About Book of the Year

Join us for our popular annual celebration of the printed word that will feature a host of events – on campus and off – including a film series and book discussions, culminating in a campus lecture on Feb. 27, 2013, by New York Times best-selling author Vanessa Diffenbaugh whose 2011 debut novel has been published in 40 countries.


Wednesday, February 27, 2013 • 5 – 7 pm
Cuesta’s Cultural and Performing Arts Center SLO campus

“In this original and brilliant first novel, (Vanessa) Diffenbaugh has united her fascination with the language of flowers – a long-forgotten and mysterious way of communication – with her firsthand knowledge of the travails of the foster-care system. She is full of flower wisdom and has fostered many children, often damaged victims of an unresponsive bureaucracy.”

– Brigitte Weeks, Washington Post

“Fascinating … Diffenbaugh clearly knows both the human heart and her plants, and she keeps us rooting for the damaged Victoria.”

– O: The Oprah Magazine

“Diffenbaugh effortlessly spins this enchanting tale, making even her prickly protagonist impossible not to love.”

– Entertainment Weekly

“Compelling … immensely engaging … unabashedly romantic … an emotional arc of almost unbearable poignance.”

– The Boston Globe

About the author

Vanessa Diffenbaugh was born in San Francisco and raised in Chico. After studying creative writing and education at Stanford, 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. The author is the founder of the Camellia Network, which is dedicated to helping youth make a successful transition from foster care to adulthood. She and her family live in Cambridge, Mass.

Join us for Wine Down Wednesday

A fundraiser to benefit Cuesta Book of the Year and local foster youth at Vintage 1255

Wednesday, September 19, 2012 • 4 - 8 pm
1255 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo

Sponsors: Cuesta College Friends of the Library, San Luis Obispo Public Library and Cuesta College Foundation

Info: Contact Carina Love at 546-3100, ext. 2688 or clove@cuesta.edu