Headline Stories: Cabrillo College in the News for 2011-12

Breakfast with Brian
January 30, 2012
Storytelling: History, Identity, Culture, Memory

All College Day
Fall 2011

Online at cabrillo.edu/services/president/
School’s back in session at Cabrillo

By CHELSEA HAWKINS

APTOS — Filling seats in classrooms, students uncapped pens, leafed through course notes and cracked the spines of textbooks: A new semester and new academic year began Monday at Cabrillo College.

But even with the campus — and students — waking from the summer slumber, energized by the possibility of a fresh start, the reality of budget cuts is still being felt.

Brian King, president of Cabrillo College, said enrollment is down slightly from last year due largely to cuts passed down from Sacramento that limit course offerings and class sizes.

"The pattern you see everywhere is that the classes are very full," King said.
Editors like Lou Grant write the headlines.
Fish need water, Feds say

By Phil Hayworth
Alton attorney accidentally sues himself

By Steve Korris

Alton attorney Emert West filed suit against himself last week in Rockford County Circuit Court, choosing Centerre Title—all the company that West is president of—to represent him in the case.
Utah Poison Control Center reminds everyone not to take poison

“Children Act Fast, So Do Poisons” is the theme for National Poison Prevention Week, arch 20 - 26. The Utah Poison Control Center (UPCC) would like to take the opportunity to remind parents and caregivers that poisonings can be prevented. In 2004, the Utah Poison Control Center responded to over 50,000 calls, the majority of which were about actual potential poisonings.

Over 60 percent of the potential poisoning exposures involved children under age 6. The top five substances that children in this age group come in contact with included:

- Giving or taking medicine. Check the dosage each use.
- Avoid taking medicine in front of children.
- Never refer to medicine as candy.
- Clean your medicine cabinet periodically, safely disposing of unneeded and outdated medicines.

The UPCC, part of the College of Pharmacy, has an active community outreach program. In 2004, representatives of the Utah Poison Control Center provided 126 community presentations and distributed more than 40,000 poison prevention education materials state wide.
Like all of us, the media make mistakes once and a while.
Some information we hear isn't correct, technically speaking.

**Correction**

Due to incorrect information received from the Clerk of Courts Office, Diane K. Merchant, 38, [redacted], SW, was incorrectly listed as being fined for prostitution in Wednesday's paper. The charge should have been failure to stop at a railroad crossing. The Public Opinion apologizes for the error.
College Commitment

School districts, area colleges collaborate to improve graduation rates

By Susan Sweeney

Santa Cruz Sentinel

It's not unusual to see high school seniors filling out college applications, but for some in the Santa Cruz area, the efforts of more than one school district and at least one college will increase their chances of getting into college and staying put.

The Santa Cruz/Salinas Valley Collaborative has been working to improve graduation and college entrance rates by holding meetings for students and parents, providing counseling and creating a support network.

The collaborative meets monthly and includes representatives from the Santa Cruz and Salinas Valley school districts, Santa Cruz City College, Cabrillo College and the Santa Cruz Community College District.

"We're trying to make the transition from high school to college as smooth as possible," said Antoinette Bonilla, director of the Santa Cruz Collaborative.

Bonilla said the collaborative has helped students transition to college by providing them with information about financial aid, college courses and how to register for classes.

"It's not just about the student," Bonilla said. "It's about the community."
Major Initiative for 2012

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COLLEGE COMMITMENT

Cabrillo College
Breakthroughs happen here.
Only about one in four Cabrillo students completes a degree or certificate in six years.
90% of Cabrillo first-time students aren’t ready for college level Math and/or English.
What are We Doing Together?

• Aligning high school/college curriculum.
• Starting Early: Fourth Grade Experience.
• Creating a college going culture.
• Being transparent about the numbers.
• A scholarship for every senior.
Alignment: Cabrillo to host County-wide Board Meeting February 24th
Cabrillo to host meetings with our faculty and K-12 teachers from across Santa Cruz County

March 21
The Fourth Grade Experience arrives at Cabrillo on May 11, 2012
Cabrillo starts accelerated medical assistant program

By KIMBERLY WHITE
kwhite@santacruzsentinel.com

APTOS — Students enrolled in a new medical assistant program at Cabrillo College won’t have to fight to get the classes they need, and they’ll be able to enter the workforce in just two years, thanks to a two-year, grant-funded program.

Cabrillo is using the $350,000 grant to redesign the medical assistant program so students can complete it more quickly, all while learning skills local employers say they look for when hiring medical assistants, according to Pamela Sanborn, the department’s program chairwoman.

As part of that grant, the “Medical Assistant Learning Community” pilot program will begin at the Aptos campus Feb. 6, the first day of spring semester, with the first block of courses centered around learning essential math and English skills.

“Everything in the first semester is contextualized, so students are not just taking an English class, they’re learning how to write in charts, and they’ll be learning essential math skills that they’ll need to be medical assistants,” Sanborn said.

In the existing, open-enrollment model, space is so tight that it can take up to 13 semesters for some students to receive their certifications, according to Sanborn.

But with the new program, students enroll in blocks of pre-arranged courses — 12.5 units are required the first semester — and move through them together as a single group. And “for all the semesters they’re enrolled in the cohort, the block of classes they need to take is reserved for them, so students are essentially guaranteed spots,” Sanborn said.

About half of the 30 available spots for the spring semester are still open, and an orientation is scheduled for Jan. 26.

The all-day classes will be held at the Allied Health facility, which houses the college’s health-related programs, as well as the Stroke & Disability Learning Center.

The grant actually started last year, but administrators spent the fall semester developing the pilot program, Sanborn said. Three cohorts are expected to move through it through spring 2013.

At that time, the grant will end, she said, and the medical assistant program will have been redesigned based on feedback from students.

Meanwhile, when Cabrillo’s governing board meets Monday, members will discuss a 26 percent fee increase, from $36 to $45 per unit, that will begin in the summer. The hike results from $102 million in budget cuts to the state’s 112 community colleges.
Women's Educational Success gets $200,000 gift

The Cabrillo program that supports students on financial precipice receives largest donation in its history

By TOVIN LAPAN
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APTOS — Sara Hemingway has been attending Cabrillo College for 19 years. That may seem like a long time, but Hemingway, 36, has cleared more hurdles on her way to an education than most people face in a lifetime. On Friday at the annual luncheon for the Cabrillo Foundation’s Women’s Educational Success organization, Hemingway, for her fierce perseverance, received the first Emily Maloney Grant.

Maloney, an attorney who was a member of the philanthropic group and died in 2010 at age 80, left Women’s Educational Success $200,000 from her estate. It was the largest gift in the organization’s history.

Hemingway came to the U.S. from Mexico as a child and was later taken from her parents and placed in foster care. She gave birth to a daughter when she was 16.

She graduated from Santa Cruz High School and started attending Cabrillo College when she was 19.

Later, she got married and had a second daughter. Then, when her daughter was 2, her husband died.

She grieved and carried on. After four years on the wait list, she got into Cabrillo’s nursing program.

Then, during finals in November, she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

SEE GIFT ON B3

GIFT

Continued from B1

“I was like, ‘Seriously?’ ” she said. “I just lost my husband’s death and started the nursing program. Things had just stabilized for my family, and I had to drop out.”

She took a semester off, and chemotherapy sent her cancer into remission.

Started in 1997 by Cabrillo trustee Rachel Spencer and Peggy Downes Baskin, the organization raises money from women to help other women. The first year it handed out $1,000 in grants to students who needed emergency financial assistance for everything from textbooks to car repairs.

“The timing for Emily Maloney’s gift couldn’t be better,” Spencer said. This year, 314 donors gave at least $100, and the organization will cut checks totaling $32,000. Next year, the total endowment is expected to reach $1 million.

Many of the recipients hang on the financial edge, balancing jobs, children and school.

Heather Nicholls, 37, told the story of how her husband started using methamphetamine and she could stay in her studio apartment.

“Women’s Educational Success is an organization that pushes other women through hardship,” Nicholls said. “It’s about more than the money. It’s about knowing that there is a group of women in the community that, without even knowing me, were willing to help.”

Hemingway is back in school and should finish the nursing program this term. She is studying human biology and hopes to go on to medical school.

“I’m going to be a doctor,” she said. “I want to help people.”
NCAA Transfer Changes: Focus on Success/Completion
Cabrillo College and Career Night draws thousands

By CARMEN JOHNSON

College-bound students and their parents had plenty of information to wade through during the Cabrillo College and Career Night 2011 Monday.

Harbor High School student, Jenny Rodriguez, 18, was in search of a school with a focus in the medical field, possibly OB/GYN.

"I'm looking for a college that's most beneficial to me, one that offers more courses in the medical field and scholarships," Rodriguez said. "Besides Grand Canyon University, I looked into San Jose State; these two seem to be less competitive."

Rodriguez is currently attending Harbor High School in Santa Cruz and was among the more than 4,000 parents and students who attended the annual November event.

According to Melissa Brilho of the Cabrillo's transfer and career center, invitation notices were sent to local high schools and even some middle schools. This year, the event offered transfer workshops for those interested in receiving more detailed information.

The event, which also was an open house, featured representatives from more than 60 public, private and out-of-state colleges and universities. Tours of Cabrillo's facilities were also available.
BOOKSHOP SC TO HELP AT CABRILLO STORE

Interim deal aims to help chart return to solvency, plan for future

By TOBY LAMAN
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APLTO — Bookshop Santa Cruz has weathered many storms in the book-selling business through the decades.

The successful locally owned shop is shutting down the downtown Santa Cruz, opened in 1976, has adjusted its strategies to better meet customer demands in the digital age and watched this year as its biggest competitor, Borders, shuttered its Pacific Avenue store.

In July, Bookshop Santa Cruz and its owner, Casey Connery Prouty, announced that Cabrillo College plans to manage the downtown store.

Cabrillo College announced Monday that Bookshop Santa Cruz will manage the campus bookstore for the next three months, with other colleges on the books for the future.

“Bookshop Santa Cruz was one of the first companies we thought of,” said Vice President of Administrative Services Victor Lewis, who added that the college approached many bookstores and that the college’s strategy was to find a new management company that could work with them.

“we thought it would be a good idea to develop a relationship with them,” Lewis said.

Casey Connery Prouty works at the Bookshop Santa Cruz information desk on Monday.

Anytime you can form a collaborative relationship between two entities, it’s a win-win,” Lewis said.

Robin Ellis, who was the bookstore manager, resigned in late June after the resignation of the store manager.

The bookstore pays for marketing and distribution, and with lower fixed costs, the store can be more efficient.

The Cabrillo Bookstore, which began operations in late July, now has reduced hours as the college continues to transition to online and remote classes.

Expenditures at the bookstore have increased from $720,000 in 2017 to a projected $1 million in 2018, while revenue has declined due to decreased sales and decreased class enrollment.

This term, bookstores are closed during the first few days of class, which has limited availability and increased class sizes during the first term.

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Cabrillo unveils new vets center

Access to health, social and educational services streamlined

By TOVIN LAPAN
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APTOS — Veterans now have a “triage” center for social services at Cabrillo College, an effort to make the transition into school from military service a bit easier and more welcoming.

Cabrillo student and Air Force veteran Roderick Moreland, 24, helped champion the need for a Veterans Information Center on campus, and on Wednesday helped introduce the community to the center during a grand opening.

“This is triage for returning veterans, to link them up with health services, social services and educational benefits,” Moreland said from beneath a large white cowboy hat that shaded his bearded face from the afternoon sun.

“When I came here I had to talk to three or four people to figure everything out, and there really wasn’t much of a network for veterans. Now they just have to go to one place to get the information and assistance they need.”

Veterans of all ages attended the grand opening, and several took the time to thank Moreland personally for his efforts.

Capitola Mayor Dennis Norton, who attended the ceremony, received his associate’s degree from Cabrillo after returning from the Vietnam War.

“This is a great idea,” Norton said.

SEE VETS ON B6

VETS

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“When I was here we didn’t have anything like this, and it really is needed. It’s great for the veterans and their families.”

While the center is designed to help Cabrillo’s student veterans — there are approximately 200 enrolled this year — it is open to anyone who has served in the military.

The center will provide opposed wars,” Farr said.

“You can criticize the conflict and the decisions of the commander in chief, but when it comes down to the men and women in uniform, we will be 100 percent supportive.”

Farr added that 90 percent of those who have fought in Afghanistan and Iraq in recent years are expected to file for disability.

“Veterans are coming from a totally different place and totally different background from other students,” said Moreland, president of the students.

Rep. Sam Farr tours Cabrillo College’s new Veterans Information Center with student veterans Roderick Moreland and Benjamin Abel, second from right, Wednesday.
Cabrillo program to provide gifts for children of students

By KIMBERLY WHITE
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APTOS — Rudy Puente’s two young children were a little taken aback when they saw that Santa was handing out presents to only select children. Did they somehow make it onto the “naughty” list?

“They were kind of like, ‘How come we’re not getting any gifts?’” Puente said with a light chuckle. “So I had to explain to them that some of us are more fortunate than others, and we’re able to give a little bit extra.”

Since 2006, Puente, a college counselor, has been among the faculty and staff at Cabrillo College who have participated in the “Adopt-A-CARE-Family” project, whose goal is to provide gifts to children of students who come from modest means.

The parents are enrolled in the Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education program, or CARE, which provides services to single-parent, full-time students who receive assistance through various Santa Cruz County providers.

Veronica Leon coordinates services for CARE and its umbrella program, Extended Opportunity Program and Services. CARE’s budget this year is about $70,000, and those funds are used in part to provide meal and gas cards and child care services to about 35 students.

CARE operates under the umbrella of the larger, statewide EOPS, which gives a leg up to low-income students who begin their college careers at a remedial level.

And help paying for books and school supplies. Participants feel that they’re “part of a group on campus and part of a community, which is critical for those students to stay in school,” Leon said.

She launched the “Adopt-A-CARE-Family” project in 2007 so participating students’ children would not have to go without gifts during the holiday season.

all of the roughly 60 families who submitted gift wish lists were “adopted,” with EOPS director David Trevino, dressed as Santa Claus, distributing the gifts during a celebration held in early December in the school cafeteria.

The costs of hosting those events are covered by donations from Cabrillo’s faculty, staff and student body, as well as local businesses, which donate food, arts and crafts supplies, and raffle prizes.

On Dec. 9, dozens of children of Cabrillo students will watch in wide-eyed wonder as Trevino — decked out in a red suit and long, flowing white beard — pulls up to campus in a bright red fire truck, complements of the Apts/La Selva Fire Protection District.
What are Some Cabrillo College Headlines You Hope to See in 2012?
Continuing Excellence and Trying New Things at Cabrillo
The Tour of California Comes to Cabrillo Monday, May 14
What are Some Cabrillo Headlines We Are Likely to See in 2012?
EDITORIAL BOARD

MICK BLAESER: Internet Director
DON MILLER: Editor
SEIL CIRILLO: Community Member

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AS WE SEE IT

Higher ed’s paying customers

Spiraling college costs shutting out middle class

In a survey released last week, the Public Policy Institute of California detailed the decline in the state’s middle class.

A similar note also was sounded by President Barack Obama in a political speech aiming to build support for tax hikes on higher income earners.

The middle class that once differentiated our country and state from much of the rest of the world — where it’s often a few haves and mostly have nots — is under assault. And nowhere is that clearer than in the rising cost of a college education.

In a Sentinel column (page B7), union leaders and legislators point to a staggeringly high tuition that is putting a strain on one family after another as they try to pay their way through one of the state’s 114 community colleges.

The main driver in higher public higher education costs, however, is declining state support. UC officials cite a $830 million cut in state funding last year. Then there are higher costs in health care benefits, the pricing of keeping up with technology, salary increases, and restarting contributions to the pension system — with an overall impact of $1 billion in cuts and more.

About a quarter of all college students are work-study students. They are not alone in their struggle to pay the rising cost of a college education.
Cabrillo student shares 19-year story of domestic abuse

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH: Psychological effects linger long after violence ends

By TOVIN LAPAN
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APTONS — On July 29, 2007 Annie Lagunas ended the torture.
For 19 years her husband abused her verbally, psychologically and physically.
On that summer day she got into an altercation with her husband while on a drive in Monterey County. Two off-duty sheriff's deputies who witnessed the fight got out of their car and asked her if she needed help.

Lagunas was frozen with fear. Her daughter, not quite 13 years old, pleaded with her mother to leave with the deputies.
She got in their car with her daughter, and after nine previous attempts to escape, the

"He is behind bars for the rest of his life, but I still look over my shoulder. I'm still paranoid."

ANNIE LAGUNAS, domestic violence survivor

10th worked.
"He controlled me so much. I couldn't make decisions on my own anymore," Lagunas, 47, said. "That was my day when I became free. He is behind bars for the rest of his life, but I still look over my shoulder. I'm still paranoid."

Almost two years later, in June 2009, a court sentenced Aniano Olea to four consecutive life terms after convictions on multiple counts of torture, aggravated mayhem and criminal threats.

Still, Lagunas is still "in hiding," having changed her name and taking precautions to make sure he can never contact her again, even from prison.

Wednesday, Lagunas shared her story with fellow students at Cabrillo College. She also has filmed a segment for the "Dr. Phil" television show that is expected to air later this year.

Her talks are part of the healing process, as she finds her own voice and helps spread

SEE ABUSE ON B3

ABUSE
Continued from B1

awareness of a crime that often goes unspoken.
"I think it is under-reported," said Oceana Rivas, an

because he kept meticulous records of his violent behavior toward his wife. He photographed the results of the beatings, and even kept a journal of the daily abuse.
"It's not typical to find so much evidence in a case like communications professor Skye Gentle, has built up her courage to talk in front of large groups and share the horrific details of her case. She intersperses statistics and information on how to identify types of abuse with examples from her life.

In the spring Lagunas expects to graduate with her associate degree in human services. In the future she would like to open her own facility for victims of domestic violence, a place where people can take their children for extended periods and get

Cabrillo must Cut $3.1 million

Cabrillo College is facing another round of severe budget cuts for the 2012-13 year. After slashing the college budget by millions of dollars since 2008, Relief from Sacramento means Cabrillo is again facing difficult choices.
The Budget: Understanding Big Numbers
90% of Cabrillo first-time students aren't ready for college level Math and/or English.
get 50% off or half price, whichever is less.
Statistics show that teen pregnancy drops off significantly after age 25.

Mary Anas Tribble, Republican state senator from Colorado Springs (contributed by Harry F. Fumoco)
Collaborative Decisions: Working Together, Valuing Everyone
“If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.”
We make better decisions when we trust our critics to be sophisticated and fair, and when we expect our decision to be judged by how it was made, and not only by how it turned out.
Communications in Challenging Times: Honest and Clear
Do our leaders want to slash the budget and lay people off?
Budget Challenges:
Are we alone?
“For the sixty years after WWII, to be a mayor . . . or president of the United States involved, on most days and in most ways, giving things to people.”

Thomas L. Friedman
“As we move from distributing generosity to apportioning sacrifice . . . we will have to be much smarter than we have been recently.”
Accuracy is important.
How do we communicate complicated numbers?
$5 million deficit - $2.5 in reserves = $2.5 million to cut for 2012-13
If the tax increase fails in November?

$2-3 million in additional cuts for 2012-13 mid-year beyond $2.5 million by July 1, 2012
Key Budget Facts

• Our Faculty Obligation Number is 196.
• We’re very close to our enrollment cap.
• Fee increases, other enrollment threats . . .
• Could get worse, not likely to get better.
The Challenge: Cultivating Our Commitment to Successful Outcomes for Our Students and Protecting Job Security.
Reducing $2.5 million in Jobs: A Chilling Possibility

- 2-4 management positions
- 20 + classified positions
- At Faculty Obligation Number of 196
Cabrillo Board Goal #1

Student Success will be the priority in determining:

• Compensation and benefits for all employee groups that are sustainable and comparable with best practice for similar organizations.
Cabrillo Board Goal #1

Student Success will be the priority in determining:

• Staffing patterns that conserve resources to support student achievement.
Cabrillo Board Goal #1

Student Success will be the priority in determining:

• Allocation of resources to creatively address student needs and increase achievement of student goals.
Which Sacrifices Will We Choose?
Possible Alternate Choices

- 1% across the board salary cut = $450K
- Freezing health benefits increases = $575K
- Freezing step/column/longevity = $320K
- Changes to workload?
- All of these difficult choices involve negotiations.
As Negotiations Continue, Planning Must Focus on Only Area where Board Can Act Alone

- 2-4 management positions
- 20 + classified positions
- At Faculty Obligation Number of 196
What if the Board and Our Unions Simply Can’t Agree?

- Declaration of Impasse
- Fact-finding and mediation
- Arbitration and a decision
We make better decisions when we trust our critics to be sophisticated and fair, and when we expect our decision to be judged by how it was made, and not only by how it turned out.
Every student has a story.