



# President's Report to the Board of Trustees

**Victoria P. Morrow, Ph.D.**  
**September 23, 2009**

## **Aftermath of the shooting incident on the Skyline campus**

The shooting that occurred at Skyline College at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 2 resulted from what police believe was a confrontation between two groups and that this was not a random incident (that is, the people involved knew each other and the shooting was connected to their relationship, not to the college). One individual was sent to the hospital with a non-life threatening gunshot wound, and later released. The campus quickly went into lockdown in order to protect the safety of students and staff, and the police went through the building-by-building process of clearing the offices and classrooms and escorting people off campus. During that process there was still a great deal unknown about exactly what the college was dealing with, and so the police had to assume the worst case and be extremely disciplined and directive and were, at the same time, looking for additional suspects. A number of means to communicate with everyone were used: the college's public address system, emergency text messaging, emails to students and staff, and messages on the front page of the college website.

Skyline's Emergency Response Plan stood the college in good stead, as did the two live drills conducted in recent years. Those experiences strengthened the college's ability to deal with both the complexity and the uncertainty of the situation on September 2. President Morrow has thanked the faculty, staff and students of Skyline, as well as district staff who have been assisting the college, all of whom responded with calmness and professionalism in the face of the crisis, readily stepping up to help as needed. San Bruno Police Department was on campus within a few minutes of the shooting and quickly assumed command of the incident. They were assisted by police from 19 agencies, along with the Public Safety officers from across the district. There were ultimately over 65 officers on campus assisting with management of the crisis. The police were able to evacuate everyone safely and there were no further injuries after the initial incident. President Morrow is grateful to all of the officers from the many jurisdictions for their swift and professional handling of it all. There have been news reports about the incident and some arrests made and the investigation is continuing.

Following the incident, the following steps were taken:

- The San Bruno Police Department and the district wide Public Safety departments helped to raise the visibility of officers on campus following the shooting and provided escort service to the parking lots in the evenings.
- Expanded counseling services were available for students. Students were notified of this service via email and the college website and, with faculty help, announcements were made in classes. Counselors were also in the Student Center for a couple of days after the shooting and spoke with many students.

- Employees were reminded of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) available to them.
- A campus wide Debriefing Forum on the shooting incident was held on September 8 for faculty, staff and students. About 230 people attended the hour and a half debriefing, which included an overview from President Morrow, an update on what the police knew from Chief Telford of the San Bruno Police Department, and an update from District Chief of Public Safety, Mike Celeste. Most of the session was spent in questions and answers on a whole range of subjects related to the incident. Here are the recurring themes that were expressed there and in conversations with faculty, staff and students:
  - Overall the incident was described as handled very well by the administration, the police and the faculty, staff and students. Even those who had complaints and advice usually concurred with this generalization.
  - Everyone described this incident as a case of Skyline being part of the world, and has having nothing to do with Skyline itself.
  - There was new appreciation for the security cameras and interest in more of them, and in more security staff.
  - The provision of expanded counseling services was greatly appreciated.
  - The numerous emails and text messages and website messages were valuable tools.
  - There was interest in emergency response drills which include more of the staff and which include the students.
  - There were problems with:
    - Confusion about whether to evacuate or lock down (Buildings 2 and 5) due to conflicting instructions.
    - The delay in moving to lockdown.
    - Getting information about what was happening: the delay in delivery of the text messages to many people; the limited reach of the public address system; the fact that many people were getting information from the web and phone calls to them before they were getting it from us.
    - The protracted period of delay before people in some areas could leave and the lack of access to belongings (keys, wallets, laptops).
    - Transportation challenges for those whose vehicles were sequestered within the crime scene and for the disabled students.
    - The appearance of racial profiling in relation to some students and staff.

The forum was videotaped and can be viewed on the district's iTunesU website at <http://www.smccd.edu/itunesu/>, enter the site, scroll down to Skyline College, select Skyline Events, and Public Safety Forum.

- President Morrow and her Cabinet members make up the college's Crisis Action Team: Regina Stanback Stroud, Lori Adrian, Eloisa Briones, Rob Johnstone and Sandy Irber, and the college and district chiefs of Public Safety, Brian Tupper and Mike Celeste. They had several debriefings in the weeks following the incident. They addressed an extensive array of elements of the college's emergency response to this instance and the emergency response plan overall.
- A second Debriefing Forum was held on the shooting incident on September 16 and this time it focused on faculty, staff and administrators, and about 60 people attended. Brian Tupper, Skyline's Chief of Public Safety, reviewed the information from the San Bruno Police Department concerning the incident, and President Morrow summarized the work being done by

the Crisis Action Team concerning lessons learned from this unintended “live drill.” Then, counselors Bev Muse and Liz Llamas discussed the issues which students and employees may be facing in the wake of the incident, or any traumatic incident. They distributed a number of resources and then have placed tools on the college website at <http://www.skylinecollege.edu/facstaff/PIO/incident9-2-09.html>. Dr. Morrow noted that Skyline is not only seeking to improve the communication tools that were utilized (text messaging, Emergency Announcement System, email, website) but also to add others such as electronic message boards in all of the building lobbies, phone message blasts and others. The group reviewed the various experiences of members of the audience and heard additional suggestions. Once again, detailed notes were taken on all of the issues mentioned, and the Crisis Action Team will be following up on them. Skyline’s eSuggestion Box is available on the website for additional ideas and the President invited conversations and emails as well. She thanked everyone for the professional and effective responses displayed on September 2 and in the days since then. She said that Skyline Shines in a crisis just as it does every day, thanks to the people who work there and their attitude toward students and toward the college’s mission.

## **SKYLINE SHINES**

### **Opening Day photo captures the spirit of Skyline**

Skyline faculty, staff and administrators posed for their annual photograph on August 18. Here they are! The college uses this photo in the catalog, on the website and elsewhere.



### **Skyline grad Akillah Wali wins DOVE fellowship**

Akillah Wali graduated from Skyline in 2006 and transferred to Columbia University where she completed her bachelor's degree in 2008. This fall, she is attending the University of Minnesota in the Educational Policy program. She has just learned that she has been selected to receive a DOVE (Diversity of Views and Experiences) fellowship from the university. This award will provide her in the first year with a \$22,500 stipend plus full tuition and 95% health insurance; in the second year she will have a 25% graduate assistantship (10 hours/week for a salary of approximately \$6500), plus full tuition. This award is a partnership between the Graduate School Diversity Office and the Humphrey Institute.

### **NCMPR awards coming to Skyline again**

Skyline's communication materials will once again be recognized by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR). The organization's Medallion Awards recognize outstanding achievement in communications for community college professionals. The creative effort/concept must have originated from a community college. The nominated projects must have been published, broadcast, displayed and used between September 2008 and August 2009. Skyline will receive either gold, silver, or bronze awards in 3 categories:

- Promotions, college Promotional Video (for the President's Breakfast video)
- Printed Publications (for the new Viewbook)
- Electronic media (for the Web Site).

The college is competing in District 6 of NCMPR which includes five western states and all of the western Pacific islands. The awards will be announced on September 25. Congratulations to Sandy Irber, Shelly Hausman (currently on leave), and Caroline Ocampo.

### **Two Skyline people win statewide awards**

Karen Wong, Professor of English and Skyline's SLOAC Coordinator, and Rob Johnstone, Dean of Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness, were selected for statewide awards by the ASCCC/RP (Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges/Research and Planning Group) Collaborative on SLO Assessment. Karen will receive the POWER Award (Promising Outcomes Work and Exemplary Research Awards) in the category of SLO Coordinator of the Year. Rob Johnstone will receive the award in the category of Best Researcher-Teacher. In informing the winners of this award, the committee said, "This prestigious award recognizes the hard work you have done to increase faculty and researcher understanding of student success and improve educational practices." The awards will be given at the Student Success Conference in San Francisco in October.



### **Chamber Music Concert at Skyline**

Cellist Rebecca Rust and bassoonist Friedrich Edelmann have been steadily earning favorable reviews for their adventurous programming, from premiering newly discovered works banned and destroyed by the Nazi regime to commissioning works from contemporary composers. They recently performed a concert at Old First Church in San Francisco featuring two classic trios by Beethoven and Brahms alongside the US premiere of German composer Karl Michael Komma’s “Sapphische Strophen” for bassoon, ‘cello, and piano. They presented at Skyline on September 23 and were joined by Skyline faculty member and pianist Elizabeth Ingber who participated this past summer in the Aspen Music Festival and School. The program included music by Vivaldi, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Saint-Saëns, and Otmar Mácha, and “American Ragtime” by Arthur Frackenpohl. Ms. Rust and Mr. Edelmann are pictured at right.



### **PROGRAMS**

#### **Former Skyline student studies medicine in Cuba**

On August 26, Skyline’s ASTEP (African American Success Through Excellence and Persistence) Learning Community sponsored a presentation by former Skyline student and current medical school student, Pasha Jackson. Pasha is enrolled in the tuition free program for medical students from the US in Cuba. He offered insightful, humorous and helpful information to the 130 very interested students who attended that were inspired about moving forward with their education. Here is Pasha, in the second row on the far left, with his fellow medical students.



## New smoking policy off to a good start

Thanks to everyone who is helping with Skyline's gentle enforcement of the new smoking policy. The extensive signage seems to be effective and the designated smoking areas are being well used. President Morrow has spoken to a few individuals who were smoking elsewhere and was greeted with polite compliance with the policy. Many of the staff have been doing the same, and hearing that in general the response from smokers is polite. The smoking policy and the designated smoking areas map is on the website at <http://www.skylinecollege.edu/facstaff/resources/smoking.html>. Here is the map, with smoking areas designated in the black boxes with the "S" in them.



### ***“Technopia”* exhibit at Skyline College Art Gallery is an eye-opener!**

A group exhibit featuring works by Robert Geshlider, Jon Huffman, Tanya Lin Jaffe, Therese Lahaie, and Andrew Werby, *“Technopia,”* will be in Skyline’s Gallery through October 3. The genesis of this exhibition comes from an interest in combining the words technology and utopia, *tekhne-* the Greek root for art, and utopia (noun- an imagined state or place in which everything is perfect- from Greek *ou* (not) + *topos* (place)). The artists in this show explore a variety of merging points between contemporary art and technology.

- Robert Geshlider's sculptures are designed in cyberspace (SolidWorks CAD program), and then printed on a 3-D printer made by Z-Corporation. Normally used to print 3-D prototypes in high-tech industrial design workplaces, Geshlider co-opts this technology, creating a virtual sculptural workspace populated with virtually derived figures. Their physical manifestations seem almost miraculous.
- Andrew Werby uses all manner of high tech wizardry to create sculptural forms. Using 2 and 3-D scanners, computer controlled carving devices, 3-D printers, and of course- computer software, Werby's pieces begin as natural and organic forms, then shoot through the funnel of technology, scrambling and re-assembling themselves into a myriad of technological juxtapositions.
- Therese Lahaie's kinesthetic and photographic works are subtle, exploring such contemplative subjects as our breath, heartbeat, even karmic seeds and Tibetan Buddhist philosophy. Employing a variety of combinations of glass, steel, mirrors, electric motors, light sources, and fabric, the overall effect is a dance of light and form in ever-changing and hypnotic ripples of phenomena.
- John Huffman's photographic work employs a descending trail of imaging technology. Using a 4x5 studio camera, he makes photographic transparencies of digital video images frozen on video monitors, directly reversing the traditional technological image trajectory. In his large-scale Cibachrome and C-prints, pixels recorded on film freeze and transform themselves into an abstract mosaic patterning, and the utopian images of lotuses, dahlias and other garden forms arise from the mud of technology becoming once again patterns of light.
- Tanya Lin Jaffe's images are created using a variety of digital and film cameras, x-ray machines and cell phone cameras. She brings them into the digital realm and edits using photoshop and other software programs. Jaffe's photos are in and of themselves pseudo-scientific experiments conducted and then photographically captured. And there is a quasi-cosmological beauty to be found in the constellational structures of the random archeological bits from the past that she captures using a chiropractor’s x-ray machine, re-purposed in the interests of art.

The works are fascinating and beautiful and thought provoking. A reception for the artists was held on September 10. Here are some shots of the reception and a lecture by artist Robert Geshlider taken by student Sophie Mas.



Gallery Hours vary. Please see the gallery website for current visiting information:  
<http://www.smccd.edu/accounts/skygallery>

## **FACILITIES**

### **Skyline's recycling efforts reach a new high**

Each year, Richard Inokuchi, Skyline's Facilities Manager, is required to submit a report to the State's California Integrated Waste Management Board that documents Skyline College's efforts at recycling and keeping recyclable materials out of waste product landfills. Richard was "totally blown away" and pleased to report that the initial figures submitted for calendar year 2008 show Skyline achieved a fantastic 85.5% - meaning the college is recycling roughly 86% of its trash. Richard said it is a remarkable achievement, given the State is mandating that the college recycles only 50% of its trash and debris. This is even more noteworthy in light of the construction that has been occurring throughout campus last year and all the construction rubble and debris that was removed from those various projects. Richard thanked the construction contractors who worked various projects during 2008 and did their best to recycle construction materials and debris where possible – Swinerton Construction Management, Hensel Phelps Construction, John Plane Construction, QBuilders Construction – all are to be congratulated for supporting Skyline College and its recycling efforts. Thanks also to District General Services and our Bookstore operations for their assistance with universal waste, special products and book recycling. Special thanks also go out to San Bruno Garbage Company, who worked collaboratively

with Skyline College Facilities staff to implement a ‘One Stream’ recycling program on campus – meaning it is not necessary to have separate recyclable materials anymore . . . plastic, glass, aluminum cans, paper, cardboard . . . all can collectively go into those blue recycle containers and recycle stations. Skyline implemented this program in April 2007 and Richard believes this made it simpler and easier for everyone and contributed to our enviable percentage achievement.

## PLANNING

### Building 4 Topping Off Ceremony, Thursday, September 24

Skyline will hold a Topping Off Ceremony for the new Multicultural, Cosmetology and Administration Building (Building 4) on Thursday, September 24. During the ceremony, the topmost beam will be hoisted into place. Everyone is invited to sign the beam before it is placed. The beam signing will be from 10:30-11:30 a.m. and will be followed by the Topping Off program. The ceremony will take place on the north side of campus near the new building site.

*"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."*  
- Eleanor Roosevelt

*"The wisest mind has something yet to learn."*  
- George Santayana

You are cordially invited to join us for a  
**Topping Off\* Ceremony** for our new  
**Multicultural, Cosmetology & Administration Building (Bldg. 4)**

**Date:** Thursday, September 24

<b>Time:</b> 10:30 am – 11:30 am	<b>Beam Signing</b>
11:30 am	<b>Topping Off Program</b>

Dr. Victoria P. Morrow • *President, Skyline College*  
 Ron Galatolo • *Chancellor, San Mateo County Community College District*  
 Karen Schwarz • *President, San Mateo County Community College Board of Trustees*  
 Josie Glenn • *Coordinator, representing Skyline's Cosmetology Program*  
 Nate Nevado • *Counselor, representing Skyline's Learning Communities*  
 Katharine Harer • *English Professor, representing Skyline's Learning Communities*

**Location:** North side of campus

**Parking:** Park in Lots 6 or 7, and walk south on the new walkways to the ceremony/construction site

\* "Topping Off" is a tradition undertaken when the major structural steel of a construction project is complete. It is celebrated by asking friends who have had a significant role in the project to sign the "last steel beam," which is then placed in the building.

Design/Build Contractor: Hensel Phelps Construction Co.  
 Program/Construction Manager: Swinerton Management & Consulting

There are other projects underway at Skyline. The landscaping has begun, and the first wave of it is visible in parking lot 7. The irrigation for the main quads is going in during the week of September 21, followed by the planting there about October 1. The area between Buildings 2 and 5 (the walkway and stair) will be completed within about a month, and there will be a temporary pathway from there to Building 3 as well.

## EVENTS

### Second Annual Book Talk to take place on October 14

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual book talk will focus on Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's *The Mistress of Spices*. The event will take place on October 14 at 1 pm in the Periodicals Browsing Area of Skyline's Library, and will include refreshments and lively discussion. Afterward, the group will move to the Library's new classroom to view the film version of *The Mistress of Spices*. The Bookstore has purchased 25 copies which are on display at the front register (25% off!). Here is a description of the tale: "The novel opens on a mythic island of women "where on our skin, the warm rain fell like pomegranate seeds" powerful spices like cinnamon, turmeric, and fenugreek whisper their secrets to young acolytes. Ordained after trial by fire, each new spice mistress is sent to a far-off land to cure the life pains of all Indian seekers, while keeping a cool distance from the mortals. Only stubborn, passionate Tilo, disguised as an old woman merchant in present-day Oakland, California, fails to heed the vengeful spices' warnings." For more information, contact Tom Hewitt at x4313 or at [hewitt@smccd.edu](mailto:hewitt@smccd.edu)

