This document contains the press clippings for the 1\textsuperscript{st} Quarter of 2014 (Jan. – Mar.), gathered by the Department of Public Information, Communications & Media, so that you can stay informed about the contributions the Peralta Colleges make to the community and the interest this generates in the press.

Enjoy reading about the newsworthy events that took place at the colleges and within the District during the past three months, and please share this report with colleagues in order for everyone to benefit from this information.

Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions or comments.
Peralta Community College District
Department of Public Information, Communications and Media

1st Quarter, 2014
(January - March)
Press Clips
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This list includes community colleges located in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo counties, and the city of Palo Alto. Not ranked, NL = Not Listed.

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Ranking based on full-time equivalent students, Fall 2012. Source: California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.
Governor's budget hiked funding by nearly $1 billion, freezes fees

By Doug Oakley
douglas@oaklandtribune.com

BERKELEY — A proposal to increase funding for California community colleges by nearly $1 billion has administrators doing happy dances after Gov. Jerry Brown made the announcement as part of his budget last week.

The money would allow schools to enroll more students and add classes, hire more counselors and help the neediest students get ahead academically.

"I'm calling it a grand slam," said Scott Lay, president of the Community College League of California, a nonprofit association for community college districts in the state. "It freezes tuition and brings us back to the funding levels of 2007 and 2008."

Brown's budget, if approved by the Legislature, will freeze fees at $46 per unit. The fee was $36 per unit last year and $30 a unit in 2000.

The increase in funding by almost $1 billion, or about 11 percent over the previous fiscal year, will allow colleges to increase enrollment by 3 percent. Enrollment has been cut by up to 15 percent since 2010.

Lay said that when one-time funds for community colleges are deducted from Brown's budget, schools will see an ongoing 7 percent increase in their funding.

During his news conference last week, Brown said he included money in the budget for community colleges and the UC and CSU systems to get students through the system faster. For community colleges, that translates to $100 million for the Student Success and Support Program.

"The prices of tuition and books are so much higher that it argues very strongly for making sure students get their degree much sooner than is the case today," Brown said.

At the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, which serves 20,000 students in Hayward and Livermore, the funding increase will mean the two schools can add about 500 students total, said Lorenzo Legaspi, vice chancellor for business services.

See FUNDING, Page 5

Funding

Continued from Page 1

"The fact that he is adding enrollment is good news. It's huge," Legaspi said. "We've been cutting enrollment and cutting back on classes."

According to Lay, the increase for all of California's community colleges includes $592 million to replace deferred funding from the state; $55 million for increased enrollment; $100 million for the Student Success and Support Program; $100 million to close the achievement gap of poor and minority students; $87 million for instructional equipment and $87 million for maintenance.

Jesse Ortiz, chancellor of the Peralta Community College District, which has four schools in Oakland, Alameda and Berkeley serving about 30,000 students, said he is happy about the governor's proposed budget and will be working to see that the Legislature passes it.

"We want to make sure they honor what he is proposing," Ortiz said. "We hope they see it the same way."

Contact Doug Oakley at 925-234-1999; follow him at Twitter.com/dougsoakley.
Help for community colleges

Governor's budget
hikes funding by nearly
$1 billion, freezes fees
EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Restoring 'Rainbow Black' (832)

A screening of the newly restored documentary about a leader of the black arts movement serves as a fundraiser for a storytelling project for young men from prisoner reentry programs.

Cheryl Fabio was in her first year at Stanford University's film school when her mother, Sarah Webster Fabio, a pioneer of the black arts movement of the 1960s and 70s, asked her to make a film about her. While Fabio was initially intimidated by the idea that her role model's story would be in her hands, she ultimately embraced the opportunity to capture her mother's thoughts on film.

Now, almost forty years later, Fabio is hosting a public screening of a re-mastered version of the documentary she created about her mother, Rainbow Black: Poet Sarah W. Fabio, thanks to a grant awarded to the Black Film Center/Archive at Indiana University from the National Film Preservation Foundation. "As far as I know, these are the only moving images of a local writer who had a national impact," said Fabio. "Whether it's a great film or not, it is sweet to have preserved that image."

The film depicts the life and work of Webster Fabio, who died in 1979, through interviews and clips of her recording poetry albums for Folkways Records. The poet and educator is often credited as being the "Mother of Black Studies" for helping establish programs at UC Berkeley and Merritt College in the 1960s, and the film portrays her as "a spirited woman, sassy one minute and scholarly and critical the next minute," said Fabio.

The screening, which will take place on Sunday, January 19, at The New Parkway Theater (474 24th St., Oakland), will also serve as a fundraiser for a project Fabio is working on with the nonprofit she is trying to get off the ground, the Sarah Webster Fabio Center for Social Justice. Fabio was initially inspired to create the center back in 2003, when her son was attending a high school in Emeryville. "I didn't see a place for kids to learn how to use technology creatively," she said. Taking cues from her mother's cultural activism, Fabio wanted to start a media center for young adults where they could learn how to express themselves. When the economy took a turn for the worse, Fabio took some time off from the endeavor, but has now renewed her efforts to get the center up and running. Her first project, which she hopes to start working on with the Center for Digital Storytelling in May, is to help former prisoners re-entering society tell their stories through multimedia, such as music and photographs.

Her hope is that audience members will come away from the screening with a sense of the way her mother's mind worked. Having taped the bulk of the film during a 48-hour marathon filming session in Iowa, Fabio acknowledges there are many unpolished moments, such as when her mother is being interviewed while wearing a bathrobe. However, she remains proud of the result. "It's very personal, it's very moving," she said. "Even though as a filmmaker I would make a very different film today, never for a minute do I regret having made that film."

12:30-2:30 p.m., $8, $10. NewParkway.com

— Zainab Mohammed
STATE BUDGET

Funding boost of nearly $1B proposed for comm. colleges

By DOUG OAKLEY
MediaNews Group

BERKELEY — A proposal to increase funding for California community colleges by nearly $1 billion has administrators doing the happy dance after Gov. Jerry Brown made the announcement as part of his budget last week.

Brown's budget, if approved by the Legislature, will freeze fees at $46 per unit. The fee was $36 per unit last year and $20 a unit in 2009.

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The money would allow schools to enroll more students and add classes, hire more counselors and help the neediest students get ahead academically.

"I'm calling it a grand slam," said Scott Lay, president of the Community College League of California, a nonprofit association for community college districts in the state. "It freezes tuition and brings us back to the funding levels of 2007 and 2008."

During his news conference last week, Brown said he included money in the budget for community colleges and the UC and CSU systems to get students through the system faster. For community colleges, that translates to $100 million for the Student Success and Support Program.

"The prices of tuition and books are so much higher that it argues very strongly for making sure students get their degree much sooner than is the case today," Brown said.

At the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, which serves 23,000 students in Hayward and Livermore, the funding increase will mean the two schools can add a total of about 500 students, said Lorenzo

See COLLEGES on page A2

COLLEGES
Continued from Page A1

Legaspi, vice chancellor for business services.

"The fact that he is adding enrollment is good news. It's huge." Legaspi said. "We've been cutting enrollment and cutting back on classes."

According to Lay, the increase for all of the state's community colleges includes $582 million to replace deferred funding from the state; $158 million for increased enrollment; $100 million for the Student Success and Support Program; $100 million to close the achievement gap of poor and minority students; $87 million for instructional equipment and $87 million for maintenance.

Jose Ortiz, chancellor of the Peralta Community College District, which has four schools in Oakland, Alameda and Berkeley serving about 30,000 students, said he is happy about the governor's proposed budget and will be working to see that the Legislature passes it.

"We want to make sure they honor what he is proposing," Ortiz said. "We hope they see it the same way."
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"The prices of tuition and books are so much higher that it argue very strongly that for making sure students get their degree much sooner than is the case today," Brown said.

See BOOST, Page 8

**Boost**

Continued from Page 1

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"The fact that he is adding enrollment is good news. It's huge," Legaspi said. "We've been cutting enrollment and cutting back on classes."

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Jose Ortiz, chancellor of the Peralta Community College District which has four schools in Oakland, Alameda and Berkeley serving about 30,000 students, said he is happy about the governor's proposed budget and will be working to make sure it passes through the legislature.

"We want to make sure they honor what he is proposing," Ortiz said. "We hope they see it the same way."

Contact Doug Oakley at 925-234-1699. Follow him on Twitter at www.twitter.com/dougsoakley.
ART

InFocus judges name photo show winners

Christine Oliver has earned Best of Show honors in the 20th annual InFocus Photography Competition and Exhibition for her entry titled "La Habana, El Cuba."

The Charles Moore Excellence in Photography went to Rebecca Harvey for "In the Mud." Judging by photography professionals Kim Komenich, Joan Bobkoff and Larry Angier took place Sunday.

The show, sponsored by the Tuolumne County Arts Alliance, will open Friday and continue through Feb. 15 at 193 S. Washington St., in downtown Sonora. Admission is free.

As awards ceremony and reception will begin at 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25. Other winners were:

Color
1. Eric Bjerke, "Luggage Claim."
2. Rebecca Harvey, "Fishing Boat."
3. Michael Ryan, "The Light Show."


Monochrome
1. Kevin Reily, "Getting Ready."
2. Aniko Mezmar, "Dreamy."
3. Susan Conner, "Endurance."

Honorable mention: Eric Bjerke, "Calculating Move."
"Kim O'Connor, "Aged Beauty," and Kevin Reily, "Will Film Survive."

Judges Choice Awards
Joan Bobkoff "Threshold."
Egrets," by Anna Barber,
Larry Angier, "Bad Hair Day," by Eric Bjerke
Kim Komenich, "Exterior of EMP Museum, Seattle," by Forrest Cornwall
Best of Show carries a $500 cash prize and ribbons.

The Charles Moore Excellence in Photography Award is worth $250 and a trophy.

First place in each category earns $300, second place $200 and third place $100, plus ribbons.

Honorable mention and Judges Choice receive ribbons.

All categories will receive gifts donated by a variety of photographic companies.

Kim Komenich worked as a staff photographer and editor for the San Francisco Examiner from 1982 to 2000 and the San Francisco Chronicle from 2000 to 2009. He was awarded the 1997 Pulitzer Prize in spot news photography for work on the Philippines. He is currently assistant professor at South University, where he is teaching technology and design.

Komenich curates the "The Iconic Moment," a traveling photo exhibition featuring images by some of the world's top photographers. This exhibition premiered at the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza in Dallas in November 2013 as part of the observance of the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

Komenich has photographed the ramifications of conflict in the Philippines, Vietnam, Guyana, El Salvador, the former Soviet Union and most recently in Iraq, where photos from his three trips to the Sunni Triangle in 2005 earned him the Military Reporters and Editors Association's 2006 Photography Award.

He has received the Distinguished Service Award from the Society of Professional Journalists, the 1983 World Press Photo News Picture Story Award, and three National Headliner Awards.

He is a 2006 recipient of the Clifton C. Edson Education Award from the National Press Photographers' Association.

Komenich was a 1998-94 John S. Knight Fellow at Stanford and a full-time teaching fellow at the Center for Documentary Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. He also was a 2006-07 Dart Ochberg Fellow at the University of Washington's Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma. His sports film "Cowboys" will premiere in 2014 and his film "Revolution Revisited" is in production.

Joan Bobkoff is a transplanted New Yorker who has been living in Berkeley since the late 1960s. She has been freelance photographer and photo instructor for more than 20 years. She is an adjunct professor of photography at Laney College in Oakland.

Over the past 10 years, Bobkoff has created the "Photography Rocks Songbook" (modeled after the TV program "Schoolhouse Rocks!) which she uses to explain — and sing — basic photo concepts to her often incredulous students.

Bobkoff has also produced documentary projects on "Bay Area Women in Black," "The Oakland Protein Market," "Vivace Health International," "The Gay Games" and "Bay Area Disabled Athletes."

Her recent project "Ave Struck" is a semi-abstract fine-art body of work that deals with themes of birth and regeneration. This portfolio has been exhibited in many galleries.

Her documentary and photo work has been published in newspapers including the New York Times, San Francisco Bay Guardian, East Bay Express and Daily Californian; such magazines as Hippocrates and New Mexico Mag; and in books, including "Free Your Mind" from HarperCollins.

Bobkoff's documentary and fine art work has also been exhibited in the Bay Area, Los Angeles, Sacramento and New York City.

Larry Angier's editorial work has appeared in National Geographic, Traveler, Nevada, VIA, and Range magazines. His commercial and industrial photography is used regularly by AT&T, Amador Council of Tourism, and Amador Vintners Association.


His work is featured annually in the Browntrout line of calendars.

He teaches private workshops in small camera lighting, electronic photography and fine art portfolio production. He is the archival and technical adviser for Shooting the West, an annual photography seminar in Winnemucca, Nev.

Angier travels rural America extensively shooting what he loves: the people, the places and the cultural landscape. His fine art photography has been exhibited throughout California and the West and is in many museums, corporate and private collections, including the Museum of Northwest Nevada, National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, Calif, American Airlines and others.

Angier's photo exhibition, "The Sacred Expedition," honoring the 300th anniversary of the birth of Junipero Serra, Apostle of California and founder of the Spanish California Missions was shown at the National Steinbeck Center through Jan. 31.

For more information, call the Tuolumne County Arts Alliance at 503-2787 or visit www.tuolumne.countyarts.org.
Begin new year by enrolling in courses at Peralta Colleges

January and the New Year are always a time of renewal and new beginnings. Resolutions are made — some are actually kept — and everyone has a general sense that with spring just around the corner life’s possibilities are wide open.

The freshness of new beginnings is palpable on the campuses of our community colleges. The spring semester begins Jan. 21 at Berkeley City College, College of Alameda, and Laney and Merritt colleges in Oakland.

And even better news is that there are still open classes. You can start the new year off by enrolling in anything from American Sign Language to social media and even cutting-edge — no pun intended — wood technology classes.

Let’s take a closer look at some interesting classes and programs happening this semester at the Peralta Colleges.

Laney College boasts a strong series of programs in technical education, all with a career path squarely in focus. The college, located across the street from the Lake Merritt BART station, is known for its status as a national center for the National Science Foundation in part because of its outstanding technical education in various energy efficiency disciplines.

Those programs include environmental controls and manufacturing education, programs geared towards helping students find jobs in advanced manufacturing and new technologies.

Laney is a leader too in the construction trades with carpentry, construction management, welding and electricity and electronics controls courses all starting this semester. The college also has culinary arts classes for those who might want to hone their kitchen skills or maybe even open a restaurant.

You won’t want to miss the rich array of art, dance, theater, journalism, ethnic studies, ESL, humanities, graphic arts, psychology, sociology, and photography classes that Laney College has on tap this spring. Enrolling is just a few clicks away at www.peralta.edu.

The Introduction to Project Management course offered at Merritt College this semester presents some interesting opportunities. This step-by-step guide to becoming a project assistant or project coordinator gets you ready for entry-level salaries starting at $35,000. Aligned with the Project Management Institute, this course provides the management fundamentals you’ll need to break into this growth industry.

Working through real-world scenario case studies, students will apply methodologies and good practices of formal project management. They will learn to initiate, plan and execute a project to meet scope-of-work specs and to satisfy stakeholders. Best of all, students will prepared to take and successfully pass the Associate Project Management Certification exam.

For more information about this intriguing class, which meets Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Merritt College, please contact the instructor, Marilyn Varnado, at 510-290-9201 or email her at mvarnado@peralta.edu.

Speaking of student success, you might enjoy a video featuring four local community college students who received the 2013 Chancellor’s Trophy Award for outstanding academic achievement.

Their stories, introduced by Chancellor José M. Ortiz, are truly inspirational. See the Peralta TV video at http://bit.ly/tcs6f5.

Those award-winning students realized their goals and found their dreams. So can you this year by taking a class or two at our community colleges.

Reach Jeffrey Heyman at jheyman@peralta.edu and follow him at Twitter.com/JeffHeyman.
Begin new year by enrolling at Peralta Colleges courses

Oakland, CA
(Alameda Co.)
Piedmont
(Cir. W. 19,000)

Jan 17, 2014

Begin new year by enrolling at Peralta Colleges

El Cerrito, CA
(Contra Costa Co)
Journal
(Cir. W. 13,300)

Jan 17, 2014

Begin new year by enrolling at Peralta Colleges courses
Area chancellor vies for La. post

By Hannah Furfaro
The Fresno Bee

The leader of the State Center Community College District is in Louisiana this week to interview as one of seven finalists to be president of a community college system.

Deborah Blue, who has served as State Center chancellor since 2010, will interview with the Louisiana Community and Technical College System’s search committee today, the system announced in a news release.

Blue, an Illinois native, is up for the system’s top job. She would oversee 13 community college campuses that dot Louisiana. The system educates about 101,000 students annually, school officials said. Blue confirmed through email that she is in the running for the position. In her brief response, she said, “I was recruited to apply and feel it is a wonderful opportunity.”

She is one of three candidates from California. The other finalists include:

- Joan Smith, chancellor of the Modesto-based Yosemite Community College District.
- David Steele, dean of the College of Business for San Joaquin State University.
- Marshall Drummond, former chief operating officer and provost of Higher Colleges of Technology in the United Arab Emirates.
- Marie Gnage, president of West Virginia University at Parkersburg.
- James Henderson, chancellor of Bossier Parish Community College in Louisiana.
- Monty Sullivan, chancellor of Delgado Community College in Louisiana.

The presidential post is being vacated by Joe May, said LCTCS spokesman Quintin Taylor. May served for seven years before recently accepting a chancellor position at a community college district in Dallas.

The job would be a step up for Blue, who manages two large community colleges and several smaller campuses across Madera and Fresno counties. The State Center district serves more than 34,000 students.

The former Contra Costa Community College District administrator was hired to replace outgoing State Center Chancellor Tom Crow in 2010. Her last reported salary in 2012 was $223,000.

She hasn’t carved out an aggressive public agenda, but is best known for championing diversity on campus. Since taking office, she has faced steep state budget cuts and dealt with shrinking course offerings. In recent years, the district was able to avoid pay cuts and layoffs, but did impose wage freezes.

At State Center, Blue oversees 2,900 faculty and staff. She previously worked as an associate dean at Fresno City College, and also served as president at Oakland-based Laney College.

Most recently, Blue was appointed to Fresno State President Joseph Castro’s transition team.

The reporter can be reached at (559) 441-6412, hfurfaro@fresnobee.com or @hannahfurfaro on Twitter.
Peralta college district planning to divest

Richmond, CA (Contra Costa Co) West County Times (cir D 33,000)

FEB 1 2014

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

OAKLAND
Peralta college district planning to divest

Santa Cruz, CA (Santa Cruz Co) Sentinel (cir D 22,137) (cir S 21,865)

FEB 01 2014

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Oakland’s Peralta college district votes to sever links within five years

By KATY MURPHY Oakland Tribune

OAKLAND — The Peralta Community College District will stop investing in fossil fuel companies within the next five years as it aims to reduce carbon emissions and become a better environmental steward, the district announced Friday.

Peralta is one of a small number of higher education institutions across the country to have taken such a stand, even as student environmentalists — including at the University of California system and Stanford — have pressed their leaders to do so.

"The environmental justice group 350.org lists nine such commitments on its site, including Peralta, the Foothill-DeAnza Community College Foundation and the San Francisco State University Foundation.

Peralta’s board president said the resolution reflects the district’s commitment to a sustainable environment.

"I am proud that we have taken the lead on this vital issue and that we are doing something to help reduce these dangerous pollutants and to safeguard the future for our students, our community and our planet," board President Abel Guillen said in a news release.

The 30,000-student Peralta district includes Oakland’s Laney and Merritt colleges, Berkeley City College and College of Alameda.

— Katy Murphy, Staff
If you go
Rad Dad Relaunch Celebration: 7-9 p.m. Thursday (Feb. 6).
Free. Adobe Books, 3130 24th St., S.F. Also 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Satur-
day. Berkeley Farmers Market, Center Street, Berkeley. Also
7:30-9 p.m. Arlene Francis Center, 99 Sixth St., Santa Rosa.

Rad Dad Relaunch: Parenting magazine gets makeover

By Evan Karp

When his first child entered the
teen years, Tomas Moniz started
looking for good ways to approach
the difficult lessons that were
coming. Knowing that “just don’t
do it” is not an adequate strategy
for issues like pornography and
drugs, and finding advice in the
mainstream media too domi-
ned, the longtime member of
zine culture reached out to the
people around him:
“I can write. I can ask people
to write with me,” he said recently
at Borderlands Books, “and I can
discover different ways to live
communally, to parent and relate
to one another. Ultimately I put
out the call because I couldn’t find
much out there, especially about
fathering.”

The result was Rad Dad, a DIY
zine that is now in its ninth year.
Dedicated to radical parenting, it
became instantly popular for its
nontraditional stories and hands-
on approach.

“The reason I think people
enjoy and resonate with Rad Dad
is because it’s really been about the
mistakes we make. It’s what we
aspire to be,” he says.

Moniz encourages others to
write for the publication, which is
filled with candid questions and
advice from parents that reflect a
wide array of experiences. “I think
that’s really the beauty of it,”
he said. “It’s a conversation.”

Moniz became a parent when he
was 20, and he says he realized
that his own writing was becom-
ing more and more about the topic.
With three children (now 23, 18
and 16), he knew it wasn’t going
to become a smaller part of his life
any time soon, so he dedicated
himself to the zine as to his
children, using the forum to learn
and to share what he learned.

Rad Dad has always been self-
funded, with Moniz biking copies
to local proprietors and appearing
at all local zine fests. His passion
and open demeanor have made
him recognizable enough that he
sometimes gets asked: “Hey, aren’t
you that rad dad?” When with his
kids, he says, he asks a little too
loudly: “Why don’t we ask these
guys?”

“It’s an action, not a label,” he
says. “It’s never something you can
say, like, I’m a rad dad and now
I’m set. It’s something you do
every day — even when you don’t
have your kids.”

Moniz teaches creative writing
at Berkeley City College, where
he’s worked for 13 years. He’s also
managed to continue his own
writing, and is involved in the
literary scene, co-hosting the
monthly Lyrics & Dirges at Pega-
sus Books and Saturday Night
Special at Nick’s Lounge, both in
Berkeley. Recently, Black Hill
Press published his novel, “Bel-
lies and Buffalo.”

With his two oldest kids already
out of the house, and the youngest
not far behind, Moniz is also be-
ginning to contemplate life after
Rad Dad.

“There’s been a lot of personal
change,” he said, “so letting go of
things is I think symbolically
happening on multiple levels.”

Looking to turn the zine into a
collective effort, he’s just rede-
signed and expanded it, for its 25th
issue, into a full-size magazine. It’ll
be published three times a year.

“People are putting out really
awesome ideas that aren’t reflect-
ed in the mainstream discussions
about parenting,” he said. “I think
it’s really important to have that
space out there. I’m a better father
because of it, reading these stories.
Reminding myself that I’m not
alone, that you can get through it
and you can be a better person
because of it.”

Evan Karp is the founder of Quiet
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E-mail: 95hours@sfchronicle.com
Twitter: @Litseen
A far less laudatory mention came in 2012, when Gravenberg was listed in a chapter titled “Time Bombs: People with Fake Degrees” in the book *Degree Mills* — an expose of the shady schools offering diplomas for a fee and little more. Gravenberg’s competence isn’t being questioned. But the competence of those who signed off on his Ph.D. is another matter. Gravenberg’s doctorate was granted by the unaccredited Columbus University, described within *Degree Mills* as “a classic example of an institution that moves from one state to another as state laws or licensing requirements change ... when its license was revoked in one place, it changed its address, not necessarily moving at all.”

That book’s co-author, John Bear, at one point visited the New Orleans address the university listed as its "campus." He found, instead, a martial arts dojo.

The history of that Louisiana-, Alabama-, Tennessee-, and Mississippi-based school reads like something lifted from an episode of *The Dukes of Hazzard*. Its 1997 “faculty wanted” submissions to the *Chronicle of Higher Education* listed the school’s name as “Colgate University.” This rankled the established-in-1819 Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y.; the fly-by-night institution was pressured into going with “Columbus.”

In 2010, FBI agents raided the two-story New Orleans duplex housing the university and the sole faculty member overseeing all 128 degree programs. In an affidavit, an agent claims the school is clandestinely run by former Louisiana State Sen. Michael O’Keefe, “currently incarcerated at a federal correctional facility.”

Measles left for Gravenberg were not returned. Abel Guillen, the president of the Peralta Community College District board, had never heard of Columbus University; this was not a topic of discussion when Gravenberg was tapped for his interim position. Guillen says candidates for upper administration positions “go through a thorough screening.”

When asked what happened in this case, he says this is a task “usually done by our HR department.”

Gravenberg’s Columbus University degree, in fact, is reported in press release after press release, even those announcing his appointment to prestigious state educational advisory boards; he’s never obscured it.

In any event, only a master’s degree is required to teach at (or lead) College of Alameda and the three other Peralta Community College District schools. Gravenberg states his M.A. and B.A. were granted by Chico State University.

Among its other attributes, this is a school whose campus won’t be mistaken for a dojo. **JE**
Black History Month events at City College

Berkeley City College, 2050 Center St., is showing films and holding events in February for Black History Month.

The lineup for the Black History Month Film Festival in the auditorium includes "Ray" on Feb. 19 and "Ali" on Feb. 28, both at 12:15 p.m.

At 12:20 p.m. Feb. 24 there will be a screening of the short film "A Living Room Revolution — The Race Dialogues" by Kate Mayer and Mary Webb, which will be followed by staged dialogue and a question-and-answer session in the college atrium.

At 6 p.m. Feb. 27, author and editor Keenan Norris will read from and discuss his books "Brother and the Dancer" and "Street Lit: Representing the Urban Landscape."
Peralta Colleges celebrating 50th anniversary this year

With the Olympic games underway in Sochi, Russia, it is pretty amazing to note that we had a homegrown Olympian come right out of our local community colleges.

In 1974, a Peralta Colleges student, James Robinson, was one of the best half-mile runners in the United States. Robinson, who ran for McClymonds High School in Oakland and, after attending Laney College, UC Berkeley, competed in the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal, Canada. You can see a photograph of Robinson in his Laney jersey at http://web.peralta.edu/.

Speaking of milestones, did you know that the Peralta Community College District is celebrating its 50th birthday this year? Alameda County voters created the East Bay district, which includes Berkeley City College, College of Alameda and Laney and Merritt colleges in Oakland on July 1, 1964. Watch this space for more news about upcoming events that will showcase 50 years of local higher education and stories of the tens of thousands of students who attended the Peralta Colleges over the past five decades.

Ever wonder why so many healthcare professionals get degrees and certificates at our community colleges? Because schools like Merritt College have some of the best medical programs anywhere. If you've thought about a career helping others, here's the perfect opportunity: a nine-week Administrative Medical Assistant Certificate program starts at Merritt College in March.

This special program prepares students to manage a medical office with lectures that demystify medical terminology, human anatomy and patient communications. To gain hands-on experience, a 60-hour externship at a local medical office is included. For more information, contact Kirsten Clover at 510-436-2674, or email her at kclover@peralta.edu. Space is limited, so sign up early.

Travel plans? If not, why not travel to Cuba this summer and enjoy the Caribbean island's rich history and culture by way of a Laney College dance department study abroad program. The program -- open to everyone -- allows students to explore Cuba through dance, music and spiritual traditions. Tours will put students face-to-face with the full life and rhythm of Cuba. The program runs July 11-18, 2014, and the cost is $2,685. Learn more at http://web.peralta.edu/international/study-abroad/.

"Science Denialism" is the focus of Dr. Eugene Scott's upcoming lecture at Berkeley City College. Both evolution and global warming are controversial issues in education, but are not in the sciences, according to Scott. The way both camps promote their views on these issues will be explored in this lecture that begins at 7 p.m., March 12, in the Berkeley City College auditorium, 2050 Center Street. To learn more, visit https://www.msri.org/general_events/20267.

Even more events: In February we see Black History Month and Lunar New Year celebrations throughout the Bay Area. Likewise, the Peralta Colleges are hosting so many events featuring cultural and historic commemorations that there just isn't enough room to detail all of them. Make sure you check our local community colleges' webpages for more on the myriad of Lunar New Year and Black History Month happenings throughout February.

Reach Jeffrey Heyman at jheyman@peralta.edu and follow him at Twitter.com/JeffHeyman.
Peralta Colleges marking its 50th anniversary

Peralta Colleges celebrating 50th birthday this year
Oakland

Continued from Page 1

Oakland's rhythms and familiar with its culture.

What's more, young Oakland residents don’t seem to be all that eager to sign up with any regional law enforcement agency.

Law enforcement experts say that hiring more Oakland residents would help the Police Department win cooperation and build legitimacy, especially in areas where residents often are hesitant to cooperate with officers in solving crimes.

"The more people who know somebody in the police department, the more they have a connection to it and the less likely they are to be unfairly judgmental of police operations," said Eugene O'Donnell, a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York.

From the mayor on down, city officials are working on new programs, including police-oriented charter schools, to persuade young Oakland residents to apply to city police academies and hire them, pass the entry exams.

But police recruiters face inherent challenges in Oakland. Residents are less likely to meet hiring requirements, which include a high school diploma and no felony arrests. And they are more likely to have a negative opinion of the Police Department, which remains under unprecedented federal oversight in connection with a 1999 brutality scandal.

When 23-year-old Oakland High School graduate Mandela Castaneda told his cousin that he wanted to be an Oakland police officer, the cousin resisted. "He told me they discriminate," said Castaneda, who is African-American. As for several of his friends, "They said, 'If that's your dream, you should go for it,' but they have negative views of OPD."
Few local recruits

Oakland’s latest police academy began in December with only three out of 55 recruits hailing from Oakland. 15 from other cities in Alameda County.

At Merritt College, recently failed his first attempt at the written test, which includes a vocabulary section. "There were certain words I've never seen before," he said.

The Police Department does take into account whether applicants are from Oakland when making new hires, but, ultimately, "it's really about who is most qualified," assistant chief Paul Figueroa said. State law precludes residency requirements, and the city requires only that the department meet goals for foreign language fluency. Nearly half the academy graduates last year spoke a language other than English.

Local pipeline

Police are stepping up local recruitment by enlisting community leaders to seek out candidates and holding exam workshops throughout the city.

But the most ambitious initiative, which is being undertaken with Quan and school officials, aims to develop a pipeline of Oakland students into the police force.

Next month, the City Council is expected to approve an agreement with Merritt College's Administration of Justice program to preselect students interested in becoming Oakland officers. The program will provide direct interaction with city police officers and give students extra support, including help maintaining good credit and avoiding social media posts that could harm their candidacies.

"It's more than passing the test," said Margaret Dixon, a retired Oakland police officer who teaches at Merritt. "We want to support them once they get into the academy, and we want them to truly understand what they are getting into."

Officials also are working to set up special programs at two small high schools where students would learn about law enforcement issues and work daily with police officers.

"We really think that getting connected with high school-aged students and getting them into college would really help them be successful in the police academy," said Figueroa, himself an Oakland native.

While stressing that many out-of-town officers are quick to build ties to Oakland, Figueroa said that growing up in the city has made him a better officer.

"I still get calls from people in the community who have known me for years," he said. "There is that trust that is built through years of relationships."

Cynthia Zamora and Mandela Castaneda, Merritt College students, prepare to patrol as safety aides. The city is working with Merritt to groom future officers.
Other Newspapers
Carrying Same Story

Walnut Creek CA
(Contra Costa Co.)
Contra Costa Times
(cir D 185,699)
(cir S 194,445)
FEB 15 2014

Fremont, CA
(Alameda Co.)
Argus
(Cir. D. 32,400)
(Cir. S. 33,300)
FEB 15 2014

UNDERSTAFFED FORCE
Oakland police recruits do not reflect the city

By Matthew Artz
martz@bayareanewgrooup.com

UNDERSTAFFED FORCE
Oakland police recruits do not reflect the city
ENGINEERING

DVC revives mTECH program

By Paul Burgarino
pburgarino@bayarea.newsgroup.com

PLEASANT HILL — As local manufacturers face a growing need for skilled workers who can align shafts or repair pipes and valves in a pinch, a revived Diablo Valley College program will soon be able to lend a hand.

The community college has brought back an associate degree program for mechanical technology, or mTECH, and added new technology to its lab equipment.

The mTECH program is being funded by a regional grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, the California Contractors Alliance and roughly $100,000 in initial funding from Chevron.

"It really is at the intersection of what industry wants and our ability to provide that," DVC President Peter Garcia told dozens of industry, county workforce and school stakeholders at an open house Tuesday afternoon.

"We are going to be able to provide the training that is needed," Garcia said.

The program's creation will be an entryway into well-paying manufacturing jobs, which will help students have economic stability in the home, he said.

That's the goal of student Brian Jerez. The 25-year-old from Hercules, who has three more semesters of classes remaining, works during the day as a mechanic at Berkeley Motor Works and was directed to the program by a counselor.

"I'm really excited to be here," Jerez said.

The lab uses the same lathes, mills and grinders that have been in the DVC lab since the 1970s, but it now includes some digital measuring equipment. Added is some more modern steel valve equipment, and plans are in the works to bring in more computer-controlled machines, Abbott said.

Garcia credited local industry for providing financial backing to help sustain the program.

Nicole Rigg, of Chevron, said she was told recently that one of the company's machinists in Richmond was excited DVC's program is open again.

After hearing of the need for qualified machinists from local industry in 2010, the school started to pursue grants.

"They need to know where that pipeline of the next generation is going to come from," Rigg said.

Jason Cox, of USS POSCO Industries, said that over the years the minimum requirements companies want for machinists has increased, which has whittled down a field of candidates whose skills are already hit or miss.

"This program will help provide a continuous stream of capable workers," he said.

POSCO, Dow Chemical, Phillips 66, East Bay Municipal Utility District and Shell Oil are among the companies donating employee time to advise the colleges on the program curriculum.

Cox taught one of the night courses last week.

"I was pleasantly surprised. Even after a long day of work, they were awake and attentive and ready to absorb information," he said.

Contact Paul Burgarino at 925-779-7164. Follow him at Twitter.com/paulburgarino.
College revives tech program

Students learn to align shafts, repair pipes and valves

By Paul Bargaro
pbargaro@bayareanewsgroup.com

FEB 20 2014

Pleasanton, CA
(Alameda Co.)
San Ramon Valley Times
(Cir D 42,641)
(Cir Sun 45,982)

Richmond, CA
(Contra Costa Co)
West County Times
(cir D 33,000)

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IN THIS ISSUE  Volume 44, Number 6  March 2014

13 FEATURE  |  Taking a Gamble
California parolees—many destined to return to prison if the state’s worrisome recidivism rate, the second highest in the nation, is any indicator—need all they help they can get to stay out of prison. A new program at Merritt College by The Gamble Institute, a community-based, university-affiliated resource for parolees and their families, is doing just that. Ex-offenders are stepping up as Street Scholars to serve as academic peer mentors providing support services for other ex-cons enrolled there. By Martha Ross

5 UP FRONT  |  In the Philanthropic Swim
Rockridge residents John Bliss and Kim Thompson may live far removed the gritty flats of East and West Oakland. But this philanthropic couple see themselves as one with the citizens of Oakland, particularly those who are struggling financially, and they’re leading a campaign to get their “financially blessed” peers to invest in the community like they have by funding city programs to teach kids how to swim. By Sarah Weld

9 IN FARO’S GARDEN  |  Minding My Peas
The world of greenery keeps turning in Faro’s garden where pruning and cutting back the pittosporum, cotoneaster, Jasmine, acacia, and ivy are on his mind. Still missing Rita, he strikes up a friendship with his new neighbors and introduces his pruner to them as they contemplate the fate of their redwood. By R.E. Faro

11 MY GENERATION  |  Modern Day Dr. Mom
If you’re an East Bay parent with a child-rearing developmental question, chances are you’ve either read the advice of Meg Zweiback, R.N., M.P.H., and a pediatric nurse practitioner, or seen her yourself. She’s the East Bay’s closest version of a Dr. Mom and has dispensed useful info for 30-plus years. By Mike Rosen-Molina

22 THE KILDUFF FILE  |  Travel Writer Patricia Schultz
Where does travel take you? The best-selling author of 1,000 Places to See Before You Die, Patricia Schultz, an East Coaster, pops into the Bay Area with advice on how you can map out the rest of your life, touching on comfort zones, getting bit by the travel bug, and personal mottos. By Paul Kilduff

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: Essays for the summer literary issue, p. 4, and images for our annual student cover art contest, p. 12.
New Lives, New Hope

Helping others: Emery Young, Victoria Perez, Marcus Austin, Yvone Lee, and Ron Moss, from left to right, are Street Scholars serving as mentors for parolees enrolled at Merritt College.
An innovative program at Oakland’s Merritt College aims to help parolees go to school as a pathway to a new future.

By Martha Ross

West Oakland native Yema Lee, 40, had been cycling in and out of prison for drug and assault crimes until her most recent release in January 2010. Marcus Austin, 44, of Oakland served nearly 15 years for burglary and possession of stolen property, two of those in solitary confinement, before getting out June 2011.

Then there is Earthy Young, also of Oakland. He is one of the rare inmates to overcome the California correction system’s reluctance to parole people with murder convictions. Young arrived back in Alameda County in April 2010, after spending 26 years behind bars.

The odds show that Lee, Austin, and Young have more than an even chance of re-offending or violating their parole and returning to prison. A 2011 study by the Pew Research Center shows that 58 percent of California inmates returned within three years, either for committing new crimes or violating rules of supervisions, making California’s recidivism rate the second highest in the nation. But with Lee, Young, and Austin, so far, so good.

Actually, more than just good. • 14 •

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13 STREET SCHOLARS
They have been pursuing their education at Oakland's Merritt College as a pathway to new lives. And, they have recently begun to help others ex-offenders do the same thing. They are Street Scholars for The Gamble Institute, a nonprofit program that aims to help ex-offenders enrolled at the two-year community college stay in school.

With the motto “for parolee, by parolee,” the institute, which operates out of an office at Merritt College, launched a program in January that has the scholars providing academic peer mentoring and other support services for up to 25 ex-offenders enrolled at Merritt College. As of early February 12 ex-offenders had started in the program.

The scholars meet with the new Merritt students once a week and coach them in a variety of challenges that could hinder their ability to stay in school and out of trouble. The scholars help the newbies set academic goals, guide them in preparing for tests or writing papers, and offer referrals to appropriate services, from tutoring to student disability services, to agencies that help with housing, financial aid, and substance abuse treatment. The scholars also lead monthly student support groups, which include talks by academic advisors and formerly incarcerated men and women who are attending four-year colleges.

“A lot of people who have been in prison have the potential to do good things with their lives,” says Austin, who wants to pursue a bachelor’s degree and other training to be a substance abuse counselor. “They missed opportunities, or just didn’t have a lot of chances, or, like me, they were looking for easy way to cut corners. At this stage of my life, this is, like, my time. I want to take advantage of this opportunity.”

Measuring success
The Gamble Institute was co-founded by Elizabeth Marlow of San Francisco as part of her doctoral research at the UC San Francisco School of Nursing and post-doctoral research at UCLA’s School of Nursing. The institute is named in honor of Marlow’s grandfather, E. Lee Gamble, a professor of chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who was long interested in civic causes.

An adjunct faculty member at UC San Francisco and the University of San Francisco, Marlow grew up in Walnut Creek before studying to become a nurse practitioner. She has nearly 20 years of clinical practice with inmates and formerly incarcerated men and women, including some in the San Francisco County Jail system. Her dissertation studied the impact of community health care access on the reintegration of middle-aged, chronically ill male parolees.

In her work with people with criminal histories or who had served time in jail or prison, Marlow says she was always struck with her subjects’ intelligence and good hearts—and saw how many struggled to make a go of it outside of prison. As part of her post-doctoral work at UCLA, Marlow received training in community-based participatory research.

See next pg.
methods. In her view, it's important for the institute's mission to develop strategies that are proven to help reduce recidivism. And so in addition to the peer mentoring they'll be doing for new Merritt students, Lee, Austin, Young, and the other two Street Scholars, Ron Moss and Victoria Perez, will gather data and measure the effectiveness of the interventions they provide.

"One of our hypotheses is that people who can stay in school for longer are going to be less likely to go back to prison," Marlow says.

The institute received a major boost this fall in the form of a $130,118 grant from Alameda County's Innovations in Reentry fund, which supports a range of community-based projects that aim to reduce adult recidivism. The grant helps The Gamble Institute with operational costs for its program, including giving the Street Scholars salaries for their part-time mentoring work.

**First steps first**

Marlow and the scholars are aware they will be helping people who face major obstacles to staying in school. At Merritt, only about 1 percent of formerly incarcerated students complete their associate's degree. "Just getting them to finish a semester is huge," Marlow says.

The challenges parolees face staying in school also trip them up in life. Every year, more than 200,000 men and women are released from California prisons. The system gives them a ride back to their home counties, $200 in cash, and a mandate to stay out of trouble. On their own, many must find jobs, housing, and access to health care and other services.

They don't all have friends and family able or willing to take them in and help them get their lives back on track. For many, their personal relationships may be in turmoil: Austin's only relative when he returned to the Bay Area was a daughter he hadn't seen since she was 6 years old.

"I didn't have a clue what a cell phone was," Austin says. "I had very little money, very little resources. I knocked on every door, asked a lot of questions. I put one foot in front of the other, one situation after another. I started putting things together."

The majority of ex-offenders also are dealing with substance abuse problems. A study by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse estimates that 65 percent of the nation's 2.3 million state and federal prison inmates meet the criteria for drug and alcohol addiction.

Mental illness is another challenge. Lee struggles with schizophrenia, and continues to work with her doctor to find the right combination of medication to keep her moods in check. And, returning to school was itself frightening, Lee says. "I hadn't been to school in 26 years. I had really bad study habits."

Her story is typical: The institute's clients will likely consist of men and women who have not been anywhere near a classroom in years or decades. Not only do these ex-offenders have to figure out how to sign up for classes and apply for financial aid, they need to re-learn — or learn for the first time — how to study or write a college paper.

"The first semester was really hard," Ron Moss says about his first semester at Merritt. "I had always been an avid reader but studying textbooks is not like reading the paper. I had to start reading for learning, for the concepts."

**Getting to work**

The Street Scholars will work with the student parolees through the end of 2014. To become scholars, the five participated in The Gamble Institute's early programs, emerged as leaders, and expressed an interest in becoming mentors, as well as in research and growing the program, Marlow said. To prepare for their work, they received training in qualitative research methods and in focus group and individual interviewing.

Their coaching will include guiding students through a Tools for Success manual they helped compile. It is basically a workbook with exercises that ask them, through writing and discussion, to define ways they show self-love, contemplate future
goals, plan for academic success, and overcome thinking that leads to criminal behavior.

Marlow has told the scholars to keep in check their expectations about the percentage of mentors who will still be in school a year later. If only 1 percent of former incarcerated students at Merritt College now get their AA degrees, if we could get that number up to 2 percent, that will be a success,” Marlow says.

**Away to the future**

But the success stories, even if they number in the single digits, are pretty powerful. And those Street Scholars’ stories themselves represent those possibilities. Lee loves being in school and is focused on one day opening a residential program for people with schizophrenia. “I never thought I’d go to college,” she says. “It’s opened my eyes to other opportunities, and I can foresee my long-term goal coming true.”

Earthy Young is a true model of redemption who shares his story as a way of letting ex-offenders know that change is possible. Sentenced to 15 years to life for a homicide he committed in an alcoholic blackout, he talks about how prison “was a cruel place, and we always had to be on guard,” says the gentle-faced Young, 51. During his first years in prison, he was angry but then chose to stop. He worked on his spiritual growth while training in a range of vocations and gaining practice in substance abuse counseling and nonviolent communication. He calls prison his “college.”

In his first semester at Merritt College, he discovered an interest in sustainable building. He’s now working toward a degree online to get a job in the green industry. And, he works as a Street Scholar, where he believes he is making a difference in the community. “I want to keep doing positive things and moving forward in a good way.”

Ron Moss was never in prison but served stints in different jails over the years due to an addiction to alcohol, marijuana, and crack cocaine. He graduated from high school in upstate New York but never went to college because it wasn’t expected in his working-class neighborhood.

He was a functional addict for much of his life—working a variety of jobs, including as a liaison officer for at-risk youth at a Rochester public high school. After he and his wife moved to Oakland in the early 2000s, Moss was laid off from a job as a property manager, and his drug use escalated. His wife began praying for him to turn his life around. Amazingly, he did. At 50 years old newly sober, he enrolled at Merritt College. At first, his intention was to take computer classes to gain more marketable skills. “Considering the circumstances, I didn’t have anything to lose,” he says. “I was unemployed; my savings was shot. I was literally living from paycheck to paycheck.”

Long-time Merritt psychology professor William Love encouraged him in taking classes in community social services and substance abuse counseling. Moss earned his AA degree and is now a student in UC Berkeley’s School of Social Welfare, where he is also involved in a field study project working with at-risk male students at Oakland Technical High School. After earning a bachelor’s degree, he is contemplating going for a master’s degree and even a Ph.D.

“I learned to live more at school and connected myself with people,” he says. His mantra for the Merritt College students he will be mentoring: “I’ll tell them, ‘If I can do this, anyone can do this.’”

Marisa Ross is a feature writer for Bay Area News Group. She also is a former co-editor of The Monthly.
Instructor aiding Vietnam village

Man who fell ill on trip raises funds for clean water.

By Peter Hagarty

ALAMEDA — Danny Nguyen was visiting his native Vietnam and helping the victims of Typhoon Haiyan last month when he found himself in need of a little help of his own.

The 49-year-old Nguyen, who was staying at Ke Ra Vua in Thanh Hoa province, fell ill after he ate food that someone had washed with contaminated water.

The College of Alameda dance instructor was sick for two days. Five other people, mostly elderly, died during the six days he was in the area, Nguyen said.

He believes the lack of clean water contributed to their deaths.

"The water was just horrible," Nguyen said. "The people who live there have no choice. Drinking it is not good. Eventually, some people will not be strong enough to fight off the bacteria and other contaminants. I decided I wanted to help."

Nguyen is now raising money to build a well and create a filtration system for the people of Ke Ra Vua. His goal is to raise $100,000.

The dancer hopes to begin the work this summer when he returns to Vietnam. He also plans on visiting again at Christmas.

Nguyen's campaign comes as people are gearing up to mark "World Water Day," which the U.N. General Assembly declared in 1993 and which has been observed annually since then on March 22.

The event highlights the importance of water in everyone's lives and the need to conserve it. This year's theme is on the connection between water and energy, especially for people who are impoverished and live in places where a limited energy supply prevents access to safe drinking water or adequate sanitation.

"The main objective is to increase people's awareness and get them involved," said Cheri Barnette, who works with the Danang sister city development team in Oakland.

Barnette is helping Nguyen with his project to bring clean water to Ke Ra Vua, which is about 200 miles east of Hanoi and has about 5,000 people, including through contacts with non-governmental agencies.

"It seems appropriate that he's a dancer and he wants to promote safe water because he cares that especially in sub-Saharan Africa, Vietnamese government officials say almost 80 percent of diseases in the country are caused by polluted water, including cholera, typhoid, dysentery and malaria."

In Ke Ra Vua, most homes have a pond to keep ducks, geese and swans. Nguyen said, "Water to cook and drink is often pumped from the pond into a barrel, where it is not filtered.

"I want to help the people of my country who are very poor," he said. "My father passed away years ago. I decided, I would come back with resources to change things."

Nguyen believes he may be the only Vietnamese American who has ever visited the isolated area.

Barnette said. "They need our help. After watching how they lived, I decided I would come back with resources to change things."

Contact Peter Hagarty at phagarty@bayarea.news.com.
Instructor aiding Vietnam village

Man who fell ill on trip raises funds for clean water

By Peter Hegarty

San Mateo, CA
(San Mateo Co)
County Times
(cir D 23,381)

FEB 28 2014

Other Newspapers
Carrying Same Story

Instructor aiding Vietnam village

San Mateo, CA
(San Mateo Co)
County Times
(cir D 23,381)

FEB 28 2014

Instructor aiding Vietnamese village
Consultants' Prop. 8 support gives Peralta educators pause

A big-bricks plan to inspire employees of an East Bay community college district with management practices gleaned from "The Wizard of Oz" has hit a rainbow roadblock.

The problem: The consultants hired by the district were contributors to the Proposition 8 crusade to ban same-sex marriage in California.

The Peralta Community College District's journey down the yellow brick road began in January when its board voted to support newly installed Chancellor José Ortiz's plan to transform the culture at its Oakland headquarters and four campuses.

The first step was a $315,000 contract.
Prop. 8 support upsets educators

MORE FROM PAGE E1

tract for Partners in Leadership, a management consulting firm founded by Tom Smith and Roger Connors — co-authors of the New York Times best-seller “The Oz Principle.”

The book uses the characters from “The Wizard of Oz” to illustrate how a company’s success depends on managers being held accountable and not blaming others when things go wrong.

Earlier this month, 71 college district managers — who earn anywhere from $67,000 to $215,000 a year — were ordered to sit through two days of jargon-filled training, the first in a scheduled series of such sessions.

College staffers who decided to take a look behind the curtain came across campaign finance records showing that at least five Partners in Leadership employees had contributed to Prop. 8, the 2008 ballot measure to ban gay and lesbian marriages. The donors included the company’s co-presidents — Smith gave $2,500, while Connors contributed $500.

Faster than you can say, “There's no place like home,” Ortiz fired off a statement late Monday saying that “in light of this information, I have decided to reconsider Peralta’s relationship with (Partners in Leadership) until I have had time to further investigate the matter.”

Peralta spokesman Jeff Heyman says Ortiz knew about the Prop. 8 contributions, but not until after the college district awarded the contract. Then came our calls asking about the company.

“We have policies in support of the LGBT community, and we have to make sure the contract doesn’t run counter to those policies,” Heyman said.

A spokeswoman for Partners in Leadership said company officials weren't available for comment.
In March, with spring in the air, one has the sense that anything and everything is just around the corner. And if we look at the myriad events going on at our local community colleges, there is no doubt that a mix of anything and everything can be found this spring on the campuses of Berkeley City College, College of Alameda and Oakland's Laney and Merritt colleges.

Just down the street from the Cal campus, Berkeley City College leads the way with spring happenings. High school and college completion is the focus of an Academic Innovations workshop, "Launch Your Freshmen Toward High School and College Completion," from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 28. The workshop will be held in Room 421 at the 2050 Center St. campus in downtown Berkeley.

Founded in 1990, Academic Innovations is known for its nationally acclaimed career choices curriculum and cutting-edge classroom technology. If you have a freshman heading to college, don't miss this workshop.

Also at BCC, students in Stephanie Sanders-Badit's health education and health professions classes will host a semianual college health fair from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 27. Student exhibitors and representatives from public and private health care organizations will answer questions and distribute information. The event is free and open to the public.

If that doesn't stop there: Berkeley City College will also host the Northern California/Nevada National Student Advertising Competition from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 5.

The daylong event will be held in the college's auditorium and breakout classrooms. Students and others interested in business, marketing, design, public relations, advertising, media, writing, creative, production and photography are welcome to attend.

Each year, a corporate sponsor provides student competitors a case study that challenges students' critical thinking abilities and creativity. Teams research the product and its competition, identify potential problems and develop an integrated communications campaign. Each team pitches its campaign to a panel of judges who are communications industry professionals. Come out and see the latest trends in advertising! Contact Shirley Fogarino at 510-981-2852, for information about Berkeley City College events.

Reach Jeffrey Heyman at jheyman@peralta.edu and follow him at Twitter.com/JeffHeyman.
Draining the tank

Students push UC system to divest from fossil fuels, joining an international movement gathering soon in San Francisco

By Rebecca Rowe

When University of California Berkeley students Ohmbruck and Victoria Fernandez first made contact with the University of California Board of Regents, it was a far cry from the divestment campaigns they engaged in over lunch at the March 19 Regents meeting in San Francisco, as special guests called "Are you with the Regents?"

About a year ago, they were outside a Regents meeting in Sacramento and, joined by about 60 other students, symbolically locked to a pair of handcuffs, 10-foot-tall models of oil rig they'd set up outside the conference center.

"The idea was the symbolism of being chained to an extractive economy that's not sustainable," said Ohmbruck. The message they hoped to impart to the Regents was: "They have the keys to our fossil freedom."

Taking advantage of the public comment session to get their point across, the students were there to call on the Regents to divest UC investment holdings in companies such as Exxon, Chevron, BP, and others operating in the fossil fuel industry.

The campaign, Fossil Free Cal, is just one of dozens of student-led efforts nationwide seeking to convince campus administrations to withdraw funds from oil and gas companies as a way of curbing greenhouse gas emissions and fighting climate change.

Some local institutions of higher education already have committed to divestment from fossil fuels. Oakland's Berkeley Community College District, the Foothill-De Anza Community College Foundation, and the San Francisco State University Foundation have made commitments to divest.

But other prominent schools have declined. Last October, Harvard University announced that it would not honor students' request to withdraw investment holdings from the fossil fuel sector, saying such a move would "jeopardize the university as a political actor rather than an academic institution," and could "cause substantial economic harm." A student effort to have Brown University divest from fossil fuels also went down the tubes.

Divestment by California's flagship public university system would have a significant impact. UC Berkeley's endowment is $3 billion, while the total UC system endowment is $11 billion. Fossil Free Cal organizers estimate that about 5 percent of that money is tied up in the fossil fuel sector.

Beginning with the kick-off to their divestment campaign at that first Regents' meeting in Sacramento, the students' message seems to have resonated. In the time since, they've attended every Regents meeting, met individually with certain board members, submitted reports in support of divestment, and earned an official endorsement from the UC Students' Association, a student government that spans all UC campuses. Some individual regents have been receptive — but so far, the powerful UC governing board has not seriously taken up the question of divestment.

"We're worried about what our future looks like, and what they are doing with our money," said Ohmbruck. "We're saying, if we're investing in fossil fuels, we're inherently invested in the destruction of students' future."

Nationwide, the campaign to divest from fossil fuels is a proactive, youth-led movement hinged on a moral argument: Since climate scientists have said it is dangerous to continue burning fossil fuels at current rates, universities have an ethical obligation to withdraw support from those corporations sticking to existing business models for extracting and burning fossil fuels.

To argue their case, the students are highlighting a quandary. There's global scientific consensus that burning fossil fuels is the reason climate change is occurring, and this has led the international community to take action. In 2010, members of the United Nations agreed to take steps to prevent an average global temperature increase above 2 degrees Celsius.

But taking to the 2012 report issued by the Carbon Tracker Institute, a London-based think tank, the amount of carbon stored in reserves by the world's leading 200 leading fossil fuel companies is enough to trigger that temperature increase five times over, if all the reserves were extracted and burned. That would severely alter the global climate with dangerous and irreversible impacts, according to climate modeling scenarios.

In the new two semesters, Fernandez said, "We're highlighting a quandary. There's global scientific consensus that burning fossil fuels is the reason climate change is occurring, and this has led the international community to take action. In 2010, members of the United Nations agreed to take steps to prevent an average global temperature increase above 2 degrees Celsius. But according to a 2012 report issued by the Carbon Tracker Institute, a London-based think tank, the amount of carbon stored in reserves by the world's leading 200 leading fossil fuel companies is enough to trigger that temperature increase five times over, if all the reserves were extracted and burned. That would severely alter the global climate with dangerous and irreversible impacts, according to climate modeling scenarios.

"Our goal is divestment in the next two semesters," Fernandez said. "But taking into account the students' cycle out of the universities every four years, and Regents are appointed for terms lasting 12 years, she realizes accomplishing this goal might mean relying on newly engaged students: "Maybe our freshmen right now will have to bring it home."

Party members of the European Parliament are calling for a study last December to warn of the effect it could have on the pension funds, banks, and insurance companies in the European Union.

Even with the divestment resolution already passed in 106 college campuses, Ohmbruck said at the UC Berkeley Free Speech Cafe, named for the historic campus movement.

It may well go there, but at this stage, organizers are still hoping the Regents will take leadership in response to their campaign. Specifically, they're pushing for UC to drop all existing investments in fossil fuel companies over the next five years, and roll out a climate change-free investment strategy.

On April 1, organizers behind this effort will host 300 students representing 100 schools from across the United States and Canada, for a conference on the fossil fuel divestment movement. The two-day strategy session, at San Francisco State University, aims to strengthen the youth-led movement to fight climate change and get the economic and political supports for an effort against fossil fuels.
San Francisco, CA
(San Francisco Co) Chronicle
(Cir D 312,118)
(cir Sat 312,408)

MAR 2 ~ 2014

Alan's p.h. est. 1688

PLACAS: The Most Dangerous Tattoo SFIAP and Paul S. Flores in association with Laney College Theatre present Paul S. Flores' play about a middle-aged ex-gang member who tried to put life back together after being released from prison. 8 p.m. Thurs.-Sat.; $12-$40. 900 Fulton St. Oakland: (800)338-3006, www.sfiap.org

San Francisco, CA
(San Francisco Co) Chronicle
(Cir D 312,118)
(cir Sat 312,408)

MAR 2 ~ 2014

Alan's p.h. est. 1688

Ric Salinas is Fausto in "Placas: The Most Dangerous Tattoo," playing at Laney College Theater.
Tulips bloom at the Mountain View Cemetery on Piedmont Avenue in Oakland. The cemetery is hosting its ninth annual Tower Chapel Tulip Exhibition this weekend featuring many floral groups and florists displaying their best arrangements.

Tulips in spotlight this weekend

Mountain View Cemetery to hold ninth annual event

By Maya Mirsky
Correspondent

OAKLAND — Splashes of yellow, pink and red against the manicured green lawns of Mountain View Cemetery on Piedmont Avenue — if the month is March, it must be time for the local landmark’s annual tulip blossoming and exhibition.

For more than 40 years, tulips have been planted to create an oasis of color inside the more than 200-acre grounds of Oakland’s famously beautiful cemetery, and for the past four years floral masters have been invited to take the bounty inside with an exhibit of floral design.

"Flowers bring out happiness in people," said Dorreen Herbruger, customer service manager at Mountain View Cemetery.

The thousands of bulbs are imported from Holland and planted in January, later than usual, in order for them to bloom at the end of March, although weather also plays a major part.

"If it’s rainy, they’re not going to bloom," Herbruger said.

The tulips alone have always been

See TULIP, Page 5

IF YOU GO
What: 9th annual Tower Chapel Tulip Exhibition
When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday to Sunday
Where: Mountain View Cemetery, Tower Chapel, 5000 Piedmont Ave, Oakland
Cost: Free
Tulips in spotlight this weekend

By Maya Mirsky
Correspondent

OAKLAND — Splashes of yellow, pink and red against the manicured green lawns of Mountain View Cemetery on Piedmont Avenue — if the month is March, it must be time for the local landmark's annual tulip blossoming and exhibition.

For more than 40 years, tulips have been planted to create an oasis of color inside the more than 200-acre grounds of Oakland's famously beautiful cemetery, and for the past eight years floral masters have been invited to take the bounty inside with an exhibit of floral design.

"Flowers bring out happiness in people," said Doreen Herbruger, customer service manager at Mountain View Cemetery.

The thousands of bulbs are imported from Holland and planted in January, later than usual, in order for them to bloom at the end of March, although weather also plays a major part.

"If it's rainy, they're not going to bloom," Herbruger said.

See TULIPS, Page 5
Tulips

Continued from Page 1

The tulips alone have always been popular. But eight years ago, Herbruger was inspired to add a new element after paying a visit to the “Bouquets to Art” showcase at the de Young museum in San Francisco, where designers create arrangements inspired by art in the museum’s permanent collection. She realized that the annual tulip blossoming could be matched by a display of flower arrangements from master floral designers around the area.

“That way we can help the local florists,” she said.

Now, the event brings close to 5,000 people over the three days from all around the Bay Area, including field trips from schools, group trips from garden clubs and bus tours from senior centers. They all come to see the arrangements that will fill the cemetery’s Tower Chapel for three days.

Herbruger said the floral designers can do whatever they wish, as long as the display includes 30 percent tulips — and that has meant some pretty dramatic arrangements.

“I said, ‘Let’s go to town, do whatever you want within this space,’” Herbruger said.

One of those designers is Kay Wolff, a master floral designer and currently the chair of the California Certified Florist Committee of the California State Floral Association. Wolff, who also teaches floral design at Merritt College, looks forward to participating.

“I think it’s a great way to share the love of flowers that I have, and give back to the community,” she said.

Besides the chapel being open to the public for three days, Friday to Sunday, Wolff will hold two demonstration sessions. At 2 p.m. Saturday, she will demonstrate designs inspired by a fusion of the Japanese floral art of Sogetsu Ikebana and contemporary European design. And at 2 p.m. Sunday, she will bring students from her Merritt College class to show off their work.

“I want to encourage their own preferences in design, their own perspectives in design, to come through,” she said.

Mountain View Cemetery was established in 1863 by the Mountain View Cemetery Association and was designed by renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, who also designed Central Park in New York City. It is a popular place for visitors, who come for everything from concerts to jogging to historical tours.

The tulip exhibition is one of the most popular celebrations held throughout the year at the cemetery, and 15,000 postcards and 14,000 newsletters were sent out to promote it. Like other events at the cemetery, there is no fee for admission.

“All our events here are basically free to the community,” Herbruger said.

For the cemetery, it’s a way to connect to locals and let people know about the beauties of the secluded spot. And for Wolff, the response she’s seen to the flowers makes sense.

“It’s a happy thing — it reminds us of life,” she said.
Solano College baseball falls to Laney 7-4

The Solano College baseball team lost to Laney 7-4 on Saturday. The Falcons were led offensively by David Fernandez, who went 3-for-4 with with two runs scored. Trevor Faulker also had two hits for Solano. Solano hurler Dylan Dumaray took the loss.
Oakland, CA  
(Alameda Co.)  
Oakland Tribune  
(Cir. D. 152,739)  
(Cir. S. 156,163)

MAR 3 1 2014

Allen's  
P.C.B. Est. 1888

ALLEN TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

King III: ‘Go across the street and vote’

Still much work to do, son of slain civil rights leader says

By Lou Fancher  
Correspondent

OAKLAND — Youthful passion, profound music and the messages of Martin Luther King Jr. were the heart and soul of the Barbara Lee & Elihu Harris Lecture Series presentation Saturday at Allen Temple Baptist Church.

Freedom fighter, activist and singer Bettie Mae Pikes, the Allen Temple Unity Choir and keynote speaker Martin Luther King III, the oldest son of the late civil rights leader and Coretta Scott King, delivered a message: The work of his father remains unfinished.

After songs and salutations — and an introduction by Lee, who rep-

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King III

Continued from Page 1

resents Oakland in Congress, that rolled out like a post-MLK civil rights history — his son said, “Some thought, when (President Barack) Obama was elected, we’d reached a post-racial society. After six years, we see how divided we are. We’re nowhere near where we need to be.”

King graduated with a B.A. in political science from his father’s alma mater, Morehouse College, and went on to serve on the County Commission in Fulton County, Ga. He founded the King Summer Intern Program, an employment program for high school students, and Hoops for Health, a charity basketball game benefiting newborns suffering from their mother’s substance abuse during pregnancy.

In 2010, the nonprofit organization he founded, Realizing the Dream Inc., merged with the King Center in Atlanta, and he spread his father’s message internationally. Peppered throughout his career, his opposition to gun violence, police brutality and social injustice — along with commemorative activities honoring his father’s assassination — have buttressed his position as heir to his parents’ legacy.

“My dad and mom dedicated their lives to the eradication of three things: poverty, racism, militarism and violence in our society,” he said.

Warning of forces from drones that kill innocent civilians to financial institutions that lent money to “people they knew would never be able to pay back mortgages that flew from $1,000 to $3,000 in five years’ time,” King said, “We gotta stop saying we’re victims and blaming.”

Instead, he suggested, “Go across the street and vote.” Calling Oakland “a progressive city,” he praised Lee for “fighting, not just for people of color, but for people wherever they are mistreated.”

King’s energetic delivery circled around poverty’s peril. “It continues to grow,” he warned. Highlighting part of the cause — a criminal justice system he said incarcerates a disproportionate percentage of African-American men — he interjected bittersweet humor, paraphrasing the late comedian Richard Pryor, saying that prisons reflect the only “all you’ll find is ‘just-us’” in the system.

His father’s dream, he said, was well remembered. But left behind were the harder challenges the dream evoked: How can “out-violencing” another country lead to peace? Why won’t Congress pass gun reform laws? Why does money flow in, then out, of the African-American community instead of circulating?

“We must do better,” King said. Throughout his 30-minute oration, he echoed his father’s lessons. From “it doesn’t take masses,” to “we have to rise up,” to “if it falls upon you to be a street sweeper, go and sweep the streets like Mozart,” King said his father had taught him a choice was necessary.

“You can be like a thermometer,” he said, “a good device that records temperature, or you can be a thermostat, an empowered tool for regulating and controlling conditions.

If his overall message was that there remains civil rights and social justice work to be done, King suggested his hope arose from today’s youth. Thanking and praising Merritt College and the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center, co-producers of the series, along with Kaiser Permanente and other contributing sponsors, King said, “A nation is judged by how it treats our most precious resource. Our most precious resource is certainly our children.”

Jahari LaChaux, an administrative associate at the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center, represented the younger generation of future civil rights leaders with a rousing, fiery “call to peaceful arms.” Like the choir and Fikes, who told stories of being raised by her great-grandmother and demonstrated how she became known as “the voice of Selma” with her arresting musical performance, LaChaux appeared to have internalized King’s half-century-old messages.

Recalling the triplet of unjust forces, “racism, materialism, militarism assaulting people in this country,” he shared King’s “We can do better” challenge.
ALLEN TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

King III: ‘Go across the street and vote’

Still much work to do, son of slain civil rights leader says

By Lou Fancher
Correspondent

Pleasanton, CA
(Alameda Co.)
San Ramon Valley Times
(Cir D 42,641)
(Cir Sun 45,982)

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OTHER NEWSPAPERS CARRYING SAME STORY

Fremont, CA
(Alameda Co.)
Argus
(Cir. D. 32,400)
(Cir. S. 33,300)

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King III: ‘Go across the street and vote’

Hayward, CA
(Alameda Co.)
Daily Review
(Cir. D. 48,575)

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ALLEN TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

King III: ‘Go across the street and vote’