



The News from the
Center
2012-2013



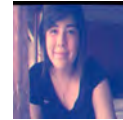
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A publication of the
Center for Student Involvement



What do we do? Have a Seat and let us tell you! About Our Office!

By: Karla Salazar



Shortly after the beginning of the school year, we, the Center for Student Involvement (CSI) office, hosted our very first Open House. Our hopes were to inform the campus community about the services we offer to students and how they can take advantage of the various volunteer and service learning opportunities. Of course, many students who are required to complete volunteering hours are well aware of what we offer, but to others, our office still remained a mystery. We also sought to develop partnerships with other campus departments in order to better provide for our students. CSI offers different programs from MATHe, S.P.A.R.K., S.T.A.R., and also volunteering



Thanks to Our Volunteers!

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Feature: Cody Sibulo, the Adventures of a CSI Intern

By: Cody Sibulo

I was reading an article the other day that said humans spend a third of their lives asleep, granted that we sleep at least 8 hours a day. It is a fact that is so basic, yet we don't really think about it that much. One can only ask themselves, "What do I do during the two-thirds time that I am awake?" As a UC San Diego student who decided to take a break from a very fast paced, hectic schedule, I had no idea what to do during the two-thirds time of my break. I had six months before I went back to UC San Diego and the one thing keeping me from my intense boredom was my drive to be productive.

Like any college student, I wanted to get ahead in my studies so I went to GCC's San Fernando Complex to take the assessment tests. After I got my results, I went to the Student Center, aka Club Space, to talk to a counselor about my options. On my way out I noticed that the Student Affairs office was in the same location. One of my goals over my break was to try and get a Student Affairs internship at GCC. My career goal is to get my masters in Student Affairs, and graduate school programs love a versatile student. So after standing outside for about 10 minutes deciding what to do, I walked into the office, hoping to meet with the Dean of Student Affairs, but he was busy on that day so I scheduled a meeting with him for the following week. I believe that

everything happens for a reason and there was definitely a force that was pushing me into that office. I had a meeting with him, which went very well and he told me that he knew of some offices that would like my help and that he would get back to me. About three weeks passed and I didn't get a response, and by that time I felt as though he had forgotten. However, not sounding too cliché, before giving up all hope on the matter, Dean Paul emailed me saying that there were two offices that were interested in my help, CSI (Center for Student Involvement) and SOS (Student Outreach Services). I had to choose between the two offices and trying to pick one was how I imagine choosing a date on match.com, not to say that I've actually done so. I didn't know anyone personally who knew the offices and all the information I gathered about them was all posted online. The CSI office interested me a little more; I emailed Hoover Zariani, the director of CSI, for a meeting and I met with him later that week.

I was nervous to say the least to meet with him because I had no idea what was going to happen. There was no job description to this internship, no general guidelines, it was just kind of like a wibbly wobbly timey wimey sort of thing. When I first emailed Hoover I greeted him with, "Hello Mr. Hoover Zariani," and for many of you who know him know that is way too formal. My first meeting with Hoover went better than expected. I really thought that my intern duties

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STAR: One Race, the Human Race

By: Cody Sibulo & Andrea Gomez



Students Talk About Race, most commonly known as S.T.A.R., is a program offered during the fall and spring semesters organized through the CSI Office. The purpose of STAR is to educate middle and high school students on various social justice issues, like gender, homophobia, media stereotypes, and to create an environment in which they can openly discuss and ask questions about these issues. In this way, students are allowed to form their own educated opinions on the various topics and hopefully it all transfers to the way they communicate and carry themselves in the world.

In this program, college students volunteer their time to attend a mandatory Saturday training session and eight, 1-hour a week visit to a middle or high school. During the Saturday training session, the CSI staff gave the necessary tools to the

college students in order to have a productive program. We taught them how to engage students, how to facilitate conversation, and how to appropriately facilitate the subject matter. During training the GCC students performed the activities that the middle and high school students were going to do because it is best to teach by experience and a good way to know the ropes of the program. A memorable moment in the training session was our discussion on gender roles. We split the GCC students up into their respective genders, male and female, and they discussed what roles society assigned their gender. Then they switched and looked over what their gender counterpart thought or had been told by society about their gender. Then we came together as a group and discussed our findings and how society perpetuates the binary system. It was a very thoughtful, intense discussion and you could see that everyone had something to say.



After the Saturday training, the college students were split up into groups of 2-5 and assigned to a classroom at a local school. In the fall 2012 semester we had two schools participate in our program, Hoover High School and Roosevelt Middle School. In Hoover High School, over 300 students, over a span of 5 teachers and 10 classes went through the program. In Roosevelt Middle School, they had 100 students, over a span of 1 teacher and three classes. These middle and high school students varied from guidance classes, ELD 1-2, AVID, and Student Government. We even had ESL and special-ed students participate. The grades ranged from 6-12th. Our GCC students had to facilitate classes with as little as 12 students to as many as 35. They definitely had their hands full.

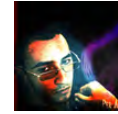
In the Spring 2013 semester we had three schools participate, Hoover High School, Irving Middle School, and Mt. Gleason Middle School. At Hoover, over 200 students, over a span of 2 teachers and six classrooms. At Irving, there was over 20 students, one teacher and one classroom. At Mt. Gleason there were over 200 students, one teacher and 5 classrooms. The classes varied from Honors English, guidance, and ESL. The grades once again ranged from 6-12th. Once again it had proven to be a successful semester for our facilitators.

By the end of the eight weeks, the facilitators gained valuable life experience as well as made a difference in their community. It is through these students that the STAR program is able to provide a remarkable experience for middle school students, as well as high school students. Through the safe and accepting environment that the facilitators provide, the younger students are able to express their thoughts, concerns, and feelings, while teaching them tolerance and respect for others.

I think that this **Cont. Page 12**

9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance: Being Thankful Requires Always Remembering

By: Gor Sargsyan



Throughout most of August and September we held a donation drive for our annual Day of Remembrance in memory of the victims of September 11, 2001. We began the month of with multiple events, which we continuously informed our students about.

We hosted events for ongoing programs such as, Students Talk About Race, Shadow Day, Volunteer Faire, and Students Providing Assistance, Resources and Knowledge peer mentoring program. We also had the President's Volunteer award given out to students who completed one hundred or more hours of community service during the semester.

Out of all these, the event that stood out most to me was the 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance. During this event, our entire office, myself included personally went to classrooms over a period of a few weeks to inform our students about our service project and that we needed their help to make a difference. The goal was to collect school supplies and other items to provide the resources needed for an education to the homeless children of Los Angeles County.

Soon after, we began receiving backpacks, toys, school supplies and money donations toward our cause. People were bringing in backpacks full of supplies, which we hadn't even expected, and only found out when we lifted the backpacks while

packing all the donations. Our Center for Student Involvement Office had partnered with School on Wheels, an organization that works to raise funds and provide tutoring and a mobile education for homeless children.



Toys donated by the GCC Community

The entire campus came together not only to contribute to the service project but always keeping in mind that the purpose of this event was to acknowledge, remember and honor the lives lost in the collapse of the twin towers, and all of the families and loved ones of the victims.

All the people who made donations received their name on a yellow bus sticker, which we put up on the windows of our office to be in view of every passerby. The window eventually became full of bus stickers and it was a wonderful scene that not only showed the commitment of our campus but also demonstrated how much they cared and honored such a day.

The event overall was a great success, we collected thousands of school supplies, arts and crafts, toys, stuffed animals, and backpacks over a period of less than two months. In collaboration with School on Wheels we proudly packed all of the items as we ended the event on the 1st of October and donated everything to the Glendale YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter. This is an annual event and we hope that next year it will be as successful with the continued help of the GCC campus. All of us at the office enjoyed the experience and the children reaped the rewards of your generosity.

And the CSI Humanitarian Award Goes To...

By: Hoover Zariani

The CSI Humanitarian Award was established as an endowment scholarship through the GCC Foundation to acknowledge a student who exemplified service to others.

This is the third year of the award and the recipient this year was Angel Silva.

I originally met Angel when GCC organized a trip to Sacramento in March 2011 to lobby our state senator and representatives on behalf of AB 540 students and ask them to support the California DREAM Act. I served as one of the advisors on the trip. At that time, Angel was new to GCC and a very quiet and softspoken person, to the point of being very shy.

Throughout the next two years, Angel became more and more involved on campus and his interest in journalism led him to be on the staff of GCC's El Vaquero student newspaper.

I believe Angel is a worthy recipient of this scholarship because not only did he fight, advocate, and work for the DREAM Act before it was passed, he also worked so hard to provide information for other undocumented students after the passing of the historic legislation. He helped individual students as well as others in the community to apply for the Deferred Action Status (DACA) signed by President Obama last summer. He remained involved and engaged in this cause even when it didn't seem to be going his way. He never gave up. In addition, he has



Angel at the Mayday 2013 March in Downtown Los Angeles.

worked endlessly on campus with the VOICES club, helping undocumented students with whatever they may need. He never stops.

I'm excited to see him complete his coursework at GCC and move on to Cal State Los Angeles. I know that no matter where he is or what he is involved in, he will always be advocating and pushing for social justice.

As an individual, Angel has grown immensely and I am personally very proud of him and am honored to acknowledge him with the CSI Humanitarian Award for 2013.

would be simple office tasks: filing papers, working on the computer, utilizing the copier, but instead Hoover asked what I wanted to do and what I wanted to accomplish. It surprised me

because you really don't hear those questions often in an internship kind of setting. He asked me to get involved with STAR, SPARK, and other happenings in the office. Surprisingly enough, Hoover wanted me to start interning for him the next day and get involved with the STAR orientation.

As to not sound redundant, I have also written an article about STAR (Students Talk

About Race) which can be found on page 3.

My time with SPARK (Students Providing Assistance Resource and Knowledge) was definitely a fun, interesting one. My role as a student advisor for this

organization was a new one to me. In my past involvement in clubs/organizations, I was always a member, but I had a chance to apply what I've learned and experienced to being an effective advisor. I was more of a facilitator, guiding and advising the exec board in making decisions and planning events. I was challenged in having to not step in all the time even though I had a different way of doing things. I had to remind myself that your leadership skills don't develop if you keep following someone else's way. You have to find your own direction and figure out what works and what doesn't. The exec board was composed of some amazing individuals who each brought something different to the table. There wasn't two of the same personality which is a blessing and a curse.

You have all these people who have different, unique ideas, but they all want them to be implemented, which can prove to be challenging at times. However, during my time with SPARK, they were able to put together a SPARK BBQ, a Shakey's Fundraiser, a Propositions Election Panel, a, hopefully semesterly, Taco Sale, and a Spark Winter Banquet. I've gotten to see these individuals grow and it's been great to be a part of that experience.

What made my internship more fun was the CSI office staff. They are so easy to get along with and what's not to love about them. I found out that one of the office staff worker's (who will remain nameless) ex-boyfriend was the same ex-boyfriend of one of my closest friends at UCSD. How weird and funny is that? And if you are wondering, my close friend and the office staff worker are friends, but can you say awkward. Then there's Asad, who is extremely passionate about law and one of his goals is to become the Duke of Yelp Check-Ins of GCC. It's a pretty fancy title, I guess. Then there's Gor, who I feel looked at instagram a lot and talked about his

English class because he was so concerned about it. Towards the holiday season he would find extreme Christmas music, play it, and blame me for putting it together, he would constantly pull pranks on me. Last, but not least, Eli, who would dress up like Kim Kardashian, or really Kim Kardashian would dress like her, and I will never forget her extremely

sassy attitude. The office workers showed me the playful and serious sides of a community college student. Furthermore, and more importantly, I gained four new friends who definitely have a place to stay if they ever visit UC San Diego.

Along with the student workers, I also got to work with some amazing professional staff. I



Cody & Arsie at Winter Banquet

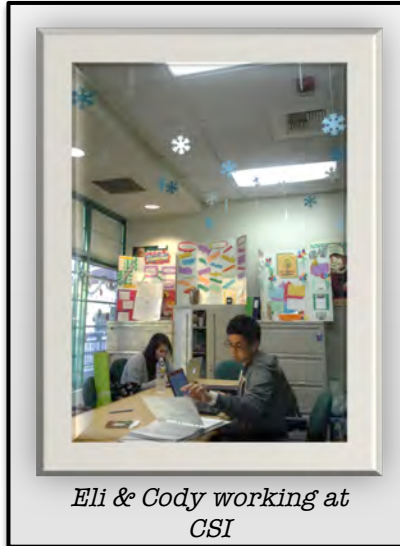


Claudia, Cody and Karla at Winter Banquet

will never forget them because they have taught me so much about student affairs, and what it means to be an individual. There are two things that I will never forget about Nane Kakosian: that she always arrives after 1:30 and that she never wears anything but heels. I remember that she would constantly ask for chocolate or have chocolate in her hand, so much so that she started to be known as the “Candy Lady” around campus. But she didn’t care. She taught me to do what you want and never let anyone tell you otherwise. Be you and be proud.

Working with CSI, I had the privilege of working with the SOS (Student Outreach Services) office. The one program I got to work with over there was Shadow Day, showing high school students the GCC campus. Because of that and SPARK, I got to know Armineh Gourgian. She knew all the students and they her, and many of them called her mom. She always had something wise and existential to say and many times made you think outside the box. She would come into the office and tell me that she was going to move to Armenia the following year. Armineh is an extremely compassionate person and she taught me to love everyone and treat everyone with respect. Treat people the way you want to be treated.

My partner in crime and the person I worked with the most was Cristal Montes. She was very opinionated and definitely not afraid to lay down her iron fists. She told it how it was and was exceptionally assertive. Cristal at times was extremely sassy, and was probably the one person whose wit almost matched mine, even exceeded...on a good day, insert winky face here. In all seriousness, Cristal balanced me out and was everything that I wanted to improve on myself. She was a brilliant role model. She taught me to be more assertive and to be more confident in the



Eli & Cody working at CSI

things that I said. Cristal also taught me to enjoy my 20s and to try as many things as possible. Live life to the fullest.

Then there’s the head honcho, Hoover Zariani. He was passionate about his job and cared about his students so much, it was very evident that he had a good relationship with them. He really defined what it meant to work in student affairs and set the bar for me when I work in the field. One thing that I remember about Hoover was how much he fought to get the word around to both vote in the general election and vote for No on 30 and Yes on 32. Just kidding Hoover, YES on 30 and NO on 32. He had so much dedication to the cause and in the end it paid off. Hoover taught me to be passionate about the work you are doing because in the end, whatever the outcome, it feels amazing and fulfilling. You have to live everyday with your passions driving it because it’s the only way you’ll really experience life. Passion over practicality.

So to say that the time I spent at CSI went well is an obvious understatement. It was an adventure and one of the best decisions that I made during my break. Working at CSI allowed me to reinvent myself and take a better perspective on college and on life. If you have



Cody Sibulo at UCSD

never been over to the CSI office, or to any of the offices in that general area, I highly recommend that you should. You most likely will get infected by not only the Elody virus, but by the staff’s amazing personalities and big smiles. At the end of the day one always reflects on their time and wonders if they have had a productive day. When I reflect at my time off, I can definitely say that my 2/3 time was more productive than ever, unbelievable, and brilliant. Simply brilliant!

opportunities at over 180 non-profit agencies. By participating in these programs, students give back to their communities, obtain work experience, and have a better understanding and opportunity at researching a more suitable future career.

We prepared for the event by decorating the office, making poster boards, and advertising for the open house. We moved some of the furniture and cabinets to make the office look more appealing and open up the space. The student ambassadors made poster boards featuring various programs, which highlighted student learning and how we assist students. One of the best parts was that we had the opportunity to gather student and teacher testimonials of previous successes we have had in various

programs. For our visitors to see direct quotes from students whom not only enjoyed their service work but saw their career choices be directly impacted, was great. In order to entice our fellow Vaqueros we offered light snacks such as

pastries and refreshments.



Open House Poster: General Info



Open House Poster: Programs



Open House Poster: Faculty and Student Testimonials

The office expected to inform the campus that our doors are always open for questions from students and staff of Glendale College. Our staff is well informed about the current issues on campus, from services to opportunities. As a student ambassador, we offer advice to our peers on things such as what a certain professor expects from service learning. Moreover, we are also expected to bring in more volunteers for our community. Volunteers are always welcomed to organizations to lend a helping hand.

Volunteering allows one to get out of their comfort zone and experience new things. For example, at a hospital, you can learn how a day in the life of nurse goes by and see if this is the

career you would like to pursue. Another instance would be at a school. After-school programs always need tutors to help students with their homework.

Because of the budget cuts, these volunteers are highly valuable to the community.

We look forward to turning this into a CSI tradition. Since we always have new programs and new things in development it is good to do this on a regular basis. Hopefully, as people become more informed of our services we will be able to offer more service learning projects and volunteer opportunities. Make sure to join us next time and if you would like to know how to implement service learning into your curriculum, contact us, we are glad to help.

2nd Annual Get on the Bus Donation Drive

By: Elisa Oros



Get on the bus (GOTB) is a program of the Center for Restorative Justice Works, a non-profit organization that reunites children and their currently incarcerated parent on Mother's day and Father's day.

Children and families are separated by crime



and the criminal justice system. This program believes that having some sort of contact, whether it is through visits or letters, kids grow up to understand that their parent did not leave them by choice. Kids also demonstrate better emotions and do not hold resentment and also are better adjusted socially.

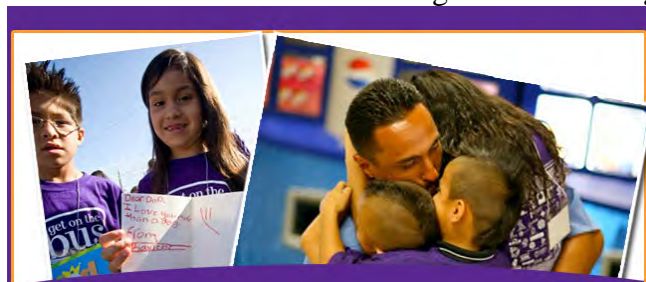
The expense and distance of travel to the parents is an obstacle that the families of these children face. The GOTB program gives them free transportation that takes them to see their parent in prison; they spend great quality time with them. The child is given a travel bag for the trip to prison and the parent is given a comfort bag along with a photo of their child. Along with the bags, the families are also provided with meals during the visit: breakfast, snacks, lunch and dinner.

This organization tries to heal the scar that is created when parents are incarcerated. Many of the statistics that this organization have stated include the following:

- 1 in 5 of these children have witnessed their parent's arrest,

- the prisons that their parents are held in, are often more than 100 miles away from their home
- Children who have regular reunions with their parents have lower rates of recidivism for the parent and improve family reunification following the parent's release.

The SPARK program and the entire campus came together for the second time to help this amazing organization. We held our 2nd annual donation drive and once again it was an incredible success thanks to the students, faculty and staff from Glendale Community College. With their help, we were able to provide the parent a comfort bag and a travel bag for the child. We



asked for donations of coloring books, crayons, healthy snacks, pens/pencils, postcards, envelopes,

postage stamps, photo frames and toys. This year, the office received a great amount of donations for these kids.

In the span of 2 months and countless class presentations, flyers, and emails later we donated over 2,000 items. Our campus did an amazing job bringing in hundreds of books, pens and pencils and even cash donations. We collected enough to buy and donate a digital camera to the organization. Karen from GOTB seemed incredible happy with all the donations and even gave our SPARK students whom organized this whole event T-shirts as a thank you for their hard work and dedication.

I hope that many more students participate in this donation drive in the years to come; after all, it is for a great cause.



Faire: Opportunity at your Fingertips

By: Asad Imam

Additions by: Cristal Montes



Bi-annually the Center for Student Involvement hosts a volunteer faire on campus in an effort to spark the interests of students in providing service to the various distinguished agencies in the community. This year the fall fair was on October 2nd and the Spring faire was on March 12th. There were over 20 agencies that attended each and they included, but were not limited to, the fields of law, policing, education, librarianship, health, animal welfare, social work, and sports. Nane Kakosian coordinated the faires with the help of student ambassadors from the CSI office. While an event like this takes a bit of planning, it is all in the benefit of the campus community and a way for the Vaqueros to give back to the community that has supported it for over 85 years.

As a student ambassador at CSI, I had the opportunity to not only serve as a liaison but also gain valuable knowledge in regards to the agencies that sparked my interest. Being a political science major with a deep interest in the field of law and international affairs, the two agencies that caught my attention were the International Rescue Committee and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. These two agencies provide opportunities for GCC students to gain valuable experience and have a chance for self-fulfillment by making a difference in the lives of those affected by injustice and various other socio-political conflicts half way across the world. At times students do not volunteer because they feel as if they are not getting anything back in the form of compensation. Connecting with these agencies can be a key factor and reference when applying for jobs in the future. The volunteer faires connect students with such agencies and allows them to have that one extracurricular on their resumes that will amaze any job recruiter or H.R. personnel.

Brooke Applegate, a representative from Kidspace Children's Museum had nothing but positive comments in regards to the volunteer faires, "I definitely think that these faires are beneficial to the GCC community. I personally started off volunteering at organizations like this one while at PCC and now I've been able to turn it into a career." The Kidspace Children's Museum is an organization that specializes in interactive education for children. Applegate added that since

the state struggles with the budget deficit, many arts and science programs are being cut. Kidspace Children's Museum is an opportunity for interactive learning for children using the arts and sciences that the children might be missing at their schools. There were at least two GCC students at the latest volunteer orientation at Kidspace and Applegate expects more students from the volunteer faire to show up in the latter orientations based upon their availability. Additionally, Taylor Wilkerson from My Friend's Place, an organization that inspires homeless youth to build self-sufficient lives, excitedly told me that she had over 15 new GCC volunteers sign up for the orientation and at least one who had already started volunteering.

The Center for Student Involvement feels a sense of accomplishment every time a student walks into the office and picks up one of the several colored half-sheets on which the students signs up for volunteering or service learning. There is no doubt that volunteer service is beneficial to the community but on a micro-level, if a student is able to help the community and add a wonderful extracurricular activity to their resume then it becomes a win-win situation. No one loses by doing volunteer work. While many of our dedicated students at GCC do sacrifice study and work time to perform such duties, they are rewarded many times over. Glendale Community College is an institution that takes great pride in being able to provide the community with service who in return are able to groom these students for the world of tomorrow. These respective agencies that attended the volunteer faire are absolutely dedicated to their mission statements and repeatedly turn to GCC as a medium through which they gain educated, mature, leaders for their field.

Providing this service is one of our utmost important duties and every year we look for ways to improve and expand by reaching more students and agencies. In the next school year we wish to do just that starting with our Fall 2013 Faire on September 18th, come and join us and find the right service project for you.

SPARK: Igniting the Fuse for a Brighter Future

By: Elisa Oros



This year once again the Students Providing Assistance Resources and Knowledge (SPARK) peer-mentoring program started the school year with the Kick-Off Day.



Mentors at training during Diversity Activity

The Kick-Off day is usually held a week before the first day of the school year. On that day the mentees meet their trained mentors. Before meeting each other there is an introduction of what SPARK is really about. The advisors and board members talk about how anxious they are to meet everyone. This day is full with excitement because you get to make new friends, we have fun activities and have delicious food.

Aside from having lunch and the activities, the mentors later invite all their mentees on a campus tour. As experienced freshmen, we know the feeling of going crazy searching for your classes on the first day of school. The mentors show their mentees where their classes are located along with all the important offices



Mentees at Kick off Day Orientation

on campus.

On the day of the Kick-Off, our mission was to make our mentees feel comfortable when coming to GCC. We wanted to make the transition from high school to college easier because it's not fun and it is extremely difficult to go on this journey by yourself. Overall, the kick off day was a great success with over 100 attendees and extremely motivated students.

Keeping with SPARK tradition once the semester began we had many fundraisers and campus activities from a picnic, to candy sales and a propositions panel for the elections in collaboration with VOICES. Yet, the one event that best showed the capabilities and dedication of the SPARK students

was the Taco Sale held both in the fall and again in the spring. This event was very successful thanks to our SPARK cabinet members, supporters and devoted volunteers.

The cabinet and the volunteers prepared the event many days in advance. The board members along with other helpers made flyers and promoted the Taco Sale in any possible way they could such as on the Glendale website, email and Facebook. They made plans of how to set up the grill, chips, drinks and toppings for the tacos. We were very fortunate to have Jarritos donate all our drinks.

On the days of the Taco Sales we reserved our appetites knowing that the tacos were being made with dedicated cooks. We tried to satisfy everybody's taste by having beef, chicken and even a vegetarian option, soy chorizo tacos. The volunteers ran up and down the stairs to set up the Taco stand while others stayed up stairs preparing the



SPARK members at Taco Sale

toppings. A few messes were made and some clothes were stained, but it was all worth it once we saw the great success of the events. The tacos were delicious! People enjoyed them with some chips and a nice and cold Jarrito's soda. With the money raised, we were able to give over 10 scholarships to deserving members of SPARK. The scholarships were awarded on the day of the end of the year banquet.

The neat part about these two events is that it brings all members of SPARK together. As a unit we work and collaborate to create events not only for other SPARK students but also for the student body as a whole. We all get to hang out which can be quite difficult since students tend to be busy with school and work. Hopefully we can continue events like these in the future and raise more funds while bonding with our peers.



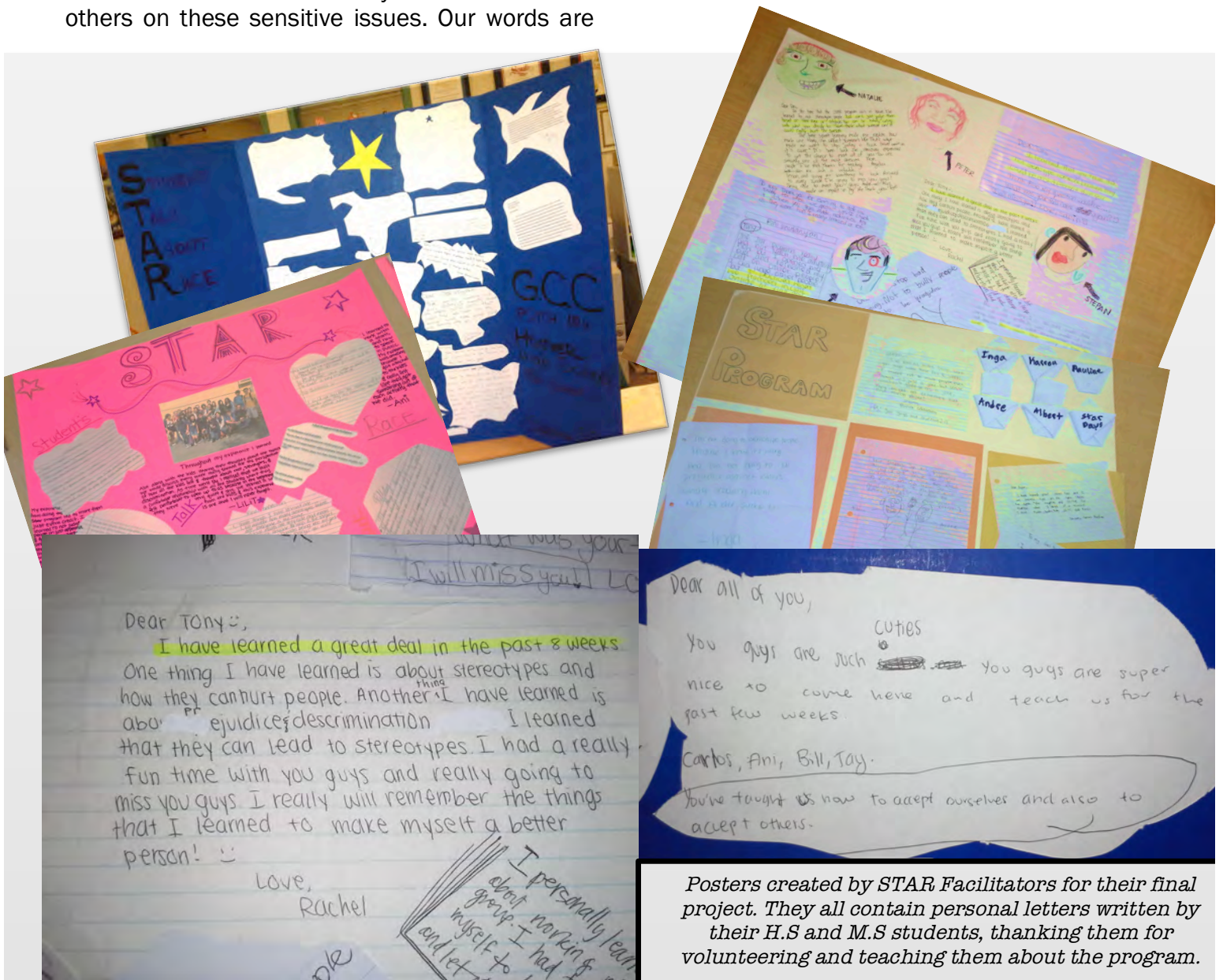
Mentors at Training during River of Life Activity

STAR: CONT. FROM PAGE 3

program is extraordinary. I have personally never heard of it until I came to Glendale Community College. To my understanding, colleges and universities all around California train college students to facilitate STAR to more than 76 schools and over 18,000 students. These social justice issues have become more prevalent in our society and it is being talked about more in television, movies, politics, and in life. It is our propensity to form opinions by watching and listening to these various types of mass communication. However, it is more important than ever for students, no matter the age, to have the necessary tools to form an educated opinion on these issues. Furthermore, STAR teaches students to effectively communicate with others on these sensitive issues. Our words are

powerful, and what you say affects the people who hear them. The way I see it, STAR is trying to accomplish making the world a better place to live in through educating young people. We are trying to make them more inclusive and as a result, make the world more inclusive. What we teach them has a direct correlation to how they act and how society progresses in the future.

The STAR program will be available for students to join during the Fall of 2013 along with the training. If you would like to take part of this memorable experience and become a facilitator, please come speak to one of our friendly staff at the CSI office in SM 267.



Posters created by STAR Facilitators for their final project. They all contain personal letters written by their H.S and M.S students, thanking them for volunteering and teaching them about the program.

Through the Eyes of Student Ambassadors

My favorite event this semester would probably have to be all of the holiday decorating. Even though I didn't make much of a contribution to the fun activities we did in preparation I enjoyed watching Cristal and Cody's, our intern, creativity expressed in multiple areas as I worked at the desk. The results were also phenomenal, every time there would be some new creation on the door or the ceiling of the office. So Halloween and Christmas preparations were really interesting at the office. Even though there was no judging of the Christmas decorations between Student Outreach Services office and Center for Student Involvement office, I think CSI is the clear winner with the camouflaged door and Cody's beautifully constructed star shaped origami creations. Things like this make working here worthwhile as well as the new people I meet and the warm-hearted environment I work in.

By: Gor Sargsyan



My favorite event from this semester was the taco sale by SPARK. As a mentor, I saw how everyone in the program was able to work together for our first food sale. The taco sale was very successful not only because the food tasted good but also the profit the club made. The profit is going to student scholarships in the program for those most deserving and involved. It was also a great opportunity to get the word out about the program to the entire campus community. Most of the staff didn't know what the program entailed so it was good to get our name out there.

By: Karla Salazar



From the many successful events that the Center for Student

Involvement has held, my favorite of them was the Volunteer Faire. This faire invited the Volunteer Coordinators that the office is in contact with to come to our campus. In this event, the coordinators setup a recruitment table in Plaza Vaquero along with the CSI office. The purpose is to recruit students that are seeking community service, either for a great experience for their major or service learning. This semester, the office welcomed 23 volunteer coordinators. We gave them a great and warm welcome along with a fresh sandwich from subway and fresh cookies. The reason why this was one of my favorite events is because it is exactly what the students at GCC need. Students need to be aware that the community never forgets them so why should they? They also need to know that they should return to the community where they grew up so they can motivate future generations in their education and pride for their home. It's only right to repay to the community where you grew up.

By: Elisa Oros



One of my favorite events during the Spring of 2013 was decorating the office for Easter. Even before I started working for CSI, I noticed that there was always a constant competition between S.O.S. and C.S.I. when it came to decorating the offices during special occasions or holidays. It was only until I was hired that I was able to partake in this fun competition and put my two cents. It was great to bump into my friends who work at S.O.S. and mock them about whose decorations were better. I specially enjoyed decorating the office for Easter because we were each given Easter characters that resembled our looks or personality. It was fun to see how everyone resembled the characters and colored them to their liking thus further personalizing them. The final result was a family of characters that resembled the working family, that I feel I've become a part of this last semester. Competing with the S.O.S. office is not only fun but it gives the student workers a chance to contribute to the appearance of the office and make it their own. I look forward to decorating the office many more times and making our office, the winning office!

By: Andrea Gomez



Letter from the Director

The past 18 months have been an extremely challenging one in that in addition to my regular duties, I've had to take on additional responsibilities on campus. During this time, CSI has been fortunate enough to have someone so talented and dedicated as Cristal Montes to help with the reassigned time. Cristal has been amazing in keeping things going at a time when they could have easily been discontinued or stopped.

The Center accomplished a lot this past year with special projects as well as ongoing activities. I am proud to report the number of students involved and the hours of service they provided to the community from these special projects, some of which include:

Students Talk About Race Program (STAR) – 78 mentors/facilitators were placed at 5 different GUSD and LAUSD schools and delivered the lessons of the program to over 2,000 students for a total of 1,420 hours of mentoring.

Mentoring and Tutoring for Higher Education (MATHE) – Provided 104 Math tutors to 9 different local high schools in GUSD and LAUSD to over 1,200 students for a total of 1,631 hours of tutoring.

Students Providing Access Resources and Knowledge (SPARK) – Over 120 mentors and mentees participated in activities for this peer mentoring program, spending over 1,464 hours on fundraising, recreational, and educational activities.

In fact, students have demonstrated amazing outcomes from these programs and we will be publishing an online magazine with highlights of these programs.

In addition, this past year, with the assistance of the Service Learning Committee, we revised our student learning outcomes to get a better feel for what students are gaining out of their service projects. The summary of the results for the newly revised survey will be featured in a future newsletter.

We were also fortunate enough to work with ASGCC to establish an endowment scholarship for a first year student in the SPARK program who, as a mentee, is involved with the program and embodies the active mentor we are looking to develop in the program.

Some additional statistics for the 2012-2013: Over 13,123 hours of service were completed by approximately 1,200 students. This included service learning and volunteer students.

There are many other new and exciting challenges coming up for next year and we will be sharing more in future newsletters...stay tuned.

Hoover Zariani

Behind the Scenes of CSI

By: Hoover Zariani

Much of the work with the students in our program is done on a daily basis and through our office located in Sierra Madre.

However, much of what goes unnoticed is how the policies and guidelines we use for our program are developed. Majority of program decisions are made with the input and advice of our Service Learning Subcommittee, which meets monthly during the fall and spring semesters.

This year, the committee discussed and developed policy on a number of issues, including the following:

Dealing with Discriminatory Issues –

As students are placed in the community, there are times that discrimination takes place. The committee tackled this in the spring semester.

Background Checks for Schools – Since the CSI program works closely with many schools, the issue was raised whether GCC

needs to do background checks on students before they are placed in k-12 schools. The committee recommended to further investigate the issue and possibly checking students under the Megan’s Law registry for those working with minors.

Setting Up Endowment Scholarship –

The committee advised and assisted with developing the guidelines for the new endowment scholarship for the SPARK program.

Student Learning Outcome Measure –

Members assisted in revising the SLO survey to encompass more details that will collect more quantitative information about what students actually learned.

These are just a few of the issues tackled by the committee. We will be working in the coming year to more closely align our various program objectives with the college mission and educational master plan.



President's Volunteer Award: GCC Leo's Club



SPARK Get on the Bus Donor Badges





THANK YOU!

Nothing is ever accomplished by one person and no individual moves a mountain by him or herself. Same is true for the Center for Student Involvement. We would like to acknowledge those who played a pivotal role in our success in the past year...and we know we may have missed some of you, but please know you are in our thoughts.

Armineh Gourgian - for all the SPARK work and always supporting students in their endeavors.

Dr. Paul Schlossman - for being there as a great support for whatever we need.

Arman Marukyan - for always being there and supporting SPARK, our programs, and us individually.

ASGCC- for providing funding and much needed support for so many of the things we have done this past year.

Dr. Jessica Gillooly - for bringing us together with Get on the Bus to form a partnership that helps those who are in the most need.

Megan Olsen - for being so open to starting a service-learning project with your class.

Joanna Saporito - who embodies and cherishes service learning and student development...and your ways of inspiring students.

Garry Massion – for your connection to the high schools so that we could provide math tutoring to hundreds of students.

Dr. Pat Hurley - for the Literacy Work

Study Program funds, which support our students working in schools in the community.

Sang Nam - for all the support with Student Employment program.

Danny Zamora, Louie Garza, and Victor Leyva - for all their help with anything we needed (and last minute) throughout the year.

Marie Bartholomew - for taking the initiative to collect materials from the Garfield campus for our various drives throughout the year.

Olga Tovar - for all the help with Get on the Bus project.

Alen Andriassian - for the advice and encouragement that kept us going.

Ani Goodbarian - for not losing your mind and staying calm with all our various requests from the Business Office.

The entire staff of ***Student Outreach Services*** for support and resources they provided for various programs.

All the Service Learning Subcommittee members for helping guide us with their ideas and wisdom this past year, including ***Ellen Oppenberg, Theresa Lorch, Denise Leong-Brattain, Jing Johnson, Armineh Gourgian***, and the student representatives ***Karla Salazar, Harut Yerikyan and Daniela Contreras***.

And finally, to ***VOICES*** student club who helped us in many, many ways throughout the year and their support to strengthen our programs.

UPCOMING EVENTS SUMMER/FALL 2013

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| SPARK Mentor Training | July 12 & July 19 |
| Fall Priority Registration Begins | July 15 |
| Summer Semester Ends | August 1 |
| Fall Open Registration | August 5 |
| SPARK Advisory Board Application Due | August 16 |
| SPARK Mentee Orientation | August 19, 21 & 22 |
| SPARK Advisory Board Letter of Rec. | August 23 |
| SPARK Kick Off Day | August 28 |
| Fall Semester Begins | September 3 |
| Volunteer Faire | September 18 |
| STAR Application Due | September 19 |
| STAR Training | September 21 |
| SPARK Welcome BBQ | September 27 |

News from the Center

2012-2013

CSI Staff

Hoover Zariani
Nane Kakosian
Cristal Montes
Cody Sibulo

Director
Tutor Coordinator
Program Assistant
Intern

CSI Student Ambassadors

Asad Imam
Andrea Agudelo-Gomez
Elisa Oros
Karla Salazar
Gor Sargsyan

News from the CENTER

Center for Student Involvement

1500 N. Verdugo Rd.
Glendale, CA 91208

www.glendale.edu/csi



This school year brought us many gifts and talented student ambassadors. Although we are sad to see them go we are happy and proud.

Thank you and good luck!

Asad Imam
Gor Sargsyan
Karla Salazar

USC
UC San Diego
Moved out of state, we hope she continues her educational goals

A special Thank you to our incredible intern, **Cody Sibulo**, you are forever welcome in our office!