

## Healing begins after crisis on campus

By Jesus Alcalá Avalos

Mt. San Jacinto College went into lockdown due to a sighting of a gunman on Nov. 6.

Student and SI Leader Alyse Kiara Deatherage was in Professor Derek Snider's class during the lockdown.

At approximately 9:40 a.m., a student notified the class that an alert had been sent out.

"I was not fazed during the event," said Deatherage.

As an SI Leader, Deatherage received training to deal with a gunman on campus. The training occurred in Spring 2019. While the training was not offered every semester, training videos were available for SI members through Canvas.

To reduce visibility, Deatherage and her professor directed the class to sit out of view of the

window and to turn off the lights. The window on the door was the only window in the classroom.

Snider was unable to lock the door in room 1216. Professor Mike Fleming saw this and used force to jam the door into the frame.

Fleming stated that he received active shooter training three years ago during a convocation, a meeting of faculty before the first day of classes. However, Fleming says he forgot some of the training due to lack of use and time.

While Fleming locked the door, he forgot to barricade the door and turn the lights off. After seeing other classrooms, he remembered to turn the lights off.

The students in Deatherage's class barricaded the door with a desk.

One thing Deatherage forgot to do was tie the arm

of the door, which can be found at the top of the door. Tying the arm prevents the door from being opened.

Deatherage says that rope or a belt are suitable materials.

"My phone blew up with family and friends not on campus wanting to make sure I was OK," said Deatherage.

Deatherage says that her classroom was mostly calm, except for about three people who were worried. One student had a child in the child development center. The student called the center but did not receive an answer, so they became worried.

The SWAT team arrived on campus and checked each classroom.

"Until the SWAT team arrived, it didn't feel real," said Deatherage.

Deatherage says that the SWAT team's check-



The San Jacinto campus

Photo by Alyse Kiara Deatherage

in startled her. The SWAT team told them to stay put and keep the door locked.

After law enforcement completed their sweep, they allowed people out of their rooms.

After being released, Deatherage felt jittery and anxious, possibly due to an adrenaline rush.

She says that she just

wanted to do something, so she did homework.

The following day, Deatherage felt abnormally tired. She did not want to have any conversations, so she left her phone at home while she went out with family after her classes had ended for the day.

Professors in each of her classes dedicated some time

to talking about the event, allowing students to share their thoughts. Deatherage says that there was no noticeable drop in attendance on Thursday in her classes. One student told her that they had no idea that the lockdown had occurred.

Talking about the event in class helped Deatherage process the event.

When Deatherage arrived home, she messaged anyone who was still worried about her but did not want to hold long conversations. Still feeling tired, she went to bed early that day.

On Friday, Deatherage attended the speech tournament hosted on the San Jacinto campus.

Cont. on page 5

## PTK provides hope and awareness

By Pablo Ramos Diaz

The More than Pink Walk was held by Mt. San Jacinto College's Phi Theta Kappa chapter on Oct. 13 in Murrieta to raise funds for medical research on breast cancer.

Participants arrived at 6:30 a.m. to register for the walk and to set up sponsor tents. Participants were treated to a nice, healthy breakfast so they didn't have to walk on an empty stomach.

From 7:40 to 8 a.m., individuals and teams gathered together to participate in the opening ceremony, where volunteers thanked everyone for getting up early and participating in this event. After a motivational opening speech was given by one of the volunteers, towels were handed out and



Walkers holding up a banner of participant signatures

Photo by Maritza Ramirez

participants began to line up to prepare for the walk.

Thirty minutes later an announcer counted down from 3, 2, 1 Boom!

Hundreds of walkers started their journey to raise as much funds as possible before the event ended.

The track itself was about 2 miles long, starting from Town Square Park and winding up onto B Street, where participants

could decide whether to head back and enjoy the expo or continue walking.

Once participants were done with the walk, they were greeted at the finish line with cheerleaders congratulating them in addition to friends and family members cheering them on.

Additionally, there were volunteers with fruit and water waiting for them once they were done walking.

Next, participants could either choose to head out or stay for the big expo, where everyone could hang out and have some fun in various activities like hair braiding and shirt cutting.

The expo itself was filled to the brim with pink, with both participants and volunteers covered in pink attire, including shirts, tutus, bandanas and much more. Companies and other advertisers such as Chase Bank and Azusa Pacific came to show their support for the event as well as, doing advertisements for their respective companies/universities.

Jill Eaton, the Executive Director of the Susan G. Komen at Luna Park, talked about how they used to host the annual Susan G. Komen walk for the past 20 or so years. Eaton

stated that they decided to rename the event the More Than Pink Walk to try and expand the cause.

Eaton expressed that she feels this change has been successful.

"What we're doing here today is that we are engaging the community to get more involved with regards to what our organization does and understand how the community can rally behind breast cancer survivors and help provide funding to those that are in need," Eaton said.

With more than 2000 participants and with over 300 volunteers partaking in this event, Eaton and her organization hoped to raise as much money as they can for breast cancer patients.

Additionally, Eaton says that the money will be going toward programs and services in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Twenty-five percent of that money will be going towards research to find cures for breast cancer.

Cont. on page 5



Phi Theta Kappa students at the PTK booth

Photo provided by Brenda Garica

**NEWS**

**MSJC Celebrates its first annual Pride Week**

Missed out on any of the events at MSJC's first annual Pride Week? We've got you covered! Read about all the events and see pictures from each one inside.

**See Pages 2 & 3**

**OPINION**

**Game of Thrones live orchestra viewing**

Love Game of Thrones? Read about the live Orchestra Viewing that came to Southern California.

**See Page 6**

**SPORTS**

**Women's Basketball taking over the court**

Read about MSJC's women's basketball team and how they've been doing so far this season!

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# MSJC students share their coming-out stories

By Pablo Ramos Diaz

**Writers note: The people who shared their coming out story at the forum have consented to share their story with the newspaper.**

On Oct. 7-11, Mt. San Jacinto College brought in something unique: Pride Week.

Although there was a Drag Show during the Spring 2019 semester, founders of the LGBTQ+ Task Force decided to expand this and, with the help of the Diversity Committee, Eagle Event and Student Equity and Achievement, Pride Week was born.

The coming out forum was on Oct. 9 and had various members of the LGBTQ+ Task Force share their stories on how they

became how they are as well as answer any questions students had about them and the LGBTQ+.

Before the event, professor Ryan Sullivan, who has been a huge help in creating Pride Week, discussed why this forum in particular is important

“The coming out forum is a great way to raise awareness for the community on campus. It gives a great space for students to ask questions to learn more and it’s a great way for students and faculty to share their stories,” said Sullivan.

Sullivan, who went to Hemet High School, had a boyfriend during his senior year. His mother was very supportive of her son’s sexual preference.

Although his family and his boyfriend’s fam-



Panel speakers at the Coming Out Forum

Photo by Alyse Kiara Deatherage

ily knew they were gay, they really didn’t show any affection in public.

“I think an important moment was when I realized that the first and only time, we showed any public affection was a hug in the hospital after six years together and his mother was dying,” said Sullivan.

Sullivan felt that this moment was emblematic of how he felt about being queer in Hemet Valley. Although Sullivan eventually broke up with his first boyfriend, he went back to dating and is now happily married to his husband.

There were various students who were eager and nervous to share their stories at the forum. One of these students named Blaine Harris shared her coming out story.

Harris lived in a Chris-

tian home where the atmosphere was very homophobic in addition to being transphobic. At the age of 5, Harris noticed the boys doing “boy things” that she didn’t want to participate in.

Instead, Harris wanted to hang out with her girlfriends and play with Barbie dolls and do makeup and hair.

Once Harris entered middle school, she wanted to enter the girl’s locker room instead of the boy’s locker room, but had to subconsciously remember that she was a boy and not a girl.

Over the course of his life, Harris was afraid of what her mother would think if she found out that Harris didn’t think of himself as a boy.

Harris began to question herself even more, once she got to college, and it was there that Harris real-

ized she did not feel comfortable with the gender that was assigned to her.

Harris had a huge breakthrough through a series of conversations with Hylie Rosabelle. It was through meeting Hylie and other members from the Task Force that Harris began to accept who she was.

“I realized that there was nothing wrong with being myself,” said Harris.

From that point forward Harris started to take a red bag which contained a dress, heels, and makeup. Her routine everyday would be go out of the house as a male and, once she got to school, quickly change in the girl’s bathroom and come out as a female.

Eventually, her mother found out about this and she was kicked out of the house. Fortunately for Har-

ris, she was able to get in touch with her father and she found out that her father, stepmother, and the rest of her dad’s family were a lot more accepting of who Harris truly was.

The atmosphere coming out of her mother to now living with her father was a complete 180. Coming from such an extreme hateful and mentally abusive family to this wide open and expressive family was a complete culture shock to Harris, but it was a welcome one.

Today Harris is now a trans female who is striving to spread awareness about transgender.

After the forum, Anjanelle Oberg, a psychology professor at Mt. San Jacinto’s Menifee campus, came over for the forum to do some analysis and show her support for the LGBTQ+ community.

Oberg believes it’s important to learn about the LGBTQ+ community because of how diverse it is.

“Our students represent the diversity of humanity. Additionally, they are eventually going to grow up to be leaders and move into different positions like president, senate, and maybe congresspeople.” says Oberg.

Oberg hopes Mt San Jacinto College students grow and become great leaders in their respective fields.



Blaine Harris with the flag for the trans community

Photo provided by Hylie Rosabelle

# Kirstine Luna demonstrates the power of makeup

By Elyon Akpenyi

On Oct. 10, in continuation with the events of Mt. San Jacinto College’s very first Pride LGBTQ+ Week, the college hosted a stage makeup workshop class.

The class was hosted by Kristine Bella Luna, popularly known better by her drag king name Landon Cider.

Luna is the very first Drag King and first cisgender woman to compete on Dragula, as well as make it to the finale. She also auditioned for “RuPaul’s Drag Race” Season 9.

The workshop took place in room 1250, and there was quite a number of eager students already present and seated way before the event started.

While setting up the tools and equipment for the workshop, Luna explained that she would demonstrate a step by step process of a dramatic transformation: turning her feminine face into a masculine one suitable for stage and Drag King performances.

The demonstration began at exactly 5pm with Luna instantly livening up the class.

“I love f\*\*\*\*g myself



Kristine Bella Luna with members of the audience

up and giving myself anxiety attacks backstage,” said Luna as she explained how she would have to do major transformations into her characters in under 20 minutes or less for her shows.

Luna started off by explaining the differences between what makes a person’s features considered feminine as opposed to being masculine and thereafter proceeded to draw very bold sharp lines across her cheekbones, nose and forehead.

She continued to draw more lines across her face,

accentuating certain angles known to be more prominent in masculine faces.

As she worked on her face, she was able to answer a few questions the students had.

“How long have you been doing makeup?” asked one member of the audience.

“I’ve been doing makeup all my life. I’ve been doing special fx since high school and I’ve been doing drag now for about 10 years. I was always practicing because you know to be successful at anything you have to put effort,” said Luna.

Photo by Johnny Moua

“Was there one man you tried to look like at first?” asked another student.

Luna replied there had been no one really doing tutorials on drag king makeup at the time and it was all trial and error for her until she figured it out.

“It’s about not looking at your face but seeing a blank canvas where you then paint and carve out things you want to see,” said Luna.

“How does it feel on your face?” a student asked in reference to the heavy makeup Kristine often has to wear for her looks on stage.

“Like a thick hot mess,” replied Luna.

By this time, she had begun applying the highlight to bring out the boldness of her strokes. As soon as she proceeded to blend, she began to look like her onstage persona, Landon Cider.

Her simple, but effective, techniques produced outstanding results, even before she finished, which she never got the chance to do due to time.

The contouring and stippling of facial hair rounded up her demonstration and, believe it or not, just a little application of her con-

tour cream on the opening of her nostrils redefined her whole face and gave the full “masculine” effect.

Applause filled the whole room as she ended her presentation and the class proceeded to thank her. Some students even went ahead to request for pictures with her. One thing Luna was sure to do was make sure everyone had a wonderful experience.

“I’m focused on giving the audience my best each and every single time,” said Luna.



Kristine Bella Luna applying makeup

Photo by Johnny Moua

# Gemini Man

**Editor’s Note: Reviews are the opinion of the writer and not the opinion of The Talon or MSJC.**

By Lillian Goodwin

There were literally three other people in the theater when I saw this movie, and it doesn’t take an expert film critic to figure out why.

Even the premise of “Gemini Man” seems banal and uninspired: a retired hitman, played by Will Smith, must survive being hunted down by his younger, more talented, clone, also played by Will Smith, albeit made to look 30 years younger through a testament to the powers of modern CGI.

Along the way, he unravels a government conspiracy with the help of a scrappy former special agent, played by

Mary Elizabeth Winstead. If you are wondering if anything else happens in this two-hour long movie, it doesn’t.

The relationships and chemistry between the characters builds up over the course of the film, but is ultimately wasted by a plot that was designed to space out the over-choreographed fight sequences.

The film admittedly boasts an impressive cast and powerful effects on a Hollywood budget, but amounts to little more than a compilation of choppy fight scenes and generic dialogue to entertain the viewers while they wait for the next \$30 million explosion.

# Pride Week BBQ!



Showing support for LGBTQ+ writers

Photo by Maritza Ramirez



Attendees stopping by booths

Photo by Andoni-Josep Diaz



Pride Week attendees

Photo by Alyse Kiara Deatherage



SAGA members at MVC’s Pride BBQ

Photo by Maritza Ramirez



Preparing food for hungry attendees

Photo by Maritza Ramirez

# MSJC hosts second annual drag show

By Gregory Stires

Mt. San Jacinto College had its second annual Pride Week during the first week of October. There were several different events happening throughout the week, such as a Coming Out Forum, the first meeting for the Sexuality and Gender Alliance Club (SAGA), and ending with the Letting Others In drag show on Oct. 10.

The drag show was held on the San Jacinto campus in the theatre and started at 7 p.m. This show was hosted by Mayhem Miller, from season 10 of *Rupaul's Drag Race*. The show featured drag queens Jazmyn Simone, Nebuer Styles, Nomi B, and drag king Landon Cider, who held a stage makeup workshop before at 5 p.m. before the show and other special guests.

According to Professor Ryan Sullivan, the person who was responsible for putting on the Letting Others in event, the idea for the event started two years ago.

"About two years ago I started a discussion with our Equity Director at the time, Pam Wright. And I pitched the idea of bring-



Letting Others In Drag Show participants in their performance costumes

Photo by Alyse Kiara Deatherage

ing a drag show to MSJC like what they have at UC Riverside. And we just discussed it and then made it happen," said Sullivan.

There were many people involved in putting on Pride Week. The people involved included the LGBTQ+ Task Force. Members were involved in different events, such as Professor Anjeanette Oberg, who hosted the Coming Out Forum,

and Professor Sullivan, who spearheaded the Letting Others in Drag Show.

"The main goal was we wanted to bring something fun and joyful because being part of the LGBT community isn't just about the bad things, right? There's lots of events that are like workshops or how to deal with the mental health aspects or the negative aspects or the social aspects

which are important and useful," explained Sullivan. Sullivan further explained that they also wanted to represent the fun and celebratory energy that the LGBTQ+ community has.

This event has been successful so far with the theater being packed each time.

"I do think it was really successful. It's always a packed theater. And Roger Schultz, our president,

said that it was one of the most energetic events he'd been to," said Sullivan.

When asked about what things he wanted to do for Pride Week next year, Sullivan talked about making it bigger and having more student club involvement, including more fun events and expanding more on both of the Mt. San Jacinto College campuses for next year's Pride Week.

"We would like to add more perhaps pure fun events so maybe balance out Letting Others in with another fun event. We would like to expand more on both campuses and really just take the framework we started and add to it and make it a more full week with more things," said Sullivan.

For students who want to get involved in helping and supporting events like Pride Week and Letting Others in event, Sullivan suggests joining the SAGA club, which is on both campuses and meets on Wednesday's.

He also suggests becoming student leaders on all levels by joining the Student Government Association (SGA), by attending committee meetings, such as the Student Equity Committee or Diversity Committee, as student representatives, and by attending the LGBTQ+ Task Force which students can find out more about the Task Force by contacting SGA.

For people interested in finding out more about getting involved, Ryan says that the SGA office is the first place to look for more opportunities to get involved.

## Pride Week Photos!



Shape of a heart to represent pride week

Photo provided by marketing



Performer grooving to the beat

Photo by Johnny Moua



Members of SAGA and Task Force at the forum

Photo by Alyse Kiara Deatherage



Performer hitting the high note at the drag show

Photo by Johnny Moua



Performer singing like there is no tomorrow

Photo by Johnny Moua



#PRIDE drawing at the SJC BBQ

Photo by Alyse Kiara Deatherage



Hylie Rosabelle embracing the transgender flag

Photo provided by Hylie Rosabelle



Performer with Charro suit ready to perform

Photo by Johnny Moua



Performer giving the show of a lifetime

Photo by Maritza Ramirez



Performer ready to show their moves

Photo by Johnny Moua



SAGA members at the MVC BBQ

Photo by Andoni-Joesp Diaz



LGBTQ+ Task Force at the MVC BBQ

Photo by Maritza Ramirez

# Building teams that leap to new heights

By Eric Rodriguez

It's women's basketball season again at Mt. San Jacinto College and with the new season approaching, the anticipation is high.

Head coach Chris Mozga is entering his 15th season at MSJC, and the Eagles are 342-93 in his tenure as coach. Haylei Janssens, a third-team All-State, first-team all-Conference player with averages of 11.4 ppg and 8.6 rpg last year, is the team's top returning player. Janssens has high hopes for the team this season.

"I think our team is going to be really good this year," said Janssens. "The coaches are amazing! They are really good to us."

Janssens shared her training techniques in the off-season, saying that she did an insane amount of running to better her endurance. She confirmed that she was excited for the season and would not want to be anywhere else.

MSJC student and player Dasia Blue said that the team was going to be good.

"They're [the coaches] pretty tough on us be-

cause they see the potential in all of us," said Blue.

Blue has done a lot in the off-season to better prepare herself for the coming season, including playing pick-up games at the park.

A former player at Riverside Community College, she reached out to MSJC's coaching staff, looking for a change of scenery.

Blue was dedicated to looking for a school that could utilize her talents. She found herself playing for one of the most impressive coaches in the conference, coach Mozga.

MSJC started their season against the No. 1 ranked team in the off-season, Moorpark, on Nov. 2. At the beginning of the game, it seemed that Moorpark was showing the basketball world why they're a force to be reckoned with, leading 38-28 at the half.

Eager to turn the game around, the Eagles could not swing any momentum their way, only scoring 30 more points in the second half while Moorpark scored 42. It was a tough game for the team, suffering a 90-58 loss.

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MSJC women's basketball team playing against Moorpark College

Photo by Eric Rodriguez

"There are a lot of freshmen on the team; trying to build team chemistry is going to take time," said Mozga. "They kept getting in the paint and with two of our tallest girls being injured, it was very difficult to keep them away from the rim."

He also shared that he was very proud of his team and shared that losing is the best teacher, finding any weaknesses and turn-

ing them into strengths.

Going into this season, the Eagles qualified for the CCCAA Regional Tournament for 13 straight seasons now. MSJC finished the 2018-19 season 24-7 and helped 10 players now playing at the four-year level, such as Delacy Brown (Riverside Poly HS) and Brittany Thomas (San Jacinto HS) at Cal Baptist University.

## MSJC volleyball keeping the ball rolling

By Eric Rodriguez

The Mt. San Jacinto College volleyball team started the Inland Empire Conference Tournament with a commanding win over San Bernardino Valley, 3-0. MSJC continued their dominance, sweeping College of the Desert 3-0 at the team's home opener.

Starting the first set down 10-3, the team kept trying to come back against their opponents but found themselves down by 8 at one point of the game. Finally being able to even things up at 22, MSJC took their first lead at 24-23. Rallying back against a very confident Roadrunner team, the Eagles won the set, 28-27.

The second set started with a captivating 4-0 run by the Eagles. Showing no mercy, MSJC distanced themselves further and further from their opponents, leading 17-10 mid set.

"After a close first period, it was tough to try to hold the lead against such a hungry and competitive Roadrunner team," said Eagles player Keona Escorpiso.

After a CoD timeout, they cut the lead with a 5-1 run. Coach Serinna Eason was not liking what she was seeing and called a timeout of her own. Showing so much passion and determination, Eason inspired the team and led them to a 25-18 second set win.

Leading the game 2 sets to 0, no team was able to build up any momentum in the third set, going back and forth and having about 8 lead changes. The Eagles went on a game-clinching 7-2 run, distancing themselves from their competition.

Eason led her very talented team in winning their home opener and winning two straight games. Jaqueline Barbosa had an amazing performance with an impressive 38 assists and 4 points.

The Eagles went on to lose the next game against first-place Chaffey, but bounced back, beating Victor Valley and Cerro Coso. Having a Conference winning percentage of .800, the Eagles have only lost once in five games.

# Students meet the face beyond the cover

By Immanuel Ibon

October was Disability Awareness Month and Mt. San Jacinto College's Disabled Students Program Services (DSPS) took part in raising awareness about people with disabilities and the challenges they face, celebrating the many achievements and contributions of those who have disabilities.

Beyond the Cover is an event where students are able to check out living books.

The books in this pop-up library are by people and, instead of reading the stories from pages, students are able to interact and converse with the storyteller for a 20-minute time slot.

The "books" are usually centered around a specific theme and October's event was focused on celebrating Disability Awareness Month.

The event took place in the library at the Menifee Valley Campus and students who sought to participate were met with an information table and a healthy portion for midday meal accommodations. At the table, a small team of DSPS members guided students through the procedure of checking out a living book.

Prior to choosing a living book, students were en-



Students participating in the interactive sessions at the Beyond the Cover event

couraged to check out the website and read the stories that Beyond the Cover participants had written about themselves in order to help decide which book they wanted to sit down and read.

After reading through the stories, students were then led to the library counter where old-school check-out sheets were on display, with the names of each storyteller adorning the header.

From there, students chose the "book" they want to check and a time slot for that meeting. Meetings were 20 minutes long and took place regularly from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

From there, students – with library card in hand – were directed to an area in the library where the living books sat. At each table there was an indi-

Photo by Immanuel Ibon

vidual storyteller and a few pieces of paper. On the paper were prompts/conversations starters meant to guide the discussion. In this section of the library, students sat opposite of their living book and after short introductions, began the process of reading. While the rest of the library shuffled around silently, this particular corner found itself alive with dialogue and discussion.

I also sat through the process as well and I sat with Arthur Guerra a husband, a father, a student, and a Beyond the Cover storyteller who was diagnosed with bipolar disorder, severe anxiety, along with self-harm.

After introductions, we dove into discussion. We talked about the struggles he has with his disabilities

and how he overcomes them. We also spoke about anxiety and how that can affect somebody's life.

Guerra spoke about how his disabilities have given the gift of understanding and how he has been able to read people from a different perspective – a skill that he has attributed to keeping him and his family safe on multiple occasions.

When asked why he chose to participate in this event, Guerra said he was there to be somebody to talk to, relate with, and to be a source of motivation for others that may be struggling with similar issues.

Charles Bureson III was diagnosed with Asperger's at 17. Reading through Bureson's profile, he reveals how he "doesn't hate his disability" and that "it has given [him] many unique gifts". Bureson is the artist of his family and is working towards his AA in digital media.

Bureson discussed his disability, our shared interest in art, as well as the reasons he decided to be a living book for this event. We discussed anime and how versatile the art style is. He also showed his sketchbook, filled with drawings and musings. In our discussions, he spoke about how he wished people didn't act so differently around him.

He told a story about how his friends or other students would become too proper around him, wary of his disability, and how he wished that there they carried on joking and messing around like they normally did.

Before our 20 minutes came to an end, Bureson said he was there in order to raise awareness about disabilities and reduce the stigma surrounding them.

"Despite our quirks, we're still human," said Bureson.

October's Beyond the Cover event put students face to face with peers that looked at life through a different lens.

Participants were able to gain support, perspective, and open-minded discussions around the topic of disabilities. The living books were able to share their stories and experiences in order to facilitate a campus that had more understanding about disabilities.

The Disabled Students Program Services seeks to help and accommodate MSJC students with verified disabilities. The DSPS can be found in Room 1112 at the San Jacinto Campus and in Room 1019 at the Menifee Valley Campus. More information can be found at [msjc.edu/dsps](http://msjc.edu/dsps).

# Entering the field of law through campus clubs

By Melissa Castro

With each new semester, there are a variety of clubs that Mt. San Jacinto College students can join to meet like-minded people who often have the same career interests. A new club this semester is the Paralegal/Pre-Law club, founded by fellow Mt. San Jacinto College student Julie Kurtz for those students interested in pursuing careers related to the legal field or who are enrolled in Mt. San Jacinto College's Legal Assistant program.

Kurtz is part of the Legal Assistant program and is also a communications major.

Due to her interests and career goals, she became inspired to start the club when she saw that while there were similar and related clubs, there was no specific club for students in the program.

As club president and founder, her plans for the club are primarily to help her fellow Mt. San Jacinto College peers.

The club's goal is "to achieve is an organization that will benefit any members of our student body who is interested in learning some aspect of the law that they may be interested in; however, my primary goal is to provide resources to those interested in Law or becoming a Paralegal by applying the information and any assistance from the Legal Assistant program with a variety of channels to obtain more exposure than what the Legal Assistant program currently offers."

Kurtz also says that, "I have been through the program and I am very grateful for all of the knowledge obtained. I want to be able to give my fellow students the option of gaining more out of the program."

Kurtz stated that the club has currently grown to about 20 members and 4 officers. She plans to have club members attend meetings and mini field trips where they'll have an opportunity to attend trials, learn about law libraries and the resources offered such as Westlaw and other legal research tools. Among the activities also includes law school tours, sitting in on law classes and hosting speakers and mini workshops.

"We are now meeting every first and third Tuesday of the month at 1630 in Room 931 with advisor Dr. Charles DeWitt, chair and professor of the Legal Assistant program. We have also discussed incorporating Phi Delta Phi, the International Legal Honor Society, and Phi Alpha Delta, the Pre-Law 2 year and 4-year college fraternity," Kurtz explained.



Gavel representing the paralegal club

Photo from flickr

"My desire is to help those interested learn more about the process of becoming a paralegal by accessing information for the certification exam or having the greater accessibility to internships that we may need," Kurtz said.

"Our club's main purpose is to equip students who may wish to pursue law school, such as myself, would want to learn more about how to study and gain information about the

LSAT, the Law School Admission Test which is the standardized test required to get into law school and seeing what a real law class or a trial may look like and see how laws become codified and how statutes are organized," she said.

To do that Kurtz replied that she plans on reaching out to "members of the legal community and even staff members from various departments, specifically Forensics & Debate,

Communication, Philosophy, and of course the Legal Assistant department" that will provide a great advantage to students.

On having many campus resources and faculty available to help she says that she is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with many departments and clubs.

"We have some really amazing professors and instructors! Our campuses have a wealth of information. We have access to faculty who understand what the needs of those pursuing Law and other ancillary legal careers are," Kurtz stated.

Although Kurtz is graduating soon, she hopes that the vision of the club will carry on as new students enter the program.

# Healing begins after crisis on campus

Cont. from page 1

“Going to the speech tournament brought normality and created a sense of community that made things calmer,” said Deatherage.

Deatherage says that she is now OK.

“I feel like it happened ages ago. I think about it every time a shooting is on TV. Not that this wasn’t impactful, but it could have been much worse,” said Deatherage.

Student Rose Arellanes had more trauma from the event.

“I used to feel that MSJC was a safe place, but I don’t feel that anymore,” said Arellanes.

Arellanes saw some cop cars and overheard some students talking about a suspected gunman. Near the art gallery, Arellanes says that she saw the suspect from behind. A police officer then stopped

her and told her to enter a building for safety. Arellanes entered the art gallery, where a few of her friends were also present.

While in the art gallery, Arellanes heard the intercom tell people to find shelter but continue with instruction. Sometime afterwards, the intercom announced the lockdown, ordering students to remain in place and stating that classes were canceled.

Arellanes had a panic attack in the art gallery. Her friends helped calm her down, but she spent the rest of the lockdown incredibly worried.

When law enforcement dismissed Arellanes, she went as quickly as possible to the bus to take her home.

“I wanted to quit school that same day,” said Arellanes.

The day after the lockdown, Arellanes met with a psychologist who told her

that quitting school was akin to letting the gunman win. “I said that I was OK with that, because I would still be alive,” said Arellanes.

During a behavioral group meeting, Arellanes says that she was uncontrollably crying. Like Deatherage, Arellanes thinks about the lockdown when she hears about other shootings.

Arellanes has become more paranoid due to the lockdown. She now gets scared when her children sneak up on her and when people walk behind her.

“I wonder who else had their felling of safety taken,” said Arellanes.

Although still worried, Arellanes still attends classes. She is following the case closely and hopes that the suspect receives a harsh sentence.

MSJC has been in the process of updating the security of its campuses.

As stated by Elizabeth Gomez, Vice-President of Business Services, some doors had the inability to be locked from the inside. Before the lockdown, some doors had their handle changed to have a push-button lock. The lockdown brought attention to some doors that were supposed to but did not receive the new locking mechanism.

Other doors were permanently locked but held ajar with a door stopper. If someone from the inside wanted to lock the door, they only need to disengage the stopper and let the door fully close. Gomez said that the lockdown showed that some people were unfamiliar with the system and the administration will work to improve their understanding.

Before the lockdown, the library had been updated to be able to be locked with a push of the button. Gomez



Sheriff’s vehicle posted in front of the library  
Photo by Alyse Kiara Deatherage

said that other high-traffic areas are being looked at to see what locking mechanism can be installed, such as in the cafeteria. Moving forward, all new facilities will be able to be locked with a button.

John Colson, Vice President of Student Services, said that an active shooter drill had been scheduled on Dec. 14, but is now delayed. The drill will be delayed so that new information from the lockdown and the Riverside County

Sheriff’s Office can be included into the drill. When the drill does occur, faculty and staff will be invited to take part in the drill.

Colson said that the administration has held forums with the public and meetings with the sheriff to learn how to improve the security of the campus.

“Safety is and always will be the number one priority,” said Gomez.

# PTK provides hope and awareness

Cont. from page 1

Eaton understands the struggle of finding a cure. She hopes that her and Komen’s efforts will help these women.

“If you’re a woman who has metastatic breast cancer, you are always looking for different types of treatment and research that Komen does that allows those women to live a longer life and a better quality of life,” said Eaton.

The event had numerous amounts of breast cancer



Breast cancer survivors walking with signs showing the years they’ve survived with breast cancer  
Photo by Maritza Ramirez

survivors doing their part in helping other breast cancer patients get through their treatment process.

Addy G. Hankins, who is a breast cancer survivor, discussed her experience dealing with breast cancer.

Hankins went to the doctor for a physical, and one of the doctors noticed something was off and

saw a spot near her chest.

Hankins doctor referred her to a cancer hospital, and it was there that she was di-

agnosed with breast cancer.

Hankins stated that the news completely changed her life.

“When you get news like that it’s like the world shakes. You know, it’s like ‘no, why me?’,” Hankins said.

Doctors quickly got to work and removed the lump that was in Hankins’ chest and she is now a breast cancer survivor.

# More than Pink Walk Photos



Walkers excitedly starting their walk  
Photo by Maritza Ramirez



Participants at the starting line  
Photo by Maritza Ramirez



Opening speaker giving speech  
Photo by Maritza Ramirez



Dancers performing before the walk  
Photo by Brenda Garcia



Tent with messages remembering loved ones  
Photo by Brenda Garcia



Volunteers cheering on the participants  
Photo by Maritza Ramirez



Participants getting ready for the walk  
Photo by Brenda Garcia



Runners excitedly crossing the finish line  
Photo by Maritza Ramirez



Breast Cancer survivors showing their spirit  
Photo by Maritza Ramirez

# Friends and families gather at the Fall Festival

By Eric Rodriguez

On Oct. 26 the city of Menifee hosted a Fall Festival on Mt San Jacinto's Menifee campus.

The event included craft food, community performances, kids' games, a trunk or treating zone, costume contests and just about anything else that would absolutely bring

the Halloween spirit out of just about anyone.

There was nothing but smiles on the faces of everyone who attended, all with incredible costumes.

There were ghosts, Mario, Luigi, Yoshi, butterflies, fairies, princesses, and even a t-rex. People from all around were brought together to enjoy the best that the city

of Menifee had to offer.

Along with great fun there was delicious food. Kalifornia Kettle Krew, Quotes Tacos, and Kona Ice all came out to feed over 100 people.

Handing out candy at her scary trunk-or-treat booth was a very excited woman named Debbie from the Community Cupboard.

Debbie simply replied, "I love Halloween and kids."

Not only did local businesses decide to come out and join the fray, but Menifee Police and Fire departments were also enjoying all the festivities. Even popular local radio station 101.3 The Mix was passing out candy, letting kids spin a prize wheel for some really cool stuff. This was such a special event and on top of everything there were various different kinds of costume contests. One for pets, three or four differ-

ent age groups, and family.

One Nightmare Before Christmas themed family found themselves victorious at their respective contest. When asked how long it took to make their costumes, Jack Skeleton replied, "Mine took three days, hers was 15, and this girl to my left took her almost a month and a half." Dedication fueled this family to obtain gold at the family contest.

"There were so many great kids, with so many great costumes," said one judge.

Out to support the event was the mayor of Menifee, Bill Zimmerman, congratulating all costume contest participants.

Catching a picture of Zimmerman with another Nightmare Before Christmas crew, overhearing him telling a group of people that the city is ex-



Costume Contest winners at the Fall Festival.

Photo by Eric Rodriguez



Officers enjoying the Fall Festival festivities

Photo by Eric Rodriguez

cited to present unique and memorable events for everyone to enjoy.

Former MSJC graduate and LRC tutor Amanda Curran shared her opinion of the festival, "The world can be crazy sometimes, but something like

this event can show how strong we as a community can be and how happiness can bring people together. Super fun to be there and absolutely appreciative that Menifee hosted such a fun fall festival."

# Political theory applied to real life scenarios

By Jesus Alcala-Avalos

The House of Representatives has begun an inquiry into whether there are sufficient grounds to impeach President Donald Trump.

"I used it as a teaching moment. We spent half an hour in class talking about it," said Political Science Professor Willie Hamilton.

"There are many people confused about what impeachment means. Impeachment does not mean to convict a president, it only means to accuse a president, to bring charges," said Hamilton.

The power to impeach is given to the House of Representatives by the Constitution in Article 1, Section 2.

Hamilton explained the three cases for impeachment: treason, bribery, and high crimes and misdemeanors.

"Treason" means to give aid or comfort to the enemy in times of war. Hamilton explained that people are incorrectly labeling Trump's actions as treason because the U.S. is not in a time of war with any of the countries that Trump may have conspired with.

"Bribery" means to offer or take monetary value in exchange for favors.

"High crimes and misdemeanors" are not defined by the Constitution. Hamilton explained that this means that Congress can label anything as a high crime or misdemeanor, even that which is not a crime.

The charges brought against a public official are known as articles of impeachment. Hamilton expects three articles

of impeachment to be brought against Trump: obstruction of Congress, abuse of power, and obstruction of justice.

Obstruction of Congress means that the president has interfered with the duties of Congress. Hamilton explained that Congress has the power of oversight, the ability to investigate the other branches. During an investigation, the House may submit subpoenas, which is an order to appear in court. According to Hamilton, Trump has asked people to not obey subpoenas. The House can interpret that action as preventing Congress from carrying out its investigation.

Abuse of power means that the person has performed an action that is not authorized by the Constitution. Trump has asked the president of Ukraine to investigate Hunter Biden. Hamilton believes that the House will interpret this action as an abuse of power.

Obstruction of justice means that the person attempted to cover up a crime, such as preventing witnesses to speak, tampering with evidence, refusing to testify, or refusing to provide evidence. Trump fired former FBI Director James Comey while the FBI was investigating the Trump administration. Hamilton believes that the House will interpret this as an obstruction of justice.

After the inquiry, the House votes on each article of impeachment. With 435 members in the House, a simple majority of 218 votes is needed.

Hamilton believes that



House passes rules for impeachment inquiry  
Photo by Office of Speaker Nancy Pelosi

impeachment is likely because the Democrats have 234 members in the House, and he expects most members to vote for impeachment. However, Hamilton thinks that the Democrats should try to get some Republicans to vote for impeachment so that impeachment does not become politically divisive.

With elections coming in 2020, Hamilton believes that the Democrats will vote to impeach Trump by the end of the year, so that the vote can be used as a campaign rally.

After the House has voted to impeach, the trial is held in the Senate. The chief justice presides over the trial, which is currently Justice John Roberts.

History Professor Herbert Alarcon explained that the Senate trial is a political trial and not a criminal trial. This means that the Senate trial does not have to follow the procedures of a criminal trial, such as cross-examination of witnesses and sharing evidence with the defense. This also means that a criminal trial can still occur after the Senate trial.

To convict an official, 67 Senators need to vote

for conviction. Both Alarcon and Hamilton believe that the Senate will not convict Trump. Democrats control 45 seats in the Senate, which means that if every Democrat voted to convict, they would still need 22 more votes.

Although the House has begun the impeachment process against three presidents, no president has ever been removed from office.

Alarcon provided a history of impeachment. "Impeachment tends to happen when the public is divided, and our politics become divided," said Alarcon.

The first president impeached was Andrew Johnson, in 1868. Alarcon stated that Johnson was strongly disliked by Congress for his heavy-handed approach to Reconstruction. The House brought 11 articles of impeachment against Johnson. The primary charge was over violation of the Tenure of Office Act.

The Senate failed to convict Johnson by one vote on the first three articles of impeachment. After the third vote, the trial was adjourned and Johnson was not removed from office.

# Game of Thrones comes to SoCal

By Eric Rodriguez

May 19 2019 is a day that will forever burn in the hearts of every single "Game of Thrones" fan across the world. Bringing a decade long HBO drama series to an unfortunate end, "Game of Thrones" took the television world by surprise becoming HBO's most watched show, beating "The Sopranos".

Due to the rise and popularity of the show, according to the Social Security Administration, popular character names such as Arya, Tyrion, Sansa, and Bran were becoming more and more commonly known than ever. Allowing "Game of Thrones" to hold their place in the Guinness Book of World Records as the most pirated series.

Four-time Emmy, 2-time Grammy, and award-winning composer Ramin Djaniadi was behind the

show's heartfelt orchestra and was known for other great projects such as the 2008 Marvel film "Ironman", "Clash of the Titans", and "Pacific Rim".

From the Golden Globes to MTV movie award for best fight, "Game of Thrones" has been an amazing show, setting a record in 2015 for winning the most Emmys for a single series. With 2016 being no different, the HBO series was the most awarded series in Emmy award History, winning 30 times.

The show had a consistent viewer rating through seasons 1-6. Season 7 was 34 percent more watched than season 6, having over an astounding 31 million viewers per episode.

Most viewers had trouble wrapping their heads around season 8. 44.2 million viewers tuned in as the north defeated the army of the dead and

also saw the development of the mad queen.

Many "Games of Thrones" fans were deeply upset that the unburnt, the mother of dragons, and the queen of the andals and the first men Daenerys Targaryen, set fire to Westoros, burning innocent women and children.

Feeling that the throne was her rightful claim or seeing her beloved dragon Rheagal shot out of the sky with spears, queen Daenerys was determined to dethrone the world of a tyrant.

George RR Martin, author of "A Song of Fire and Ice" books, told Rolling Stone, "It's been an incredible ride...The major points of the ending will be things I told Benioff and Weiss".

On Oct. 4, "Game of Thrones" composer Djaniadi held an exciting nostalgic live concert experience at the FivePoint Amphithe-

atre in the city of Irvine. Playing popular songs like "Rains of Castamere", "The Long Night", and the "Game of Thrones" theme song. Ramin said that, through its illustrious run with HBO, he will forever remember how special it was working on the series.

Breathtaking pyrotechnics, an incredible vocalist, violinist, a choir, epic drums, and even an electric guitar helped fans relive amazing memories from the shows past based on this incredible musical showcase.



Game of Thrones Orchestrator  
Photo by Eric Rodriguez

President Nixon would have been the second president to be impeached, but he resigned before the House impeached him. Nixon was going to be charged on obstruction of justice.

Alarcon explained that Nixon would never have been impeached if he allowed his staff to take the fall for the Watergate scandal. Instead, Nixon tried to cover up the scandal and recorded himself directing the cover-up.

The second president impeached was Bill Clinton, in 1998. Two articles of impeachment were brought against Clinton, one for perjury and another for obstruction of justice. Both articles were related to the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

When Clinton was impeached, Republicans had a majority in the House and could pass articles of impeachment without support from the Democrats. In the Senate, Republicans held

55 of the seats. The Republicans were not able to get the 67 votes needed in the Senate, as every Democrat and some Republicans voted to not convict Clinton.

Alarcon noted that the popularity of the president determines whether or not impeachment will occur. Alarcon brought up how Ronald Reagan took responsibility for the Iran-Contra affair, in which top officials illegally sold arms to Iran forces to fund Contras in Nicaragua. Possibly due to Reagan's popularity, the House never sought impeachment.

Hamilton and Alarcon believe that Trump will be impeached by the House but will not be removed from office by the Senate.

If Trump is removed from presidency, Vice-President Mike Pence would be sworn in as the next president of the United States and serve the remainder of Trump's term.

# Maleficent: Mistress of Evil

By Alyse Kiara Deatherage

Was it really five years ago that Disney introduced the remake of the classic "Sleeping Beauty", "Maleficent"?

Apparently so, and now they've come up with a new tale: "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil"; but who exactly is this mistress of evil that is claimed in the title?

In this tale, Aurora is queen of the moors, ruling to the best of her abilities. She has relinquished her title as queen of her father, King Stephen's, kingdom and given the castle and land to the people.

She is a beloved queen, as her people show their excitement and anticipation for her response to Prince Phillip's big question: "will you marry me?"

Aurora approves, but that is only the start of this tale. Disney is known for its secretly evil mothers and step-mothers, but Prince Phillip's mother, Queen Ingrith, brings a new sense of cruelty to the list.

After removing his wings, she entraps a pixie to work for her. Together, they come up with an evil spell that will take the magic out of any creature and make it nothing but a normal tree or flower.

In the case of fey's, like Maleficent, who are purely magical, they simply turn to dust.

Unbeknownst to the King and Prince Phillip, Queen Ingrith's evil plan is to wipe out the moor-people and the fey's all together, and Maleficent's

head is the first on her list.

She plots to ruin Maleficent and Aurora's relationship, and when she does just that Maleficent is wounded, both emotionally and physically, but is rescued by the fey people that she did not know existed.

After discovering that they had been hidden for decades, Maleficent feels like she has made a new family, one that she wants to protect; but the fey society is divided. Some want to stay put, where they are safe, for now, while others want to start a war with the human world.

But others still would rather live in a world of peace, where fey and human come together. When they see the way Maleficent has made Aurora, a human, queen of the moors, they see a chance for that peace, and wish for Maleficent to guide them towards it.

Those who think war is the answer, however, strike first, and give the evil Queen Ingrith exactly what she wants. She begins wiping out the fey people and their fight against her begins to look futile.

How will Maleficent react? Will she choose the good and faithful Aurora, even after Aurora chooses to stay with the unbeknownst evil queen? Or will she protect her people, and fight until the last human bows down to her power?

Well, you'll have to see the movie to find out.

# MSJC Orchestra takes audiences breath away

By Elijah Rios

After months of rehearsal, on Oct. 20, 2019 the Mt. San Jacinto College Orchestra was ready to take the stage. The concert was conducted by none other than, Dr. Vanessa Sheldon.

The concert contained seven pieces, which included “Symphony No. 97” and “Concerto in E-flat major”; two movie scores from the films “Harry Potter” and “Hook”, and a beautiful rendition of “The Swan” performed by Dr. Sheldon and Esparza. Esparza would later take the stage for himself and perform a breathtaking solo, “Allegro Furioso in D minor”; with the concert ending with a “Monster Mash.”

Dr. Sheldon is a well-known harpist; as well as a teacher here at MSJC, teaching several music courses, and is the chair of the music department as well. Emmanuel Esparza is a MSJC alumnus, and he made a guest performance alongside the orchestra. He was playing an alto saxophone.

As we walked into the theater, we were greeted with an image of professionalism. A violist was rehearsing her repertoire, while the conductor’s music stand and baton were just feet away from the audiences’ seats.

Each member of the orchestra sat down in their assigned seats and made last minute tonal adjustments; the crowd went silent, and there was a sense of angst in the air.

Dr. Sheldon lifted her baton, and with a powerful stroke of the bow, the show began. The orchestra opened the concert with Symphony No. 97. Each musician in sync, and by the marvelous tone of the instruments, every player was focused and determined to give a great performance.

Symphony No. 97 was a great start to the concert and, when finished, the orchestra transitioned into the second piece. Esparza made a guest performance in this piece “Concerto in E-flat major”. He started off very gentle; then with a sudden spark, he played ferociously.

The audience responded very pleasantly; a member of the audience even let out a very exclaimed “wow” in awe of his playing and after everything calmed down, the concert was sent into intermission.

After the intermission, the orchestra regrouped in a professional demeanor and were about to perform a score from the movie “Hook”.

Dr. Sheldon took a break from conducting and played alongside the



Dr. Sheldon getting ready to play The Magic of Harry Potter feat. themes from all eight movies

Photo by Brenda Garcia

orchestra on her harp. The score started very intense and depicted an image of both fantasy and adventure.

As the piece was ending, Dr. Sheldon explained that she would perform a duet of “The Swan” with Esparza. Both Dr. Sheldon and Esparza came together to create a beautiful song worthy of a recording. It was time for Esparza to take the stage for himself and perform a solo.

Esparza explained that his choice of music was an etude, originally for an

oboe, and wanted to stylistically play the piece like the great Niccolo Paganini.

Esparza also joked that because the piece was so fast, “there is not a lot of places to breathe” and even joked to the audience that he would do his best; and asked if the audience could breathe for him. As Esparza began to play; he was not joking, the piece was extremely fast, but he executed it perfectly.

As it was time for the second to last piece, the orchestra decided to leave

this world, and enter the magical world of Harry Potter. Dr. Sheldon came out to conduct once more, this time sporting a robe and a Gryffindor house colored scarf and a wand for the baton.

As we ventured through a medley of all eight movies, this rendition captured the feeling perfectly; turning the darker tones into brighter tones. Just like magic.

The time had come for the final piece in the program. As Dr. Sheldon was thanking the audience for

taking time out of their day and coming to the concert, she asked a favor of the audience, asking us to shout “Ghostbusters” during the movie’s theme.

Eventually ending the concert was a song that made the audience want to join in on a “Monster Mash”. On that day, the musicians did not play for a Community College orchestra; on that day, they played for the San Jacinto Philharmonic.

# MSJC performers captivate their audience

By Pablo Ramos Diaz

On Oct. 18, Mt. San Jacinto College presented one of Shakespeare’s play called “The Tempest.”

This play is considered one of Shakespeare’s last plays that he wrote by himself. It is also listed as a comedy despite covering tragic themes such as revenge and betrayal and this was one of the main criticisms of the play when it was first performed.

There have also been many symbolic meanings to the play, from Prospero’s fable of art and magic to represent Shakespeare to the end of the play where Prospero refrains from using magic to symbolize Shakespeare’s goodbye to the stage.

Bianca Swan-Finch, who directed the play, has had a strong passion for Shakespeare for a long time and decided to use Julie Taymor’s version of “The Tempest.” One of the biggest changes in this version was to the main character Prospero who was changed to a female.

Swan-Finch absolutely loved Taymor’s adaptation and decided to use it for her play. She added some minor changes, but altogether Bianca was stoked for “The Tempest” to premiere.

Rehearsals lasted for around nine weeks from the actors memorizing their lines, to creating props, plus tech and dress rehearsal. This was going to be a long and tough process, but with enough time and effort



Tempest performers on stage

Photo by Marc-Anthony Rosas

Bianca believed she and her performers could do it.

During one of the tech rehearsals, performer Alexandria Heath, who is a freshman at MSJC who has had some experience with performing onstage, discussed the difficulties of preparing for this play.

“It’s definitely been a struggle because Shakespeare is such a hard thing to do because you have to get your line right word for word, you have to get the voice acting right and you have to get the audience to understand what you’re trying to say.” she said

Heath has performed as Janet Hollowell in “A Christmas Carol” and in her high school production of “Beauty and the Beast”.

This is her second year in theatre and she hopes to spread her creativity to others across the nation.

Colby Banks played the main lead. During rehearsal Banks and Swan-Finch have been trying to find that certain grace that is usually seen among elderly African American women.

Through the help of Swan-Finch, Banks felt much more comfortable and easier to get into character “One thing I love about Bianca is that which ever play it is she never wants to erase you as a person,” said Banks.

She points out how, despite doing a play like “The Tempest,” they should try and match the character, but Swan-Finch

sees it differently by making sure her cast doesn’t stray too far off from who they are as a person.

On Oct. 18 the first showing of “The Tempest” started at 7:30 p.m. with a full house eagerly waiting to see the production.

The audience got to experience a play with tragedy, manipulation, and some comedy. After the long hours of rehearsing, performers got to feel all of their hard work pay off when they were able to connect with the audience and make them laugh and understand each character’s struggles.

After the performance, Banks gave her thoughts on her performance as Prospera.

Coming into the performance she wanted to emphasize a strong and powerful single mom. Banks has always had a mother who struggled, but she did every bit she could to help her.

Banks says that her mother helped create the character she was aiming to achieve.

Additionally, she wanted to bring more power to single moms because of how much time and effort they put into their family.

“You might be single and have things to do, but you’re still doing whatever it takes to do what’s best for your family and I feel like if I didn’t do that justice than my work was off.” she said

After the first showing of “The Tempest”, Swan-Finch discussed that she wanted her per-

formers to excel and that means being true to the text while still making it real for themselves.

Throughout the entire rehearsal, Swan-Finch wanted to stress that what they say should sound believable and real.

She feels that her performers did an excellent job in portraying that.

Plus, she talked about how her actors felt that they would fall short. “In the beginning a couple of {the actors] believe that they couldn’t pull it off, but I helped them to realize that they could,” said Swan-Finch.

Swan-Finch hopes that her performers will develop more self-confidence to help them in their future performances.

## Our favorite gray family in a colorful new story

By Alyse Kiara Deatherage

They’re creepy and they’re spooky, and I’m sure you know their song well, and now they’re back in an all-new movie!

On Oct. 11, companies including MGM, Cinesite, and Bron Studios released the newest cartoon version of “The Addams Family.”

Thirteen years after Gomez and Morticia Addams have moved into their beautiful mansion is where this story takes place. The whole family is preparing to visit the Addams’s for their son Pugsley’s traditional coming-of-age performance of the mazurka.

When the family gets some new neighbors, the citizens of the happy and perfect new housing establishment, Assimilation, everything begins to change.

Wednesday tires of the day-to-day bleakness that revolves around throwing axes at her younger brother Pugsley, and hanging with her tree Ichabod.

Then, one day, a mysterious sound is heard at the edge of the mountain’s gate and she suddenly finds an interest in discovering the outside world. At the same time, Park-

er, the daughter of Margaux Needler, the TV personality in charge of Assimilation, is on the other side of the fence wondering what lies beyond.

Their two worlds inevitably collide and disrupt the normal chaos that is the Addams family’s life.

As more and more Addams’s come through Assimilation, Needler only gets more and more anxious and begins plotting a way to take down the whole family, and their house.

Meanwhile, Pugsley is training for his Mazurka and fears failure because failure could mean losing his place in the family.

All the while, Wednesday and Parker are becoming more and more of the rebellious adolescents that their families fear, as Wednesday begins coming home with unicorn hair pins and pink striped dresses, and Parker with dyed black hair, “gloomy” makeup and an attitude to drive her mom mad.

Both families continue to try and help their children, but fail to see the reality of their actions: they are only preventing their children from being themselves by forcing them to be like their families.



James Crawford (Ariel) Photo by Brenda Garcia



Angelica Ochoa-Garcia(Ceres), Thomas Matthews(Ferdinand), Cameron Kelly(Iris) Photo by Brenda Garcia



All Characters on stage for the final bow Photo by Brenda Garcia



Trinculo and Stephano drunk Photo by Marc-Anthony

# Student workers making an impact

By Alyse Kiara Deatherage

Mt. San Jacinto College hosted the 4th Annual Inland Empire Supplemental Instruction Regional Conference on Nov. 15 and 16. MSJC SI Coordinator Janice Levasseur, SI Specialist Kathalena Rios, and SI Clerical Assistant IV Vanesse Hiten expressed that they were excited to host the conference this year.

"Preparing for a conference is always an overwhelming task with so much to do and so little time! However, knowing the potential of the outcome drives us to keep jumping through all required hoops," said Levasseur.

Check-in for the event started on Nov. 15 at 1 p.m. after a pre-conference presentation given by UMKC officials. Attendees received a name tag and complimentary bag containing water, a 3CSN water bottle, conference program, and schedule, and were sent off to the theatre.

There, President Roger Schultz gave a speech praising the students for their work and professional development that they will or have gained from the SI program.

After President Schultz spoke, keynote speaker and MSJC Job Developer and Placement Coordinator for Career Education Carrie Tate-Meyer gave a speech about her journey getting to the position she is in today.

Eager to attend the presentations, attendees were sent off to their first breakout session. The conference offered 30 concurrent sessions over six breakout periods with a large majority of these sessions being held by students.

MSJC student and FYE Mentor Ariana C. Rodriguez-Marcano gave a presentation titled "Emotional Intelligence: Strategies to Better Understand Your Tutee's Thoughts".

In this presentation, she discussed the various pieces that go into understanding someone's own feelings



MSJC SI Leaders at the closing awards ceremony on day two of the conference.

to better understand the feelings of the students that tutors, SI leaders, and other student workers work with.

In the second round of breakout sessions, Jessica Perez Corona, SI Coordinator for Mira Costa College, held a session titled "Creativity in Everyone: Developing New Strategies to Use in SI Sessions".

This session allowed the leaders who attended to work together to come up with new strategies and activities to use in sessions.

The day ended with Rebecca Moon-Stone, Riverside Community College's Coordinator of Supplemental Instruction, bringing up a few attendees to sing their A-B-C's in front of the audience. It was a great surprise to both the participants and the audience.

One MSJC SI Leader, Omar Akbari, was invited with the group. He stated that he was scared in the moment, but that seeing his fellow friends and leaders in the audience helped to calm his nerves.

"It felt like the longest minute of my life, but it was the most memorable moment for me at the conference and this is something that will stick with me at all times," said Akbari.

Day two started with check in at 8 a.m. and a light continental breakfast. The guest speaker for the day was Dr. Albert Cruz, author of "Becoming Who You Want to Be,"

who spoke about his journey from Hong Kong to America and his journey to becoming one of the co-creators of Turbotax.

He spoke about his philosophy of goal-setting and how the attendees can implement goals in their lives.

In the first breakout session, MSJC SI Leaders and SI Mentors Sasha Wellbrock, Helayna Walton, Amber Ferguson, and Robbie Freibreg held a session titled "Empowering Students Through Practical Application of Habit of Mind".

In this session, the participants introduced what Habits of Mind are and discussed and implemented the use of them.

The second breakout session consisted of a presentation by SI Leaders Jonquil Hardgrove and Amy Ghironzi titled "Checking for Understanding Using Summarization," where leader Jonquil Hardgrove introduced her original activity idea "Pete and Repeat."

During the second breakout session, James Leduc, SI Senior Leader and Learning Assistant and CSU San Bernardino, held a session titled "A Session Escape!" The session consisted of a box of riddles to solve in order to "breakout" of this SI Escape Room.

After this was lunch, where MSJC SI Leaders Sandra Diaz, Krystal Renoehl, Alvaro Arredondo, Chase Inman, Omar Akbari, Lilith Garcia, and Amber

Ferguson presented various posters including "Holistic Approaches to Student Well-being," "Stress Management," and "Community Building with SI."

"While presenting, it was great seeing attendees reactions to our poster and it felt great knowing that they were able to get lots of out of it," said Akbari. "It was such a great opportunity to present at the conference and I'm so looking forward to presenting next summer at the International SI Conference in Baltimore, Maryland."

After lunch came one of the most nerve-racking times of the conference for me, where I held my own session: "From SI Student to Editor-in-Chief".

I was excited and nervous, but got to tell the attendees of my session about my amazing transition from an antisocial, scared new student to an SI Leader, SI Mentor, and Editor-in-Chief for this paper: The Talon!

In the last round of breakout sessions, MSJC Leaders Robbie Freiberg, Sasha Wellbrock, Helayna Walton, and Amber Ferguson held an SI session titled "Holiday and Celebration Themed Activities," where leaders had the opportunity to participate in various mini-sessions with activities based on different holidays.

The conference ended with scholarship announce-

ments and a segment of kudos to different presentations and presenters.

I felt especially honored when Rios selected three leaders to fight for one especially popular prize, a set of about 24 colorful pens, and these leaders were asked to sing about the presentation or presenter who stood out most to them and one leader sang about my session.

The panel of hosts and coordinators for the conference also shared that the conference has been so inclusive that, starting next year, they will be changing the conference's title to say "West Coast" instead to include the various colleges from Northern California who regularly attend the conference and to include even more college's in the years to come.

Rios expressed that the hosts and coordinators were especially impressed by the level of professionalism the student workers held while doing their presentations.

"I am looking forward to next year's conference, especially now that we are growing to encompass the entire West Coast Region, with a name change from Inland Empire SI Conference to the West Coast SI Conference," said Hiten.

"The conference welcomed 209 attendees from 32 institutions from all four systems from across the state! This conference, I think, was our best one yet," said Levasseur.

## Building a safer community through student workers

By Alyse Kiara Deatherage

Mt San Jacinto College's Supplemental Instruction (SI) Program conducted a safeTALKS training for its student employees on Oct. 11.

This came about after SI Coordinator Janice Levasseur and SI Specialist Kathalena Rios attended the SafeTALKS training at MSJC earlier in the year on Sept. 11.

Both Levasseur and Rios expressed deep appreciation for their initial experience at the SafeTALKS training.

"For me, it's the idea that were trying to move away from this culture of stigmatizing these issues that we're facing, and not just certain populations, not just students, and this training just brought to light that everybody is affected by this," said Rios.

The training consisted of two main parts.

The first, was breaking down the meaning of the acronyms that make up "SafeTALK."

The first acronym, "safe", stands for Suicide Alertness for Everyone. This meant that the trainers for SafeTALKS simply wanted to show their trainees how to identify with persons dealing with suicide and how to connect with them.

The second acronym, "TALK", stands for Tell Ask Listen and KeepSafe.

This portion of the training really emphasized the importance of directly asking someone if they struggle with thoughts of suicide.

Two trainers conducted this training: Alicia Arredondo and Tiffany Ross. Both emphasized the importance of starting this conversation about suicide and normalizing it so that it can be had more often when it's needed.

When asked what got them into SafeTALKS, both expressed the necessity of having this conversation about suicide and both expressed their advocacy of the training itself and what it can provide to everyone, not just those struggling with suicide or those interested in mental health overall.

"Everybody needs to be aware. Everybody needs to be aware about this issue, and I want people to be more comfortable in talking about this," said Ross.

The last portion of the training emphasized the ways we can redirect people who need help beyond what we may be able to provide. It also emphasized that we are not mental health professionals and we do not have to be to start a conversation that leads to a safer community.

If you or someone you know is in need of further help, you can contact the Suicidal Prevention Center/Crisis Center at 951.686.4357.

Both Rios and Levasseur saw extreme potential to reach out to students by providing this training to student leaders. They emphasized the power and necessity that lies in having this conversation.

Levasseur expressed that student workers are the perfect advocates for this conversation because they are easier to talk and closer to the students, as peers, than a higher authority might be.

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Kathalena Rios giving the opening remarks  
Photo by Alyse Kiara Deatherage



Key note speaker Albert Cruz and company  
Photo by Alyse Kiara Deatherage



SI Conference audience at the end of day two  
Photo provided by Janice Levasseur

# Taking audiences to new galaxies

By Elijah Rios

On Oct. 29, just two nights before Halloween, there was a chill in the air and screams and cheers were emanating from the Mt. San Jacinto College Theater.

It was time for MSJC's Big Band to provide their Halloween thrills. As the audience made their way to their seats, they were delighted to see every member dressed for the occasion.

A ghoulish baseball player brought the band together for a final tonal adjustment before the performance began. As they sat down, a fierce Roman gladiator made his way to the stage; bringing the musicians to attention.

Jeff McNurlan was the conductor for the night. He signaled the monster musicians to open the concert. With a thunderous beat of the drum, the concert began.

They played a piece

that incorporated "Yankee Doodle Dandy" and what the 'living' in America like to call "The Star-Spangled Banner".

Before we knew it, Darth Vader had apprehended our ship and the audience was sent into hyperspace as the band prepared to play "Chillers and Thrillers".

The fear of his presence was being sung. The "Imperial March" was afoot. Next thing we knew, a blast from the trumpet player dressed as Han Solo blasted him away.

As we were escaping, our ship had to make an emergency dive into the Pacific Ocean. We thought we were safe at last, but we heard a chilling noise swimming toward us like a missile.

A mighty great white shark, known as Jaws, thrashed our ship back and forth. Just when we thought we were not going to survive, a huge blast from Lord Vader's

ship rang in our ears.

We were once again transported into space. Fearing for our lives, a great gladiator came to battle with Vader, declaring a victory for the big band.

After the great victory, he and his troops celebrated to "The Washington Post March", paying homage to John Philip Souza, who played with the Marine Corps Band and composed the marching song.

He recognized his musicians and their sacrifice to serve our country. After the audience recognized their sacrifice as well, the orchestra let out a wonderful "Battle Cry of Freedom", composed by Jerry Nowark.

McNurlan took time from the performance and introduced and recognized the veterans in his band.

As the spooky night was coming to an end, a bitter-sweet moment awaited the audience and the band itself. McNurlan announced

that this will be his last semester conducting the Big Band. However, there was a glimpse of hope.

He mentioned that he and Dr. Vanessa Sheldon had been conducting interviews in search of a new conductor for the band and, to their surprise, they found a new candidate.

James Beaton, a young conductor who is working on completing his doctorate in music at UCSD.

Beaton came onto the stage wearing a penguin tail tuxedo with a pair of bunny ears on his head. The ears proved to fit right in, as the last piece was "What's Up at The Symphony" from the Looneytunes TV show.

As the last piece ended, the MSJC Big Band shined brightly as they took in the applause for their performance.

McNurlan said it best, "that's all folks!"



Jeff McNurlan, Dr. Vanessa Sheldon, and James Beaton  
Photo by Elijah Rios

# Students celebrate their ancestors

By Jesus Alcalá Avalos

The Puente Project at Mt. San Jacinto College hosted an event for Día de los Muertos on Nov. 4.

Signing people in at the front desk was Jacky Figueroa, Puente's Public Relations Officer.

"We are holding this event to celebrate culture, remember our ancestors, and involve students, faculty, and staff," said Figueroa.

Near the beginning of the event, a man asked for a moment of silence to recognize each person's ancestors.

Students that signed in got a ballot and were offered pan dulce. The ballot was for students to rank their three favorite altars. After ranking three altars, participants were offered free tacos.

At the first altar were Maritza Garcia and Abby Yocupicio. Garcia ex-

plained that Puente students had been spending the past three weeks preparing their altars. The altars offer food and entertainment to those that have passed. The altars had photos of relatives. Most of the props had been purchased or were lying around from previous events.

Although they had time to prepare for the event, Raul Molina, Guillermo Ruiz, and Alma Martinez of the second altar said that their altar was prepared last-minute. Molina honored his great grandfather and Ruiz honored his uncle.

At the fourth altar were Mario Cervantes, Juan Ramirez, Eric Contreras, and Caitie Cuevas. They explained that altars usually contain the ancestor's favorite foods and objects.

SGA Vice-President Seydel Perez and SGA Advisor Jose Hernan-



Puente Program students and Danzantes del Sol  
Photo by Jesus Alcalá Avalos

dez represented altar five.

Altar six was presented by Diane Morales, Gloria Aviva, and Maria Hernandez, who were representing the office of business services. The altar had photos of family members from employees. They pointed out that some of the altars had papel de picado, thin paper cut into elaborate designs.

Glenn Lopez and Evelyn Moron presented altar seven. They explained that the decorative animals served as spirit guides for the deceased.

Altar eight was presented by Alejandra Ortuno, Yolanda Diego, Jackie Paz, and Aollani Gonzalez. Ortuno honored her godmother and Diego honored her friend and grandmother.

Leliana Gomez and Cassandra Lopez presented altar nine. They included a photo of Frida Kahlo alongside some relatives.

Altar ten contained works from ceramics stu-

dents. Jaime Garcia and Abigail Palacios transported the pieces to the altar. Cesar Sualuz and Jasmine Iniguez were also at the altar and they did contribute some pieces to the altar.

In the middle of the event, Danzantes del Sol presented a traditional Aztec sun dance. Danzantes del Sol is a nationwide program that offers classes for anyone interested.

Captains Enriqueta Tlaquila Gomez and Anana Briceno kept the rhythm for the dancers from Desert Mirage High School, where Danzantes del Sol is an afterschool activity. The students had headdresses made from real feathers that were bleached and dyed a variety of colors.

Gomez said that Danzantes del Sol had been operating since the 1970s, and has members who are from 4 to 7-years-old.

"When you have people in the group for 20

years, you know you got something," said Gomez.

Gomez said that Danzantes del Sol tends to be invited to events celebrating Hispanic heritage, like Día de los Muertos.

According to Gomez, Danzantes del Sol was founded by Javier Galvez, who studied art and dance in Mexico. Galvez then started Danzantes del Sol in California State University Fullerton. Galvez works to preserve the dances by teaching their steps, history, and significance to new members.

After the high schoolers finished dancing, Figueroa announced the winners of the altar contest. First place went to altar six, second place went to altar four, and third place went to altar two.

While the announcement of the winners was supposed to mark the end of the event, there was another set of dancers on the way that were late due to traffic.

The second set were professional dancers from Mexico City. These dancers performed a dance representing Cuauhtémoc's torture by fire. The dance incorporated an actual fire and the dancers placed their feet over the fire, as Cuauhtémoc was tortured. This dance ended the event.

## Building a safer community through student workers

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"A lot of what we hear over the training, to me, just parallels what we already train the SI leaders to do," said Levasseur. "This seems so parallel that I would think that leaders are prime to be able to step in this role as a caregiver."

The SafeTALKs program extends a welcoming hand to many different groups and communities in many different fields. If you'd like to get more information on trainings you can go to [www.living-works.net](http://www.living-works.net) and find trainings near you or that can be brought to you. SafeTALKs is only the first step in this multilevel training.



SI Leaders in SafeTALKs training  
Photo by Alyse Kiara Deatherage



Danzantes del Sol high school division  
Photo by Jesus Alcalá Avalos

# MSJC supports undocumented citizens

By Jesus Alcalá Avalos

Mt. San Jacinto College hosted Undocumented Student Action Week on Oct. 14, a week of events focused on generating awareness of the resources available to undocumented students.

"The purpose of the Undocumented Student Action Week is to show support, provide information, and to get students to see that their community wants them here and that they belong here," said EOPS Director Leslie Salas.

On the first day, the San Jacinto and Menifee campuses hosted a BBQ.

The main event was the display of monarch butterflies on both campuses. Tables were set up to allow students to write messages of support on postcards designed to look like monarch butterflies. The monarch butterflies were then hung around the eagle statue on the San Jacinto campus and from trees on the Menifee campus.

TODEC Legal Center hosted a workshop that explained the legal options available to undocumented students, such as: pathway to citizenship, deportation



Monarch butterflies representing undocumented citizens  
Photo by Maritza Ramirez

prevention, and DACA renewals. Salas said that TODEC provides multiple workshops throughout the semester, not just during Undocumented Student Action Week.

A financial aid expert hosted a workshop to inform students of the financial options available to DACA and Dreamer students. Undocumented students that qualify under AB540 may qualify for California State Aid through the California Dream Act of 2011.

MSJC, in collaboration with TODEC, hosted a workshop for staff, faculty, and administrators. The workshop educated the professionals on how

to address, interact, and support the undocumented student population.

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office hosted a webinar to help the undocumented students manage their fears and empower the students to complete their educational goals.

MSJC also hosted a screening of *Deported*, a documentary film following the lives of immigrant students who faced deportation.

Unique to the San Jacinto campus was the art exhibit by Gustavo Godoy. The art was created for National Hispanic Heritage Month. On Oct. 15, Godoy gave a

presentation for his artwork.

Unique to the Menifee campus was the Art Chalk Walk, where students could write messages of support throughout campus walkways.

Salas explained that MSJC's Undocumented Student Action Week was hosted by the DACA Task Force.

According to Salas, Vice President of Student Services Dr. John Colson formally created the DACA Task Force. Colson asked Maya Cardenas, Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Equity, and Salas to be co-chairs for the DACA Task Force.

The task force reached out to the community and became aware of TODEC Legal Center. TODEC helps undocumented migrants with legal issues. On campus, TODEC offers workshops that provide that information as well.

Salas said that volunteers were easy to come by, as there were staff, faculty, and students ready to collaborate.

She also stated that the actions by the federal government in regards to undocumented students make her uneasy, but be-

lieves that California and the community colleges will continue to support its undocumented students.

DACA was established under the Obama administration and gave undocumented immigrants some of the privileges afforded to residents of the US, if they were brought into the US as children.

Donald Trump made a campaign promise to end DACA. After Trump was elected, the California Community Colleges Board of Governors passed Resolution 2017 - 1, stating that community colleges will continue to support undocumented students and urged Trump not to follow through with his campaign promise.

After Trump rescinded DACA in Sep. 2017, the Board of Governors passed Resolution 2018 - 05, which mandated that Oct. 15-19, 2018 be recognized as Undocumented Student's Week of Action, to show support for undocumented students.

In Sept. 2019, the Board of Governors passed Resolution 2019 - 17, which recognized the third week of October as Un-

documented Student Action Week every year.

Since the task force existed before these mandates, Salas said that it wasn't difficult for MSJC to implement the demands.

The Community College League of California provided suggestions for activities to hold, such as sharing stories, meeting with representatives, giving legal guidance, and promoting activist art.

In Oct. 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom approved AB 1645, which requires community colleges to establish a Dreamer Resource Liaison on campus. The liaison will be the resource for undocumented students to access financial aid, legal services, and academic opportunities.

MSJC's current liaison is Salas, due to her participation in the DACA Task Force.

One of the goals of the DACA Task Force will be to establish a dedicated resource center for undocumented students.

"MSJC will continue working with the community to grow resources and support undocumented students," said Salas.

# Dance Touring Ensemble's last stop at MSJC

By Pablo Ramos Diaz

Mt. San Jacinto College hosted the Dance Touring Ensemble's last of many performances at the San Jacinto campus theatre from Nov. 22-24. This performance featured original choreographic works created by both students and faculty.

MSJC's Dance Touring Ensemble is made up of students enrolled in the Dance-214 course, which students can take if they attend an audition. In this class, not only do students create original choreography, but they must learn it with only eight rehearsals to perfect their routine.

Additionally, during rehearsals, students explored a diverse range of styles. Once rehearsals were done it was then time to put those hard-working hours into fruition.

The tour headed to var-



"Inflections"  
Photo by Marc-Anthony Rosas

ious locations across the community including five at an elementary school, one at a middle school, and one at a high school. Mt. San Jacinto is the last stop featuring three performances spanning one weekend.

Before the show started Artistic Director and Chair of the Dance Department, Julie Satow Freeman, thanked everyone for attending the performance as she believed that this would be something the audience would enjoy.

Dancers were encouraged to not only be artistic but to have a distinct and diverse style. This focus on being distinct and diverse was reflected in the performances put on by the dancers. Furthermore, most of the music chosen helped to bring this focus to life.

Remixes such as "Baby Shark Remix" helped bring inclusion as the audience danced along with the performers. Other performances such as "The Web of Enchantment" gave au-

dience members something to immerse themselves in.

Even the performance "Shall we.....Mop?" gave people something to laugh and enjoy.

Once the concert ended Freeman gave her overall thoughts on the performance and discussed what she thought were factors in her performer's success. She believed that one of the factors was their inclusion of diversity into their routines.

"One [reason] is partially because of where we are on this particular campus, we have a really diverse student body so I think that our concert should reflect all of our students, and not just some students," said Freeman.

She continued by discussing the characteristics she was looking for before and during the concert.

"Professionalism and a really intense work ethic

because it's such an intense process with the short rehearsal period and then touring to different sites. It's a lot to deal with and put together a show and every time we perform, we're performing in different spaces and so their work ethic and attention to detail is really important," said Freeman.

Samantha Heape based her framework on Bill T. Jones' solo "Floating the Tongue". She stated she wanted to push

her boundaries and not only dance but speak in front of a large audience.

Heape believed her performance "Jonesing" demonstrated her passion towards dance.

"I'm doing this and I'm going to keep doing this until I make it," said Heape.

She and the ensemble expressed that dancing has not only taught them diligence, but has shown them how important it is to be diverse.



Dancers expressing their joy as they take a bow  
Photo by Marc-Anthony Rosas

# Girls rule the Speech Tournament

By Sarah Martin

On Nov. 8, Mt. San Jacinto College students gathered at the San Jacinto campus to compete in the Fall Speech Tournament. Contestants were asked to give either a persuasive or informative speech, and for both categories there were first, second, and third prize winners for both categories.

Certificates, trophies, and semester tuition would be awarded to those who won. Everyone who competed would be awarded a certificate, which motivated many students to enter so the certificate could be added to their resumes.

There was quite a turn out; over 60 students entered the tournament. Students from all different backgrounds competed, which enabled the variety of speeches to be diverse.

Speeches were given on a myriad of topics, from dog training to Alzheimer's, and professional wrestling to violence in the Philippines.

Julie Kurtz, who gave



Award winners and judges at the tournament

Photo by Alyse Kiara Deatherage

a speech on service dogs, attended the tournament with her very own service dog, a German Shepherd named Jackie.

Professor Basemeh Rihan and Professor Ron Newman hosted the tournament, enthusiastically offering words of encouragement to an understandably nervous room full

of tournament-goers. MSJC's President, Dr. Roger Schultz pre-recorded a video that was shown to the contestants before the tournament began. In his video, Dr. Schultz commended everyone competing for taking an interest in speeches, stating that communication is a highly-sought out skill

by employers across all fields, including himself.

This tournament was a great opportunity for many students to propel themselves into the world of speeches. For many contestants, this tournament was the first they had ever been in.

"I think it's awesome. I think it's cool to meet new

people and improve your public speaking skills," said Frank Ochoa, a first-time tournament participant.

Ochoa gave a persuasive speech on why steroids should be illegal in the sports industry.

"Everyone seems to be pretty cool. You don't feel the pressure. The judges seem to understand everyone is fairly new to public speaking," said Ochoa.

After everyone had given their speeches, certificates were awarded to each participant. Shortly after, the first, second, and third place trophies were awarded to the winners.

All six winners from both the informative and persuasive categories were female. Professor Rihan stated that this is the first time there was an all-female group of winners at any of MSJC's speech tournaments.

Professor Newman also showed his support for these female winners by offering to change the "little men" on their trophies to "little women" if they'd like.

# Mu Alpha Theta brings math to real world situations

By Melissa Castro

Mu Alpha Theta talks took place this semester at Mt. San Jacinto's Meniffee campus on Nov. 5. Presented by the Mu Alpha Theta club, the talks focused on topics pertaining to "Math in our lives," which was the theme for this year.

Mu Alpha Theta plans to hold a different theme pertaining to mathematics next semester with the previous faculty presenters, along with new ones. As of writing this article, the club was prepping for their Math Competition on Friday, Nov. 22 from 12 - 2 p.m. at the San Jacinto Campus inside the Milo B. Johnson Library's LRC.

One of the presenters, chapter club President of Mu Alpha Theta Mahak Tiwari, gave her lecture on Mathematical Chemistry.

"Well, since my topic was on Mathematical Chemistry, it originally was dedicated to my favorite chemistry professor, Dr. Josh Hartman, who is also the Mu Alpha Theta faculty advisor at the Meniffee Campus and so, since he wasn't able to present, I had stepped up in his place to do it," said Tiwari.

"I also had fun listening to the other presenters. My favorite was of the last presenter, Dr. Nick Reeves, who had presented on Calculus and how it assisted Drs. Ho and Perelson towards revolutionizing the HIV treatment."

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# Welcoming new members at MAT

By Mahak Tiwari

**Editors note: The views and opinions expressed here are that of the authors alone.**

The Mu Xi Beta Chapter of Mt. San Jacinto College's Mu Alpha Theta Honors Society inducted 15 new members into their math honors society on Nov. 8.

Some of the keynote speakers from the MSJC Administration included the Dean of Math and Science Marc Donhauser,



Mu Alpha Theta inductees, speakers, and advisors

Photo provided by Mahak Tiwari

Vice President of Student Services Dr. John Colson, and Vice President of Instruction Dr. Jeremy Brown, along with chemistry professor and Mu Alpha Theta faculty ad-

visor, Dr. Josh Hartman. Our inductees come from a variety of different majors. The inductees included Gabriella Barron, Christian Cortez, Victorious Comehn, Christian Dave,

Ian Dickey, Justin Faler, Anna Finn, Lars Hansen, Jessebelle Li, Victoria Mendez, Victoria Reyes, Tristan Sanchez, Benjamin Silvas, Celestial Yanez, and Yuxin (Tracy) Ye.

At the ceremony, I was filled with joy as I inducted the new members officially.

I felt that actually having a formal ceremony this semester made it feel like a true honors society induction.

Mu Alpha Theta is a prestigious and nationwide two-year college mathe-

matics honors society and our Mu Alpha Theta Math Club is ingrained within the honors society itself.

"We are so happy to welcome the new members of Mu Alpha Theta. Our inductees share an enthusiasm for math with other MAT members and advisors across the country. We appreciate the hard work of all of our members in planning events that allow us to celebrate mathematics," said Shihla Sadjadi, the current Mu Alpha Theta advisor.



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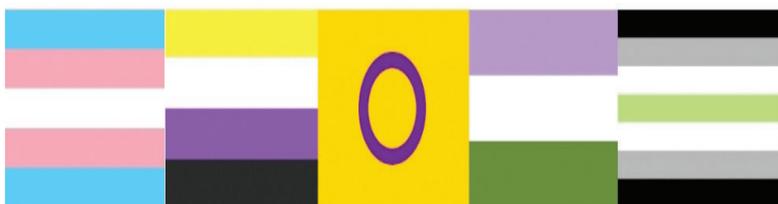
SEXUALITY & GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA)

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@Room 1250A

Contact Info:

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**TEDx MSJC**

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Now accepting applications for featured speakers

The event will take place on the San Jacinto campus on May 9th and features the theme of "Awareness".

Send a 250 word abstract and a link to a short video of your abstract presentation to:

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The deadline for submissions is December 15th.

About TEDx.

TED is a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less). TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics — from science to business to global issues — in more than 100 languages. Meanwhile, independently run TEDx events help share ideas in communities around the world.

For more information visit us at: [www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com)



# Bringing hard work to the stage

By Pablo Ramos-Diaz

Mt. San Jacinto College's Menifee campus hit the Temecula Old Town Theatre's stage on Oct. 24-27 with the musical "Urinetown". This musical is a satirical comedy that first staged on Broadway in 2001.

The play was created by Greg Kotis, who got the idea of "Urinetown" while traveling in Europe.

During his trip, Kotis noticed everywhere he went, people had to use their own money in order to use public restrooms. This came as a surprise to him as he had never witnessed something like this until that point.

Additionally, big companies had influenced politicians and police outlawing going in the bushes and other places.

Kotis used Malthus's views on population growth, which included that resources are limited and, with the ever-growing



**Bobby Strong(Brad Watson) giving the rebels hope**  
Photo by Maritza Ramirez

population, we can exceed them, were used in "Urinetown" to emphasize why the citizens would need to pay to use the restrooms.

It was through this experience that Kotis felt the world should know about this. With a little help from writers, choreographers, and actors, the first showing of "Urinetown" premiered on Sept. 20, 2001.

Through its premiere, "Urinetown" helped heal the broken city of New

York after the terrorist attacks that happened on Sept. 11, 2001. The musical was nominated for 10 Tony awards and won three of them.

Shezwa Powell was the director for Mt. San Jacinto's production of "Urinetown". She has had several lead roles such as "Bugs" for the BBC and "The Tomorrow People" on Nickelodeon, and has appeared in numerous Broadway shows.

Powell had to put together numerous things such as auditions, setting the tone for the stage, choreography, etc. For her this seemed like a large task to take, but with enough help and effort, she believed that she could put on a show that her audience would not forget.

On the first live performance of "Urinetown" was performed on Oct. 24. All three of the shows were sold out, meaning the performers had a full house for all three showings of "Urinetown." It may seem intimidating to some, but to Powell and her cast, it was a challenge that they were excited to take.

Through beginning to end, the audience was engaged in Powell's version of "Urinetown." With witty dialogue, a charismatic cast, and its toilet humor (both figuratively and literally), the audience was continually laughing at the musical.

After a round of applause, everyone left the black box feeling satisfied and amused. Performer Alan Scharf, who played Caldwell B, discussed what he felt was the most difficult part in preparing for "Urinetown."

"The toughest thing for me was getting the lyrics and the melody straight, and just only a few days before the performance we finally got it," said Scharf.

Furthermore, Jared Allen Rutledge, who has been a performer for most of his life, also discussed what was so hard in preparing for "Urinetown."

"There was a part where I have to do a quick change that last about five minutes, so for me the quick change was probably the hardest part."

With the play done, Powell hopes her performers had a fun time in participating in her version of "Urinetown".

## Mu Alpha Theta brings math to real world situations

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Tiwari also explained that the event was created in an attempt to expanding Mu Alpha Theta's activity on campus.

"This idea for our MATalks event to take place and how it came to be developed into reality, which was unfolded on that same day, came to me at the beginning of the semester since I wanted to showcase something new and something bold," said Tiwari.

"Mu Alpha Theta has always done its math competitions and other events such as Pi Day or even our annual Trig or Treat celebration, but we never had done an actual panel which had faculty from all different disciplines come together to discuss the one thing that is always around is and that one thing is Math."

Dr. Nick Reeves from the Biology Department presented his topic on how Mathematical Modeling of HIV Infection Leads to Successful Combination Antiretroviral Therapy (CART). Professor Gary Vargas presented on "The Importance of Mathematics in History" and Professor Taylor Baldwin presented on "What is Mathematics?"

Dr. Reeves' presentation went into detail about the specific ways that calculus has affected the research done on HIV and its effects on HIV patients.

"Calculus resulted in a change of strategy for treating HIV that has turned this horrible infectious disease into a life sentence, an infection that people can live with as long as they take their medications, instead of a death sentence," explained Dr. Reeves. "In my presentation, I attempted to share this story and essentially all of my information came from 'Infinite Powers: How Calculus Reveals the Secrets of the Universe'."

Tiwari expressed satisfaction with the results of the event after it had ended.

"The event went really well, despite having a small turnout. In regard to presenting my topic, I was very nervous with first-time jitters but that is because of my fear of public speaking and well, stage fright. But I also do know that I am not the only one who can relate to that," said Tiwari.

Tiwari also said that she is excited for the Spring semester, when she hopes there will be more speakers who can share their knowledge and bring in a larger turnout. She hopes to focus on making the event more publicly known to the students and staff around campus.

"We are done with MATalks for now," said Tiwari.

She also added that Mu Alpha Theta will now begin focusing on preparations for their Math competition.



**The poor struggling to survive and the rich prohibiting them from fighting back**  
Photo by Maritza Ramirez



**Hope Cladwell (Alexa Krause) and Bobby Strong (Brad Watson)**  
Photo by Maritza Ramirez



**Caldwell B. Cladwell (Alan Scharf) dancing number with secretaries**  
Photo by Maritza Ramirez

# Two different perspectives on Joker

By Lillian Goodwin

Joker's opening week broke box office records and achieved a frenzied popularity in theaters both domestic and nation-wide, but does it live up to the hype? The answer is yes—and no.

Todd Phillips, director of hits like "The Hangover" and "A Star is Born," gives a refreshingly unique take on a comic-book movie, delving into complex themes not typically seen in the genre.

The film bypasses the typical conventions of fight-scenes and witty banter you would expect from a DC title, instead showing a dark, down-to-earth origin story of how the iconic Batman villain Joker came to be.

The story follows aspiring comedian and clown-for-hire Arthur Fleck, played by Joaquin Phoenix, as he struggles to pursue his dreams while making ends meet and dealing with the harsh realities of economic inequality and mental illness.

Phoenix, who had to lose 50 pounds for the role, brings the character to life with his phenomenal performance, and it's rumored

that his improvisations may be responsible for some of the more heart-rending scenes in the movie.

With help from a soundtrack by Hildur Guðnadóttir, award-winning indie composer for the likes of "Mary Magdalene" and HBO's Chernobyl, the movie paints an immersive and compelling picture of the dank and gritty squalor that is the city of Gotham, where crime runs rampant and the citizens are left to fend for themselves amongst the chaos.

The film pulls no punches in the tragedy it portrays- Arthur is a sympathetic character, up against a cruel society that sees no place for him. That being said, the ideas of the movie precede itself- the script, written by Phillips and Scott Silver, tried to shove one too many complicated themes into a genre of movie famous for its lack of nuance.

The weight of the story is at odds with the flimsy backbone of a shallow Warner Bros screenplay. For all its real-world insights and thoughtful reflections, Joker feels restricted, leaving the viewers wanting more and the critics conflicted.

By Alyse Kiara Deatherage

On Oct. 4, the newest version of the classic tale of Batman's antagonist was released, "Joker".

In this story, though, he is less of a villain and more of the victim, and that fact dredged up a lot of controversy for this movie.

Did the severities of Joker's past excuse his senseless killing, or provide justification for it? Who could say, but the director, Todd Phillips, reveals a very different side to this very iconic character.

In this film, Joker, played by Joaquin Phoenix, is a very normal man named Arthur Fleck with normal problems for his time.

All his life his mother praised his smile and told him that his purpose was to share it in order to bring the same smile to others.

So, he made that his life goal, but this goal was not achievable in a time of recession.

After being beaten in an alleyway, Fleck is given a gun by a "friend" from work and he begins keeping this on his person.

Fleck ends up seeing a group of young men harassing a woman on a train.

When he sees these men harassing this woman, he be-

gins to laugh nervously and they turn their target onto him.

After beating him, Fleck finally decides to take a stand, and shoots the three men multiple times. Murdering them.

He runs away in fear, but soon forgets this incident and continues on with his life.

While Fleck enjoys his days with new companions and off-and-on comedy gigs, he soon discovers a deep dark truth behind his past.

After this is revealed, he kills one person after another in his life, and he can't help but start a revolution on the way.

The people of Gotham are tired of leadership who don't fight for the needs of the lower class. Wearing clown masks that resemble the Joker in allegiance, they band together and cause mass chaos all throughout the city.

In all this chaos, though, two new creatures are born: A villain, who wants to destroy all who have hurt him or whom he feels is not worthy of life;

And a hero, for who better to defend Gotham than a superhero.

Information for this movie's actors and director was found on imdb.com.

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# Third Act: Death

By Hector Cardenas

I'm stuck here in this cavern  
searching for the Unconcerned  
Are you up there above doing just fine?  
If so remember to pop some wine  
I'm not going to make it back in time

My vein covered oxygen bag is lily-white  
it wants to collapse  
you can say it's my plight  
to climb above these mountain snowcaps  
And I know for certain that I'm a terrible Blight  
the day you left me, my soul's been hurt by thunderclaps

Lost in this labyrinth  
Tied to the ground  
I wanna break free  
But this maze was made round

So with my insides split and my body numb  
I can only try to drink away more of the pain but it's only a waste  
When I know that my time is interim between lonesome and toilsome  
and however long the wait is we'll all be replaced  
Trust me our love is and will always be both a venom and a serum  
A couple more swigs and my organs about ready to be displaced

Void consumes the vision  
twilight controls the silence  
Thoughts are disillusioned  
my heart's Cadence  
I stumble from the stool in this oak furnished tavern  
Driving through the sleet and snow; Not really hoping to get back home  
Winding black iced road,  
swerving,  
and eyes twirling,  
I hit my brakes,  
Overtumed.  
Windshield shattered,  
Metal cage rolling,  
Blood running down my dome  
Vessel breaks through the tree line,  
Sails into the unbroken water.  
At last something I yearned.  
My nerves freeze into icicle  
and my breathing falters into a broken metronome.

My memory of you still stands  
as if it was only days ago  
when we last held hands  
our soul, combined, a bright ember glow  
as we were roaring through the Meadowlands

# Tomorrow

By Anthony Smart

Let us face a new day together for tomorrow is no more,  
for the man I was yesterday has died, but for whenever there is death is new life.  
I have been reborn but not from biological means, experience is my mother and life is the  
hardships of her labor, but nothing is more precious than the first breath of a new day.  
I wonder what my next life will be like?  
Will I aspire to dream new dreams?  
Will I love new lovers?  
Tomorrow is a mystery and the past of yesterday always misses me  
The light at the end of the tunnel shines like Christmas trees, but the pain of the present  
often sometimes hinders me and life sometimes it renders me helpless  
I can't help it.

# What is love?

By Antonio Yanez

Love a very impenetrable word.  
Which is spent with someone you hold so dear.  
If you tell me what is love.  
I would probably say it is a magical sensation that you have with your partner.  
No, I don't mean by sex.  
Something much more intimacy between the two.  
I believe it is a bond that is built through hardships.  
I am a strong believer on that.  
My daughter is a reminder of the love we once shared.  
See my parents are why am I trying so hard.  
That is joke to me.  
I respond why? Well cause I still love her.  
Through thick or thin , I will always be her shield.  
That is what I define as love.  
Be there for her even when she least expect you to be there



Editor-in-Chief  
*Alyse Kiara Deatherage*

Site-Editors  
*Marc-Anthony Rosas*  
*Pablo Ramos Diaz*

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*Jesús Alcalá Avalos*

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Guest Writers  
*Anthony Smart*  
*Antonio Yanez*  
*Mahak Tiwari*

Advisers  
*Dr. Michele Weber*  
*Ronald Newman*  
*Doug Spoon*



@msjctalon



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@msjctalon



msjctalon@gmail.com



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