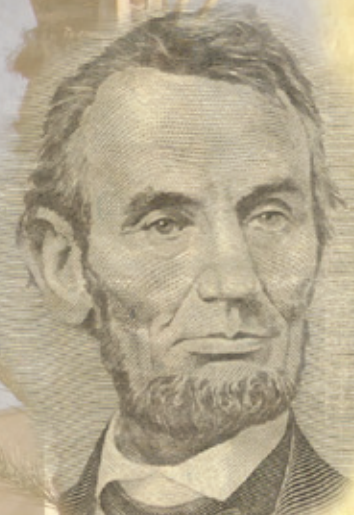


# The Summit

February 23, 2012 Volume 36 No 1



**Celebrating U.S. and  
Campus Presidents**

**See pages 7-11**

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**GROSSMONT  
COLLEGE**



# Students enjoy foods, sights of Chinese New Year

By Dylan Burke

There was line dancing, Chinese-style tea, drums, dragon dancers, egg rolls and fortune cookies out in the quad Monday, Feb. 6, as the World Language Department celebrated Chinese New Year.

Members of GDPT Hoa Nghiem, a non-profit organization, were out in the quad hitting the drums and line dancing, and entertaining the students with their dragon dance.

Kenny Nguyen, a member of the troupe, said, “It is good luck to participate in line dancing for the New Year in China.” Yolanda Guerrero, Chair of World Language, said that, “this is our first annual celebration of the Chinese New Year; we hope to have this be an ongoing tradition.”

Guerrero also helped distribute fortune cookies and both vegetable and beef egg rolls for the event. Jinhua Liu, another volunteer and professor at Grossmont, was helping to serve the tea when the *GC Summit* asked her about the holiday.

“In China, they do it to the extreme,” Liu said. “Everywhere it’s crowded and loud, with fireworks and drums and dancing. You can’t even hear yourself talking.” Unlike the western New Year, the Chinese New Year is celebrated over a 15-day period.

China has over 6,000 years of history, according to Liu. She said the Chinese were the first to use the lunar calendar, in which the year began a few weeks after the winter solstice.



Some well-known Chinese treats were served at the festival  
(Photo by Robert Sanchez)

According to Wikipedia, Chinese astrologers believe that people born under the sign of the dragon will be “magnanimous, stately, vigorous, strong, self-assured, proud, noble, direct, dignified, eccentric, intellectual, fiery, passionate, decisive, pioneering, artistic, generous, and loyal.”

Additionally, people born in dragon years also “can be tactless, arrogant, imperious, tyrannical, demanding, intolerant, dogmatic, violent, impetuous, and brash.”

Not only students of Chinese ancestry could feel a little touch of home in the Chinese New Year Celebration. Ruth Uzongu, an Igbo from eastern Nigeria, said her culture uses similar type drums that the Chinese do for celebrations.

While the event did not attract as much attention as it might have in the period before the Griffin Center opened, Guerrero said she already anticipates requesting another grant to hold a second annual Chinese New Year’s celebration in the Spring Semester of 2013.

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Two students in a dragon costume dance on the quad  
(Photo by Dylan Burke)

The Feb. 6 celebration marked the “Festival First Day” in what is now a “Year of the Dragon.” In a 12-year cycle, Chinese years celebrate the dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, pig, rat, ox, tiger and rabbit.

# Four-year-college recruiters parade to Grossmont

By Sean Asuncion

The cavalcade of recruiters for four-year colleges have begun their annual trek to the Main Quad, where they know they’ll find many students wondering where to go upon completion of community college.

I interviewed two of these colleges recruiters to see what programs, benefits, degrees, they offer and they were very helpful.

On Tuesday, Feb. 7, Denise Brousseau of Academy of Art University provided information that helped me understand the college that is located in San Francisco. She described it as one of the “largest art schools in the United States” with over 18,000 students.

The Academy of Art University offers 18 different art and design majors stretching from industrial arts to music production, Brousseau said.

She said the Academy of Art University is particularly known for its fashion, animation, game design, photography and film design programs.

Specializing as it does in the arts, the Academy of Arts University is likely to appeal to any student who is planning on majoring in anything related to the arts.

Brousseau said that many of Academy of Art University’s students became renowned people, such as “Chris Milk, music director for famous recording artists like Kanye West and Green Day; Alejandro Lalinde, cinematographer for famous recording artists like Ne-Yo, LL Cool J and Lil Wayne; and Lauren Conrad and Heidi Montag, actresses in the MTV series *The Hills*.”

For more information go to [www.academyart.edu](http://www.academyart.edu).

Alliant International University in the Scripps Ranch neighborhood of San Diego was the second institution I learned about when Raul Alcantara and Sara Hernandez staffed a booth on campus on Wednesday, Feb. 8.

They said that Alliant International University is a transfer-only college that requires students to have at least 60 units completed in order to transfer to their University.

Alliant is an international school with its base in San Diego and its branches stretching all the way to Hong Kong and Singapore.

Alliant International University is known for six Bachelor’s Completion Programs: Business Administration, Integrated Marketing Communications, International Relations, International Business Administration, Liberal Studies, and Psychology.

It also offers a variety of minors that are listed on their website, [www.alliant.edu](http://www.alliant.edu).

Alcantara and Hernandez stressed as a benefit of Alliant International University its small personalized and interactive classes. They said classes aren’t too hard to get, and that in some classes students are able to practice with real-life clients.

A result of the classes being smaller is students being able to interact with each other and faculty members more.

One well-known alumnus of Alliant International University is Jamie Foxx, an amazing musician and actor who has set his mark on the world of the arts.

There will be more recruiters coming to campus throughout the semester. Those who have already made arrangements to do so are listed in the *GC Summit* calendar, online at [www.gcsummit.com](http://www.gcsummit.com).

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# Students race to learn statistics

By Dylan Burke

Health Science Prof. Andy Timm, a specialist in instructional computer systems, had his students who usually meet in a classroom, assemble at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 14, at the Griffins football field and track to run laps.

The exercise was to gather information regarding the students’ heart rates, pulse rate, blood pressure and the amount of oxygen they were receiving prior to the run. After the run/jog was over, the tests were re-administered to compare the data. According to Timm, his students will take this data and analyze the statistics.



Health science students exercise on track in foreground as other students try out for football in background  
(Photo by Dylan Burke)

“We try to make sure the students get used to thinking about these things [blood pressure, heart rate, etcetera] and while we’re down here we’re able to sponsor the runners and raise money for our program,” Timm said.

Nurses at the event said in the case of a generally fit person, blood pressure will be somewhat higher for a short time after the run than it was before. A person who is out of shape, on the other hand, will experience elevated blood pressure for a longer period.

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# Griffin Radio promo comes in 2nd nationally

## Staff Report

Radio student Eric LaForest has won second place in the student audio competition of the Broadcast Education Association for his spot “Zombie Attack” promoting National College Radio Day on Griffin Radio.

The only community college student to enter the national competition, LaForest’s entry was one of 78 submitted nationwide. He will receive his award April 15 at the annual BEA National Convention.

“We are very excited that Grossmont College Students are recognized for their achievements at a National level,” said Media Communications Prof. Evan C. Wirig.

” I am almost as jazzed as Evan, because Eric was in my class too, which is a writing class,” said Michael Grant, the Media Communications department chairman. “All media begins with an idea, a piece of paper, and a student’s knowledge about what to do with those starting places, which will eventually involve print, video, audio, radio, and film, or some combination of these. Each time one of our students scores in this way, it gives all Media Comm faculty and staff pleasure in sharing in the achievement.”



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## It’s about time courts overturned Prop. 8

By Jenn Sanders

For at least the last four years a heated debate has been rampaging through not only California, but also the entire country. Proposition 8 has been beaten to death -- hopefully it will finally be allowed to die -- as to whether or not it is unconstitutional to prevent same-sex couples from being “married.”

On Tuesday, Feb. 7, Prop 8 was back in the California courtroom. This time a three-judge appeals panel declared that denying same-sex couples the right to marry is unconstitutional. In this writer’s opinion it’s about freaking time! Why in the world has it taken this long for California to legalize same-sex marriage when other states have already done so? That’s right, because gay people are not considered “people” enough to get married.

Just months before this horrid proposition was passed back in 2008 approximately 18,000 same-sex couples were married. Those few couples who were allowed to marry during those short couple of months are not and will not be affected by Prop 8, lucky them. For the rest of the gay community, we must continue to fight for the right to be considered human enough to get married.

What’s the next step? There is a waiting period of a few months, which allows the other side of the spectrum time to appeal the decision. If that does happen, which it more than likely will, the next step in this never-ending staircase is an 11-judge panel of the 9th Circuit Court. When we went to press, there was a possibility that those who back Prop. 8 would pass over the 9th Circuit and go straight to the Supreme Court with their appeal.

In the end all that matters is that equal rights have been restored and the realization that a family is a family no matter the sex of the couple. Once that happens, this fight will have been successful.

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## Ventura sculpts his boyhood dream every day

By Andi Laurvick



Al Ventura mixes it up!

Ceramics technician Al Ventura recently won the Chancellor’s Classified Senate Award for the last quarter of 2011. He was nominated by sculpture technician Tom Fox.

In Ventura’s honor, a conga line led by Chancellor Cindy L. Miles wove through the school and ended at his office with an engraved award and a gift certificate for Barnes and Noble, presented to him on Jan. 17.

Ventura has been a very involved individual in the art industry. He said he became interested in art as a young boy and continued to pursue it as a man. His college major was in art and now he has the opportunity to do what he loves every day.

He recently described the act of ceramics and pottery as very calming, and a great way to channel emotion. He and some art faculty members have helped develop the “Veterans Art Project” in which military veterans are encouraged to us their hands as a means to unwind with other veterans.

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## Professor Braunwarth tells choice for ‘best ex-President’

By Dylan Burke

Political science professor Joseph J. Braunwarth is reluctant to rate the nation’s Presidents, saying to call some good and others poor might compromise his objectivity as a political scientist. “I need to be neutral,” he said.

However, Braunwarth said he had no problem identifying his favorite former President-- that is the President who has done the most good in his career after leaving the Presidency.

In Braunwarth’s view, that would be Jimmy Carter. “His intellect may have been a poor fit for the exercise of power as President, but as a former President, he has done amazing work,” Braunwarth said.

“He founded the Carter Center which works for human rights. He assists in peace negotiations. He won the Nobel Peace Prize. He works extensively to cure preventable disease in developing nations. He has worked with Habitat for Humanity, etcetera.”

Like Carter, some other presidents have remained active following their terms. Bill Clinton has a foundation that attempts to eradicate diseases around the world and to combat other major problems. William Howard Taft went on to become a Supreme Court Justice. And John Quincy Adams served in the House of Representatives after completing his term as President.

Without rating the 43 men who have been our 44 presidents--Grover Cleveland being counted as the 22nd and 24th President -- Braunwarth said this about some of our nation’s Chief Executives.

“George Washington deserves credit for being one of our most famous presidents if for no other reason than he voluntarily transferred power at the end of his time in office. This is something that never happened in this way before, especially since he controlled the armed forces.”

Of Ronald Reagan, the political scientist said: “President Reagan was very successful in changing public attitudes toward government. As he famously said, ‘government is the problem, not the solution. His tax cuts and introduction of supply-side ‘trickle-down’ economics continue to shape the current political landscape and underlies many of the major political cleavages today.”

About the incumbent President, Braunwarth said “One thing that strikes me about President (Barrack) Obama is his efforts to elevate the political dialogue beyond intransigent ideological bickering. His resulting unwillingness to take a hard line against his opposition is one of the main criticisms toward Obama but it seems to me that we need to move beyond ideological partisanship which is the root of our problems and one of the main sources of popular criticism of government. Compromise is an integral aspect of democracy.”

Not everyone is a political science professor, but because presi-

dents of the United States preside over the affairs of our country, almost every American citizen has opinions, pro or con, about them.

I do, for example.

I really admire President Calvin Coolidge because he reportedly got nearly 12 hours of sleep every day while in office.

Going to college hardly is demanding as the presidency, yet I never seem to get anything like that amount of sleep, however hard I try.

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## Paul polls well on campus

By John Weber

According to my unscientific poll taken this month, there’s a wide disparity between the outcomes in the primary and caucus states that have had their Republican elections so far, and the way that students on the Grossmont campus would vote.

By mid-February, Mitt Romney was leading with 123 delegates supporting his bid to become the Republican nominee against Democratic President Barack Obama. He was followed by Rick Santorum with 72 delegates, Newt Gingrich with 32 and Ron Paul with 19, according to the Washinton Post. Jon Huntsman, who has since dropped out and endorsed Romney, had won two delegates. To win the nomination, a candidate must receive the votes of 1,144 delegates.

On the Grossmont College campus, where I interviewed 100 students at random, Paul received 42 votes, Romney 27, Gingrich 19 and Santorum 12.

So what makes Ron Paul so popular among young people? The Internet. Paul has become somewhat of an Internet sensation on icanhascheezburger websites, facebook, and twitter.

Most Ron Paul supporters on campus claimed that the U.S. and the Internet are doomed if Paul is not elected. Beyond that, Paul is one of the only Republicans (he is actually a Libertarian) who supports the legalization of Marijuana.

As the year began, it seemed as if the rest of the campaign would be a two-man race between Romney and Gingrich, with Romney winning New Hampshire and Florida in January and Gingrich winning South Carolina. But in February Rick Santorum pulled a major upset, winning in Colorado, Minnesota and Missouri, putting him ahead of Gingrich.

The month of March will have some of the most interesting results as most of the primaries are held at this time. Super Tuesday on March 6 has contests in 10 states in which 437 delegates will be fought over.

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# Streets, buildings foster memories of U.S. Presidents

Photos and story by Jimmy Spillane

SAN DIEGO --The President of the United States has always been a powerful position. The President is considered the leader of America and some would say the world. Although the President is only in office for a maximum of eight years, the effect he may have on our country is everlasting.

Three Presidents whose legacies in San Diego are noticeable are George Washington, John Adams, and Ulysses S. Grant.

In Mission Hills, Washington Street connects people all the way to the Hillcrest district. As you travel north you will cross the Washington Street bridge which was built in 1940.

John Adams is recalled especially in North Park in San Diego. When people have to mail letters, packages or even buy stamps they venture to the John Adams Post Office. Adams Avenue is one

of the main streets in the area and is a big part of North Park’s business district. Restaurants, bars, and local shops all line up like a stack of dominoes on Adams Avenue.

Ulysses S. Grant is more known to many as a great general in the Civil War but he was also the 18th President. His name is seen in different parts in San Diego. In Mission Hills there is an elementary school named after him. Trolley riders on the green line know of Grantville if they are venturing to San Diego State or beyond. Also downtown is the US Grant hotel which was built by his son Ulysses S. Grant Jr .

These Presidents will continue to interact with our daily lives even if we aren’t aware. Perhaps this will lead us to learn more about the great lives that they led.

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# Meeting Gerald Ford ‘a thrill’ for Ernest Ewin

Photo and story by Andi Laurvick

Ernest Ewin, development director for the Foundation for Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges, has been around politics for a good part of his life. He serves currently as a member of the La Mesa City Council.

Even so, he recently described meeting a former President of the United States as as big a thrill for him. He had the opportunity to meet former President Gerald R. Ford at a fundraiser in Rancho Santa Fe in the late 1980s. Expecting only a quick handshake and possibly a photograph with the retired President, he was able to engage Ford in a short conversation.

As he recalls the conversation some nearly three decades later, they chatted about their families and other common interests. But Ewin was also able to express his admiration to Ford for the way he had tried to pull the country together following Richard Nixon’s resignation from the presidency in the wake of the Watergate affair.

Ewin said to meet a President is a special gift -- especially when the President is a “real person” like Ford who tried to better the lives of the citizens.

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Ewin displays photo of himself with Gerald Ford

# Grossmont President Cooke weighs meaning of her title

By John Weber

The word “president” is used in many different ways. There are U.S. presidents, business presidents, student presidents and college presidents. All of these are presidents and yet what does it really mean to be a President?

Dr. Sunny Cooke, President of Grossmont College, offered some insight on what being the president really means.

“Being the President means leadership, not just in times of peace but in times of struggle,” she said. It’s easy to see how that might apply to U.S. President Barrack Obama or his predecessors, but it’s true also of people in Cooke’s position at public colleges throughout California.



President Cooke knows about struggle. Since 2008 colleges everywhere have been squeezed more and more out of their budgets and have been forced to make some tough cuts. Cooke says that she is hopeful that after the college gets through next year, when even more cuts are necessary, “things will get better...”

“It is sad when for the past four years we have seen a decline in funds and yet we are hoping that next year will be the worst.” Even though Grossmont has been feeling the crunch Cooke says she is very optimistic about the future.

“We are always planning for the worst but hoping for the future.” stated Dr. Cooke.

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# ASGC President Cheryl-Anne Phillips believes in ‘being there’

By Sean Asuncion

If it were up to Cheyl-Anne Phillips, she’d be shaking your hand right now.

You can hear the soft lilt of the Caribbean in Phillips’ voice; she was born and spent her childhood in Barbados, an island nation that prides itself for its friendliness to visitors. She returns there at least once a year.

If there’s a student event on campus, you can count on Phillips being there unless extraordinary circumstances intervene. As president of the Associated Students of Grossmont College (ASGC), Phillips says she tries to interact with as many students as possible. In that way, she said, she can better represent what students need and desire to the faculty, administration and the board of trustees of the Grossmont--Cuyamaca Community College District.

Besides serving as the student body’s voice, Phillips said her job is to help the student government set visions and goals, making certain that the funds that body receives from such sources as student fees and bookstore proceeds are used to enhance the students’ experiences at Grossmont.

The ASGC helps to fund various club activities and events. It also helps to administer some scholarships.

Besides the president, the ASGC’s executive council includes such other officers as vice president, comptroller, executive secretary of student legislation, director of campus activities, director of publicity and web-

master. Before her election as president, Phillips served as comptroller.

The ASGC constitution provides that the president shall:

- Determine, plan, and implement ASGC, Inc. goals for each semester in office.
- Chair and determine the manner in which all Student Board meetings are conducted in accordance with recognized parliamentary procedures.
- Appoint the membership of ASGC, Inc. committees, off-campus conference representatives and student representatives on institutional committees.
- Oversee all ASGC, Inc. committees in the absence of the designated chair.
- Delegate any other responsibilities to Executive Officers and Student Board.
- Chair the Constitution Review Committee and the Executive Board Committee.
- Serve a minimum of eighteen (18) hours per week for the ASGC, Inc. as defined by the ASGC, Inc. Bylaws.

As president, Phillips says she makes sure that the jobs and tasks given to ASGC members are done completely and efficiently. She said she tries to be always there to make sure that everything is going smoothly.

She adds that one of her goals is to make certain more students are aware that the ASGC is available to help them.

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# Sue Gonda: a woman who knows plenty about Presidents

By Matt Quijas

Sue Gonda knows plenty about Presidents. She is herself the president of the Academic Senate at Grossmont College, and a former President of the Women's History Museum in the Golden Hill section of San Diego. She also is a professor of American History, who teaches about U.S. Presidents. She shared her insights in this interview in question-and-answer format:

**What exactly does this position entail?**

The President of the Academic Senate is the elected leader of the faculty and is responsible for leading the faculty to make decisions about academic and professional matters. I lead the Senate meetings (of about 70 faculty representatives), bring the items for the Senate to consider, and report information to the faculty about the College and the District. I attend a variety of committee meetings with College administrators, faculty, and students, bringing the viewpoint of faculty to help in College decisions. I also attend District committee meetings with the same intent. Decisions are always made with the question: what is best for students?

**What are the similarities and differences of your job and the President of the U.S.?**

I work with a variety of people to allow the college to run smoothly, for decisions to be made, and for changes to occur, much like the President must do to run the country. The obvious difference, of course, is a matter of scale!

**What services do you offer me as a student here at Grossmont?**

The Academic Senate is responsible for all of the following five items:

1. Curriculum, including establishing prerequisites.
2. Degree and certificate requirements.
3. Grading policies.
4. Educational program development.
5. Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success.

In addition, the Senate is also responsible for:

6. College governance structures, as related to faculty roles.
7. Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes.
8. Policies for faculty professional development activities.
9. Processes for program review.
10. Processes for institutional planning and budget development.



**Are you my friend or should I fear you based on your job(s)?**

I am absolutely your friend! Everything I do is geared toward creating the best education and educational environment for students and student success.

**What President do you compare yourself to if any; are there any who have inspired you through the years and how?**

Well, when I'm not a Senate President, I'm a U.S. history professor. Therefore, I have a lot of knowledge about this particular question! Although it's cliché, George Washington is inspirational, because he had to be the first to do his job and set an example for future presidents. He constantly stressed the idea that he was the first among equals, rather than a dictator-like leader, and he believed that being president was a service to the nation. Likewise, my job as Senate President is a service to students, faculty and staff of this college. I also admire Franklin Roosevelt, who led this country through the worst economic Depression the nation has ever experienced. In our own terrible Great Recession, we've seen funding slashed to education and to Grossmont. Roosevelt was always willing to experiment – to find new ways of doing things that were “outside the box” in the hardest of times. I think that's incredibly important for us, and I've seen faculty and administrators do just that – find new ways of improving the education of Grossmont's students with limited resources.

**Do you think a woman will ever be president of the U.S.?**

Believe it or not, the first woman to run for president was in 1872! Her name was Victoria Woodhull, and she was a women's rights advocate and, with her sister, was the first woman to open an office on Wall Street. Women's rights have come a long way since then – after all, Woodhull didn't even have the right to vote! The really negative press that Hillary Clinton received when she tried to get the democratic nomination shows that people still have a hard time with that concept. There were more than a dozen cartoons showing her as a witch on a broom! That astounds me—really? In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? Despite that, I think we're not too far from seeing a woman president. President Kennedy broke the diversity barrier by being the first non-Protestant to become President – he was a Catholic, and people said no Catholic could ever get that job. President Obama has broken the biggest diversity barrier as the first mixed-race, African-American identified president. Anything is possible now.

**Was teaching something you always envisioned yourself doing, or did you intend to have a different profession?**

(Continued on pg. 11)

## Gonda...

(continued from pg. 10)

I really didn't know what I wanted to be when I grew up, but when I was 28, I went back to school anyway, because I could not stay tucked in an office – it didn't suit my personality. However, I SHOULD have known: I used to play “school” at home all the time when I was a little girl. I had a chalk board, and my parents got me two used school desks.

**How do you spend the little bit of off time you have, minus answering questions for news stories?**

I love the movies – I go to them, rent them. I watch the oldies and the new ones. I also love to read novels, walk the dogs, and spend my summers in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. And as a history nerd, I'm always up for visiting historical sites!

**What are you passionate about; is there anything in particular you enjoy doing such as hobbies or interests?**

I'm a teacher, but I'm also an activist. I am the former President and historian of the Women's History Museum, located in Golden Hills. I go out into the community once a month or so to give presentations – telling stories about women's achievements in history and about the obstacles they overcame. I really believe that children, and especially adolescents need to know more about what women have done in history. Wouldn't it be great if all boys thought it was normal for women to be leaders and to achieve great things? Wouldn't it be great if girls knew more about the thousands of role models? Look at the things San Diego is famous for

– and you will find a woman who created them. Balboa Park (Kate Sessions, who in 1892 leased the land for a nursery in “City Park,” and she began planting 100 trees a year.) The San Diego Zoo (Belle Jennings Benchley, who made a little Zoo into an international showplace. For 26 years she was manager, organizer, promoter, fundraiser, author, and an international leader in animal behavior and zoo administration.) I can go on and on...

**With your position I would imagine you are an inspirational individual. Are there any words of wisdom you can offer to the students, faculty, and staff at Grossmont?**

Follow your passion. If you're interested in something – do more of it. Take classes to learn about it. There's a book called *Do What You Love and the Money Will Follow*. It's really true. Let your passion guide your education – and then finish that education one class at a time. When I embarked on a BA and PhD at the age of 28, I knew it would take me a long time. I was 43 when I got my doctorate. You know what? I was going to be 43 anyway, G-d willing. I might as well be 43 doing something I LOVE to do. Every class was worth it. I love my life.

**Who is Sue Gonda?**

I think you have a pretty good idea!

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# Tattoos and the human canvas

By Sean Asuncion

Every day, every minute, and every second a tattoo is being made; a piece of precious art that can be erased but, many choose not to. Tattoos are made by inserting indelible ink through three layers of skin into the dermis where the ink bonds with the tissue and dyes it whatever the color of ink is being used. A needle is inserted electronically into the skin at about 50-300 times a minute; every time the needle is inserted it places a drop of insoluble ink. The sensation is similar to being scratched by a cat. Some places that are particularly sensitive to pain during tattooing are the head, ribs, and elbow.

Although professional artists charge between \$50 and \$200 dollars an hour for a tattoo, many can't put an exact price on tattoos themselves. After being made, tattoos become valuable pieces of art; tattoos hold sentimental value similar to a lifelong family heirloom. Tattoos are pieces of art that remind wearers everyday who they are, and can illustrate whether the person cares a lot about his or her family, has a hard or wonderful life, and is a terrible or good person.



Sean Asuncion's tattoo means his body is filled with music

(Staff photo)

sessions, rehearsals and performances. Music saved my life and I will never forget how music made me the person I am to this day. Every time I look at my tattoo, music just flows through my mind and body and I'll either sing or dance because I'm passionate about both. My tattoo shows me every day what I love and will always love; music.

Even though tattoos are valuable pieces of art, they can be a big part in determining a person's career and future. A person looking for a partner, temporary or permanent, will encounter two types of people: Those who like or dislike tattoos. A person looking for a job may have a hard time because this generation still has the old, anti-tattoo generation in a dominant position in the work force.

People of past generations often don't accept tattoos, believing them to be either unprofessional or dirty. Many people do not see the artistic value of tattoos and make life a little harder for people with them. In some cases, tattoos may determine whether a person receives a salary of over \$100,000 a year, or between \$20,000 and \$50,000.

Tattoos have a big risk but, many people would rather be with someone, or work in a place that accepts them and their bodies for what they are. A person may be thought of as a gangster through tattoos like tear drops, spider webs, dragons, or tigers. A person can be shown as artistic through tattoos like a microphone or a paint brush. A family man can be shown through a portrait of a child or parent. Whatever the case, tattoos provide priceless memories and reminders of people who played a big role in their lives, or of a certain event that happened that changed their life or certain items that influenced how they become the people they are today.

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Tattoos are made so wearers can show rather than tell who they are. Through tattoos people are given an open invitation to know one another. For example, Grossmont students Richard Ledferd's koi fish tattoo says, in effect, "I want luck and luck will come to me." Sasha Mollon's tattoo suggests "I love my dog as much as I love my own family," and Donovan McGee's tattoo relates that "My Mom and Grandma are the two most important girls in my life." Tattoos can illustrate the "5 W's and the H" of a person's life, who, what, where, why, when and how. Who are you, why are you the way you are, where do you want to be in life, how did you become who you are today and what place did you come from; all these questions can be answered without having to say a single word.

When you look at my tattoo, it can tell anyone who I am immediately; a musician who loves to write music and enjoys music in general. My tattoo is the bass clef, tenor clef, percussion clef, and a quarter rest in a straight line going down my right forearm in black and grey.

My story is when I was growing up I had a very depressing childhood, for many years I was bullied until I was able to beat up the bullies, I didn't get high enough grades so my family decided I would be the lowest ranking child and I wasn't able to get out of the house. I felt like a prisoner only waiting for the day I would be able to see freedom. The one thing that played a humongous part in my life was my music. When I put my headphones on I was able to escape into a world where I was happy. When I sing, I'm able to express my emotion in an artistic way that I can share with others. I came to know that music would be the only thing in my life that would stay by my side and never leave me.

Through music I became a lead soloist along with a few others at Morse High School's advanced choir, where I gained a new family. Many people suddenly knew who I was because I was known as the guy with vocals. People would come up to me astonished because they didn't believe a person like me had a voice at all. Girls would suddenly come up to me and ask me to sing for them. Music was my gateway to a new life, where I was able to be happy through jam

# Lady Griffins close out basketball season with a lopsided win

By Jimmy Spillane

In the women's basketball season closer, Nicole Harris led the way with 23 points and Stevi Cooper added 22 as the Lady Griffins blew out San Diego City College 77-30.

The Griffins jumped out to an early lead and never looked back. This was in part to the pinpoint shooting of Harris and Cooper. The basketball game was a mismatch as San Diego City College only played five players while Grossmont played all nine. By half time the game was out of reach for San Diego City College, however the second half was more competitive than the previous period. The break didn't seem to disturb Grossmont as all nine players scored.

Wednesday night, Feb. 15, at Griffin Arena was also a special event as Coaches vs Cancer took place. In this annual

basketball game, coaches wear pink clothing and players wear pink socks. There were also pink ribbons for those in attendance to help raise donations in the fight against cancer. Simultaneously it was "sophomore night," Grossmont's version of Senior Night. Coach Karen Caires recognized all seven players and their families with kind words and gift bags.

The sophomores who are leaving are Harris, Cooper, Eygiel Limbo, Ashleigh King, Shateara Henderson, Andrea Bird, and Darriel Hall.

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## Peer Counseling Club makes debut

By Jenn Sanders

Student here have many choices in campus clubs. One of the newest clubs was represented by Amanda Odish during the Inter-Club Fair on Tuesday, Feb. 14.

Odish said there are successful Peer Counseling Clubs on numerous college and high school campuses throughout the nation. All train students to counsel their peers. In other words, students help other students deal with any possible problems that may arise while going to school. Meetings are held on Thursdays from 11-12pm on the second floor of the Griffin Center.

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# Iraqi refugee masters English, cruises to 4.0 GPA

Grossmont - Cuyamaca Community College District Report

When Hadil Safar came to the United States four years ago, she couldn't speak a word of English. Through hard work and determination, she now has a 4.0 grade point average in her second semester at Grossmont College — and a bright future ahead of her.

Safar, 19, was one of the students honored Feb. 4 at the Grossmont College scholarship awards breakfast. She received a \$1,500 scholarship from the Foundation for Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges, the merged foundation now serving both colleges in the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District.

All of the students at the breakfast held in the Griffin Center had a moving story, many of them overcoming disabilities or a troubled home life to reach their scholastic achievements. Safar has come far to reach her academic success at Grossmont College.

She was born in Iraq and lived in a small town there with her family. In 2003, her young brother and one of her friends were killed by terrorist bombs. She and her parents, five sisters and a brother finally escaped the violence and fled to Lebanon, where they lived for a year until they were able to come to the United States.



Hadil Safar

Safar spoke no English when she started at El Cajon Valley High School, but that didn't stop her. She was on the honor roll every semester.

"I was ambitious and I studied hard," she said. "My teachers were so proud of me."

Safar also worked with residents at a care center who suffered from dementia. She said she would like to become a pediatric nurse, and plans to enter Grossmont College's nursing program before she transfers to a four-year college.

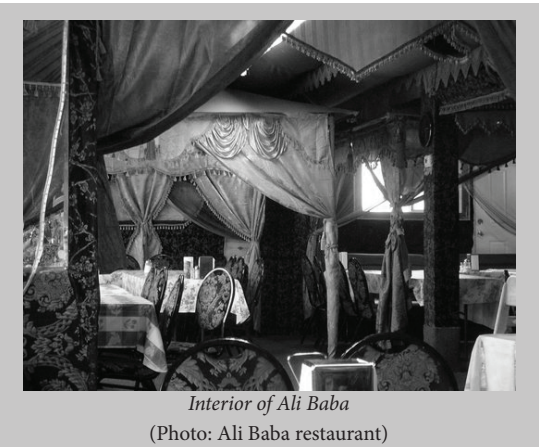
She had high praise for her instructors at Grossmont College.

"Their life is just to give — they want to give their knowledge to their students," she said. "They give us many opportunities to make our future brighter."

# Ali Baba Restaurant evokes legends of the Mideast

By Amir Al Tamimi

EL CAJON -- Who could know that a car wash business in San Diego could lead to the establishment of Ali Baba, a popular Middle Eastern restaurant in this city that, after Detroit, has the second-largest concentration of Chaldean Iraqis in the United States?



Interior of Ali Baba  
(Photo: Ali Baba restaurant)

The owner, who prefers to be identified as "Steve" because he fears for relatives still living in Iraq, arrived in the United States 20 years ago and started his his new life in Detroit. Then he decided to move to San Diego County after one of his friends suggested that the community here is becoming bigger every day. Ambitious to

make a financial success, he opened a car wash business with a couple of investors. Subsequently, he bought their shares to transform the car wash into a family business for his own .

After ten years of hard work and success, he decided to seek other business opportunities, including the Ali Baba restaurant.

The style of the restaurant's interior gives visitors the impression that they are sitting in a small tent in the wild desert of the Middle East, a tent filled with decorations and paintings. The ambiance is enhanced by Arabic music and belly dancing pictures, evoking memories of the imaginative stories from One Thousand and One Nights, as well as the ancient story of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves, who stole big treasures and hid in the mountains .

Steve's friends originally discouraged him from taking on the restaurant, counseling him that there were more secure investment opportunities in local convenience stores and gas stations — a sector of the economy to which many Chaldean Iraqis have gravitated.

Nevertheless, Steve pursued the creation of the restaurant, and, keeping in mind his friends' advice, made investments in other properties in the area so that he would have diversified income streams.

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# Grossmont celebrates couples who met on campus

By Jenn Sanders

How do couples meet? Almost every couple has a story they will happily tell if you ask them about it. Some met at bars while others were introduced by friends, and many met while going to college. On Friday, Feb. 10, Grossmont held a pre-Valentine's day dessert reception at the Health Science complex to celebrate the couples who met on the college campus over the last five decades.



Greg and Marlene Barr

The night was a huge hit for the 40 couples who were able to attend. It was a night filled with new friendships being formed and many others rekindled. A fine dessert table featuring chocolate and pastries was laid out for those with a sweet tooth, and live love songs were performed by vocalist Rachel Drexler accompanied by Steve Baker, Grossmont's Dean of Arts, Languages & Communication, and fellow musicians James Morton and Doug Booth. The musical theme was love songs from the past 50 years.

Rick Griffin, the public information officer of Grossmont College, who met his own wife Jan here, collected some of the stories from other couples: Wilfrid (Bill) Hopwood met Carla Cleeton while attending a bowling class in 1987. Married in 1989, they have three children—one of whom also attended Grossmont. Chris Crawford met Randy Lee in a beginning volleyball class. He continued with intramural games, and she became a cheerleader. Now they've

been married 30 years and have three children, one also attending Grossmont. "You never know," says Chris about her son, "He may meet his future wife there too."

Pauline Levikow spotted Tony Garcia in a Literature class but "it took two months for my future husband to talk to me." Then they spent an hour at lunch together and "in that short time I knew he was the one." That was 40 years ago, with two children and two grandchildren coming later. "Grossmont College is part of our family history," says Pauline.

Kate and Chad O'Donnell met after Chad started coughing up blood after a game that won him honors as Football Conference Defensive Player of the Week. He went to the on-site EMT where he ignored his malady long enough to ask the emergency medical technician for a date on his birthday. She agreed to go, only if he agreed to go to the hospital. He didn't go to the hospital and she didn't go on the date. But they saw each other a couple months down the road while taking summer classes at Grossmont and "from then on the love stuck," Kate said.

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Myles and Michelle Beauchamp



Bill and Carla Hopwood





# U.S., Allied Forces compete for pentathlon berths

By Matt Quijas

CAMP PENDLETON-- Marines and sailors stationed here devoted a week in February to honoring service members injured in combat from all over the world. It was a great opportunity for them to showcase their new facility for Wounded Warriors.



*Wounded Warriors grab some chow*

An international assemblage of Wounded Warriors gathered Feb.13 to kick off this year's Marine Corps Trials for the Warrior Pentathlon. The event is being hosted by the new Wounded Warrior unit located at Camp Pendleton, where a state-of-the-art facility for injured service members helps them transition into the next phase of their lives.

Competitors from allied forces included the French, British, Australian, Canadian, and, of course, American military. The warriors gathered for a Valentine's Day American barbecue, which was hosted by the USO, a nonprofit organization priding itself for its support of the U.S. Armed Forces. Among the USO volunteers were members from the Little Italy Community, members of the Jewish community including former Anti-Defamation League regional director Morris Casuto, and former Marines.

The Marine Corps Trials had the Wounded Warriors competing for spots in the Warrior Pentathlon which includes such events as Swimming, Cycling, Running, Shot putting, and Shooting.

Many high-ranking officers and enlisted service members came out to support the cause and week-long event. The servicemen and women lined up for their evening chow; smiles and cheers flooded the area as they waited for their hamburgers, pulled pork sandwiches, hot-dogs and potato salads. To their surprise they were offered an unlimited supply of apple pie, cookies, and sweets.

The experience was unlike any other; everyone involved could feel the sincerity of thanks and compassion in the air. Volunteers felt they couldn't do enough in comparison to what these brave men and women have sacrificed; there was that common unspoken understanding.

The Wounded Warrior facility includes a full gym outfitted for nearly any exercise imaginable; there is an outdoor pool; an underwater treadmill for low impact therapy; an outdoor wall for rock climbing.

There is also a Mental Health clinic on the second floor to accommodate warriors with "invisible" wounds. The goal was to put everything in one place that a Wounded Warrior may need from physical to psychological therapy.

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*Wounded Marines ready for bicycle event in pentathlon*

Photo Credit: LCPL Michelle S. Mattei