

President's Report to the Board of Trustees

Victoria P. Morrow, Ph.D.
September 22, 2010

Opening Day Celebration 2010—Commitment to Our Students

About 175 people came together for Skyline's annual Opening Day event in the Theater. The misty day forced the faculty and staff group photo to be taken inside, and the group chose the stage of the Theater, which worked out just fine! Thanks to Vic Bareng for this photo.



The college presented the fifth annual **Skyline Shines Awards**. This award is designed to recognize individuals or groups who help Skyline to shine in terms of its quality of programs and services and its reputation for quality. Two awards are given, one to a college employee or group, and one to a community member or group.

College Employee or group: Karen Wong

English Professor Karen Wong has worked collaboratively through many programs and initiatives at Skyline and has been an effective leader, participant, and communicator. She is an advocate for her students and all students across the campus. She has been actively involved in assisting students in meeting their goals through the Learning Center, coordination of the Puente Learning Community, participation in the First Year Experience and basic skills initiatives and as co-coordinator within the College Success Initiative. Her major achievement is the coordination and facilitation of the SLOAC initiative. She has guided the SLOAC Steering Committee and has made great strides towards institutionalizing this initiative. Karen Wong does make Skyline Shine.

Community Member or Group: The SparkPoint Team

Skyline's SparkPoint Center, called SparkPoint San Mateo at Skyline College, is the only such center in the state which is located at a community college. The Center provides a cluster of services for people in the community all aimed at economic stability. The services include

- credit enhancement such as improving overall credit scores;
- income supports such as access to various financial resources, scholarships and career technical education; and
- asset building through financial literacy education and coaching.

A group of crucial partners came together to make this all possible. The United Way Bay Area launched an initiative designed to create unique collaborations to help families become financially stable to improve the overall economic sustainability of the communities served. Additional partners from the Employment Development Department-SF/San Mateo County, Jewish Vocational Services, San Mateo County Human Services Agency, SpringBoard Forward, joined United Way Bay Area and Skyline College to form the *SparkPoint Center San Mateo at Skyline College Partnership Team*. The college is proud that this unique and valuable resource is available at Skyline and this Skyline Shines Award recognizes the wonderful group of partners which make it possible. On hand to receive the award was Lorne Needle, Deputy Chief Community Investment Officer at United Way of the Bay Area.



President Vicki Morrow pictured with Karen Wong at left and Lorne Needle at right.

In the aftermath of the San Bruno fire

The pipeline explosion and fire in San Bruno's Glenview neighborhood forced the closure of Skyline's campus on Thursday, September 9. The college reopened the next day, September 10. Highway 280 and Skyline Boulevard were both open, though Sneath Lane and San Bruno Avenue were closed in order to block travel into the fire zone. Skyline's website was updated with Laura Fraser's help and a text message update was sent out by Mike Celeste. A group of people stepped right up when the fire first happened and helped follow it and determine the potential effects on the college late into the night and very early on the morning of September 10. President Morrow is grateful for and proud of such colleagues, some of whom were on duty and some of whom just lent a hand: Eloisa Briones, Kevin Chak, Mike Celeste, Laura Fraser, Lillian Hamilton, Richard Inokuchi, Christianne Marra, Jim Petromilli, Richard Soyombo, Sonny Tan and Mike Williamson. In addition, Manny Granillo, Giao Van Bui, and the swing shift Custodians prepared the Gymnasium in case the American Red Cross needed to set up an additional evacuation area.

President Morrow has some information about the students, faculty and staff of Skyline who were directly affected by the Glenview fire. Her present understanding is that one student was severely injured and his family's home was destroyed. The home of four other students—a mother and three daughters—was also destroyed. The home of one staff member was destroyed and she was injured as were her daughters. Several other people--students and a faculty member--were evacuated but their homes were green tagged. And of course many other Skyline people saw members of their family and friends undergo the experience at close range. Here are the plans underway on campus in response to this event:

- **Vigil and fund raising:** There will be a vigil at Skyline College to honor victims of the San Bruno fire on Thursday, **September 23, at 6:15 pm in the Main Quad**. It is being organized by the Associated Students, Classified Council, Academic Senate and Management Council. Donations for the victims will be handled by the Associated Students of Skyline College (ASSC). Various locations will be designated around campus for that. If donating by check, please make it payable to “ASSC” with a note in the memo area that it be designated for the San Bruno Fire Fund.
- **Bookstore and Foundation assist student victims with books and computers:** The Skyline College Bookstore and the San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation stepped up immediately to assist the students who lost their homes with replacement of books and computers so that they can move ahead with their studies.
- **Blood drive:** On **Sunday, September 26**, the Health Center is collaborating with the American Red Cross, San Bruno CA Frisco’s Finest Car and Bike Club in the San Bruno Car Show at Skyline. The event which will be designed not only to collect blood donations but also to raise funds to help the community in the aftermath of the fire.
- **Clothing donations update:** Jo Silken, on behalf of the PE, Athletics and Dance Division, spearheaded collection of food, toiletries, towels, blankets, shoes, clothing and jackets. The college has just learned from Jo, however, that San Bruno Veteran’s Center is no longer accepting physical donations and is requesting gift card donations instead. All other donations are now being given to the Salvation Army and they are giving vouchers to the fire victims to purchase needed items from their stock.

President Morrow received a call late in the evening on September 11 from Aaron Aknin, Director of Community Development for the City of San Bruno, asking if the city might be able to use Skyline College parking lots as a staging area for their work with San Bruno fire victims on Sunday. Happily, the college was able to do that, and the city’s large, well-organized effort was carried out in Lots L, M, and N. Skyline Chief of Public Safety Brian Tupper was on duty with other members of Skyline and CSM Public Safety staff, helping to facilitate the event and smooth the transition for the victims. Skyline thanks the following people: Skyline Officers Sundarath Tan, Thommy Reyes, Lefty Karkazis, Skyline Sgt. John Holloway, Skyline Chief Brian Tupper, and CSM Officers Sekope Tagilala and Ulysses Guadamuz. Barbara Christensen, District Director of Community and Governmental Relations, has also been active in ensuring that any affected people in the district are aware of the possibility of emergency housing at Cañada Vista.

The event involved police agencies from Redwood City, San Carlos, San Mateo, Daly City, San Mateo County Sheriff’s Department, the California Highway Patrol, and the police departments from San Bruno, Pacifica, Burlingame and Millbrae. Also on hand working with the victims were large numbers of both San Bruno and Millbrae city employees, eight different news/media agencies, several insurance companies, a multitude of staging companies for logistical setup, CalTrans, PG&E, American Red Cross, San Mateo County Emergency Communications, San Bruno Fire Department, food caterers, flood restoration contractors, a couple of hundred evacuees, and a large number of volunteers. Here are a couple of photos taken by Brian Tupper at the event.



Power outage closes campus on August 23

Skyline had an unscheduled test of its emergency response plan on August 23 when a power outage occurred around 9:15 in the morning during the heat when large air conditioning loads were put on the electrical system. The new campus electrical upgrades are designed to sufficiently handle these loads but as the upgrades are only now being completed and put into service, the college has not yet fully resolved the interface with the existing campus infrastructure, in particular the college's cogeneration facility. Swinerton, Facilities, Hensel Phelps and Chevron Energy Systems engineers are currently resolving these interface problems and in the interim temporary adjustments have been made to prevent further outages. These temporary adjustments mean the buildings will not be cooled as frequently and to as low a temperature as people would like and uncomfortable conditions may continue on future hot days. While the college does not anticipate further outages, it is a possibility as diagnosis and adjustments to the electrical system are being made.

During the outage, the college used all of its emergency communication strategies to get the word out— emergency text message, email to students, emergency announcement system (public address), and the website. Classes were canceled until noon and all buildings were evacuated. The initial outage lasted an hour, and then was followed by several short hiccups during which the power went off and then came back on again shortly afterward. A short term fix for the problem was identified by noon, so classes resumed then. Thanks to Skyline's Public Safety, Facilities, Swinerton, Hensel Phelps and Decker Electric staff who mobilized immediately to address the problem. Thanks also to the many faculty and staff who assisted with the situation.

Following the outage, President Morrow invited comments on what worked well and what might be done to improve the handling of this emergency. Half a dozen faculty and staff responded and people expressed appreciation for the colleagues who assisted so well during the event. Here are some of the key suggestions made: the Emergency Address System (EAS) announcements must be articulated well and slowly to be understood; there are still areas of the campus where they cannot be heard well; it is vital to check the elevators immediately and to keep people in them company until help arrives; the college needs to provide an indoor waiting area for students on days when the weather is not so mild as it was that day; and there needs to be greater clarity about the cancellation of classes. Thanks to everyone who responded, and again to everyone who helped manage the situation on that day.

JoAnne Hughes

President Morrow is sad to report the passing of long-time reading instructor, JoAnne Hughes. An instructor with Skyline since 1988, JoAnne taught as recently as the beginning of the Spring 2010 semester but was soon stricken with ill health and she passed away of cancer on August 11, 2010. She will be remembered by her friends, colleagues and students as an energetic, intelligent, and kind-hearted person, who touched the lives of many, many students here at Skyline as well as at other institutions where she taught. According to her wishes, no memorial is planned.

SKYLINE SHINES

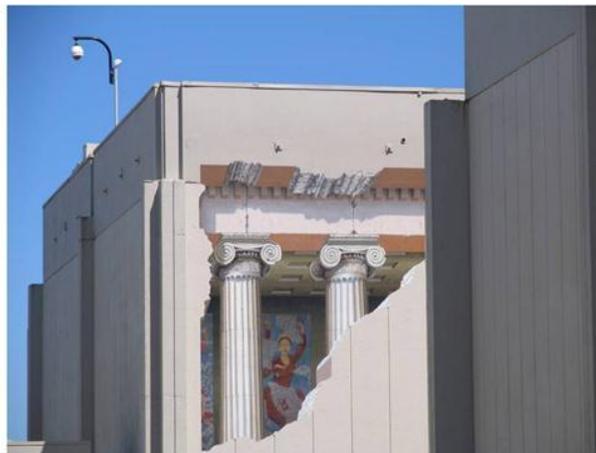


One cool spot at Skyline

Thanks to Christianne Marra for this beautiful shot from the overlook on August 24. It was a scorching day at Skyline, but the sea breezes still blew here at the overlook at Vista Point.

Mural completed on the Gymnasium wall

Skyline now has a new mural on the wall of the Gymnasium near its entrance. Thanks to Christianne Marra for these three shots, the first one taken from the Main Quad and then the other two each at successively closer range. In the first one you can see Mt. Diablo in the background. The mural was painted by John Pugh, a well-known public artist who specializes in *trompe l'oeil* (fool the eye) works that pull the viewer into the painting. The mural symbolizes what is within Skyline's walls with elements that refer to classical learning, physical education, and the college's multi-cultural community.



The painting itself was done on a special kind of acrylic in the artist's studio and then applied to the wall with adhesive—rather like wallpaper—to create a durable work that is resistant to fading. This is the second of the three art projects that Skyline commissioned to be installed. The first was the mosaics on the pillars in building six, and yet to come will be a tile and steel work on the exterior staircase of Building 4. The works contribute to the inviting learning atmosphere of the campus and can be enjoyed by the whole community. President Morrow would like to thank the members of the Art on Campus Task Force once again, for the countless hours they spent making these important recommendations for the college: Donna Bestock, Co-Chair; Paul Bridenbaugh, Co-Chair; Eloisa Briones; Kathy Fitzpatrick; Richard Inokuchi; Linda Kisich; Judy Lariviere; Ellen Lowenstein; Sue Lorenzo; Justin Piergrossi; Julene Rhoan; Tiffany Schmierer; and Arthur Takayama.

Skyline Women's Soccer Ranked 7th in the Nation

Skyline's Women's Soccer team was rated 7th in the nation in the opening National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) poll for the 2010 season. The Trojans are currently 5-0 on the year having outscored their opponents by a total of 22-3. In their last 27 matches spanning two seasons Skyline has only lost one time, winning their first conference championship in 2009. This national ranking is the highest in the history of the program. Skyline's next home match is on Tuesday, September 28th against their inter-district rival, the Cañada Colts. Match time is 3:00 p.m.

Art is alive and well at Skyline



The photo at the left is one view of the beautiful art faculty exhibition now under way in the Gallery. The pieces are, from left to right, a ceramic sculpture by Ilana Crispi and a mixed media installation by Ellen Lowenstein. Other faculty works by Aya Artola, Paul Bridenbaugh, Noah Buchanan, Eileen David, Diane Jones, Jody Keane, David Kerry, Michael Pauker, Michael Ryan, Tiffany Schmierer, Laura Siegel, Arthur Takayama and Ann Turner are exhibited. Here are the Gallery hours:

- Monday 11 – 7
- Tuesday 10 – 7
- Wednesday 11 – 5
- Thursday 10 – 5
- Friday 10 - 1

Other images of works in the show are viewable at

http://www.smccd.edu/accounts/skygallery/exhibits/past_exhibits/faculty_exhibits/faculty10/facultyshow_10.html

The photo on the right is of Skyline's dragon mural, in progress at the Building 1 loading dock entrance, thanks to Paul Bridenbaugh and his students. It is a lot of fun, and fascinating, to see it take shape there from day to day. Thanks to Paul for both photos.

Recent Skyline grad publishes her first novel

Pamela Almeida, a Skyline College June 2010 graduate, has just published her first novel. *Canvas Windows* by P.J. Almeida is being released by Tate Publishing in November 2010. Skyline English Professor Jessica Powers wrote the novel's foreword.

Schmierer exhibits in Ceramics Annual of America Exhibition and Fair September 10-12

Tiffany Schmierer, member of the Art faculty at Skyline, exhibited her work at the inaugural Ceramics Annual of America Exhibition and Fair. Her piece below is titled "Links," and is a recent work. Here are the details from the exhibition flyer.

The Ceramics Annual of America (CAA) is an exhibition mounted to spotlight the quality and diversity of the contemporary ceramics field. It is an unparalleled exhibition, the first event of its kind in the United States. On par with events like the Korea World Ceramic Biennale or the Ceramics Biennial at the Museo Internazionale delle Ceramiche in Faenza, Italy, CAA will showcase one of the largest and most varied exhibitions of ceramic art in North America.

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 9: 5pm-9pm
September 10-12, 2010

Friday: 10am-8pm
Saturday: 10am-8pm
Sunday: 10am-6pm

For more information: go to <http://ceramicsannual.org/>



PROGRAMS

Puente program brings families to campus

On September 2, Skyline's Puente Program held its first Family Information Night for about 75 students and family members. Attendees learned about the Puente Program, Skyline, and got an overview of higher education. The information was extremely valuable since a majority of Skyline's students are first generation college students. The event enabled families to be directly a part of the students' education. The program began with a key note by Interim Vice President of Student Services, Joe Madrigal, who gave a motivational speech. Here is Lucia Lachmayr's description of it: "It was an awesome speech, thoughtful and hitting all of our key Puente 'happy places': work hard, strive for a degree, (I did it, you can too), support each other, study in groups, use all the resources around you, etc....Plus it was very affirming to address all the parents in the crowd in Spanish as well as English. Many only spoke Spanish, so it was a validating thing for them to be acknowledged that way." Jorge Murillo, a Campus Ambassador and Puente member, provided information on Financial Aid. Professor Lucia Lachmayr and Puente Counselor, Sandra Rodrigues, described the Puente Program and how Skyline College can help students attain their educational goals. Together with family members and students, they brainstormed ways in which to help students succeed at Skyline and at home. Thanks for this fine event go to Lucia Lachmayr, Sandra Rodrigues, and work-study student Nancy Rodriguez as well as students Larissa Espada, Keren Estrada, and Angel Urbina. Sandra Rodrigues provided these photos of Joe in action and the great crowd.





Skyline Honors Transfer Program sends students to the schools of their dreams

This academic year, the Honors Transfer Program graduated 32 students, a record number for this ten-year-old Learning Community founded by Donna Bestock and Connie Beringer and currently coordinated by Katharine Harer. Honors faculty members, counselors, staff and family members have all contributed to the amazing success of Skyline Honors students, every single one of whom worked tirelessly to achieve their transfer

goals. Pictured here are three of those students—Ashley Good, Bruce Thompson and Virginia Rosales.

For the first time, a Skyline Honors student, Ashley Good, was accepted to Stanford University with a full scholarship. Ashley was a re-entry, working student and the first in her family to go to college with dreams of becoming a doctor. Four Honors students were accepted to Cornell University: Melba Madrigal, Daniel Filous, Fion Ng and Derrick Hau. Two students are attending the Haas School of Business at the University of California at Berkeley: Bruce Thompson & Catherine Limcaco. Anna Tran was accepted into nursing programs at UCLA, USF and SFSU, no mean feat after she was told she didn't have a chance because these schools are so impacted. She's now attending UCLA. Honors students from this graduating group are currently attending UCLA, UCSB, UCB, UCSD, UCD, SFSU, SJSU and CSUEB. Skyline College is proud of them all.

SOCC luncheon brings student leaders together for training

On August 27, President Vicki Morrow joined the students of the Students Organizations and Clubs Council (SOCC) for a luncheon, along with Regina Stanback Stroud, Vice President of Instruction, and members of the ASSC Executive Council. President Morrow was able to meet and visit with students from several different clubs and to be inspired by their enthusiasm and their leadership. The luncheon was followed by the first official meeting and training for Skyline's student clubs and organizations. SOCC



meets every Monday at 1 pm in Room 6202. Students interested in joining or starting a student club or organization can contact the Student Activities Office at (650) 738-4275 for additional information. Pictured here enjoying the introductions are students, faculty and staff. In the front row are Amber Steele, Charity Walden, Richelle Gui, Courtney Chin, Priscilla Cortez, and Amanda Parker. President Morrow took the photo.

Skyline's MESA program wins laptops for students

The Foundation for California Community Colleges has just announced California Connects, a new program that will increase digital literacy and expand broadband Internet access to underserved populations throughout the state. The program is funded by a \$10.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration for Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). Here is how the Foundation describes the program: "The three-year program will provide outreach, training and educational support in key communities throughout the state, and will ultimately provide access to more than 61,000 broadband users in California through three primary components," one of which is this:

- Support will be provided to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office in its statewide efforts to provide laptop computers to community college Math, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) students who participate in community service.

Thanks to Stephen Fredricks, MESA Program Director; Christine Case, Professor of Biology; and Pat Deamer, Professor of Math, for their efforts to bring this wonderful resource to Skyline's students.

Skyline College's CITD and African Diaspora Studies programs represented at 1st Global Conference of Black Nationalities

Allison Mello and Richard Soyombo of Skyline College's Bay Area Center for International Trade Development



(BACITD) recently accepted an invitation from the Governor of Osun State, Nigeria, to participate in the inaugural Global Conference of Black Nationalities. The invitation from the Governor grew out of Osun State's partnership with the Skyline College African Diaspora Program. The Global Conference of Black Nationalities is an academic discussion/exploration of the impact of African culture throughout the world for global understanding and peace. The conference was co-sponsored by UNESCO, Federal Government of Nigeria, Osun State Government and a host of other global entities. During the business match-making component of the conference, businesses from throughout the world were able to meet with BACITD personnel to establish connections with California businesses looking to explore business opportunities in Africa. As a result of these meetings, three future trade missions are being planned to bring California companies to Senegal, Brazil, and the UK. Skyline College's African Diaspora Program (ADP) was also highlighted at this event. Educators from various parts of the globe praised Skyline's development and commitment to the program. To further augment Skyline's learning environment and the African Diaspora Program, BACITD Executive Director Richard Soyombo brought back three books and a language program (*Yoruba Women, Work, & Social Change*, *A History of the Yoruba People*, *Nigerian Artistry*, and *Colloquial Yoruba: The Complete Course for Beginners*) that will be available to faculty, staff, and students via the Skyline College Library. Pictured above are the high Chiefs of the Ghanaian Asantehene and Richard Soyombo as they prepare for the conference, Allison Mello of Skyline College, and performers in the opening ceremonies of the Conference of Black Nationalities. Thanks to Richard Soyombo for the photos.

Independence celebration rocks the Main Quad on September 16

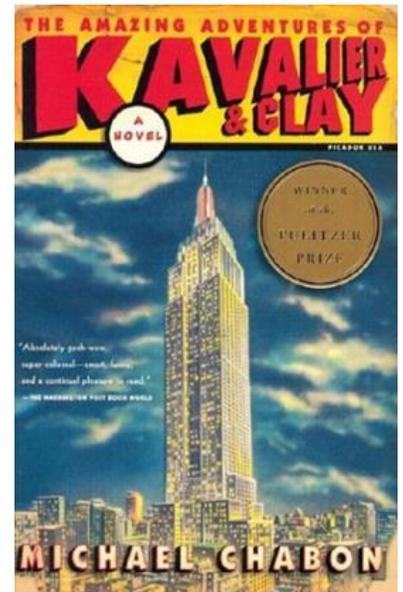
LASO (Latin American Student Organization) celebrated several different Latin American countries' independence from colonial rule on September 16 in the quad. Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua, all celebrate their independence this month, but September 16 was particularly important for Mexico as it marks 200 years of their independence from Spain. "El Grito" (the shout) that heralded the independence was re-enacted by Angelica Vargas, with her enthusiastic and loud shouts of "Viva!" and an explanation of the day was read by Rachel Moreno. LASO students also passed out flyers explaining the days' events. Trio Oro, a three-piece band, played for two hours straight and a mix of students stopped by to listen, appreciate the music, and dance. A large contingent of Hermanas was on hand from beginning to end, to not only lend support to the event but to dance to the lovely music of Trio Oro. The Child Development Center children and staff also came by to dance and the children had a great time breaking a piñata. Luis de la Paz and Oscar Ceron helped with the piñata. All in all, it was wonderful to have several students from Hermanas, LASO, Puente and little children dancing to and enjoying the music. LASO members who were instrumental to the planning and success of the event were Yraes Guerrero (President of LASO), Emma Rice (VP of LASO), Claudia Valle (treasurer), Rachel

Moreno, Oscar Ceron, Angelica Vargas, Larissa Espada, Vanessa Chosa, Noemi Perdomo and counselor, Javier Urena. Again, LASO wishes to extend many thanks to Hermanas, the Loma Chica Childcare Center, and the LASO students who helped with putting on a successful and festive celebration of California's southern neighbors' independence days. LASO would like to extend a particularly large thank you to the ASSC, and Maria Climaco, especially, whose outreach and support made it possible to have a band in the first place. To all of you, LASO would like to give a shout out of gracias and VIVA! LASO continued its celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month by attending the Fiesta Gigantes Giants game on September 18.



News from the Library

Skyline will be participating in the Peninsula Library System (PLS) initiative known as **One Book One Community: San Mateo County Reads**. This year, the One Book Committee has selected Michael Chabon's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, ***The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay***. PLS Libraries will be presenting related events before and after the "Main Event" on October 7, 2010, when Michael Chabon will be interviewed at the Performing Arts Center in San Mateo. Skyline College Library will organize and sponsor three events in October, including a book discussion. Specific dates will be determined. Stay tuned and please start reading! The Library has a hardbound copy available for checkout and the Bookstore is ordering several paperback copies. The book is also available at all PLS Libraries.





Skyline President's Council holds first meeting of the new year

Each year, Skyline's President's Council hosts the President's Breakfast, which raises funds for the President's Innovation Fund. The members represent a broad range of the local communities the college serves and their commitment to Skyline's mission and students makes possible an important group of innovative projects each year. The group held its first meeting on September 16 and began planning for the March 17 breakfast event, and then adjourned to the fireplace area for this photo. Thanks to Christianne Marra for the shot. This year's members are Aaron Aknin, Laura Baughman, Susan Brissenden-Smith, Raymond Buenaventura, Alice Bulos, David Canepa, Sheila Gilson, Greg Cochran, Michon Coleman, Jim Comstock, Michael Crilly, Ronald Derenzi, Michele Enriquez-DaSilva, Kimberly Gillette, Michael Guingona, Mark Heckman, Steven House, Maritess Lagandaon, Patricia Lindo, Carolyn Livengood, Dave Mandelkern, Isaac Mejia, Denise Miles, William Nack, Cherie Napier (Chair), Mary Ann Nihart, Leila Perreras, Jackie Rauh, Sepi Richardson, Jennifer Tasto, Neil Telford, Joe Tolod, John Paul Verzosa, and Carol Way. President Morrow is grateful to all of them for their support for the college.

FACILITIES

A surprising display appears at Skyline

On September 1, one of the large windows in the Student Center suddenly shattered, as you can see below. It is a double-paned window and only the interior pane was damaged; all the pieces remained in place as they were designed to do, creating the impression that Skyline had been visited by Jack Frost. The pane has been removed and will be replaced right away. While the Facilities staff worked quickly to make the area safe and to determine what caused the event, many Skyline students and staff got a chance to see something that was oddly beautiful. Thanks to Christianne Marra for these photographs of it.

