



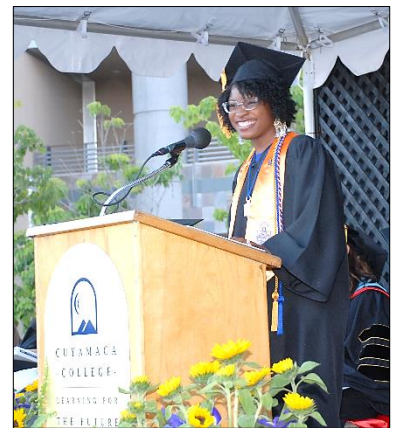
C U Y A M A C A
· C O L L E G E ·

*President's Report to the Governing Board
June 20, 2017*

39th Annual Commencement Ceremony



The Communication Arts building provided the idyllic backdrop for Cuyamaca College's 39th annual commencement ceremony. This year's ceremony featured Dr. Janet Leak-Garcia, a Cuyamaca College alumna who now works as a policy analyst with the Research and Development arm of the U.S. Forest Service. Our student speaker this year was **Ms. Jovanda Reina**. As one of our outstanding graduates, Jovanda will be transferring to San Diego State University in the fall to pursue a BA degree in Psychology. She eventually wants to pursue a degree in Counseling. Our oldest graduate is 73 years old, while the youngest graduate is 18 years old. Approximately 300 graduates took part in the Commencement exercises with over 1,500 jubilant family members and friends celebrating their achievements.



College Employees Earn Their Degrees



Ms. Lekaa Yaldekko, Student Services Assistant in our Disabled Student Programs & Services office, received her Associate degree in Business Office Technology with a GPA of 3.85. She is planning on continuing her studies here through Point Loma Nazarene University in Organizational Management. **Ms. Rana Al-Shaikh**, our Business Services Specialist in Administrative Services, walked for a second

time around obtaining her Associates in Arabic Studies, the first student from the college to receive this new degree. Prior to this graduation, she walked in spring 2012, obtaining her Associates of Arts with Emphasis in Drawing and Painting, in addition to a University Studies in Humanities and Fine Arts. She has since earned a Bachelor's of Arts in Graphic Design. Ms. Al-Shaikh has future educational goals to obtain her Master's degree. And **Mr. Steven Hanna**, Student Services Specialist in Student Affairs, who led the



graduating class to the ceremony from the Student Center to the commencement grounds, received two Associate degrees, one in Business and Technology and the other in Social and Behavioral Sciences. He also completed the required classes to become a real estate agent, so his next step will be to get ready for the state licensing exam. We also had two staff members graduate with their Master's



degree: **Ms. Araceli Rodriguez**, Student Services Specialist in EOPS, graduates with her Masters in Arts in Counseling Psychology with a Specialization in Marriage and Family Therapy from National University and **Ms. Veronica Castillo** graduates with her Masters of Arts in Social Entrepreneurship from Pepperdine University. Veronica is also a new employee to our CAFYES program. We are so proud of these staff members.



Veterans Recognition Ceremony

The Veterans Recognition Ceremony is an annual event hosted by Veterans Services that honors the academic achievements of our student veterans. In attendance were eight veterans and their friends and family as well as Cuyamaca College faculty and staff. The ceremony, held at the Water Conservation Garden, recognized the men and women who have served our country and have earned a Certificate, Associates Degree and/or will be transferring to a 4-year university this fall. Students were presented with a red, white, and blue honor cord, a gift card, and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Office of Congressman Duncan Hunter.



Transfer Achievement Celebration

Our 13th Annual Transfer Achievement Celebration was held on Friday, May 19, as a ceremony honoring transfer students who have been accepted to a four-year university. This year we had 49 students participate in the celebration. During the ceremony, transfer students received a transfer certificate from **President Barnes** with a ceremonial white cord which they will wear with their cap and gown during Commencement signifying their accomplishments. Following the ceremony refreshments were served with students and their guests having a photo opportunity with the Coyote along with a Selfie-Station to commemorate their time at Cuyamaca College.

Special Funded Programs Recognition Ceremony



This year marked the third annual Special Funded Programs Recognition Ceremony. DSPS, EOPS, and CalWORKs combined efforts to organize a wonderful event celebrating the achievements of our programs' students. Together we had a total of 188 candidates for graduation. We had an amazing event with 53 of our prospective graduates in attendance at the recognition ceremony held on June 7, 2017 along with our honored guests **President Julianna**

Barnes, **Interim Vice President of Student Services Aiden Ely**, and **Vice President of Administrative Services Sahar Abushaban**. The highlight of our event was a speech by a former EOPS student Naba Al-Jawad; she is an inspiration to us all. We look forward to next year and planning our Special Funded Programs Recognition Ceremony for next year's graduates.

STEM Transfer Party Celebrates Students' Accomplishments

The Science & Engineering Department and Math Department held a STEM Transfer Party on Thursday, May 18, to celebrate more than 30 of our students who had been accepted for transfer at universities all over the country. After dinner each student was introduced and was presented with a certificate of achievement and a small gift. Students were given the opportunity to share their feelings about their accomplishments and what their time at Cuyamaca College meant to them. Faculty and parents also spoke about their experiences during the students' time at the College. It was great to celebrate the students'



achievement of their goals in such a meaningful and moving event. Several STEM students have been accepted into various programs throughout the summer: **Israel Lopez, Gabriel Nieto, Raina Bautista-Bumbasi, and Brandon Bizzarro**, four of our biology majors, have been accepted into an NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) in Chemistry at UCSD this summer. A fellowship in this research program typically is offered to only 10 students from SDICCA community colleges each year. **Jayna Borja**, an Environmental Science major, has been accepted into NSF REU Climate Change Research Program at USD. **Nate Marroquin and Nargis Kayam**, both biology majors, have been accepted into the Summer Training Academy for Research Success (STARS) Program at UCSD. **Lee LaCasa**, another biology major, has been

accepted to the NSF REU Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory in Colorado. Only 10 students are chosen for this program nationwide. **Stephanie Aguiar**, an Ecology major, has been accepted into the NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates at Murray State University in Kentucky. And finally, **Kevin Zarghan**, also a biology major, has been accepted into the Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP) at UCLA. We in the Science & Engineering Department and Math Department are very proud of these students' accomplishments.

Coyote Athletics Shine at the Local & State Level

In track and field, **Colton Clark** qualified for both the discus and the shot put at the state championships in Sacramento, the only Coyote to compete in multiple events. At the Southern California Regionals, Colton won the discus and set a new personal record with a heave of 48.46m. He also won conference titles in both the disc and the shot – and was named the PCAC Field Athlete of the Year. Coyote **Jeremyah Quichocho** earned 11th place in Sacramento with a throw of 42.28m. He placed second in discus, shot put, and hammer at the PCAC meet, as the Coyotes went 1-2-3 in all three events. At the state meet, Coyote **Steven Lepe** completed 25 laps around the track in a time of 32:43.61, good for a 5th place finish – the highest spot on a podium by any Coyote in Sacramento. At the PCAC championships, he pulled off the long-distance double. He won the 5,000m, finishing almost 2 seconds ahead of fellow Coyote **Kibrom Elias**. But in the 10,000m, after running for more than half an hour, he squeezed past the leader of the pack by just .55 seconds. The next closest competitor crossed the line 37 seconds later. For the women, **Sabrina Dozier** finished in 11th place at state after launching the hammer 37.65m. At the PCAC finals, she set new personal records in all three throwing events – shot put (11.54m), discus (37.55m), and hammer (42.32m), while also taking first place in both disc and hammer. The Coyote women's tennis team sent three doubles pairs to the California Community College Championships: **Karen Frazier & Johana Santamaria, Sabrina Choung & Leonor Garcia, and Alejandra Becerra & Marlana Connelly**. The championships were included as part of the 117th Ojai Tennis Tournament. And in men's golf, **Sam Hess** shot a two-round total of 169 (81/88) at the state championship held at Cypress Ridge Golf Course in Arroyo Grande. He fired a 152 (76/76) at the Southern California Championships, which earned him a slot as one of just 12 golfers to qualify individually for state.

Griffin-Coyote Connection Making an Impact

The Griffin-Coyote Connection program (*formerly Coyote Connection*) is designed to foster students' transition and success from high school to both Cuyamaca and Grossmont College. Cuyamaca's Outreach Department teamed up with Counseling Services to offer seniors and adult students from Granite Hills, Monte Vista, Mt. Miguel, Steele Canyon, Valhalla and Foothills Adult Education Center a series of three live workshops in the comfort of their school to help guide students through the matriculation process. The workshops included an application workshop, English/ESL and math assessment testing, and an orientation/advising workshop conducted in person by the college's counselors thus providing more connection and engagement in the matriculation process. Students were able to provide documentation at the time of application to determine assessment exemption eligibility based on updated guidelines (such as EAP, AP, IB, ELM, EPT and SAT/ACT test scores) and high school math articulation. During the advising session, students were provided with a one semester education plan based on their assessment results and selected major to be used as a resource when registering for classes. As a bonus, a Saturday make-up day was offered to students who needed to complete the process on site at Cuyamaca College in May and there will also be a bonus registration workshop held in the college's Outreach department that is aligned with the priority registration date to assist students with course registration. Participants who completed all steps will receive priority registration for the fall 2017 semester.



American Bar Association Approves College's Paralegal Program

At its meeting on April 7, the Approval Commission of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Paralegals considered the status of the paralegal studies program at Cuyamaca College. After discussion, the Approval Commission voted to recommend that the paralegal studies program at Cuyamaca College be recommended for re-approval by the Standing Committee on Paralegals. On May 1, the Standing Committee found the program to be in compliance with the Guidelines for the Approval of Paralegal Education Programs.

Cuyamaca College Now Part of the Umoja Community



Cuyamaca College was recently accepted into the Umoja Community as the college team participated in the Summer Learning Institute (SLI) which took place in June 2017. The SLI is an intensive five day training where the college team was "Umojafied", immersed in the philosophy, pedagogy, practices and theoretical foundations that are relevant to the success of Black and African American students. As a part of this learning experience, the college team was introduced to African culture, customs and rituals and also learned about best practices for teaching subjects like math, English and counseling courses. Cuyamaca Counseling Services is collaborating with

other academic departments and plans to officially launch our program for Umoja Scholars in fall 2017. The college team of "founding mothers and fathers" consisted of Nicole Jones, Dean of Counseling Services; Camille Jack, Umoja Coordinator; Brandon Williams, Counselor/Umoja Instructor and Advisor/Founder of the Black Student Union; Rasheed Aden, Mental Health Counselor; and Kristin McGregor, Assistant Professor, English. The team had an unforgettable experience and are excited about the upcoming academic year!

Attorney Jeff Bennion Cover Story

Attorney **Jeff Bennion**, part-time instructor in the Paralegal Program, was featured on the cover of the recent issue of *San Diego Attorney Journal*. In the article he mentions how he enjoys teaching here at Cuyamaca College. You can find the link for the complete article here:

https://issuu.com/sandiegoattorneyjournal/docs/aj-sd_feb17_v162_full_edit01

Excellence in Athletic Training Award

Cuyamaca College's Athletic Trainer, **Ms. Jamie Adams**, is the recipient of the Far West Athletic Trainers Association's Excellence in Athletic Training Award. Jamie is the head athletic trainer here at Cuyamaca College and a California Athletic Trainers Association managing board member. Each quarter the Excellence in Athletic Training Award celebrates District 8 athletic trainers or athletic training student members who display an exceptional commitment to mentoring, professional development or enhancing the quality of health care.



A Sad Loss for Cuyamaca College



Our beloved faculty member, **Dr. Donna Riley**, chair of the Exercise Science and Health Education department, passed away on Thursday, June 8. Donna was an amazing colleague and human being who always was cheerful and filled with positive energy. She came to Cuyamaca College in fall 1996 as an exercise science instructor, then became chair of the department in 2000. Donna not only had a Ph.D. from UCSD, she also had a medical degree from the International University of the Health Sciences. She performed much of her residency work for her medical degree in Tijuana, providing medical services to people in need. Donna was never afraid to step up to do the work necessary to keep her department running smoothly.

She developed transfer degree programs in exercise science and kinesiology so that students could continue their education at a California university, and she made sure the programs stayed up to date to reflect trends in the disciplines. In 2004, she received the SCOPE Award, naming her as community college health educator of the year, by the state Community College Organization of Physical Education. Her colleagues here at Cuyamaca gave her the Outstanding Faculty Award in 2014.

Not surprisingly, Donna was invested in health and fitness on a personal level, and participated in numerous marathons. She was also a talented singer and performed with colleagues at numerous college functions. We will miss Donna's smile and her consideration and caring for her students, fellow employees, and the community. We offer our deepest sympathy to her family and her many friends here at Cuyamaca College.

Faculty and Staff Celebrate End of the Semester

Following commencement, faculty, staff, administrators, and District personnel came by the Water Conservation Garden for the 10th annual After Commencement Party. To celebrate the end of the academic year, employees and their guests came and relaxed under the twinkling lights while enjoying great refreshments, drinks, lively conversation, and live music. One of the evening's highlights was the presentation of the Cuyamaca *C.U.P.* (*Commencement Über Participation*). This year's winner was determined by the percentage of faculty that participated in the commencement exercises. The winner this year was Counseling Services, along with the Library, who had a whopping 60% of their faculty in attendance. **Dr. Amaliya Blyumin** received the trophy on behalf of Counseling Services. The C.U.P. will be honorably displayed in the Counseling's office for the upcoming year. Another highlight was acknowledging the faculty who



were retiring this year. It was a time of roasting and toasting by fellow faculty members as they paid tribute to their retiring colleagues: **Dr. Paul Carmona, Chuck Charter, Kari Wergeland, and Dr. Teresa McNeil.**

Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education Offered

Students looking to become an elementary school teacher can earn a bachelor's degree in elementary education at Cuyamaca College through a new partnership launching this fall with one of the Midwest's top regional public universities. Under the agreement, Valley City State University (VCSU) in Valley City, N.D., will provide instruction both online and at Cuyamaca College to students who have earned an associate degree here at Cuyamaca College. A VCSU counselor will also be stationed at Cuyamaca College to work with students in setting up an educational plan. Registration is open now for the fall semester. The program is open to anyone with an associate degree, although Cuyamaca College graduates with a degree in elementary education or an associate degree for transfer in elementary education will have a seamless path to admission. Other students will need to have their college transcripts evaluated to determine if they have any gaps in their coursework. Students will pay the same in-state tuition and fee rates charged to North Dakota residents, which is approximately \$16,300 for the entire two-year program. Valley City State provides laptops to qualified distance learners as part of the university's technology fees. Because VCSU is a nationally accredited institution, graduates will be able to teach in California after obtaining a North Dakota teaching license and securing a California teaching credential.

College Hosts Manufacturing Tour

The East County Economic Development Council's annual manufacturing tour for adult and veteran job-seekers, co-hosted by Cuyamaca College, was held on Thursday, May 25. The event for those 18 and older included a bus ride and tours of two sites, lunch, and career advice on working in the manufacturing sector. The purpose of the event was to introduce job-seekers to manufacturing jobs available in the East County region, and included tours of Fox Factory in El Cajon and Computer Integrated Machining (CIM) in Santee. Fox Factory designs and develops high-performance shock absorbers and racing suspension products for everything from mountain bikes to off-road utility vehicles. CIM specializes in the precision machining of all metals including exotic alloys. Sponsoring the Careers in Manufacturing tours were Bank of America, Comerica Bank, Cuyamaca College, the East County Career Center, SDG&E, San Diego Workforce Partnership, Silvergate Bank, Union Bank, US Bank, and Wells Fargo.

Upcoming Events

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

Start of the Summer Session

Monday, June 12

Registration for Fall Classes

Begins Monday, June 19

Professional Development Week

August 14-18

Professional Development Week includes many learning opportunities and is the major vehicle for faculty participation in Professional Development activities.

Fall Convocation & Luncheon

Wednesday, August 16

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Student Center