



San Bernardino
Valley College

President's Board Report

October 5, 2009

“I Am A Man. I Can Do Math!”

More than 100 students from seven different high schools loudly and confidently repeated this chant led by SBVC Professor of the Year Michael Mayne at the inaugural “Empowering Men in Mathematics” field day event on Friday, September 18th, 2009.

A brainchild of the SBVC Mathematics Department, the interactive event’s goal was to inform young men in underserved populations about the importance of mathematics to their future success.

The majority of the morning was filled with the conveying of wisdom from an all-star panel of successful professional men from a variety of different cultural backgrounds:

- Kermit Alexander – Former professional football player
- Deputy Zach Beckum – San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department
- Dr. Shelton Charles – Post-doctoral researcher, Loma Linda University
- Dr. Anthony Fenison – Local orthopedic surgeon
- Dr. Monte Perez – President, Riverside Community College, Moreno Valley campus
- Mr. Bill Lomax – Senior Portfolio Manager for the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

“The more I ran away from math, the more it found me. I became a cop so that I wouldn’t have to do math, but I quickly found out that accident investigations and justifying the rationale behind speeding tickets required a lot of math,” said Deputy Sheriff Zach Beckum. “You’re going to need it anyway, and it can only help you become smarter. There aren’t a lot of smart people in jail.”

Throughout the morning the speakers infused their comments with passionate pleas to take math seriously. From their bountiful life and professional experiences in medical school, on the football field, and in business, the panel dished out wisdom to teenage boys whom they’d never before met on the critical nature of



Pacific High School students observe the x-ray of one of Dr. Anthony Fenison’s patients who required a precisely measured screw to be inserted into his broken leg.



Dr. Anthony Fenison (at right) shares the importance of math while Riverside Community College, Moreno Valley Campus President Dr. Monte Perez (at left) looks on. (photo by Daniel Nguyen)

mathematics in the workplace, within their family, and for their own future.

Professor Mayne shared how education can open the doors to helping you choose what you want to do with your life—as opposed to living life without education where people will be telling them what to do.

“Math is not hard, it’s just new. At one point in our life, we thought tying shoes, getting dressed and throwing a football were hard. As it turned out, those things were not hard, they were just new and they needed practice. Math is no different,” Dr. Fenison said. “We need more minorities in math-based professions and it’s important to practice now because it’s impossible to get away from it.”



Kermit Alexander, 14-year NFL veteran with the San Francisco 49ers and L.A. Rams discussed how he utilized math to be successful on the field.

Training Tomorrow’s Media Professionals

Heavy enrollment across campus hasn’t missed the SBVC Radio/TV/Film (RTVF) program that is preparing tomorrow’s screenwriters, producers, broadcast engineers, video camera operators and others for career opportunities.

Led by faculty member Dr. Diane Dusick, the program is now supporting a 24/7/365 radio station called KJRP and a campus television station, RTVF-SB. Seen and heard online and in the campus cafeteria, the students are learning the details of what it takes to be program directors and produce broadcast-ready material.

“I’ve really noticed a change in the behavior of our students who are really taking things more seriously,” said Dusick. “We’re seeing many students come to our program who already have B.A. degrees in other fields because they are looking for new skills—and I think that’s because our program really is the best in the area.”



With new curriculum that Dr. Dusick describes as an RTVF Academy, the “scaffolding” effect of offering concurrently scheduled classes throughout the day helps create synergy between the classes during projects. For example, students in the scriptwriting class produce content that has to be staged and lighted by the production classes. Later on in the production process, students in acting classes make their contributions while students in the editing classes fine-tune the final product.

“We provide a lot of hands-on work for students. They are always in production and honing their skills to prepare for a job in a production studio or elsewhere,” said RTVF adjunct professor Kam Kalanui. “Because of our relationship with KVCR, students aren’t just learning how to use a \$5,000 camera, they are seeing \$100,000 cameras in use and that tends to get students’ attention.”

“Our program has grown so much and is 100% articulated with the radio/TV/film program at Cal State San Bernardino,” Dusick said. “Every student walks out of our program as a producer. My students are doing a much higher level of production than I did during my Master’s program decades ago.”

Assemblymember Wilmer Amina Carter Celebrates Constitution Day at SBVC

California State Assemblymember Wilmer Amina Carter spoke to a gathering of students and staff on Thursday, September 17th to celebrate Constitution Day with constituents in her District at her alma mater of SBVC.

Her comments touched on the importance of the Constitution's language that ensures that people cannot be denied the right to vote and continued by sharing her personal story about capitalizing on the critical right to vote.

“When you cast a vote, you speak to power,” Carter said. “My grandfather didn't have a vote and I've never missed a vote yet—not even if it was for dog-catcher.”

Carter answered a question from an SBVC student about some of the most important lessons she learned in leadership when she was younger.

“I used to always be the secretary in community service groups because I was shy and didn't think I could be the president or vice president,” Carter admitted. “After a while, I found that I was actually doing a lot of the work and realized that I could be the top leader and decided to serve in larger leadership roles.”

Organized by the Associated Student Government, the day also included a voter registration drive by volunteers from the League of Women Voters.



(From L to R): SBVC President Dr. Debra Daniels, Assemblymember Wilmer Amina Carter, SBVC Interim Vice President of Instruction, Dr. Kay Ragan and SBVC Dean, Criminal Justice, MCHS Administrator and Perkins Grant, Dr. Gloria Fisher

SBVC Gets Healthy With Student Health 101

After the National College Health Assessment (NCHA) survey in the spring of 2009 identified many re-occurring health needs for students on campus, the SBVC Student Health Services group made the decision to secure an intervention technique that

will benefit the entire campus community. The staff set up a contract with Student Health 101—an online, campus-customizable portal providing the latest in student health and wellness information.



In 2002, a team of multi-disciplined physicians got together with the goal of actively promoting better health throughout college campuses. Their collective experience had demonstrated that students often feel

inhibited about proactively seeking the advice of physicians or campus healthcare providers regarding specific health concerns.

Student Health 101 topics will include timely campus-specific health and wellness information, videos and more. Major health issues that plague campuses on a daily basis like nutrition, alcohol/drug abuse, unhealthy sexual practices, depression, anxiety and fatigue will be covered in fresh, unique ways designed to engage both students and parents on these health issues and hundreds more.

“This tool is specifically designed to speak directly to this generation of students. It is very interactive and allows them to blog and record their responses to the information. We felt it was a venue that would resonate with our population,” said Student Health Services Coordinator, Elaine Akers. “Because it puts out info that addresses things like stress, relationships, sleep and more issues that our students struggle with, I think our students can really benefit from Student Health 101.”

To promote the arrival of this new resource, an icon was placed on the desktop screens of all the dozens of computers in the ACAD Lab and a link on the front page of www.valleycollege.edu that both lead directly to the latest online issue of Student Health 101.

“This can also be a good tool for instruction and other groups on campus because they can pull relevant topics and statistics on health and wellness topics in their class,” Akers said. “Students that have gone through the online magazine have expressed how much they appreciate the information there, and we’ll be getting monthly data on how many students viewed the information or registered for the site.”

SBVC students can access all of Student Health 101 for free by visiting <http://readsh101.com/sbccd.html>.

SBVC Campus is Atwitter with Twitter

Launched in August by the Office of Marketing & Public Relations, SBVC’s Twitter page is aimed at keeping students informed and on track to succeed. After its launch in August, this electronic page (found at www.twitter.com/valleycollege) has shared parking tips, offered free bus passes, announced new office hours, and shared other information specifically for SBVC students.



With more than 20 million users in the United States alone, Twitter is a free social networking and micro-blogging service that enables its users to send and read messages known as tweets. Tweets are text-based posts of up to 140 characters displayed on the author's profile page and delivered to the author's subscribers who are known as followers.

Utilized by celebrities, the media and all-sized organizations around the world to create conversations and connect people with information, Twitter has become an unavoidable term in 2009 and is a commonly-used communication tool for the younger generation.

Although it will primarily be utilized to keep students informed of events and opportunities around campus, it will also be available to aid in communication during times of crisis or emergency.

Student Profile: BJ Vann – A Sporting Second Chance

As a sophomore at San Bernardino High School only three years ago, Bryjon (BJ) Vann was a budding star in a variety of sports. From one season to the next, BJ thought about college only with the potential of an accompanying athletic scholarship.

“I told myself that if I didn’t get a scholarship from sports, there’s no way I could afford college,” Vann said.

As one of 10 kids in his family, BJ grew up in rough neighborhoods and learned a lot about survival in a relatively short amount of time

“Days after moving into our new apartment, a neighbor was murdered and I still remember the blood being hosed off the sidewalk,” BJ said. “Washing clothes by hand, sleeping on the floor—that’s nothing new to me.”

After a frightening football injury that revealed an irregularity in his brain, the doctor ordered the unthinkable. Because of the risk of permanent injury, BJ was directed to avoid all types of contact sports.

It wasn’t until his junior year that BJ thought seriously about college now that his dreams of a career in sports were no longer plausible. And, by the time he was a senior, BJ knew that he wanted to be a coach and teach, but didn’t seriously consider college due to the lack of a reasonable way to pay for it.

That all changed when SBVC’s Herb English (Director of EOP&S/CARE) and Clyde Williams (Outreach Specialist) visited San Bernardino High School to promote the newly-expanded Valley-Bound Commitment that provides the first year of college entirely free for local high school students. BJ applied for the program, was accepted, and started taking classes as one of 90 new freshmen in the Valley-Bound Commitment Program at SBVC in August of 2009.

“I’m thankful for this opportunity and am looking forward to giving back to the community,” BJ said. “My grandfather used to say ‘Why me?’, but I’m into asking ‘Why not?’. I hope that I can share that perspective and some of my life experiences as a coach and teacher to help other kids deal with the challenges in their life.”



Bryjon (BJ) Vann

Save The Date

Monday, October 26 – Thursday, October 29 - (*various times*)

Red Ribbon Week – Various locations

Organized by the Human Services Club and other groups on campus, a variety of activities are planned including pledge tables, rallies, fundraising and informational booths/tables, a candlelight memorial and an alcohol/drug agency forum. For more information, contact Joan Harter at 909.557.0250.

Wednesday, December 2 – Sunday, December 6 - (*various times*)

You're A Good Man Charlie Brown – SBVC Auditorium

The SBVC Theatre Department presents the family-friendly production based on the comic strip created by Charles M. Schulz. More than 30 cast members will grace the stage in a series of skits, songs and vignettes featuring the "Peanuts" characters from the comic strip created by Charles M. Schulz. For more info, contact Denise Dales Jacobs at 909.384.8243.