**Cuesta College 2013 BOOK OF THE YEAR**

Cuesta College’s popular annual celebration of the printed word features a host of events including films and workshops, culminating in a campus lecture by New York Times best-selling author Vanessa Diffenbaugh. Diffenbaugh will visit Cuesta College for a free reception, lecture and book signing February 27, 5:00-7:00 pm. Book of the Year is presented in partnership with SLO County Public Libraries SLO Reads Program.

**Featured Author Vanessa Diffenbaugh**

Vanessa Diffenbaugh was born in San Francisco and raised in Chico. She taught art and writing to youngsters in low-income communities. She and her husband, PK, have three children. Their oldest, Tre’von, a former foster child, is attending New York University on a Gates Millennium Scholarship. She founded the Camellia Network, which is dedicated to helping teens make a successful transition from foster care to adulthood.

**EVENTS @ CUESTA February/March/April**

For a schedule of events at public libraries visit: [http://tinyurl.com/aqbk5wb](http://tinyurl.com/aqbk5wb)

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**Feb. 1 through Feb. 28**
Cuesta College SLO Campus, Cultural and Performing Arts Center lobby

“Pause on the Path” art exhibit

Local artist and retired educator Gene Elsdon celebrates the beauty of spring wildflowers with his vibrant watercolor paintings and microscapes of nature. “Watercolor is my media,” Elsdon says. “As a biologist, I loved to explore the forests, creeks, lakes, and tide pools.”

**Wednesday, Feb. 13, 4 to 5 pm, KCBX FM 90**

Author Interview

Join San Luis Obispo County Public Library Director Brian Reynolds and Library Manager Kristine Tardiff as they discuss this year’s Cuesta Book of the Year/SLO County Reads novel “The Language of Flowers” with author Vanessa Diffenbaugh.

**Saturday, Feb. 23, 11 am to 1 pm**

Earth Tones: Gifts, Gallery & Center for Healing, 1319 Park St., Paso Robles

Plant Passion: Accessing the Soul’s Imagination

Join owner Mary Ubersax at her downtown Paso Robles boutique for a free workshop on the use of essential plant and floral oils to stimulate your senses and creative spirit. Materials and snacks included. Contact Earthtonesew@yahoo.com or (805) 238-4413 to reserve a spot; space limited. Ages 12 and older.

**Wednesday, Feb. 27, 1 to 2:30 pm**
Cuesta College SLO Campus, Room 5401

Stepping Up for Emancipating Foster Youth, a workshop in support of the Foster Youth Success Initiative Featuring “Language of Flowers” author Vanessa Diffenbaugh. Cuesta’s Independent Living Program and Foster and Kinship Care Education, and the Department of Social Services sponsor a forum to consider community and college capacity in meeting the needs of our local foster youth and the impact of the Foster Care Initiative on Cuesta student success.

**Wednesday, Feb. 27, 5 to 7 pm**
Cuesta College SLO Campus, Cultural and Performing Arts Center

Author Lecture

Vanessa Diffenbaugh will discuss “The Language of Flowers” followed by a reception and book signing. Park free in Lot 2.

**Saturday, Mar. 2, 1 to 3 pm**
Oak Glen Pavilion, SLO Botanical Garden (Across from Cuesta’s SLO campus)

Floral Arranging 101: The Language of Flowers

San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden teams up with Cuesta’s Book of the Year for a flower arranging workshop with Cuesta instructor Cheryl Ziehl. Bring clippers; vases and flowers provided. RSVP to kdecou@cuesta.edu or call (805) 546-3100, ext. 2287.

**Wednesday, April 20, 1 to 3 pm**
Oak Glen Pavilion, SLO Botanical Garden (Across from Cuesta’s SLO campus)

Growing Together: Foster Family Workshop

Foster kids and parents will celebrate the wonders of spring with this hands-on, family planting workshop led by SLO Botanical Garden Education Coordinator Lindsey Collinsworth. Guided tours follow. Ages 5 and older. For reservations call (805) 541-1400, priority given to foster families.

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**Film Festival**

**From Place to Place** (12 min., 2012)

Follows the lives of young adults who recently aged out of Montana’s foster care system.

**American’s Most Unwanted** (21 min., 2012)

Provides a glimpse into the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender foster youth.

**Wednesday, Feb. 13, 3:00 to 4:00 pm**
Thursday, Feb. 14, 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Cuesta North County Campus, Dalions Hall, Room N2102

Monday, Feb. 25, noon to 1:00 pm
Cuesta College SLO Campus, Library, Room 2129

**Ask Us Who We Are** (75 min., 2011)

Award-winning film focuses on the lives of Vermont’s youth in foster care, kinship and foster families as well as two mothers who lose their children to the system.

**Wednesday, Feb. 13, 4:00 to 5:30 pm**
Thursday, Feb. 14, 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Cuesta North County Campus, Dalions Hall, Room N2102

Tuesday, Feb. 26, noon to 1:30 pm
Cuesta College SLO Campus, Library, Room 2129

**Ecuador: Flower Power** (11 min., 2008)

Filmmakers visit Ecuador, a leading supplier of cut-flowers for the U.S. market.

**Love at First Sight**: America’s Affair With the Rose (26 min., 2006)

Meet the people, stories and secrets behind the world’s most passionate flower in this documentary by All-America Rose Selections.

**Wednesday, Feb. 13, 6:00 to 7:00 pm**
Thursday, Feb. 14, 3 to 4:00 pm

Cuesta North County Campus, Dalions Hall, Room N2102

Thursday, Feb. 28, noon to 1:00 pm
Cuesta College SLO Campus, Library, Room 2129

**Le Gamin au Velo (Kid with a Bike)** (87 min., 2011)

Cannes award-winner from Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne follows 12-year-old Cyril, who has been abandoned by his father. The boy comes to accept his fate with the support of his new-found foster mother.

**Monday, March 4, noon to 1:30 pm**

Cuesta College SLO Campus, Library, Room 2129

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**SPONSORED BY**
Cuesta Foundation, Friends of the Cuesta College Library, CDSCEC, ASC and SLO County Public Library

**EVENT UPDATES**: [http://library.cuesta.edu/book](http://library.cuesta.edu/book), contact Carina Love clove@cuesta.edu

All events are free. Parking permits are required for all events on Cuesta College campuses, except author lecture; $2 permits are available at kiosks in campus parking lots. For maps and directions: [www.cuesta.edu/studentfindingeasy](http://www.cuesta.edu/studentfindingeasy)