



President's Board of Trustees Report

The President's Monthly Report to the Board of Trustees, Campus & Community | January 2019

SBVC Receives \$25,000 Environmental Champions Grant

The San Bernardino Valley College Foundation has received a 2018 Environmental Champions Grant from SoCal Gas, which will be used to expand SBVC's training in electric and hybrid engines. The college is receiving a grant of \$25,000 as part of a program that helps nonprofits advance innovative projects that promote clean water, air, and energy. "Through support for CNG/Electric/Hybrid Training Expansion, we are pleased to partner with San Bernardino Valley College Foundation to further our shared goal of fostering stewardship of our local environment," SoCalGas Community Relations Manager Sarita Figueroa said when announcing the SBVC Foundation's win. In the grant application, Karen Childers, SBVC Director of Development and Community Relations, explained that students have been flocking to the college for CNG electric and hybrid engine repair training in the Automotive and Diesel Departments. "SBVC currently offers the only vocational training available in the Inland Empire that will prepare the skilled workforce needed by our regional employers in emerging heavy-duty, clean engine technologies, and Hybrid Transportation technology," she wrote. Grant funds will be used to purchase training modules and tools for a second lab section. Students are now receiving instruction in hybrid and electric vehicle technology using cars purchased with grant funds SBVC received from the state of California.



SBVC Launches Virtual Campus Tour

Prospective students can now take a tour of the San Bernardino Valley College campus from anywhere; all they need is just an internet connection. A virtual tour was recently added to the SBVC website, with video clips providing an overview of the campus, showing where each building is and the departments located inside. Matriculation Coordinator Yancie Carter said SBVC is offering this tour because it is an effective way to reach more people. "With the high use of technology, it's important to leverage it in order to meet the needs of today's students," she said. It took about six months to put the tour together, including scouting locations, conducting research, writing the script, filming the segments, and editing the video. Students volunteered to provide narration for the videos, and everyone involved in the project learned something new about the campus. "Although SBVC is a large campus, it is quite easy to navigate and find exactly what you are looking for," Carter said.

To watch the digital tour, visit valleycollege.edu/tour.

SBVC Hosts Second Annual Poetry Festival in Honor of SBVC Alumnus

SBVC hosted its second annual John Trudell Poetry Festival on November 29, commemorating the life and work of the famous SBVC alumnus after whom it is named. An outspoken Native American civil rights advocate, Trudell's legacy of poetry and songwriting about righteous defiance was celebrated at the inaugural event last year. Trudell studied radio and broadcasting at SVBC after serving in the Navy during the Vietnam War. He died of cancer in December 2015, and the free festival held at SBVC is aimed to celebrate his life and poetry. This year's guest poet was Shihan Van Clief, a presenter and host of the nation's largest weekly open mic "Da Poetry Lounge" in Los Angeles. A packed room of campus and community members enjoyed the celebration, which included a special honor to Sage Trudell, the daughter of John Trudell.



Student Aims to Inspire as Lead Role in “In The Heights” Theatre Production

In order to encapsulate the character of Usnavi de la Vega, the leading role of the Fall production of *In The Heights*, the chosen actor had to be able to act, sing, dance, and – oh yeah – rapid-fire rap hundreds of lines. Yet Aaron Saenz had a unique advantage when auditioning for the role: he is autistic. The Fall 2018 theatre production at SBVC was announced to be *In The Heights*, a story of a vibrant community in New York’s Washington Heights neighborhood set to a score of salsa, hip-hop, and merengue music. Saenz had his sights set on the narrator Usnavi, a role that would require him to memorize numerous pages of rap narration. However, Saenz’s unique talent is that he has a great mind for details and memorization. Learning the script would not be a problem for him in the slightest. Saenz and Julie Edwards-Matanga, musical director for the show, recently sat down with KVCR for an interview on “Lifestyles with Lillian Vasquez.” In the interview, Edwards-Matanga claimed that she was nervous to cast the role of Usnavi because it would be the first time she would have to teach a student how to rap for a production. However, Saenz came so well-prepared, her hesitation faded away. “I think that Aaron’s autism is a gift. I’m amazed by him and his wonderful brilliant mind,” she said to Vasquez. “He has made my job so easy because he came absolutely perfectly prepared.” Saenz was cast as Usnavi, and was set to finally star in his first leading role, describing it as a feeling that he had never felt before in my life. “I did my first musical [at SBVC] 2 years ago, which was Avenue Q. I said that that was the happiest time of my life, and now being the lead in *In The Heights*, this might be the happiest time of my life.” Saenz was proud to show off his singing, dancing, acting, and rapping skills on the theatre stage. While many individuals consider autism an impairment in many situations, Saenz is grateful for his rare abilities. “I’ve learned pretty quickly that is a trait that I have been blessed to have thanks to my autism.”



SBVC Athletics Dominate End of the Year Awards

Freshman **Alissa Johnson** (Rialto Carter) was named the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference women’s cross country runner of the year in a vote of conference coaches. Johnson ran away from the field at the PCAC Championships in October, as she won the race by more than 30 seconds. She followed that up with a 14th place finish at the Southern California regionals. Wolverines’ coach **Eric Abrams** was also awarded the coach of the year award from the PCAC. He led the Wolverines to their best-ever finish at the state finals, as the team finished ninth at the championships in Fresno. In men’s soccer, Freshman **Cameron Smith** (Redlands Citrus Valley) was chosen the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference Defensive Most Valuable Player in a vote of coaches after the season ended earlier this month. The 6-foot-1 defender had two goals and two assists on the season while holding down the Wolverines’ back line that only conceded 16 goals. Joining Smith on the first team was Ramon Nunez, Hugo Herrera and Cesar Becerra. Nunez (Jurupa Valley Rubidoux) led the Wolverines with 10 goals on the season, along with three assists in 18 appearance. All of his points came in PCAC play. Herrera (Palm Desert Shadow Hills) contributed offense from the back end, as he finished the season with five goals - four in PCAC play - and two assists. And Becerra (Moreno Valley) had seven goals - six in conference - as a midfielder.



SBVC Welcomes the Holiday Season with Third Annual WinterFest



The San Bernardino Valley Campus was once again turned into a winter wonderland on December 4 for the third annual WinterFest. This fun, free event open to the public brought out hundreds of visitors looking to celebrate the start of the holiday season. Campus and community members gathered in the Library quad and enjoyed the ambiance of festive holiday music and light displays. The event featured pictures with Santa, outdoor games, musical performances, planetarium shows, holiday movie screenings, and more. Food and beverages were available for sale at The Den coffee shop, the SBVC Café, various campus organizations, and the Culinary Arts Department, which brought out their new food truck to serve warm entrees. This annual holiday celebration aims to showcase many of SBVC’s programs and services by giving the public a fun and family-friendly atmosphere on campus in the run-up to the holiday season.

San Bernardino Veterans Day Parade Honors SBVC Alumnus

The San Bernardino community recently gathered for 18th Annual Veterans Day Salute, a parade recognizing veterans for their sacrifices and service. This year's celebration was held in special honor of SBVC alumnus Robert "Bob" Logsdon, Jr. This San Bernardino native was a three-war Navy veteran, having served 32 years in World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam War. As a professional photographer, Logsdon spread his knowledge as well as his skills in the San Bernardino City Unified School District's adult education program. In September of 2018, Logsdon passed away at the age of 101. The Veterans Day Salute was dedicated to Logsdon for his years of service in the military and his impact on the local community. The parade spotlighted veterans groups with drill teams, marching bands, military vehicles and classic cars. Following the parade, a ceremony in the park, veteran resource fair, vendors, live entertainment and a fly-over of T-34 aircraft completed the community salute.

Logsdon holds a photo of himself at age 5. Photo from Highland News.



Students Graduate in End-of-the-Year Celebrations

December 12 marked the Pinning Ceremony for 43 new nursing graduates from SBVC. Faculty from the SBVC Nursing Program honored each of the graduates with a flower and pin, signaling the completion of their rigorous program. Graduates will prepare to take their National Council Licensure Examination while applying for employment at local hospitals and health care organizations. On December 13, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Frank Bland Regional Training Center in partnership with San Bernardino Valley College hosted the 212 Graduation Ceremony to celebrate the trainees that completed an intensive 23-week program. The new graduates have been hired by several law enforcement agencies, including San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, and the police departments of Barstow, Montclair, Ontario, Rialto, Pomona, Riverside and San Bernardino. On the same night in the SBVC Auditorium, sixteen brand-new graduates of SBVC's psychiatric technology program walked across the stage to receive their diplomas and celebrate the completion of one of the most renowned psych tech programs in the state. This SBVC program is acclaimed for its academic rigor and support for new students entering the rewarding career field of psychiatric technology. Congrats to all the recent graduates!



SBVC Reaches out to the Local Community in 3rd Annual Day of Service

On December 8, SBVC hosted its third annual "Day of Service," an extensive volunteer outreach effort aimed at distributing information about SBVC programs, resources, and services to the local community. This year saw one of the largest numbers of participants, with over 150 campus students, staff, faculty, and administrators volunteering to participate. Teams targeted local residential communities and distributed nearly 4,000 packets of college information, including a spring schedule and flyers about the college's many degrees and certificates available. After the event, volunteers returned to campus for a barbecue, with several lucky participants winning prizes in an opportunity drawing. Amanda Moody, one of the event's organizers, said it is a great way for our campus to reach out and connect with the local community.





Wolverines Earn Top PCAC Awards

Awards are beginning to roll in for the San Bernardino Valley College women's soccer team after its run to the state final four in the 2018 season. Pacific Coast Athletic Conference coaches announced their picks for the all-conference team this week, and two members of the Wolverines' team took top honors. Sophomore Karen Jacobs was chosen the conference's Player of the Year. The Redlands High graduate led the Wolverines with 18 goals on the season, eight of them coming in conference play. San Bernardino Cajon graduate Caitlyn Saucedo was chosen the conference's Offensive Player of the Year. Listed as a defender, Saucedo shifted into the midfield and was often a catalyst for the Wolverines through the middle of the field. Joining Jacobs and Saucedo on the first team was the defensive trio of sophomores Monica Garcia (Bloomington), Shantee Martin (Grand Terrace) and Kayla Storm (Roosevelt). The Wolverines' defense only allowed one goal in PCAC-North Division play, posting nine shutouts.

SBVC Alumnus Builds Student Support on Campus

Ed Szumski has brought decades of smiles in little and big ways to the SBVC campus, where he now helps grow alumni involvement to benefit students. Szumski graduated in 1976 from SBVC with an associate's degree in Electronics Communications Technology, and holds a bachelor's and a master's degree from CSUSB. Szumski came to SBVC as an adjunct professor three years before being hired full time in 1985. During that time, and years following, he garnered recognition from the college, including the Outstanding Service Award five times over the years, and the Honored Retiree Award twice in 2014 and 2015. He served as SBVC Alumni Association president for three years in the early 2000s, which is today part of the SBVC Foundation. Szumski also served as Academic Senate president, subsequently earning numerous accolades, including Outstanding Alumni of CSUSB in 2000. In 2016, Szumski was honored along with 90 other Distinguished Alumni of San Bernardino Valley College. Currently, Szumski and three foundation members sit on the Alumni Committee, including Gary Kelly, Dexter Thomas and Taylor Williams, where they are tasked with increasing association membership, planning alumni events, including the nomination and the selection process for new Distinguished Alumni and Alumni Hall of Fame members. From those early days until today, he still serves SBVC students by writing reference letters and letters of support to apply for scholarships. "I always want my students to get a great education, to be successful, to get great jobs, earn a lot of money, and to fund social security," he said.



Upcoming Events



January 14
Spring Semester Begins

January 21
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February 15-18
Presidents Day Holiday

March 11-16
Spring Recess

April 9
Flex Day