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Highlights

District Journalism Students Win State Awards



(Left to right) Chancellor **Helen Benjamin**, LMC faculty **Curtis Corlew**, LMC student **Mark Martinez**, LMC faculty member **Cindy McGrath**, CCC faculty member **Paul DeBolt**, CCC student **Sam Attal**, former DVC student editor **Annie Sciacca**, DVC faculty member **Mary Mazzocco**, former DVC student editor **Jonathan Roisman**, and Governing Board president **John T. Nejedly**.

All three college newspapers showed off awards they received at the 2011 Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC) state conference held in Sacramento at the April Governing Board meeting. More than 560 student journalists from 47 colleges attended the conference where workshops, guest speakers, on-the-spot competitions for participants, and the annual awards of excellence were presented.

Below is a listing of the awards won by each college:

Contra Costa College's

The Advocate:

- Pacesetter Award to The Advocate staff
- General Excellence Award to The Advocate staff
- Third Place for Online Photo Essay to Sam Attal and Alexandra Waite
- Honorable Mention for Mail-In Critical Review to Alec Surmani
- Award of Merit for Mail-In Enterprise Story/Series to The Advocate staff
- Award of Merit for Mail-In Enterprise Story/Series to The Advocate staff
- First place for Mail-In Front Page Layout — Broadsheet to Sam Attal
- Third place for Mail-In Illustration to Cody McFarland and James Heck
- Fourth place for Mail-In Illustration to Cody McFarland
- Honorable Mention for Mail-In Informational Graphic to Sam Attal
- Honorable Mention for Mail-In Inside Page Layout — Broadsheet Alec Surmani
- Honorable Mention for Mail-In Inside Page Layout — Broadsheet to Dariush Azmoudeh
- Honorable Mention for Mail-In News Photo to Erik Verduzco
- First place for Online Photo to Erik Verduzco
- Honorable Mention for Mail-In Photo Illustration to Dariush Azmoudeh
- Honorable Mention for Mail-In Sports Feature Photo to Sam Attal
- Honorable Mention for Bring-In Photo to Sam Attal

- On-The-Spot Editorial Cartoon to Dariush Azmoudeh
- Second place for On-The-Spot News Judgment/Layout — Broadsheet to Sam Attal
- Second place for People's Choice News Judgment/Layout — Broadsheet Sam Attal
- Fourth place for On-The-Spot Opinion Writing to Cassidy Goodling
- Fourth place for On-The-Spot Sports Photo to Sam Attal

Diablo Valley College's

The Inquirer:

- General Excellence for fall 2010 award-based on three consecutive issues and looks at writing and layout skill, sourcing, photo quality and news judgment. It requires all staff members to work well collaboratively.
- Honorable mention for column writing-for former co-editor-in-chief Jonathan Roisman
- Honorable mention for profile feature and news stories-for former co-editor-in-chief Annie Sciacca
- First place for inside page layout-to Scott Baba and Annie Sciacca
- First place for news story-to Ariel Messman-Rucker
- Second place and honorable mentions for critical review-for Troy Patton
- Honorable mention for front page layout and two awards for on-the-spot front page design-for Julius Rea

"Our students are learning and growing into wonderful journalists, and we are so proud of them", says newly-elected JACC president and DVC faculty member **Mary Mazzocco**. "Although there has been a lot of uncertainty about what will happen to legacy media, journalism professionals are excited about the Internet and social media as a means of getting out the news, and they are confident that there will be jobs for our students."

Los Medanos College's

The Experience:

- Unranked meritorious award in Enterprise Story/Series-for senior staff writer Walter Williams
- First place in Editorial Cartoon-for artist Erin Johnson
- Third place in Editorial Writing-for The Experience staff
- Third place for Inside Page Layout/ Broadsheet for a Campus Page Design-for editor Nick Nelson
- Third place in Profile Feature Story-for former staff writer Erron Jacobs
- Fourth place in Profile Feature Story-for former staff writer Samantha Puckett
- Honorable mention in Front Page Layout-for former editor-in-chief Angelica Gonzalez and current editor-in- chief Mark Martinez
- Honorable mention in Critical Review-for senior staff writer Dennis Biles



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Your comments
and suggestions are
welcome. E-mail the
Communications and
Community Relations
Office at info@4cd.edu.

Mojdeh Mehdizadeh Honored With Statewide CISOA Award

The Chief Information Systems Officers Association (CISOA) annually recognizes excellence by its members and their staff in support of the students, faculty and staff in the community colleges throughout California. At CISOA's annual conference recently held in Santa Clara on April 4-6, 2011, they presented their Campus Technology Innovator in Technology Planning Award to **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh**, for her vision and guidance in developing a 10 year strategic technology plan as well as a shorter 3 year tactical plan.

In addition to meeting the future technology needs of the District, the plan includes the transition to Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP), and system redundancy and survivability of the network in the event of an emergency or disaster recovery efforts.

The organization also recognized Mojdeh's leadership including her role as past president of the national Datatel Users Group Board and Chair of



Associate Vice Chancellor/Chief Information Officer **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh** receives the CISOA award from President John T. Nejedly at the April 27, 2011, Governing Board meeting.

the California Community College Datatel Users' Group. She is also a member of the CCCApply Steering Committee, the online registration program for all Community Colleges, and represents California Community Colleges with Microsoft's Higher Education Advisory Group.

For more information on CISOA, visit their website at www.cisoa.net.

LMC Students Selected for NASA Program



LMC students Mario Shaun Regacho, Angelique "Angie" Sims, Brian Delgadillo, and Chris Sanchez explain their NASA-accepted experiment at the April Governing Board meeting.

Four Los Medanos College students will participate in NASA's Microgravity University, an educational opportunity for "future work-forces" that are interested in "space exploration".

The LMC team, called Team Bazinga, will calculate the trajectory of an object by observing the precision and accuracy of an electromagnetic launcher. Team Bazinga was one of 14 teams selected to participate in NASA's Reduced Gravity Education Flight Program, open to all community colleges and other universities in which at least 25 percent of the population consists of minority students.

"The engineering project gives the students the experience of taking an idea, putting it onto paper, having someone accept their idea, then

seeing it through to completion," says the team's faculty adviser **Jacqueline Gesner**. "These students earned this wonderful opportunity due to their engineering and scientific knowledge and hard work."

Team Bazinga has to raise \$5,000 for the trip to Houston, Texas, and is accepting donations to help pay for the program. Donations can be sent to: Los Medanos College Foundation, c/o Lindy Maynes, 2700 E. Leland Road, Pittsburg, CA, 94565. If you want to follow the team's progress, check out their Facebook site at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/MicroGravity-Team-Bazinga/215154145167477?sk=wall>

Districtwide Classified Meeting

The annual Districtwide Classified meeting held last month was scheduled for four hours so attendees knew something would be different. When they received their pre-meeting homework, it became clear the outcome was not going to be the normal questions and answers with the chancellor.

The 63 classified employees were led through a thought-provoking presentation by Minh Le from the Wilfred Jarvis Institute.

The pre-work included a self assessment that analyzed personal energy management (physical, emotional, mental and spiritual), and how to maximize them particularly in the face of challenges.

“Minh made a similar presentation to the Chancellor’s Cabinet and Districtwide managers and he received great feedback”, says Chancellor **Helen Benjamin**. “I shared the idea with the classified leadership, and they thought classified employees districtwide would also benefit by the presentation.”

One of the exercises that Le had participants complete was identifying strategies for transforming negative energies into positive ones.

“The presenter made me think about all the things that affect how I feel every day”, says District Accounting Specialist **Marcie Kapell**. “Once you understand what those things are, you can begin to manage and cope more effectively. I feel the workshop gave me more control of both my work and personal lives.”

To learn more about the Wilfred Jarvis Institute visit their website at www.wjinst.com.



Classified employees worked in groups to practice exercises taught by Wilfred Jarvis Institute consultant Minh Le in maintaining positive energy.

Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the April 2011 Chancellor’s Cabinet meetings, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/April%202011.pdf

CCC Students Celebrate at AGS State Conference

The Contra Costa College (CCC) chapter of Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS) began an exciting academic year by hosting the annual AGS northern California regional conference for the first time since 1986. The chapter then attended the AGS State Conference held last month where each chapter is allowed to nominate students to receive scholarships, and came away with a number of statewide scholarships including:

- Walsh Service Scholarship: Christina Rathavongsa and Ruth Lopez
- Loly Academic Scholarship: Charmaine Seguro
- Virginia Coffey Academic Scholarship: Angel Asante (The Virginia Coffey scholarship is awarded to the top three Loly candidates so this is an extremely prestigious award.)



(Left to right) CCC student Christina Rathavongsa, CCC student Ruth Lopez, AGS CCC Co-Advisor **Maritza Vande Voorde**, CCC student Charmaine Seguro, and CCC student Angel Asante show off their awards.

“I feel honored to be recognized for my service to the community”, says CCC student Angel Asante. “The scholarship has given me motivation to continue helping out my community.”

“Maritza’s leadership has taught me one of the most important keys in life”, commented CCC student Ruth Lopez. “Take leadership to a higher level and keep excelling. I learned you can make a big difference in the lives of others in the community.”

In addition to the individual scholarships, the chapter also displayed tremendous enthusiasm and won two awards for their roll call cheer in the categories of “best use of costume and music” and “most humorous.”

“These wonderful student leaders are very special, says advisor **Maritza Vande Voorde**. “Each chapter gets three nominations for scholarships, but since we hosted the regional conference we got four nominations. We never imagined all four nominees would be selected, and we were so surprised and proud of our students.”

Board Report

To review highlights of the regular April 27, 2011, Governing Board meeting, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/board_reports/April%2027,%202011.pdf

Introducing New District Employee

Please welcome the following new employee who was approved by the Governing Board in April.

Location	Name	Title
DO	Satish Warriar	Director of Information Technology

The Contra Costa Community College District, founded in 1948 and governed by a publicly elected five-member board, is one of the largest multi-college community college districts in California. The mission of the District is to attract and transform students and communities by providing accessible, innovative and outstanding higher education learning opportunities and support services.