

CSM *Currents*

A community newsletter about the people & programs at College of San Mateo

Spring 2004 Semester Begins January 20

Fall 2003

Octogenarian student found his poetic voice at CSM

Ralph Lane Jr., a former University of San Francisco sociology professor, is a creative writing student at College of San Mateo and first-time author of a new book of poetry. He also happens to be 80 years old.

Lane's first exposure to CSM was in 1991 when, he says, he took an "impressive" literature course from Professor Gerald Frassetti. That motivated him to take a string of language arts classes, including a "dynamic" one in American literature taught by CSM Professor Linda Scholer. But in 1995 something would happen to give Lane's educational experience a particular focus: he discovered poetry.

The professor who inspired him was CSM's Bernard Gershenson, the person to whom Lane has dedicated his book entitled *Do I Grow Old? first poems*.

Lane says Gershenson has been a "gentle guide in helping me develop the poetry and making this first volume possible."

When Lane entered Gershenson's class eight years ago, however, it was short stories and not poetry that brought him there. That changed quickly as Gershenson had Lane and the other students write a poem a week for eight straight weeks.

The first poem he wrote for Gershenson's class is the first poem in Lane's book. And the opening line, "The question is do I grow old," inspired the book's title. Lane explains that the poem is a Pantoum, a Malayan form of poetry from the 15th century.

"I surprised myself by being able to write poetry," says Lane, adding that he hadn't written a poem since he was 16. "And I think I was successful at it. Bernard thinks that I should do a volume of Pantoums." Six or so appear in his book of 39 poems that cover a variety of subjects personal to their author, such as aging, spiritual development and inner growth.

Lane appreciates the "modest and laid-back" Gershenson's thoughtful approach to instruction, especially when he leads the class in discussing the students' work.

Lane offers an example: "He always begins by asking the class, 'What do you like about this poem?' And instead of saying, 'What did you dislike about it?' he says, 'How do you think this could have been made better?'"

A diversity of students

And what is Lane's take on his poetry classmates, all or most being younger than he? "The students I've encountered are extremely bright, mostly younger people, although there are some people approaching my age. I tend to be the most senior of the seniors. But I'm excited by that mix and, having spent my life in a classroom with younger people, I feel very much at home."

Donations to the College

Student Lane and his wife Joan through the Lane Family Charitable Trust are extremely supportive of CSM and its District. Their philanthropy in financially supporting free speaker and lecture series over the last few years at CSM has richly enhanced the learning of students.

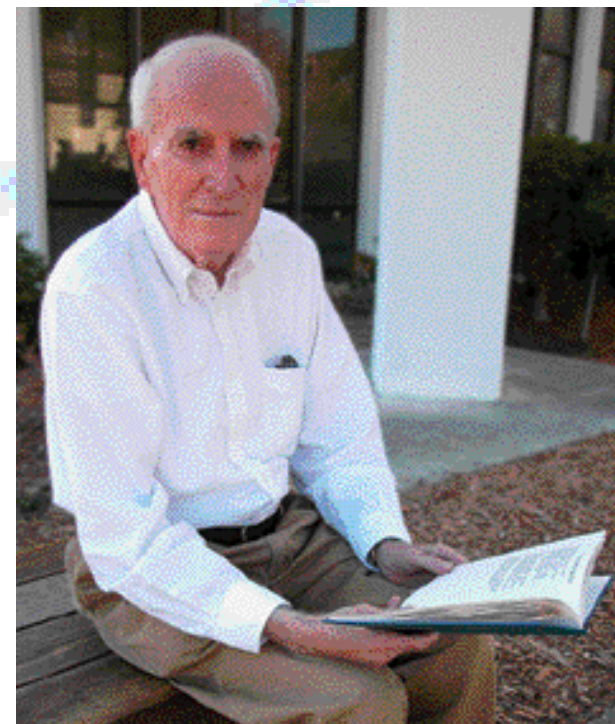
This fall's successful "President's Lecture Series: Diverse Voices in Writing" featured poet Tony Robles with illustrator Carl Angel and author Gail Tsukiyama. The campus is looking forward to hearing author Opal Palmer Adisa with the semester's final installment of the series in November.

President's Lecture Series: Diverse Voices in Writing

- Opal Palmer Adisa -

Thursday, November 20 from 11 am to noon in CSM's Theatre

"We wanted to make sure that the Language Arts Division under Dean Susan Estes got the kind of support that it needed," Lane says about the donations. "We all know that education is suffering mightily, and not just in this budget year... And my wife and I felt that this year's lecture series was something that we really would like to support year after year."



CSM student Ralph Lane Jr.

"I'd always wanted a stronger background in literature and later in life I got into reading the novels that I had wanted to read all along," he adds, expressing his reasons for wanting to give something back to CSM. "And I wanted some professional guidance, if you will, in understanding and appreciating literature. And College of San Mateo has given that to me."

Lane's book is presently for sale at the renowned City Lights bookstore in San Francisco.

CSM

- WEBSITE: collegeofsanmateo.edu • EMAIL: csmpr@smccd.net • PHONE: (650) 574-6161 • FAX: (650) 574-6680 • ADMISSIONS & RECORDS: (650) 574-6165
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New & Exciting Classes for Spring 2004

Business

Marketing (BUS. 180 WW) Distance Learning Online Course

This course examines the various elements of contemporary marketing, product/service development, distribution, promoting and pricing.

Contact: Tom Blinn at (650) 574-6522 or blinnt@smccd.net

Language Arts

Reading Across the Disciplines: Individualized Preparation (READ 415)

This course offers individualized instruction designed to help students acquire or improve reading skills. Offerings vary, depending upon the needs and abilities of the students.

Contact: Carol Wills at (650) 574-6612 or wills@smccd.net

Math & Science

Observational Astronomy Lab (ASTR 103)

Calling all stargazers: this course is for those interested in observing and imaging planets, stars and galaxies. Students will record data using telescopes, special cameras and a spectrograph.

Contact: Darryl Stanford at (650) 574-6256 or stanfordd@smccd.net

Physical Education

Cross Training Boot Camp (P.E. 683)

This course is designed to prepare students for a more healthy life, incorporating various activities, including weights, calisthenics and flexibility exercises.

Contact: Mikel Schmidt at (650) 574-6447 or schmidt@smccd.net

Social Science

Area Studies (PLSC 120)

Part of the Global Studies curriculum, this course will focus on the European community, with emphasis on politics, economy and culture.

Contact: Martin Morales at (650) 574-6496 or moralesm@smccd.net

Technology

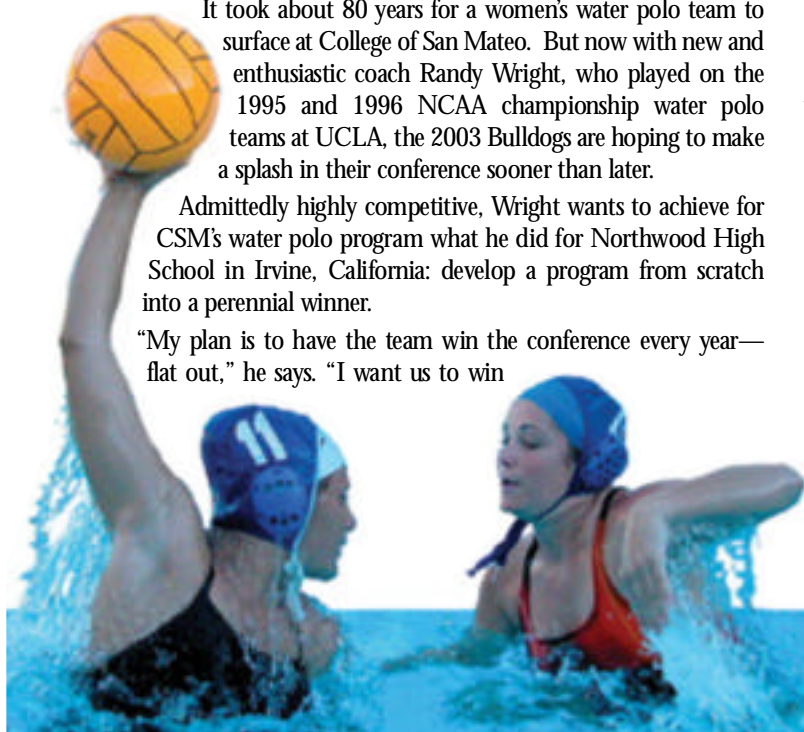
Mobile Electronics Installation (ELEC 680)

As one component of the Mobile Electronics Installation Certificate of Completion, this semester-length, four-unit course will cover the basic 12-volt electrical system, theory, installation and troubleshooting practices.

Contact: Kenneth Pizzi at (650) 574-6441 or pizzi@smccd.net

Enthusiastic coach leads way

CSM's first-ever women's Water Polo team



CSM water polo players Kellie Austin (left) and Sarah Gerhardt

It took about 80 years for a women's water polo team to surface at College of San Mateo. But now with new and enthusiastic coach Randy Wright, who played on the 1995 and 1996 NCAA championship water polo teams at UCLA, the 2003 Bulldogs are hoping to make a splash in their conference sooner than later.

Admittedly highly competitive, Wright wants to achieve for CSM's water polo program what he did for Northwood High School in Irvine, California: develop a program from scratch into a perennial winner.

"My plan is to have the team win the conference every year—flat out," he says. "I want us to win

the Northern California and state championships year after year. I want us to play the best teams, and eventually move into the Bay Conference, the most competitive in the area."

Wright's energy level matches his enthusiasm. Besides teaching four classes and coaching daily practices and two games each week, he scouts at and officiates high school games. He also coaches aquatic club teams.

"I have to be involved in a number of activities in order to recruit athletes into a new program," Wright says, who was hired at CSM in August, 2002. "As a club team coach, players get to know me and my style." In fact, one of CSM's water polo standouts, Kellie Austin, played on Wright's club team before coming to CSM.

Fortunately for CSM the number of recruits may be fairly large these days.

"Water polo is the fastest-growing women's sport in America," Wright says.

Certainly, in San Mateo County, the sport is popular. CSM administrator says that most high schools field water polo teams and so with its new program, CSM is offering an increased opportunity for female athletes in the community to pursue their athletic interests.

So Wright has a new program in a popular sport, but what about resources?

He knew coming into a community college at this time that he'd be working with a limited budget and so he and Physical Education Dear Gary Dilley have had to come up with creative ways to save money.

Continued - See Water Polo on page 4

Some 2003 Highlights--CSM Shines

Awards & Grants

◆ CSM's student team received the "Outstanding Excellence in the Arts of Diplomacy" award at the Far West Model United Nations competition in April.

◆ During the spring, CSM was approved for a \$20,000 grant from Oracle Corporation to fund a 20-hour math training program for local elementary school teachers.

◆ Counselor Modesta Garcia, also an alumna of CSM, received the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) Alumni of Color Achievement Award in March.

◆ KCSM's spring awards:

• Best of the Fest at the Rochester International Film Festival for the documentary, "All Games are Home Games"

• A Gold Award at the Aurora Awards for the college interactive course, "The Language of Photography"

• Named Station of the Year by *JazzWeek* magazine, and the station's music director Chuy Varela was presented with the Programmer of the Year award.

◆ In spring, CSM French language student Stephanie Fullen won first place in a writing contest organized by the Northern California Chapter of the American Association of French Teachers.

◆ Alumna Beatrice Godoy, a softball and basketball star at CSM in the early 90s, was inducted into the San Mateo County Sports Hall of Fame in June.

◆ This summer, the San Mateo County Workforce Investment Board awarded a \$161,629 staffing and training grant to CSM's nursing program.

◆ CSM Floristry students Masako Sakurai, Yoko Ando and Victoria Redman took first and Liane Benedict took second place in various categories at the Student Design Competition held in conjunction with the American Institute of Floral Designers' 2003 National Symposium in July.

◆ CSM staff member Nancy Pendergast received the "Women Helping Women" award in

May from the Burlingame-San Mateo-Mid Peninsula's chapter of Soroptimist International.

◆ CSM received more than \$50,000 from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Fund for Instructional Improvement for the Reading/Writing Connection, a grant that will fund the assessment of new curricula for an integrated reading and writing course.

◆ CSM Professor of Speech Communications Kate Motoyama received the 2003 "Stanback-Stroud Award for Diversity" for Area B of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) and has most recently been selected for this year's Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC) "Full-Time Faculty of the Year" award.

◆ The work of CSM student John "Spike" Lomibao was among the top web designs in a spring 2003 state-wide Economic Development Network New Media Awards competition.

In the Spotlight

◆ In the spring, the Houston Center of Photography exhibited the works of CSM Photography Professor Lyle Gomes.

◆ Social Science Dean Al Acena moderated a discussion entitled "Through Filipino American Eyes: 100 Years of History & the Future in America" in March at a Smithsonian Institution event in Washington, D.C.

◆ Christine Bobrowski, a CSM assistant professor of music, performed and spoke at the Sound Art and Science Festival in Spain, in January.

◆ CSM celebrated National Library Week in April with a number of notable activities including a presentation by author John Lescroart, a former CSM student whose legal mystery *The Oath* reached the New York Times Best Sellers List.

The Winning Ways of CSM Athletics

MEN'S BASEBALL: CSM reached the state championships for the second consecutive year last spring after ending the regular season atop its Coast Conference with a 22-2 record. Star pitcher Scott Feldman repeated as Pitcher of the Year, coach Doug Williams was picked Coach of the Year and center fielder Mike Mooney was named Most Valuable Player of the North

Division of the Coast Conference. The two stars were joined by four other teammates as all-conference first-team honorees. Community college All Americans Feldman and Mooney signed professional contracts with the Texas Rangers and San Francisco Giants, respectively. All other sophomore Bulldogs will be going to four-year universities or colleges, some receiving scholarships.

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL: With a 14-2 record, CSM was the champion of its conference and freshman pitcher Cassie Vanover was named the league's "Pitcher of the Year" and selected to the All Conference and All America teams. The Bulldogs reached the championship game in the Northern California community college regional playoffs.

TRACK & FIELD: CSM's Joan Brennan won the women's hammer throw at the community college state championships with a toss of 171 feet. At the 2003 Coast Conference track and field championship earlier in the spring, Brennan took first place honors in the hammer throw; Katie Isola was tops in the shotput; and, on the men's side, Ezra Kwong was the champ in the discus.

WOMEN'S TENNIS: CSM's Mugette Ahn was the 2003 California community college women's singles champion. Also this year, she and partner Liz Brito were runners-up in the doubles final.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: CSM made the playoffs for the third consecutive year. And this summer Casey Rodriguez, a star guard, received a full scholarship to attend Eastern New Mexico State University this fall.

FOOTBALL: CSM, at 4-1, was the fall 2002 Golden Gate Conference champion and received an invitation to play in a bowl game. The Bulldogs ended their season ranked eighth among Northern California community college teams. Also, CSM football coach Larry Owens was selected "Coach of the Year" for the second consecutive time and quarterback Hassan Noble was named "Offensive Most Valuable Player" of the conference. Eleven players made the all-conference team. As in 2002, six CSM football players received scholarships this year.

CSM helps woman turn her life around

Teresa Craven was one of 364 people who earned a degree at College of San Mateo during the 2002-03 academic year. Many have stories of hardship and challenge. Few, it is likely, are as compelling.

In May of this year, T.S. Mills-Faraudo of the *San Mateo County Times* wrote a full-length article on Craven, who reveals her past and what it took to lift her from a life of abuse, drugs and homelessness.

The following is a synopsis of the newspaper's story about the 35-year-old single mother, who graduated with honors from CSM and is presently seeking a bachelor's degree in fine arts and teaching credential on a partial scholarship at Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont.

Early years

Growing up in foster homes, Craven later became a teenage mother. She'd eventually lose that child to her former boyfriend because of her addiction to "speed."

"I came to a point where I lost everything," Craven said.

Life on the streets

Fighting a battle with drugs, Craven spent three years homeless, panhandling so she could buy drugs, and sleeping in alleys and parks. She overdosed several times.

"I thought if I died it wouldn't matter," she said. "I felt like no one would miss me."

Her drug use led to jail, but it was there that Craven decided to change the direction of her life.

The uphill road to CSM

Upon release, she successfully completed a drug treatment program. She got married and had two children but the marriage eventually broke up. But, when she started taking art classes at CSM, Craven's life really started changing for the better as the College provided financial aid and support that helped Craven turn her life around.

One example of that assistance came from CSM's Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), which helped Craven pay for books and provided tutoring, academic counseling and other services; the College also provided childcare when Craven was taking her classes.

"Without these programs I wouldn't have been able to go back to school," Craven said.

Said Ruth Turner, a CSM academic counselor and someone Craven mentions was particularly supportive along with Counselor Monica McCarthy: "I remember at first she just wanted an associate's degree. But

as she was approaching completion she asked 'how many classes do I need to transfer?' She's just a role model for a lot of other students who are struggling."

Fall 2003

Today, Craven is clean and sober. Her days are full with working hard in her college classes, caring for her daughters and volunteering at their schools, teaching arts and crafts.

I'm a survivor, and because of this I need to go back into the community and help others, Craven said.



Photo by John Green of the San Mateo County Times

Teresa Craven (center) with Spring 2003 North Shoreview Montessori School students Ana Villegas (standing), Josh Gittings and Tuitavake Kaufusi

Former student "gives back" to CSM with a \$516,000 scholarship

Peruvian immigrant María I. Cárdenas never forgot the open door she found at College of San Mateo in the early 1970s and she wanted future generations of students to have the same opportunity she was afforded. So, in a trust, the late CSM alumna established a \$516,000 scholarship for needy high school students who wish to attend the community college.

The 2002-03 donation is the second largest alumni gift in CSM's 81-year history and couldn't have been more timely with the current community college tuition fee increase.

Consistent with Cárdenas' wishes, the scholarships will be awarded to high school students from the central San Mateo County area with demonstrated financial need and promise as college students, with preference given to students whose ethnic background reflects that of the Hispanic culture.

At 43 years old, Cárdenas was among the 15 students to graduate from CSM's Manpower Training Development Act program in 1971. This accomplishment led to a lengthy career as a nurse's aide "until she could no longer lift patients," her biography reads. But she didn't stop working, and began caring for elderly convalescing patients.

"From all accounts, María was a remarkable woman," said CSM President Shirley Kelly. "We are fortunate that she remembered CSM with her generous gift but equally fortunate to be part of her inspirational life story."

The largest alumni charitable gift given CSM has come from the Lazarus family of Cincinnati, Ohio, beginning in 1979. So far, with a donation for construction and yearly payments from an endowment, the gift totals about \$900,000. The Mary Meta Lazarus Child Development Center on the College's campus was named in memory of the Lazarus' late daughter, a CSM graduate.

For more information on charitable giving, please contact the San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation at (650) 574-6229.

College partners with the community

Whether it is with private businesses like SBC and Electronic Arts, a public organization like the Federal Aviation Administration, non-profits such as the San Mateo County Astronomical Society and Peninsula HealthCare District, or the San Mateo Union High School District, CSM is searching for and forming partnerships with others in the greater San Mateo County area to provide better education to the community.

•Thanks to a recent generous donation from the **SBC Foundation**, CSM is offering the **Network Connectivity Technician Program**. The fast-track information technology initiative prepares students for entry-level careers in just nine months. The private business/community college partnership will enable students to learn how to build, install and test the connectivity hardware that permits computers to talk with

one another. And from there, they can step into high-level career paths such as networking, fiber optics or wireless technology. For more information, call (650) 574-6135 or 574-6228 or visit www.csmttechnology.com.

•CSM was recently notified that **Electronic Arts** in Redwood City has generously donated \$32,000 to the **SpringBoard to Careers Program**. SpringBoard to Careers, in partnership with CSM and the **San Mateo Union High School District**, provides opportunities for high school seniors to begin an occupational one- or two-year certificate program at the College while remaining enrolled in their home high schools. Graduating seniors will be prepared for employment with options to continue more advanced occupational preparation at CSM, or to explore other career and degree options.

•In September, CSM became the **Federal Aviation Administration's** only site in San Mateo County and one of only five in California to offer an **electronics technician program**. Students may participate in the three-phase training once they enroll in the College's two-year program, which offers a paid internship and possible employment with the FAA. The agency sought CSM as a quality-training source to more effectively hire electronics technicians. Before, the FAA would hire entry-level electronics trainees without much experience and send them to its academy, where 80 percent failed. Now, the training will be completed before hiring, saving the FAA time and money. For more information, contact Kenneth Pizzi at pizzi@smccd.net or (650) 574-6441.

•Since 2001, the **San Mateo County Astronomical Society** has been holding its first-Friday monthly meetings at CSM and has co-hosted numerous free, public astronomy events. Once such event was the "Mars Party," which attracted about 1,200 people interested in viewing the "red planet's" closest approach to Earth in 60,000 years. The College, with its **popular planetarium and astronomy classes**, is an attractive and logical partner for the star-gazing non-profit organization established in 1960 and dedicated to joining CSM in encouraging public interest, especially among youth, in astronomy. For more information, contact CSM Professor Mohsen Janatpour at janatpour@smccd.net or (650) 574-6272.

•To help reduce the shortage of nurses in San Mateo County, the **Peninsula HealthCare District** awarded CSM \$182,158 to expand the College's **nursing program** from 2003 to 2005.

President's Column

A message from
Dr. Shirley J. Kelly,
CSM President



Since our last *CSM Currents* "report card" to you, College of San Mateo has faced major challenges. As we are all aware, the State is in a fiscal crisis and I must acknowledge that in many ways this has been a difficult year.

At the same time, I am proud to say, CSM continues to improve service to students.

The College reduced its budget by 16 percent. The State raised the enrollment fee to \$18 a unit—still a bargain for higher education, but an added financial burden for many students. While enrollment held steady this semester, the budget cuts also resulted in fewer classes. However, faculty and staff did what was necessary to accommodate the demand. College Council—our primary governance body comprised of faculty, staff, administrators, and students—worked hard to make sensitive and sensible recommendations to meet budget constraints while preserving service to students.

Though we do not yet know what next year will bring, we will take positive action to preserve our traditions and the things we do well. Bond Measure C, passed by San Mateo County voters in November 2001, provides critical support to ensure that CSM will remain vital in the community both today and tomorrow.

The capital improvements underwritten by Measure C have begun to be realized. New campus lighting and road paving enhance safety. The child development center has been renovated as has our Choral Room, a small theatre facility frequently used by community groups. Asbestos removal has been completed in the gyms and new more "natural" and energy-efficient lighting has been installed. What's more, we will break ground by summer for an exciting new science building while another major classroom building undergoes seismic upgrades and modernization. Many, many other improvements are underway.

While the campus footprint changes, CSM's faculty, staff, and students continue to garner recognition for their successes, individually and collectively. I am very proud of my colleagues and their abilities to respond to change in innovative ways—as is so illustrated in this issue. I am confident that in partnership *with* the community and *for* the community, we will continue to improve CSM.

Good for the environment

Cogeneration facility on campus will save energy and money



Soundproof enclosure for CSM's cogeneration system

This August, a cogeneration system was installed at College of San Mateo that is estimated to reduce the school's energy costs by about \$300,000 each year.

"Not only are we going to save that amount of money, but we are doing something for the environment by using less fossil fuel to produce energy," says Virgil Stanford, CSM dean of Administrative Services. "We're pleased with the significant reduction in emissions that will result from our using the cogeneration system—it's equivalent to removing 175 cars from California's roads each year."

The system is expected to begin operating within the next few months, as soon as Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) completes all necessary connections, Stanford adds.

How does cogeneration work?

The cogeneration unit at CSM will work like this: clean-burning natural gas will be used to produce electricity. While the electricity is being produced, generators create "waste-heat," which the cogeneration facility captures and uses to assist in heating the College's water and buildings. In a traditional system, that heat is lost.

Stanford says that the system should reduce the College's boiler gas consumption by about 21 percent (138,000 therms) each year.

Electricity savings

Additionally, the cogeneration facility will produce lower-cost electricity, according to Robert Redlinger of Chevron Energy Solutions, a division of Chevron Texaco and the company that installed the system.

Per year, he estimates, the facility will generate 2.7 million kilowatt-hours of energy that would otherwise have to be purchased at a higher cost from PG&E, whose rates include the cost of transmitting and distributing over long distances.

Redlinger adds that the facility's electricity output, which can power some 560 homes, will amount to 46 percent of CSM's total annual usage.

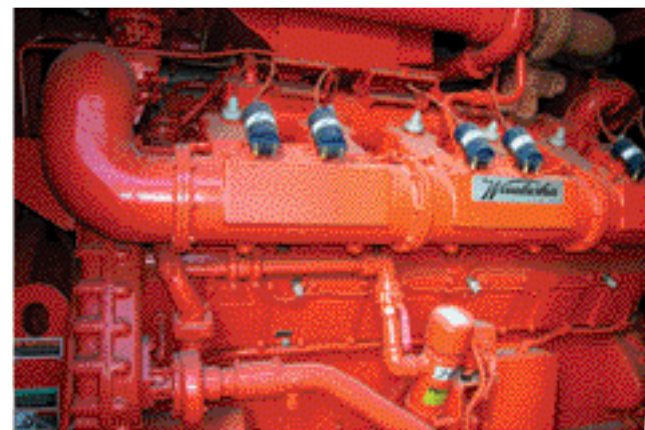
Stanford estimates that, with expected PG&E self-generation incentives, the cogeneration facility will essentially pay for itself in about five years.

Monies from the Measure C bond, passed in 2001 to fund such improvements at San Mateo County's community colleges, were used to build and install the system, according to José Nuñez, the executive director of Facilities for the San Mateo County Community College District. He and Linda Da Silva, the District's director of facilities, maintenance and operations, have spearheaded the cogeneration project.

The unit is next to CSM's facilities and maintenance in Building 7, away from the many buildings that are occupied by other staff, students and faculty.

But is the large-engine generator noisy?

"No," says Redlinger "While the engine itself is noisy, it is contained in a special soundproof enclosure and also utilizes a special hospital-grade silencer on the exhaust system. As a result, the unit produces only 65 decibels, which should not negatively impact the campus environment in any way."



Cogeneration engine

Safety

And CSM's cogeneration facility is safe.

"There is no stored natural gas or any other flammable or toxic chemicals at the cogeneration system site," says Redlinger. "The system also includes sophisticated safety and control systems that safely shut down the units during any kind of PG&E electric grid outage, thereby preventing any possible danger to utility workers."

With a new, safe and quiet cogeneration facility that saves energy and money, CSM is in a better position to continue on its primary mission to provide quality education to the community.

Continued - Water Polo from page 2

For example, on October 11, the team played a Saturday doubleheader against Fresno City College in Stockton, a neutral site about half-way between the two schools. By doing so, each team saved traveling costs by avoiding a game at the other's home pool.

Wright added that CSM English Professor James Carranza (a water polo player), friends and family have volunteered their time to assist in coaching to help build the program.

Now, two months into its inaugural season, the program has tallied a number of firsts.

On September 6, former high school league most valuable player Sarah Gerhardt scored the first-ever goal in CSM women's water polo history. On September 24, with leading scorers Gerhardt and Austin running the offense, the women's water polo team won its first game which also happened to be its first home game in CSM's 81-year history.

The team has set high goals, with the end of its first season drawing near. But whatever happens in the championship tournament in November, one thing is clear: with Wright, CSM has arrived on the women's water polo scene.



Randy Wright,
CSM Women's Water Polo coach

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