Friends & Colleagues,

Welcome to the spring 2006 edition of the President's Letter. This newsletter is intended to keep you informed and engaged with CRC – our goals, accomplishments, and our aspirations. We are in an era of dramatic change and transformation at the college. The construction of new educational facilities, the enhancement of existing space, and roadway improvements are just the beginning of a visionary and timely facilities plan to better serve our students and our community.

In addition, we are launching several educational initiatives designed to improve overall student performance. This semester, the Center for the Advancement of Staff and Student Learning (CASSL) has identified faculty leadership which will shape the future direction and build our institutional capacity in the areas of student learning outcomes, professional development, cultural competency, and research. Special attention will be paid to better understanding and improving the success rate for first-generation and first-year students.

Moving an institution forward is sometimes compared to turning an ocean liner in the ocean – it can take a while to turn, and you may not even realize you’re turning or moving, but before long you’re headed in the direction you desire. It is our collective energy, intelligence, and persistence that will continue to steer our direction.

Francisco C. Rodriguez

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Spring 2006
Fulbright Scholar Shares his Insights

RC staff and students welcomed Fulbright Scholar Dr. Husain Siddiqui on campus for two days of sharing his insights on Islamic culture around the world.

Siddiqui was on campus Sept. 29 and Sept. 30 and attended staff meetings and spoke in classrooms. He talked about the spread of Islam to India and gender issues affecting Islamic and Muslim nations. He also spoke of women’s roles in Islamic countries and how they differ from women’s roles in the United States.

Gala Event Coming April 1st

The Cosumnes River College Foundation is again preparing for its yearly signature fundraising event. Scheduled for April 1st at the Valley Hi Country Club in Elk Grove, this year’s Gala will be dedicated to raising money for the Foundation’s Scholarship Program. This black-tie optional event will feature live music, great food, spirits and an array of surprise guests and activities.

Last year the Foundation brought in over $55,000 for the Architecture and Construction Technology Programs at CRC and our goal is to break that fundraising record this year. What better way to do that than ask our community to support the College’s scholarship program. Since the majority of community college students must work to support themselves while pursuing their education, scholarships are essential to their ability to succeed.

Mark your calendars for this outstanding event! Sponsorship information can be obtained by contacting the CRC Foundation Office at 916.691.7491.

Hurricane Relief Efforts at CRC

Numerous college groups and individuals donated time and money to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

These efforts ranged from collecting clothing items to donating blood. Once again, CRC staff and students responded with open hearts to fellow Americans.

The women’s volleyball team came up with the idea to use $300 of their fundraising money to purchase food and supplies for those suffering in the aftermath of the hurricane. The players originally planned on spending this money for something “fun” for the team, but after expressing concern about what was happening in New Orleans, they decided to help.

The team took practice time to shop for supplies and delivered them to a local trucking company heading to the affected areas.

ASL Professor Kim Harrell and the Flying Hands Club set up a donation fund specifically for the deaf community in the New Orleans area. The students volunteered their time to collect funds from those willing to give back in September.

Siddiqui told students that his purpose for going to college campuses was to help students understand about his many areas of study and expertise. “The main expectations are that students will learn a lot through my discussions,” he said. He said it was important for him that students begin thinking about other cultures and he felt his visit would accomplish that.

The money raised was given to the Deaf Access Center of Greater New Orleans to help with the many needs of the deaf community during the crisis.

Another effort to help the relief efforts came from the Jazz Ensemble. During two concerts in October, donations were collected to help the victims.

Many of you also gave blood during our annual drive. BloodSource received many requests for blood from blood banks in the affected regions. In part, because of your generosity, those requests were fulfilled.

The Communication, Visual and Performing Arts division collected donations as part of their “Tribute to New Orleans” day on Halloween. Students were able to talk to the faculty of the division and donate to the hurricane effort. The funds collected went to XXXXXXX.

A few staffers also sponsored individuals or families who were displaced during the hurricane.

The outpouring of support shown by the CRC community was extensive and we’re sure much appreciated by those who suffered during this crisis.
Nobel Laureate Speaks at CRC Philosophy Conference

Over the past two years, Cosumnes has established a noteworthy regional presence in academic philosophy thanks in large part to its highly successful philosophy conferences. The college's first academic Philosophy conference, held in Fall of 2003, drew a crowd of over 250 students and faculty from U.C. Davis, C.S.U.S, and the four colleges of the Los Rios District. Its second conference held in Fall 2004, drew a crowd of over 400 faculty and staff from these six institutions and an additional five others as well; U.C. Berkeley, C.S.U. Chico, C.S.U. Hayward, Sierra College, and Solano College. “The conference is clearly already the largest of its kind in the region”, said Dr. Rick Schubert, Professor of Philosophy at Cosumnes and the organizer of the conference. “And as one of our speaker’s last year was kind enough to note, our conference is well on its way to becoming the single most important event of its kind in the state.” The trajectory of the conference is clearly upward at the present time. While it has featured internationally renowned scholars each of the past two years, this coming fall it will feature no less than a Nobel laureate, Rigoberta Menchú Tum, winner of the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize. “This conference, like the two that came before it, is intended to highlight the relevance of Philosophy to other academic disciplines as well as to matters of everyday, ordinary concern. This fall’s conference, which will take place October 20-21 will focus on Philosophical Ethics and Latin American Philosophy. Nobel Laureate Tum will anchor the practical orientation of this year’s conference in social reform and ethno-cultural reconciliation.” Like those at its predecessors the presentations at this year’s conference are intended to be accessible to a general audience and are open to the general public. As in past years, the primary objective of the conference is to provide the students of greater-Sacramento colleges and universities an opportunity to appreciate some of the connections amongst academic Philosophy, other academic disciplines, and matters of everyday concern.

New Information Displays

It is hoped that at the start of the spring 2006 semester, new electronic information displays will be up and running in admissions and the cafeteria.

This will consist of two 42” plasma display monitors that will have information slides constantly looping so students can receive the latest information about events, athletic games, and academic deadlines, etc.

Students will get information quickly and accurately. With the growing population of our campus, it has become increasingly difficult to reach all of them and provide them with information. While this is just one area of campus, our goal is to reach as many as possible with these high traffic areas. Funds to pay for this project came through the Capital Outlay Budget two years ago.

If you or your department has information you would like to go on the monitors, please email your request with possible wording to Kristie West in the public information office.
As one would imagine, the completion of expansion projects like the LRC has a cascading effect as programs and services are relocated to the new building and the spaces they vacate are converted to other uses. When undergoing remodels, programs also need to be temporarily located in “swing space” while their facilities are under construction.

The following moves were completed this Fall:
- **Journalism** to LRC-109
- **MESA** to L-309
- **ESL/FL** to LRC 217-221
- **EOPS/CalWORKs/Testing** to L-106 (Note 1)
- **CVPA computer lab** to L-108
- **RWC** to LRC 203
- **Science** temporarily to LRC, rooms 103-106, 121-161, 212-216 until Science project is complete
- **Math Center** to LRC-205
- **Tutoring** to L-303 (old Math Center)
- **Anthropology Lab** to LRC-102/170

As we begin the spring semester construction and facility updates continue to keep the campus busy, with a multitude of new projects kicking off. During the past fall we completed the Learning Resources Center, Science Portables, and the Calvine Road Entrance. Near completion is our Bookstore, with only the fabrication and installation of fixtures yet to be done. The Bookstore should open in February. A special note of appreciation goes to Maria Hyde and the bookstore staff who have done an outstanding job given the facilities they’ve been in for the past eighteen months. Also, special thanks to Kathy McLain, the faculty and staff in the science department, the custodial and maintenance staff, and the District facilities staff, for all their efforts to transform the science portables from mere shells into the instructional spaces we now see.

Below is a quick reference grid for some of the current projects as well as those beginning next semester:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bookstore Expansion</td>
<td>Feb. ‘05</td>
<td>Feb. ‘06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruceville widening and Traffic Light</td>
<td>Mar. ‘05</td>
<td>Spr. ‘06</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Operations Building</td>
<td>Feb. ‘06</td>
<td>Dec. ’06</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Campus Entrance/Perimeter Landscaping</td>
<td>Feb. ‘06</td>
<td>May ’06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campus Marquee Project</td>
<td>Feb. ‘06</td>
<td>June ’06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fountain/Quad Project</td>
<td>May ’06</td>
<td>Oct. ’06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phase II, Community &amp; Athletic Center</td>
<td>Fall ‘05 (planning/design phase)</td>
<td>Spr. ‘08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Expansion Project</td>
<td>Spr. ‘06 (planning/design phase)</td>
<td>Spr. ‘08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science Building Project</td>
<td>Aug. ‘05</td>
<td>Fall ‘08</td>
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Note 1: In an effort to centralize many of the Student Services in the Library Building, L-106 will become a one-stop center for the following:
- Assessment and Testing Center—as we move to computerized assessment, the current ESL lab will provide adequate space to meet the increasing demand for assessment testing and test proctoring.
- Student Support Services including EOPS, CalWORKs, CARE, New Horizons, and the DHA representative.
- Orientation room—with our interest in providing more in-person orientations and course planning sessions, there is a need for designated space.

Note 2: Upon completion of the new College Operations Building, the following operations will move into that facility:
- Police
- Nurses
- Duplicating
- Graphic Arts
- Mailroom/switchboard
- Director of Administrative Services
- Orientation room
The Learning Resources Center was dedicated on December 7, 2005.

Several staff members, managers and a couple of Los Rios Board of Trustees turned out for the celebration.

Chris Brown, Vice President of Administration, began the ceremonies by recognizing all of those involved in getting the project completed. From the district facilities staff to our own I.T. staff, there are dozens of individuals and departments that were instrumental in helping get the LRC up and running.

President Francisco Rodriguez expressed him gratitude and appreciation for having a new place for student learning to happen. Trustee Kay Albiani also thanked those involved and said it was a beautiful building with a lot to offer students. Associated Student Government president Ken Gurney also said a few words about what a great new facility it was and how the students already appreciated it.

Although minor adjustments still need to be made, many classes and labs have been using the facility for the past few months and have expressed gratitude in having the new facilities.

That is especially true for the anthropology department who for the first time has a lab of their own!

Other departments that moved into the new building during the fall semester include Journalism, MESA, ESL/FL, EOPS/CalWorks/Testing, CVPA computer lab, and the Reading Writing Center (RWC).

Science classes temporarily moved to a number of classrooms in the LRC until the science complex is remodeled. The Math Center, Tutoring Center and the campus open computer lab also moved into the LRC in the fall.

Never Stray from Orange!

Leaving her soccer career and hometown behind, Christine Bartlett graduated from CRC and departed for Syracuse, New York carrying the Orange and Blue CRC colors with her to Syracuse University (also, home of the orange and blue). With a knack for in-depth reporting as former editor and chief of CRC’s The Connection, Christine majored in public relations with a minor in cultural anthropology. It was at the university where she was introduced to the nonprofit sector by volunteering with Habitat for Humanity and contributed to the construction of three homes in Marianna, Florida with fellow students.

Prior to graduation she was faced with the BIG question: “What do I do after I get my degree? Where will I work?” Lucky enough, she had looked into the AmeriCorps program that would land her a year of service with the City of Tempe’s nonprofit partner Communities In Schools. As an AmeriCorps member she facilitated and managed a community outreach program to educate non-English speaking parents how to raise their children in Arizona. The year quickly ended and Christine was on the hunt once more, but this time for a “real career” job!

That “real career” job is her current job today – Communications Manager for Make A Difference, a non profit in Phoenix that mobilizes volunteers to fill the needs of the community and encourages local leadership. Through her new challenges and experiences with Make A Difference, Christine participated in the aid to Hurricane Katrina evacuees in Phoenix. This organization was charged with the task to manage all the volunteers in the Coliseum, which served as the Red Cross Shelter for evacuees. She shared this learning experience recently with a guest lecture on Cris’t Communications at Syracuse University to a graduate level public relations writing class during her Homecoming Weekend visit.

With the foundation CRC provided for success, Christine was able to further her education and create a lasting impact in local communities where she continues to serve! Christine sends a special thanks to Rubina Gulati, Dr. Merrilee Lewis, Coach Belya and Counselor Steve Krisiak for their assistance in providing her with an exceptional educational experience at CRC.
I had taught as an assistant professor for the past 12 years. About 12 years ago I started answering phones in the ITFS (now DEMS). I was a stay-at-home mom and loved working part-time. Then I moved over to mail/duplicating as a temporary classified. When my kids were older I applied and got a full-time position in duplicating and stayed there for five years. I was then cross-trained in campus police and worked there while also working in duplicating. I then left for about 18 months to go live in the country, but came back as dispatcher and worked there for two years. I’m now full-time in duplicating again.

**What is a typical day at CRC like for you?** I come in at 6:30 every morning and go through emails looking for exams or handouts that need to be done for the 7:00 classes. I do those first and then move on to the other jobs requested. I also supervise the student help, but I especially like the interaction with faculty and staff every day.

**What do you enjoy most about working at CRC?** The campus still feels small to me in many ways, but I know we are growing. I know just about everyone on campus and I enjoy the interaction with the students and with the employees.

**An interesting hobby or fact that most people wouldn’t know about you:** I lead the children’s choir at church, which I enjoy immensely. I have to say they are very good and have great little voices. I also collect old books. My favorite is the Works of Lord Byron. I have the 1854 edition. I also have a 1827 Bible.

**Faculty Profile**

**Years of service at CRC:** I had taught as an adjunct faculty member in the Los Rios district since 1994, teaching at CRC many semesters, and in Fall, 1999, I was hired on the full-time tenure track (5 years as an adjunct, the following 6 years full time). What is special to me is that I am an alumnus of Cosumnes River College. I earned my Associate of Arts Degree in Speech and Drama in 1984. It is touching and fulfilling to me to have been blessed to return to my community college and teach where my educational career began.

**What is your greatest accomplishment?** Maintaining and sharing a happy relationship with my wife, Patricia, married for 20 years, and my three children, Cameron, Taylor, and Mackenzie, is my most important and greatest achievement. With their support, I have earned an educational doctorate degree (EdD) from the University of Southern California in K-12 and Community College Educational Leadership. I perceive that working in a career that you fully enjoy while making a comfortable living and work that serves as an accomplishment, such that being able to teach in the classroom with adult learners and fully enjoying the teaching experience is also an achievement.

**What do you enjoy most about working at CRC?**

I thrive on the experience of learning in the classroom with a diversity of adult learners. As every student differs in personality, interests and needs, it makes a day of teaching and every semester a different experience. I enjoy teaching and discussing with students about the importance of effective communication skills, as we depend on our abilities to communicate every day.

**Any future goals?**

I have been serving on the Curriculum Committee for five years, and see the importance and service that well planned curriculum brings for guidance to faculty and students as a college course and degree program is developed. I hope to serve on the Curriculum Committee for many years and become a historian of sorts in curriculum. There are faculty with a long history in curriculum that serve on the committee now, and I know many of us faculty appreciate their service and perspective as we consider how courses and degree programs are developed. I am also interested in assisting other faculty in learning how to develop curriculum and hope that I can tie my interest of curriculum into professional development for faculty.

**An interesting hobby or fact that most people wouldn’t know about you:** I enjoy movies, the theater, and well written literature. I was a manager of video retail stores for eight years, somewhat for the experience in business management, yet mostly so that I could watch movies for free. I was a theater major in community college and I still “act” as I read with my children. If I could spare the time, I would love to be a reader of literature for audio-book on tape and discs.