

# STUDENT NEWS

JANUARY 2008, ISSUE 12



## News From the Principal, Maria E. Romero

Happy New Year to all of you! We hope that you enjoyed the holidays and are ready to start the new year off with new or renewed goals to finish up that GED certificate, high school diploma, nursing certificate, or to continue improving your English. The most important thing about a goal is having one! Vince Lombardi, a famous football coach for the Green Bay Packers, made a very important statement that we should remember and think about daily.

"The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their com-

mitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor." Commitment to excellence means that you will do the very best that you can in how you live your life whether it is in your work, your relationships, or your learning. It doesn't mean that one won't make mistakes; but it means that you do continue to work at being the best that you can at whatever you do, and you continue to learn and grow and contribute all that you can to your family, your work and yourself.

Commitment means "sticking to it!" How many times do we say "I

can't lose weight, I can't attend school regularly, I can't find time to study, I can't make more time for my kids, I can't ....???" "I can't..." is what one says when one is not committed to doing it. Many people start off the year by making new resolutions/setting goals, but will they be successful? That all depends on their commitment!

May "2008" be a successful and rewarding year for you! Fresno Adult School is committed to helping you accomplish your goals. Stick to them!

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From left to right, new CTE Counselor, Pang Vangvi, CTE Registration, Nancy Alderete, and SAP Counselor, Geoff Smith.

## New at Fresno Adult School

January is a time for new beginnings. Fresno Adult School is changing to serve our students better as well! New in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) department is **Pang Vangvi**. She comes to us from Sunnyside High School with many years of experience as a counselor and student advocate. Ms. Vangvi will be working with new FAS students, counseling them on the various programs available here at FAS. Ms. Vangvi's office will be located in the main office directly behind the CTE front desk area.

**Nancy Alderete** will be moving to the Testing Center, with her new office area located in Room 102. Ms. Alderete will continue to meet with and place daytime CTE students into various programs when they complete their SSW requirement. She will continue to coordinate the CNA program and MA program registration process in Room 102. She'll work with CalWORKs students on attendance and absence issues. Ms. Alderete will also be conducting the CTE Enrollment Sessions.

**Geoff Smith** has joined our staff as the Student Assistance Program (SAP) counselor from Comprehensive Youth Services. While dealing with crises is one of the important services provided by the SAP counselor, he offers our students many other services. Among these include support for the following issues:

- \* Alcohol and drug issues
- \* School related problems
- \* Depression & suicide
- \* Anger management
- \* Physical, emotional, & sexual abuse.
- \* Eating disorders

\* Family conflict issues  
\* Cultural & ethnic issues  
This is only an example of some of the issues that Mr. Smith can work on with students. He is located in the main office near the CTE counter. Students can also participate in the Let's Talk lunchtime program on Thursday's during the lunch period in Room 106. Watch for monthly updates from Mr. Smith in the Student News. Welcome these staff members to their new positions. They look forward to serving you in 2008.

# Student News

## Student of the Month



ESL instructor, John Richardson and January Student of the month, Cipriano Santos.

Cipriano Santos was nominated for student of the month by John Richardson, ESL instructor. In submitting his student, Mr. Richardson wrote, "Cipriano

has been an incredible inspiration to students and teachers alike. As a result of a serious work injury, he was confined to a wheelchair. Realizing that he had to learn new skills to re-enter the workforce, he came back to school to study ESL, ABE and vocational coursework. Cipriano serves as a positive role model for all the students due to his enthusiastic desire to learn. In addition, he encourages students to go after their dreams and to study hard." Cipriano has been a student at Fresno Adult School off and on since 2000. He began taking ESL classes and quickly rose in his English

ability. He recently began taking Adult Basic Education classes (ABE). He felt a strong need to learn more math so he could help his children with their education. He wants them to know how important getting an education is. By taking classes at Fresno Adult School, he has been able to assist his children, ages 14, 8, and 6 years, with their school work. Students like Cipriano are an inspiration to all of us at Fresno Adult School. Join us in congratulating him on his dedication to his education and his desire to learn as we honor him as the January Student of the Month.

## Hmong New Year Celebration



Student Cher Ker Thao plays the Xim Xaus.

ESL instructor Vang Moua & members of her class in traditional Hmong dress.

Fresno Adult School celebrated the Hmong New Year on Thursday, December 13th. May Vue, Say Xiong, and Stacy Her, Fresno Adult School staff members, were instrumental in the success of this event. These women brought in traditional Hmong clothing for many of the office staff to wear during the event. During the hour-long event, students and staff modeled their traditional Hmong clothing. Hmong dancers Gao Hmong Long Cheng, Cher Ker Thao FAS student musician, and talented singers Cha Mee Xiong and Jerry Her entertained

Budget Tech, Stacy Her contributed traditional clothing for FAS staff members and Testing Tech, Say Xiong organized this great event.

the crowd. FUSD school board members, Dr. Tony Vang, Carol Mills, and Valerie Davis, were on campus to participate in the festivities. FAS was also honored to have Councilman Blong Xiong participate in our activities. Fresno Adult School is proud to celebrate its cultural diversity. Thank you to all of the staff and students who participated and made this a great event.



Thanks to Meng Vue from Studio Vue and Don Rose for taking pictures of the event.



May Vue, Custodian and principal Maria Romero.



Fresno Adult School staff dressed by our Hmong FAS family. We were all so honored to wear the traditional clothing of their heritage.

## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In January, Fresno Adult School will celebrate the life and contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Many student centered activities are planned to celebrate his birthday and to honor the contributions of this great man.

Dr. King's influence on the strategies and goals of the Civil Rights Movement were firmly rooted in his belief for the attainment of social equality through non-violence. After his 1959 visit with Gandhi, Dr. King in a radio program reflected:

"Since being in India, I am more convinced than ever before that the method of non-violence resistance is the most powerful weapon available to oppressed people in their struggle for justice and human dignity. In a real sense, Mahatma Gandhi embodied in his life certain universal principles that are inherent in the moral structure of the universe." Gandhi's teachings of non-violent resistance also influenced César Chávez's fight for the recognition and protection of farm workers' rights in California. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and César Chávez shared common beliefs and communicated throughout their life long struggle for civil and constitutional rights.

Dr. King's writings and actions are a testament to his philosophical beliefs. He spoke against segrega-

tion, for labor rights, and for blacks' rights to vote. Eventually, the marches and protests led to the passage in Congress of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Dr King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his devotion to the non-violent movement to end discrimination and racial prejudice. Time Magazine also recognized Dr. King as Man of The Year in December of 1964. In one of his most memorable speeches delivered in Memphis, Tennessee (1968) Dr. King closed his "I've been to the mountaintop" speech with the following:

"Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I am not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land. And I am happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming



of the Lord."

The following day, April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated.

Many countries and organizations recognized Dr. King's Legacy for social justice through non-violence, much like Mahatma Gandhi and Cesar Chavez. In 1983, President Reagan established a federal holiday in commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Fresno Adult School joins the celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's life and legacy on January 21, 2008.

—Martha Turnipseed  
ASE Instructor



## Black History Month Poster Contest

Students are encouraged to participate in the Black History Month poster contest. Poster board may be picked up in the Student Assistance Center (SAC), Room 108 beginning Monday, January 14th. All entries will be due to the SAC on Friday, January 15th by 3 pm.

The poster entries should

depict the theme: Great African Americans in history.

**PRIZES for the poster contest will be: \$100 for the 1st place, \$75 for the 2nd place, \$50 for 3rd, and \$25 for 4th place winners.** Entries will be judged by Fresno Adult School staff on Monday and Tuesday January 28th & 29th.

Winners will be an-

nounced on Wednesday, January 30th during the lunch period in the foyer.

Winning poster will be judged based on the following criteria:

- Depiction of theme
- Artistic expression
- How moving is the message of the poster
- Creative use of materials

Submitted materials must be appropriate for a Fresno

Unified School campus.

Any posters containing inappropriate materials will not be accepted. FAS does not guarantee the return of poster to student.

Winning posters will be on display for the February Art Hop that will take place at FAS on February 7th.

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**We're on the web**

[www.fresnoadultschool.com](http://www.fresnoadultschool.com)

**Fresno Adult School is committed to providing lifelong learning opportunities for adults and their families to improve their skills, pursue knowledge, seek advancement, and enhance their self-worth. We believe the quality of tomorrow's Fresno and the surrounding Central Valley communities is the result of today's investment in our diverse community.**



## January Calendar Of Events

1/7	School Resumes
1/9	Pre-Paid Legal Services in lobby 9am-12 noon
1/9	CCEOC Financial Aid in lobby 9am-11:30 am
1/10	Let's Talk with Geoff Smith
1/10	CCEOC Financial Aid workshop in SAC @ 6:30 pm
1/14	Black History Month Poster Contest kick-off
1/16	CCEOC Financial Aid in lobby 9am-11:30 am
1/17	Let's Talk with Geoff Smith
1/21	MLK Holiday—school closed
1/23	CCEOC Financial Aid in lobby 9am-11:30 am
1/24	Let's Talk with Geoff Smith
1/25	Black History Month posters due to SAC by 3 pm
1/30	Fresno City College in lobby 9am-12 noon
1/30	CCEOC Financial Aid in lobby 9am-11:30 am
1/31	Let's Talk with Geoff Smith

**On Tuesday, February 12th, Fresno Adult School will host an Earned Income Tax Credit event. For the 3rd year in a row, First Lady of California, Maria Shriver will be on site to support our students and the public in completing their taxes utilizing this program. Last year 91 participants completed their federal tax returns for a total refund of \$122,384 of which \$61,157 was Earned Income Tax Credit.**