

PRESIDENT'S Letter



SPRING 2008

REACHING OUT TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL PARTNERS

Outreach

Beginning this spring, our outreach staff (Tiffany Clark and Peggy Ursin) will be working closely with Valley High School in an effort to increase their number of graduates who enroll at CRC.

"CRC-ASAP" (CRC- All Student Access Program), is designed for all seniors and assists them with completing the CRC steps to success-completing the online application, assessment testing, orientation, and financial aid information. More than 300 seniors will be ready to come to CRC in the fall.

While we are neighbors with Valley High School, only 20% of their graduates attend CRC immediately following graduation, compared to students from Florin (28%), Sheldon (25%), Laguna (26%) and Galt High (19%) according to our 2006-07 enrollment data.

The Valley High principal and counselors are very excited and committed to supporting this effort. Students who plan to attend a four year college are also participating and all students are being encouraged to take classes in the summer to get a "jump start" on their college career. We'll be talking more about this effort at our annual High School Counselor Conference "CRC Revealed" on February 8.

Articulation

With the recent attention and renewed focus at both the state and federal levels on career and technical education, CRC faculty have begun an ambitious effort to strengthen high school articulation of its career technical education programs.

In collaboration with Sacramento City College, CRC faculty have been in consultation with teachers from Elk Grove Unified School District and Sacramento City Unified School District reviewing the curriculum for select ROP (Regional Occupational Programs) courses.

Through these articulation efforts, our faculty are meeting with high school instructors to determine if course content for the high school class is consistent with our entry level course. Faculty from welding, construction, business technology, and auto technology have been in consultation with the high school instructors where these programs are offered. Early childhood education and accounting faculty are also considering the potential of articulating their entry level courses with CRC feeder high schools.

Establishing a strong articulation program with feeder high schools encourages students in the career and technical fields to continue their education at CRC and initiates a relationship with the college while the student is in high school.

CRC led the way in rewriting the district regulations so that they would be consistent with the federal Perkins guidelines and the State plan for use of Perkins funds that provide primary support for articulation efforts including high school to college "link programs."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Campus Colleagues and Friends of Cosumnes River College:

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well, and that your holidays were filled with joy and peace, an intriguing book and a cozy fire.



This newsletter is intended to keep you informed about our people and our place, our generous friends and collaborators, and our aspirations as an institution of higher learning. It is one opportunity to tell our story. Contained herein are updates from various campus activities that we are engaged in to improve student success and the overall learning experience. We continue to learn and grow from our transition to a compressed academic calendar, and preparations for our upcoming accreditation visit in 2009 are proceeding well. Our campus patience during this time of constant facilities construction is to be commended. Indeed, dust and noise have been our constant companions and they will continue to be for the foreseeable future. As you read, I hope you will be as proud as I am of our collective efforts to serve and to build community.

This spring semester, we expect to exceed the 14,000 student milestone - about two-thirds of our full campus projection. Not surprisingly, our student demographic profile is changing and, as such, our institution must adapt to meet the educational needs of an increasingly younger, more ethnically and linguistically diverse student body. Accordingly, our faculty and staff are growing, too. With this next round of tenure track faculty hires this spring, CRC will have close to 200 full-time faculty.

And, believe it or not, it is not too soon to start thinking about our upcoming CRC 40th Anniversary Celebration during the 2010 academic year. Yes, we will be celebrating and recognizing 40 years of service and dedication to the residents of south Sacramento County where over 250,000 students have entrusted their educational lives to us and have called CRC, home. My, how time flies when you are serving students.

Thank you for your sustained support of our college.

Amor y Paz (Love & Peace),

Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.



NEW CRC FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

The Cosumnes River College Foundation is dedicated to providing CRC students with high quality educational experiences and opportunities. The Foundation is led by the Board of Directors, which provides vision and direction to achieve that goal. We are pleased to announce the addition of two new board members who share a passion for service and education.



DEWAYNE QUINN

DeWayne Quinn is a Sr. Manager of Information Systems & Technology for Apple, Inc. Having been with the company for 8 years, DeWayne leads an organization that provides general information System & Technology Support (Applications and Infrastructure) to approximately 21 different Apple business units and offices located throughout the Northern American region. In addition to his core job duties, he is an active participant in Apple's Diversity Recruitment and general university recruitment efforts. Prior to joining Apple, DeWayne served as the Vice President of Operations and Director of Information Technology for the Retail Lending Division of The Money Store.

DeWayne has resided in Sacramento for the past 13 years. He graduated from the University of California, Davis with a bachelors degree in Political Science and has completed Executive Management studies in both Business and Information Technology at Stanford University and UC Berkeley respectively. DeWayne is a former Board Member of the UC Davis Cal Aggie Alumni Association and former interim Ex-Officio Trustee of the UC Davis Foundation Board.



ROBERT L. WOODS

Robert L. Woods is a mortgage loan consultant for Summit Funding in Elk Grove, providing a wide range of real estate financial services for his clients. Prior to this, he spent over 14 successful years at the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS), eventually retiring as a Portfolio Manager and Investment Officer.

A committed community volunteer, Robert serves on several boards and commissions including; Target Excellence, Cal Aggie Alumni Association, Sacramento County Employees' Retirement System and the Sacramento Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen. In addition, he also conducts home ownership and financial management workshops throughout the Sacramento area.

Robert earned a B.A. degree in Psychology from the University of California at Davis, and a Masters degree in Business Administration from Golden Gate University. He enjoys travel, jazz, gourmet cooking and is a connoisseur of wine.

ETHIOPIAN STUDENT TEACHES CHILDREN THE NATIVE LANGUAGE

BY SARA VASQUEZ

Cosumnes River College student, Emeseb Tabor, was born in Ethiopia and spent the first ten years of her life there. After growing up in Poland, she arrived to the United States with a great passion for her native country and culture.



Emeseb Tabor, CRC Student

Although Tabor, 26, was not raised in Ethiopia, her parents taught her the native language, Amharic. She also taught her own two children the language. Occasionally, Tabor would meet other Ethiopians who did not know how to speak Amharic and were shocked to find out she and her family could. They asked for her help in learning the native language.

Tabor said she felt a passion to reach out and teach Ethiopian children and families the Amharic language. She came to CRC in 2002 to pursue a career in early childhood education. She continues to take classes here while pursuing her dreams. She said the college is helping her achieve her goals.

History Professor Mathilde Mukantabana said not only does teaching Amharic benefit the Ethiopian culture, but the language will also contribute to the social fabric of our country. "Our American society is made up of many different contributions from all over the world," Mukantabana said. "For instance, we think nothing of eating Chinese food because it has become part of the American culture." She further explained that as different cultures are introduced into American society, it becomes integrated and familiar to all of us, which adds to the richness of our communities.

Tabor has begun to implement her education by creating a program called "Fun with Phonics." The program is designed to teach the Amharic alphabet at the elementary level. Those who are interested in learning about the program can find information on the Internet.

Tabor says she feels a strong connection with her native culture and humbled when teaching others, especially children, about the Ethiopian language. "I can only

imagine how I can affect children's lives," Tabor said. "It's never too late to change the way one thinks."

Tabor said she has a desire to help Ethiopian people to engage and be proud of their culture. Mukantabana said one way to achieve this goal is through language because it's an intricate part of culture. "Once you lose the language, you lose part of the culture and consequently part of your identity," Mukantabana said.

Along with ECE classes, Tabor has also been active in the media classes on campus, such as the television production class. She now teaches the Amharic language on her own program on the Ethiopic television network.

Tabor plans to finish up her classes and graduate next year. She said CRC has opened up her eyes and helped her to see life in a different way. She gives advice to present and future students. "If you have to, take one class at a time," she said. "Don't give up and reach as high as you can."

SHARED GOVERNANCE: *A Faculty Right & Responsibility*

BY JAMEY NYE, ACADEMIC SENATE PRESIDENT

Towards the end of the semester, with final exams looming, Academic Senate Secretary, Gary Martin, reminds faculty about the importance of shared governance. He tells professors the following: "When looking at a stack of papers to grade and then considering whether to skip your next campus committee meeting, please choose the meeting." It is good advice because shared governance (shared decision making) is the lifeblood of an effective college. CRC owes its success in large measure to our campus-wide values of inclusion, consultation, and cooperation.

There is a long history in higher education where the faculty and a college's administration have been combatants in the war over decision-making primacy. More experienced faculty may forget and many newer faculty members are unaware of the hard fought battles prior to the implementation of AB 1725 and Title 5 of the California Ed Code. Under these laws, the faculty, through the Academic Senate, has primacy in such important issues as grading policies, curriculum, prerequisites and the granting of degrees. The faculty's role in budget development, student preparation and success, accreditation and professional staff development are just as important. This process only works, however, when all the players come to the table.

Cosumnes River College has a well-established system of committees that advise the Academic Senate and the college president on how the college should be run and on how best to serve students. Joint decision making that involves input from professors, administrators, classified staff and students creates a thriving culture where ideas can be shared and buy-in from all the participants is sought.

This system falters in the absence of a shared discussion. CRC President Francisco Rodriguez has declared his process many times: "A-C-B-D. Always Consult Before Deciding." This spirit of informing his decisions means that effected parties have input. While not everyone will always like or approve of a decision, at the very least, they can know their opinions were heard and understood.

As Cosumnes River College this year prioritizes its future faculty hires through the faculty prioritization process and its instructional purchases through the COB and ITMB budgeting process, as it takes preliminary steps toward next year's accreditation self-study, and as it takes on critical issues surrounding the compressed calendar, basic skills and the assessment of course-and-program level Student Learning Outcomes, all faculty and staff are encouraged to accept both the right and the responsibility to participate in the process of helping make Cosumnes River College the very best place it can be.

CLASSIFIED SENATE

BY ASELIA VALADEZ, CLASSIFIED SENATE INTERIM PRESIDENT

Welcome to the Spring 2008 semester!

The Classified Senate would like to extend a warm welcome to the new staff and faculty joining the CRC family. I would also like to welcome back the faculty and staff that continue to be the pillars of CRC. Your efforts have a monumental impact and serve as a turning point to many of the students you engage with in the academic and support services arenas.

Here at CRC, staff takes great pride in the strong connections we have built with each other though working together and sharing our collective wisdom. You can count on the strong support system that we, the classified staff, provide in sustaining the teaching mission of the campus and in maintaining a supportive, caring environment for both students and faculty.

I look forward to the spring semester's activities; incorporating workshops, classified appreciation week, the annual classified staff retreat and other exciting events. I encourage all staff to participate and share their thoughts and ideas. The Classified Senate promotes staff development, leadership and growth for all staff. Remember, the Professional Development Fund is available to classified staff to afford them the opportunity to participate in workshops and/or conferences.

I wish you a fulfilling new year and I look forward to our collective efforts making a difference in empowering our students through education!

PRESIDENT'S Letter

<p><i>Editor</i> KRISTIE WEST</p> <p><i>Contributors</i> KEN COOPER KATHY MCLAIN CELIA ESPOSITO-NOY JAMIE NYE ANASTASIA PANAGAKOS</p>	<p><i>Design & Layout</i> AMBER FOREMAN</p> <p>FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ PEGGY URSIN ASELIA VALADEZ SARA VASQUEZ DON WALLACE</p>
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(916) 691-7199

Dust & Noise Facilities Update

The long anticipated Quad Fountain Project was completed this fall providing a wonderful venue for outdoor student life activities on the beautiful CRC campus. The project will include outdoor tables and seating that matches the seating outside the dining center. An inaugural ceremony is being planned for spring 2008.

Progress has continued on the campus Facilities Master Plan.

Construction of the new "C" parking lot was completed adding 525 much needed parking spaces to the CRC campus. Additionally, the Science Modernization Project was completed which addressed safety, aesthetic, and operational issues in the existing Science building. This project was followed by the Science Building Addition Project which adds 15,801 square feet of space, almost doubling the size of the existing building. The new and improved Science building is scheduled to be open for classes in the spring of 2010.

Construction of Phase 2 of the

Community and Athletic Center is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2008. This project will add two new classrooms, an expanded fitness center, and additional seating capacity and other improvements to make this facility a great venue for basketball, volleyball, and other athletic and special events. This project is expected to be ready for occupancy by mid fall of 2008.

Planning has also begun on several future projects including expansion

parking garage at CRC in anticipation of the new CRC light rail station. Construction of the parking garage is expected to begin in 2009 and to be complete in 2011. Construction of the light rail station is expected to begin shortly after construction of the parking garage.

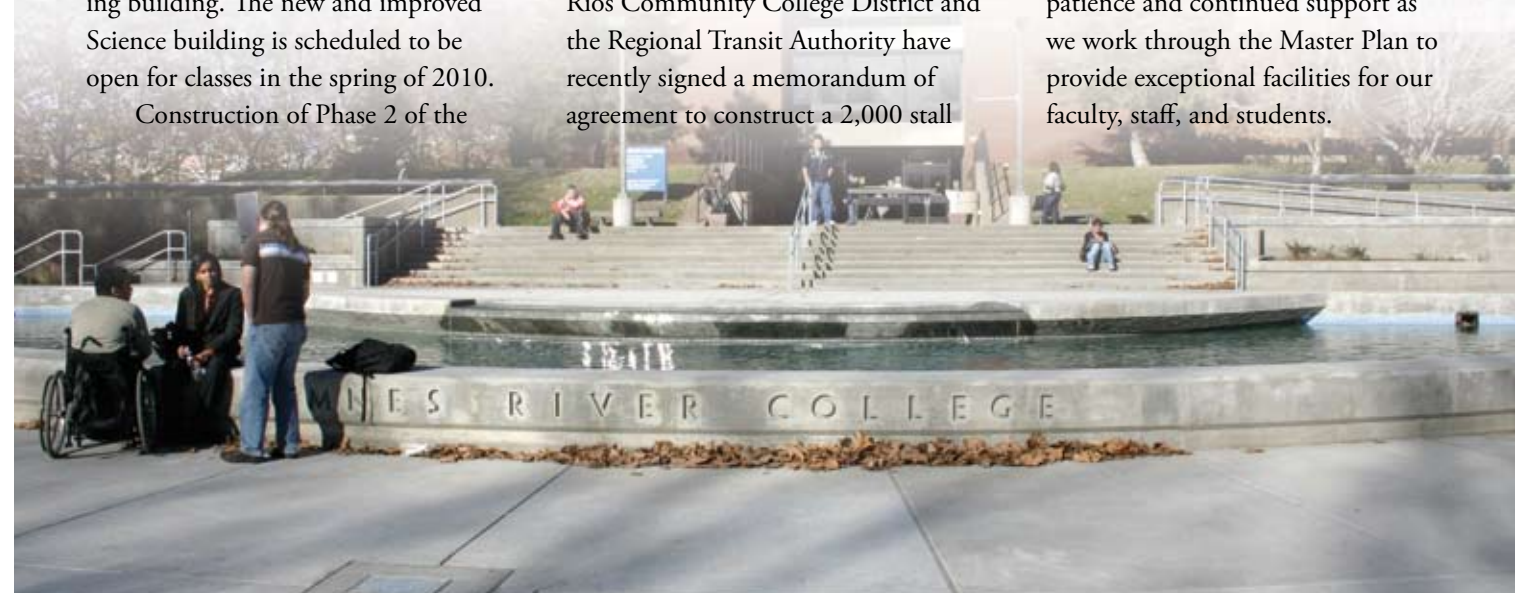
In the IT world, the college is in the process of implementing a new high speed fiber optic connection to the internet which will give the campus

access to one gigabit of internet speed, a huge improvement over the current antiquated connection. In the upcoming months, the IT department will be replacing all the outdated

switches in the campus network infrastructure to make this high speed internet available campus wide. This entire project should be complete by the end of summer 2008.

As always, we appreciate everyone's patience and continued support as we work through the Master Plan to provide exceptional facilities for our faculty, staff, and students.

Quad Fountain Project was completed this fall providing a wonderful venue for outdoor student life activities on the beautiful CRC campus.



NEW CLASSIFIED STAFF

SINCE JANUARY 2007



LYNN ARCHANGEL
STUDENT PERSONNEL
ASSISTANT
Counseling & Student Services



BENJAMIN BAIRD
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Counseling & Student Services



SALENA MARTINEZ
COUNSELING CLERK
Counseling & Student Services



TIM MICHELS
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
*Learning Resources &
College Technology*



LEE MIGUEL
STUDENT PERSONNEL
ASSISTANT
Careers & Technology



CHRISTY MIYAGI
ASSOCIATE TEACHER
Child Development Center



RICHARD CHIOLERO
LAB TECHNICIAN
Science, Math & Engineering



GRACE CORPUZ
MAINTENANCE
OPERATION CLERK
Facilities



RUZA DUSANOVIC
CUSTODIAN
Custodial Services



AMBER FOREMAN
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
*Learning Resources &
College Technology*



MICHIE MONTGOMERY
I.A. THEATRE/MUSIC
*Communication, Visual &
Performing Arts*



THOMAS PEARSON
I.A. READING
WRITING CENTER
Humanities & Social Science



NICHOLAS SHEWMAKER
BUYER
Bookstore



MARSHA WHITE
BUYER
Bookstore



**PEDRO FRANCISCO
RUBALCAVA**
I.A. MATH
Science, Math & Engineering



CHAD FUNK
STUDENT PERSONNEL
ASSISTANT
Admissions & Records



PAULA GARRETT
TUTORIAL CLERK
Tutoring Center



TCHANG LEE
CUSTODIAN
Custodial Services

FAREWELL CHRIS HAWKEN AND THANK YOU!

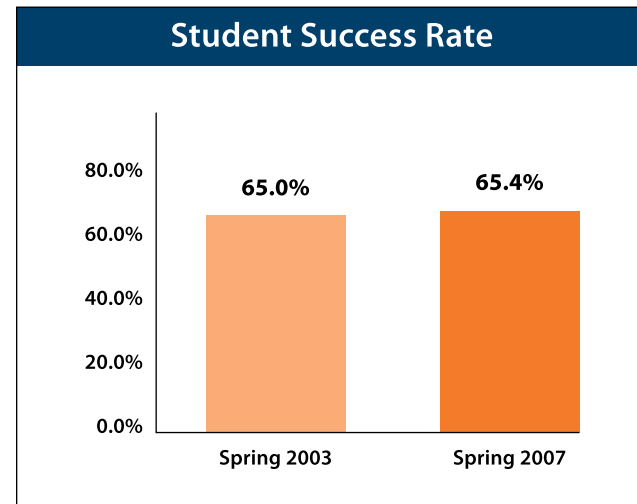


This semester, we bid farewell and shared a heartfelt thanks to Chris Hawken. Since July, Chris had served as our Vice President of Instruction and, in this role, did an outstanding job in leading the instructional services team. Chris joined our CRC family in 2002 as Dean of PE, Health & Athletics and since then his leadership has been marked by a keen vision, a strong ethic of care, and a deep concern for the welfare of students. Chris now resides in South Lake Tahoe where he and his family will undoubtedly make contributions to the health and welfare of their new community. Farewell, friend, best wishes and thank you on behalf of all your colleagues at CRC—Go Hawks!

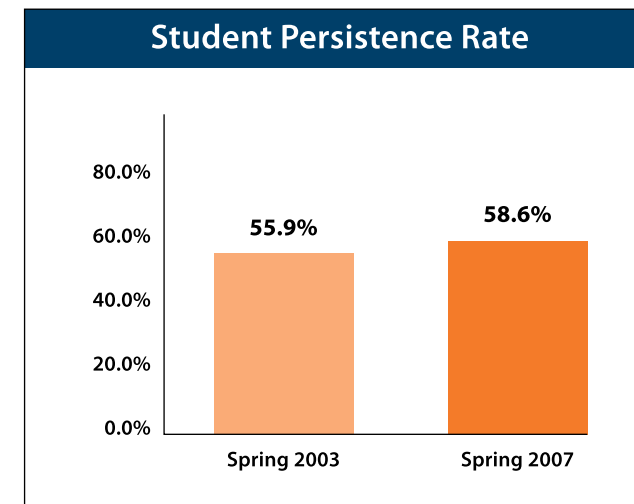


CRC'S CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS

- Over the past 10 years, the enrollment at CRC has increased 60 % from 8,563 students in fall 1996 to 13,688 students in fall 2007. During the past three fall terms, CRC has experienced a 17.6% increase in enrollment.
- Fifteen years ago, 50% of CRC students identified themselves as ethnic minority students. Currently, the ethnic minority student population comprises 70% of the total student population.
- Historically, approximately 60% of CRC students are female and approximately 40% of CRC students are male and this proportion has stayed relatively constant over time. This pattern, however, is not reflected uniformly across all age groups. In particular, close to 50% of incoming students between 18 and 30 years of age are male.



CRC Student Success Rates Relatively Unchanged



CRC Student Persistence Rates Increase

- Approximately 50% of the CRC student population is classified as below poverty or low-income and nearly 40% is considered “middle income.” The Department of Health and Human Services defines poverty level thresholds of varying amounts depending on the size of the household. A household of one person with an income lower than \$10,210 is defined as poverty level, with each additional person adding approximately \$3500 to the poverty threshold.
- During fall 2007, students under the age of 25 comprised nearly 60% of the total student population. This represents an increase of more than 6.5% as compared with fall 2002.
- During fall 2007, students who were 30 years of age or older comprised more than 25 % of the total student population. This represents a decrease of more than 15% as compared with fall 2002.

For more information about the demographics or success of CRC students visit www.crc.losrios.edu/Faculty_Staff/Research_Office.htm

AFTER THE FIRST YEAR BY ANASTASIA PANAGAKOS



Although I attended a community college as an undergraduate I was unsure what to expect during my first semester teaching full-time at CRC. How would I adjust to a new work environment, colleagues, and students?

I can only say that the adjustment hasn't been much of an adjustment at all. Becoming part of the CRC community has felt effortless even though I know this is due, in large part, to the extraordinary efforts of others to make my first semester here a successful one.

From the warm welcomes and helpfulness exhibited by the staff to the patience of my fellow professors who don't seem to mind my endless questions about the intricacies of campus life I have been the beneficiary of their generosity and collegiality.

My students have also eased this transition period by being both kind and forgiving as I have often asked of them to explain how things get done on campus. They've offered invaluable advice (and opinions!) on everything from how to make photo copies in the library to the best choices for lunch in the cafeteria. Although I normally pass on their lunch favorite (fries drowning in nacho cheese sauce) I am grateful for their insight into campus life and by extension their own hopes and goals for their educational careers.



CONGRATULATIONS TRAVIS PARKER HAYWARD AWARD WINNER



Travis Parker has been with CRC for 37 years when he was hired as a physical education and athletics instructor. He has served as our cross country coach, track coach, soccer coach and athletic director, as well as dean of the division. He has been awarded numerous awards including Soccer Coach

of the Year and Community college Coach of the Year and was inducted into the California Community College Soccer Hall of Fame in 2006.

“Education is a means to achieve one’s potential,” Parker said. “Education develops the habits of mind that lead to success. This is what my family provided to

me. They instilled in me a strong work ethic, a thirst for knowledge and a commitment to helping others. I am pleased to have the opportunity as an educator to instill these habits in younger generations.”

Travis said he was thrilled when he learned he received the Hayward Award. “I still can't believe it, but I figured if I could get the nod from my colleagues among the other CRC nominees, I could win the state award,” he said.

The Hayward Award Rewards excellence in education where candidates are evaluated on their commitment to education, serving students, community colleges including support for open access and helping students succeed, serving the institution through participation in professional and/or student activities and serving as a representative of the profession beyond the local institution.

For your service and commitment to CRC, Travis, we thank you and congratulate you on this award!

A VIEW FROM WITHIN BY RICH SHINTAKU



It has been a few months since my arrival to Cosumnes River College as the new Dean of Student Services and Enrollment Management and I must say that my expectations have surpassed my initial observations and impressions of my new professional home.

I hope that I can briefly share my new “view from within” while introducing myself to the CRC community.

Prior to coming to CRC, I was affiliated with land grant universities, research centers as well as a private liberal arts college. I have served in both instruction and student service roles including resident director, research analyst, director of multicultural affairs, professor, dean of students and department chair. In many ways, serving CRC perfectly complements my 25+ years of academic and administrative service in higher education. Most recently, I was a professor and chair of the Department of Adult Education and Higher Education Leadership at Oregon State University. The department offered graduate programs in adult education, community college leadership, student services and TESOL. Given these programs, I couldn't ask for a better complement and professional fit

than with CRC.

Being new to community colleges and specifically CRC, my initial impressions are honest, fresh and objective. My “view from within” has been nothing short of being thoroughly impressed. Faculty and staff are student-centered both philosophically and in practice. They demonstrate a willingness and ability in their approach to the educational mission. They are exceptionally collegial, hard working and productive in their specific areas of discipline. I just hope that I can keep up with everyone else and add value in this fast-paced college environment!

My “view from within” already includes a growing list of research and practice questions that I hope can support our collective efforts. What new student success models can we utilize given our rapidly changing demographics and increasing student numbers? How can we increase student engagement and a sense of place here at CRC? What new systems can we develop to effectively respond to our enrollment management concerns? What kinds of activities enhance cultural proficiency? How have the new compressed calendar and the increasing numbers of distance education students affected teaching and learning?

In the coming months I look forward to better understanding our campus community in ways that I can add significant value and contribute to the mission, vision and values of CRC, Los Rios and the surrounding community. Thanks for the opportunity!

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES INITIATED AT CRC

The Cosumnes River College Foundation's Distinguished Speaker Series, in partnership with the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce, the Elk Grove Economic Development Corporation and City of Elk Grove, held its inaugural event November 30th on the Cosumnes River College campus.

Nationally recognized business development expert Jack Schultz addressed several business and community leaders during the half-day event, which included a breakfast meeting, community workshop and a luncheon keynote address.

Future Distinguished Speaker Series events at Cosumnes River College will feature topics of local, regional and national interest.



Jack Schultz speaks to community members

CRC-AMADOR PARTNERSHIP RECOGNIZED

The partnership Cosumnes River College has with Amador County entities has been recognized by a statewide agency.

Amador County has received the 2007 CCS Partnership Award for counties. The award is for the outstanding Education Collaborative and the Amador Learning Center. The Cities Counties and Schools Partnership has been dedicated to creating a culture of collaboration among local jurisdictions



since 1997. The partnership is itself a collaborative effort of the League of California Cities, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the California School Boards Association (CSBA).

As part of this recognition, CRC is proud to have worked hard in our partnership with Amador County officials in bringing educational opportunities to that region.

In selecting the Education Collaborative and the Amador Learning Center as a 2007 CCS Partnership Award winner, the judges cited the innovative approach to a problem that exists in many rural counties. The panel was impressed with the determination of continuing when initial funding did not come through, the level of engagement with the schools, and how the program addresses a basic need.

The award was presented at the CSAC's Annual Meeting in Oakland in November.



PATRON'S DONATION

The CRC Foundation recently received a \$5,000 donation for student scholarships from the sister of a devoted patron member in honor of her sister, Lucia Furbeck Tanner.

Suzanne Strange made the donation to honor Lucia Furbeck Tanner, who recently passed away. “Please tell the recipients of this aid about a woman who never forgot the struggle of working her way through business school and making her own way in a world during the worst depression this country ever had,” Strange wrote in a letter to the Patron's Club. “Helping other young people get an education was very dear to her heart.”

Kenneth Cooper, Director of College Advancement, said that donors, like Strange, don't just give to institutions, they invest in its ideals and the people in whom they believe.

“Cosumnes River College works every day to support student success and it's through contributions like this one where we can make a big difference in our student's lives.”

“Cosumnes River College works every day to support student success and it's through contributions like this one where we can make a big difference in our student's lives,” he added.

In addition to this donation, the Patron's Club raised \$5,100 at their annual Scholarship Luncheon Fashion Show, a fundraising event for student scholarships held every October. We appreciate all they do for our students!

CRC IS GOING GREEN

BY SARA VASQUEZ

Cosumnes River College is going green. District Chancellor Brice Harris said in a news conference Sept. 20 that with more cleaner and greener businesses moving into the Sacramento area, existing businesses such as construction management, architecture and manufacturing are adding green components. Harris said this will create an up-to-date workforce.

In response, the four Los Rios colleges are adding programs to train students for careers in these growing fields. At CRC, students will be able to get a certificate in Green Building and Design. In the Green Building and Design program, students will take classes that teach about environmental control systems, sustainable energy and free energy sources. Classes will be offered in the classroom, online and on interactive television.

“We’re going to see more of this in the next decade,” Architecture Professor John Ellis said. Ellis said people are realizing changes need to be made to prevent future damage to our environment.

One futuristic program Ellis is working on is a project called Ecohouse. An Ecohouse is a residential home with an energy-conscious design. “Strategies include window placement, insulation and building materials,” Ellis said.

Ellis said the benefits of a home such as this are two-fold. “Home owners will save money on energy bills, while helping preserve the environment,” he said.

Sacramento area leaders agree it’s time for the region to



Sacramento Mayor Heather Fargo at GreenForce news conference



Architecture professor John Ellis with CRC Student

move in this direction. Sacramento Mayor Heather Fargo said Sacramento is seen as an environmentally friendly city and holds the number 13 spot in a national status. She said we need to maintain this status.

“This initiative will create good jobs in Sacramento that are important for our climate, country and the world,” Fargo said.

Jan Schori, general manager of SMUD said there are needs we all have for our environment, which is one of the reasons renewable energy is being worked into state laws. She said this will create future “tax initiatives and utility rebates” and more jobs for a “qualifying and sizable workforce.”

President and CEO of the Sacramento Metro Chamber Matt Mahood said the programs being offered at the Los Rios colleges are a necessary component because the future of business depends on education. “These are educational opportunities that link to real world jobs,” Mahood said.

Besides the Green Building and Design program at CRC, ARC will offer a solar technology certificate and SCC will offer one in Energy Management Systems in HVAC. These programs will be available beginning in the 2008-09 academic year.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Dr. Merrilee Lewis-Engel may have retired as Cosumnes River College president, but she continues to support its students through two scholarships.

Lewis-Engel arrived on campus in 1995 and began financially supporting students shortly thereafter with two scholarships in memory of her first husband, Sharp Lewis. She also provides funding for CRC students through two Elk Grove Community Foundation scholarships; one for a Florin High School student, and one for a Valley High School student.

“For many students, CRC represents their first opportunity to attend college, sometimes being the first in their family to attend college” Lewis-Engel said. “It’s important to encourage and support a student’s pursuit of higher education.”

During her tenure as president of CRC, Lewis-Engel encouraged the faculty and staff to give as well. “I would like to see the staff and faculty continue to support the growth of the culture of philanthropy at CRC,” she added. “The need for private support to provide exceptional opportunities to students will continue. As we ask the community for support, it’s critical that we are also able to show that our staff and faculty support these efforts as well.”

Dr. Merrilee Lewis-Engel

