

CSUEB Veterans Group's Memorial Day Events



Cal State East Bay Student Veterans: Members enjoy a picnic earlier this month on campus. Members of the club participated in a Memorial Day flag changing ceremony last weekend at the Flight 93 Memorial in Union City and the club's president, Michael Emerson, gave a Memorial Day speech on "The Gettysburg Address" at Hayward's Lone Tree Ceremony.

Photos/Courtesy Michael Emerson

Famed Novelist to Receive Honorary Degree at CSUEB

By Jack Cheng
Staff Writer

Cal State East Bay President Mohammad Qayoumi announced last week that Khaled Hosseini, the bestselling author of "The Kite Runner," will receive an honorary doctor of fine arts degree during commencement ceremonies at the Hayward campus this spring.

"As a writer, Khaled Hosseini has a special insight and talent for humanizing the people and events that have taken place in Afghanistan," said Qayoumi in announcing the honorary degree.

"Mr. Hosseini is highly accomplished in a variety of areas and is an inspiration to all he encounters."

Hosseini, a native of Afghanistan, is an alumnus of Santa Clara University where he obtained his bachelor's degree in biology in 1988. In 1993, he obtained his M.D. at the University of California, San Diego.

While practicing medicine in the Bay Area, Hosseini began writing the international bestselling novel "The Kite Runner," which has sold more than 10 million copies worldwide.

The novel was later adapted to a major motion picture that was released in December 2007.

Hosseini's second Novel, "A Thousand Splendid Suns," was released the same year.

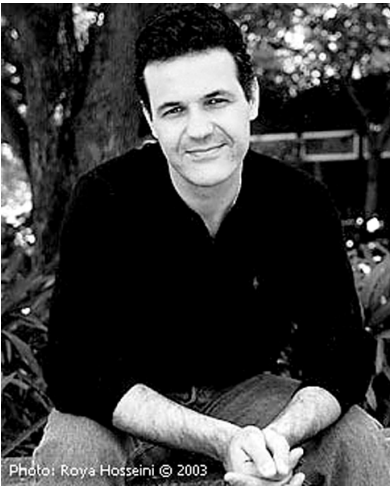
According to his personal webpage, Hosseini was born in Kabul in 1965. His father was a diplomat and his mother was a teacher at a high school in Kabul.

"In 1976, the Afghan Foreign Ministry relocated the Hosseini family to Paris," the website says. "They were ready to return to Kabul in 1980, but by then Afghanistan had already witnessed a bloody communist coup and the invasion of the Soviet army. The Hosseinis

sought and were granted political asylum in the United States."

Hosseini will be awarded his honorary doctorate during commencement ceremonies for the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences June 14 on the Hayward Campus. In addition, two other notables are scheduled to receive honorary degrees this spring.

Scott Kriens, who earned his bachelor's degree in economics from Cal State Hayward in 1979, is also chairman of the board for Juniper Networks, a computer network security company located



Khaled Hosseini

in Sunnyvale.

Kriens will receive an honorary degree of humane letters degree from the College of Business and Economics at the Hayward Campus on June 13.

Leo Fontana, a longtime Contra Costa County businessman and philanthropist, who is known for his influence to the growth and development of the city of Antioch, will receive his honorary degree June 14 at Cal State East Bay's Concord campus.

Jurors Convict Trio in Drive-By Slaying Case

By Dario Rivero
Staff Writer

A guilty verdict handed down by the jury yesterday around 4:20 p.m. in the People v. Ledesma murder trial, could send the three defendants to life in prison without the possibility of parole, thanks to special circumstances attached to the murder charge.

Frank Ledesma Sr., Jose Mesaramos and Frank Ledesma Jr. were found guilty of the first degree murder of Sergio Duenas, and the attempted murder of Oscar Martinez and Carlos Castaneda.

According to testimony throughout the trial, the three defendants were cruising through Inglewood and Underwood streets of Hayward, minutes from The Cal State East Bay campus, with three loaded weapons in a stolen red Saturn coupe.

Mesaramos, who was accused of driving the stolen car, was found guilty of an additional count of operating a automobile without the owner's consent and fired a semi-automatic .45 caliber shooting over the hood of the vehicle towards the victims.

One of the victims, Oscar Martinez, testified that Ledesma Sr. leaned out of the vehicle with a sawed-off 12 gauge shotgun, spraying buckshot in their direction.

However it was proven through testimony and the evidence that the shot that took Duenas life came from a .357 magnum revolver with a Goofy sticker on the wooden handle fired by Ledesma Jr. from the backseat of the Saturn.

After less than 24 hours of deliberations, the jury came back with a unanimous decision that the suspects were guilty of all counts, including special circumstances, gang membership and weapons clauses that allow for a mandatory sentence of life without parole.

The three defendants sat stunned, red-eyed and puffy faced, wiping tears from their eyes as Court Clerk Debbie Sheets read the guilty verdicts.

According to Juror No. One, (whose name was not disclosed) a guilty verdict was the only decision that they could have come to.

"I mean, three guys, three guns, the getaway car—there was no oth-

er possible decision we could have made," said juror No. one. "And all three guns had been fired."

“Even without all the gang evidence, I think we would have had a guilty verdict. It did not help,” said Rivers.

Frank Rivers, juror No. 11, also expressed the jury's sense that the overwhelming gang connections and the evidence suggested all three defendants were heavily into the Norteño street gangs of Hayward.

"Even without all the gang evidence, I think we would have had a guilty verdict. It did not help,"

after her release she continued to write letters to Mesaramos. She said she and he are now romantically involved.

"I have all the letters with me now. I could see he was excited to see me," said Del Rio.

Ledesma Jr's family was also there crying and causing enough of a disturbance that one of his cousins was questioned and his information was recorded by the court's bailiff.

Irv Simons, defense attorney for Ledesma Jr., said his client could appeal based on circumstantial evidence, and added Ledesma would probably get an appellate attorney for any future proceedings.

Simons also told the young defendant's family that his father's testimony harmed the case.

"His insane and ridiculous rants did no good; I wish I could have taken him aside and told him to shut up," Simons could be heard telling family members.

Simons had previously denied comment on Ledesma Sr's actions on the witness stand, including the older man's confused testimony about "Tommy the Tweeker," a main figure in his alibi.

The three defendants will be sentenced Aug. 24 in Alameda County Superior Court in Hayward.

McNair Scholars Share Their Experiences at CSUEB Panel

By Anne Bartlett
Editor in Chief

Last Friday, undergraduates who participated in the McNair Scholars Program spoke at the McNair Graduating Senior Scholar Panel to share advice to other undergraduates and reflect on their experiences throughout the program.

The McNair Scholars Program is an intense but gratifying program for underrepresented students to develop the skills they need to be accepted into graduate school and succeed in getting a Ph.D.

"There was an extremely low number of first generation low income and under represented students doing degrees in the sciences," said Takiyah Franklin, the academic coordinator for the program. To compensate for this, the U.S. Congress established the program in honor of Ronald McNair, an African-American astronaut who perished with the Challenger. The program is now funded by the U.S. department of education.

"The program is just one part of TRIO," said Teresa Golebiewska, director of the McNair program. "It was created specifically to give those who didn't have the resources to achieve a Ph.D. exactly what they needed."

The McNair program revolves around three major goals: to help underprivileged undergraduates

develop a strong mentor-scholar relationship, complete the McNair research project, and select and apply to a graduate program.

The mentor-scholar relationship is a key part to the program and allows the scholar to become more aware about graduate education and evaluate each program; design and complete the research project; and learn the skills needed to be successful in graduate school.

"You chose the professor that you kind of had a relationship with," said Young. "I would pick a professor who would have time to help me with my research question...the mentor really helps you through the research process."

Along the way, scholars attended events like the McNair Graduate School Boot Camp and the McNair Summer Institute; workshops based on practicing presentations and developing professional and helpful research skills; graduate school events, such as Pathways to Graduate school and the graduate recruitment fair; and took advantage of advisement, mentorship, and monitoring.

"The process is intimidating it is grueling it is daunting," said Sandra Martin. "If you really have that passion, that desire to reach out to people, there are people who will help you out...you definitely are going to have obstacles."

"The only thing is about this

process is that you need to have enough time," said Sade Young, another participant. "I can't stress enough how much time you need well over a year."

The program offers great opportunities that aren't usually found on campus.

"One of the things that McNair brings to this campus that is very unique is an intellectual culture and a community of scholars in a concentrated space," Franklin said. "It really gives students a broader perspective on what's happening and what other students are interested in."

At the student panel, the McNair scholars answered questions about how they came to the decisions that they made, their individual processes for doing applications and selecting schools, what problems and roadblocks were discovered along the way, and any specific advice and benefits that were discovered through the program.

"We thought it would be really nice that our students, who have been admitted to graduate programs and who have had that opportunity to go through that experience share that information with the campus community and talk about what that experience is like and demystify that process a little bit for people who have considered it or haven't even really thought about it," said Franklin.



Photo/Courtesy of CLASS

Fusion Performances

By Stephanie L Fuller
Staff Writer

"Performance Fusion," this year's culminating project performances by theatre and dance majors at Cal State East Bay, will embody the talent, sophistication and creativity of dance and theatre.

Performances will consist of scenes, one-act plays (some written by the students themselves) and original dance pieces that blend comedy, farce, dance and music.

There will be two programs in order to accommodate all graduates. Both will be held in the Studio Theatre, on the northeast side of the Hayward campus, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd.

Program A will include: "Prometheus Bound," "Perp," "The Tragical Tale of Mellissa McHeinie McNormous McWhale," "Fool for Love," and "Postcards," and will be put on at 8 p.m. on May 29 and 30.

Program B will include "Every Moment," "From Above a Rain of Ashes," "Forbidden Trust," "Vetro Wireless" and "Faces," and run at 8 p.m. June 5 and 6 and at 2 p.m. June 7.

Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$7 youth/senior/alum, or \$5 for CSUEB students. They may be reserved by calling (510) 885-3118 or from the university website at http://class.csueastbay.edu/theatre/Ticket_Reservations.php.

More information about the performances is available at <http://www20.csueastbay.edu/news/2009/05/fusion-052109.html>.

Awards Jumphead

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needed something, and we wanted to help."

The program was organized by Arthur Jenkins III, Student Life advisor. Jenkins said that each of the students and organizations recognized exemplified leadership.

"Every year the quality of student activity and involvement gets better," said Jenkins who has been coordinating the event for the past four years.

doesn't qualify for the program, the workshops and resources are open to the whole student population.

"The symposiums are for the complete campus community," said Franklin. "The only thing that is really exclusive for our scholars is when we send them to the boot camp and things like that that are more specifically geared to McNair scholars."

"If you build relationships [within the program] you could come to things and do it from the outside approach," said Young. "Get a list of the books and materials that we get and you could do it on your own. The program is just to help you through it...and if you can't get it in you can get the resources still."

That you kind of had a relationship with," said Young. "I would pick a professor who would have time to help me with my research question...the mentor really helps you through the research process."

The next event for the scholars will be the McNair Scholars Reception on Monday June 1 in the New Union Multipurpose room from 5 to 7 p.m. Anyone who is interested in the program can contact visit their office in Warren Hall, LM 79, or visit their webpage at <http://www20.csueastbay.edu/academic/academic-support/mc-nair/index.html>.