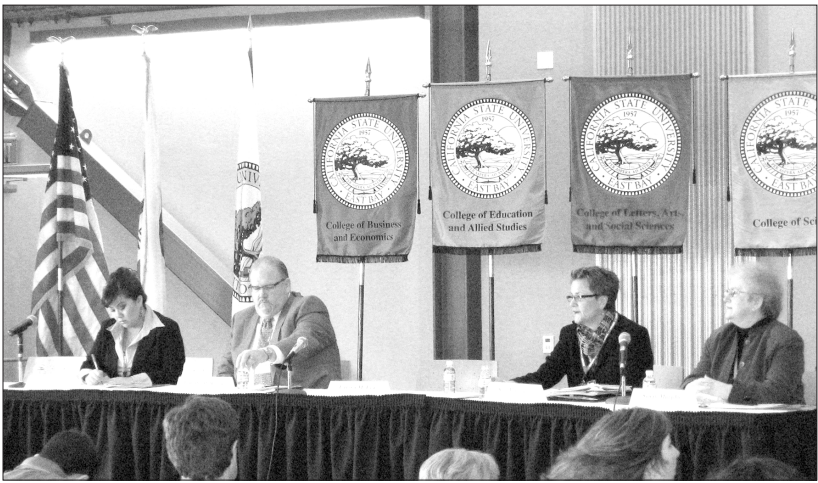


CSUEB Hosts Financial Aid Roundtable



Money Talks: Panelists discuss ways to improve student financial aid at Monday's roundtable.

By Denise Smith
Staff Writer

Students, college administrators, financial aid counselors, and student advocates from around California gathered on Monday to hear discussions about plans to improve financial aid policies.

Cal State East Bay and the College Board sponsored the "Rethinking Student Aid" policy roundtable discussion that focused on recommendations made by the Rethinking Student Aid study group in a report they released last September.

The report presents reasons why financial aid policies need revision and outlines steps to take to give more college students access to federal aid.

Michael McPherson, co-chair of the study group, said that the committee's main goals were to look for ways to simplify student aid and encourage financial literacy.

Photo/ Denise Smith

"We're here to learn what is on the minds of the people of California to reform higher education," said McPherson.

The report focuses on three main principles or goals. The first is to simplify the entire financial aid system so that it is easier for students to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and also easier for students to understand the type of aid they are eligible for. The second principle is to assist low income families in building funds to pay for their children's education. The third principle is to put students first by creating policies that help them complete college.

An eight-speaker panel of representatives from different universities and organizations answered questions about obstacles students face with financial aid policies.

Several panelists agreed that one of the major problems with financial

aid is trying to understanding the FAFSA.

Robert Birgenau, Chancellor of UC Berkeley, said that the current financial aid process is "a broken system." He suggested that the federal government take the cost of living into account when calculating aid, and policymakers should extend more federal aid to the middle class.

"A lot of people do not apply for financial aid because they have the perception that it is easier to work and go to community college or a cheaper state college," said first-generation college graduate Elena Gil. "Because the amount of aid available is not made clear, they are uncertain about how much they are going to get."

Gil also described the frustration she experienced during college as she applied for financial aid.

Starla Gay, a graduating senior at CSUEB, also participated in the discussion by sharing her own experience with financial aid. She said that even though she receives aid she still carries a heavy burden. Gay said that there should be more support for students with families, and also for individuals in the foster care system.

After each panelist had a chance to speak, members of the audience were invited to ask questions and make comments about the recommendations in the report, and respond to comments made during the roundtable discussion.

For more information about the Rethinking Student Aid study group's recommendations, the group's full report can be found at www.collegeboard.com/rethinkingstudentaid.

Museum Displays Chinese Artifacts

By Denise Smith
Staff Writer

Cal State East Bay's C.E. Smith Museum of Anthropology hosted an opening reception to unveil its new exhibit, "Forgotten Contributions of the Bay Area Chinese," which focuses on the working and living conditions of the Chinese laborers who constructed the Lake Chabot Dam in the late 1800's.

The exhibit looks closely at Yemapo, a Chinese work camp that was discovered in 1980.

CSUEB students and faculty found many of the artifacts on display during the excavation of the labor camp in 1981.

"One of the interesting aspects of this exhibit is that it presents very little known knowledge," said exhibit coordinator Tristian von Dessauer.

Students in Anthropology 3710 worked on researching and creating the displays for the exhibit for eight weeks.

"I am really amazed at how skillfully and energetically the students came together," said anthropology instructor and museum director Dr. George Miller.

"This is not a conventional class," said Megan Lyman, a senior art major. "We had to take a lot of initiative and really be self-motivated to complete this exhibit. There is a lot of research and planning that goes into this...It was definitely a collaborative effort."

The exhibit presents several cases that provide information about the daily lives of the workers. The "cooking case" features remains of animals eaten at the camp as well as a replica of a cooking stove. One

of the other cases displays some of the ways workers coped with conditions including different medicines and games.

The exhibit features diagrams of the camp, models of the excavation site, as well as original artifacts including tools, clothing, bottles, and coins. It also offers visitors the opportunity to play Fan T'an, a game that was played by the dam workers with coins and gambling tokens.

The excavation sandbox allows visitors to find replicas of real artifacts and use a computer program to learn more about the discovered items.

Vanessa Vejar, a senior human development major, said working on the exhibit was a very hands-on learning experience.

"There is a lot more work that goes into this than you think, but it's fun.

I am really proud of how it all came together in the end," said Vejar.

Some former CSUEB students returned to view the exhibit. A few of the students actually participated in the original excavation.

"I was very familiar with all of the information and artifacts, but seeing it all again brought back a lot of memories from the dig," said Eileen Alkin-Fagilano of Livermore.

Miller said that he hopes visitors walk away from the exhibit with a greater understanding of the unrecognized Chinese workers who made great contributions to the Bay Area in spite of anti-Chinese discrimination.

The museum is free to all visitors Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The "Forgotten Contributions of the Bay Area Chinese" exhibit will remain open until June 12. Meiklejohn Hall 4047.



Fan T'an: Sheena Sullivan and Megan Lyman demonstrate how to play the Chinese game.

Photo/ Denise Smith

Winter Quarter Leadership Institute

By Meng Zhang
Staff Writer

Financial literacy is considered to be one of the first and most important lessons to learn for leaders, both in school settings and in professional life.

On Tuesday, March 3, Cal State East Bay's Winter Quarter Leadership Institute provided a dynamic workshop on "Financial Literacy and Leadership" for this purpose.

"The more you learn, the more you earn," said Veronica Dangerfield, a marketing specialist from Patelco Credit Union.

As the featured speaker, Dangerfield began the presentation with a little background about herself, saying that her father served in the U.S. Air Force and that she was raised in Tokyo. With her funny and lively style, including a non-stop series of jokes and the screening of a segment of the movie, "Finding Nemo," she kept the audience laughing and clapping much of the time.

In order to make everyone fully participate in the presentation and actually learn something, Dangerfield asked each audience member to write down one of his or her talents. She then led them in a discussion of how to use these talents to make money in a relevant career.

In addition, she wrote down prin-

ciples such as self-control, fairness, kindness, and honesty, on separate sheets of paper for each table. People from each table were then required to explain the assigned principles from their own understanding, and to share their opinions on achieving good financial management.

For college students, especially organization leaders, she said she believes it's important for them to pay attention to budgeting and start the process as early as possible.

"You have to set specific goals," said Dangerfield. "So you can use your money in a better way and make the most out of your money."

The entertaining and relaxed session gave everyone an opportunity to take a better look at financial management as elements of good leadership and lifelong success.

About 40 people attended the event including student leaders from different on-campus organizations, Marguerite Hinrichs, the director of the university's Student Life and Leadership Programs, the university's Associate Vice President Stan Hebert, and Lori Knight-Baker, advisor and program coordinator for Student Life and Leadership Programs.

The sponsors of the session were Associated Students, Inc., Student Life and Leadership Programs and Target, Inc.

"Sophisticated Ladies" Takes Cal State East Bay back to Duke Ellington's Cotton Club Era

Sophistication, from page one.

Ulises Alcalá's workshop class and the costume stitchers and

"A visually pleasing and fun-loving revue with some great performances," said junior Lauren Pinnella.

cutters did a phenomenal job of creating costumes that reflected not only the songs but the era that brought Ellington to fame.

CSUEB student Mariana O'Leary

said, "I was really impressed with the costumes and quality of the dancing and music. The band was excellent and the choreography was great too."

"Sophisticated Ladies" continues its run for one more weekend, performances taking place on Friday and Saturday night at 8 p.m. and concludes with the performance on Sunday, March 15 at 2 p.m.



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