Last month, young Tulare County filmmakers had an opportunity to get some tips from former Tulare County students now making their own films in Los Angeles. About 100 students from around the county gathered in the Tulare Community Auditorium to hear from two teams of film writers/directors. The forum, entitled “Meet the Producers and Directors,” was held to give students insight into careers in the film industry and to promote the upcoming Slick Rock Student Film Festival. Tulare County Film Commissioner Eric Coyne arranged to bring producer Michelle Lang, brothers Ian and Eshom Nelms, and Lauren Fitzgerald and Karin Schneider back to Tulare County for the “Meet the Producers and Directors” forum.

At the event, which was moderated by Tulare County Supervisor Pete Vander Poel, the Nelms brothers and Lauren and Karin discussed their efforts to make films of their own. Both teams described the challenges of making a film on a limited budget without the support of a large studio. The Nelms brothers, who graduated from Mt. Whitney High School, have recently completed the film Lost on Purpose—a film which stars C. Thomas Howell, Jane Kaczmarek and Academy Award-winning actress Octavia Spencer. While the film has not been released commercially, it is being shown at some of the nation’s top film festivals this year.

To read more, visit www.tcoe.org/NewsGallery

Students meet young Tulare County writers and directors now making films in Los Angeles

Slick Rock holds new film industry workshop

(top photo) Ian Nelms discusses the making of his latest film, Lost on Purpose. Mr. Nelms is flanked by his brother, Eshom, and producer Michelle Lang. To the right are filmmakers Karin Schneider and Lauren Fitzgerald. Tulare County Supervisor Pete Vander Poel (!) moderated the panel discussion. (lower photo) Karin Schneider and Lauren Fitzgerald take a moment to talk with students about their film, Ripe.
Free April 27 literacy event features book giveaway, young performers and resources

Veteran and new authors coming to Día event

Nationally-known authors are scheduled to visit Tulare County this month as part of the annual Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros event. Best known is Margarita Engle, a Newbery Honor winner and author of The Surrender Tree, The Poet Slave of Cuba, Tropical Secrets, The Firefly Letters and The Wild Book. Ms. Engle will be joined by Harjot Singh, Thien Pham and local author Virginia Pilegard, who is well-known for her Warlord series of books.

Veteran authors Margarita Engle (left) and Virginia Pilegard will be special guests at the free Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros event scheduled for Saturday, April 27, in Mooney Grove Park.

Educational Resource Services is coordinating the Día event, scheduled for 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. on April 27 in Mooney Grove Park.

The Día celebration will include hands-on activities and performances from young people involved in local mariachi, roping, guitar, and Ballet Folklorico groups. Families will also have the opportunity to view films created by the staff of the TCOE Impact Center for the Tulare County Museum of Farm Labor and Agriculture in Mooney Grove Park. The films - featuring various ethnic groups that have been involved in Tulare County agriculture - will be shown continuously in the museum’s theater. To read more, visit www.tcoe.org/NewsGallery

April 13 event envisioned to motivate young women by connecting them to role models

Women’s Conference created to empower

Staff members at La Sierra Military Academy and the Choices Prevention Programs have met many young women who suffer from low self-esteem and an absence of long-term goals. This reality sparked the creation of a conference where young women can connect with older women who lead admirable personal and professional lives. La Sierra principal Anjelica Zermeno explains, “Women in leadership positions can inspire our young women by sharing their experiences, tragedies and accomplishments.”

Women’s Conference

Saturday, April 13, 2013

The event will be Saturday, April 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the La Sierra campus at 1735 E. Houston in Visalia. Admission is just $5 per person and includes breakfast and lunch. Keynote speakers include La Sierra Military Academy principal Anjelica Zermeno, Tulare Joint Union High School District superintendent Dr. Sarah Koligian and Visalia Police Department Sergeant Amy Watkins. Attendees will also hear from women about health and wellness, fitness, safety, drug and alcohol prevention, and various other topics. For tickets and additional information, call (559) 733-6963.
Students showcase their work, immerse themselves in Japanese American history

National History Day - Tulare County expanded

Big Band music from the 1940s greeted students who came to present 60 projects at the National History Day - Tulare County (NHD) event. Across the Doe Avenue campus, students noticed copies of the federal evacuation order issued to “people of Japanese ancestry” in 1942. And as they waited to present their projects, they had the opportunity to engage in crafts that Japanese American children used to pass the time in their internment camps.

All of the activities were new to NHD, “designed so that students understand that they are part of a larger learning experience,” says Joy Soares, the staff development and curriculum specialist for History/Social Studies. “Students who entered the annual History Day event did more than just present their projects to a panel of judges. They were immersed in learning about a piece of modern American history - the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.”

Following their presentations of two-dimensional displays, historical papers, exhibits, performances, documentaries and historical websites, students heard from Japanese American World War II internees Reverend Sab Masada, his wife Marion and decorated WWII Veteran Robert Yano. Facilitating their presentations was national historian, filmmaker and author Kerry Nakagawa. Mr. Nakagawa’s work has led to the development of outstanding curriculum for Social Studies. He was also the curator for the National Baseball Hall of Fame’s Japanese Internment Baseball Exhibition.

The theme for NHD 2013 is Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events. To read more, visit www.tcoe.org/NewsGallery
Redwood High School (Visalia) students compete in the Experimental Design portion of the annual Science Olympiad held last month. Eleven middle school teams (Division B) and 16 high school teams (Division C) battled for top honors and the chance to represent Tulare County at the NorCal State Science Olympiad April 13 at Mission Oak High School in Tulare. The four Division C schools selected to advance to state finals are Redwood High School (Blue Team); Exeter Union High School (Gold Team); Tulare Union High School (Gold Team); and University Preparatory High School, Visalia (Black Team). The four Division B teams advancing to the NorCal Science Olympiad are St. Aloysius Parochial School, Tulare; Wilson Middle School, Exeter (Blue Team); Divisadero Middle School, Visalia; and Sundale Union School, Tulare.

Seven Tulare County student projects entered in the annual Science & Engineering Fair were selected to advance to the California Science Fair this month in Los Angeles. One of the winning projects came from Kings River seventh-grade students Morgan Waldner and Skylar Mattos. The aspiring engineers will compete with their project Comparing Bridge Designs: Suspension, Arch and Beam. For a list of all winners, visit www.tcoe.org/sciencefair.

Migrant Education Region VIII has selected Ana Dominguez as the program’s student of the year. Ana is a senior at Lemoore High School and has been accepted to San Jose State University. She is pictured with Migrant Education administrator Tony Velásquez at the 34th Annual State Migrant Parent Conference.

Students from Lemoore High School won the high school portion of the annual Southern California Gas Company Challenge for Student Entrepreneurs for their Blu Water project, a water filtration venture designed to serve Kings County. At the Challenge event, Alex Gong, a senior at Redwood High School in Visalia, received the annual STEM Student Entrepreneur Scholarship, which is sponsored by TUCOEMAS Federal Credit Union.

Orosi High School produced a number of winners in the annual Farm Bureau Student Art Calendar, which is sponsored by TCOE and the Network for a Healthy California program.

Read more at www.tcoe.org
**April ‘13**

6  
25th Annual Child Care Conference  
7:30 am - 4:30 pm, Visalia Convention Center  
For information, call Celene Ayon at (559) 651-0185

9  
Math Super Bowl  
8:00 am - 2:00 pm, Visalia Convention Center  
For information, call Glenn Williams at (559) 651-3047

11 & University Preparatory High School Info. Night  
6:00 p.m., COS, Sequoia Bldg., Room 1, Visalia  
For information, call John Kelly at (559) 730-2529

12  
Friday Night Live Lip Synch Contest  
6:00 - 9:00 pm, Visalia Convention Center  
For information, call Adam Valencia at (559) 651-0155

18  
Peña Planetarium Public Shows  
7:00 p.m., 2500 W. Burrel Ave., Visalia  
For show and ticket information, call (559) 737-6334

19  
NorCal State Science Olympiad (Divisions B/C)  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm, Mission Oak High School, 3442 E. Bardsley, Tulare  
For information, call Jennifer Janzen at (559) 651-3043

23  
First Annual Women’s Conference  
$5 per person, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, La Sierra Military Academy, 1735 E. Houston Ave., Visalia.  
For information, call Gina Perez at (559) 733-6963

26  
Basic HeartSaver CPR Class (for TCOE and School District Employees)  
4:00 - 6:00 p.m., School Health Conference Room, 7000 Doe Ave., Visalia  
For information, call Kathy Johnston at (559) 651-0130

27  
Science Olympiad-Division A (for grades 3-6)  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Mission Oak High School, 3442 E. Bardsley, Tulare  
For information, call Jennifer Janzen at (559) 651-3043

29  
SCICON BBQ & Wildflower Festival  
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., SCICON Campus, Springville  
For information, call Rick Mitchell at (559) 539-2642

25-27  
Theatre Co. Spring Production: Britain on Broadway  
April 25 - 27: 7:00 p.m.; April 27: 2:00 p.m.  
El Diamante Theater, 5100 W. Whitendale Ave., Visalia.  
For information, call Brian Roberts at (559) 651-1482

27  
Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros  
1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Mooney Grove Park, Visalia  
For information, call Beth Ohleshwsky at (559) 651-3042

**May ‘13**

2 & 16  
University Preparatory High School Info. Night  
6:00 p.m., COS, Sequoia Bldg., Room 1, Visalia  
For information, call John Kelly at (559) 730-2529

11  
Robot Riot  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., 7000 Doe Avenue, Visalia  
For information, call Glenn Williams at (559) 651-3047

15 & Battle of the Books (for grades 6-8 and 4-6)  
8:30 am - 1:15 p.m., 7000 Doe Ave., Visalia  
For information, call Beth Ohleshwsky at (559) 651-3042

16  
Arbor Day  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Mooney Grove Park, Visalia  
For information, call Glenn Williams at (559) 651-0565

For more events, programs and meetings, visit our online calendar at www.tcoe.org/CalendarOfEvents

The **Resource & Referral Program** will hold the **25th Annual Child Care Conference** Saturday, April 6, at the Visalia Convention Center. **Whitcomb Hayslip**, an early childhood education consultant and former assistant superintendent of Los Angeles Unified School District, will be the keynote speaker. Mr. Hayslip will present ways educators can use the growing body of knowledge about young children and families to enrich their work. The conference will also feature dozens of breakout sessions and vendors, including those who specialize in early childhood education instructional materials. For more information, contact Celene Ayon at (559) 651-0185.

During the month of April, which is **National Child Abuse Prevention Month**, the **School Health Program** will distribute bookmarks for all K-8 students in Tulare County. Each bookmark, which is printed in English and Spanish, contains tips students can use to keep themselves safe from predators. The tips were gathered from materials presented through School Health’s long-running **Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Prevention Program**. CAN Program presentations are tailored to first- and fifth-grade students, and are available to Tulare County schools at no charge. To arrange a CAN presentation, call Kathy Johnston at (559) 651-0130.

On April 25, 13 middle school and 7 high school teams from throughout the county will attend the second annual **Step Up Youth Challenge Awards** to receive grants for their work in developing community service projects. The awards ceremony, which begins at 6:00 p.m. at the Visalia Fox Theater, is open to the public. **The top five projects in both the middle and high school categories will receive prizes totaling $30,000.** The grants are provided by the County of Tulare’s Step Up initiative and the Tulare County Youth Commission. Students at TCOE’s **University Preparatory High School** will be contending for a grant for their teenage pregnancy prevention campaign. The students have developed a multimedia program which they hope to present to middle school audiences next year.

**Tulare County Office of Education**

**Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools**

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