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The double-meaning of commencement: saying goodbye and starting anew

The term ‘commencement’ conjures up notions of success, finishing, saying goodbye, and moving on. A commencement ceremony is a celebratory event which is also bittersweet, because it is a time for farewells and parting ways with teachers and friends. It is a moment of relief from all the stresses of academic life, an end to countless hours of studying, doing homework, writing papers, and taking tests.

But ‘commencement’ actually refers to the act of commencing, beginning. It signifies the start of something, and for the 1754 Coastline students who graduated this year, their commencement ceremony was the start to a new chapter in their lives. Equipped with their Coastline degree or certificate, students like Jacob Williams and Christina Hamilton will start at a four-year university to reach even higher educational goals. Jacob will attend UCLA in the fall on a full scholarship, and Christina has already started classes at Wayland Baptist University in San Antonio. Other Coastline students will use their degrees to go right out into the workforce, to pursue a new career field.

Coastline also looking forward to a new beginning this year. It will be the first full school year that our students can enjoy classes at three permanent Coastline campuses within the community. These campuses are located in Garden Grove, Newport Beach, and Westminster and all three campuses offer a variety of courses that can lead to a degree, certificate, college readiness, or preparation for transfer.

With the recent passage of Proposition 50, the coming year will also be one in which we rebuild and strengthen our program offerings. In fact, Coastline is offering 85% more class sections than last summer, and has nearly 6,500 more seats available for students seeking summer classes. This trend will continue for fall. Please help me spread the word that Coastline Community College, indeed, has classes—classes that provide pathways to degrees, certificates, and transfer.

Thanks to voters from within the Coast Community College District, we will begin to see the effects of Measure M this coming school year. Among other things, funding from this bond measure will be released to make a variety of improvements in the technology infrastructures at Coastline Community College, Golden West College, and Orange Coast College. Measure M funds will upgrade and strengthen our technology infrastructure to provide state of the art technology for students as well as innovative technology-mediated programs and services that support teaching, learning and student success. Coastline will also utilize Measure M funding to improve our student gathering spaces at many of our sites, because we know that a positive, welcoming, and comfortable campus environment plays a big role in student success.

This year, as we push forward to restore our class offerings, reinvigorate our campuses, and reconnect with you, our supporters, friends, and neighbors, you will witness that all things are done with student success in mind. It’s the core of Coastline’s Vision and Mission. Our Vision is “Creating opportunities for student success.” Our Mission is that “Coastline Community College promotes academic excellence and student success for today’s global students through accessible, flexible, innovative education that leads to the attainment of associate degrees, transfers, certificates, basic skills readiness for college, and career and technical education.” We do not simply write or say these words. We live them every day.

Thank you for your continued support.
Walk for ABI raises more than $20,000 for program

Coastline’s 7th Annual Walk for Brain Injury Awareness raised $20,302 for the Special Program’s Foundation. More than 250 walkers participated in the event that took place on March 23 at Huntington Central Park. If you would like to make a donation directly to the ABI program, or to obtain general ABI program info, call (714) 241-6154 or visit www.coastline.edu/abi.

Naming opportunities still available

The Coastline Foundation is still offering naming opportunities at the Newport Beach campus. This rare opportunity allows you to honor your family and loved ones with a monument to their life on a building overlooking the ocean in Newport Beach. Whether your gift is small or large, your involvement in the Coastline Community College Newport Beach Campaign showcases your commitment to your family, the community, and to higher education.

The following named-gift opportunities are still available:

- The Newport Beach Campus
- The Coastline Art Gallery
- The Rooftop Garden
- Veterans Resource Center (VRC)
- Courtyard
- ABI Program
- Gallery Corridor
- Student Success Center
- Walkway to the Future
- Kitchen
- Art Rooms (each)
- Activity/Multifunctional Room
- Conference Room (each)
- Reception Area (each)
- Benches
- Classrooms (each)
- Computer Labs (each)
- Science Labs (each)
- Counselor’s Office

For more information, contact the Coastline Foundation at (714) 241-6154 or e-mail foundation@coastline.edu.
Close to 600 women gathered at the Hilton Anaheim on Friday, March 1, for the first-annual Orange County Global Women’s Conference. The event—hosted by the Coastline Foundation which supports Coastline Community College—featured successful women speakers from a variety of backgrounds.

“It was a wonderful experience to gather so many accomplished women in one place,” remarked Mariam Khosravani, Executive Director of the Coastline Foundation. “We spent the day sharing our stories, learning from each other, and creating new friendships and connections we can utilize to further our success,” she continued.

Incorporating a diversity theme into each session, the one-day event featured creative discussions and presentations led by notable women, including Debra Bowen, California Secretary of State; Susan Samueli of the Susan Samueli Center for Integrated Medicine (SSCIM) at UC Irvine; Kay Napier, CEO of Arbonne; and CNN anchor and HLN writer Aisheh Namdar. Other notable guests included session moderators Congresswomen Loretta Sanchez and Mary-Christine “M.C.” Sungaila of Snell & Wilmer, LLC; panel speaker Lucy Dunn (President, OC Business Council); Consul General Maria Hellen Barber De La Vega, Consul of the Philippines; and Consul General Alejandra Garcia Williams, Consul of Mexico. The complete speaker list can be found at www.ocglobalwomen.org.

At a breakout session called “From Passion to Paycheck,” thriving female entrepreneurs shared their advice with those interested in starting their own business. Tina Aldatz—who founded Foot Petals, Inc. and recently sold a majority share of the business to R.G. Barry for $14 million—shared the following advice for aspiring business owners: “It’s good to know what you’re good at. It’s better to know what you’re not good at.” She recommended hiring out the work that may not be your specialty—be it publicity, accounting, or graphic design—so you can focus on the overall business. Aldatz also recommended side-stepping the traditional banks when it comes to financing your idea, seeking out private “angel investors” instead.

During lunch and following an internationally-focused fashion show, California Secretary of State Debra Bowen took to the stage to give an entertaining speech highlighting her history as a successful, professional, and sometimes single, woman. “I remember when they listed me on the deed to my home as ‘Debra Bowen, Spinster.’ A spinster!” she shared with an amused audience. “Back then, it was acceptable for the government to label you a spinster if you were unmarried and buying a house.”
She then recalled other incidents where she felt bullied or dismissed as a women working in the legal field or in the legislature. Undeterred, she remained focused on “what is right,” telling the audience, “It’s never wrong to fight for what is right.”

“The gathering of women from diverse backgrounds brought so much enthusiasm and joy, and shined a spotlight on the exceptional work of women benefiting their families and communities—both locally and nationally,” said Dr. Loretta P. Adrian, President of Coastline Community College. “At the end of the day it was fulfilling to see and hear the attendees energized and impassioned to continue to grow, pursue their dreams, and serve their communities,” she concluded.

For more information on a future event, bookmark www.OCGlobalWomen.org or call (714) 241-6154.
news from our campuses

Infrastructure and technology improvements planned

In the November 6 General Election, constituents in the Coast Community College District approved a $698-million General Obligation bond for Coast Colleges. The funds will be used to repair aging facilities and upgrade technology at its three colleges – Coastline Community College, Golden West College and Orange Coast College. Many of the campus facilities have been in use for over 60 years.

“This bond measure will give us the opportunity to provide modern facilities for the future,” said Chancellor Andrew Jones. “Technology changes very quickly and it is imperative that we are able to keep pace so that our students benefit from relevant and advanced programs and services. Measure M will help us provide that updated technology.”

The funding was identified as necessary after the District and its three colleges completed an extensive master plan for educational services and facilities, known as Vision 2020, and the measure passed by earning 55.9% of the “yes” vote in the November election.

Specifically, Coastline will utilize Measure M funds to retire any remaining debt from the construction of the Coastline Newport Beach campus, make college-wide technology improvements (both hardware and software), and renovate and enhance student gathering spaces at the Le-Jao Center campus in Westminster, the Newport Beach campus, and the College Center administration building in Fountain Valley.

Student Success Scorecards now available online for all 112 California Community Colleges

Student Success Scorecards detailing student outcomes at all 112 colleges, including Coastline, are now available online thanks to recent efforts of the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office.

The Scorecards present a variety of metrics clearly and concisely, and give college-by-college views of student performance. The scorecard enables users to easily track a college’s certificate and degree attainment and transfer rates, persistence rates and ‘momentum points,’ such as the completion of 30 units, which is typically considered to be the halfway mark to transferring to a four-year institution as a junior or completing an associate degree.

Each college will be compared against its own past performance rather than statewide averages or artificially created peer groups.

The link to a college’s Scorecard can be found at http://scorecard.cccco.edu. Coastline’s Scorecard can also be found at www.coastline.edu. To find it, click on “About CCC” from the home page.

SEWUP recognizes Coastline for safety in construction

The Statewide Educational Wrap Up Program Joint Powers Authority (SEWUP JPA), a not-for-profit organization comprised of over 500 California Schools and Community College Districts, recently recognized Coastline Community College for safe practices and minimal incidents/claims during the construction of the Coastline Newport Beach campus. SEWUP presented the award to the Coastline Community College District at a recent Board of Trustees meeting. Project construction manager, C.W. Driver, was also recognized. In the nomination form, C.W. Driver Superintendent, John Wedge, was recognized as someone who “spearheaded the safety efforts for this project and deserves a special kudos. His efforts to maintain a safe working environment resulted in this outstanding safety performance as evidenced by the statistics.”

Coastline students win scholarships from APIASF and Walmart

Five Coastline Community College students were recently selected as the recipients of the prestigious Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund/Walmart Foundation Scholarship. The students receiving the awards were Son Mai, Catarina Nguyen, Sophia Sourivong, Hung Ta (shown below) and an anonymous student.

The scholarships were made available to Coastline students as part of the APIASF Community College Scholarship Program. This program is only open to students at four community colleges in the United States. Besides Coastline, students at City College of San Francisco, De Anza College, and South Seattle Community College were also granted awards.

“This is the first opportunity for APIASF to have dedicated scholarships for students attending Coastline Community College,” said Neil Horigoshi, APIASF President & Executive Director. “With nearly 50 percent of Asian American and Pacific Islander students attending community college, this scholarship program provides critical access that many students need to pursue higher education and helps APIASF better serve the southern California community.”

“We are so pleased that our students had a chance to compete for these generous scholarships made possible by APIASF and Walmart,” said Coastline President, Loretta P. Adrian, Ph.D. “As a Title III institution, we serve a large population of minority students who are—for the first time in their family history—completing a college degree. Utilizing the funding from the scholarship, these students can successfully complete—not only their Associate degree—but transfer on to earn their Bachelor degree or even higher.”

To be eligible to win one of five, $5,000 scholarships, Coastline students had to be enrolled as a new, first-generation, full-time student in a degree-seeking program during the 2012-2013 academic year. They also had to be of Asian and/or Pacific Islander ethnicity.

For more information on the APIASF, visit www.apiasf.org or call (877) 808-7032. For information on scholarship opportunities for Coastline students, go to www.coastline.edu/scholarships or call (714) 241-6239.

Teens flock to Coastline for College Preview Day at Newport campus

Hundreds of high school students attended Coastline College Preview Day on April 24 at the Newport Beach campus. As part of the event, teens were able to drop-in on real college classes held during the event, including Art Gallery Production, Drawing, Psychology, Human Anatomy, and Physics. In addition to drop-in classes, these prospective Coastline students had a chance to tour the campus, talk with representatives of different college programs and services, and obtain information on registration and financial aid. All received a tote bag filled with Coastline info and a t-shirt, plus lunch from So Cal’s famous T.K. Burgers. For information on upcoming events, or to schedule a campus tour for your group, call (714) 241-6237 ext. 16427 or e-mail myfuture@coastline.edu.

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Half of Coastline’s graduating class never set foot on campus

Coastline graduated a total of 1,754 students this year, but more than half of the graduating class had never set foot on one of the college’s three campuses. They are members of Coastline’s unique student population that are stationed on military bases all over the world, and they have earned their degree entirely by distance learning, an instructional method the college is well known for.

“We’ve been serving the military for more than 25 years,” explains Nate Harrison, Coordinator of Instructional Services for Coastline’s Military Programs department. “It’s not unusual for us to meet our students face-to-face for the first time at our annual commencement ceremony,” he says.

Although the college has campus locations in Westminster, Garden Grove, and Newport Beach, Coastline has had a robust Distance Learning program since its founding in 1976. As an early leader in delivering instruction at a distance, the college soon took that expertise to the military and now offers education programs tailored to all branches including the Navy, Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Army National Guard and the Reserve Components of all the Services.

Military students from all branches joined civilian graduates at the annual commencement ceremony that took place in Garden Grove’s Don Wash Auditorium on Saturday, May 18. That day was also recognized as Armed Forces Day—a fitting, but unplanned, coincidence.

“They wear the uniform every day,” adds Harrison. “On graduation day, they look forward to wearing a cap and gown.”

For information on the Coastline Military Programs or programs for Veterans, visit www.coastline.edu or call (714) 241-6526.

STAR program students save money and transfer fast

As students in Jason Tyndal’s spring semester Philosophy 115 course pondered logic and critical thinking topics such as the fallacy of composition, students like Shiloh Green (left) were also reflecting on their rather logical choice of being in the course itself. The course, a required class in Coastline’s STAR accelerated program, is condensed into 8-weeks, a tactic implemented in STAR to help students finish—and transfer—faster.

“IT really like that they are 8-week classes,” said Green, “if they were 16-week classes, I probably wouldn’t remember what I studied in the beginning by the time the final came around.”

Green enrolled in the STAR program upon graduating from Edison High School in 2012. She chose to be in the STAR History cohort to complete her undergrad requirements within 3.5 semesters. Her goal is to transfer to Humboldt State where she plans to major in Environmental Science. In the STAR program, “I was guaranteed to get the classes I needed each semester,” she said, a benefit that was very valuable to her. Her classmate, Abigail Vega, is in the STAR Psychology cohort and plans to transfer to CSU Fullerton for a Bachelors in Psychology. Vega was formerly an Early College High School student, so she is used to the accelerated pace of the STAR program.

“IT program is great for those students who are determined and who don’t want to spend a lot of money on tuition,” remarked Green. “You can save a lot and still transfer in as a junior to a four-year college.”

For details on the STAR program, call (714) 241-6140 or visit www.coastline.edu/star.

Coastline Accounting student wins award from CalCPA

Coastline Community College student, Leonora Williams, has been named the winner of the coveted Outstanding Future CPA Award from the OC/Long Beach Chapter of the California Society of Certified Public Accountants.

The $1,500 award is granted annually to a community college accounting student who plans on transferring to a four-year university, has excellent communication skills and leadership abilities, possesses a GPA of 3.0 or higher, and is interested in pursuing a career in accounting in the local region.

“Leonora is one of the most outstanding citizens we have had the pleasure to welcome as a student member,” wrote Cheryl Collins, a representative from the CalCPA Scholarship Committee, in a congratulatory e-mail.

“Those of us on the CalCPA scholarship committee believe that Leonora will be successful in reaching her CPA goals because she has exhibited the drive and determination to make her dreams come true while also helping others find their way to a better life,” she stated.

The award will be officiated presented to Leonora Williams at the upcoming CalCPA Scholarship Ceremony scheduled for July 23 at The Center Club in Costa Mesa.

UCLA-bound student gives Coastline commencement address

On May 18, Coastline student Jacob Williams addressed hundreds of classmates at the college’s 37th Annual Commencement Ceremony held in Garden Grove. Jacob was selected from a number of applicants to represent the class of 2013 due to his community involvement and stellar GPA.

Jacob earned a 3.96 GPA and two Associate’s degrees in Business Administration as well as Behavioral Science. Although he is a showcase student today, Jacob explained that college wasn’t always easy for him. “I went to the exclusive Moorhouse College [in Georgial] fresh out of high school and just bombed,” he shared as part of his speech. “I was nervous going back to college,” he remembered, “but, I took my first class at Coastline and got an A, so I took another and got another A, and I was on a roll from there. It’s all about the right place at the right time, and Coastline was my right place.”

Recently, Jacob learned he was accepted to both UC Irvine and UCLA, with UCLA offering him a full scholarship. At UCLA he plans on majoring in African-American Studies with a minor in Accounting. He currently works as a financial planner for Prudential Financial in Irvine.

“I happen to have a job right now that I thought I would get after I graduated, but it’s still important to finish my degree,” said Jacob. “Now I’m just thinking, ‘what else could I do?’ and aiming higher than ever before.”
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