

Highlights:

- ✓ The Changing Face of Student Leadership: Part 3 – LMC's Taeko Colbert
- ✓ CCC Culinary Students Study in Italy
- ✓ Introducing New District Employees
- ✓ District Web Address Changes
- ✓ Chancellor Receives Congressional Appointment
- ✓ Annual Chancellor Chats Completed
- ✓ October 2008 Board Report
- ✓ October 2008 Cabinet Highlights

THE CHANGING FACE OF STUDENT LEADERSHIP – PART III

This is the third and final part of a three-part series on the "Changing Face of Student Leadership." This series will bring you up-close and personal with three dynamic students making their marks on the District and Colleges through their commitment at the local and state levels.

Los Medanos College student Taeko Colbert is featured in this third of a three-part series.

Student Leader Taeko Colbert



Juggling Childcare and Classes

Twenty-one year old Taeko Colbert has no problem juggling her busy school schedule with her part-time job at the Los Medanos College (LMC) information desk, and her work as this year's ASU president. Her most challenging dilemma is often finding childcare for her two-year-old daughter, Ryanne, when she attends one of her many meetings.

This busy mom splits childcare duties with her boyfriend, Carlo Porras, a LMC graduate now attending San Francisco State University. The tricky part comes when both parents are attending classes.

Colbert, who plans to transfer to San Francisco State University in December as an English Language Studies major, is motivated to create more services for college students who are also parents and to form a Student Parent support group at LMC.

“The goal of this group is to match up student/parents as study partners and to put students in touch with other student/parents who can offer them support,” Colbert says. “I’d love to see LMC and other colleges become more family-friendly and add amenities such as a coloring table in the registration office so kids can stay occupied while their parents are filling out forms.”

Colbert cites studies that show many young parents, especially single parents, drop out of school when they are unable to find or finance daycare or successfully juggle school with work and family responsibilities.

She says the secret to her own success lies in scheduling everything from bedtime to bath time for her daughter.

“There are a lot of evenings where I will be doing my homework and she will be sitting next to me drawing pictures,” Colbert says.

Although she is passionate about increasing resources for students who are parents, Colbert also wants to promote student and community awareness of all of the college’s unique programs. She organized the college’s first student arts showcase at the college last November, and hopes to make it an annual event.

“I’d like to encourage more students to become involved in campus activities and to fully realize all that our college has to offer,” she says. “I moved to Pittsburg from the Midwest and I love our college and the college community. I think LMC has the potential to make a huge impact here in East County.”

**MISSED THE SECOND PART OF THE SERIES?
JEANELLE HOPE, CCC**

FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE



Part two of the student leadership series profiling Jeanelle Hope (pictured) can be accessed by clicking on the following link <http://www.4cd.net/publications/TheNews/0810.pdf>

MISSED THE FIRST PART OF THE SERIES?



BUNDIT KERBUNDIT, DVC

Part one of the student leadership series profiling international student Bundit Kertbundit's (pictured) can be accessed by clicking on the following link <http://www.4cd.net/publications/TheNews/0809.pdf>

CCC Culinary Students Study in Italy



L-R: Emily Hansen, Shundon Anderson, Somnang Saengsourith (foreground), Culinary Arts Department chair Nader Sharkes, and Kimberly

Four CCC culinary arts students have been awarded scholarships to study in Florence, Italy. They are registered for a 14-day program at Apicius International School of Hospitality and, upon completion, will receive a certificate in "Classical Italian Cuisine."

Nader Sharkes, chair of the Culinary Arts Department says, "Our goal is to change the lives of these four students and hopefully they will come back and change others. This is an experience of a lifetime, and we couldn't have done it without the support of the CCC community."

The scholarship recipients are Shundon Anderson, Emily Hansen, Kimberly Hernandez, and Somnang Saengsourith. To qualify for the scholarship, students were required to serve at the 1st Annual Food & Wine fundraising event, enroll in a minimum of 10 units during the fall 2008 semester, successfully complete at least one semester in the Culinary Arts program, write an essay explaining their career goals, and submit three letters of recommendation from professionals in the food industry.

"Professor Sharkes has done an excellent job building the Culinary Arts program by offering hands-on experiences for students," says Saengsourith. "I am so excited. It's like a dream come true. I sacrificed a lot to be in this program, but now I'm happy -- it's a decision that I do not regret."

Saengsourith and her three classmates will have the opportunity to showcase what they have learned in Italy at the 2009 CCC Food & Wine Event scheduled for Sunday, April 29, 2009.

The CCC Culinary Arts Department created the annual food and wine fundraiser to support student scholarships that offer students the opportunity to learn to learn more about the culinary arts world through the study abroad experience.

New Employees

Please welcome the following new employees who were approved by the Governing Board in October.

CLASSIFIED		
Location	Name	Title
CCC	Aaron Taylor	Grounds Worker/Gardener II
LMC	Jeff Biles	Grounds Worker/Gardner II
	Thomas Holt	Police Services Officer
	Andre White	Grounds Worker/Gardener II

New District E-mail and Website Addresses Announced



After the 2008 Winter Recess, employees' e-mail addresses will change from @4cd.net to @4cd.edu. The part of the e-mail address before the "@" symbol will remain the same. Additionally, the CCCCD Website will change from www.4cd.net to www.4cd.edu.

Both the "4cd.net" and "4cd.edu" addresses are now active. The District's main Internet identify will switch to the "4cd.edu" address during the 2008 Winter Recess, but the "4cd.net" address will also continue to work through the remainder of 2009.

How does this change affect you?

- Employees will need to update the domain name and .edu extension on business cards and stationery as new supplies are ordered, and re-subscribe to e-mail distribution lists after the Winter Recess.

A new CCCCD Website is currently under development to launch the 4cd.edu domain name. Watch for more details coming in 2009.

Problems should be reported to the District IT Help Desk at (925) 229-1000, ext. 1234.

Chancellor Receives Congressional Appointment

U.S. Representative George Miller, (D-CA), the chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, congratulated Dr. Helen Benjamin of Vallejo, the Chancellor of the Contra Costa Community College District on being appointed to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, which provides guidance to Congress on federal student aid policies. Dr. Benjamin's selection was announced in October on the floor of the House of Representatives.

"I want to congratulate Dr. Benjamin on her appointment to this committee. She has been a tremendous leader for students in my district for almost twenty years, helping attract both state and national attention to the critical issues facing community colleges.

Throughout her career, she has always put the interests of her students first – an approach that has helped her build a top-notch community college system.

“As the committee’s sole representative from a community college, Dr. Benjamin will bring an important voice to the discussion table. With the economic crisis – and the financial pressures on the students and families – intensifying by the day, I can’t think of a better person to help guide our efforts to help more students attain a college degree and reclaim their piece of the American Dream.”

Annual Chancellor Chats Completed



Brentwood Center staff members provide a warm welcome during Helen’s recent Chancellor Chats visit.

Chancellor Helen Benjamin completed her annual “Chancellor Chats” at the Brentwood Center on October 8. Sessions were also held at DO, CCC, DVC, LMC and SRC, allowing employees to ask questions and talk about issues that are important to them.

These informal discussions are part of her ongoing effort to increase communication with employees.

October 2008 Board Report

To review the highlights of the October 22, 2008 Governing Board meeting, click on the link below:

<http://www.4cd.net/publications/BoardReport0809.asp>

October 2008 Cabinet Highlights

To review the highlights of the October 2008 Cabinet Highlights, click on the link below:

<http://www.4cd.net/publications/ChancellorsCabinet/2008-10.pdf>

##



E-mail topic suggestions for *The News* to Suzanne Fox at sfox@4cd.edu.