



Berkeley City College

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News for the Board Tuesday, May 12, 2015

- **Dr. Floyd Romesberg presents “A Semi-Synthetic Organism with an Expanded Genetic Alphabet,” 6 p.m., Wed., May 13 at BCC**

“A Semi-Synthetic Organism with an Expanded Genetic Alphabet,” a presentation by Dr. Floyd Romesberg, takes place at Berkeley City College’s auditorium at 6 p.m., Wed. May 13. The college is located at 2050 Center St. between Shattuck Ave. & Milvia St. and is wheelchair accessible. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Dr. Romesberg and a team of scientists created an E.coli bacterium with four natural and two unnatural DNA bases that was widely considered impossible. His presentation will focus on how an expanded DNA alphabet in a reproducing life form is a major scientific breakthrough.

Dr. Romesberg is Professor of Chemistry at La Jolla’s Scripps Research Institute. He is principal scientific founder and advisor for Synthorx, Inc., a biotechnology company which uses synthetic biology to discover and develop novel therapeutics, diagnostics and vaccines. He is recipient of the American Chemistry Society’s Nobel Laureate Signature Award, the National Science Foundation Career Award and the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Award.

Dr. Romesberg received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Cornell University (Ithaca, N.Y.).

- **BCC’s Dr. Carlos Cortez to lead San Diego Continuing Education**

Dr. Carlos O. Turner Cortez, dean of academic pathways, workforce development and student success at Berkeley City College has accepted the post of president of San Diego Continuing Education for the San Diego Community College District. Dr. Cortez will lead San Diego Continuing Education, which serves 45,000 students per semester at seven campuses and many community locations.

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- **Rue Mapp, noted outdoor advocate and entrepreneur, to keynote Berkeley City College's May 21 commencement**

Ms. Rue Mapp, founder and CEO of Oakland's Outdoor Afro, is keynote speaker for Berkeley City College's 2015 Commencement Ceremony, 7 p.m., Wed., May 21 at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall Auditorium. Outdoor Afro is a social community that reconnects African-Americans with natural spaces and one another through recreational activities such as camping, hiking, biking, birding, fishing, gardening, skiing — and other outdoor activities. The organization disrupts the false perception that black people do not have a relationship with nature, and works to shift the visual representation of who can connect with the outdoors. It fosters the premise that we remember our history in nature and in doing so leverages social media and supports relevant local leadership to create interest communities, events and partnerships that support diverse participation in the Great Outdoors.

Ms. Mapp, a Berkeley City College alumna, earned her bachelor of arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley, where she was inspired by her study of the artistic representation of the American forests. She also is a successful entrepreneur whose game and hobby store start-up, Oakland's It's Your Move, remains an important part of the community.

In 2010, Ms. Mapp was invited to the White House to participate in the America's Great Outdoors Conference where President Barack Obama signed an historic memorandum to help reconnect all Americans to the Great Outdoors. She was invited back to take part in a think-tank to inform the launch of the First Lady's Let's Move initiative. She also was appointed program officer at the Stewardship Council's Foundation for Youth Investment where she managed its grant making program for two years. Most recently, Ms. Mapp was appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to serve on the California State Park and Recreation Commission.

- **BCC welcomes Lisa Gwyn-Liago, Staff Assistant to the Vice President of Instruction**

Berkeley City College's latest staff addition is Lisa Gwyn-Liago, Staff Assistant to the Vice President of Instruction. Ms. Gwyn-Liago's previous work experience covers a wide range of experience, from direct mentor services to high school students, to board member of a youth serving non-profit organization, to a School Improvement Program (SIP) assistant in Hayward. A community college alumna, she earned a bachelor's degree in humanities and a master's degree in education.

- **BCC Art and Literary Magazine Authors to Read Work at University Press Books**

Prose and poetry authors of *Milvia Street*, Berkeley City College's art and literary journal, will present their works from 6 to 7:45 p.m., Fri., at University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Ave., in Berkeley. The event is free and open to the public and journals will be on sale there. Readers include Michael Hartman, Hannah Landau, Brad Penner and Hannah Ryan.

The publication showcases art and literature by Berkeley City College students, recent alumni, instructors and staff. It's edited and created by the college's Milvia Street Club.

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- **BCC to host Berkeley Poetry Fest, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. May 16**

Meet Bay Area and California poets at the Berkeley Poetry Festival, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat., May 16, in Berkeley City College's auditorium and atrium. New and seasoned writers will present their work in this free and open to the public event.

Each year the City of Berkeley and Berkeley Poetry Festival celebrates and showcases poets in our communities who give not only their words but also their public service, who provide both bread and roses. One poet also is selected for a Lifetime Achievement Award for many years of service. This year's award goes to Rafael Jesús González, poet, community organizer, educator, cultural and political activist, and visual artist. He taught English at Laney College where he founded the Department of Mexican & Latin-American Studies.

The 2015 Festival is hosted by Baruch Porrás-Hernandez, poet, storyteller and cultural activist. Former Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Avotcja calls forth the muse in her invocation. Readers include Maw Shein Win, Mg Roberts, Gabriel Cortez, Lauren Traetto, Sarah Kobrinsky, Joseph Rios, Youssef Alaoui-Fdili, Joyce E. Young, James Cagney, A. Razor, Al Young & Elmaz Abinader. Special feature of poets from Berkeley City College's Milvia Street Art and Literary Journal include Katie Gallagher, Lark Omura, Brad Penner and Paul Elias Taylor

The Festival also will showcase a Book Fair which includes small press books and other publications by the Festival's poets, the Milvia Street Art and Literary Journal, and a number of small local presses. Poets will gladly autograph their books. All sales proceeds go directly to the poets and publishers.

- **BCC hosts Mental Health Awareness Week**

Berkeley City College hosted Mental Health Awareness Week, Mon., May 4 thru Fri., May 8.

Workshop topics centered around consent, self-care, community resources, use of acupuncture and massage to foster mental health, and cultural activities.