

# PRESIDENT'S *Letter*



SPRING 2010

## PLANNING FOR THE **ELK GROVE** EDUCATIONAL CENTER

### BACKGROUND

In 2001 the Los Rios Board of Trustees established plans to create educational centers. The plans recognized the growing population within the district and specific research which indicated people have a strong preference for accessing community college courses in close proximity to their residences. Designing and building educational centers in neighborhood communities became part of the Los Rios District's effort to improve educational accessibility, reduce traffic congestion, and enhance environmental sustainability. In 2002 Measure A was passed by the taxpayers providing local bond funds, in part for Center development in several communities served by the District. For CRC, the rapid population growth occurring to the south of the main campus made the Elk Grove community the obvious choice for a center. The District acquired land five miles south of CRC just off Highway 99 near the corner of Big Horn Blvd and Whitelock Parkway for the new center. Cosumnes Oaks High School is situated just to the north of this site, providing future partnership opportunities with specific high school programs and the Elk Grove Unified School District. Last fall, the college received conditional approval for center status from the California Community College's Board of Governors.

### LOOKING FORWARD

This spring, college staff along with the project's architects will design the first phase of the three-phase project. The first phase will consist of 20,000 gross square feet with approximately ten lecture/lab classrooms, and an area for student and business services. The overarching intent is for the design to reflect the best of CRC with a welcoming landscape and outdoor gathering areas. The Center is scheduled to open for the spring 2013 semester. The Center will allow students to complete their general education requirements and will be able to accommodate several thousand students when all phases are completed. While the Center's planning is being finalized, and during its construction, the college plans to begin offering a few general education classes in the afternoon and evening at local sites to build awareness and enrollment.

## ACCREDITATION 2009

### THEY CAME, THEY SAW, NOW WHAT?

The visiting team from ACCJC/WASC was here October 12-15 reviewing our Self-Study and our progress in meeting the Standards of Accreditation. When the team departed on October 15th, the individual members had finished the drafts of those sections of the report that they had been assigned. The team also developed a preliminary recommendation regarding our Accreditation Status. The Team Chair, Dr. Kathleen Hodge, then compiled their reports into a single comprehensive document.

A draft team report is sent to the College President to do a check for "factual errors." After this review, the final report and team recommendation is forwarded to the Commission for its action. The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) will review our report during their winter meeting, January 6-8. Based on the Commission's review of the team report, our self study, and other related information, the Commission will determine the status of our Accreditation.

We will be advised of our Accredited status in mid-January. Based on action of the Commission, we could be granted a re-affirmation of accreditation, or a re-affirmation with a one of a variety of follow-up actions.

The College has invested an enormous effort into all of the elements of accreditation. All are to be commended for this effort, as well as the commitment that was made to the self study. Early in the Spring Semester, we should see the return on our investment. Thanks to all of you for the commitment and investment that has made Cosumnes River College the quality institution that it is.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## DEBORAH J. TRAVIS

JANUARY 2010



### *CRC Colleagues,*

After a relaxing holiday break, it's good to be back with you and our students as we begin the spring 2010 semester! I hope the winter intercession provided you with new and interesting experiences

and some well-deserved restorative moments. This spring term promises to be an exciting, challenging time for us - a remarkable academic session with growing enrollments and expanding student needs. There will be abundant, continuous opportunities to demonstrate our dedication to educational excellence and student success in innovative and unprecedented ways. Our Cosumnes River College values for exemplary teaching and learning and respect and care for all individuals must be in the forefront of our work this spring, and provide the enduring foundation for our interactions with our students, our colleagues, and our community.

These same core values supported our college's dynamic and beneficial fall semester, with significant accomplishments in program and services development, student retention, enrollment management, and facilities planning and construction. Because of your efforts, our students succeeded in the classroom, in statewide and national conferences, in service to our community, and in competitive academic and athletic venues. You will see many of these successes highlighted in this edition of the President's Letter.

We must sustain focus on our mission and draw deep within our educational passion and energy as we move into the spring 2010 semester. This is an anticipatory and important time for Cosumnes River College! Early this spring, we will receive our final accreditation report and it will provide recommendations and suggestions for developing new directions that

ensure our college's continuous growth and effectiveness. A few but critical faculty members will be recruited, interviewed, and selected to join our community. Site and program planning for our Elk Grove Center will intensify and will involve many of you in the design of relevant, comprehensive educational programs and services. New construction on our Hawk's Nest Bookstore and Cafeteria and parking structure will get underway, and our renovated, expanded Science building will be completed in late March, a long-awaited and much-needed project to serve our students. And, of course, we will be preparing throughout this spring for our Annual Foundation Gala and Commencement to celebrate our college's service to the community and our students' personal growth and academic advancement.

I want to close this message by expressing the enjoyment and the satisfaction I have experienced in my first few months at Cosumnes River College. It is indeed a pleasure to work with all of you. Your depth of scholarship, dedication to student learning and engagement, and commitment to a culture of caring and service is evident in what you do, what you say, and in how you readily and enthusiastically participate in the stewardship and development of the college.

Thank you for working together to create such a wonderful and highly-regarded learning community. Best wishes for a successful spring 2010 semester!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Debbie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deborah J. Travis

# MENTORING – AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES

A significant amount of literature addresses mentoring in higher education. Literature distinctive to community colleges includes mentoring faculty members, college presidents, department chairs, deans and students. A mentor has been traditionally defined as someone who willingly commits time, energy, and/or resources to assist another in professional development.

The term mentor is derived from Homer's epic tale *The Odyssey*. Odysseus selected his elderly friend, Mentor, to watch over his son Telemachus while he was away fighting in the Trojan War. Mentor was responsible for guiding, teaching and offering counsel to young Telemachus in his father's absence.

However, mentoring has evolved to include career and professional development, emotional support, coaching and friendship. E.J. Valeau and G.R. Boggs, in a 2004 *Community College Review* article, contend, "As community colleges have grown in size and complexity, awareness of the mentor's importance has grown accordingly among inexperienced community college faculty and administrators who aspire to more challenging positions."

The role of mentoring at Cosumnes River College is seen in variety of contexts and is infused throughout the institution. It is intriguing to examine the instances of mentoring found in Faculty Access to Communication on Teaching/Learning and Student Services (FACTS), Puente, Diop Scholars, classified staff, administrators and informal relationships across constituency groups on campus.

Integrating mentoring into a community college can benefit the institution. Two of the core strategic goals at CRC, teaching and learning effectiveness and organizational effectiveness, lead toward an emphasis on mentoring as a professional development strategy. FACTS workshops are designed for new faculty to address topics specific to the institution and teaching effectiveness. Workshops are planned through the year by the Academic Senate and each new faculty member is assigned a mentor. Mentoring is designed to provide a new organizational member a sense of place. Jorge Baca, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, describes the environment of the Mathematics and Physics departments as welcoming. He says his colleagues are always willing to give advice. James



Fraze, Assistant Professor of Psychology, asserts, "Being mentored in the FACTS program has been invaluable in my first semester teaching at CRC. The materials presented apply directly to day to day challenges faced by new faculty members." Although FACTS is a formal mentor program, flexibility exists for each mentor relationship to develop. Assistant Art Professor, Jeff Kimbler states, "Having a mentor my first semester has been a great experience. I have a relationship that is very flexible in terms of how often and when and where we meet which has allowed me to find mentoring and advice when I need it most."

As an institution, mentoring exists at CRC throughout the organization. Administrators, faculty, classified staff and students participate in mentoring in formal programs as well as informal programs. Nyenboku George, Assistant Professor of Sociology, details mentoring students in a more informal process where the relationship is an extension beyond the class. He states, "Students are often interested in the field beyond what I can cover in the current semester. I like to see myself as a mentor or advocate for students who want to excel."

*Colette Harris-Mathews is a Professor of Communication Studies at CRC. She serves as a FACTS mentor and is completing her dissertation which examines the mentor relationships of African American women administrators in California community colleges.*

## CLASSIFIED SENATE UPDATE

Welcome to Spring 2010 Semester!

Can you believe that we are in the year 2010? It is quite amazing to see how fast this decade has flown by (it seems like only yesterday we were gearing up for Y2K). Our campus has seen significant changes regarding students, staff, faculty, administration and facilities this past decade. We see, year in and year out, a diverse student population furthering their education with us at CRC. Who would have guessed ten short years ago that we would now have over 16, 000 students on our campus in 2010? Classified Staff have also seen changes. We have grown in numbers since the year 2000 and we have also seen valuable members of our Classified Staff transition on. The campus landscape as well has developed. We have new buildings and updates/expansions to existing buildings with more changes on the horizon. The growth to this campus has been great indeed.

This semester, I would recommend to our Classified Staff to look at personal growth as well. Find time to take a class on campus or go back to school to complete a degree/certificate. Participate in one of the many Shared Governance committees we have here on campus. Take part in professional development activities that could help you in your field or help you to develop personally. Classified Staff can look forward to the spring semester's activities such as workshops, Classified Appreciation Week, the annual classified staff retreat and more. There are so many things that we can do for ourselves that can benefit us for the future in our professional and personal life here at CRC.

I wish you a fruitful and exciting New Year and I look forward to all the possibilities the New Year holds for students, staff, faculty, and administrators at CRC!

Thank you,

**Emily Barkley**

*2009-2010 Classified Senate President*

## ACADEMIC SENATE UPDATE

This semester the Academic Senate has shared many conversations about the budget and enrollment management both here on campus, throughout the district, and statewide at the Senate Plenary session. The challenge of balancing resources with needs for both student services and instructional programs is huge. The state's allocation for our district and our local college's share of that allocation is outside our purview; nevertheless, we are diligently working on ways to stretch our campus dollars so that we may continue to serve our students well. With this in mind, the Senate will be hosting another Hawk-a-Thon fundraiser, as well as undertaking a review of the test proctoring center in the spring. We are supporting a reduction in printed class schedules to provide sound fiscal and environmental stewardship, and will work with administration to help manage the expected surge of students in the coming year. On a broader level, the District Senate is forming a joint task force to work closely with administration and all four college Academic Senates on enrollment management. Our goal is to promote effective and transparent processes for the inevitable course reductions, with the least negative impact on our students and our programs. We are proud to be part of the Los Rios District Community Colleges, and feel sure that by working together we will weather this storm.

**Majorie Duffy**

*Academic Senate President*

### PRESIDENT'S *Letter*



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## Dust & Noise Facilities Update

The fall semester brought new changes to the CRC campus with planning for many more changes to come. The southeast corner of campus was developed into a new parking lot that will provide over 900 parking spaces. In the spring, construction is scheduled to begin on a 2,000 stall parking garage that will provide parking for a future light rail station. All of this new parking will be available for CRC students on a first-come first-served basis.

Modernization and expansion of the Science building will finally be completed this spring, ending nearly five years of existence in portables. The building exterior is finished and walkways are available on the north and west sides of the building to improve access around campus.

In January, construction begins on a project to expand the Bookstore and

Cafeteria. During construction, the Bookstore will remain open in its same location in the College Center, but the Cafeteria will be relocated to the second floor of the CAC building in room CAC-200.

CRC continues to grow as an institution to meet the changing needs of its students thanks to the strong community support.

The college will complete an update of the Facilities Master Plan during the spring semester and will continue with planning for the Winn Center for Construction and Architecture, the Elk Grove Center, the Northeast Buildings Modernization, and Athletic Field/North Perimeter/Transportation improvements. In addition, planning should begin on a new Art Gallery.

The facilities projects scheduled

over the next few years will bring exciting changes to the CRC campus. Within approximately three years, major changes will occur on the north and east sides of campus, completely changing the view of campus from Cosumnes River Boulevard and Bruceville Road. In addition to new athletic fields, two new instructional buildings on the main campus, a parking garage, and light rail station will open, which will draw new students

and the community onto campus, and the college will open its first outreach center in Elk Grove. Despite continuing concerns about the state budget, CRC continues to grow as an institution to meet the changing needs of its students thanks to the strong community support for Los Rios Community College District and the college through the recent passage of the \$475 million Measure M construction bond.



# PATRONS CLUB ANNUAL EVENT *Provides Student Support*

"The Sound of Music" was this year's theme at the Patrons Club Annual Scholarship Luncheon in October. The luncheon, which is the club's biggest fundraiser, entertained guests with a full afternoon of events including a boutique, champagne luncheon and a fashion show.

Cosumnes River College President Debbie Travis said the event is a fun CRC tradition and a great opportunity for family and friends to come together and support scholarships for students.

The day started casually with boutique shopping of items such as baked goods, hand crafted scarves and jewelry. Guests traveled from table to table, eagerly placing their treasures in the baskets provided.

Before lunch, Patrons Club President Sandi Russell welcomed guests and thanked Event Chair Mary McIntyre and the members who worked on the luncheon. "I am a very lucky woman to be associated with such wonderful and giving women," Russell said.

An authentic German meal of sauerbraten, which is a red wine marinated pot roast, was served, along with steamed vegetables, cucumber salad and donauwellen, a cream-filled cake with chocolate frosting, for dessert.

Keeping with the theme, CRC's Computer Information Science Professor, Markus Geissler, a German-born accordionist, hosted a sing-a-long from the Sound of Music, including songs "Do Re Mi" and "Edelweiss."

Models wore clothing from Chico's, located at the Pavilions, and the Men's Wearhouse of Elk Grove. Some of

the well-known models included CRC President Debbie Travis, Elk Grove City Council Member Gary Davis, and Patrons member Violet DeBord. Another featured model, CIS Professor Norv Wellsfry was "flattered" to be among the models and said he had the most fun with the casual outfit, which consisted of dark corduroy pants, shirt and a grayish blue sweater.

Travis said the clothes chosen for her were "lovely," and she even made some investments. "Local businesses such as Chico's and the Men's Wearhouse are an example of the shining support CRC receives," Travis said. Additionally, Travis was pleased that the Chico's representative assisting with the show was one of CRC's own students, Krista Young.

A highlight of the luncheon was the silent auction and raffle drawing. Raffle prizes ranged from a wine tour/tasting for four at the Castello di Amarosa (wine castle) in the Napa wine country to a

gift certificate to Wild Bill's Tattoo Shop. Silent auction items included 17 baskets with themes such as "Picnic," and "Let's Play Ball," as well as a cooking class for six donated by Culinary Arts Management Professor Cynthia Torres.

The Patrons Club consists of 26 active members, ranging in age from the mid-50s to 90s. Their mission; raise money for student scholarships and college needs. The Patrons Club has been meeting since 1971, with the annual scholarship luncheon dating back to the early '80s. The club currently gives nearly \$9,000 annually in scholarships.



## SACRAMENTO REGIONAL BUILDERS EXCHANGE DONATES BIG TO WINN CENTER

In 2007, The Sacramento Regional Builders Exchange pledged a gift of \$50,000 in support of the Winn Center for Construction and Architecture at Cosumnes River College. The gift, made in memory of local builder and former CRC Capital Campaign chair Carl Otto, signifies SRBE's commitment to student success and excellence at Cosumnes River College.

In the fall of 2009, Sacramento Regional Builders Exchange followed their initial installment of \$10,000 with the remaining balance of \$40,000, years ahead of schedule!



"We're happy to fulfill our pledge to the Winn Center. We believe in the importance of this new building at CRC and want to encourage others to invest in the future of the Sacramento region," said SRBE Executive Director Joshua Wood.

The Winn Center for Construction and Architecture will be an iconic structure on the Cosumnes River College campus, serving the Sacramento region for many years in the future.

# COSUMNES RIVER HAWK VISIONARY SOCIETY:

## Scholarship & Program Support

In the animal kingdom, the hawk is said to possess the keenest vision. Members of the Cosumnes River Hawk Visionary Society share this attribute. Their visionary giving allows Cosumnes River College to shape the lives of current and future CRC students through meaningful contributions to specific areas of the College. These gifts support endowed scholarships and a variety of projects and programs. Gifts to the CRC annual fund provide the greatest flexibility to supporting to a wide range of student needs. Various levels of membership exist within the society and are based upon gift total.

*Memberships in the Cosumnes River College Hawk Visionary Society reflect gifts to the Foundation from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.*

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### \$10,000-\$24,999 (Benefactor)

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### \$25,000 and above (Founders)

Methodist Hospital of Sacramento

## Welcome to the CRC Family

# NEW FACULTY, CLASSIFIED STAFF & MANAGEMENT

SINCE AUGUST 2009



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I.A. ACCOUNTING LAB



YOLANDA  
GARCIA-GOMEZ  
COORDINATOR/COUNSELOR  
DSPS



JAMEY NYE  
DEAN  
*Business & Family Science*



AKSONE LUSANAXAY  
FINANCIAL AID CLERK II



DAIMON SHELTON  
PE/ATHLETIC ATTENDANT

## STUDY ABROAD

Professor Martin Morales, Chair of the Political Science & Global Studies Department, taught through CRC's Study Abroad Program this past fall (2009). He, along with faculty from consortium partners Santa Rosa Junior College and College of San Mateo, taught at the FIAP Jean Monnet in Paris. Professor Morales' courses were the newest offering from the Global Studies curriculum, "Modern Europe and European Unification" and two standard political science courses, "International Relations" and "US Government."

CRC's Study Abroad programs provide students the opportunity to study throughout the world. Each school in the consortium recruits students, provides them with a detailed orientation on the country they are traveling to and on the courses they will take. Faculty are responsible for the academic portion of the program and AIFS, the consortium's partner, for logistics and cultural outings. Students have the choice of living at the FIAP, in home-stays, or on their own; faculty make their own living arrangements through a variety of local providers.

Professor Morales can't speak highly enough about the experience – for both students and faculty. "The students were exceptionally well prepared for their time in Paris. They were focused, they studied hard and had the benefit of an international classroom." Morales commented that faculty also benefited from the experience by being able to incorporate Paris and the EU into their lectures. "How often does a student taking art history get to jump on the Metro and go to the Louvre? How often are students able to be present for a vote on a major treaty in an ongoing supra-nationalist experiment – and talk to citizens that will be affected by it? This program is the LRCCD's hidden jewel!"

CRC's Study Abroad program affords students the opportunity to study in Paris, London, Florence, Madrid and Granada. A future potential destination is Buenos Aires, Argentina. Professor Morales highly recommends colleagues explore the opportunity to teach abroad.

## OUR PEOPLE... *Our Place*



*English Professor Dennis Hock wearing the fool's cap*

### DENNIS HOCK *English Professor*

After 35 years of teaching, I guess this is my valediction (although it feels more like delivering a eulogy – at my own wake!) Well, here goes...ahem...A true measure of anyone's life can be found in the quality of their friendships. I personally have been very fortunate in that CRC has been a place where I've made deep and abiding friendships that extend well beyond our campus boundaries. Over the years I've backpacked with colleagues in the Alps, Pyrenees, and Sierras (once, in the Yosemite high country, it even counted for flex credit—ah, the halcyon days); caravanned across Italy, France, and Japan; rafted down whitewater rivers; sailed SF Bay; co-taught courses at the University of London; camped at Tomales Bay; and taken a 3,000 mile pilgrimage in a battered VW van down through Baja to Cabo San Lucas and back – just to name a few highlights. And, of course, danced at weddings and cried at funerals. I doubt there are many places where so many co-workers become such intimate friends. CRC has been such a place for me, a community of caring and committed people of great integrity.

As for my experience with CRC students, it's been both a privilege and a challenge. A privilege in that it's always an honor to help any human being in their process of further developing their intellectual, emotional, and moral dimensions. A privilege in being instrumental in drawing out from students the capacity latent in them to become their own teachers and to make meaning for their own lives. And what a rich reward that entails for us who work here. For CRC is a campus of such stunning diversity that we can't help but learn as much from our students as they from us. More complicated is the challenge part. Sometimes we don't talk openly and honestly enough about how students, in general, have come to college increasingly less equipped with essential academic skills, less committed to a strong work ethic in their coursework, and less inclined to consider the social-ethical aspects of living in our contemporary culture. I think that our efforts to serve less-advantaged students are laudatory. But I also fear we perhaps too often contribute to the importance of grades rather than an emphasis on learning which undermines education throughout our country. Since the tension between empowering students and maintaining standards will always be there we need to be creative in exploring ways to help CRC sustain a healthy balance in promoting both of those ideals.

I don't mean to sound "cranky" in these celebratory pages. This frankness comes with the fool's cap – and is well intentioned. Perhaps it's the logic professor in me who needs to point out the "either-or" fallacy encouraged in the question: Do you see the glass as half-empty or as half-full? It's always both, of course. That's the complex beauty of the human condition. And I've enjoyed immensely the intimate sharing of our condition with so very many of you here at CRC. Thank you so much. *Namaste'*.



### ALLAH-MI ALLEN *Athletic Counselor*

As many of you already know, prior to coming to Cosumnes River College, I worked at one of the most prestigious, well-known private universities in the land, the University of Southern California. Over the course of my tenure at SC, I became accustomed to a certain level of excellence that is evenly matched at only a few other institutions. Even as I was entertaining the possibility of moving to the community college ranks, I had colleagues ask me why I was taking a 'step down' and why would I leave there and go to a 'junior college', and my answer was simple...I had reached a point in my career where I felt I couldn't really effect change. At the time I was working as an academic advisor to USC's athletes and 4-year college model of academic advising does not include personal counseling. With a background in marriage and family therapy (counseling), I really wanted to take my academic advising skills to the next level, and that's when I began searching around at the various community colleges and eventually found CRC.

I remember my first interview. Unlike prior interviews, I was not only answering the questions being asked of me, I was also doing my own evaluation of sorts. I wondered, "Are these people like me? Do they care as much about student success as I do or were they just doing their jobs? Do they pride themselves on teaching life skills? Is the students overall welfare and best interest a foundation pillar of the work they do? Do they inspire and aspire to be a catalyst for change in the lives of their students?" Without me even asking those questions aloud, the answers continually reveal themselves to me even now, nearly four years later.

Soon after I got hired, I found out the work 'those people' were doing was not like me...nothing like anything I'd ever experienced. While individual student success was and still is a main priority, what I soon learned about Cosumnes River College was that this is a place where not only individuals can succeed; this is a place where the community comes to succeed. Much of the work that is done here on behalf of the college has a direct impact on the community. Our students come here to take everything from basic skills to health and wellness courses, all of which adds to the quality of their lives, enhancing their opportunities for advanced education, career and or personal development...all of which have a direct impact on the local community. Unlike at the four year institution I was at, where students come from far and wide, the overwhelming majority of the students at CRC are local area residents, many of them are 2nd and 3rd generation CRC students. My experience of working at CRC has completely shifted my focus. No longer am I just focusing on one student at a time, I am doing it with an even greater awareness that these students collectively will have a great impact on not only their individual families but our area communities as well.

My experience at CRC has been that we are not at all a junior college...Cosumnes River College is a COMMUNITY college.

# SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS



## *Women's Soccer Team*

The women's soccer team finished in second place in the California Community College Athletic Association Soccer Championships.

This is the second time the team made it to the state finals since the school opened in 1970. "I told the girls I couldn't be more proud," Coach Cesar Plasencia said in a Sacramento Bee article. "With all we've dealt with, it's a miracle we made it this far and there's a lot to be proud of." A stand-out this season was Dani Arellano, who had 31 goals. Arellano was named the Big 8 Conference Player of the Week as well as Most Valuable Player.



## *Research Staff*

Dean of Planning & Research Kathy McLain, Faculty Research Coordinator Jeanne Edman, Research Analyst Brad Brazil, Co-Chairs of the Outcome Assessment Task Force Dana Wassmer and Marybeth Buechner, were awarded the POWER award (Promising Outcomes Work and Exemplary Research) for work in SLO assessment and research in the category of Faculty Development Programs in SLO

Assessment. The award, given by the ASCCC/RP Collaborative on SLO Assessment, was officially presented at the pre-conference session of the Student Success Conference.



## *Gary Martin*

Radio, Television and Film Professor Gary Martin was awarded the director and producer for Best Sports Coverage in the professional category at the Western Access Video Excellence (WAVE) awards in Reno. The annual WAVE awards recognize top programming that airs on public,

educational or government cable channels from six western states.



## *John Ellis*

Professor of Architecture John Ellis became LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified. This accreditation means Ellis has demonstrated excellence and a thorough understanding of green building practices. "As CRC is becoming a leader in providing

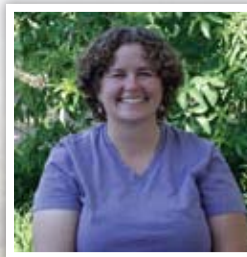
green education, it's important that our design faculty be recognized for their understanding of sustainable practices and serve as role models for students entering the building profession," Ellis said. LEED is internationally recognized and is considered the premier green building certification system. Ellis added that because more and more owners (including the State of California) are requiring LEED building certification, it's essential that students be trained and understand the principles of LEED - for example, energy savings, water efficiency and improved indoor environmental quality.



## *De'Boraha Le'Vias*

CRC Photography student De'Boraha Le'Vias's image titled "Blessing from Above" took home top prize in this year's A Day in the Life of North Sacramento contest. More than 25,000 images were taken from more than 800 students and community members from the region in a one-day photo shoot around Del Paso Heights. At a gallery showing of the top 100 images, Le'Vias's photo was announced as the best taken that day.

"For me, photography allows me to see the world in another light" Le'Vias said. "Since I began taking photos, everything looks different. A building is not just a building any more, it's a work of art. I'm truly happy for the things that shaped my life and the circumstances that brought me here. The decision to get into photography has truly been a blessing and has forever changed my life."



## *Heather Downing*

Geography major, Heather Downing received yet another award during the fall semester. This time she was awarded a \$500 scholarship for winning the National Council for Geographic Education's "Women in Geography Education Award." Heather has also won another national award while a student at CRC. She won the President's Award Outstanding Poster from the Association of American Geographers for a presentation at the Association of Pacific Coast Geographer's conference at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and two scholarship awards from CRC. She was also named a 2009 NWF Campus Ecology Fellow and is currently working with that grant money to increase awareness of green sustainability efforts here on campus, including putting recycle bins in each classroom.



## *EOPS Office*

The Equal Opportunity Program and Services department was awarded second-year funding for the Stuart Foundation Foster Youth Grant. The office received \$55,000 to continue its partnership with CSU Sacramento and UC Davis to assist foster youth become more

successful in college. CRC currently has 44 foster youth participating in the Enriched Scholar Program, which is the foster youth program on campus.

## Getting to Know... Q&A

### NICHOLAS SHEWMAKER

*Bookstore Buyer*



**1. How long have you been here?**

Three years.

**2. What do you like most about your job?**

The interaction I get to have with the great staff and faculty here at CRC. The ordering of the textbooks for a college requires a lot of coordination and timing, but the staff and faculty here make it a breeze.

**3. What do you like to do for fun? Hobbies?**

I enjoy playing softball, pool and bowling with my son. I love taking my family on trips to Monterey and San Francisco. Watching the Giants beat the Dodgers (hopefully this year will bring more of that than the past few have).

**4. Have you always wanted to be doing what you're currently doing?**

When I was a student at CRC I worked in the Bookstore and always thought it would be nice to return someday. I was very grateful when this position opened and the opportunity was given to me to return to CRC.

**5. What were you doing before coming to CRC?**

I was working in retail sales/management while getting my BA in Political Science at UC Davis.

**6. What are your plans for the future?**

I would like to become an active advocate for California Community Colleges.

**7. Any words of wisdom or anything you'd like to add?**

I have enjoyed many great experiences here at CRC as both a student and now as an employee, and I am very proud to be a part of this campus.

### GRACE CORPUZ

*Maintenance Operations Clerk | Operations Department*



**1. How long have you been here?**

I've been with the district as a classified temporary from 2005 to 2006 in the following departments, the Los Rios PD, EOPS and Tutoring Center, and with the Human Resources Department at the District Office. I have been in my current position for almost three years.

**2. What do you like most about your job?**

There's always something new occurring everyday. I enjoy working with the staff and faculty on this campus.

**3. What do you like to do for fun? Hobbies?**

I enjoy spending time with my family. I have three children. My youngest son is 6, my daughter will be 9 and my oldest son will be 15. They all keep me pretty busy. On the weekends we like to spend the day at the park near our house. When I find time for myself, I like to watch movies, crochet or knit, which I just recently learned to do.

**4. Have you always wanted to be doing what you're currently doing?**

This position has given me valuable knowledge of the campus and its operations. I've always wanted to work in a public service environment. I have the opportunity to work with the outside community as well as providing operational support to the campus.

**5. What were you doing before coming to CRC?**

I was going to school full-time for a degree in Business at CSUS and raising my three kids. After I graduated, I began looking for employment. My sister, who's been with the district for over 13 years, encouraged me to apply with the Los Rios Community College District and I'm thankful I listened to her.

**6. What are your plans for the future?**

I hope to further my educational goal which is to attain a master's degree in Business Administration.

**7. Any words of wisdom or anything you'd like to add?**

Get to know your co-workers because they're the best resources.

## SAVE THE DATE

COSUMNES RIVER COLLEGE FOUNDATION

*Gala*  
2010  
A TASTE OF JAZZ

SATURDAY, MAY 8TH, 2010  
4:00-7:00PM | CRC FOUNTAIN STAGE

*An evening of music, food, friends and fun!*

## ALUMNI *Short Takes*



### *Nupur Jain*

Nupur Jain wanted to go to a community college because of the student to teacher ratio. She said Cosumnes River College's location was optimal. "I liked the CRC campus. It has a lively atmosphere and it's not too big which encourages the community feeling and helps you make friends," she said. Jain followed in the footsteps of her grandfather, an engineer, and is now a Test Engineering Manager at Stryker Endoscopy. Jain said CRC provided the basic information she needed to succeed in her junior and senior classes. "I was able to get a good grasp on the basics before learning more complex equations, scenarios and lab setups," she said. Additionally, the MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) program at CRC helped her to get a summer internship and get involved in a research program at the University of California, Davis, both of which led to an internship in Europe during her junior year. "Eventually both of the internships and the research program helped me get a job after graduation. If it weren't for the first internship through CRC and MESA, I don't think I'd have my current job," she said.



### *Ben Perea*

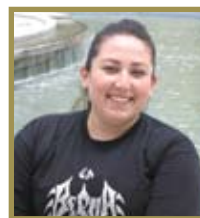
Ben Perea said the most important factor in his decision to attend Cosumnes River College was the priority four-year universities give to students transferring from community colleges. Perea, a microbiology major, was pleasantly surprised at the level of difficulty he faced at CRC. Chemistry Professor Chitoh Emetarom and Mathematics Professor Ron Breitenbach pushed him and taught him not to do things half way. "The toughest professors have been the best," Perea said. In the summer of 2008, Perea interned at the University of California, Davis Department of Chemistry. He remembers a rewarding experience. "I was working in the research lab and ran into a problem. My first instinct was to ask for help, but I decided to experiment. It reminded me of my organic chemistry lab at CRC, but without time restraints. I was able to figure out what to use from the lab and I solved the problem on my own." These days Perea tutors at MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) while he prepares to transfer to a four-year college in the Fall of 2010. His aspirations are to continue his education at the University of California, Stanford or the University of California, Berkeley. He is thankful CRC helped prepare him for his future. "If it's hard, it's preparing you," he said.



### *Michal Robinson*

As Sacramentans we may think of the Caribbean as a dream vacation, but for Michal Robinson, her dream was to come here. Robinson, who was raised in the Virgin Islands since she was four-years-old, had always wanted to go to school somewhere else. "Cosumnes River College was the magic spot," she said. In 2006, Robinson was going to school in the Caribbean, but was not happy with the instruction she was getting. "I knew I wanted to go into computer science," she said. "But my passion

is networking and security and the school I was attending focused too much on programming." She expressed her dissatisfaction to her aunt who lived in Sacramento. Her aunt told her about CRC and suggested she make a move. Robinson took her up on it. In May, Robinson earned an AS degree in computer information science with a concentration in network administration. "I am just in awe of where I started and where I'm at now," she said. "I worked hard for a long time to get it done and was amazed I got it done so quickly once I arrived here." Robinson says CRC has prepared her well for her future and what she has learned she can take anywhere. She's currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in network communications management, and her ultimate goal is to be a networking administrator.



### *Sandra Rodriguez*

Determination and a positive attitude is the recipe for success for Sandra Rodriguez. Before college, her work ethic was strong, but she realized quickly she could only go so far without furthering her education. She had quickly gone from being a housekeeper in a building complex to a leasing agent. "After I became a leasing agent I wanted to become an assistant manager and hit a wall. I knew how to do the job, but the lack of education took away the opportunity," she said. Rodriguez quit her job and enrolled at Cosumnes River College in 2007. She said the staff and students helped educate her about the support and aids CRC had to offer. Sometimes, though, Rodriguez had to go without. There were times she couldn't afford a textbook and had to make photocopies. "I'd even go days without lunch or dinner at school, but I put a smile on my face and that made me feel my sacrifices were worth it." Rodriguez is a Student Ambassador and represents CRC. "I've given speeches to high school students, guiding them in the process of planning on going to college." Because of the influence CRC's had on her life, she wants to return one day as a communications teacher.



### *Doug Uhl*

Doug Uhl, a "fifty something," re-entry student, began taking classes at Cosumnes River College because he wanted a better understanding of his hobby, computers. His computer information science professors inspired him to take it a step further. "Professors Lance Parks, Markus Geissler and Mohammand Osman are dynamic in their teaching," Uhl said. After earning certificates in network helpdesk technician and networking and administration, Uhl decided to pursue a career in computers. Besides his professors, Uhl credits the Work Experience team for strengthening his computer background through internships. His first internship was for Caltrans, then he interned at the City of Galt help desk and then for Apple. Uhl has enjoyed interning, saying it's ok to walk in unsure, because they will teach you what they want you to learn. "Internships are important because employers are looking for experience and often 2-5 years worth," he said. Uhl said the months add up, reflecting experience on a person's resume. He's currently interning at CRC's computer center and will earn an A.S. in CIS in Spring.