, former Director of the Workplace Learning Resource Center. The SDSU Director of Prospective Student Services made a presentation, and counselors were able to ask questions and get up-to-date information on topics such as admissions changes and impacted majors.

Discussions centered on the Student Success and Support Program mandates and work in place for implementation this fall. The retreat ended with a lengthy discussion and table talk about Counseling Services' strategic goals for 2014-2015 being aligned with goals of the Vice President of Student Services and of the college. The goals were then also aligned with the governing board goals.

A Sad Loss for the College



Cuyamaca College lost a loving member of its family this summer when financial aid advisor **Carrie Valdez** passed away from a stroke.

“We are devastated by this news, and want to offer our support and deepest sympathies to her family and friends at this difficult time,” said Cuyamaca College President Mark Zacovic. “In particular, our condolences go out to Carrie’s 15-year-old daughter, Alexandra. Carrie worked at Cuyamaca College beginning in January 2002, always in the Student Services area. She was a highly respected member of our Financial Aid Office staff, a dear friend, and students were always her top priority.”

Carrie passed away July 2. Services were held July 21 at Glen Abbey Memorial Park in Bonita.

Cards and flowers may be sent in care of Carrie’s brother, Gary Talavera, at 1502 Amador St., Chula Vista, 91913. The family is looking into establishing an education fund for Alexandra, and more information about donations will be provided as it becomes available.

“Carrie was a valued employee and friend, and she will be missed terribly,” Zacovic said. “We will be sending out information soon regarding how we will honor Carrie’s memory here at Cuyamaca College.





College Happenings

A Friendly Place for Veterans

U.S. Veterans Magazine has ranked Cuyamaca College among the nation's "best of the best" veteran-friendly schools. Cuyamaca is the only community college in San Diego County to earn the distinction.

The annual lists of the nation's Best of the Best top veteran-friendly companies, colleges, top government and law enforcement agencies and employers will be published in the August 15 issue of the magazine.

Familiar Faces, New Titles, New Duties

Dr. Scott Herrin is Cuyamaca College's new Dean of Science, Math and Engineering. Herrin took over July 1 after serving nearly two years as interim dean. His office is in the H Building in Room H-104.

Mr. Ryan Shumaker has accepted the post of Interim Associate Dean of Athletics/Athletic Director. Ryan has served as the Student Success Coordinator, working with outreach and our student ambassadors.

Ms. Jessica Yakou will be stepping into Ryan's shoes as the Interim Student Success Coordinator. She has worked with Dr. Lauren Vaknin in Student Affairs for the past year. Along with outreach and the student ambassadors, Jessica will also be working closely with our Student Government leaders.

Farmer's Market Here at Cuyamaca College

The **Rancho San Diego Farmers Market** is held at Cuyamaca College from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Saturday in the parking lot across from OH. The market offers a wide variety of locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables, organic beef, locally made cheese, locally caught seafood, hot foods and a variety of crafters and other goodies.



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/>

Cuyamaca Chronicle

Semester Newsletter

Contributions by Ms. Anne Krueger, Director of Communication & Public Information and Mr. David Ogul, Contract Writer

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Student Members: Jocelyn Estrada and Zack Gianino

Chancellor: Cindy L. Miles, Ph.D.

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

Grossmont College President: Sunita Cooke, Ph.D.