

PRESIDENT'S *Letter*



FALL 2011

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR THE WINN CENTER

Construction will take place this coming spring semester on the Winn Center for Construction and Architecture. The new facility will be located on the northwest side of the Bruceville Road entrance next to the Technology and Learning Resource Center buildings where it will have a very prominent presence on campus.

The Winn Center will be the first instructional design-build project in the District and provide many new and improved facilities to support our programs. The project has been designed with the goal of achieving Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)—platinum certification. Some of the design features include chilled beams, an energy recovery system, solar panels, energy efficient windows and glazing, maximum use of natural day lighting by using skylights and lighting controls, renewable materials and recycled materials, according to Jonathan McMurtry, Project Manager at Lionakis Architects.

The building will house a community room, general-use classrooms, faculty offices and laboratory and classroom



space designed specifically for the construction, architecture, photography and pharmacy technology programs.

The community room will provide a meeting space so that professionals and students have regular opportunities to interface with one another.

The Winn Center is named after the Winn family, who contributed the largest private gift in the history of both the Los Rios Community College District and Cosumnes River College. It was also funded in part by a local bond measure passed in 2008 by residents of Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Yolo and Solano counties.

NEW TRANSFER DEGREES NOW AVAILABLE TO CRC STUDENTS

Senate Bill 1440 enacted the Student Transfer Achievement Reform (STAR) Act, which, commencing with the 2011-12 academic year, requires a student who receives an associate degree for transfer to be deemed eligible for transfer into a California State University baccalaureate program when the student meets prescribed requirements.

In Spring 2011, Cosumnes River College created three new associate degrees for transfer which have been approved by the State effective for the 2011-12 Catalog Year: an A.A. in Communication Studies for Transfer; an A.A. in Psychology for Transfer; and an A.A. in Sociology for Transfer. Upon completion of one of these new associate degrees, a student is eligible for transfer with junior standing into the California State University (CSU) system. Students will be given priority consideration when applying to a particular program that is similar to the student's community college area of emphasis.

These new Associate Degrees—Transfer are designed for students who plan to transfer to a CSU campus. Other than

the required core for the major, the courses a student chooses to complete for one of these degrees will depend to some extent on the selected CSU for transfer. In addition, some CSU-GE Breadth or IGETC requirements can also be completed using courses required for an associate degree for transfer major (known as "double-counting"). Meeting with a counselor to determine the most appropriate course choices will facilitate efficient completion of transfer requirements. For students wishing to transfer to other universities (UC System, private, or out-of-state), the Associate Degree for Transfer may not provide adequate preparation for upper-division transfer admissions. It is critical that a student meet with a CRC counselor to select and plan the courses for the major, as programs vary widely in terms of the required preparation.

These three new degrees were made available to students in a special 2011-12 College Catalog Transfer Degree Addendum that was published on June 30, 2011. This addendum is available at: <http://www.crc.losrios.edu/Catalog>

President's Message

Fall 2011



CRC Colleagues,

Welcome to the beginning of the 2011-12 academic year! As CRC strides into its fifth decade of service, it is gratifying to see and feel the energy, passion, and optimism you bring to our educational community. These are the “sparks” that attract and engage our students in learning experiences of a lifetime!

One need only look at the anticipation and anxiety reflected in the faces of our enrolling students to be reminded of the new semester's promise of active learning, comprehensive advisement and support, and personal growth and achievement. This is an enormous promise to a diverse population, but it is with great confidence in you, that Cosumnes River College moves forward into the Fall 2011 term ready to meet our students' expectations.

This semester, the college is pleased to be joined in its educational endeavors by four new Cosumnes River College staff, including one tenure-track faculty member and four new classified staff. I invite you to read about them in the following pages, and encourage you to welcome them to CRC when you see them out and about the campus! This small cadre of new folks is eager to become integral parts of our student-focused community and offer their knowledge, experience, and resources to enhance our institution and the success of those we serve. Through the combined efforts of these new colleagues and your continued commitment, the college will fulfill its promise to maintain access and advance student success during the 2011-12 year.

The timely and thoughtful recommendations of last spring's Planning Summit will serve us well in the upcoming months, focusing our efforts and resources on: 1) student goal completion, 2) responsive programs and services for a changing student population, 3) safeguarding access, 4) improved organizational efficiency and participation, and 5) expanded support for teaching excellence, an enduring hallmark of Cosumnes River College.

In many of these areas, we are already working and seeing positive results with specific initiatives and institutional

improvements including our new transfer degree curricula, the interdisciplinary career paths of our Health Care Information Technology certificates, and the student support activities of our Enriched Scholars Program highlighted in this publication. These successful initiatives, and others yet to be conceived and implemented, require nurturing and replicating for the benefit of all students, and we must involve ourselves in their development and work together in their actualization this year.

I'm sure you will notice we are under construction in the northeast sector of the campus (see pages 6-7). Despite the noise and dust, tremendous efforts have been made over the summer to prepare and update CRC facilities so that we can provide attractive teaching and learning environments. The amount of work by our own Maintenance and Operations and District Facilities Management staff is phenomenal! Take a quick stroll through the Fountain Quad, the expanded bookstore and cafeteria, the renovated Forum, and the Community Athletic Center to see the new campus improvements. And by early spring, we will be hosting groundbreaking ceremonies for two new instructional facilities: the Elk Grove Center and the Winn Center for Architecture and Construction.

So as we begin the 2011-12 academic year, I want to thank you for the exceptional work you do every day, the constant support you provide to our students, the forthright conversations you have as colleagues to improve our programs and, for all the valuable contributions you make to our college and our community.

I am grateful our college's mission and values are reflected in our faculty and staff, embedded in the programs we deliver, and extend so visibly to the buildings, grounds and physical environments we maintain. CRC is a wonderful, vibrant educational institution because of you. We can, and do, fulfill our promise to our students, helping them achieve their dreams, because they are receiving the “best overall education in California's community colleges!”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Debbie". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

Deborah J. Travis

Taking branding UP A NOTCH

The newly renamed Kinesiology and Athletics Division has been emphasizing the “CRC Brand” for the last several years and is stepping up that effort with new strategies. It started a few years ago with the pole banners in the courtyard of the Community and Athletic building. Then the CRC Hawk mascot suit was purchased and can be seen at most of the major events on campus. The Hawk has done a great job of promoting athletes and the college.

Every year, T-shirts with the Hawk logo can be seen on the youth who attend summer camps as well as the athletes all year long. And have you seen the new mural in the CAC? It was designed by the College’s graphic designers and painted by local mural painter Jeff Harper. It looks great and look for more murals to come!

If you visit the division office, you’ll also see orange and navy everywhere. They even have new door signs



with the Hawk on it for instructors. And as you’re driving around, look for our College vehicles and vans with new wraps! They were designed by Tim Michels in graphics and look terrific. The vehicles are used primarily to transport athletes to their away games, but some of you will also have the opportunity to drive them, and provide visibility and promote CRC.

Check them out!



Introducing GLOBUS MUNDI

The Department of Political Science & Global Studies has launched a new yearly publication, "*Globus Mundi*." The journal is designed to support student academic interests and foster intellectual pursuits outside the confines of the classroom. The unintentional theme of the inaugural issue is the wave of democratic revolutions that swept the Middle East earlier this year.

Globus Mundi is overseen by Political Science Professor Martin Morales and was edited by CRC student Holly Sanderson. Holly is a gifted writer and has a commitment level that makes everyone who comes into contact with her, admire her. The work Holly did—and, admittedly, she did most of it—was outstanding. She corralled the contributors, worked drafts with them and edited their work for both content and grammar. Holly worked on layout and production and was available to all the writers throughout. This is noteworthy as Holly works two jobs (45 hours per week) while carrying a full load.

Globus Mundi represents the latest addition to the department which, under Professor Morales' leadership, has grown from three courses to 12 offerings—and will soon be 15. Copies of *Globus Mundi* is available in all racks outside of the BS and LRC buildings or from Professor Morales at x7114



FOSTER YOUTH FIND SUPPORT AT CRC

As an advisor, Student Personnel Assistant Aselia Valadez is making a big difference in the lives of a special community of students at Cosumnes River College. Those students are former foster youth, many who've recently "aged out" of the system.

These students are part of the Enriched Scholars Program. The program works as a stepping stone for foster youth, who oftentimes find themselves without mentorship or direction. The program provides academic, career and personal guidance counseling, financial aid support, campus resource assistance, textbook and supply assistance, tutoring, workshops and a mentoring program.

Valadez said the Enriched Scholars Program is, "a place where students are able to receive assistance from individuals who not only understand the needs of former foster youth students, but also believe in their success."

Former foster youth and graduate from the program, Armone Clemmons said he and classmate Heather Rose are "proof that the program works," as they prepare to transfer to state colleges in the fall. "Without the support services the college offers, my experience would have been much different and much more difficult," Rose said.

PRESIDENT'S Letter



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LOS RIOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

GREETINGS FROM THE CLASSIFIED SENATE!



Reflecting on my first term as Classified President, I can say it was a “learning year of transition.” Getting up to speed on the duties of being the President was one thing, but doing it in the face of one of California’s biggest budget crises made for some pretty interesting meetings. I can’t think of a better place to have this

opportunity to learn than here at Cosumnes River College.

I am appreciative that I work in a place that can look globally at the impacts of the outside budgetary influences that affect us and how we serve our students. The many ways our District and College handle this outside stress enhances and enriches our own strengths, dedication and integrity and keeps our commitment strong as we work together here at CRC.

The Classified Senate went through a morphing of its own this past year due to a newly implemented Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the District. We’re excited to see what changes this will bring to the campus and have high hopes that with this new MOU, we will have the

chance to have more of our voices heard with issues across the CRC campus and the District. The Classified Senate will continue to be the conduit for information-taking it from upper management and District to the classified staff as well as taking the classified staff’s ideas, thoughts and concerns to upper management and District.

Thanks to all the CRC administrators and management for your support this past year. All those little things you do make such a difference to us—having your presence more visible to classified on campus, taking your time to see what’s happening on the front lines with our students, allowing staff to attend classified events and by showing your gratitude with our Classified Appreciation Week gift.

The Classified Senate would like to encourage each of you to actively participate in the CRC community. Staff Development and/or leadership roles, Shared Governance, and school events/activities are just some of the ways you can enjoy being involved.

Laurie Pownall
Classified Senate President

WELCOME FROM THE ACADEMIC SENATE



Welcome to the 2011-12 school year! Hopefully you are returning rested and recharged. Creating an environment which provides our students with the opportunity to succeed is the most important thing that we do at Cosumnes River College. ‘Student Success’ is not just a pro forma, nice sounding phrase which we bandy about because it

sounds good. It is the core of what we do. Last year Cosumnes River College pushed towards 100% completion of our courses having Student Learning Outcomes in their course outlines. This was the beginning of the SLO process as defined by our accrediting body, not the culmination of the process. Over the next year we will begin, in earnest, the process of validating the course SLOs.

In addition to the continuation of the SLO process, the ever-changing state budget situation and uncertain times for the California Community College system will continue to frame much of the discussion and actions that Cosumnes River College’s Academic Senate will be undertaking through the next school year. Working with the Administration and our Union colleagues, the Academic Senate will continue to work be a strong voice for academic and professional matters through these volatile times.

‘We can lick gravity, but sometimes the paperwork is overwhelming’. —Verner von Braun

Have a great year!

Kale Braden
Academic Senate President



Dust & Noise Facilities Update *FALL 2011*

While the State struggles through its fiscal crisis, CRC continues to take advantage of favorable construction prices and speed the economic recovery by building toward its future.

Late last spring, the Bookstore and Cafeteria expansions were completed with the new facilities previewed at the Foundation Gala in the spring. After a bit more work, the Cafeteria is now ready for students to use. With Food Services relocated to their

permanent facility, the temporary food services/dining area in the CAC has been returned to its original, but never realized, function as a new fitness center. The relocation of the fitness center provided the opportunity for the adapted PE area to move from its location in a portable to PE-105, the former location of the fitness center.

Over the summer, we also removed two old portables from campus,

provided a new connection to the City water system to improve the water supply to meet current and future campus needs and remodeled the Forum auditorium (L-111), providing new theater-style seating and other upgrades that will benefit both our students and the community.

By the time you read this article, two new projects will have broken

ground on the north side of campus. The Northeast Modernization will provide new classrooms, labs and a greenhouse to serve the Welding, Construction, Horticulture and other programs. The project will also provide some new parking and a renovation of the existing Ford Center building, which will house the campus custodial, maintenance and receiving functions, as well as provide some much needed interior storage space.

The Athletic Field, Parking and Perimeter Improvement project will provide new fields for soccer, softball and baseball, increase parking, develop perimeter landscaping along the northwest and north sides of campus, and provide a road and sidewalk to easily connect the north buildings to the center of campus. Part of that project will also be for stadium improvements, in which CRC is working with the Elk Grove Unified School District (EGUSD) to create a flexible space for football use for



Valley High School students and a new soccer venue for us. These projects will be completed over the next 12-18 months with partial occupancy/use scheduled for Summer or Fall 2012. The northeast corner of campus is also being improved by providing some landscaping and a monument sign.

While these projects will change the north side of campus, another three projects are likely to begin in the next six months, two of which will prominently change the east side of campus. Just south of the Bruceville Road entrance at the north end of Parking Lot E, a partnership with Regional Transit will provide a parking garage which is scheduled to begin construction possibly as early as next summer or fall provided the funding materializes as expected.

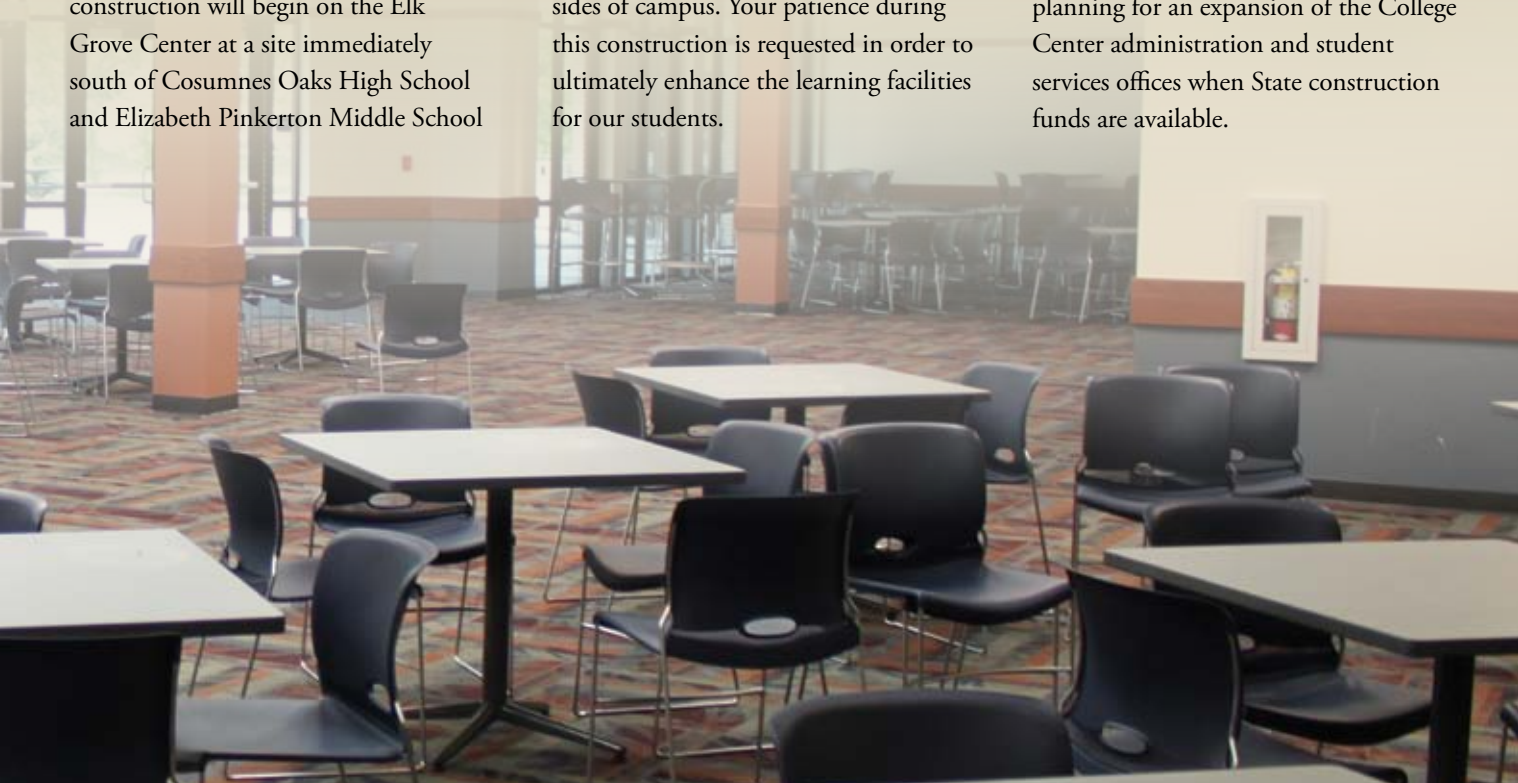
Later in the fall semester, construction will begin on the Elk Grove Center at a site immediately south of Cosumnes Oaks High School and Elizabeth Pinkerton Middle School

on Big Horn Blvd. The project will include site development for parking and landscaping along with a 22,000 square foot building of classroom, laboratory, office and mixed use space to serve CRC students and the residents of Elk Grove in their own community. The project is the first of three phases to fully develop the center.

The development of our physical grounds is very exciting for Cosumnes River College but the challenges are significant. Four major construction projects on campus at the same time over the next few semesters will have a major impact on the north and east sides of campus. Your patience during this construction is requested in order to ultimately enhance the learning facilities for our students.



Looking to the future, planning begins shortly for a new art gallery in the fall with construction scheduled for completion in early 2014. The campus will continue to see changes as RT develops a new light rail and bus transfer station at the eastern edge of Parking Lot F and the college begins planning for an expansion of the College Center administration and student services offices when State construction funds are available.



Welcome to the CRC Family

NEW FACULTY & CLASSIFIED STAFF

SINCE JANUARY 2011



DENISE FOX SAILOR
CLERK
Careers & Technology



BREANNE HOLLAND
EVALUATOR
Admissions & Records



PHUONG LE
CLERK
Financial Aid



BRIAN NOEL
AUTOMOTIVE/FORD ASSET
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Careers & Technology



LINDSEY WILLIAMS
CLERK
MESA
Science, Math & Engineering

KUDOS

Jeanne Calamar

Selected by the California Community College Physical Educators (CCCPE) as the Adaptive Physical Educator of the Year.

Kurt Erickson

Awarded a Subito Award from the American Composer's Forum to help support the production of a new opera commission he received. Recipient of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAPLUS) Award in the Concert Music Division.

John Hull

Awarded the California Voices' Teacher of the Year Award for his work in teaching video production.

Mathilde Mukantabana and the Friends of Rwanda Association (FORA)

Awarded the Global Peacemaker Award for 2010 by Global Majority, along with actor George Clooney.

Maureen Moore

Awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Institute Fellowship in Mexico, Guatemala and Belize this June and July.

RETIREMENTS



NEVA CONNER
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
22 years of service



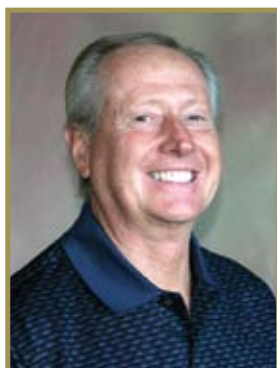
GEORGE KNOTT
PHYSICS PROFESSOR
21 years of service



STEVE LEAKE
COUNSELOR
37 years of service



EVELYN SILVA
EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION PROFESSOR
37 years of service



CLINTON TURNER
AUTOMOTIVE/FORD ASSET
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
38 years of service



NORVAL WELLSFRY
ACCOUNTING PROFESSOR
31 years of service



PEARLINE WONG
LIBRARY MEDIA
TECH ASSISTANT
41 years of service

Travis Parker

Received the Everyday Hero Award through the American Federation of Teachers for his work with the Alpha Academy.

Torence Powell

Received the 2010 MetLife After School Alliance Innovator Award for his work with the Junior ACE (Achieving a College Education) Program.

Jason Roberts

Recognized by the American Welding Society Sacramento Section as the Outstanding Educator 2009-10.

RTVF full-time and adjunct faculty

Awarded "Outstanding Educational Institution" at the 2010 Sacramento International Film Festival.

Rick Schubert

Winner of this year's Crystal Apple award.

Peggy Ursin

Winner of this year's Classified Employee of the Year award.

The Connection

The newspaper's online edition earned recognition for "General Excellence," an award given to only eight publications across California.

OUR PEOPLE... *Our Place*



DENISE MARSHALL-MILLS *Counselor*

When I arrived at CRC I was immediately enthralled by the pristine grounds and quaint feel of the campus. There was a calm and distinct rhythm that was ever so palpable and, yet oh so foreign to me. The pace was slower, and the volume level was significantly lower than what I was accustomed to. Having grown up in inner city Los Angeles, such things were in short supply or non-existent at the inner city schools where I worked. It could be said that CRC had me at first glance. Fall 2011 will mark my 11th year as a faculty member at CRC. Much has happened since then and I have come to appreciate more than CRC's landscape. I have been fortunate to serve as a program coordinator, counselor, and adjunct professor. Each position has required that I continue to learn and grow. For this I am thankful and look forward to what is yet to come. In my current position as a general counselor I have the opportunity to be of service and support to a diverse range of students. I work collaboratively with a team of highly competent and knowledgeable professionals.

Working at CRC has provided me with the opportunity to be of service to those in need, to continue to learn and to bring my gifts to the campus community. One of my more memorable experiences at CRC has been my involvement in the development of the Diop Scholars Academic Learning Community. This effort is a testament to the power and conviction of faculty that dared to put students first and to believe that we can make a difference. I am also very proud to be a part of a district group that works each year to host the Celebration of Excellence and Achievement for Students of African Descent. I am so very fortunate to be at a college that supports such laudable endeavors.

CRC is so much more than just a well manicured lawn, lush trees and ample parking. It is a where I can do the work that I was called to do. For me it has become a place where I can work in community with other professionals and most importantly, a place where I can be of service to students.



BRIAN NOEL *Automotive Technology Assistant Professor / Ford Asset*

Henry Ford once said "Quality means doing it right when no one is looking." This is one of my core values, and one that I know is shared by everyone here at CRC. I saw this first hand as a student in the Ford ASSET program, which I now have the pleasure of being able to return to as an instructor. I consider myself a "third generation" professor for the program because I had the privilege of studying under Michael Pereira, who was once a student himself in Clint Turner's first ASSET class.

At my own ASSET graduation dinner Clint told me that he hoped I would take his place one day. From that point forward I have raced against the clock to excel in my industry and gain teaching experience in hopes that I would even have a chance to fulfill Clint's vision. While working at Elk Grove Ford I became certified as a Ford Senior Master Technician and an ASE Master Automotive Technician. After these accomplishments I decided to start pursuing a teaching career, and landed at WyoTech, teaching general automotive courses. In an effort to further my abilities I also became a certified instructor for the California SMOG Check program. While I have worked incredibly hard to get to this point, I can't help but feel blessed to have the opportunity to continue the legacy that Clint Turner leaves behind this year, as well as to join a team that is undoubtedly committed to excellence.

In my career here at CRC I hope to help provide the community with automotive technicians who are as equally dedicated to quality as you all are, and hopefully I can also inspire someone to become a "fourth generation" professor when the time comes!

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS ESTABLISHED

Memorial scholarships have been established in remembrance of Sociology Professor Deva Chopyak and Adjunct Music Professor Precious Craft, who both passed away this year.

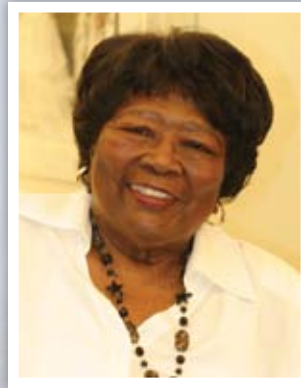


Deva Chopyak

Deva started at CRC as a full-time sociology professor in 2005. She was an adjunct here and at SCC for at least six years before that. She earned Bachelor's degrees in Sociology and Social Science from University of Singapore and a Master's in social work from University of Hawaii.

"Deva was an amazing woman. She was an innovative and dedicated professor of Sociology at CRC, and she was a beloved colleague to all of us. If you were lucky enough to know her personally, you knew her spirit, her heart, and her desire to right whatever was wrong," said Dean of Humanities and Social Science, Ginny McReynolds.

A minimum \$250 scholarship in Deva's name will go to a transfer student who will be receiving a new AA Sociology for Transfer (AA-T) degree in spring 2012.



Precious Craft

Precious Craft started the CRC Gospel Choir 15 years ago and served as its only director. She also taught piano since she began at CRC in 1998. Prior to that, she taught music at American River College. Precious earned a Bachelor's degree from Bishop College, Master's degrees in music and education from

Texas Southern University and a Ph.D. in music ministry from Graduate Theological Seminary.

"The Contemporary Gospel Choir was her creation at CRC. Precious was renowned in the local community and invited to perform on many occasions including the State Fair, annual Jazz Festival and World Day of Prayer. She always did what needed to be done and she left as a legacy, an example of courage, dedication and commitment," said Communication, Visual and Performing Arts Dean, Ellen Arden-Ogle.

A \$250 scholarship in Precious' name will go to a student who is a vocal major each year.

CRC EMERITI ASSOCIATION

The Office of College Advancement is pleased to announce the establishment of the Cosumnes River College Emeriti Association (CRCEA). The purpose of the organization is to help maintain personal and professional relationships, to provide information beneficial to former staff, to stimulate student achievement through its scholarships program, and to recognize staff for their outstanding contributions to the students and the College.

Current CRCEA President Lanny Hertzberg was instrumental in establishing the organization after recognizing the need for former colleagues to not only maintain contact with each other, but find ways to help students. They currently have 30 members and their first official meeting in September.

This organization is open to anyone who has worked at CRC as a full-time or part-time faculty member, classified

staff or administrative staff. Membership benefits include CRC Library access, CRCEA email account, complimentary campus parking with a CRCEA parking permit, complimentary or reduced-price admission to many college activities and access to staying informed of college events.

If you would like further information about this organization please contact the College Advancement Office at (916) 691-7320.



Lanny Hertzberg

Gala

2011

A TASTE OF JAZZ

GALA RAISES MOST FUNDS IN HISTORY OF EVENT

The Cosumnes River College Foundation held its annual Gala, "A Taste of Jazz" in May 2011 in celebration of CRC's 40th anniversary. More than \$44,000 was raised in support of CRC scholarships and the Annual Fund, making this year's Gala the most successful in the history of the event!

Methodist Hospital of Sacramento generously served as Presenting Sponsor for the fourth time in five years, underscoring its commitment to higher education and student success in the Greater Sacramento region. With Channel 13 news anchor Pallas Hupé serving as the evening's emcee, the Foundation welcomed more than 230 friends and supporters from the CRC campus and community. A distinguished group of current and previous Presidents of Cosumnes River College helped to celebrate the Colleges' 40 years of excellence and service to the Sacramento area.

The newly renovated college cafeteria provided a cozy atmosphere as attendees enjoyed live jazz and sampled some of the best offerings from local wineries and restaurants.

One of the highlights of the evening was the chance to recognize and honor a few individuals who exemplify the best in excellence and student achievement at Cosumnes River College. Retiring Los Rios Community College District Vice Chancellor and former CRC Vice President Bill Karns was honored for his 39+ years of service to the campus and district. Cosumnes River College Alumni and Oliver J. Durand Award Recipients Calvin Monroe and Ryan Lockwood were also recognized and shared their thoughts on their time on campus. Ryan will be attending UC Davis in the fall studying Political Science and Calvin is currently in his third year at Morehouse College studying history. Calvin is also a recipient of the Oprah Winfrey Scholarship.

The funds raised during the Gala make it possible for students like Calvin and Ryan to set ambitious academic goals, and reach them.

*Please join us for next year's event on
April 12th!*





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(1) Monique Bell, Le Kisha Appleton, Maria Thomas, (2) Kevin Pressey, Kay Albiani, (3) Kristie West, Pallas Hupé, (4) Ken Cooper, (5) Debbie Travis, Merrilee Lewis Engel, Francisco Rodriguez, (6) Lisa & John Blair, Oscar O'Con, Steve Detrick, (7) Nicole & Jadi Howard, Anita & Terral Clark, (8) Karen & Bill Karns, Pamela Haynes, Debbie Travis, (9) Iris & Arnie Zimbelman, (10) Tammy Montgomery, Jamey & Tara Nye

GETTING TO KNOW... Q&A

TANIKA BYRD *Student Personnel Assistant, Adm. & Records*



Q. How long have you been at CRC?

A. I started at CRC as an adjunct faculty during the Fall '09 semester as one of the Freshman Seminar Lecturers. A few months later in April, I accepted my current position in Admissions and Records as the

Student Personnel Assistant. The opportunity to work on both sides of the "house" has been an interesting and very rewarding adventure.

Q. What do you like most about your job?

A. Call me crazy, but I absolutely enjoy the first weeks of a new semester. The hope, optimism and determination of our students is fresh in the air! The energy on a college campus like CRC is infectious during this time. In addition, I thoroughly enjoy working with students and staff who are here to 'Seek Knowledge' as we say, and I feel lucky to be surrounded by them every day. There's no better place to be than in higher education.

Q. What do you like to do for fun? Hobbies?

A. Being outdoors and challenging myself with new sports and adventures are things I like to do for fun. My recent challenge was participating in the Wild Flower Bike Race in Chico, CA...64 miles! I also enjoy salsa dancing, teaching Zumba, reading and spending time traveling with my friends and family.

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

A. Yes, I have always wanted to work in higher education. Whether working with new college freshmen, collegiate student-athletes or professional athletes who have just recently left the college environment, I have always enjoyed being in a role where the education of life skills and academic skills are very important.

Q. What were you doing before coming to CRC?

A. Before coming to CRC, I was a substitute teacher in the Elk Grove Unified School District. I enjoyed teaching students of all grade levels and experiencing the environment at many different schools. The position also afforded me the time and flexibility to be a self proclaimed world traveler!

Q. What are your plans for the future?

A. Professionally, I plan to focus my energies on becoming a successful educational leader. CRC is a great place to learn new skills and hone skills already acquired. Personally, I plan to hike Half Dome this summer and participate in a century bike ride by the end of the year.

Q. What have you learned about yourself since you arrived here?

A. My experiences at CRC have confirmed what I already knew about myself, I have an endless energy for seeking knowledge and helping others reach their goals through education. I have also learned that my eyes are bigger than the number of hours in a day. There are so many projects, activities and research I would like to do, but fitting them into 24-hour days is tricky.

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

A. I would like to share something I have learned from my colleagues at CRC while working with students on campus who have questions. There are three rules I always abide by.

- First, always greet the student with a smile. This tactic immediately helps the situation.
- Second, always listen to the student's whole question before answering. The most important part of the question is usually the last part.
- Third, upon concluding the conversation, ask if there is anything else you can help the student with. It is amazing how many students are appreciative of the additional question. It invites them to continue exploring possibilities.

Tanika is "on loan" to American River College where she accepted a Long Term Temp faculty position as the Campus Life Coordinator.

GETTING TO KNOW... Q&A

JON CORNELISON *IT Systems Supervisor*



Q. How long have you been at CRC?

A. Almost a year (9/27/2011 will be one year).

Q. What do you like most about your job?

A. When I was a kid movies like War Games and Superman III made computers a mystery to me and I became very

interested in them. This led to a career in information technology and also led me to CRC where each and every day I do my best to provide the best possible IT services to faculty & staff—which would not be possible if it were not for the talented and committed IT team here at CRC. So, what I like most about my job is the team I work with.

Q. What do you like to do for fun? Hobbies?

A. I love to do outdoor activities. I have three sons so I keep busy with their academics, sports, and just having fun with them. Spend lots of time dining out and enjoying wine with my beautiful wife, Heather.

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

A. Well, always is a big word! At age 19, I definitely figured out what I wanted to do and that was computers.

Q. What were you doing before coming to CRC?

A. I ran a website consulting business for ten years before joining Napa Valley College as a Web Development Specialist. I created the napavalley.edu site which is still up. After Napa, I was recruited by Santa Rosa City Schools as a Database Administrator. The commute from Vacaville to Santa Rosa was rough—too rough; so, when I saw the opportunity at CRC I jumped at it. Glad it worked out for me!

Q. What are your plans for the future?

A. On a personal level, I look forward to continuing my graduate studies and spending as much time as possible with family. I want my kids to have many memories.

On a CRC level, I would like for us to move from file shares (1990's technology) towards web-based storage and collaboration of documents using SharePoint. With the help of our IT team and our friends at the District Office, I hope to accomplish many infrastructure improvements and maintain our current excellent customer service.

Q. What have you learned about yourself since you arrived here?

A. Well, I have learned that I have a lot to learn! When you work in an IT environment, things constantly change and I have learned to adapt to, and most often, embrace this change.

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

A. Make sure your data is backed up!



CRC Information Technology Department TechHAWK newsletter

ALUMNI *Short Takes*



Aaron Benavidez

Aaron Benavidez' scholarly journey has been unique to say the least. After attending both Cosumnes River College and Sacramento City College, and earning a whopping 10 associate degrees after many years and much soul-searching, Benavidez transferred to UC Berkeley to pursue a double major in sociology and rhetoric. At Berkeley, while maintaining his 4.0 GPA, he was the President of the Berkeley Undergraduate Sociology Association, the chair for the Second Annual UC Berkeley Sociological Research Symposium, and the founding editor in chief of *Eleven: The Undergraduate Journal of Sociology*. Aaron has travelled out of the country, in a continued effort to further enrich his learning experience. Most recently, Benavidez was named the 2011 recipient of UC Berkeley's University Medal, the most prestigious award for a graduating senior. He hopes to be testimony to future students that colleges like CRC give individuals the tools and context to succeed. Aaron said he is working toward a Master's degree and wants to eventually get a Ph.D.



Linnzi Cannon

Linnzi Cannon came to Cosumnes River College as a returning student. The timing was right for her because Linnzi's love of science brought her back to college at a time when building science and environmental issues were gaining momentum, something she felt strongly about. "In a biology course, I learned about our carbon footprint on the Earth...I believe many of the environmental impacts we are experiencing is largely due to our misuse of the Earth's resources," she said. Linnzi enrolled in the Building Performance program and received her certificate in January this year. Within 30 days, Linnzi had been hired full-time at Beutler Corporation as a Building Performance Evaluator and Energy Analyst. In her position, Linnzi completes home energy assessments and recommends ways for the homeowner to be more energy conscious. "I love what I am doing," she exclaimed. "I am helping others make smarter decisions about their own carbon footprint on the Earth."



Nidhi Jain

Nidhi is not the first "Jain" at Cosumnes River College. In fact her two sisters, both engineering majors, have also been featured in the President's Newsletter for their exemplary work. There's no doubt Nidhi is destined for similar success as she's already landed an admirable job after completing her Associate degree earlier this year. "I work as a research analyst for a sustainable news distribution firm in Portland, Oregon," she said. Nidhi

was undecided on a major when she first started at CRC but after a geology class she realized her interest for the Earth and its environment. After researching the subject, Nidhi decided to major in environmental sciences. Like her sisters, Nidhi was involved with MESA while at CRC and says she's most proud of the tutoring position she had there. "I learned a lot and met a lot of people I wouldn't have otherwise met." Nidhi said CRC played a major role in shaping her future, a future that includes graduate school and a goal of earning a Ph.D. in environmental science.



Joseph Minter

When he moved to Sacramento after high school, Joseph Minter said he visited all the Los Rios campuses and chose Cosumnes River College because he felt an immediate sense of belonging. "It was the wonderful atmosphere that sold me," he said. Growing up with computers, even remembering their availability in daycare, Joseph said he knew a career in computers and engineering was the right choice for him, but felt some apprehension at choosing a career field. "I give credit to CRC's MESA Center for cementing my choice," he said. "They provided me with supplemental resources that significantly reinforced my career choice, showing me I truly belonged and was able to succeed in a highly technical field." MESA's mentoring was vital for Joseph. He said he felt very misguided growing up. "Within a short time I went from barely graduating high school to getting accepted into the nation's #1 public university, UC Berkeley," he said. Joseph is currently at Berkeley, in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science program, a program he says is ranked within the top three in the nation and is on track to earn his Bachelor of Science degree.



Nadir Zulfiqar

Nadir was raised in Pakistan, but moved to the United States as a young man. "I had the best teachers at CRC," he said. "I was full of energy and aggression and they taught me how to calm down and focus." Nadir always loved the field of business, and now more than 20 years after attending CRC, is an international business man. Nadir works for Concord Blue Energy, a plant that creates energy from waste. By working in developing countries, the results are twofold. "We are removing garbage and giving them electricity, which helps their economy. This prevents disease and creates jobs," he said. Nadir has traveled all around the world and has met presidents from different countries. He said efforts are continuously underway to build more plants in developing countries and his passion is to be able to fund the schools and hospitals of these countries with the profits. Even after all this time, Nadir still credits CRC with giving him a basic foundation. "It was the best move," he said. "I would've been lost in the shuffle at a four-year university."