



C U Y A M A C A
· C O L L E G E ·

President's Report to the Governing Board
April 19, 2016

“Scheherazade Tell Me a Story” brings Arabian Nights to Cuyamaca College



The five-act production of “Scheherazade: Tell Me a Story” transformed the Performing Arts Theater stage into a setting straight out of the pages of a Middle Eastern folk tale with rich colors and swirling veils and, in one scene, the traditional outdoor bazaar. For 1,001 nights, Scheherazade eluded an untimely death by weaving tales with cliffhanger endings, keeping a vengeful king at bay. Again and again her life was spared so the king could hear what happened next. Arabic instructor **Ms. Aklas Sheai’s** take on the Middle Eastern fable of Scheherazade and the Arabian Nights was performed the afternoon of Wednesday, March 30, by about 50 of her students donning stunning hand-sewn costumes. This is the third

year that Aklas has created, produced and directed the play with help from her daughter, **Ms. Asma Yassi**, an adjunct counselor at Cuyamaca, and **Mr. Raad Jerjis**, an associate professor and counselor. Also coordinating the event is **Ms. Patricia Santana**, chair of the college’s World Languages Department. In Sheai’s version of the Scheherazade fable, the king’s bloodlust is ultimately tamed by the tender love story of a pair of star-crossed lovers, Isam and Ayla. This theatrical play was the third annual presentation in the Cuyamaca College Theatre; before that it was held in the classrooms before moving to the Student Center until the theater opened its doors. The performance allows community members as well as Cuyamaca College students, faculty, and staff to experience the beauty of Middle Eastern culture and traditions.



Coyote to Compete in World Championship

Freshman standout **Mr. Alex Belavance** competed in the under-20 event at the World Team Trials for race-walking in the 10km race walk in Earth City, Missouri. Having started just 4 months ago, Alex has shown huge talent for the event. Here he was able to test his mettle against America’s best junior racewalkers. His time of 47:58, was under the qualifying time of 48:30 set forth by USA Track and Field. Alex placed 3rd overall. Alex, along with Cuyamaca alum Mr. Emmanuel Corvera and Mr. Nick Christie, earned their right to wear USA across their chest as they compete against the best race walkers in the world at the upcoming World Champions to be held in Rome, Italy. All three were taught to race walk by **Coach Tim Seaman**, Cuyamaca’s Men’s Head Cross Country Coach and Women’s Head Track and Field Coach. Coach Seaman, in his 6th year at Cuyamaca, is the current American record holder in the event and a two-time Olympian.

Phi Theta Kappa Awards All-California Community College Academic Team



On March 24, **Ms. Mariah Moschetti**, Cuyamaca College student and ASGCC President, received the highest honors at the Phi Theta Kappa awards luncheon in Sacramento by being named to the 2016 Phi Theta Kappa Academic 1st Team. In addition, Mariah was also awarded with the \$1,500 Coca-Cola Community College scholarship, which was only given to 50 students nationwide. Mariah will be using the scholarship next fall when she transfers to a UC campus. Cuyamaca College student **Ms. Sophia Balany** was also placed on the 2016 Phi Theta Kappa Academic 2nd Team, and she will be transferring to CSU Pomona in the fall.

Partnership with Point Loma Nazarene University

Cuyamaca College is excited by the opportunity to partner with Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU) in offering baccalaureate degrees for our students without having to leave the Cuyamaca College campus. Beginning in the fall 2016, students interested in pursuing a four-year degree in Child Development or Organizational Management will be able to seamlessly transfer to PLNU without leaving campus. Plus, students will pay a reasonable tuition and earn a degree from a prestigious, accredited university. This is a great opportunity for our students and an honorable reflection of the undergraduate education we currently offer.

Annual Sustainable Turf & Landscape Seminar

On Thursday, March 10, the Ornamental Horticulture Department hosted the 8th Annual Sustainable Turf and



Landscape Seminar which was held at the Cuyamaca College Performing Arts Theater. The theme of this year's seminar was *The Value of Landscapes* to highlight how local water restrictions have resulted in the loss of valuable landscape space. Close to 250 students and horticulture industry professionals attended and over \$17,000 was raised for the O.H. Scholarship Banquet and other club activities.

Diversity Dialogue: Safe Zones Workshop

On April 8, the Safe Zones Ally Training Workshop was presented by **Ms. Moriah Gonzalez-Meeks**, **Ms. Nancy Jennings**, **Ms. Mary Garcia**, **Mr. Eddie Vasquez**, and **Dr. Lauren Vaknin**. In addition, students **Mr. Jesus Suarez** and **Ms. Onjoli Thomas Jones** also volunteered to lead the small group discussions. The session focused on awareness of LGBTQIA issues and provided insight on improving campus climate. At the end of the session, participants received certificates of completion.



Women's History Month

The Student Affairs Department and the Associated Student Government sponsored various events for Women's History Month, and the featured program included the *Feminism & Successful Women Symposium*. During the event, **Dr. Julianna Barnes** and instructors **Ms. Moriah Gonzalez-Meeks** and **Ms. Michelle Garcia** discussed topics focused on feminism and being successful women in higher education. Other programs for Women's History Month included the *History Department Panel*, *Asian Pacific Islander Women in Pop Culture*, *The Divine Feminine Dialogue: Discussion about the divinity of Feminine archetypes*, and a *Discussion about Frida Kahlo*.

Intergenerational Garden Workday

On March 22, volunteers and children from the Child Development Center worked together to plant a new vegetable crop in the Intergenerational Garden. They planted over 150 plants; a combination of summer



squash, a variety of cucumbers, watermelon, and a variety of zucchini can be found throughout the hill along with some pumpkins and cantaloupe soon to follow. Volunteers and staff are grateful to the OH Department for letting them start all of their spring plants at the nursery.



Tutoring Staff Presents Workshops at Tutor Expo

Cuyamaca College sent a team of 17 tutors, classified staff, and faculty from among all three campus tutoring



centers to Tutor Expo 16, a 3CSN Learning Assistance Project conference held at City College on March 11 and 12. Our team made four presentations over the two days. *“The Scientific Writing Crisis: Scientific Writing Tutoring to the Rescue”* and *“Classroom Partnerships: Embedded Tutor and Instructor Roles and Responsibilities”* were skillfully handled by tutors. *“Data and Program Evaluation: Making the Most of Institutional Research,”* and *“Securing Campus Buy-in: Making Tutoring a Campus Priority”* were presented by **Ms. Mary Graham, Ms. Veronica Nieves, and Ms. Corrine Hensley**, each representing one of the three campus tutoring centers.

John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Award Recipient



Cuyamaca College Counselor, **Mr. Jesus Miranda**, was one of four members from the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District who were recipients of a national award recognizing community college teaching and leadership. The four were presented with the John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Awards at a conference in Chicago, Ill., that drew community college representatives from across the nation. The award is from the League for Innovation in the Community College, an international consortium of community colleges and 160 corporate partners. Hired in October 2008 as an associate professor and counselor, Jesus Miranda’s mark on Cuyamaca College has been a significant one, both as the coordinator of the First Year Experience program, which targets young, at-risk students as they are introduced to college, and in multiple shared-governance committees including the Academic Senate. Combining tutoring, counseling, assessments and educational planning to help targeted students thrive, FYE is credited for bringing students to Cuyamaca College who otherwise would have never dreamed of going beyond high school. The program draws an average of 150 students a year mainly from two local high schools – Mount Miguel and Monte Vista – and approximately 90 percent of FYE students are low-income Hispanic students. In addition to his FYE duties at Cuyamaca College, Miranda is also the Counseling Services Department chair, and has previously served as the vice president of the Academic Senate. Last fall he received Cuyamaca College’s Outstanding Faculty Award.

Library Display

The Library has two displays this month. One is highlighting the opportunities available for students through the **Career Center** located at the One Stop. Assistance is available to students in areas of resume writing, interview techniques, and samples of cover letters. The other display celebrated the upcoming **Spring Garden Festival**, scheduled for Saturday, April 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. In support of this popular community event the displays will feature a variety of gardening and landscape books such as native and water-wise plants. They also have materials on California butterflies and birds.

Ornamental Horticulture Program Hosts Industry Exam

The Cuyamaca College Ornamental Horticulture program hosted the Professional Landcare Network's (PLANET) Landscape Industry Certified Technician (LICT) exam at Cuyamaca College on April 1 and 2. The event brought out over 160 members of the California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA) and their employees for the tests as participants and judges. Professionals from all over California come for the semi-annual test. Cuyamaca College is one of only two sites in the state to host the tests and the only Community College in California to do so.

Upcoming Events

A complete list of college activities can be found on our website, www.cuyamaca.edu

Career Workshops

"Social Networking for Professional Success"

Wednesday, April 27

12:00-1:00pm, Career Center A-209

"Navigating the Career Expo"

Monday, May 2

12:00-1:00pm, Career Center A-209



The student awards ceremony and reception is Thursday, April 28, from 5:30-7:00 pm



2016 East County Career Expo

Wednesday, May 4

9:00am to 2:00pm

Student Center, I-207



Automotive Skills Day

Saturday, May 7

8:00a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Automotive Department



Coyote Music Festival

Saturday, May 7

12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Grand Lawn