

Students hear the voices of the Black community

By Cindy Lopez-Ordonez

Mt. San Jacinto College hosted a Black Excellence Summit on Feb. 21 in the San Jacinto Library. The summit focused on sharing success stories as well as featuring a networking opportunity.

The event consisted of a keynote speaker, alumni and faculty panels, student performances from MSJC's Dance Department, UCR step performance, and a mix and mingle session.

The alumni panel featured students who transferred to UCR, CSULB, and Xavier University. They discussed their transfer experiences as well as their MSJC experiences. They explained how MSJC



Faculty panel at the Black Excellence Summit

prepared them to succeed in their transfer institutions. They shared recommendations such as full-time counselors to improve student success to both students and faculty in attendance.

The faculty and ad-

ministrators panel included figures such as Kevin Baker, Talent Search Director; Dr. Pamela Wright, Director of Institutional Research; Dr. Von Lawson, Dean of Career Education at the San Jacinto Campus;

Photo provided by MSJC Marketing Team

and other prominent faculty members. The panel shared their definition of "Black Excellence," educational journey, and life experiences. The panel concluded with them imparting advice to MSJC students.

"You cannot have testimony without a test," said Lawson. Students and faculty from every ethnic and racial background attended the event and shared their opinions on it. "My favorite part

of the event was Secret Brown's keynote speech," said MSJC student Michael Quiboloy. "It's vital for students like me, ones outside of the black community that want to be good allies, to hear the perspectives shared at events like the Black Excellence Summit."

Anthony Smart, MSJC student and previous president of the UMOJA club, shared that he loved hearing the stories from the black faculty members and hearing about how they faced adversity.

"The most impactful part to me was the 'platinum rule,'" said Smart. "Treat others how they wish to be treated."

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Light waves of light waves at SJC

By Jesus Alcalá Avalos

Rachel Bank gave a presentation about her journey and exhibit, "Light Waves," at Mt. San Jacinto College's Art Gallery on Feb. 5, 2020. Bank has taught at various community colleges and universities in Southern California.

Photos and videos of Bank's artwork can be found

at rachelbank.com.

Art Professor Chet Glaze was the person who invited Bank to present her artwork in MSJC's art gallery. Glaze said that Bank's work stood out from her peers.

Bank's art exhibit was a set of videos of night-time light reflected on water. Three projectors and a screen each presented a different video.

"I wanted to make work that you didn't know what you were looking at first but maybe you felt on a visceral level," said Bank.

To achieve that goal, Bank recorded close-up shots of various bodies of water at night. The water became a black background while lights highlighted the ripples on the surface of the water. One of the project-

ed videos was of water in a fountain. Bank used post-processing software to increase the color saturation of the light and increase the contrast of the water and the light.

Another of the projected videos was of a gush of water from a pond. The same video was projected at various playback speeds. At slower speeds, the ripples were easier to

distinguish. This video also had sections that Bank interpolated to smooth the motion of the ripples.

The third projected video was the longest at about 20 minutes and had more subtle light compared to the other videos. This video was a compilation of multiple videos with similar lighting.

The television displayed multiple videos

of light shafts in a grid layout. Bank planned to show one light shaft across the whole screen but chose the grid layout to include many more. As Bank noted, the grid layout also allows viewers to compare different light patterns at the same time.

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Rachel Bank presenting "Light Waves" at the MSJC Art Gallery
By Alyse Kiara Deatherage

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NBA Legend Kobe Bryant dies at 41

By Eric Rodriguez

Tragedy struck the world of sports on Jan. 26 as NBA legend Kobe Bryant, his 13-year old daughter Gianna, six family friends, and a pilot flying the group died in a helicopter crash in Calabasas, California.

With the whole world still trying to come to terms with this shocking reality, the passing of one of the NBA's all-time greats has been one of the most tragic events to ever happen in professional sports history.

Los Angeles Lakers fans created a memorial at the Staples Center to honor this incredible athlete.

"It was very hard...I've never seen anything like this before," said former Lakers teammate Shaquille O'Neal to TNT. "I was at the house the day it happened and my son brought me the thing. You know how the internet is. Stop playing with me, get out of my face with that right now. Just stop and then I got the calls. A guy who helped me become as big as I am and we will always be forever linked."



Kobe Bryant Memorial in Los Angeles, California

Photo found on Wikimedia Commons

Bryant has had a long and widely recognized career. His accolades include two-time NBA Finals MVP, five-time NBA champion, 17 time all-star, ranks fourth in all-time NBA points, two Olympic Gold medals, and many more.

Bryant might not be here on this earth but he will forever be in our hearts and will never be forgotten.

Bryant was born on Aug. 23, 1978. He was the youngest of three children and was the son of former NBA player Joe Bryant.

Kobe started playing basketball at the age of 3. Ironically enough, his favorite team was the Lakers even though he was born in Philadelphia.

At age 6, his father retired from the NBA and moved his family to Italy to play professional basketball. Bryant embraced his new lifestyle, creating cherished childhood memories. He was even fluent in Italian.

While he's known for playing basketball, he also loved to play soccer and highly favored the A.C. Milan soccer club. Bryant's grandfather would often mail videos of NBA games for him to study.

While he traveled to the U.S. during the summer, at age 13, he relocated back to the city of brotherly love.

Being the first freshman in a decade to start Varsity, Kobe played all five positions and made a name

for himself at Lower Merion High School. He was awarded Pennsylvania Player of the Year averaging 31 points, 10 rebounds, and 5 assists per game.

Prior to being drafted, Bryant worked with former NBA stars like Larry Drew and Michael Cooper.

According to Lakers legend Jerry West, Bryant, "marched over these people."

His parents actually cosigned his \$3.5 million three-year rookie contract when he was 17.

He was drafted straight out of high school by the Charlotte Hornets as 13th overall. Then he was traded to Los Angeles one month later and the rest was history.

In 1996, as number 8, Bryant started playing limited minutes being benched behind starters Eddie Jones and Nick Van Exel. Bryant became the youngest player to ever play in an NBA game.

As he saw more time on the court, he was invited to participate in the 1997 NBA All Star Weekend where he became the youngest to ever win the Slam Dunk Contest at age 18.

In 1998, Bryant emerged as the team's starting shooter and was considered the most valuable prospect in the league.

Signing a six-year \$70 million extension, Bryant, alongside newly acquired free-agent Shaquille O'Neal, were chosen to lead the franchise for the next decade. Night in and night out Bryant was showered with appraisals being deemed by sportswriters as the next Michael Jordan or Magic Johnson.

The 1998-99 Lakers made it to the postseason but found themselves short losing to the eventual Champion San Antonio Spurs. Former Chicago Bulls head coach, and six-time NBA champi-

onship winner, Phil Jackson joined the team in 1999-2000 to help Bryant and the team reach their full potential by winning the NBA Championship three years in a row (2000-2002).

The following season, Jackson failed to renew his contract, saying that Bryant was "un-coachable." Shaquille O'Neal also requested to be traded due to bad blood between the two talents.

After a couple of years passed, Bryant was able to make amends with both O'Neal and Jackson ending their controversial feud that ended a potential dynasty in 2005.

Late in the 2006-07 season, Bryant changed his jersey number from 8 to 24, saying that since he got drafted to the league the number 24 was unavailable as well as 33, retired with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

He chose the number 8 because at the ABCD Adidas camp Bryant wore the number 143. By adding the numbers, the number 8 was born.

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MSJC students reflect on a legend

By Rafael Ibarra

In memory of Kobe Bryant, Aug. 23, 1978- Jan. 26, 2020

Kobe Bryant, age 41, Gianna Bryant, age 13, and seven others died in a helicopter crash on Jan. 26. Shock waves from the news of the crash not only hit the sports world, but impacted the nation, the world, and students at Mt. San Jacinto College. Kobe Bryant was not just a basketball player; he became a mentor for thousands of young people. He demonstrated how effort, work ethic and perseverance can make a difference.

Jernard Jackson, a sophomore guard for Mt. San Jacinto College's men's basketball, team shared how much Bryant meant to him as a young player.

"Growing up in a house with two parents that served our country, Kobe Bryant was still my role model/hero," said Jackson. "Kobe showed me that you have to put the work in to be the best at what you do and with the confidence from putting the work in, you can be unstoppable. Kobe's death has left an emptiness in me that I don't know how to describe."

Another MSJC basketball player who credits Bryant for his love of the game is Jamaal Barnes, freshman guard.

"Kobe Bryant is the reason I started playing basketball. Without him, I don't think I would be playing basketball," said Barnes. "He has inspired me both on and off the court. His mindset was different from everyone else's and I wanted to be just like that. He inspired me that no matter what I do in life to always give it your all."

This philosophy of playing hard influenced how players attack the game, just like Eagles freshman forward, Mekhi Hill.

"So, watching the determination Kobe had in all his games and the energy he brought on both defense and offense is what I admired the most about his game," said Hill. "Kobe made me want to play defense and made playing defense fun for me. I always try to bring that same approach to every game or practice."

Kobe Bryant created and embodied Mamba Mentality as a work ethic to strive and become an elite basketball player and live a better life, and he continued to em-



Kobe Bryant memorial in Los Angeles, California

Photo found on Wikimedia Commons

brace Mamba Mentality after his retirement in 2016. He found the joy of basketball again as the coach of Gianna's basketball team at Mamba Sports. Bryant defined Mamba Mentality-- "To be on a constant quest to try and be the best version of yourself."

Ethan Bell, freshman guard, shared how the Mamba mentality is part of his own philosophy.

"I've been watching Kobe since I was a little kid. Once I heard of his tragic death, I didn't know what to think. I'll always remember him for his Mamba Mentality and I will always try my best to pursue my own Mamba Mentality, when it comes to school, basketball, and life," said Bell.

Kobe became a major advocate for women's sports, specifically

the WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association), as well as all levels of sports for young women. His support encouraged young women to become athletes, just like his daughter Gianna (Gigi) Bryant.

Mariah Sanchez, freshman guard on the MSJC women's basketball team, is one of those young women who was inspired by Kobe.

"Ever since I was little girl, Kobe Bryant made such huge impact in my life. Not only was he a role model to me but he was also an idol, I have always looked up to him," said Sanchez. "He is a very hard-working man who is about his game. This man's legacy transcended the sport of basketball and showed how his legacy will forever live and impact the

lives of many others."

Lenzell Simmons, sophomore guard, sums his feelings and the feelings that he believes many shared about Bryant.

"Kobe Bryant meant the world to me when it came down to basketball. Coming from Los Angeles, Kobe was like a superhero to me and he inspired me to even want to go further with basketball when I was young," shared Simmons. "His approach and mentality to the sport was insane. I've never seen it before nor after him. His death just was so shocking to me. It was like I lost a family member, it really hurt. I just pray for his family and the other families who were impacted during this tragedy."

Not only MSJC basketball players felt the impact of the passing of Bryant. James Park-

er is a mathematics major and in his third year at MSJC. Parker is the president of the Phi Theta Kappa Beta Delta Omega Chapter and the vice president of the Umoja Club at the Menifee Valley Campus. Parker has been a longtime basketball fan because of Bryant and he enjoys playing basketball in his spare time.

"Outside of basketball, Kobe has influenced my work ethic in anything that I do. I adopted his mamba mentality for life, which inspires me to stay focused and not give up," said Parker.

"I've always rooted for him," shared Parker, "and seeing how he is appreciated he is felt good. I will forever be impacted by his death, but I will always continue to go forward and strive for excellence just as he did."

"I can literally name a hundred or more really good Kobe memories," said Parker. "But I'll just go to the first time I saw him make a game-winning shot that made me believe a game is never over," said Parker.

Like a heartbeat, Bryant's love of the game will continue to bounce like a basketball in our hearts forever.

An inspiration to Umoja students

By Deanthony Barney

Since starting at Mt. San Jacinto College in the fall of 2018, my time there has been great. I have slowly but surely fallen in love with the campus. During my time on this campus, I have grown a relationship with a counselor.

Unbeknownst to me, this person grew up in a neighborhood not too far from mine. With the similar background we share, it is easy for him to understand me.

I grew up learning to watch people's actions because that is how you get to know someone. Watching their actions reveals their true character and if a person practices what they preach. After watching his actions, how he carries himself,



Darnell Bing with Umoja club members at the 2019 Umoja conference

Photo provided by James Parker

how he interacts with others and most importantly how he fights for student's needs, it made me look at my own actions to change the way I did things. "I want to make a

connection with more students on campus," he said to me once. Since we had a conversation about his presence on campus, I began seeing him interacting with

students on campus more. This man did not make any excuses to why he could not do it, he just got up and started doing it. Observing the way he operates like a true

leader while being a great male role model has impacted the way I do things. He calls me out about my own actions amongst other things while also praising the good I do.

When he calls me out on things, he asks questions about the situation to get you to point out your own mistakes. He does not do this to pick on me, but to make me better, and more aware of my actions.

He shows he cares about the students on campus, and he pushes students to try new things and step outside of their comfort zones. He is continuously pushing me to get more involved with leadership roles in the clubs on campus. The humble man I speak of who portrays Black excellence, is none other than counselor and Umoja coordinator, Darnell Bing.

Students sharing their perspectives

By Pablo Ramos Diaz

Mt. San Jacinto College took part in celebrating Black History month with various events from Feb. 1 to Feb. 29. One thing that MSJC officials wanted to do during this month was to reach out to their African American students and find out their struggles in addition to their success in attending MSJC.

After a thorough discussion, they decided to hold a town hall meeting on Feb. 11.

Pamela Wright, who is the Director of Institutional Research, hosted this event for several reasons.

"We want to hear from our students what they like, what they don't like, what's working for them and what's not, and so this was set up to be for African American students because not only is it Black History Month, but our highest priority group is African American students," she said.

Furthermore, Wright hopes that she, alongside with other indi-



Black History Month advertisement

Photo provided by MSJC Marketing Team

viduals, can use this data to formulate a plan and figure out the best practices to use for not only improving the experience of African Americans, but for everyone else as well.

Coming into this meeting, Wright wanted everyone to express their concerns from start to finish and to hold nothing back. Various people gave their insight on what the college can do to improve the experience.

Among them was Laneshia Powell, who works at CalWORKs and is the Umoja Club President. Coming into this meeting, Powell hoped that this town hall meeting would

help her notify the officials, what they have been going through, and with her input, can help lead to change.

To her and many other African American students, this change means a lot.

"When we come onto the campus we want to be treated with respect. We want to have that same engagement that anybody else would have that was not a black student. We want that same experience. We don't want to be singled out, segregated, or talked down on because we are African," Powell said.

One of the biggest things Powell tried to emphasize was how

less invited they felt. One example Powell gave was how much attitude and lack of help they get from counseling, which, according to her, makes it intimidating to come back and continue her schooling.

Another thing she discussed was how the college has dealt with Black History Month. As mentioned earlier, despite being Umoja Club President, Powell says that they were not involved in planning Black History Month. She and the rest of the club felt that they should have had some involvement in planning the events for Black History Month.

After the town hall meeting, Powell was met with understanding responses and was thanked for sharing her critics. She hopes that, with this meeting in the books, these concerns will be addressed in the future as Powell won't rest until the change comes into fruition.

"Charmed" Review

By Anais Sotello

In 1998, the world first met the Halliwell sisters Piper, Phoebe, and Prue on the WB television series, "Charmed" I remember growing up and watching this show with my mom, but what I never imagined was that I would be watching it again - but with a bit of a twist.

After 21 years CW producers decided to reboot "Charmed" with new sisters, a new house, and the same problems that vanquishing demons seem to bring.

In this series, half-sisters Macy, Mel, and Maggie try to juggle the responsibilities that come with being the most powerful witches in existence, the strain that their secret identities put on their regular lives, and maybe the most challenging of all - learning how to be sisters after so many years of being apart.

Of course, this show would not be "Charmed" without a trusted advisor to point the way,

and that is where the white-lighter comes in. Even supernatural beings need a day job, so when he is not saving the sisters from demons and helping them fight the things that go bump in the night, the very British Harry Greenwood spends his time as the director of the women's study program at Hilltowne University.

As viewers make their way through the first season, they begin to learn a bit more about Harry's mysterious origins and how he got the role of white-lighter. Though the show revolves around three witches in their early and mid 20s, it is Harry who leads the show where scandals are involved.

Before you make your judgement of this show, I will leave you with this... should you ever cross paths with a demon - or half demon - maybe don't go down that road, because no matter how devilishly hot they look, i'm willing to bet they have some issues.



Students and faculty sharing and discussing ideas and opinions at Town Hall event

Photo provided by MSJC Marketing Team

MSJC golf building up the team

By Eric Rodriguez

Mt. San Jacinto College golf team played in a 16-team tournament on Feb. 12. Teams from colleges all over Southern California turned in at the Soboba Casino Country Club Golf Course. Although the team hit at their home course, the Eagles found themselves tying Ventura and Irvine Valley for fifth place.

One of the golfers shooting a 71 was Jordan Medlock, a student at MSJC. “Overall, the team played well,” said Coach Pete Martinez. Extremely happy about how his players played, he went on to say that the most difficult thing about the tournament was good teams. “I was just glad my players were able to find what works best for

them,” said Martinez. He saw this tournament, as well as others, as learning opportunities to try to perfect their game. Golf is a game of poise, focus, and most importantly patience. In a game where point-scoring is determined by whom ever makes the least mistakes, it’s easy for one shot to completely alter your chances of winning. “Shooting low helps my team stay motivated,” said Martinez. Because the points of the game are determined by all players instead of one, it’s important to play well for others and not just for yourself he continued. When any of the players were struggling, they were able to adjust their game and improve. Referring to MSJC golfer Evan Freeman, Martinez was really proud of how Freeman

turned an off start to a riveting performance. “The day is not going to be perfect... Don’t let the bad shots bring you down,” said Martinez when asked how the team handles the pressures and stresses of the game. Building on his philosophy on the importance of not dwelling in the past, he believes that this is a game of mistakes and that there is always something that could be improved. The best advice Martinez can give his players is the same way he progressed his game. “Feel what you are doing...Make adjustments,” said Martinez. After retiring in 2009, Martinez began playing golf as soon as he started teaching. By taking lessons regularly, he understood the game of golf rather well and progressed at an impressive rate. After being an assistant to Ron Kemp at

FINAL SCORES		
FIRST	CYPRESS	367
SECOND	REEDLEY COLLEGE	375
THIRD	MT. SAC	378
FOURTH	COLLEGE OF THE DESERT	379
FIFTH	MSJC, VENTURA, AND IRVINE VALLEY	379

The top five scores from the Eagles Classic
Stats provided by MSJC Athletics

PLAYER STATS		
FIRST	JORDAN MEDLOCK	71
SECOND	EVAN FREEMAN	75
THIRD	KYLER SARGENT	77
FOURTH	CONNER PIERSON	78
FIFTH	CADE LENARTH	81
SIXTH	MICAH STEWART	85

Player stats from the Eagles Classic
Stats provided by MSJC Athletics

Hemet High School for three years, Martinez began coaching and has been coaching at MSJC for seven years. “I’m enjoying it here...I love seeing the guys improve and move on to four-year schools,” he shared. Progress was the one word he used to sum up how the classic went. Based on their performance that day, Martinez as well as his players all concur

that they are improving and getting better as they moved forward in the season. The Eagles travel to the Sycum Golf Club in San Diego for their next tournament in the middle of the month.

Latinx stars take the Super Bowl stage

By Yamilet Sanchez

The 2020 Super Bowl game was held at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami on Feb. 2. The Kansas City Chiefs beat San Francisco 49ers with a score of 31-20, but what many fans were waiting and excited for was the half-time performance. This year’s half time performance featured Latin artists Shakira, from Colombia, and Jennifer Lopez, from Puerto Rico. They also came out with invited guests Bad Bunny, from Puerto Rico, and J Balvin, from Colombia. All four artists sang their most popular songs, including many in Spanish, representing the Latino culture and the growth of Latin music. This made headlines on all social media sites and threw a wave of pride to all the Latin fans watching the performance, being as the Super Bowl halftime show has not featured Latinx artists performing music in Spanish in 54 years. This performance meant so much to the Latin countries by

having their culture noticed and expressed in such a big American event. Singer Jennifer Lopez even came out wearing a Puerto Rican flag in one of her songs, representing her country and the love and pride she has for it. On the other hand, Shakira represents her Latin roots by performing a famous dance known in Colombia as Champeta. The performance by the Latin artist really took a step in the right direction to help the growth and acceptance of the Latin culture in the American culture. It created much attention on social media and even had the hashtag #Latinpride trending for two days. Although this performance did create controversy for some, that did not get in the way of the artists feeling proud of their performance and of the representation of their countries and their culture. “It is always an honor to represent my Latin people and my country, Puerto Rico in the house!” Responded Bad Bunny when asked how he



Shakira and Jenifer Lopez performing at the Superbowl half-time show

Photo found on @Fox46News via Twitter

felt after participating in this performance. The other artists also expressed their joy by tweeting how much this performance meant to them and the hard work they put into it. This 2020 halftime show was one for the books and a memorable one for the Latinx fans.

El juego del Super Bowl 2020 que se celebró en el Hard Rock Stadium de Miami domingo el 2 de Febrero consistió de los equipos San Francisco 49ers y los Kansas City Chiefs, pero lo que los fanáticos más esperaban y entusiasmaban era la actuación de medio tiempo. La actuación de medio tiempo de este año fue dirigida por las artista Latinas Shakira, de Colombia, y Jennifer Lopez, de Puerto Rico. Hasta

salieron con invitados, Bad Bunny, de Puerto Rico, y J Balvin, de Colombia. Los cuatro artistas cantaron sus canciones más populares, incluidas muchas en español que representan la cultura Latina y el crecimiento de la música Latina. Esto fue noticia en todos los sitios de redes sociales y arrojó una ola de orgullo a todos los fanáticos latinos que vieron la actuación, ya que el espectáculo de medio tiempo del Super Bowl nunca ha presentado artistas latinos interpretando música en español en 54 años. Esta actuación significó mucho para los países Latinos al hacer notar su cultura y expresarla en un evento estadounidense tan grande. La cantante Jennifer López incluso salió con una bandera puertorriqueña en una de sus canciones que representa su país y el amor y orgullo que siente. Por otro lado, Shakira representó sus rutinas latinas al realizar un famoso baile conocido en Colombia

como Champeta. La actuación de los artistas Latino realmente dio un paso en la dirección correcta para ayudar al crecimiento y la aceptación de la cultura latina en la cultura estadounidense. Creó mucha atención en las redes sociales e incluso tuvo la tendencia #Orgullolatino durante dos días. Aunque esta actuación generó controversia para algunos ellos no interpusieron en el camino de que los artistas se sintiera orgulloso de su actuación y de la representación de sus países y su cultura. “¡Siempre es un honor representar a mi gente latina y a mi país, Puerto Rico en la casa!” respondió Bad Bunny cuando le preguntaron cómo se sintió después de participar en esta presentación. Los otros artistas también expresaron su alegría al tuitear cuánto significó esta actuación para ellos y el arduo trabajo que hicieron. Este espectáculo de medio tiempo de 2020 fue uno para los libros y uno memorable para los fanáticos latinos.

Eagles in action!



No. 15 Jamaal Barnes driving down the court at MSJC vs. Chaffey College

Photo by Rafael Ibarra



Defensive rebound by no. 15 Jamaal Barnes at MSJC vs. Chaffey College

Photo by Rafael Ibarra

Students hear the voices of the Black community

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Smart continued by saying he was happy to see how the school was showing the way it cared for its African American population with these Black History Month events. “This school really cares and provides the safe space for all students to speak their minds, like this event,” said Smart. Quiboloy expressed similar sentiments about how the event showed the inclusive space that MSJC is

expanding by hearing students voices. “The Black Excellence Summit and events like it, including the numerous guest speaker visits, poetry readings, and town halls where students can feel heard, are all showcases of MSJC’s commitment to inclusivity and embodying the values of the equity pledge,” said Quiboloy. Quiboloy continued to express his appreciation for the community that MSJC is attempting to build by events like this

where students voices can be heard and the way it incorporates them and their opinions into the campus. Attendee James Parker shared that the entire summit was very impactful, but he particularly liked the former MSJC students who spoke on the resources that helped them while they attended MSJC and the resources that helped ease their transition. “They gave us some very good advice and I thought it was a wonderful idea to have

students that were recently in our shoes answering questions that could help make our journey smoother,” said Parker. Parker noted that

he also loved hearing keynote speaker Secret Brown’s ideas of not treating students how we want to be treated but how they want to be treated.

“I think this event was another confirmation of how inclusive MSJC is as an institution,” said Parker.



Umoja members Anthony Smart and James Parker
Photo provided by MSJC Marketing Team

Light waves on light waves at SJC

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Bank’s presentation began by talking about the black-and-white photography she produced in high school. Bank said that she originally wanted to be a photographer for National Geographic. After graduating high school, Bank attended community college classes on photography and worked as a camera assistant. Bank thought that photography as an art form was only in black-and-white. After taking a college class on photography, Bank began taking color photos. As an undergraduate at Columbia College Chicago, Bank focused on long-exposure photography. Bank presented images of rooms that were lit by outside light passing through windows, which created patterns in the photos. Bank felt that long-exposure photography became formulaic, so she



Rachel Bank presenting the slide of the radial grid for “Train”

Photo by Alyse Kiara Deatherage

experimented with documentary-style photography. Bank carried her camera on her travels and captured any events that she found interesting. Bank showed a photograph of an animal caretaker giving a presentation with a bear. After the bear photo, Bank presented her photography of mundane commercial buildings. After graduating in 2004, Bank was not sure of what to do. Bank was accepted to a graduate school

for a Masters of Fine Arts degree but did not take the opportunity as she wanted to have more experiences outside of academics. After working as a photography stylist, Bank enrolled at University of California Riverside for graduate studies. Bank would receive her Master of Fine Arts degree in 2013. Bank then showed a video of a dance performance with frames that were hand painted by Auguste Lumière. When projected, the

colored frames would emulate color film. Inspired by the film’s repetition and color, Bank created a video titled “Train.” The video had train cars passing at a constant rate with different colored lights flashing at a constant rate in a continuous loop as well as repetitive audio. Bank averaged the color of each frame and laid each color in a radial grid. When Bank would present “Train,” she would also displayed a print of the radial grid near-

by. Bank noted that the colors of the radial grid would be affected by the colors of the video. After “Train,” Bank created exhibits where a video would be projected onto a sculpture or painting. The colors of the video altered the colors of the sculptures and paintings. Using four projectors, Bank created “Uncrumpling,” where a color that appeared crumpled would unfold. Each projector would take turns to uncrumple a different color which would

then alter the colors that were present. The end of Bank’s presentation was about the artwork in the MSJC Art Gallery. After the presentation, Bank asked the audience if they had any questions. One student asked about the camera that Bank used. Bank explained that she really liked her compact and light mirrorless camera, as it was easy to take on her travels. Another student asked how Bank goes from planning to finished product. Bank responded that she considers the plan as a proposal rather than a guarantee and allows the work to differ from the initial vision. “Things are never going to turn the way they are in your head. And that’s totally fine,” added Bank. After the presentation ended, Bank stayed to chat with the students and professors.

NBA legend Kobe Bryant dies at 41

Cont. from page 2

When the 2008-09 season kicked off, Bryant knew that this year was a chance to bring his team to the promised lands once again, with Phil Jackson once

again signing with the team. Bryant led the team past Dwight Howard and a strong Orlando Magic team and won his fourth NBA championship. After signing an \$87 million three-

year contract extension, the Lakers found themselves as back to back champs beating their historic rivals the Boston Celtics. Establishing his fifth championship, Bryant claimed that beat-

ing the Celtics was the most satisfying of all his championship victories. After trying season after season to chase that prestigious sixth ring that would tie Bryant with Michael Jordan, Bryant

chose to end his career on a high note scoring an NBA season high 60 on April 3, 2015 against the Utah Jazz. After retiring from the league, Bryant kept busy with endorsements, television appearances, and even publishing his own books.

Bryant spent most of his time with his wife Vanessa and his four daughters: Gianna, Natalia, Bianka, and Capri. He also helped his daughter Gianna fall in love with basketball at the age of 13, the same age he did. “You gotta do what you love to do. I love telling stories. I love inspiring kids or providing them with the tools that are going to help them,” said Bryant in an interview with USA Today. NBA superstar Leb-

ron James shared a message on his Instagram page to honor the late Lakers legend. “...Man i’m sitting here trying to write something for this post but everytime I try I begin crying again just thinking about you, niece Gigi and the friendship, bond, and brotherhood we had,” said James. “Man I love you big bro! My heart goes out to Vanessa and the kids. I promise you I’ll continue your legacy man!” Bryant has helped build this league, inspire future players, and make a positive impact on the lives around him. Him, his daughter, and all the others involved in the crash will always be remembered.



Kobe Bryant memorial in Los Angeles, California

Photo found on Wikimedia Commons

TEDX bringing awareness to MSJC

By Greg Sanchez

TEDxMSJC was invited to present at the Hemet-San Jacinto Chamber of Commerce “First Friday of the Month Breakfast” at The Village in Hemet on Feb. 4. The event played host to local business owners, elected officials, and the commander of the Hemet Sheriff’s Station, Captain Leonard Purvis. As Director of Public Relations for TEDxMSJC, I was invited to be a guest speaker by the Chamber’s Executive Director, Cyndi Lemke, to inform those in attendance of our TEDx filmed and live

stream event coming to Mt. San Jacinto College’s San Jacinto Campus on May 9. When I asked if anyone in the room had heard of TED Talks, nearly everyone raised their hand. This was surely a meeting of great minds. I gave a brief historical background on TED as a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less), and went on to mention that TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment, and Design converged – and today covers all topics – from science to business to glob-

al issues – in more than 100 languages. With my audience now having a brief background on TED, I went on to explain that TEDx is a grassroots initiative, created in the spirit of TED’s overall mission to research and discover “ideas worth spreading.” I informed my audience that TEDx brings the spirit of TED to local communities around the globe and that TEDx events are organized by passionate individuals who seek to uncover new ideas and the latest research in their local areas and spark conversations in their communities. I explained how MSJC has connected



Greg Sanchez speaking with Captain Purvis
Photo provided by Greg Sanchez

expressed their interest in further supporting MSJC’s student veterans as Post 848 works to bridge the gap between their more “seasoned” veterans with our community of younger veterans. Our Armed Forces have an incredible amount of diversity with servicemembers possessing vast cultural backgrounds, professional expertise, and socioeconomic beginnings. It’s fantastic to see the American Legion reaching out to support student equity and achievement by working to connect with MSJC’s scholarly commitments and utilizing TEDxMSJC as a vehicle to do so by collaborating on “ideas worth spreading.” For further information on the speakers, live entertainment, event luncheon, ticketing, and for volunteer opportunities for our TEDxMSJC event please be on the lookout for informative posters, fliers, and banners around campus.



Members of the TEDx team and others
Photo provided by MSJC Marketing Team

with TED to host an approved TEDxMSJC event. Students in MSJC’s Honors Enrichment Program and supporting faculty advisors have teamed together to bring a TEDx event to our college this coming May, which will include a lineup of eight incredible speakers with various professional backgrounds and will be speaking on our theme of “Awareness.” TEDxMSJC has had magnificent amount of community support from several organizations excited to get in-

involved. Most recently, San Jacinto’s American Legion Post 848 toured our San Jacinto campus, including the theater and Veterans Resource Center. The tour was followed by a sit down with our TEDxMSJC committee to discuss various opportunities for their organization and to partner up with us at our May 9 TEDx filming. Additionally, the American Legion

TEDxMSJC
x = independently organized TED event

Students take the floor and share their work



Students sharing at Club Crush’s open mic event
Photo by Edward Landeros



Professor John Mull and attendees from Club Crush’s open mic
Photo by Edward Landeros

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Taking a look at the Coronavirus

By Cindy Lopez-Ordonez

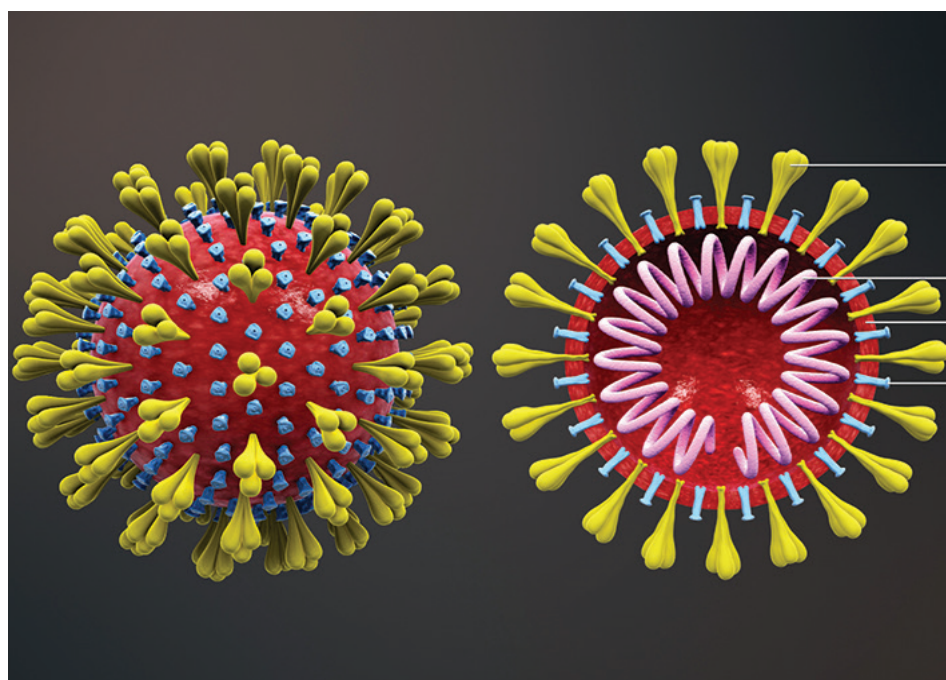
The Coronavirus (or COVID-19) began in Wuhan, China in December 2019. According to the CDC, the knowledge about the virus is based on similar coronaviruses. The Coronavirus family ranges from the common cold to severe diseases including the Middle East Respiratory (MERS-CoV).

Coronaviruses are found in different animal species: camels, bats, cats, and others. Therefore, these viruses are zoonotic—they transmit from animals to humans.

Symptoms include the following: fever, shortness of breath, cough, and difficulty in breathing. Severe symptoms can include pneumonia, kidney failure, severe acute respiratory syndrome, and even death.

Chinese officials reported approximately 10,000 people were infected with the virus. Initially, the virus spread from live animal markets. Since then, the virus is transmitted through human-to-human contact.

As of Feb. 17, there are approximately 72,686 confirmed cas-



The Coronavirus

Photo found on Wikimedia commons

es in China. To date, 1,878 people died in China. Outside of China, there are 905 cases of COVID-19. Three deaths occurred outside of China.

In the U.S. there are 15 confirmed cases. The following states have confirmed cases: Arizona, California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin. On Jan. 30, we saw the first confirmed case in the U.S. of human-to-human transmission.

On Jan. 31, President Trump proclaimed the suspension of foreigners who were physically present in China within the past 14 days, excluding Hong Kong and Ma-

cau, from entering the country. Those permitted entry into the U.S. are subjected to appropriate measures such as medical screening and, even, quarantine. This proclamation was enacted on Feb. 2.

The U.S. government evacuated its citizens from Wuhan, China into a chartered plane. The first chartered plane departed from China on Jan. 29. This plane was set to land in Ontario International Airport, after a layover in Alaska. However, these 195 passengers landed into the March Air Reserve Base in Riverside County. They were under mandatory quarantine for 14 days, fol-

lowing the incubation period of the virus. They completed their quarantine on Feb. 11. Since then, more chartered planes have landed throughout the U.S.

The World Health Organization's (WHO) standard recommendations include regular hand washing, covering mouth and nose during coughs and sneezes, and properly cooking meat and eggs. WHO suggests avoiding those exhibiting respiratory symptoms such as coughing and sneezing.

Partnering with local high schools

By Daniel Alaniz

Mt. San Jacinto College and San Jacinto Valley Academy have a dual enrollment program that allows students from high school to take courses for college credit. This program allows the soon-to-be college students an opportunity to get ahead in their studies while still attending high school.

While the students in high school attend college at MSJC, they also contribute credits towards their high school diploma. Students involved in the program have the choice of picking what classes they want to take, and the classes range from

English, Mathematics, History, Psychology, and Sociology.

Depending on where and what the student would like to major in, they have the choice of picking anywhere to start. These courses can be attributed to an associate or vocational degree, depending on what kind of trade they would like to study.

The main purpose behind the program is to give students the edge on college before even attending. The program also gives the students' families peace of mind when it comes to tuition and even keeps the students from being in college for too long.

All the work the

students do meet college criteria. Preparing them for the next step in their education.

Several students from SJVA were able to give their inside feedback of what the program was like and how it's currently benefiting them and how anyone in high school can do what these students are currently doing.

Emilee Rubio is taking English 101 at MSJC. She chose English 101 because she wants to see where that class can lead her.

"I like MSJC because they provide transportation and you still get the same education as everyone else," said Rubio. "Dual enrollment helps

me a lot because I'm able to use the information from my class at MSJC and provide feedback at my high school. I know the education I gather there is going to help me further down the road."

English 101 wasn't the only class Rubio had taken. She previously took Sociology 101 and Psychology 101.

"College is a lot different from high school but, the workload is easier because you have an assignment and it won't be due till next week," said Rubio.

Emmanuel Green was another student who is enrolled at MSJC.



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SJVA campus painting

Photo by Daniel Alaniz

"Dual enrollment is a great way to get a head start in college and it's nice to have a GPA boost," said Green.

Another interesting thing that Green is able to accomplish at MSJC is taking a four unit class, Biology 115 online. As college students understand, Biology online is no easy task. Green is taking Biology because he wants to be a neurosurgeon or if that doesn't work out an entrepreneur.

Green noted that you can take up to two courses during the fall and spring semester.

He has been part of the program since his freshman year, taking one college class per semester. Socializing for these students may come as a difficult task because they are younger and sit among a classroom full of adults.

"The alumni at MSJC are just regular people. The environment is not much different from that at our school and one can learn to socialize on the adult level quite easily as a result of the experience," said Green.

Jay Mckayla Mortus completed Criminal Justice and is now taking Criminal Law.

Mortus plans on majoring in criminal justice to become a police officer in the future. After high school, she wants to attend Cal State San Bernardino. She is taking her courses online, but she is still able to get a college experience.

"Online courses having discussion boards where you need to provide feedback to other students. You're still able to communicate with other classmates, just not in a classroom setting," said Mortus.

SJVA provides support to any other students enrolled in the program by covering registration fees, providing textbooks, and giving them the supplies they need. SJVA is in full support of their students, they want to have their students reach their goals and meet the correct requirements.

Student poetry and creative writing

Friendship and trust

By Antonio Yanez

Friendship and trust are both very fragile things.
 They both take a long time to build but can be destroyed in an instant
 by one bad choice.
 Friendship and trust can also last a lifetime.
 U can have someone to cry, laugh, and share your deepest secrets with,
 trust is a wonderful thing it can help u open up your heart with your
 friends and the world.
 Trust makes it possible for u to look at the world with an open heart so
 u can make new friendships

In Time

By Antonio Yanez

Time is a healer,
 you might say things out of anger.
 Then the end you release all out.
 Now, tell this, what you have to sort out
 Is this what you seek for?
 You have come to realization.
 Thinking, what have I done?
 Trying to maintain to the person you love and so much about
 Lost, lost it
 You loathed in loneliness
 Moping around and no one sees it
 Does this sound like Depression?
 Many individuals misinterpret it for depression.
 What if...what if...
 It's someone rebuilding itself.
 Given the time it has nothing to do.
 It goes to school and behaves itself.
 Yet it carry that heavy burden.
 Hoping for one day it will complete the dream that it is holding upon.
 Soon it noticed a spark as if his third chance has popped up.
 It is what it is hoping for.
 Now, in order to reach that goal is to finish what it has started.
 Only time will tell.
 Waiting for time.
 Time to pass by.

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