



Fall 2011

# Cuyamaca Chronicle

*Cuyamaca College Makes A Mark in Our Community*

## Special Interest Articles:

- College has a new president
- Scholarship Office adds 26 new scholarships
- GCCCD only community college district in the country selected to participate in national study
- Community invited to participate in master education planning
- Music Department launches Fall Concert series
- Returning student discovers new career

## New College President Begins His Tenure



As a first-generation college graduate, Mark Zacovic, Cuyamaca College's new president, understands well the challenges facing students. "Community college is still a great value for students looking to learn a new career and improve their lives," said Zacovic, who began at Cuyamaca in July following a one-year post as executive vice president of instruction and student services at Victor Valley Community College in Victorville. A 26-year employee of California community colleges and an administrator at eight campuses and districts, Zacovic is familiar with the financial crisis that has hit education. "Periods of fiscal difficulty force us to examine everything we do and consider expenditures and how they support the mission of the college," he said. State budget cuts have markedly reduced class offerings at community colleges, but Zacovic sees the system's

open-access policy as sacrosanct. "We must be able to help students realize personal educational goals, whether those be vocational training, a degree, university transfer, remedial education, or lifelong learning, without regard to the degree of preparation with which those students arrive at our college," Zacovic said. "Championing an effective and useful system of student support services to facilitate the success of our students, particularly those with special needs, continues to be a priority for me." Having spent 20 years as a community college chief business official, Zacovic has been responsible for budgets of up to \$380 million, so he's comfortable scrutinizing spreadsheets and analyzing costs and benefits. Zacovic served as president of the board of directors of the Association for Chief Business Officials for California Community Colleges and was state-wide recipient of the association's 2006 Outstanding CBO Award. "At a time when state funding is shrinking but student needs continue to expand, Mark Zacovic's expertise in budgeting and operations is critical," Garrett said. "He is also someone who values innovation – he is open to

new ideas and solutions. In today's fast-changing world, flexibility and a willingness to consider new approaches are key to good management." Zacovic identified his top priorities as Cuyamaca's CEO: bringing stability to the college's leadership; supporting students and student programs, as well as faculty and staff, through difficult fiscal times; and helping develop a dynamic and realistic strategic plan to guide the college into the future. Ever since his first visit to Cuyamaca as a member of the 2000 accreditation team, Zacovic said he has been enamored with the college. "The warm and caring people who work here, the pride that they take in their work to make the college a special place, the beautiful setting, the rich curriculum are all particularly alluring for me," said Zacovic who, along with his wife, Anne, is moving to the Singing Hills area of El Cajon area. Asked about his biggest accomplishment as a community college administrator, Zacovic has an easy answer. "Becoming the president of Cuyamaca College is a huge milestone for me and my career," he said. "I can't believe my good fortune to be a part of this college and to help champion the Cuyamaca Way."

### More New Leadership at Cuyamaca College



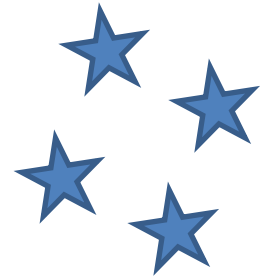
Dr. Lauren Weiner began her new role as Associate Dean of Student Affairs at Cuyamaca College in June. Dr. Weiner brings a strong academic background and a wealth of experience to the position. She possesses a BA in Liberal Arts/Spanish Concentration from Pepperdine University and also an MA in Educational Administration from Santa Clara University. Most recently she earned a doctorate in Educational Leadership, with a community college focus,

from San Diego State University. Weiner has served as the Director of the Associated Students Administration at the University of California, San Diego. Prior to that, she led the Student Organizations and Leadership program at the same college. In that capacity, she played a key role in providing leadership for student government, student clubs, and student life overall. Weiner also has experience working with EOP&S and GEAR UP at

Palomar College, and has done some impressive work with learning outcomes in Student Affairs.

### Vice President of Student Services Honored with Inaugural Award

Dr. Julianna Barnes, Vice President of Student Services was selected as the inaugural winner of the Ron Jacobs Outstanding Research Award at San Diego State University. This award, sponsored by the SDSU Community College Leaders Alumni Chapter, was presented to Dr. Barnes for her dissertation on the freshman first-year experience.



### Cuyamaca College Remembers 9/11

Cuyamaca College's student government collaborated with the Office of Senator Joel Anderson to create a memorial of 2,977 American flags put on Cuyamaca College's Grand Lawn area, one for each of the victims of

9/11. Senator Anderson's office provided the flags, which were placed by volunteers on Thursday. President Zacovic joined Cuyamaca College's students, faculty, and administrators on the Grand Lawn for a moment of silence near

the flag display. These events by the Cuyamaca College community were designed to pay tribute to those who died on September 11, 2001—the victims of a despicable act of terrorism.

## English Language Classes Offered for Iraqi Immigrants

*Pilot program a partnership between the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District and Chaldean Catholic Church*

A pilot program offering English-language classes to recent Iraqi immigrants is the result of a partnership between the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District and St. Peter Chaldean Catholic Cathedral. Two 3 ½ – week classes of 30 students each were offered free of charge at facilities at the Rancho San Diego church, which primarily serves East County's Chaldean community. One class focused on preparing for community college, while students in the other class learned basic language skills to help them enter the workforce. The college district's Continuing Education program developed the classes as a start toward addressing a major need for additional English as a second

language (ESL) classes for the thousands of Iraqi immigrants who have made their new home in San Diego County. "These new arrivals desperately want to learn English so they can get jobs and become a vital part of our community," said Dr. Cindy L. Miles, Chancellor of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District. "This is an important first step in helping them get the education that they need." The college district provided the ESL-trained teachers and the workbooks, while the church provided the space for the classes and recruited students. "We're pleased to have this wonderful partnership with the college district," said the Reverend Michael Bazzi of St. Peter

Chaldean Catholic Cathedral. Bazzi said the classes are especially needed for newcomers who quickly realize that English language skills are a must for self-reliance. With the \$300,000 it has collected in offerings over the past two years, the church does what it can, providing mattresses, blankets and fans for families in need of such provisions. More than 10,000 Iraqi refugees have arrived in San Diego County since 2008, when the federal government eased restrictions that allowed them to immigrate to the United States. Many of those who come to San Diego County are joining family members who have lived in East County's thriving Chaldean community for many years. The GCCCD has long been a leader in addressing the needs of the influx of Iraqi

immigrants who have come to East County. Miles said she is seeking funding from other sources so that more classes can be offered later. "The need is clear," she said. "These immigrants came to the United States because they want to be part of the American dream. We want to help them achieve that goal."

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## GCCCD Selected to Participate in American Council on Education Project

*Only community college district in the country selected to participate*

The District is one of eight institutions of higher learning in the United States – and the only community college district -- that has been selected to participate in a prestigious American Council on Education (ACE) project funded by the Henry Luce Foundation called *At Home in the World: Educating for Global Connections and Local Commitments*. As part of the three-year project, the District will explore connections between on-campus international and

diversity efforts that will better prepare students for the impacts of globalization and improve cultural communication skills among students, faculty and staff. The District's Diversity Equity and Inclusion Council will lead the work on this project, which will include regular consultations with experts from ACE. The District was selected to participate in this project out of 54 applicants nationwide. The other institutions participating are: Washington State

University; University of Colorado at Colorado Springs; North Carolina State University; Mercy College (NY); Bennett College for Women (NC); Arcadia University (PA); and Alliant International University in San Diego. To kick off the project, Danene Brown, from Cuyamaca College, and Agustin Albarran (Grossmont College) will be attending an opening conference in Washington, D.C. where they will meet with ACE staff and team leaders from the other selected institutions to share

experiences and discover best practices. Chancellor Cindy Miles states, "This is a great honor for our District to be chosen for this project, and a wonderful opportunity for us to expand our efforts in promoting diversity and becoming part of the global community. I hope you share my enthusiasm for this exciting initiative, and I encourage your participation in the work that lies ahead of us".



## College Meets Its Fundraising Goal

### 25 Additional Scholarships will be Available to Students

Three years ago the college was given the challenge by the Network of California Community Colleges and the Bernard Osher Foundation to raise \$239,291 for permanent, endowed scholarships. Thanks to the faculty, staff and administrators who did monthly payroll deductions, generous and gracious donations by individuals, several local

businesses and organizations, and the fundraising efforts by the Cuyamaca College Foundation, the college has met their goal! Every dollar contributed to the Osher scholarship endowment will be matched 50% by the Bernard Osher Foundation creating a permanent fund for scholarships. As a result the college will be able to offer 25

permanent perpetual scholarships to students in financial need, making a dream of an education possible for hundreds of students in the years to come. We could not have done it without your support!

***We thank the individuals, businesses and organizations who helped make this goal a reality:***

**WE DID IT!**

Administrators Association  
 American Federation of Teachers Guild, Local 1931  
 Arleen Satele  
 Barbara Takahashi  
 Bill Garrett  
 Brad Monroe  
 Bruce Farnham  
 Chuck Charter  
 Classified Senate  
 Connie Elder  
 Cuyamaca College Botanical Society  
 Cuyamaca College Foundation  
 Daniel Ciccatti  
 David Raney  
 Deanna Weeks  
 Debi Miller  
 Dr. Cindy Miles  
 Dr. Darlene Spoor  
 Dr. Duncan McGehee  
 Dr. Julianna Barnes

Dr. Madelaine Wolfe  
 Dr. Robin Steinback  
 Dr. Samuel Ciccatti  
 Dr. Tammi Marshall  
 Dr. Therese Botz  
 Eric Preibisius  
 Ernest Ewin  
 Gwen Nix  
 Henri Migala  
 Jane Lytle  
 Jennifer Lewis  
 Jesus Miranda  
 Jim Custeau  
 Jo Ellen Reed  
 Judy Garrett  
 Judi Smith  
 Kari Wergeland  
 Kristin Zink  
 Lauren Halsted  
 Lyn Neylon  
 Martin & Ann Sisemore,  
 Rudolph & Sletten  
 Marvelyn Bucky

Michael Allen  
 Michael Wangler  
 Nanyamka Hill  
 Pat Garity  
 Peggy Lovewell  
 Rancho San Diego-Spring Valley Rotary  
 Ray Reyes  
 Rhonda Bauerlein  
 Rick Wilson  
 Robert Garber  
 Robert Nolan  
 Sam Turner  
 San Diego Gas & Electric  
 Sandra B. Kerner  
 Sandy Beasley  
 Scott Herrin  
 Sharon Bullard  
 Sheryl Ashley  
 Stan Schroeder  
 Sue Rearic  
 Susan Topham  
 Terrie Nichols

*Over the course of three years, California's Community Colleges raised \$67.7 million for a permanent scholarship fund that will support students who struggle to afford the ever-rising cost of an education.*

*This endowment will fund at least 3,380 scholarships every year, forever.*

## Student Discovers His Calling

*Returning student begins a new career*

*During the commencement ceremony last June, it was announced that the Water and Wastewater Technology Program was the seventh largest program major at the college overall, and the third largest subject-specific major among the graduating class of 2010.*

For the majority of his career, Ronald Scott Boyd worked in the floor covering business as a carpet and flooring installer. In his early fifties, he realized that his back and knees could no longer stand up to the constant abuse they suffered on the job. While browsing on the internet, he came across a website that Cuyamaca College established through a grant from the California Community College Chancellor's office. While looking further at the site, he became curious about the water and wastewater industry and about the Water and Wastewater Technology Program here at Cuyamaca College. At age 54, he decided to take a chance and enroll in Fundamentals of Water and Wastewater Technology, the overview and introduction course to the program. Almost immediately, he realized that this was a field of study that really interested him. During the next year, he took six additional courses in the program, as well taking the State of California Department of Public Health (CDPH) certification examinations in both water treatment and water distribution. Once he had his CDPH certifications, he began

applying for jobs in the field. One of the jobs he applied for was a Water Plant Operator position at the Army Weapons Proving Grounds in Yuma, Arizona. He scored 99% on the written test and also did extremely well in the interview phase of the selection process. Within a few days, the base personnel officer called Mr. Boyd and offered him the job. Once he was on the job, his new supervisor approached him and said, "I don't know if you know it or not, but a number of the other candidates who tested and interviewed for this position had anywhere between three and five years of water related experience. I'm curious as to how you were able to do so well both on the written test and the interview." Ronald's response was, "I took Water and Wastewater Technology classes at Cuyamaca College. All of the instructors in the program work full time in the industry and really know their stuff. Because they work in the field, they teach you practical skills rather than a textbook education. They are dedicated to the industry and care about their students. They inspired me to work hard on my studies, which I did," Ronald went on to say that because he had easily passed both state certification exams, he went to the written test portion of the hiring process confident that he really knew what he needed to know about water treatment and distribution systems. After "acing" the written test, he was very self-assured when he

went to the interview, and was selected as the top candidate for the job.

Despite the current job market, at least 20 other students in the Water and Wastewater Technology Program have been able to secure full-time jobs in the industry so far this year. In addition, a number of other students in the program have received promotions in the agencies where they work.

The Water and Wastewater Program has continually grown since its move to Cuyamaca College in 2003. Over 400 students are in the program working toward obtaining certificates and/or Associate degrees in the five different areas of specialization currently offered in the program. A sixth degree and certificate program in Water Resource Management is currently in the process of being added to the curricula in the Fall of 2012. All of the courses are taught in the evening by a cadre of working water and wastewater industry professionals. The Cuyamaca College Water and Wastewater Technology Program has clearly established itself as the primary source for employers and potential employees for this vital industry sector in our region.

For more information on the Water/Wastewater Technology Program, visit their website at [www.cuyamaca.edu/wwtr](http://www.cuyamaca.edu/wwtr).



## About Cuyamaca College...

Cuyamaca College has been serving the East County communities of San Diego County since 1978. We are one of 112 colleges in the California Community College system, and one of two colleges serving the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District.

Cuyamaca College is set on a beautiful 165-acre site, which was at one time a part of the Old Monte Vista Ranch.

In developing the overall site, close attention was paid to maintaining its natural habitat, expansive lawns and towering eucalyptus.

Cuyamaca College currently serves over 9,000 students.

900 Rancho San Diego  
Parkway  
El Cajon, CA 92019

PHONE:  
619-660-4000

### Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District

#### Governing Board:

Greg Barr  
Bill Garrett  
Edwin Hiel

Debbie Justeson  
Mary Kay Rosinski

#### Student Members:

Christopher Enders  
Charles Taylor, III

#### Chancellor:

Cindy L. Miles, Ph.D.  
Cuyamaca College

#### President:

Mark J. Zacovic, Ph.D.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.cuyamaca.edu](http://www.cuyamaca.edu)



C U Y A M A C A  
· C O L L E G E ·

## Community Invited to Participate in District Planning Process

The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District is in the midst of a yearlong effort to craft its educational master plan and wants to hear from the public it serves. A community forum is set for 7:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 22, in room I-207 of the Cuyamaca College Student Center to provide the public an opportunity to contribute to the long-range blueprint for the future of Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges, which together serve almost 30,000 students each year. The topics and ideas that crop up during the discussion will help shape the future of higher education in the East County in the next 15 to 20 years. "The educational master plan will help set priorities and will guide decisions about growth, development and

the allocation of resources," said Chancellor Cindy L. Miles. "We are especially eager to hear from the business community -- learning what jobs and skills employers anticipate needing is critical to our meeting community needs. What are the workforce needs and emerging occupations that we should be training people for?" While the colleges have developed their own master plans in the past, in this approach the district has created a coordinated educational master planning process with the two campuses. The district wide process allows more integrated planning, with better communication and coordination between the colleges and district services. The data from a comprehensive range of sources -- student and institutional outcomes; internal and external trend

analysis, and feedback from institutional and community focus groups -- will be used to set long-term goals, objectives and priorities. Input is also being solicited from the East County Economic Development Council, area chambers of commerce, school districts, and other community groups. The educational master plan committee has targeted December for completion of the document, which will then be posted at [www.gcccd.edu/research/EMP/EMP.asp](http://www.gcccd.edu/research/EMP/EMP.asp) "Completion of the district's 15-to-20-year educational master plan ensures that Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges will continue to effectively serve the higher education needs of our community and future generations of students," Governing Board President Bill Garrett said.



## Performing Arts Launches its Fall Concert Series

October 12	Cuyamaca College Concert Band
October 13	Cuyamaca College Choir
October 18	Esther Jordan, voice -- "Bach to Broadway"
October 20	Amassi Al-Sharq ("Eastern Nights") -- Music from the Middle East
October 24	Grossmont College Concert Band
November 3	Danny Green Trio -- Brazilian Jazz
November 8	Michelle Elliott and Lea Schmidt-Rogers, Cello and Piano
November 17	Grossmont College Afro Cuban Ensemble
December 1	Kitka Women's Vocal Ensemble -- "Wintersongs"
December 2	Winter Wonder Jam -- Original Rock and Pop Music
December 6	Cuyamaca College Choir -- Holiday Concert
December 7	Cuyamaca and Grossmont College Concert Bands
December 9	Cuyamaca College Rock Pop and Soul Ensemble

All shows start at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Theatre

For advanced ticket sales, call 619-660-4277

For more information visit [www.cuyamaca.edu/performingarts](http://www.cuyamaca.edu/performingarts)