

Mt. San Jacinto College

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Lady Eagles play record-breaking season

By Shelby Walker

It has been a strong season so far for the Eagles women's volleyball team, which broke the school record with an 11-match winning streak to start the season. The team is currently 18-4 overall and 7-2 in the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference North Division.

The team consensus on the record-breaking streak was that it has felt great to come this far, and the players are more determined than ever to show the other teams what MSJC can bring to the table.

Although teams in the past have worked hard, there has been key differences with this year's team that have gotten them this far. According to Head Coach Serinna Eason, one of the major differences is that the team has seven sophomores, making it the largest sophomore class in the past four years.

"Our sophomores have fully bought into our MSJC volleyball sys-



Eagles player digs for the ball during a recent match

tem and culture that we have worked to establish the past four years. We also have six new talented freshman that have stepped into key roles on the team," said Eason.

This last spring the

team was able to do spring training on campus in the newly renovated MSJC gym, which really helped the team better prepare for the coming season. The sophomores also found that the extreme training

during the spring was hard but made all the difference at fine tuning their skills as a team.

"Spring training made me more prepared each day for this season. It was hard both mentally and

physically but made me ready," said Co-Captain Cynthia Arango.

Another major difference the coaches have seen this season is the team's fight to win; they are in it to go all the way.

Photo By Juan Padilla

Castro brings culture to Spanish classes

By Rebecca Metts

Professor Lissette Castro has been teaching at Mt. San Jacinto College since 2004. After obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Spanish from Cal State University San Marcos and a Master's degree in Spanish/Linguistics from University of California Davis, Castro used her skills to influence students through her love of Spanish.

As a native English speaker, she understands the challenges of learning a new language in a college setting. Throughout Cas-

tro's college years, she did not enjoy learning Spanish and even received an "F" grade. Originally a Psychology major, Castro was faced with the challenge of not graduating until the next year or changing her major to obtain her BA in Spanish.

After graduating with her Bachelor's in Spanish, she applied to graduate school, where she was inspired to become a Spanish professor. Post graduate school, Castro began to teach at UC Davis and Sacramento State University for a few years, but eventually relocated to Southern California.

As an associate Professor of Spanish and the Department Chair of World Languages for the Menifee and Temecula campuses, Castro stays focused on the task at hand. She teaches students to love and appreciate learning new languages and their cultures. Castro uses her life experiences to drive her classes with passion and enthusiasm to encourage students to take something from the class and apply it to everyday life.

Castro has visited 17 out of the 21 official

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In August before the season started, the team decided the theme for the season would be 'All in'.

"It has been great watching the team come together the past five months and establish a bond that allows them to become stronger as a team on and off the court. As a coach, I trust that all my players have bought into the theme and have the mentality of being 'ALL IN,'" said Eason.

Eason also explained that the last major difference this season is how well the coaching staff and players work together. Without her assistant coaches, Taylor Kushner and Steve Ray, this season would not be possible.

"Having all three coaches has made all the difference on how we play. Coach Ray's wisdom and experience has truly helped us," said Iasia Bailey.

With the team off to a strong season, Eason also

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MSJC hosts Veterans 5K run

By Rebecca Metts

The Valley Resource Center and the Rotary Club of Menifee partnered up to show their support for military veterans and their families by hosting a 5K walk/run event at MSJC's Menifee Campus.

The event had over 50 runners come out to show their support. The Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) units from Perris High, Hemet High and Paloma Valley High School also joined the 5K as volunteers. It was estimated that at least 40+ students from each school attended.

The event showcased 40 vendors which included food trucks, Vitamin Shoppe, The Camp Transformation of Menifee and other small clothing vendors. In addition to the 5K, the event held a small classic car show, courtesy of the Rotary Club of Menifee.

Jeanne Sampson, the sister of a veteran, said, "I got all emotional when the runners took off, when you see how much work gets put into the event."

Non-profit offers scholarships to single mothers

By Lillian Goodwin

Bright Mothers is now offering scholarships for single mothers in need at MSJC for the Fall 2018 semester.

Founded by MSJC alumnus and current CEO of Bright Mothers Shadi Farsi, Bright Mothers is a nonprofit organization aiming to provide financial aid to low-income mothers in Southern California. According to their official mission statement, the organization helps to empower women by "... assisting them financially to allow them to achieve their educational goals.". There are currently two \$500 scholarships being offered MSJC and one \$1,000 scholarship at



Shadi Farsi is the founder and CEO of Bright Mothers.

Cal State University San Marcos. The nonprofit has raised over \$6,000 this year to provide financial aid for student single mothers in need.

Farsi created Bright

ter discussing creating a scholarship with Cal State University San Marcos.

"I see the struggles and stress that finances put on single mothers, and I really wanted to help," says Farsi.

Now a senior at CSUSM, her initial goal when developing the non-profit was to help other single mothers pursuing their degrees there, but it has since expanded.

"Since I am a single

mother and a student, I know firsthand the challenges this particular group faces when pursuing higher education, including the financial strains it can cause."

Bright Mothers' website says, according to the National Women's Law Center, that the biggest indicators of poverty for women is single motherhood and the lack of a college degree.

"I believe [single mothers] should have the opportunity to fulfill their earning potential and not have the lack of funds to pay for college be a barrier for them," she says.

Farsi is not alone in this sentiment. The National

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Tres Vidas

For the first time in MSJC history, an event celebrating National Hispanic Heritage month was hosted! Read about three famous Latin women in this story.

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Almost Maine

The San Jacinto Campus put on a play called "Almost, Maine", a story about love and loss. Check out the actor's experiences while working on set.

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Students Corner

Students all over campus submit art work, photography, poetry and more! Check it out!

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MSJC salutes Hispanic Heritage Month

Rodriguez performs 3 roles in play

By Ashley Acevedo

Mt. San Jacinto College's Core Ensemble recently hosted the event "Tres Vidas", a chamber music theater work, in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month. "Tres Vidas" showcased and celebrated the lives of three legendary women from Latin America: Frida Kahlo, a Mexican painter, Rufina Amaya, a Salvadoran activist, and Alfonsina Storni, an Argentinean poet.

Professor Willie Hamilton, chair of both the Political Science Department and Diversity Committee and MSJC faculty member since the Fall of 1992, began planning the event with the Core Ensemble in early Spring. As chair of the Diversity Committee, Hamilton said that in his 26 years of working at MSJC, this is the first time an event has been organized during this month for the purpose of celebrating National Hispanic Heritage month.

When asked what impact Hamilton hoped the Tres Vidas production had on the audience, he said, "I hope that in general students gained some knowledge and respect for Latin culture and music, and in particular gained knowledge and appreciation of the personal and political struggles of these three strong, independent and intelligent women."

According to Michelle



*Photos courtesy of MSJC Marketing
Rosa Rodriguez plays the roles of Alfonsina Storni (above), Rufina Amaya (above right) and Frida Kahlo (below right) in "Tre Vidas".*

Ojas, a research analyst at Mt. San Jacinto, about 25 percent of the student population that makes up MSJC are of Hispanic heritage.

The goal of "Tres Vidas" was to showcase representation for students of Hispanic heritage, inform the audience of the rich multitude of cultures that Latin America has to offer, and to allow others to venture into the affluent history, life, art, and celebration of phenomenal women who were proud of their países and culture. Hamilton was assisted by Jeff George and Vanessa Sheldon as well.

The show's solo actress of the night, Rosa Rodriguez, played

the role of all three Latin American women. She was accompanied by percussionist Michael Parola, cellist Julia Davidson, pianist June Lee and only a few stage props.

The show began with Rodriguez walking out onto the stage dressed as Frida Kahlo, calling for her husband Diego. The voice of Rodriguez filled the theater as she took the audience into the colorful and cultural home of Kahlo in Coyoacán Mexico City, Mexico.

The second act told the story of Salvadorian activist Rufina Amaya, who survived the civil war of 1981 and watched her



family be burned alive, beheaded, and buried. Her story and Rodriguez' portrayal brought to life the despair, fear, and anguish that accompanied Rufina as she survived and mourned the destruction of her family and village.

The closing act encompassed the life of Storni all the way until her death, and ended with a chance for the audience to ask the performers any questions. Rodriguez, who has been performing for most her life, began professionally acting in 2010.

When asked which character was most difficult to portray and why, she said, "Frida is such a big undertaking and she has such a

big personality and to portray that strength, it was the most challenging aspect for me."

She went on to say that she felt connected with each character as each had qualities that she admired. She also felt empowered by portraying these women who were so strong.

"Tres Vidas" had a great turnout of nearly 140 students and staff in attendance. With this being the first event put together in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage month, MSJC can look forward to more events in the future from the Diversity Committee as they represent and showcase the diverse community.

Science Center Lecture Series gets underway

By Lillian Goodwin

The Western Science Center started its MSJC lecture series for the Fall semester.

The theme for the Fall 2018 series is "Artificial Environments," taken from the previous semester's Honors Seminar class.

The lectures are open to the public, free of charge for members and \$5 admission for students with ID. The lectures are on the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. until Nov. 29 in the Western Science Center's Lecture Hall in Hemet.

The Western Science Center collaborates with MSJC faculty every Fall and Spring semester to put on lectures about a diverse selection of topics. Twice annually, MSJC faculty give a collection of comprehensive lectures to the local community at the science center. Ever since its conception in 2009, the series has offered the unique opportunity to connect with the Honors program's material every semester.

Mason argues for the utmost importance of not only meeting but also sustaining the biological requirements for human life and just how difficult this becomes in a sealed artificial environment. Within a biodome, a complex ecological system must be sustained with 100 percent efficiency. This includes things like atmosphere, light, water, intellectual stimulation, food, vegetation, and energy. He said that maintaining a self-contained ecological system is a difficult and extremely complicated endeavor.

Mason also takes an in-depth look at the Biosphere 2 experiment itself, carried out in 1991 in the Sonoran Desert in Arizona. The experiment was conducted to study the viability of artificial environments for the purposes of space travel.

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*Photo courtesy of MSJC Public Information
MSJC President Roger Schultz (center) shakes hands with Loma Linda University provost Ron Carter.*

Nursing partnership announced

MSJC Public Info

Loma Linda University School of Nursing, LLU Medical Center-Murrieta, the City of Menifee and Mt. San Jacinto College on Oct. 30 announced a unified partnership that has led to LLU School of Nursing signing its first transfer agreement with a public college.

The agreement will provide qualified MSJC students with seamless access to the School of Nursing's Registered Nursing to Bachelor of Science program so they can achieve their educational goals at the private, world-renowned institution.

Under the agreement,

MSJC students who earn an associate degree in nursing and receive a registered nurse license will be able to transfer to LLU School of Nursing to earn their Bachelor of Science in nursing. In addition, a set number of clinical rotations will be guaranteed to MSJC students at LLU Medical Center-Murrieta to keep local students in the region.

Ron Carter, Provost for LLU; Peter Baker, Senior Vice President for LLU Medical Center-Murrieta; and Dr. Roger Schultz, Superintendent/President of MSJC, were joined by Menifee City Manager Armando Villa, Mayor Bill Zimmerman, Mayor Pro Tem Lesa Sobek, and

Economic Development Director Gina Gonzalez, for the signing at Menifee City Hall.

Menifee officials were instrumental in bringing the private LLU and public MSJC together to discuss an agreement that will build a stronger workforce for the region, with a goal of increasing quality of life.

"This is a landmark agreement for Mt. San Jacinto College, LLU Medical Center-Murrieta, LLU School of Nursing and our students," said Schultz, superintendent/president of MSJC. "We are honored that the School of Nursing chose us as a public partner to help further the goals of our students. I

am grateful to the City of Menifee and the members of MSJC and LLU School of Nursing for their vision in finding solutions that will help close the gap in the need for skilled health care workers in this region."

"What an inspirational Nursing Education Pathway that has been created with MSJC and LLU! This partnership will reduce the nursing shortage in the Menifee community. LLU Nursing Education will be a tremendous benefit to our students. The caliber of our students is a good fit for LLU and we could not be more proud," said Dr. Crystal Nasio, Interim Associate Dean of Nursing and Allied Health.

Virgil takes charge as Eagles quarterback

By Shelby Walker

Brett Virgil grew up in the Inland Empire and has been playing football for the last 10 years. He attended Heritage High School, where he was a quarterback for four years and before that, he played for Lake Elsinore Jr. All-American League.

"At first I played running back and safety, but when I got to high school my dad switched me to quarterback," said Virgil, now MSJC's starting quarterback. Virgil feels the skills he learned from those other positions helped make him a more well-rounded player.

After graduating high school, he left to play football on scholarship for the United States Military Academy, also known as West Point. He ultimately decided to return home to California after a year to continue his schooling.

When he returned home, he was unsure of what his



Photo by MSJC Athletics

Whether he's leaping defenders or posing for the camera, Brett Virgil has been successful at MSJC.

next chapter would be.

"My brother convinced me to come to MSJC to play football," said Virgil, "He played [for MSJC] in 2012, so I decided to come."

Since beginning prac-

tice with the team this summer, he has been enjoying his time at MSJC, and is happy with his decision to play for the Eagles.

His first season got off to a great start with a 6-0



Photo by Juan Padilla

win streak. In his third game, he managed to rush 86 yards for a touchdown, and by the end of the following week's game he had rushed a total of 193 yards in only three games.

"When I came in, I

knew our team didn't have a lot of depth, but with what we do have I knew we were going to be great," said Virgil, "Being 6-0 feels great, and has been a real team effort to achieve."

When asked what goal he has for this season, he stated "It would be great to be able to go to a bowl game and have an undefeated season."

Although there have been some adjustments to managing football and school for Virgil, he is determined to succeed at MSJC. With his family and team's support he knows he will be able to make his goal a reality.

He hopes to ultimately transfer to a four-year university to play football. He hopes to go as far as he can with his football career.

"Football has always been something I have, no matter what I'm going through in life," said Virgil. "My brother and I have always had football to turn to since we were young and I ended up falling in love with it at a young age and just stuck with it."

In Mazzotta family, coaching is the thing

By Shelby Walker

In the Mazzotta family, football has been a constant for the past three generations. Having a father as a football coach, Coach Casey Mazzotta has lived and breathed football for his entire life. It has shaped him into the person he is today.

Mazzotta has been the head coach for the MSJC football team for the past 11 seasons. Under his leadership, the MSJC football program has continued to grow and thrive.

Before coming to MSJC, Mazzotta worked at other institutions for 11 years, and before that, he played football all four years of his college career. He played for two years at Cerritos College, where his father, Frank Mazzotta, was his head coach. He then transferred on scholarship to Brigham Young University and played his final two years of college there.

Along with Coach Mazzotta, his brother Frank Jr. also became a football coach.

When asked if he had planned to follow in his father's footsteps, Coach Mazzotta said, "I don't think so necessarily. I think that came after playing in college."

Frank Jr. was not available for comment.

This season, Coach Mazzotta's second oldest son Connor has started his football college career, here at MSJC. Connor currently plays center for



Frank Sr., Connor and Casey Mazzotta represent three generations of football coaching.

Photo by Juan Padilla

the offensive line, a crucial position for offense and with assisting the quarterback.

"I hope to possibly have a military career after college. Then it looks like coaching is the family career of choice. It's all set up for me to follow in that path like my gramps, uncle, and dad," said Connor.

Connor has been playing football since he was just 8 years old, and has remained one of the main focuses in his life. He recalls being on the MSJC field as a child being the ball boy for the players and supporting his father.

"It feels great to be play-

ing and seeing my siblings on the sidelines just like I use to," said Connor.

Coach Mazzotta's younger children Carson and Camille can be seen weekly at the games on the field along with their grandfather Frank Mazzotta to support Coach Mazzotta, Connor, and the rest of the Eagles.

According to Connor, the best part about being able to play for his dad and MSJC is the family support. Connor is currently enjoying being able to see his family every day and still go home to them every night. He is hoping to transfer to a four-year university after next sea-

son. He is willing to go anywhere that accepts and allows him to play, even if it is out of state.

"I want to get a scholarship and play football. Could be middle of nowhere, and I'm your guy. I'll be ready to go where ever someone will take me, but until then I'm going to enjoy my time [at MSJC] and with my family," said Connor.

Connor has always been given the choice to choose to stay with football and is never pushed to remain in the sport. His family has always left that choice up to him and have given their full support in his choices.

"You can't play this sport and just like it, you have to love it to stick with it," said Coach Mazzotta.

Although this is only Connor's first season with MSJC, he says the team plays together great as a whole and gets along great. The team is currently having a 6-0 winning streak, which Connor says feels great.

"Even though I'm not the one who usually gets spotlighted, I am always in the end zone after [a touchdown] lifting one of the guys up cheering them on. It's a team sport and we all support each other," he said.

Coach Mazzotta is proud of his son just like he is proud of the entire team as a whole. According to him, this team and season remind him a lot of his 2012 team, which was 9-2 and made it to the Patriotic Bowl Game.

"They want the win, and are willing to fight for it," he said. "My biggest goal for these guys is to get them out of here after their time [at MSJC] comes to an end, and on to the next chapter of their lives. Not many players leave and then come back, they go on to bigger things and start their lives, which is what we here at MSJC want for them."

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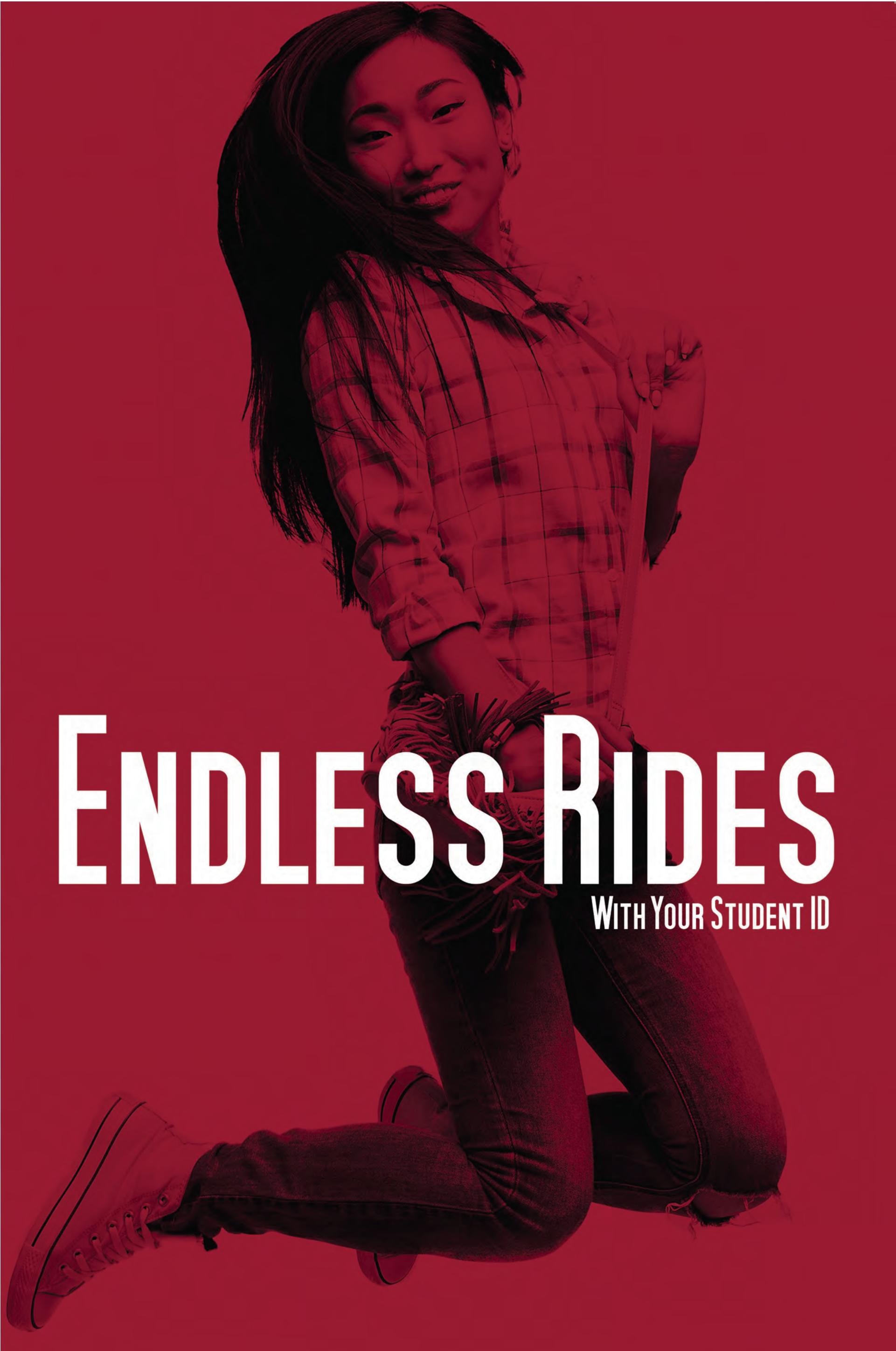
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'Almost Maine' takes to the Stage



The cast of "Almost Maine" takes a break between performances. This was the first production at MSJC by Bianca Swan-Finch.

Photos by Shelby Walker

MSJC performance directed by Swan-Finch

By Shelby Walker

The MSJC San Jacinto Campus Theatre Department presented "Almost Maine", by John Cariani, for the fall play. The play was directed by the new SJC Interim Theatre Chair, Bianca Swan-Finch. This was Swan-Finch's first production at MSJC.

Swan-Finch has been working in the performing arts for the last 14 years as an actress, director, singer, playwright, and teacher. She felt that all of her past experiences contributed to the show's production and performance.

"When I read the play, I just knew I needed to do it," said Swan-Finch.

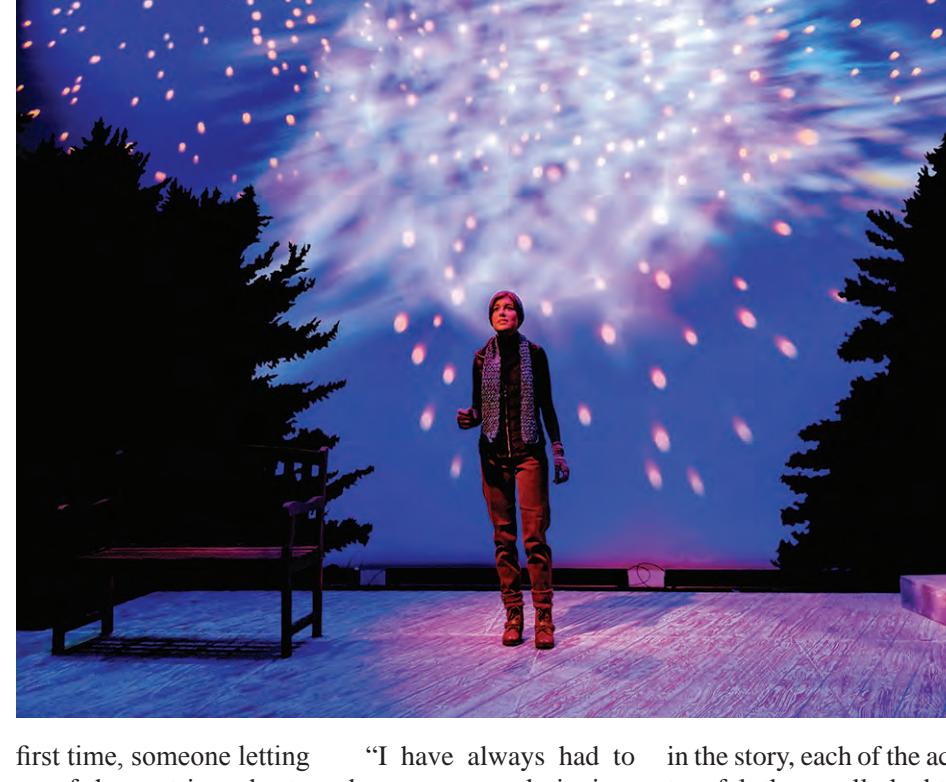
After reading the play, she saw that there was a crucial lesson the audience could gain from the story.

"I wanted the audience to leave the show being a bit more optimistic about love and letting love in," she said.

"Almost Maine" gives the audience an intimate look at the many aspects of love. The story is set in the deepest part of Northern Maine in winter, where the northern lights can be spotted. The story focuses on nine couples all going through various aspects of relationships.

All of these events take place during the same 10 minutes on a Friday night.

The play is meant to give the audience an inside look into the many stages of love. It addresses, for example, a couple saying "I love you" for the



first time, someone letting go of the past in order to move on, and one person in a relationship who is able to move on, but the other isn't quite ready for the same.

Most plays have the audience seated in the house of the theater so they have a view of the stage and the actors, but the directors had a different idea. The audience was seated on the sides and in front of the stage and were therefore able to gain a more intimate experience from the actors.

The show also had many effects and surprises that have differed from other MSJC productions. The back drop of the stage brought to life the Northern Lights, through the intricate lighting done for the show. Jeff George, the technical director, brought the vision Swan-Finch had for the set to life.

"I have always had to do my own designing, and to finally be able to work with such a great visionary and we just click has been the best part of [the production]. Jeff has been 'inside my brain' and brought my vision to life for the show," said Swan-Finch.

The show ended with

the biggest surprise to the audience when it began to snow.

"Keeping the snow, a secret from the public,

was definitely the hardest part about working on this set," said Tyler Koharik, one of the stage hands.

The cast agreed as a group that this was a rewarding experience and that Swan-Finch truly brought this story to life and made it her own while still staying true to the story.

With so many different emotions being portrayed

in the story, each of the actors felt they really had to work to make their strong emotions be apparent to the audience.

"Bianca taught me how to really connect my character with real life experiences in order to give the best performance I can and therefore give the audience a really great show," said Lily Benitez, who played Gayle.

Each of the cast members had many different experiences in what they found most enjoyable and challenging.

"My favorite part of this play has been experiencing growth and truly fitting into character along with my cast mates. Many of my cast mates were new to theater so it was really fun to grow along with them and watch the progress and become more successful...It is

such a wonderful experience to be surrounded by people who share the same passion and love for the arts that I do," said Unique Pervan, who played Sandrine.

"I really had a great time being a part of this play, although it was different than any other play I had done. I have always been used to many people on stage all at once, this was much more intimate. What I liked most about the play is the setting and how my scene wasn't as happy as the rest but that's what made it so fun to be a part of," said Tiare Torres, who played Marci.

"The most difficult part about this play for me was truly finding Glory and her pain. This character has so many emotions going on from guilt, loss, interest, and confusion. It made it almost impossible for me to just jump in and ace her emotions without studying and meditating about her life," said Sarah Hall.

Cast members Dallas Humphreys (Steve) and Cameron Kelly (Marvyn) both agreed that the hardest part of this production was one of the comical moments in the play involving an ironing board.

"The worst part was definitely getting used to getting hit with an ironing board, but what can I say? I'd do anything for my art," said Kelly.

"The thing I love about acting is the idea that it takes you out of yourself and puts you in the shoes of another person," said

Madison Irving (Hope), when asked why she loved acting.

For cast member Christos Malandrinos (Pete), this was his last production with MSJC, since he will be transferring to UCR in the spring.

"I feel great knowing that I got to work with such an amazing cast and crew, but every show carries a sadness with it when it ends. Because even if you know there will be more shows to come after, the sad beauty of theatre is that a particular performance will only be experienced once. I have enjoyed my time here at MSJC and will always remember it," said Malandrinos.

"Directing the students is just so amazing because I am able to help them find [their character], and every time they found it, I would celebrate and jump up and down. It was amazing being able to witness the 'ah ha' moment they each had. Each of them was able to pinpoint the moment they found the real emotion. I could not be more proud of the hard work they have put into the show," said Swan-Finch.

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Bright Mothers cont.

From page 1

Center for Children in Poverty and several other research organizations have long stressed the strong effect a parent's education level has on the socioeconomic status of their children. According to a study from 2009 by Wayne State University, education increases the probability of higher pay, decreases the rate of violent incidents, and promotes better health and longevity in single mothers. Bright Mothers aims to reduce the poverty rate of single mothers directly by investing in their higher education.

Bright Mothers obtains funds for the scholarships

through donations and fundraising events like movie nights, paint and sips, and 5ks. They offer a community donation subscription, THRIVER, for \$25 a month, but welcome all donations regardless of size.

Their all-women team relies heavily on social media and word-of-mouth to draw attention for events but hopes to evolve their marketing methods in the future. They are currently promoting the Inaugural Golden 5k Road to Success at Vail Lake Resort in Temecula, on Dec. 1.

Bright Mothers has several business partners, including Wongz Donut and Team Coco (CONAN

on PBS.) As a platinum partner, Team Coco provides them with VIP tickets to the live show for use in giveaways and will award three of these tickets at the upcoming 5k.

In addition to providing scholarships, Farsi wants to foster a sense of community amongst women.

"We would like to create a space where women can teach each other different things to create a brighter future for their families," she says.

The Bright Mothers community she hopes to create would encourage women to expand their horizons and pursue a higher education.

"I envision a future where single mothers are

able to be financially stable by becoming empowered from their educational journey."

Bright Mothers is on track to partner with as many colleges in the Southern California area as they can. After CSUSM, Mount San Jacinto was next on the list of prospective partners not only because of Farsi's status as an alumnus, but also her positive educational experiences she had at the college. She says many of her professors at MSJC "encouraged and cultivated" her desire to learn.

She specifically thanked Professor Craig, Professor Baldwin, and Professor Henkle for inspiring and

engaging her. Farsi says the help and support of the faculty at MSJC gave her the support and "push" she needed to help other students pursue their degrees. She is also reaching out to other colleges to partner with as the organization grows. Currently, Bright Mothers is partnered with six colleges total.

The organization's achievements are not without its challenges. Farsi says that the responsibilities of her position are intensive. As acting CEO, she oversees creating and putting on events that benefit the organization.

"It is a lot of work for just one person," she ad-

mits. She has no prior experience with operating a nonprofit, but enjoys "... the learning process and creating something out of nothing."

Organizing people to be involved and being open to sharing some of the responsibility of operating a nonprofit has also proven difficult. The organization is always looking for anyone who wants to donate their time to the cause, on top of their core team of eight. Bright Mothers' status as a relatively new organization is another barrier, but one they soon expect to overcome as they establish their brand and "get the word out." Farsi plans to expand the nonprofit even further.

STUDENT CORNER



Art by Julian Ortiz

Photo by Angie Smith

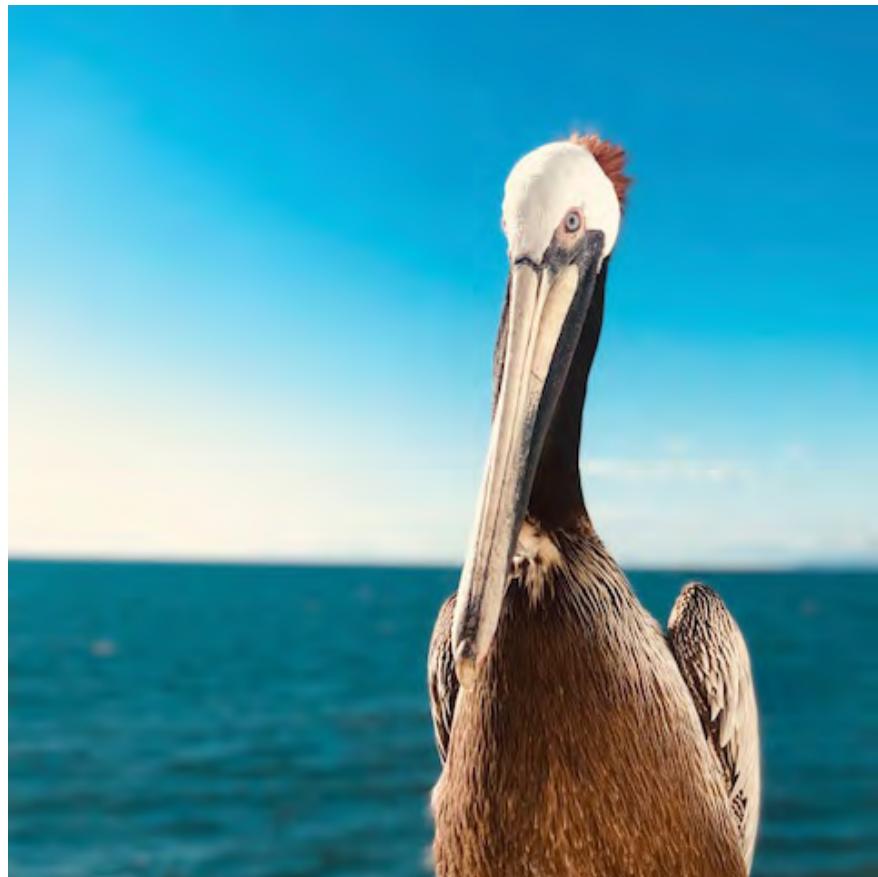


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Basketball players have high hopes

By Jose Arreguin

MSJC's women's basketball team has formed a winning program under Coach Chris Mozga and intends to make the season great.

Returning player Alyssa Walton is being counted on as the leader heading into the season. She holds the most experience with the sport and is often counted upon for winning shots. Other players to watch are freshmen Sharonda Edwards and

Haylei Jansenns who, according to Mozga, will be the players who "put points on the board".

The Lady Eagles are looking forward to every game as they defend their title as reigning state champions, however they are also more cautious this season.

Palomar has been a favorite to play against and have become rivals to the Lady Eagles in the last six years of the conference. They are tough opponents that the Lady Eagles face

three times a year and, as challenging as the schedule can be, Palomar Community College always stands out.

Many teams who face the Lady Eagles have established them as the team to beat.

Mozga is not fazed by the potentially tougher opponents though, and said, "I think anytime you're the defending state champions, people want to beat you ... in the world of women's community basketball, teams have been

trying to beat us, but this time it might be a little bit different".

Mozga has established two goals: "One is to win every game, and the second is to get them scholarships to Division 1 schools when they leave".

Nine of MSJC's Lady Eagles signed scholarships to four-year institutions last year. The team claims their success was mostly from the great team effort, dedication, and trust that was found within each other. In-com-

ing freshmen are looking to match the success of last year's season.

Although this team is different from last year, the expectations are the same.

"We're just going to have to work a little harder; our goal is to always win the conference championship [and] make it to the state championship, but it takes a lot of work to get to that point," says Mozga.

Mozga looks forward to watching the new play-

ers grow and adapt to the ways of college basketball, saying, "The growth they show in those two years is tremendous and always fun to see".

The season begins in November with tournaments and conference games. The Lady Eagles have a title to defend and are looking to become repeat champions. They intend to utilize the relationship between the new and veteran players to guide them toward success.



Photo by MSJC Athletics

Volleyball cont.

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said she has to also prepare her players for what comes next, after the ladies' time at MSJC ends.

"I am very excited to see my sophomores continue their athletic careers at four-year universities. Transferring our athletes is one of the main priorities in our volleyball program," said Eason. "My goal is that our sophomores learn how to lead on and off the court. This will allow them to be leaders and impact players, not only in their next volleyball program but also in their future careers and throughout their life."

The sophomores were asked how they feel about their time at MSJC coming to an end. The consensus was that it's bitter sweet but there is no life without volleyball. They also went on to say they are ready and feel prepared for the next chapter.

"Leaving each other will be like leaving family," said Cashlee Hular.

On Sept. 28, the team's winning streak came to an end with two tough losses for the team against Grossmont College and San Diego Mesa College. These losses brought the team 11-2 before going into conference. The team agreed it was hard on them that day, but when they returned to practice that next Monday, they knew they were ready to prove during conference that their streak was not just luck.

"Many teams under estimate what we are capable of, so going into conference, we want to prove we do deserve their respect," said Jami Lorech.

The team felt that they now had more fight than they did before. Eason also said that going into conference, everyone is considered 0-0, so essentially everyone is starting over and has equal chance-

es. Eason's goal going into conference is really getting the team to play as one and push through the tough moments.

"There are many strong teams that we will be going against and we will need to bring our all if we are going to win," said Eason.

When asked which teams would be their most difficult competition, the players unanimously agreed that College of the Desert and Mira Costa College would be their toughest matches. Eason agreed, saying, "The Pacific Coast Athletic Conference is one of the most competitive conferences in the state. The two top teams will be Mira Costa and College of the Desert."

"We are more driven than ever," said Hular.

The team responded well to their two losses and proved they were ready to bring their all for conference. They won their first game of conference on Oct. 3 against San Diego Miramar College.

It wasn't time to celebrate yet, though. Just two days later on Oct. 5, they would be going against one of their toughest competitors, College of the Desert. They would play best 3 out of 5 sets. In the first set, the Lady Eagles fell short, 21-25.

Going into the second set, the Eagles were determined to get the win. It was yet another close set with the Eagle winning 25-22. This made it so it was anyone's game.

When it came to the third set, the Lady Eagles were on fire, and they couldn't seem to be stopped, winning by a score of 25-13.

This meant that they Eagles only needed to win one more set to win the match. When the fourth set, started it was obvious that COD was not going to go down with

out a fight. COD started the match off strong with the lead. This didn't stop the Eagles; they were determined to get the win. They fought hard through tough moments.

Near the end of the game, Rubi Ruiz one of the outside hitters, was injured, but instead of going out of the game, she continued to play. Showing her team she was in it until the end, this gave the team that last push they needed. With a very close score, the Eagles won the set 25-21, getting them the 3-1 victory in the Match.

Although the win was a team effort, there were many players that had a strong game personally as well. Freshman Laurny Patterson had 15 kills, as well as 6 digs and 2 block assists. Hular and Ruiz both had 9 kills. Co-Captain and setter Lannie Maffucci had 26 assists and 10 digs.

"I feel like we played really well together, and today was a really big team day for us," Patterson said. "Everyone played at their highest level."

Patterson was also asked how she felt about herself personally, getting 15 kills in one game.

"I feel like I shut everything else and was just focused in the moment," she said. "I think I did pretty well overall."

Going into this match, the players told their coaches they were determined to implement everything from practice in this game to get the win. One of the biggest things Eason wanted the girls to do was not to let any ball just hit the ground without someone attempting to go for it. This was able to be seen with the whole team but especially sophomore Jordyn Kovich. She dove for every ball that came her way, even if she wasn't able to save it in time.

"I had the mentality that I was not going to let anything hit the floor because this is for my team. I wasn't playing for me, I was playing for them. I wanted to go all out for them just like they do for me," said Kovich.

Co-Captains Arango and Maffucci were both proud of the game their team played.

"This win felt great, and we really all had that team mentality which really helped us," said Arango.

"This win really is building our confidence for our next big match, but we just have to keep building that confidence up every game."

Co-Captain Maffucci felt a great deal of pride that all the work day in and day out the team was putting into this match paid off.

"We knew COD was a first hard conference team, and its 0-0 when you go into conference.

Both teams have scouted each other and prepared for this game and it really was who was going to execute what they practiced, and that's exactly what we did today," said Maffucci.

The Lady Eagles have gained their confidence back and are ready for the rest of conference.

"It feels great leaving this match knowing that we stuck to our game plan," Eason said. "From the beginning of the week preparing of this match, we had a specific plan to win COD and today was the first match I saw our team really implement what we practiced. They hung in there mentally. My goal now as a coach for rest of conference is to keep building the ladies confidence and keep preparing. This starts over fresh next week and we just have to keep the momentum up as a team."

Castro cont.

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faculty members for the upcoming semester.

"As an instructor, it is about finding the balance between pushing the students to become better while keeping the class lively, engaging and of course, meaningful," she said.

Being a professor takes practice and skill. Castro states, "Teaching while making students first is very humbling".

Castro believes that learning about other cultures is crucial to learning a new language and she brings her personal experiences to the classroom to better explain how the Spanish language has impacted the world.

On the topic of learning while traveling, Castro says, "I've learned A LOT about the culture, lexicon and grammar. There is a misconception that people that speak Spanish know all about the language, but language is always changing. Hence, it is not enough to speak the language.

If an instructor doesn't travel to stay current with the language and maintain fluency, class often evolves around everyone reading a textbook verbatim and that's not fun for any-one."

Hearing student testimonies and stories of how they used their learned skills to communicate with someone in Spanish always feels like an accomplishment to Castro.

When asked about her goals as a professor, Castro explains, "At the end of the day, if I can get one student to believe in themselves and love the language and culture in the process, then I have done my job."

"There is an erroneous belief that everyone speaks Spanish in California and thus, students don't really need to take a class."

But she knows that that this misconception is the primary reason why many students should take these classes to better communicate in their communities. Knowing that students are improving their Spanish skills is a tremendous feeling to her as a professor.

She says that most of her evenings and weekends are spent grading papers. Holidays and summers are consumed with lesson planning, organizing and mentoring new

Lecture cont.

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when humans are sealed inside of an artificial habitat. Oberg explains both the psychological and physiological concepts behind the interpersonal dynamics that developed in this sealed environment. The intersection of proximity and frequency of contact in the Biodome makes attraction much more feasible.

On top of this, entertainment is not typically abundant in closed environments, which humans are naturally inclined to compensate for with coupling, among other things. This was shown in developments between character's relationships throughout the course of "The Terranauts".

Her presentation also comprehensively covered the personality theory and factors of sexual attraction.

