

Dan Sudran Wins Jefferson Award for Public Service

By **Kathleen White**

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Dan Sudran, a classified employee serving as a technical instructional assistant (TIA) in the Engineering and Technology Department at CCSF, has a unique avocation which has benefited City College students and local school children and earned Dan the prestigious “Jefferson Award” for Public Service last April. from KCBS News. Interested in science, he started exploring “how things work” in his garage in 1991, and his home laboratory became the “Mission Science Workshop,” which he has been directing the for the past 18 years.

The Mission Science Workshop serves children from the Mission neighborhood and SFUSD schools from all over San

Francisco by providing a hands-on, interactive experiential-based science workshop for children and youth. Children are free to create, question and explore and the collection of live animals, rocks, bones, plants, and found materials make it a unique and exciting place.

Currently, the workshop provides a learning laboratory for CCSF Child Development (CDEV) students interested in teaching or working in a science setting and for a CDEV course on science curriculum in early childhood. Formerly located at the Mission Campus, the workshop moved several years ago to the Mission High School Campus.

The Mission Science Workshop is a place where adults say, “Yes!” to children and where children can learn by doing. Although the workshop evolved in Dan’s garage, it now receives funds from a variety of Foundations and sources, including the Stulsaft Foundation, the Miranda Lux Foundation, the Silver Giving Foundation and the SF Dept. of Children Youth and their Families.

The Jefferson Awards are a national recognition system honoring both local community and national levels of public service in America. They were founded in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Sen. Robert Taft, Jr., and Sam Beard. Their intent was that the awards, named after Thomas Jefferson, would be the “Nobel Prize” for public service.

Both **Fabio Saniee**, Dept. Chair in Engineering and **Kathleen White**, Mission Science Workshop Board Member and CDEV Dept. Chair, congratulate Dan on his accomplishments. ♪



Dan Sudran peers through one of his exhibits at the Mission Science Workshop.



Photo: Monica Davey

Nixon Tran, CCSF Floral Design student, demonstrates his winning floral designs at his workplace, Michael Dagian Designs in San Francisco.

Nixon Tran Wins AFID Award

Nixon Tran, a CCSF student in Environmental Horticulture and Floristry, won top honors in the American Institute of Floral Designers’ (AIFD) National Student Floral Design Competition for 2009, announced last July at the 2009 AIFD National Symposium in Kansas City, MO.

Nixon, the sole competitor from CCSF, took second place overall, and garnered third place in the Napkin Floral Décor in the competition. Nixon says the award was “unbelievable. I didn’t expect it.” He says the San Francisco Garden Club sponsored his trip to Kansas City.

He wants some day to have his own floral shop, and is gaining valuable experience at work this semester at Michael Dagian Designs, a San Francisco Floral Design and Event Planning business.

The competition involved floral designs in four categories: Sweetheart, Bridal, Buffet, and Napkin Ring. His designs, pictured in the photo, won second place overall and third place for the Napkin Ring category, where he arranged flowers around a napkin ring.

Nixon will graduate from CCSF in 2010 and will continue at CSU-SF in pursuit of a BS in Marketing. He feels gratitude toward his teachers at CCSF who directed him toward his national award, especially Floral Design instructor **Jennie Tabarracci**, who help him a great deal with his design technique and skills. The Department of Environmental Horticulture and Floristry is chaired by **Steven Brown**. ♪