Formed in the spring of 2008, the Sustainability Committee has focused their efforts on increasing campus involvement to bring awareness to their mission.

Great strides have been made over the years including notable changes to our college’s vision and value statements, the development of the “Green Scene,” a bi-monthly newsletter, formation of the Students for a Sustainable Future club, an environmental film series and increased involvement in the annual Earth Week celebration each April.

These efforts included the first Zero Waste convocation in the Los Rios District last year. Garbage was separated into bins labeled compostables, recyclables and landfill (trash). Faculty and staff responded positively and the outcome greatly exceeded the expectation. Almost 95% of the collected 76 pounds of material was diverted from the landfill.

A compost project initiated in Geography Professor Debra Sharkey’s class, with cooperation from Aramark, won the California Community College Board of Governor's Energy & Sustainability Honorable Mention award.

In addition, former CRC student and committee member, Heather Downing, received a National Wildlife Federation Campus Ecology Fellowship. With it, she completed the district’s first greenhouse gas inventory at CRC and the fellowship enabled purchase of classroom recycling bins.

Other staff and students have greatly helped advance sustainability efforts as well. Communication Professor Colette Harris-Mathews has incorporated a “go-green” service learning project in her communications class. One group did a project involving energy conservation and ordered “Turn off the Lights” stickers, which are now in every classroom.

Horticulture Professor Dave Andrews is developing a campus garden and composting demonstration area. Campus-wide efforts in reducing paper consumption have also continued as more information is now found online. The paper that is used is often printed on both sides.

CRC has made good progress in improving sustainability efforts, but there is still more to do.

Sharkey said future plans include installing more bike racks and encouraging use of public transportation and carpooling. “Solar photovoltaics on our rooftops would greatly reduce the amount of energy we use,” she added. “The ban of single use bottled water is being considered, with more attention given to water fountains. The campus landscape could be more environmentally friendly with less water use and more xeriscaping or planting of drought tolerant plants. Purchasing policies of environmentally-friendly products can be implemented and incentives offered to students and staff who reuse products such as cups and plastic bags. Additionally, reducing the carbon footprint in our cafeteria is important.”

The Sustainability Committee is working hard to make our campus, our lives, and our Earth healthier.
Community College Athletic Association State Championship title! Coach Tony Bloomfield and our CRC Baseball Team met the challenge of not having a home field due to new construction, playing all games away, and fielding a squad with only 19 players. This committed group of student athletes achieved its championship both on and off the field, with better than average GPAs and numerous players signing scholarship offers to universities!

Likewise, advocates for a cleaner, sustainable planet are impacting our physical facilities and our operational practices at CRC. Professor Debra Sharkey, along with several colleagues, worked with the Student Sustainability Club to implement an innovative campus composting project. Professor Sharkey became an inaugural recipient of the California Community Colleges Board of Governor’s Energy and Sustainability Honorable Mention Award and our college and planet are the beneficiaries of her championship for the environment.

Champions, whether for competition or for a cause, are so vital to change and to sustaining a vibrant, informed community. The State budget is jeopardizing higher education and the success of our students. So in this environment, I urge everyone to be a champion. Education is a positive, productive investment in the future, but continued open access to local community colleges will only be possible if the November tax initiative is approved by California voters. We must be advocates for California higher education and for the resources needed to continue to produce educated scientists, technicians, health care professionals, teachers, writers, anthropologists, artists, musicians, psychologists, and the entire field of champions.

As the president of Cosumnes River College, I am profoundly grateful to our faculty and staff and to all public-minded individuals and civic activists who understand and endorse the mission of our college and community colleges throughout the State of California.

All the best to you as this new academic year begins!

Dr. Deborah J. Travis
The Cosumnes River College men’s baseball team made history this spring when they won the California Community College Athletic Association State Championships for the first time.

After 13 seasons, Coach Tony Bloomfield said he is looking forward to hanging the state banner on the backstop of CRC’s new baseball complex when the Hawks start their season in the spring.

“I am so proud of my team,” Bloomfield said. “They are good students and the most diverse group we’ve had. They were a special team and could have chosen to go anywhere, but chose CRC.”

This is a first for any sport at CRC, becoming the inaugural team to win the State championship in the college’s 41-year history, and all without a home practice or game field while the fields were being upgraded.

The Hawks played their “home games” at American River, Sacramento City and Sacramento State. Practices were held at Sheldon High School, where CRC players and staff would mow the grounds so they could use them.

“We were the ‘Road Warriors.’ We just had the mindset that we didn’t need a home field to play on and we made the best of wherever we went,” Bloomfield added.

“The coaches and players had a ‘moment’ in CRC history,” said Kinesiology and Athletics Dean Liz Belyea. “They handled the lack of facilities well and without one complaint. They worked hard and deserve the State Championship! It was a great season!”

The team had strong pitching and defense this year, taking the team to a win in its Northern California Regional competition and then beating College of San Mateo for the program’s first Super Regional title after reaching that point eight of the previous nine seasons.

Former CRC baseball coach Rod Beilby was in Bakersfield to watch every inning of the State Championship games. He coached CRC in the 1980s and early ’90s and has been the athletic director for the last 17 years at Yuba College.

As for the players, only seven of the 19 will be returning to CRC next year.

“All of my kids who are transferring, with one possible exception, will be going to four-year universities, many with full scholarships,” Bloomfield said.

Coach Bloomfield was recognized as this year’s Big 8 Conference Coach of the Year and has won the Conference Championship four times during his tenure at CRC.

The State Championship was a long time in the making for Bloomfield.

“All I could think was, finally, we won,” he said. “I’m thankful for being here at CRC. I’m developing future husbands and fathers and I know when they go out in the real world, they will make mistakes, but I’m here to teach them how to be productive citizens.”

To cap off a history-making year, Bloomfield was selected as the National Coach of the Year by the American Baseball Coaches Association/Diamond Sports Company – Pacific Association Division. He will be honored at the Coach of the Year Banquet during the ABCA National Convention in Chicago in January.

Photos by Mayra Fuentes
GETTING TO KNOW...
GLENN AKUTAGAWA Bookstore Stock Clerk

Q: How long have you been at CRC?
A: I have been at CRC for 13 years.

Q: What do you like most about your job?
A: I like being “verbally mischievous” with our employees and interact with them in a fun way. I also get to run our forklift intermittently and more often during certain times of the semester. I enjoy the casual atmosphere of our campus.

Q: What do you like to do for fun? Hobbies?
A: I really enjoy the outdoors and taking my two sons camping, fishing, swimming, and hiking. Just spending time with them and being involved with whatever they’re interested in is not only fun, but also the most important thing in my life. I also volunteer a lot at my church for the Childrens and Youth Ministries.

Q: Have you always wanted to be doing what you’re doing?
A: No. I fell into my job here. Working for the district is good.

Q: What were you doing before coming to CRC?
A: I’ve actually had two careers (along with a wide spectrum of jobs) prior to coming to CRC. I was a Director for a YMCA and then became an archeologist. Just prior to coming to CRC, I was a Receiving Supervisor for a book distribution company.

Q: What are your plans for the future?
A: I’d like to retire and live a slow-paced life in Mark Twain World or Mayberry or on Walton’s Mountain or near that Little House on the Prairie or… Wherever it is, it has to be near water and have great fishing! Oh, and spoil my grandchildren to the max!

Q: What have you learned about yourself since you arrived here?
A: Sometimes I have to let things go and not be such a perfectionist. I’m very detail oriented and I can’t do everything all the time. Some things are out of my hands.

Q: Any words of wisdom or anything you’d like to add?
A: My sons are the treasures of my life. I gave up a promising career and a good salary to be with my older son every night and on weekends. He was only one-year-old at the time. I knew that I could always make money and get by somehow, but I could never get that time back. I never regretted my decision. Everybody needs money, but some people make money their main priority. Materialistic things are nice, but you can’t take it with you. Take a lot of pictures and create memories, too!
Q: How long have you been at CRC?
A: I’ve been at CRC since February 27th.

Q: What do you like most about your job?
A: Because I’ve been recovering from foot surgery, I haven’t explored the campus and met as many people as I’d like, but I love all my co-workers in the OPS building. They’ve adopted me into their family! I also love being in a creative environment and my creative colleague, Amber Foreman.

Q: What were you doing before coming to CRC?
A: I was a graphic designer for AMG Media Group, a small advertising agency in Carmichael for four years. I learned a lot there, but realized I’m a true “artist” at heart and needed to find a more inspiring place where I felt more fulfilled and where I’m part of a group that gives back to the community.

Q: What are your plans for the future?
A: Besides working at CRC, I’m a full time student pursuing a master’s degree in advertising account planning. I hope to teach part time once I complete my degree.

Q: Any words of wisdom or anything you’d like to add?
A: “By your own soul, learn to live”
—Parkenham Beatty

Q: What do you like to do for fun? Hobbies?
A: My hobbies include music, dancing, playing with my furry son Monster (an 85 pound yellow lab) and spending time with my family and friends. I also enjoy photography and have become the “go to” amateur photographer for my family and friends.

Q: Have you always wanted to be doing what you’re doing?
A: I first became fascinated with Visual Communication at Santa Ana College in Santa Ana, California, after taking a beginning Photoshop class. My instructor at the time, Dr. Sharon Brown, became my mentor and encouraged me to trust my artistic talent. After receiving my AA, I transferred to Cal State Long Beach and pursued graphic design.
“Let the good times roll!” This may have been the unofficial theme of the Cosumnes River College Foundation’s Gala - A Taste of Jazz held in Spring 2012. With CW 31’s Marianne McClary serving as event MC, over 200 guests enjoyed Caribbean and New Orleans Jazz and treats for the tastebuds at the annual signature fundraiser for the CRC Foundation. This year, over $33,000 was raised in support of critical scholarships and student support programs at the college!

Methodist Hospital of Sacramento, a Dignity Health Member, generously served as the Gala’s Platinum Sponsor, making this the fifth time in six years that the healthcare provider has provided the highest level of support for this event.

“The funds we raise from this event help the Foundation to support critical programs and scholarships for students at CRC,” said Oscar O’con, current Chair of the college’s Foundation Board of Directors. “We’re thankful for the continued support of many campus and community partners who invest in CRC students.” Frontier Communications, SMUD and OC Communications each served as Silver Sponsors for the year’s event as well.

We hope to see YOU for A Taste of Jazz on April 13, 2013.
May 30, 2012, marked twenty years since my retirement from the faculty at Cosumnes River College. I understand that this makes me one of the "longest retired" of the current CRC Emeriti. And since I was the lone faculty retiree in 1992, I also became the sole recipient of a special "CRC Medallion," presented to me by then President Marc Hall at commencement exercises that year.

My journey to Cosumnes River College came by way of Sacramento City College, where I had become a full-time history instructor after several years of teaching in their evening program and while still serving as Social Science Department Chair at Elk Grove High School. But CRC had always remained my ultimate goal, ever since we learned of its proposed construction. We watched eagerly as the new campus developed.

I thoroughly enjoyed my total teaching time at CRC, and I have also enjoyed my twenty years of retirement since. There was never any need for a period of "adjustment." My wife Iris and I had begun traveling abroad many years before (first, to celebrate our 25th Wedding Anniversary, a trip to Greece, the Greek Islands, and Egypt), and we’ve continued our travels—especially to Western Europe, but also to Canada and much of the United States. In fact, one of the true "perks" of my years at CRC was being part of the District’s first "London Semester." Along with instructors from City College and ARC, we taught our students in London for an entire semester—particularly gratifying to a history teacher, as we visited the actual sites we had discussed earlier in class. The semester also provided opportunities to see many of London’s outstanding theater productions, as well as to visit Scotland, Ireland, and Belgium. As we get older, however, cruises (particularly European river cruises) have become more attractive to us.

Some other activities since retirement: I’ve continued some involvement with the Strauss Festival of Elk Grove—the elegant music and dance performances held each summer in Elk Grove Park. The Festival was the "brain-child" of Iris following one of our trips to Austria, and celebrated twenty-five years of productions in July. For these efforts, a park on Big Horn Boulevard was named for us by the Elk Grove Community Services District.

I’ve also managed to continue expressing my appreciation of history by writing three historical novels (all available in the CRC Library): "Recompense: Return to Oberammergau," centered around the Passion Play held in Germany every ten years; "Exile from Jamestown," a look at the founding of our first permanent American colony; and "Betrayal at Popham," dealing with a little-known facet of our early history that culminated in the "Lost Colony of Maine."

And both Iris and I remain active members of the "Rhoads School Board," whose purpose is to enable local third and fourth graders to experience a day in a one-room school, just as children did in the 1890s.

For more information on the Cosumnes River College Emeriti Association, contact Robin Montanez at 691-7320
WELCOME FROM THE ACADEMIC SENATE

Welcome back!
This summer has been an active time for California Community Colleges. In addition to the usual budget wrangling, the California Legislature has been actively working on SB 1456 (Lowenthal) the Seymour-Campbell Student Success Act of 2012 which is the first legislative action in response to last year’s Student Success Task Force (SSTF) report. While the Legislature has been working on revisions to the Education Code, the State Chancellor’s office has been working to change Title 5 to address other recommendations from the SSTF report. Three taskforces have been working over the summer: 1) Enrollment Prioritization Workgroup, 2) Fee Waiver Workgroup (proposing limits to the BOG Fee waiver), and 3) the SSTF Accountability Scorecards Workgroup (proposing changes to the Accountability Reporting for the California Community Colleges reports).

The Senate has been working to make sure that the faculty voice is heard (if not always followed) as decisions are made. The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges has been instrumental in changes to SB 1456 from its initial draft to the version currently being considered. Los Rios has Senate-appointed members on all of the current SSTF implementation taskforces. This positions the faculty of Los Rios to make sure that our voice is heard.

As I sat through SSTF implementation taskforce meetings this summer I found myself reflecting on how patently unfair this process feels. Why is the legislature poking their noses into our academic business? Why do we have to rewrite Ed. Code and Title V to change our operations because some other districts are not doing their jobs? Why is the legislature spending all of this time talking about faculty as if we do not care about student success? At the moment that I found myself slipping into petulance I clearly heard my mother’s voice: “Kale, no one ever said life was going to be fair.” Vilifying the system for underperforming students while cutting funding to the very programs meant to support student success is not fair—but there is nothing we can do about the fairness of the situation. What we can do, and what the Senate has done for the past two years, is to attempt to educate legislators (and dare I say it: State Chancellor officials) to a proposal’s feasibility and to avoid any unintended consequences. The Senate nudges, mitigates, and contextualizes the legislation and policy proposals as much as we can.

The ASCCC and our local Senate will continue to nudge, mitigate, and contextualize on your behalf for this upcoming year.

Sincerely,
Kale Braden
Academic Senate President

GREETINGS FROM THE CLASSIFIED SENATE!

Welcome to the Fall 2012 semester!
I would like to introduce you to the incoming Classified Senate for the 2012-2013 academic year:
Breanne Holland, President
Shevonna Blackshire, Vice President
April Robinson, Treasurer
Eva Rhodes, Secretary
On behalf of the Classified Senate, I would like to say “thank you,” for supporting our interest in representing CRC-classified staff, campus and district wide. This new Senate has already expressed a strong desire to support the empowerment of classified staff and to continue to promote participation, communication, and collaboration between administrators, faculty, students, and staff.

In preparing for the upcoming year, we would like to hear from you about how we can best represent our peers by sharing your thoughts and ideas with us. Communication is essential between the Classified Senate and you. We welcome your suggestions, feedback, and concerns, and want the opportunity to acknowledge and address them. The Classified Senate continues to promote staff development, leadership, and growth. We encourage you to continue, or start, to actively participate in the CRC community and take on leadership roles.

The Classified Senate for the 2012-2013 academic year welcomes the new and returning staff and faculty to another semester with the CRC family!

Sincerely,
Breanne Holland
2012-2013 Classified Senate President
As the fall semester begins, you will notice significant changes on the CRC campus. On the north side of campus, the Athletic Fields, Parking Access and Perimeter Improvement project is nearing completion. Improvements include new parking and a road and accessible sidewalk to the north side of campus, accessible fields with support buildings for restrooms, concessions, storage and other functions. We recently dedicated a newly remodeled stadium with an all-weather football/soccer field, ticket booth and accessible pathways to the bleachers and press box. Also, the bleachers and press boxes have not been installed due to delays in State approval.

On the north side of campus, the first phase of the Northeast Modernization project is substantially complete and over the summer the Welding, Construction, Horticulture and other programs were moved into the new instructional building and greenhouses, clearing the existing Building 49 for renovation for use by the Custodial, Maintenance and Receiving departments.

At the northeast corner of campus, north of the stadium, Regional Transit continues to build the flyover structure that will support the future light rail trains over Cosumnes River Boulevard. The current scheduled completion of Regional Transit’s Blue Line extension is late 2015.

On the east side of campus, construction of the fifth and final level of the parking garage is scheduled to be complete sometime during the first few weeks of the fall term. This will end the weekly, sometimes daily line of concrete trucks that have delivered approximately 17,000 yards in more than 1,700 trucks in about nine months. Once that phase is complete, several months of work on the exterior and interior of the building will take place before the garage is opened for the Summer or Fall 2013 term.

Just northwest of the parking structure, the Winn Center completed sitework and the foundation over the summer and is beginning to rise from the ground with the steel frame. It will be exciting to see this iconic building develop over this next academic year and this time next year we will have a unique facility for our programs.

Just south of Cosumnes Oaks High School and Elizabeth Pinkerton Middle School, the first phase of the Elk Grove Center has a paved parking area and significant progress on the building framing. Offsite improvements will begin shortly to extend Big Horn Road to the west entrance for the Center and provide the utility connections necessary for the project.

As you know, it is a very exciting and challenging time with the major changes to the CRC campus. Over the course of this academic term, we will see the completion of each of these projects, providing new facilities to serve our faculty, staff and students well into the future. While future construction will be a little less crazy as projects are completed and other projects await future state bond funds, we are working on plans for an Art Gallery that will also be funded with local bond funds. There will also be significant work in and around the Bruceville entrance and Lot F over the next three years to complete the light rail extension.
Welcome to the CRC Family

NEW FACULTY, CLASSIFIED STAFF & MANAGEMENT
SINCE JANUARY 2012

Mariel Cepeda
Graphic Designer
Learning Resources & College Technology

Yu Chen
Custodian
Custodial Services

Kathleen Damiani
Child Development Teacher
Child Development Center

Heidi Munoz
English Professor
Humanities & Social Science

Man Phan
Business Assistant Professor
Business & Family Science

Torence Powell
Dean
Communication, Visual & Performing Arts

New Faculty, Classified Staff & Management since January 2012

Retirements

Janis Caston
Business Professor
30+ years of service

Chris Corona
Student Affairs Specialist
17+ years of service

Rena Haley
Instructional Assistant
16+ years of service

Christine Harris
Psychology Professor
24+ years of service
Where did the time go?

A few days ago, I took a walk around the campus. I took in all the sceneries, then looked up to the beautiful spring sky and asked myself, “Where did the time go?” It seemed like just a few years back when I first placed my two feet on CRC ground and started my teaching career. Yet, a span of twenty three years, about one third of my life, has quickly gone by. It has been like a dream.

Many things have changed since 1989. The trees around the quad are now much taller; old buildings got renovated; new buildings sprung up; and many people came and went. I have come and I have changed, from a young man to now a senior citizen, with only a few strands of gray hair left on my bald head. It is now my time to go.

The Science building, where I was interviewed for the position of Economics Professor, is now different. I still remember that day very vividly. As I was about to enter the interview room, the campus had a power outage. The entire building went dark. The first sentence that I made as I stepped in front of the interview panel was, “Let there be light! I will be the one who brings light to this campus.” The panel chuckled and I got the job.

I am not sure if all of my 15,000 plus students in my 23-year tenure did see the light, it is my hope that most of them did. However, there are two things that I am sure about. I have had the opportunity to work under the best deans that anybody could hope for. Janis Caston, Linn Violett, Ryan Cox, and Jamey Nye, all have given me their best support. Also the good camaraderie that I have enjoyed in all the years at CRC, my second home, has helped the time fly by quickly.

Richard Le

Teaching runs in the family; both of my parents are educators. During college, unlike many of my friends, I knew exactly what I wanted to be when I “grew up”: I wanted to be a community college professor just like my Dad. Fast-forward 10 years, and here I am, recently tenured and one of the few people I know who really, I mean really, loves her job.

So what is it that I love about my job? Perhaps some of the same things that may drive others crazy: my students and my colleagues. Yes, it’s true. I like my students, they’re wonderful people! But my colleagues in the Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Division truly make my experience here at CRC exceptional. I have found many kindred spirits that I look forward to working with each day. They have been supportive and welcoming, providing me with invaluable tips such as how to fix paper jams in the Riso, how to attach my hood at graduation, and even help turn a quick lunch in the work-room into a fascinating conversation about plagiarism or therapeutic cloning.

When I began applying for full-time faculty positions, I had never heard of Cosumnes River College, and was debating whether to apply for the open Biology position. My office-mate Keely had been an adjunct here and said “Jena, trust me, CRC is GREAT.” At the time, I also wasn’t sure about Sacramento as a permanent home for me. What was I thinking?! I now have a house with access to the American River Parkway, I live 1.5 hours from Tahoe (where I get to rock climb every weekend during the summer), and I have a fabulous group of friends. Coming to CRC was an excellent career and lifestyle opportunity. Keely was right.

At the end of the Spring ’12 semester, I attended the employee appreciation lunch and its new format provided me with both inspiration and an opportunity for reflection. Watching Billy and Travis receive their forty-year service awards, I thought, “Someday, that will be me”. Like my father, who retired after 37 years as an educator, I intend to spend my entire working life in this profession. Listening to Kale read the resolutions written for retiring faculty, I considered what my colleagues would say about me after our short time together. I imagine your comments might look something like this:

“Jena who?”

“Oh, she’s Faculty? I always thought she was a student!”

“Isn’t she the one who sent her Finals to D.O.?”

You may not know me very well yet, since I am a bit of a hermit and a “newbie”. I spend most of my time holed up in the Biology department (and I’m also one of those “online” people). Since I expect to be here for quite some time, we’ll get to know each other a bit better. With any luck, we can replace the comments above with more descriptive ones when the time comes. But let’s not rush it, I’m enjoying myself.

Jena Bills

Our People... Our Place
Former Cosumnes River College student Cassie Garrett-Lewis recently transferred to Sacramento State University and is an active member of the McNair Scholars Program. The program is named after Ronald E. McNair, one of the astronauts who died in the Challenger explosion in 1986.

The McNair Scholars Program is a federal TRiO program funded at 194 institutions across the United States and Puerto Rico by the U.S. Department of Education. It is designed to prepare undergraduate students for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. McNair participants are either first-generation college students with financial need, or members of a group that is traditionally underrepresented in graduate education and have demonstrated strong academic potential. The goal of the McNair Scholars Program is to increase graduate degree awards for students from underrepresented segments of society.

Garrett-Lewis says she likes the CRC college atmosphere so much she may return as a professor after earning her doctorate degree. She says she can picture working at a college for the rest of her life.

CRC was Garrett-Lewis’ first college experience and while she said she “would’ve gotten her 4-year degree here if she could,” the transfer center helped transition to the next level of education.

Garrett-Lewis explained that once you are in the McNair Program, you are in it for life. The program is balanced in the sense it helps its participants to stay accountable, while also rejoicing and celebrating victories. Students are enrolled in special courses that coincide with the program and are assigned a mentor. Students submit entries to the McNair Journal and attend and present at conferences. Monetary awards and recognition are among the incentives.

According to the McNair Scholars Web site, Dr. McNair was a recognized expert in laser physics. “His many distinctions include being a Presidential Scholar (1971-74), a Ford Foundation Fellow (1971-74), a National Fellowship Fund Fellow (1974-75), and a NATO Fellow (1975).”

The Web site also says that it was because of his many accomplishments that he was selected by NASA for the space shuttle program in 1978. He had one successful trip to space in 1984 and was selected again to serve as mission specialist aboard the Challenger. All seven astronauts died when the Challenger exploded one minute, thirteen seconds after it was launched on January 28, 1986. The high standards of achievement by Dr. McNair are the inspiration behind the McNair Scholars Program.

In the last five years, more than 2,300 veterans have attended classes at Cosumnes River College (CRC). The support team in place guided them, provided resources and counseled them. Because troops are returning home in greater numbers, CRC is striving to provide more services to this group of students.

The new Veterans Resource Center, which opened this fall, is an entire operation geared towards the success of student veterans. Not only will veterans have a physical place to go to for support, but the support they will receive will be all-inclusive. “These returning vets need additional services,” CRC counselor and army veteran, Steve Leake said. “Many are returning from multiple deployments, some with traumatic brain injuries, and we need to be prepared for them.” Veterans will find other vets who they can talk to, as well as staff who will answer questions and computers where they can get work done.

Leake said the center is designed to help veterans adapt from military to college life. The logistics of how to use VA benefits and establish educational goals will come first, followed by referrals to campus resources and external services. A variety of workshops are available which address educational, emotional and financial needs. Each veteran receives the care that best suits their individual needs. Veterans also have access to Cal-Vet counselors. “The goal is to build change,” Leake said. “That is the main point.”

Veterans are welcomed and encouraged to spend time at the Veterans Resource Center. Many of the staff at the center are veterans themselves and understand the military culture. Leake said it’s a “totally different culture than the civilian culture and that veterans need a place to decompress.” He also said that college life often challenges their way of thinking and adaptation to campus culture is necessary to their success. “It can be very difficult,” he added. Thankfully the Veterans Center staff understand this and have the tools and knowledge to prepare for continuing and new students.

The Veterans Resource Center mission is simple; “to honor your service by helping you discover and succeed at your educational and life goals.” The center is located in the Learning Resource Center, room-214.
The Cosumnes River College Foundation is comprised of dedicated community leaders who volunteer their time and talent to help develop vital resources for students. During the 2011-2012 academic year, several of our board members were recognized for their professional accomplishments and outstanding service to the community. We are very grateful for their continued service to the students, faculty and staff of CRC.

Oscar O’con has been a member of the Cosumnes River College Foundation Board of Directors since 2005 and currently serves as the Board Chair. In 2011, he was named “Man of the Year” by the Elk Grove Citizen newspaper. Oscar O’con owns O’con & Associates, a consulting firm.

Angela L. Minniefield has served as a CRC Foundation Board Member since 2001 and served as Board Chair in 2006. In 2012, she received the Champion of Health Professions Diversity award from the California Wellness Foundation. Minniefield is the Vice President for Strategic Advancement at the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine.

Roy Herberger is not only a founding member of the CRC Foundation, but was instrumental in the formation of the college itself. Roy was recently recognized by the Boy Scouts of America for his outstanding service to the community. Herberger is the owner of Herberger Publications and owns several newspapers in the Central Valley.

The Cosumnes River College Annual Fund

Because giving makes dreams possible

To give to the CRC Annual Fund, go to www.crc.losrios.edu/foundation, click the “Give Now” button and select “CRC Annual Fund” on the drop down menu. You may also contact the College Advancement Office at (916) 691-7320.
### Foundation Report

#### FY 2012 Net Asset Allocation

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<td>Unrestricted Fund</td>
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<td>30%</td>
<td>Restricted Fund</td>
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The “Permanently Restricted Endowment” are funds held in the Los Rios Foundation’s endowed account for CRC scholarships. The “Restricted Fund” balance includes non-endowed scholarship funds and support for specific campus areas. The “Unrestricted” allocation holds funds used to address the most pressing campus needs through the Annual Fund, such as the Textbook Scholarships and Mini-Grants.

#### Foundation Balance Sheet Year Ended June 30, 2012

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<td><strong>Total Non-Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>285,676.12</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$449,995.32</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Liabilities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>A/P Year End Accrual</td>
<td>$363.27</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets Unrestricted</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund Balance Unrestricted</td>
<td>$136,049.14</td>
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<td><strong>Total Net Assets Unrestricted</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Net Restricted Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund Balance Restricted</td>
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<td>Permanently Endowed Restricted Endowment</td>
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<td><strong>Total Net Assets Restricted</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$449,995.32</td>
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CRC Foundation Net Assets have grown from $185,594 in 2004 to nearly $450,000 in 2012.

Source: Cosumnes River College Business Office.

*For more information about the Foundation please call (916) 691-7320*
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- Ana Cardenas
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- Anthony Bloomfield
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* July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012
INVESTING IN CALIFORNIA'S FUTURE

The Sacramento region’s cornerstone of higher education includes the Los Rios Community College District, Chico State, Sacramento State, UC Davis and the Yuba Community College District. These institutions play a critical role in the region by having more than a $6 billion annual impact in the Sacramento economy.

Beyond a place where students go to learn and get prepared for the workforce, higher education is a smart investment for California. The return on investment in higher education is significant and measurable. For every $1 California spends on higher education, it receives $3 in return.

So why do legislators continue to reduce higher education funding levels in the state budget? Former Los Rios Chancellor Brice Harris recently said “On the positive side, the legislature did recommend to the Governor that if the tax initiative passes in November a portion of the new revenue for community colleges would be dedicated to restoring access. The total amount of new money would be approximately $213 million, and $50 million would be used to restore access and the balance of $163 million would be used to begin paying down some of the deferrals.”

Access to higher education has been a long-held hallmark and valuable aspect of California’s economic and employment health an important principle given the current state of the economic environment. “If the tax measure passes in November we will begin to see a very modest return of funding and could actually begin to add back some classes in the coming year,” former Chancellor Harris commented.

Getting Los Rios and our regional higher education institutions started back on a path that ensures access to all students is critical. And when students are able to attain degrees and secure jobs, California will see economic stability and growth. If just 2% more Californians earned an Associate Degree and 1% more earned a Bachelor’s Degree, the State economy would grow by $20 billion, tax revenues would increase by $1.2 billion a year and 174,000 new jobs would be created.

From elected officials to nurses to computer technicians to restaurateurs to cutting-edge technology innovators, higher education alumni are the pillars of our community and the backbone of our economy.