**Holiday Greetings and Well Wishes from Dr. Kasler**

“Beauty at Cypress College is not skin deep. It extends beyond the grounds and buildings to our heart and soul: the people.”

Certainly, this has not been the easiest year in our college’s history. But, it is one that I will remember fondly in terms of how we have worked together in a collective effort to serve our students. Collegiality is not just a word listed on paper as one of our core values. It is something we have exemplified.

This was perhaps most clear as students struggled to find classes at the start of this semester. MyGateway struggled under the weight of our highest enrollment ever and there were lines in our service areas. One thing clearly missing was the presence of short tempers.

We can — and should be — proud of our well-kept campus and our educational facilities. There is definitely pride of ownership here. But, beauty at Cypress College is not skin deep. It extends beyond the grounds and buildings to our heart and soul: the people.

As president, that is my greatest source of pride.

I am proud not only of the work we do here, but the way in which we accomplish that work — together, as a team.

**Women’s Volleyball Team Playing in State Championship Tournament This Weekend**

Members of the women’s volleyball team are in Stockton where they open the state-championship tournament with a match this afternoon (Friday, December 4). The Chargers (21-4), and seven other teams, are competing for the state title in a double-elimination competition at San Joaquin Delta.

This is just the second time in school history that the Chargers have advanced as one of volleyball’s elite eight.

The Chargers open the tournament with a 3 p.m. contest against the third seed from the North, Santa Rosa. With a victory, the Chargers would play again on Saturday at 10 a.m. In the event of a loss, Cypress would play a second match at 5:30 p.m. today.

The Women’s Volleyball team established a Cypress College first by capturing the Orange Empire Conference championship in the regular-season finale.
CONTINUED: Dr. Kasler’s Holiday Greetings and Well Wishes

Continued from page 1
We are an outstanding college, with outstanding students, faculty and staff.

Just as this college is about people, so is the holiday season. It is a time for us to cherish the opportunity to be with our families and our friends.

And, like the college, each of us has been touched personally by these trying economic times. If not in our homes, then certainly among our extended families and our neighbors.

— Mike

31 Cypress College Student Families Fed Through A.S. Food Drive

The Associated Students’ food drive last month allowed for the creation of food baskets for 31 families in need. All recipients were families of students in the college’s EOPS.

The food drive ran from November 2-19, a timeline that allowed families to pick up their baskets between November 23-25, in time for a happy Thanksgiving meal.

Each family received a laundry basket overflowing with food, including a turkey, canned goods, stuffings, and corn breads, along with many other miscellaneous food items.

In addition to the baskets, families also selected from a wide variety of extra canned goods — most of which were collected at a drive during a BBQ co-sponsored by the A.S. and the Veteran’s Club.

Each of the 31 Cypress College families expressed their gratitude to everyone who allowed them to have a joyous holiday weekend.

“Thanksgiving is a time to be grateful for all that we have, and A.S. appreciates the participation of all those who donated,” said Altaf Wahid, a member of the A.S.

Culinary Arts Students Enter Gingerbread Houses in Charity Auction

The Advanced Baking and Pastry class, taught by Chef Rachel Klemek of Blackmarket Bakery, entered two gingerbread creations in the Share Our Selves 4th Annual Festival of Trees silent auction.

The two gingerbread creations were “Willy Wonka’s Chocolate Waterfall Room” and “The Haunted Ghost House.”

“Most of the students had never built anything out of gingerbread, so it was quite a challenge,” said Klemek. “Working in teams of 5-7 people, they tackled the task with perseverance, creativity and a sense of humor. As their instructor, I am quite impressed.”

The Annual Festival of Trees was held at the Hilton in Costa Mesa from December 1-3, with proceeds from the auction benefiting the SOS Family Center.

Funding Available for Diversity Committee’s ‘Unheard Voices’ Series

The Cypress College Diversity Committee has issued a call for proposals for Spring 2010 funding for its Speaker/Presentation Series. The theme this year is “Unheard Voices.”

Applications are available in the International Students Office or via e-mail to gmarrocco@CypressCollege.edu. Additional information is available from Gina Marrocco at ext. 47049.

For nearly a half-million students, Cypress College has been a springboard to their dreams. Cypress College: Motivating Minds.
K.C. Cole Talks Science, Tuesday at 12:30

By Ron Armale
Physical Science Department Chair

You and your students are invited:
Last chance for fun and extra credit before finals start
Cypress College SCIENCE LECTURE SERIES

Tuesday, December 8th at 12:30-2:00 PM in CCComplex 216

K. C. Cole, USC Professor, LA Times Science Writer

The Uncle of the Atom Bomb: Frank Oppenheimer and the World He Made Up

What happens to a person schooled in art, science and “ethical culture” who finds himself a pacifist building an atomic bomb, a physicist exiled from science because of his outspoken efforts to stop nuclear madness, a New York Jew raising cattle and teaching high school in the Colorado mountains? If you’re Frank Oppenheimer, you use what you’ve learned from art and science and teaching and ranching to make up your own world ... a “museum of human awareness” -- The Exploratorium in San Francisco. Based on a newly published memoir/biography of the kid brother of J. Robert Oppenheimer, “father” of the atomic bomb, this talk will recount not just Frank’s journey, but also the story of how KC Cole, a young political writer who thought an “accelerator” was a gas pedal, stumbled on Frank’s marvelous Exploratorium, fell in love with physics, and got hooked on science for life.

Talks are geared toward the general public. No science background is required, and all are welcome! K.C. Cole, a long-time science writer for The Los Angeles Times, is currently a professor at USC’s Annenberg School of Journalism. Cole’s writing has appeared in The New Yorker, The New York Times, The Smithsonian, The Columbia Journalism Review, Newsweek, Esquire, Ms., The Washington Post and many other publications; her work was featured in The Best American Science Writing 2004 and 2005, and The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2002. She is the author of 8 non-fiction books.

For more information, contact Ron Armale: RArmale@CypressCollege.edu

*this program is funded by the Federal College Cost Reduction and Access Act Hispanic-Serving Institutions (STEM) Grant awarded to Cypress College
HUMAN SERVICES CLUB
TOY DRIVE
DEC. 1ST–16TH

**NEW UNWRAPPED TOYS
FOR NEWBORNS TO TEENAGERS**

DROP OFF LOCATIONS
*BURSARS OFFICE* MATH/SCIENCE BUILDING*
*STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER* FINE ARTS BUILDING*
*BUSINESS BUILDING*

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT **TIFFANY WALTON** AT TASHLEY1313@GMAIL.COM

CO-SPONSORED BY: CYPRESS COLLEGE A.S. * GALA * BSU *
The Diversity Committee has limited funds to help support diversity-related speakers and activities related to diversity. This year, the committee has selected:

**Diversity of "Unheard Voices"**

The intent of this theme is to provide our students with the stories of diversity and adversity that are often missed. We know the stories of well-known people from pop culture and the stories of those with political or economic power, but the Diversity Committee hopes to foster knowledge of events and experiences that are often marginalized or unheard.

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<tr>
<th>Monthly Focus</th>
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<td>Each month will have a minority group as the focus. We encourage you to incorporate lessons/activities associated with the monthly focus.</td>
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<tr>
<th>September</th>
<th>Hispanic Heritage Month</th>
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<td>October</td>
<td>Disabilities Awareness Month</td>
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<td>National Diversity Awareness Month</td>
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<th>November</th>
<th>Native American Heritage Month</th>
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<td>International Education Week</td>
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| December/January | Kwanzaa Awareness  |
|                  | Japanese and Chinese New Year |
|                  | Vietnamese Tet |

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<th>February</th>
<th>Black History Month</th>
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<th>March</th>
<th>Women’s Recognition Month</th>
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<th>April</th>
<th>Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Awareness Month</th>
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| May | Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month |

**How can you incorporate *unheard voices* into your syllabus or club activities?**

FMI, contact Gina Marrocco at GMarrocco@CypressCollege.edu or ext. 47049.

The Diversity Committee has limited funds to help support diversity-related speakers and activities. When submitting a proposal, please incorporate the annual and monthly theme in the funding request. Applications will be available in September 2009.
Part 1: General Information

Applicant Name: ____________________________________________

Check position that applies:  Management □  Faculty □  Classified □  Student □

Position Title: ______________________  Division/Department: ______________________

Speaker/Presentation Name: ______________________  Topic: ______________

Date of Event(s) (tentative or actual): __________________________

Time of Event: ______________________

Name of group(s) or individuals participating in and/or benefiting from Speaker/Presentation:

Part 2: Justification and Accountability
(This information will be used to judge the merit of your application for funding.)

1. Summary of Presentation: (Include information about the speaker. Attach promotional material and website, if any. Describe format and content of event.)

2. Goal(s), Objectives, Purpose of Speaker/Presentation: (Explain the outcome/benefits to the audience.)

3. How will you advertise the event and promote attendance of faculty and students?
Part 3: Diversity Committee Goals
(Type an “X” in all of the boxes that qualify your request for meeting Campus Diversity Committee Goals.)

☐ Engage faculty, staff, and students to support and promote diversity
☐ Continue to support the recruitment and retention of diverse faculty, staff, and management
☐ Provide a mechanism for information dissemination to the college community
☐ Continue to support the assessment of diversity issues at the College

Provide a brief narrative on how the Speaker/Presentation will meet at least 1 of the above goals:

Part 4: Costs
(Please note: If actual expenses exceed the original costs as entered on application, the District will not reimburse the excess amount)

1. Proposed Fee of Speaker/Presentation: __________________________

2. Other Costs (i.e. Theater Rental Fee, Advertising (poster/flyers, etc.), Hospitality (table cloths, balloons, etc), Food Expenses):


3. Amount received from other source(s): __________________________

4. Balance requested: __________________________

Part 5:
I understand that that the money I am requesting needs to be used as it is outlined in this application.
I understand that funds need to be used within the current fiscal year (ending in June).
I understand that I may need to reapply for funding if there are significant changes to the dates/nature of the event specified on this form.
I understand that all paperwork and arrangements for this event must be completed and processed 3 weeks (15 business days) prior to the date of the event.
I understand that any off-campus vendors may need to provide their own liability insurance.

Part 6 Signatures

_________________________________________________________  __________________________  
Applicant’s Signature  Date

_________________________________________________________  __________________________  
Applicant’s Immediate Supervisor or Division Dean’s Signature  Date

or Student Activities Advisor and club advisor for student application

Please submit a total of five (5) signed copies to Gina Marrocco (International Students Office) by January 22, 2010.
Is there a multi-cultural activity/professional speaker you would like to bring to campus? The Cypress College Diversity Committee wishes to make this request and approval process as easy and expeditious as possible, yet meet district, state and federal requirements. **Before you begin, review reimbursement requirements and deadlines on the application carefully.** To obtain the Speaker/Presentation Funding Application form, or if you have any questions or concerns about this process, please contact **Gina Marrocco** at Ext. 47049 or e-mail her at gmarrocco@CypressCollege.edu.

1. **Timeline:** Requests must be made early enough for review and approval by all parties concerned before the event occurs or any expense is incurred. The Speaker/Presentation Funding Application form must be approved prior to the event.

2. If you are receiving any funding from other sources and/or grants, such as the Legacy Program, Puente, Associated Students, Foundation or Title V, indicate that on the form.

3. **Only complete, typed applications will be processed.** Applications must reflect the desire to promote cultural understanding and to benefit students (either directly or indirectly)

4. **Applicant:**
   - Complete the application.
   - Print one copy and give it to your division dean/immediate supervisor to sign.

5. **Division dean/immediate supervisor:**
   - Sign and date the printed copy, with a recommendation for approval (including notation regarding budget allocation).
   - Make two copies and send along with the original signed document to the International Students Program Office.

6. **Student applications** will be submitted to Paul Bottiaux at Student Activities (ext. 47352). Paul will sign and date the application and submit it to the Diversity Committee.

7. **Application deadline:** All three (3) copies must be submitted by **October 16, 2009.** Requests for additional funding received after a funding proposal deadline will be held for the next review. Another call for proposals will be announced at a later date if funding is available.

8. The Diversity Committee will notify the applicant and the division/department when a request has been approved, and further instructions will be provided.

9. The speaker/presenter must have a social security number (SSN) or tax identification number (TIN) in order to receive payment.
10. Diversity Committee Mission Statement, goals and annual theme are below.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Cypress College is dedicated to fostering diversity among its students, employees and community by cultivating and promoting inclusiveness, awareness, and acceptance. We are devoted to celebrating all differences by creating a campus climate that is welcoming and engaging. Our goal is to promote diversity and encourage participation, interaction and understanding in an ever increasing pluralistic society.

**GOALS**

The Diversity Committee will:

A. Engage faculty, staff, and students to support and promote diversity
   - Coordinate and implement programs, seminars and workshops that explore diversity issues for faculty, staff, and students District-Wide
   - Continue to support and promote the infusion of diversity into the curriculum
   - Participate and help coordinate the growth and development of the District Diversity Committee.

B. Continue to support the recruitment and retention of diverse faculty, staff, and management
   - Review and facilitate hiring and recruitment as it relates to diversity.
   - Post job announcements in ethnically diverse list serves, newspapers, District/Statewide Websites
   - Ensure that job announcements and recruitment materials reflect support of diversity.

C. Provide a mechanism for information dissemination to the college community
   - Review and facilitate advertising materials and publications that reflect and support diversity

D. Continue to support the assessment of diversity issues at the College
   - Regularly administer the campus climate survey to staff and students
   - Address issues that surface in the survey and participate in the development of an action
   - Address current sensitive/diversity issues on campus
CALL FOR PROPOSALS
FOR FALL 2009/SPRING 2010 FUNDING

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE:
International Students Office or you can request via e-mail to gmarrocco@CypressCollege.edu

SUBMIT BY FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 16, 2009

For more information or to have the application and directions sent to you via e-mail contact Gina Marrocco at ext. 47049 or e-mail her at the above e-mail address.
Phan Vu—Writing for Resolutions and Celebration of Life’s Miracles
~ Prof. Ambika Talwar

Imagine a life of rapid changes when you are a soldier one day and lose all contact with your family another day; when you taken prisoner of war and you have no idea what destiny holds for you; when you leave an old culture behind to find yourself again in another land, a foreign land, where the water even does not taste the same as the water from your own land.

Such is the story of Westminster-resident Phan Vu, who recently published a novel about his life. He left an autographed copy in my mailbox several weeks ago. It is titled The Sun Rises in the West. I was overjoyed that Phan Vu had written a novel, especially since he had taken my multicultural literature class in the late 90’s. I wished to hear more of his story.

He came to my office wearing a hat and looking very happy. He met with me and with John Payne, who had also been his teacher. Needless to say, we were both proud.

After our initial congratulations, Phan Vu sat in my cubicle and we had a lively conversation during which he told me of dramatic and transformational moments in his life and of three significant miracles.

Before Phan Vu joined the military in Vietnam, he was a teacher of French. He said during communist rule in Vietnam, he made it a point to study French; this helped him later on. He was then in the imperial city of Hue which had been liberated by the French. After the French left, he moved to Saigon in South Vietnam. This move, he said, was one miracle.

Of course, he was required also to join the war effort. He enlisted in the 13th Promotion of Th__c Army Academy in 1962. Then, he was taken prisoner in 1975. He recalls that in 1962, the “war (between North and South Vietnam) was raging too much.” Looking back, he noted that five generals even committed suicide to avoid capture, (Danh D_). Those days were rough. He intended to write his experiences when in prison, but conditions did not allow him. Phan Vu noted that the senior ranking officers were kept in prison longer. It stood to his advantage to be a junior officer with the rank of lieutenant.

His narrative was woven with moments he is creating for his next novel, which will reveal what happens to families when their husbands are at war. Another casualty that plagues many is the story of wives, who presuming their husbands are dead, grieve and move on. Indeed, we are witnessing similar stories now with our soldiers in Iraq and in Afghanistan. Such instances are inevitable, but they also question the purpose of wars when negotiations and understanding are needed. Deep wounds and turmoil are revisited when soldiers return to an empty house.

The second miracle, he said, was in 1993, when he came to the US, which he noted is a land of opportunity. From the time of his release from prison in 1979 until 1993, he had no real job. So times were rough. But in 1993, he came over to the US—his brother had arrived on American shores in 1980 with the earlier boatpeople.

After settling in to the new culture, he started his studies at Cypress College in 1995 and graduated in 1998. He was determined to write his book even then. But in my English 247 class he wrote spectacular poems, rich expressions of the horror and sentiments of the days of war in Vietnam, of losing family members one by one and him not knowing when they went. In a poem titled “Daddy,” he expresses the complexity of the relationship of love and longing, of making amends, of taking care of his family, and also of how destiny changes lives. He notes: “I forgave everybody and forgot everything./ Time only saves love, not anger, not hatred…..”

His poem titled, “A Vietnamese Mother” is exceptional for it paints a picture of a woman who handled matters of life and death with practicality that might come under strong censure. He wrote, “…she closed
her eyes/ While her son is thrown into the sea.” The poet continues that after her life begins here and matters are well taken care of: “Their child’s sacrifice, although too high./ Was the price for family’s happiness./ She did not feel guilty at her child’s death.” The details are powerful and invite the reader to expand his/her understanding and compassion of the human experience without bias.

After Cypress, Phan Vu joined the creative writing program at CSU Long Beach and then studied at the University of California, San Bernadino. All was going well until he was hospitalized for a heart condition. Fifty-five days in hospital and 67 x-rays later, he was still not well and had to use a walker. But one day, he said it was enough and he “kicked walker, use cane, then walk by myself.” He laughed as he recalled that moment.

Phan Vu said with pride that his recovery was the third miracle. Indeed, he had come back to see me and looked sprightly and happy as he talked about his recently published book.

Set in the Mekong Delta during and after the Vietnam war, the book is a dramatic saga of what a family endures. It celebrates life and liberty through the family’s search for safety and home, love and respect. Perhaps, it could be recommended and valuable for our multi-cultural literature class, more so since Phan Vu is a Cypress alumnus. Additionally, with his eager resolve to continue to grow academically, he also completed a bachelor’s program at Cal State Long Beach, with a focus on writing. The Sun Rises in the West is a child of his creative participation in writing classes and writing groups. Indeed, it was a collective decision of the writer’s group to allow the natural voice of the writer to tell the story instead of editing to fit into the standard English norm, and it is richer because of this.

While writing this novel is a magnificent accomplishment, but Phan Vu is already working on his second novel. This one will be about the Vietnam vets (over 1,000) who live without pension or medical care, so suffer greatly. Certainly, Phan Vu has his work cut out for him to give life to stories that need to be told and to be heard for resolutions to take place, for the catharsis that can be healing.

At 76, Phan Vu proudly states, “if young man try hard, they can accomplish the game…..” His advice to us all is to “try to work for community to make it better place to live, especially love for family, faith, parents, children… their love.” With eyes twinkling, he noted that he is married to _inh Lê, who he said happily is “a good wife”. They have a daughter, Audrey Vu, 40, and a son, Minh Vu, 37.

The work of any writer or poet or artist must be to bring readers and community to resolutions, so they may, indeed, transcend the old for a wiser and happier new more rewarding life. Phan Vu’s writing and passion certainly do that for us all.

N.B. The poems quoted appeared in a collection I co-created with my students in Eng. 247/97, as I did for each section of Eng. 247 and 97 that I taught. It was one of the finer things we did as a class, for it brought students into a community of sharing their gifts and, through these collections, understanding better the richness of our humanity. This Fall 1997 collection is titled, Return to Sacred Waters.