

## MSJC Mobile Career Center unveiled

By Pablo Ramos

In 2017, the California Community College Chancellor's Office, Workforce and Economic Division awarded Mt. San Jacinto College \$300,000 to enhance career education. MSJC administrators got to work in creating something that will not only help the community grow, but bring innovation to the college.

What came out of it is the Mobile Career Center, something that will give opportunity to places that are not easily reachable. This idea has been in development for the last year in from planning, creating the design, searching for the right parts, and providing a quality service for everyone.

The need for a Mobile Career Center was pitched when labor market data, assessments and district initiative showed a need for something that could fulfill employment-based preparation services for MSJC students and the community. The college district's driving force provides 24 career ready courses for students and anyone who wants an opportunity to succeed.

Keeping the driving force in mind, the Mobile Career Center was designed to provide employment training

and workshops for the community and MSJC students. The core vision of the Mobile Career Center is being able to transform students and communities' lives.

Creating the Mobile Career Center was not going to be a one-man job. It required a team of leaders who were capable of handling the task. Key members of the project were the VP of Student Services, Dr. John Colson; Executive Dean of Instruction/ Career Education, Joyce Johnson; Director of Strong Workforce programs, Avante Simmons; Dean of Academic Computing, Technology and Distance Education, Micah Orloff,

Project Leads Fred Madore and Job Developer/ Placement Coordinator of Career Education Carrie Tate-Meyer, plus other staff members were the key assets in the project.

They went to work immediately and found the right chassis for the vehicle, creating the wrap scheme, the color design, and implementing its technology. The project leads made sure everything was on time and within the budget.

Containing 14 computers and an interview station, the technology and design of the vehicle was made with the intention to fulfill the college's needs.



Photo courtesy of MSJC

MSJC officials gathered for the ribbon cutting of the new Mobile Career Center on the Menifee campus.

The Mobile Career Center was created to visit schools, participate in jobs fairs, community parades, and reach areas that will give nontraditional students an opportunity to succeed for their future.

"Whether you're at Mt. San Jacinto College to get a certificate, upgrade your skills or start your career, MSJC Career Education is here to help you succeed," said Johnson.

The Career Education is doing its best to get as many people to unlock their potential and get ready for their future. Who will take advantage of this new Career Center? Simmon hopes that this Career Center will give nontraditional students and encourages community building within the college's ecosystem. The team that is leading the Mobile Career Center is hoping to achieve a

few things with this new Mobile Career Center. One goal they have in mind is to provide quality career and employment preparation to those in need. In addition to this, they want to bring interest to those who are considering community college for a certificate or a degree and provide a strong workforce.

The goals are to mobilize career fairs, college fairs, workforce training,

etc. They hope to fulfill the needs of the workforce and employment preparation services, from educational communities to the general population.

Another main goal is providing these services to everyone for as long as they can run the Center. After one year of careful planning, the team is excited to go to new locations and reach out to others who want its benefits.

## Study Abroad program winds down

By Melissa Castro

MSJC's study abroad program will be coming to an end next semester and this will be the last chance for students who wish to participate in the program.

Students wanting to see the world while still working toward their degree will have the opportunity to do so in Fall 2019, beginning on Sept. 5 Nov. 29.

Students that have taken 12 units of college coursework from an accredited institution. Eligibility is determined by the campus coordinator, Linda Lang, and the application deadline is in early June. First-year students at MSJC that have 12 units also may be eligible, based on the approval of the campus coordinator.

Financial aid is on limited basis and is available through Citrus College. Citrus College should be added on the FAFSA for the 2019-2020 year and students should note that it will only assist with the expenses of the program. Students should also note they will need to enroll in Citrus College for the Fall



Students in the Study Abroad Program can visit London's landmarks.

semester. Those who receive Cal Grants should notify the California Student Aid Commission about the change for the upcoming semester to avoid losing eligibility.

Those interested should understand that flights to and from London and the United States, airline or passport taxes and fees, SCFC fees, textbooks, and

personal expenses will be separate from the program fees. A transportation package is available, however, through the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS). Deviating from the usual college dorm, housing can be chosen from homestays or apartments, helping students develop a close sense of community.

It isn't just all about

grades, though. Students have a chance to explore and sight-see London's famous landmarks and places, among them Buckingham palace and The Tower of London. There also is an opportunity to visit the Scottish Highlands and Edinburgh for four days and three nights, including housing, and meals can be purchased separately.

Optional cultural activities are another package that be purchased and involve various events happening around the city for students to have fun and immerse themselves within the music and cultural scene. According to London City Hall, it is host to four NCE-SO sites, the O2 Arena, the London Fashion week, and the world's oldest music hall, Wilton's Music Hall.

Besides getting to travel and study, the trip can change students for a lifetime. Katie Beardsley, a MSJC student who has been in the program, accredits it with being one of the best decisions of her life.

"A typical day living in another country for me was to get or make breakfast in my apartment with my roommate, go to school, have a lunch break at the local farmer's market or after school either go grocery shopping or exploring the beautiful city of London!" Beardsley said. "Almost every weekend my friends and I would travel to another country or enjoy

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## Castro helps students soar with STEM+

By Mahak Tiwari

Dr. Kyle Castro was associate faculty at Mt. San Jacinto College since 2014 until switching to a full-time faculty position in 2017. After obtaining his Bachelor's and Master's degree in Math from Cal State University San Bernardino, and a Doctorate of Math from University of California Riverside, Castro used his skills to influence students through his love of Math.

Castro always knew he was good at Math naturally, which made him gravitate toward it more. Originally Castro was a Computer Science major, and he saw Computer Science had a lot of Math classes. That fueled his decision to study Math.

"I don't think I wanted to teach [math] until there was one specific day where I was tutoring a large group of people who were studying different things and I was really connecting with people as I was

Cont. on page 7

### Comm. Lab opens

The new Communication Studies Center is a valuable resource on the San Jacinto campus.

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### 'Into The Woods'

The SJC spring production of 'Into the Woods' will be debuting end of March. Find out more.

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### Eagles basketball

The men's basketball team lost its playoff opener, but the women's team is headed for the next round.

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# Grand Opening of Communication Center

By Jesus Alcalá Avalos

The Communication Studies Center is now open at the San Jacinto Campus. The Comm Center can be found just left of the entrance to the Learning Resource Center, inside the library. Within the room, there are several computers, desks, and chairs.

The computers function just as those in the library and LRC. That means students have access to the library's printers and the programs necessary for school work.

All students are welcome to use the Comm Center as a place to complete homework and work on group projects. The Comm Center offers a convenient place for groups to meet without the distractions that a coffee shop might have. The room also allows groups to have normal volume conversation without the fear of causing a distraction to people in the library or the LRC. All a student must do is sign in as they would for the LRC.

The Comm Center is also a static and accessible meeting place for the Comm Club, The Talon, and the Forensics Speech and Debate team.

Comm Club meets every Monday at 1 p.m. The Talon meets every Monday at 1:30 p.m. Forensics meets every Thursday at 11 a.m.

The creation of the Communications Center was inspired by the work of Professor Suzanne Uhl, co-chair of the communications department at the Menifee Campus. Uhl wanted a space dedicated to supporting students with completing their communications courses and improving their communication skills. The space would support students by providing faculty and equipment that would increase their chances to succeed.

Uhl strongly believes in the importance of communication. In Uhl's words, "What good would it be, if MSJC graduated a bunch of geniuses who couldn't communicate?" People use their communication skills throughout their life, not just in an academic setting, so Uhl wanted a space dedicated to supporting and improving those skills.

Luckily for Uhl, a new building was being constructed at the Menifee Campus. The building had designated lab space, so Uhl requested a portion of the lab space for a communications lab. Uhl provided studies showing that students were more likely to succeed if they had support structures like a space for collaboration and access to dedicated faculty, like tutors.

Uhl was successful and received space for the project. Uhl remarked that the toughest challenge was securing a budget for supplies and a dedicated staff.

Initially, Uhl planned that the Comm Lab would primarily be used by students to record their speeches and then be able to evaluate those speeches. The lab was also going to be a media center, where students would be able to access course-specific media. Although the Comm Lab does get used to create recordings, the lab shifted to primarily be used by students to work collaboratively and seek assistance from faculty.

The lab is also used by club members on the Menifee campus. The Menifee Comm Lab has equipment that allows clubs, like The Talon and Forensics, to communicate and collaborate with students from the San Jacinto campus.

Uhl hopes that attendance increases, and that the lab becomes the central hub for all oral presentations.

Inspired by the work of



Photo by MSJC Talon staff

The newly opened Communications Studies Center provides valuable work space for students.

Uhl, Professor Ron Newman wanted to create a comparable facility for the San Jacinto campus.

"I wanted to create a space that would anchor Communication Studies on campus," Newman said.

Newman believes that a physical representation of the communications department would improve student participation, which improves retention, which results in graduates.

There was unused space within the LRC, so Newman argued that the space should be repurposed into

a center for communications. Newman cited the work of Uhl and persuaded the department to approve the Comm Center.

Newman has the same objectives for the San Jacinto Comm Center as Uhl had for the Menifee Comm Lab. Newman wants a place for students to be able to collaborate on their school work, record and evaluate speeches, view class media, and have easy access to faculty.

Currently, students are using the Comm Center to complete school work. Be-

cause the Comm Center is in the LRC, students also have easy access to tutoring services. Also, the offices of Newman and Dr. Michele Weber are located nearby.

Clubs are also using the Comm Center to meet and collaborate with their Menifee counterpart. Weber, advisor to the Comm Club and The Talon, has said, "It's nice to have a place where we can meet and work together." Weber has also been promoting the Comm Center to students of her classes.

In the future, Newman

hopes to expand the functions of the Comm Center. Newman is requesting a budget for equipment so that students will be able to record and evaluate speeches. Newman also seeks a budget so that the Comm Center can have a supervisor that can assist students with using the Comm Center's equipment.

Newman and Weber hope that the Comm Center becomes popular and an integral part to students, regardless of their major.

# Vargas shows the importance of history

By Mahak Tiwari

Professor Gary Vargas has been teaching at Mt. San Jacinto College since 2001. After obtaining his bachelor's degree in History from University of California Santa Barbara and his master's degree in United States History with two minors in World History and Latin American History from University of California Riverside, Vargas used his skills to influence students through his passion for History.

After completing his undergraduate degree, Vargas applied to graduate school where he said he had to face many tests and said that graduate school was easily the toughest of them all.

"If you're an academic and if you're a person who pursues higher education, graduate school is the pressure cooker you have to pass through to become a professional. It is really where you separate the people who can handle the demands of the profession and those who cannot," said Vargas.

"I was warned not to try to work while going through graduate school since it tends to consume you as a whole. I believe that to be true. But I was lucky to go on a full scholarship, so I didn't have to work my way through graduate school despite it being the ultimate stress test challenge of my lifetime."

One of Vargas's favorite professors in graduate school was Roger Ransom, who was a professor of US History at UC Riverside.

"Roger had that wonderful gift of both raising your knowledge level while being wonderfully charming and entertaining. It was such a pleasure being in Roger's presence and listening to him talk about US History. He was very kind and generous," said Vargas.

As the Department Chair of History at the Menifee Valley Campus, Vargas teaches his students by incorporating his past life experiences while teaching and having fun "I've had many, many life experiences that I bring to my lectures and I am not afraid or embarrassed to even talk about things like experimenting with drugs, because that was a part of my life and it is a part of my student's lives," said Vargas. "I think that it is a valid way to learn. I will draw upon any experience I've had in life if I can make a connection to what kind of history I am teaching at that moment, which I strive to do a lot in all of my classes."

He understands why people are saying that history as an academic subject is being increasingly irrelevant because of the focus on STEM. The liberal arts are seen as less productive in the workplace and in terms of acquiring an education. The study of history is also being seen as less effective when it comes to earning money.

Vargas argues that if people acquire the mental skills that historians have, it will make their performance in any other job to be better. His teaching style and philosophy both em-



Photo by Mahak Tiwari

Professor Gary Vargas

brace the concept that you should teach who you are.

"The kinds of lectures I give are really a product of my temperament, my personality, and what I think I do well," said Vargas. "The way I teach is not how it is supposed to be like for a typical instructor or what is expected in a college setting. I see lecturing as a performance art. It is a part of my job to keep my students informed and engaged, if not entertained. My philosophy is to be yourself when you teach and for it to be an added extension to your personality and to be able to use whatever personal creativity you have to teach any kind of subject."

When asked about some of his greatest strengths as an instructor, Vargas credits his verbal skills and his belief of communicating with

any kind of person on any kind of topic with a heavy dose of humor added.

"My greatest strength is what used to be called the 'gift of gab', which is the ability to talk about anything, to anyone, at any time," Vargas said. "I use that in my lectures in order for my students to feel as if I am having a conversation with them by expressing myself through history."

He further talks about how the gift of gab is something he cannot change, considering it is organic in the sense that he is an attention deficit disorder type of individual which contributes to his focus issues and how his time management isn't his strong suit.

"My time management is not the best and I often stray off-topic. So, I think that if there is anything that

I can improve on, it is to try to be more efficient with my time and being more precise in how I tend to explain things," said Vargas.

"I feel very deeply about teaching and I give everything to it that I can give. I think what impacts me the most is the strong desire to do the most I can for people which is an impossible task that you can never fully accomplish. I know a lot of people say that they wish that there were more hours in the day but there is so much more that I would like to be doing alongside of giving plenty to my students than I usually have time for."

What drives Vargas is his love for people.

"I find people fascinating – all kinds," he said.

His temperament plays a part in wanting to help people.

"I think that those are really good qualities for teaching because you are exposed to such a wide variety of students and we really are here to serve our students – especially in a contemporary educational setting which eventually empowers the student," he said.

"We are really here to serve our students and make their needs primary. The saying nowadays is that the most important thing is what they learn, not how you teach. If your students aren't learning, then you aren't teaching well," stated Vargas.

But when it comes to managing other responsibilities, he finds that he tends to not juggle well.

"I am really good with what is right in front of me, but I often lose sight of others on my schedule," he said. "The way I manage things is to throw a ton of effort into them. I am blessed with having a lot of energy and I am a workaholic, which makes me to go into stuff all in, all the time and somehow, it gets done. So, I am kind of a shotgun [rather] than a pistol."

Vargas is also a big fan of Jimi Hendrix and uses him as an example in his classes while lecturing quite frequently.

"For me, Jimi Hendrix has the most influential and strongest voice of the many that inspired me," Vargas said. "What is great about Jimi is that he also gives me wisdom alongside of enjoying his music at the same time. He is a great teacher who teaches through his own life experiences and does it in such a way that is fun, exciting, deep, and moving."

"His music and words move me. Like a movie or special food, Jimi takes me somewhere special and only he can get me there. Because, for those of us that really love his music (in the way that I do), it goes beyond what most people associate with music to become, almost like a form of philosophy or religion. And so, we never get tired of listening to him. Every time we listen to one of his songs, no matter how many times we listen to it, it resonates to us by saying something special."

# Art Gallery features ‘Brace Yourself’

The Mt. San Jacinto College Art Gallery is excited to announce the new exhibition “Brace Yourself,” which launches March 4 and runs through April 18 on the San Jacinto Campus.

This exhibit, from Guest Curator and MSJC Associate Professor of Art Eileen Doktorski, brings together a collection of figurative works representing portraiture, architectural environments, hybrid images and performance art, each conveying a unique expression of human emotion.

This power of art to elicit an emotional response, inspired the organization of this exhibition and catalog.

Doktorski states in the catalog, “The artist’s work imprints something of itself into our experience.” She describes the intention of these works as “to stir you from your current state of being and engage you in an intimate and subtle dialogue of feeling.”

Six artists are represented in the gallery exhibit: Timothy Burica, Eileen Doktorski, Romina Del Castillo, Barbara Milliorn, Chaz Maviyane-Davies and Nick Potter. A free public reception will be held from 2-5 p.m. March 28, featuring a curator



and artist talk with Eileen Doktorski and Nick Potter, and a performance led by artist Barbara Milliorn.

Regular gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The six participating art-

ists were selected from a wide geographical range that includes England, New York, Massachusetts, Oregon and California. Doktorski organized this exhibit as an intercollegiate project with Elena Harvey-Col-

lins, Curator of Art Space Gallery at Fresno City College, and John Knuth, Curator of the Art Gallery at Mt. San Jacinto College.

“Brace Yourself” became a catalyst for creative interchange between the

two colleges that involved faculty, staff and students from both institutions. MSJC student Brooke Bunte served as Assistant Curator on the project.

A special exhibition catalog was designed and

printed with support by the Mt. San Jacinto College Foundation. For more information, please contact MSJC Art Gallery Curator John Knuth at [jknuh@msjc.edu](mailto:jknuh@msjc.edu) or by phone at 951-487-3585.

## Hollywood’s best honored at Academy Awards

By Jose Daniel Arreguin

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences held its 91st Academy Awards at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles on Feb. 24.

There was no host for the awards ceremony for the first time since 1989. The Academy Awards went on with a performance by Queen, led by lead sing-

er Adam Lambert. Their opening performance electrified the theater and set the stage for the Oscar winners.

“Green Book”, a movie starring Mahershala Ali and Viggo Mortensen, won the Academy Award for Best Picture. The win came with controversy. Academy Award winning Director Spike Lee shared his opinion on the film’s win

by saying, “I thought I was courtside at the Garden. The ref made a bad call.”

“Green Book” took another award home, this time by actor Mahershala Ali for Best Supporting Actor. That was his second win in that category for the second year in a row. Regina King won best supporting actress for her role in “If Beale Street Can Talk”.

Best Actor and Best Actress in a leading role went to Rami Malek and Olivia Colman. Malek thanked the band and Freddie Mercury, the person he acted as, for his win as an actor and praised Freddie for being a human being who lived unapologetically himself. Malek made history as the first Arab-American to win an Oscar award.

Colman from the film “The Favourite” won the Best Actress in a leading role, beating highly favored Glenn Close and Lady Gaga. “Black Panther” is the first superhero film to be nominated for Best Picture and came short of winning the award, but it did win Best Costume Design, Best Set Design and Best Soundtrack.

Another superhero film, “Spiderman-Into The Spider-verse”, took the award for best animated film. Mexican director Alfonso Cuarón was one of the night’s big winners as he took three academy awards for Best Director, Best Cinematography, and Foreign Language Film.

## ‘Into the Woods’ play comes to MSJC theater

By Jacqueline Cespedes

“Into the Woods”, originally released in 2014, is recognized as a musical fantasy film full of theatrical performances, directed by Rob Marshall and screenplay written by James Lapine. The MSJC theater department will present this production March 29-30 and April 5-7 in the San Jacinto Campus theater.

A baker and his wife interact with a once-beautiful witch who curses them to be childless. In an attempt to reverse the spell, the baker and his wife embark on a journey through the woods to gather ingredients and reverse the spell. During this journey the audience meets several storybook characters, guaranteed to take you back on a nostalgic trip.

The production will be directed by the new Chair of Theatre, Bianca Swan-Finch. This will be Swan-Finch’s first musical production since gaining her chair in production.

“I wasn’t that familiar with the musical until the film came out a few years ago,” she said. “Once I saw the film, I knew that I had to direct it. When I was lucky enough to be appointed the Chair of Theatre at SJC, I finally had the opportunity!”

Swan-Finch has immersed herself in the world of performing arts for over 14 years. Throughout this time, she has gained experience in directing, acting, singing, and playwright. When interviewing her potential cast, she looks for specific traits in her actors.

“Although singing, acting and dancing ability is extremely important, equally important is confidence, vocal projection, truth-

**MSJC** MT. SAN JACINTO COLLEGE  
PERFORMING ARTS

# Into The Woods

Book by James Lapine  
Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

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Directed by Bianca Swan-Finch  
Technical Direction by Jeff George  
Music Direction by Rick Hognlund  
Choreography by Kirsten Johansen

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Fri March 29 - 7:30pm  
Sat March 30 - 7:30pm  
Fri April 5 - 7:30pm  
Sat April 6 - 7:30pm  
Sun April 7 - 2:30pm

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\$12 General Admission  
\$10 Senior  
\$8 Student, Child, Veteran

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ful delivery and a strong stage presence,” she said.

Swan-Finch was asked what someone with such an important role does to de-compress.

“I watch ‘I Love Lucy’ reruns while I grade papers, and I always make sure to take a lunch break no matter what,” Swan-Finch said. Swan-Finch’s answer

had an innocence to it that all college alumni can relate to, especially around finals. However, Swan-Finch’s efforts and vision would never truly be able

to come to life without the skills that George Jeffrey, the technical director and his team, can provide.

Jeffrey put his position in laymen’s terms,

so we can all understand.

“As technical director at the SJC campus, it’s my job to make sure all the department shows get produced,” Jeffrey said. “For our departmental productions, I function as our primary scenic and lighting designer. It also means we are responsible for building the set and setting all the lighting.”

“We have a staff of two and share these duties. We also have a few assistants from the financial aid Work Study program that help as well. Also, we host about 100 additional events in the theatre space each year. We provide all backstage support for those events in addition to any pre-production needs they may face.”

Additional events range from hosting President Roger Schultz’s Brown Bag discussions, visiting artist programs, Dance and Music department performances, as well as outside productions like the Hemet Harmonizers that the school is hosting in March.

At the end of his stage production, Professor Jeffrey shares what he looks forward to in post-production

“I like to do a sit down with the director and design team and discuss how the show worked and look at where we had challenges to identify how to avoid some and make others easier to overcome,” he said. “As a designer, I like to focus on the new ideas we came up with or how we succeeded on doing a build. Taking new ideas and putting them in my toolbox and looking at how we would do a project differently if we do something similar again.”

# Women's team falls short, 89-73

MSJC Athletics

The MSJC women's basketball team started off slowly and could never recover as they lost a CCCAA Southern California Regional Final at LA Trade Tech on March 9, 89-73.

The Eagles opened the game with a 4-0 lead, but quickly saw the Beavers score 11 straight points on their way to a 34-20 lead after the first period. MSJC had a hard time slowing the Trade Tech fast break in the first 10 minutes and the deficit proved to be too much to overcome despite playing the final three quarters nearly evenly.

Alyssa Walton, the Player of the Year in the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference, led the Eagles on the night with 25 points. The Beavers had a hard time stopping Walton on the block, but applied enough pressure on the perimeter to make things difficult for the Eagle guards. Sharonda Edwards had a double double in the loss for MSJC as she scored 16 points and grabbed a game-high 11 rebounds.

Haylei Janssens also reached double figures in scoring with 12, but came up short of a double double as she pulled down 8 rebounds. Despite outrebounding Trade



Photo by MSJC Athletics

Eagles guard Janya Smith goes up for a shot in a recent game against College of the Desert.

Tech 55-32, the Eagles couldn't seem to rattle the Beavers, a team they had beaten 8 straight times over the past four seasons.

In their previous playoff win on March 1, the Eagles needed a late rally to beat West LA, 60-54.

The Lady Eagles seemed to be in control of the contest as they led by 7 at half-time, 33-26. MSJC came out to start the third period and the teams went back and forth trading baskets with the Lady Eagles holding a 39-30 lead with five

and half minutes to play in the period. The Wildcats then went on a 16-0 run to close the quarter with a 46-39 lead heading into the final 10 minutes.

The turning point in the fourth came just one minute in as Raena Lasley hit a 3-point shot to close the gap to 48-44. A minute later, Edwards got a lay-up and MSJC was within two with 7:30 left in the game.

The Lady Eagles regained the lead just 30 seconds later when Lasley hit another 3-pointer to give

MSJC the 49-48 lead. After the teams traded the lead a couple of times, MSJC finally took the lead for good with 3 minutes to play when Edwards got a steal and took it the length of the floor for a lay-up to give the Lady Eagles a 53-52 lead.

A basket by Kaelee Kelly followed and then 5 for 6 shooting from the free throw line by Britney Neely sealed the win for MSJC.

Edwards finished the night with a game high 23 points and a game high 11 rebounds. Las-

ley finished the game with 11 points including 8 in the fourth quarter.

The Eagles, who were looking for their fourth Elite Eight appearance in the past seven years and were the defending State Champions, finish the season at 24-7. MSJC finished the season as the unbeaten champions of the PCAC North Division and were playing in their 13th consecutive post-season.

## Borst's pitching leads way

MSJC Athletics

The MSJC softball team got a solid pitching performance from Tiffany Borst on March 1 as they picked up a 3-0 home win over San Bernardino Valley in a PCAC game.

The Lady Eagles scored three times in the bottom of the fifth to break up a scoreless tie and claim the victory. Kaylee Heath picked a pair of RBIs while Torie Thorstensen added one in the win. MSJC collected 7 hits in all on the day, including two from Jessica Noriega.

The story of the day was Borst, who threw a complete game, allowing just one hit and walking just one to earn the victory in the circle for the Eagles.

The win was the first of the season for the young MSJC squad as they improved to 1-8 on the year and 1-2 in Pacific Coast Athletic Conference games.

MSJC had two games scheduled the next week, beginning with a road game at San Diego City on March 6 at 3 pm. Two days later, the Eagles were back at home in Menifee when they hosted Southwestern.

# Playoffs end early for Eagles men, 77-58



Photo by MSJC Athletics

Deshawn Millington goes up for two in a playoff game against Riverside.

MSJC Athletics

The MSJC men's basketball team could not find their offense on March 1 and ended their season with a CCCAA Southern California second-round Regional loss at Riverside City College, 77-58.

The Eagles shot just 11 for 29 in the first half from the field and 1 of 11 from the 3-point stripe, but stayed in the game with solid defense as they trailed just 26-25 at halftime. In the second half, MSJC's shooting didn't improve much while the Tigers were on fire from the floor, making 17 of 27 shots in the final 20 minutes to pull away for the victory.

The Eagles, who entered the game as the second leading scoring team in the state at 88.9 points per game, made just 2 of 19 threes on the night.

Deshawn Millington was

the only Eagle to reach double figures in scoring. He ended his night with 13 points, and he also grabbed a team-high 6 rebounds. Luka Filipovic ended the game with 9 points and Terrell Gray came off the bench to add 8.

Otto Taylor led four RCC players in double figures with a game-high 21. The battle on the glass was even for the night with both teams hauling in 34 rebounds.

David Thompson was named co-Player of the Year in the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference's North Division, headlining the Eagles 2019 PCAC honorees.

Thompson, a sophomore from Whitefish Bay, WI, averaged 17.9 points per game this season while helping the Eagles to an overall record of 22-5 and a runner-up finish in the PCAC North with a 7-3 mark. Thompson also led

MSJC in assists this season at 4.8 a game. Thompson stepped up his game even more during conference games as he averaged just shy of 21 points and dished out 5.5 assists.

Sophomores C.J. Hyder and Deshawn Millington were named First Team All-PCAC for their efforts this season. Hyder, from Cajon HS in San Bernardino, averaged 10 points and 6.5 rebounds in 10 conference contests this year.

For the season, Hyder made 88 3-point shots. Along with Thompson Hyder is the only Eagle to start all 27 games so far this season. Millington, a sophomore transfer from Carlisle, PA, was the Eagles' second leading scorer this season at 14.4 points per game. He was also second in assists at 3.1 a contest.

# Baseball team sweeps Imperial Valley

MSJC Athletics

The MSJC baseball team opened conference play last week with a three-game sweep of Imperial Valley, winning once at home and twice at IVC.

The Eagles opened the series with a comfortable 12-1 win at home in the series opener. Steven Silvas went 6 and 2/3 innings on the mound to earn the victory, allowing just one run while striking out a season-high 11. Rigo Cano was one of the big contributors on offense as he picked up 4 RBIs while going 2 for 3 with a walk. Shane Mittleman and Joseph Hauk each drove in three runs in the contest.

Game 2 at Imperial was more of the same as the Eagles scored 5 times in the top of the sixth to break open a close game to win, 11-3. Andrew Shepard threw 7 solid innings to earn the pitching victory. Cano again came up big on offense with a pair of hits and 3 RBIs while Mittleman was on base four times with 3 walks and a hit.

In game 3, David Combs

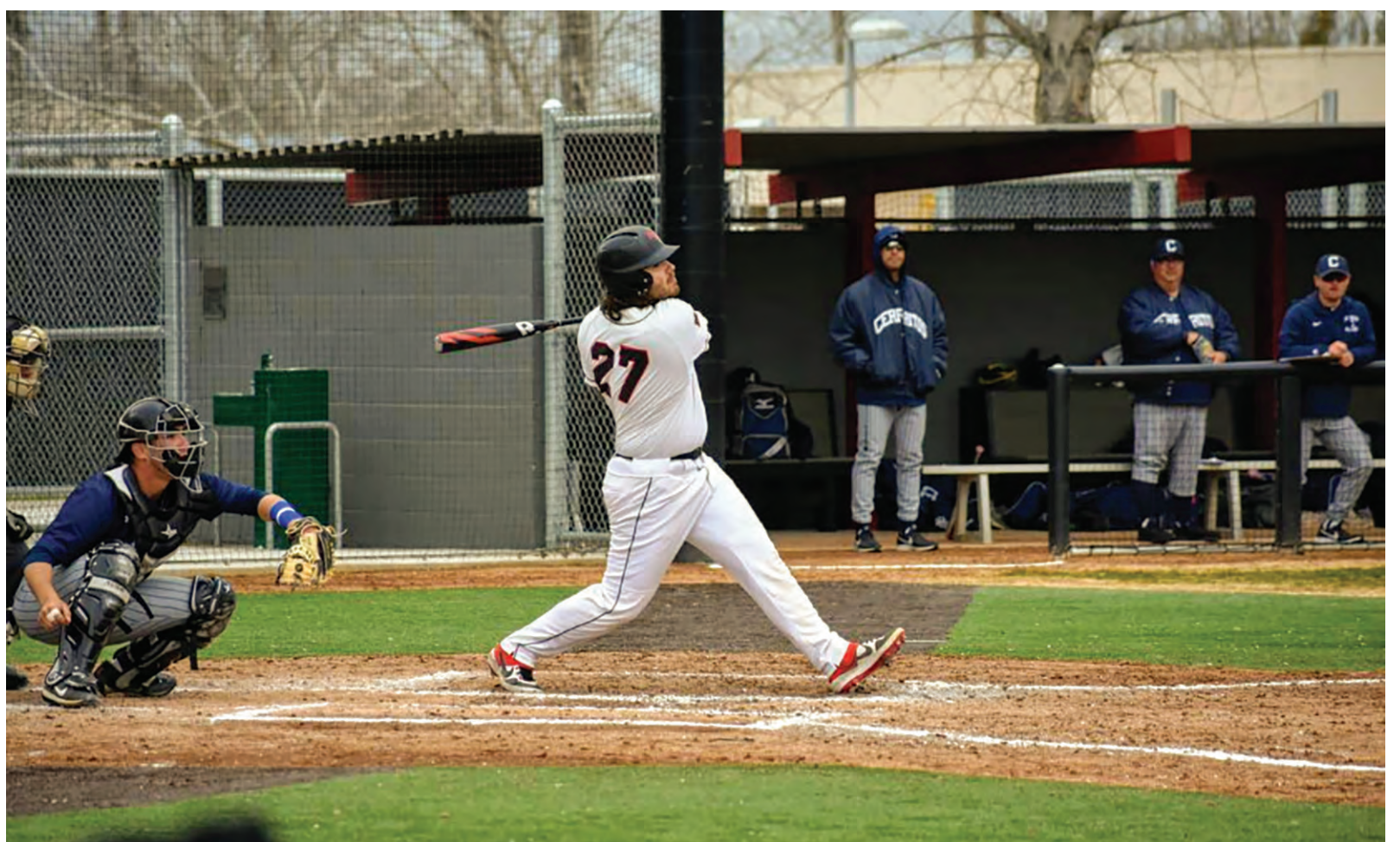


Photo by MSJC Athletics

Jacob Boney connects in a recent game for the Mt. San Jacinto College baseball team.

and Benjamin Jacklin teamed up to pitch MSJC to victory in a tight 3-1 game. Combs threw 4 innings,

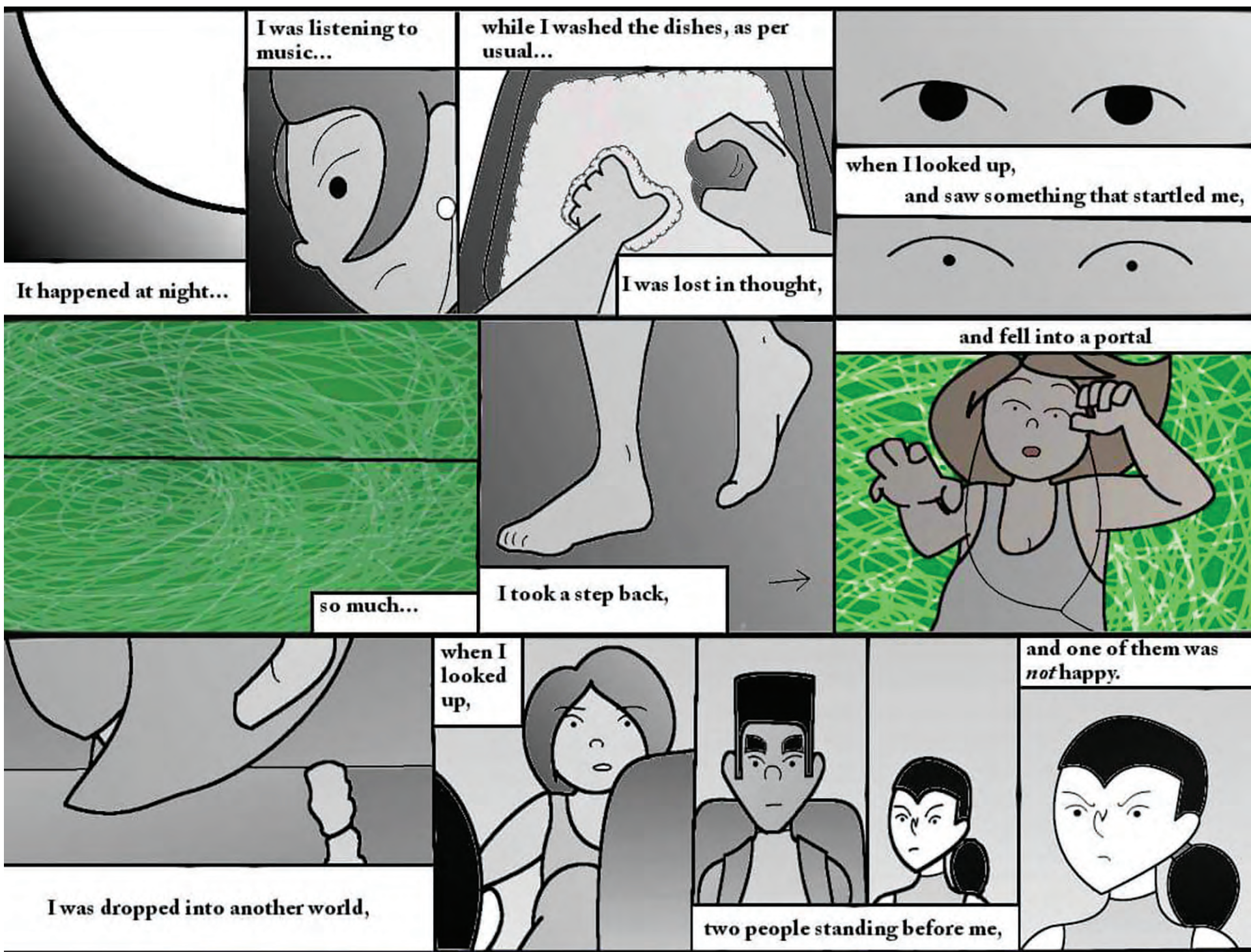
allowing just one run with 4 strikeouts. Then Jacklin took over, throwing the final five frames, allowing

just one hit while notching 5 K's to pick up the win. Mittleman completed his strong series with 2

hits and 2 RBIs while Jacob Boney knocked in one. Gavin Gates also picked up two hits for MSJC.

The Eagles improved their record to 3-0 in the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference and 9-5 overall.

# Opportunities for creativity at MSJC



# THE WRONGS CHOICE

Comic by Maria Buchanan

**MSJC** MT. SAN JACINTO COLLEGE

**Day of the Young Child**

Saturday, April 6, 2019  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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**FIRST 5 RIVERSIDE** Riverside County Children & Families Commission  
**Altura** CREDIT UNION  
**IEHP** Inland Empire Health Plan  
**Riverside University HEALTH SYSTEM** Behavioral Health  
**HOPE**

Location: Campus quad area  
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San Jacinto, CA 92583

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# Thompson Square headliner at festival

By Jennifer Vargas

Mt. San Jacinto College's Menifee campus and the city of Menifee is in for a real treat as Grammy-nominated duo Thompson Square has been named the headliner for the Music & Arts Festival taking place March 30. The festival takes place from 2-10 p.m. on Mt. San Jacinto's Menifee campus, is free for all ages, is open to the public and includes a lot of talented artists.

What makes this festival so exciting is the amount of talent coming to the city and performing at the local community college. Headliner Thompson Square is made up of husband and wife duo Keifer and Shawna Thompson. The duo will be celebrating 20 years of marriage this May and have celebrated many accomplishments since their single, "Are You Gonna Kiss Me or Not?" hit No. 1, earned two Grammy nominations, was the most played song of country radio in 2011 and spent five weeks at No. 1 on the Country Digital Soundscan Chart.

After the success of their single, the duo went on to



Image courtesy of City of Menifee

write a book by the same name, "Are You Gonna Kiss Me or Not?" It's not the only book they've written; inspired by their son, Cooper, they recently released a children's book called "Time To Get Dressed," which can be purchased on their website ThompsonSquare.com and includes a copy of the song by the same title that inspired the book.

A signed copy of the book is available for \$9.99. The song is also available for streaming and purchase on Amazon. It's bound to have your kids singing along to some of these great lyrics:

*Shirt, shirt, you gotta have a shirt*

*T-shirt, sweatshirt, any kinda shirt*

*Not too loose but not too tight*

*When you can't see your belly then you know you got it right*

MSJC student Jencita Vargas is especially excited about the duo's performance because she has been following their career since 2011.

"I first met them in 2011 and I could just tell they were real and genuine people," she said. "I could not stop talking about them and went on to create a fan page to support them. I was present when they won their first ACM for Vocal Duo of the Year and have had so many amazing experiences with them. "They treat fans like

family, so much in fact that they sent me a big box of baby stuff when they found out I was pregnant. One time, after a concert, I was having trouble figuring out the headlights on my rental car. I pulled over on the side of the highway and they were behind me. They pulled over and helped me figure it out. They're just really special people and I feel so blessed to know them and can't believe they are now performing at my college! I am so proud of them and hope everyone falls in love with them and supports their new album, Masterpiece."

"Masterpiece" marks the third studio album for the duo and the title track was inspired by the couple's first and only child, while Shawna was still pregnant.

Keifer explains of the track, "For me, a masterpiece is someone's best work that you'll never be able to top. I was thinking, 'Well what is that for me?' And without a breath it was Cooper." *Shakespeare sure knew how to write down*

*Words that will live throughout time*

*And that Eiffel Tower's still standing*

*Was built to be one of a kind*

*Da Vinci's got his Mona Lisa*

*And Beethoven's got his symphonies  
But you're my masterpiece*

Thompson Square has toured with Lady Antebell-

lum, Darius Rucker, Luke Bryan, Florida Georgia Line, Jason Aldean, and Chris Young before headlining their own tour. They have gone on multiple Army tours to bring entertainment to the troops all across the country and overseas.

The duo has recently been performing on an acoustic tour in more intimate settings with fans all across the country. Their full band live show is also a real treat and they will be bringing it to the Music & Arts Festival.

Along with great music, the festival will also include a beer and wine garden, art exhibits, interactive art, crafts, art vendors, and food trucks.

Other performances on the Main Stage include Temecula Road, Kanan Road, Replay Band and Clapton Hook. The Local Acts Stage will include performances from Scottie Mac Band, Chris Fast Band, Menifee Jazz Ensemble and Anahi Rodriguez.

The Performing Arts Stage will include MSJC Dance, Drum Circle, Hunter Ryan, Folkloric Dance, Dino Costello, LaTasha Deaver, MSJC Choir, Gypsy Jazz and MSJC Jazz Combo.

## Murrieta program created

### MSJC Information

Mt. San Jacinto College and Murrieta Valley Unified School District have partnered for the college to use eight classrooms at Murrieta Valley High School to offer MVUSD high school students college courses over the next three years.

The goal is to develop a seamless pathway from high school to community college for career education or preparation for transfer, to improve high school graduation rates, and help high school students achieve college and career readiness.

"This is a win-win all around," said MSJC Superintendent/President Dr. Roger Schultz. "Anything we can do to ease high school students' transition to the college learning environment will improve their chances of academic success. We are grateful for the forward-thinking leadership at Murrieta Valley Unified, who made this possible by providing space."

MSJC will have use of the eight Murrieta Valley High School classrooms at no charge for three years starting July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2022.

The partnership enables MVUSD high school students with grade point averages (GPA) of 3.0 or higher to enroll in MSJC courses as early as their junior year.



Photo courtesy of MSJC

Fourth semester nursing students Destiny Owsley (left) and Tichona White (right) check up on their favorite "patient."

## Spring semester welcomes nearly 16,500

### MSJC Information

The rain didn't stop Mt. San Jacinto College students determined to achieve their goals from attending classes on Jan. 14, the first day of the spring semester.

For Rowland Chinedu, 20, of San Jacinto, the first day of the semester was the beginning of his last semester before graduating with a nursing degree. "The hard work is pay-

ing off. I'm one step closer to achieving my goals," Chinedu said as he already started hitting the books in the library on the San Jacinto Campus.

A total of 16,418 students were registered for classes across the MSJC district. MSJC serves more than 26,000 students a year at one of five locations -- the San Jacinto Campus, Menifee Valley Campus, San Geronio

Pass Campus, the Temecula Education Complex and the Temecula Higher Education Center -- and several off-site locations. The district serves 1,700 square miles that stretch from the San Geronio Pass to Temecula and from Idyllwild to Lake Elsinore.

In an ongoing effort to provide accessibility to higher education to the region, MSJC has partnered with the city of Perris to

offer classes at the Perris Senior Center. The Perris Senior Center will also offer Freshman Composition (English 101) and Art Appreciation (Art 100) starting in March.

Beaumont resident Jocelyn Morales, 21, used the computer room at the San Geronio Pass Campus in Banning to get information on her introduction to psychology class just before it started in the morning.

She said this was her first time attending MSJC and plans to study diagnostic medical sonography as a first step toward a bachelor's degree. She is also enrolled in English at the Banning campus. Morales said she loved the convenience of having a campus so close to home and was thrilled to save money on a college education.

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**Meetings:**  
**Monday**  
130pm-2:pm  
Room 479 MVC  
Room SJC

# Castro helps students with STEM+ cont.

Cont. from page 1

explaining Math to them. They were super excited to understand the material right before they had to take their final. It was their last chance and people were leaving with a good feeling in their mind," said Castro.

In his college years, Castro joined a fraternity and the Math Club along with being part of the leadership academy, which required him to work in the Student Life and Development office. That resulted in even more leadership roles, despite being separated from the Associated Student Incorporated, where he and his team of student workers would put on their own events on campus. He describes it as being his favorite experience while at Cal State San Bernardino.

Castro explained that since he didn't go to a two-year college like many students do but rather straight to a university right after high school, he noticed many differences, especially in Student Life on campus.

"The number one difference was campus life and that is what made me want to get involved on campus as a club advisor because I think that there is a benefit to being involved. That is something I had done the first week I had joined and started college. I did everything I possibly could to network with other people," said Castro.

When asked about what strategies had been implemented in order to be successful while as an undergraduate, Castro said he had taken advantage of all the resources that were available on campus, such



Photo by Mahak Tiwari  
Dr. Kyle Castro has helped students with math in the STEM+ program.

as office hours and tutoring.

"I was definitely in tutoring quite frequently while attending office hours at the same time. I was probably the number one attendee of office hours in my college years since it would be hard for me to feel like somebody had beat me in terms of my math career. Putting in the time and effort towards my studies was the number one factor to my success because

if I tried to squeeze by, I knew that I wouldn't be successful." Castro stated.

One of Castro's favorite undergraduate professors was Joseph Chavez, with whom he loved taking classes because he was entertaining, would go off topic a little, and say things that weren't related to the course material.

After graduating with his Bachelors degree, Castro applied to graduate

school, where he described it to be his toughest challenge while having a lot of fun at the same time.

"It was a lot more independent work and I tried to apply the same strategies I did as an undergraduate and found that graduate professors were less responsive to those strategies, since a lot of problems are meant to make you think critically and when I would get stuck or have questions,

they were resistant to give an extra push rather than guiding me into the right mentality," said Castro.

Castro taught and took classes while in the Master's program. He was on the Teaching Associate grant at University of California, Riverside, which paid for his tuition and granted him a teaching salary. At Cal State San Bernardino, it was merely a position where no other benefits were granted aside from a paycheck.

He explained that the hardest part of graduate school is to actually choose something that people are willing to stick with through thick and thin because once it gets really tough, they have to know that they chose this because they were ready for it from the start.

As an advisor for the STEM+ Club at MSJC, Castro wanted to make the club accessible, not just to STEM majors but everyone. Therefore the plus was included in the name, which includes the fine arts.

"We think that a lot of times STEM sounds scary," said Castro. "Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics. For those who aren't in those subject fields, they don't want to really engage with us, thinking we are different and weird. But the reality is that we are just like everyone else and we wanted to make STEM+ Club to include the fine arts, considering a lot of STEM majors were extremely passionate about other outside influences like music and writing and that they wanted to host monthly events on campus. So I think that everyone

who has an interest finds a home in the STEM+ Club."

He recommends that students get involved on campus as much as they can besides attending their classes and maintaining good grades.

"The more you put into the campus, the more you'll get out of it and that makes you to push yourself to be successful," said Castro.

For current and future math students who are taking his math courses, he recommends using any available resources that are on campus or off campus such as office hours, his video lectures, tutoring, the DSPS Program, and CANVAS' own NetTutor.

"Take advantage of every resource that you can and ask for it as often as you need to," he said. "I have seen that a lot of students will hesitate to ask, and it tends to become overwhelming for them to where it isn't cognitive enough."

Castro has a lot of routines, which consist of maintaining habits that he tries to follow daily in order to keep him motivated while being a club advisor on campus, teaching, and trying to juggle his schedule.

"Waking up and working out every morning is something that is enough to keep me motivated and going so I don't have those days where I don't feel like doing anything," he said. "There are also motivational talks that I'll listen to often if I feel the need to get an extra boost in order to get out of my comfort zone and to be able to realize that I am doing what I am passionate about. Even if I feel tired, that isn't a reason to say stop."

# MLK honored at unity breakfast

MSJC theme is to 'resist intolerance'

## MSJC Information

Students, residents, faculty, staff and officials gathered at Mt. San Jacinto College on Jan. 21 to honor the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with the theme of "Resistance to Racism and Intolerance" at the 13th annual MLK Unity Breakfast.

Guest Speaker Dr. Jordan B. Smith Jr., inspired the crowd of about 150 people with "My Path of Resistance Through Racism."

Dr. King "had a vision. He had a dream. I didn't know at that time that he was speaking to me," said Smith, who served in the Marines, rising to the rank of major during his highly decorated career.

Today, Smith teaches math at Mountain View High School, an alternative school in San Jacinto.

"I am a restorer. I change their mindsets," Smith said, noting that he helps many of his students graduate. "I make them believe in their abilities."

The annual Unity Breakfast at MSJC brings the community together to remember the message and work of Dr. King to promote social justice and equity. Guests enjoyed breakfast, performances, speaker presentations, and a student art contest. MSJC Political Science Professor Willie Hamilton coordinated and hosted this event with the MSJC Diversity Committee.

MSJC student Wayne Yeager, Jr., of Hemet won



Guest speaker Dr. Jordan B. Smith Jr. addressed the crowd at the MLK Unity Breakfast.

first place in the MLK Day Unity Breakfast art contest for his mixed media art installation that represents poverty, racism and other societal challenges among tribal nations in America. He said he started the piece, shaped like a shanty home, in December and used material left in dumpsters to salvage whatever he could.

"I wanted to tackle all the problems out there," Yeager said. "I started with poverty on a reservation."

His "We Are Still Here" installation even features a working faucet through which flows oil and rust to

**'I am a restorer. I change their mindsets. I make them believe in their abilities.'**

-- Dr. Jordan B. Smith Jr.

represent the controversial Dakota Access Pipeline.

MSJC student Delisa Williams of Banning won honorable mention for her "Dream Come True" art that features Dr. King and President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. Professor John Knuth,

MSJC Art Gallery Curator and Art Chair, announced that the MSJC Foundation and President Roger Schultz's office helped commission a beautiful oil canvas painting by San Jacinto resident Barbara Rivera called "Our Future." Featuring children from every continent around the

world, the painting will hang in the college library.

The breakfast also featured performers Toni Malone, who portrayed a forgotten slave and the legendary Aretha Franklin, the Praise Dancers and Choir of the 1st Missionary Baptist Church, and The Julie Simon Tropicaleiza Drummers.

Hamilton and the Mt. San Jacinto College Diversity Committee thanked the MSJC Board of Trustees and Superintendent/President Roger Schultz for their continued support and participation in the annual event.

# Study Abroad cont.

Cont. from page 1

exploring England."

While completing their educational requirements, studying abroad is beneficial in helping students learn about different customs and helping them mature. Statistics from UC Merced show that traveling abroad to study has helped students develop life skills with 80 percent of participants reporting it helped them handle different work environments.

Calvert Jones, an assistant professor of political science at the University of Maryland, conducted a survey which resulted in 97 percent of participants citing their experience abroad as helping them mature as individuals while 96 percent grew more self-confident.

For more information about Fall 2019, contact campus coordinator Linda Lang at llang@msjc.edu. A London Informational Session will take place at the MVC Counseling Center on March 28 from 1-2 p.m. in Room 106. You can also meet with the campus coordinator and ask questions on March 27-28 before and after the Informational Session.

# MSJC campus alive with activity



Photos by Shelby Walker