CRC RECEIVES RICE AWARD

A Yuba College professor and a Cosumnes River College seminar program were honored at the California Community Colleges Board of Governors (BOG) meeting in July for making the greatest contribution towards faculty and staff diversity or student equity.

The two Rice Awards, represented in a black gilded falcon with a black glass disc nestled under the wing, were presented to honor the memory of the late John W. Rice, who tirelessly advocated for equity in the California community colleges when he served on the Board of Governors from 1992 to 2000.

During the fall 2006 semester, Cosumnes River College (CRC) introduced a new one unit Learner-centered Freshman Seminar designed to increase the academic success of entering 18 – 20 year old freshmen, particularly at-risk students. This highly interactive course demystifies the college culture and experience by providing timely information at critical points in the semester. It focuses on the language, terminology, expectations, and customs of the college environment, and assists students in identifying the transferable skills they bring with them that can be applied to the college culture. Topics covered include: Creative Problem Solving, Academic Integrity, Deciphering College Publications, Money & Time Management, Expectations for Classroom Behavior, and more.

“The people that do the heavy lifting and make these academic interventions work are our faculty members. They work hard on behalf of the students,” said Dr. Francisco Rodriguez, President, Cosumnes River College. “Our college is very honored by this award and will use it to strengthen our resolve to better serve community college students,” he said.

Sharon Padilla-Alvarado, BJ Snowden and Celia Esposito-Noy also attended the event with Dr. Rodriguez.

CRC PROFESSORS RECOGNIZED FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Geography Professor Debra Sharkey was selected as the California Geographical Society’s Outstanding Educator for 2008. As the organization’s highest honor, the award recognizes one geography educator annually who demonstrates skill and commitment, both in and out of the classroom. Debra was selected not only for her excellence as a community college classroom instructor, but also for her contributions and outreach in support of geographic education across her campus and across the State of California.

“\[I\] was utterly stunned to learn that I was selected for this award,” Sharkey said. “I had no idea I had even been nominated for it. I’ve awoken from sleep several times thinking this was a dream. But, upon seeing the award plaque sitting there with my name engraved upon it, I’ve been forced to recognize that this must have really happened. I am deeply honored to receive this statewide award from peers in geography higher education at CA community colleges and 4-year institutions.”

Founded in 1946, the CGS is the oldest statewide organization dedicated to enhancing the understanding of geography as well as promoting interaction amongst academic faculty from across the U.S. and around the world for their innovative contributions to teaching and learning in higher education.

“This award is a way for us to recognize the highly creative contributions that are made day in and day out by outstanding teaching faculty in colleges and universities around the world,” said Jeana Davis, coordinator of the conference. “It also provides a venue for them to share those ideas with their colleagues at other institutions—improving higher education teaching and learning opportunities for all of us.”

Ellis, who has been with CRC since 1983, said he was thrilled to be one of this year’s recipients. “I think the whole process of attending the conference, writing a paper and creating..."
President’s Message

Campus Colleagues and Friends of Cosumnes River College:

Un saludo muy cordial – warm, summer greetings to you. I hope this newsletter finds you and your family in good health and enjoying the fruits that only a long summer can bring. For educators, our summer is traditionally a time of reflection and rejuvenation, perhaps best exemplified through long walks and extended conversations with family and friends or in the comfortable solace of a good book. It is an opportunity to temporarily distance ourselves, physically and psychologically, from the necessary focus and needed intensity of our service as community college educators. And, if you are anything like me, a time to work off some of the seemingly growing list of things to fix, file, organize, paint, or haul away.

While it may appear that the college is closed in the summer, quite the contrary. It is in full bloom with staff registering, counseling, and tutoring students, and faculty teaching courses over accelerated time frames. This summer, a record number of day, evening, and online students (just under 5,700) enrolled at CRC. Our expanded efforts to extend our reach to our largest feeder district, Elk Grove USD, proved very successful and resulted in a significant increase of first-time college attendees. Behind the scenes, IT, grounds, and maintenance staff are preparing the college for another year of productive use and again defying in appearance our college’s almost 40 years of year-round access and service to the south Sacramento County region. Our summer follows on a record number of CRC graduates this past spring, where over 600 students were eligible to receive their Associate’s degrees.

Contained within this newsletter, you will once again find marvelous and substantial evidence of our gifted and dedicated people, our sense of place, and our institutional aspirations. It is another opportunity to tell our story. As in the previous editions, there are several contributors, each with something significant and interesting to share about what is important to us, describing what we care about and what we are proud of. Not just who we are, but who we aspire to be as a dynamic, evolving college. The featured stories underscore our time-tested values and growing recognition of academic excellence, collegiality and interdependence, student success, and strong connections to our surrounding communities.

I hope you are as proud as I am of our collective efforts when you read these stories. Thank you for your continued support of our college and siempre adelante (always move forward)!

Un abrazo,

Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D

Journalism Conference Rewards Student Newspaper

Eleven members of The Connection’s staff, along with adviser and professor Rubina Gulati, attended the Journalism Association of Community College’s Northern California Conference held last fall. Students attended workshops conducted by San Jose State University faculty and by professional journalists from the San Jose Mercury News, The Oakland Tribune and San Francisco Chronicle. Workshops topics ranged from investigative reporting, to writing reviews to podcasting and blogging. Many of the students returned brimming with story ideas and new skills to try out. One student even decided to switch his major to photojournalism after being recognized with a photography award. Several students participated in competitions, and were recognized with the following awards:

- Martin Chavez, Third Place, On-the-Spot News Photo
- Hanan Salem, Third Place, Opinion Story
- Sara Espinosa, Second Place, Editorial
- The Connection Staff, Second Place, Editorial
- The Connection Staff, General Excellence, Online Edition

Outstanding Educator, continued from page 1

and applied geographers, as well as members of the general public who share an interest in geography.

The Outstanding Educator Award, established in 1975, has been given to geography educators throughout California.

Innovative Excellence, continued from page 1

a presentation gave me an opportunity to examine what is really important about what I do as a teacher and, of course, winning the award gave me a sense of validation that I’m doing alright,” Ellis said. “I think I really benefited from my own self examination as well as hearing how other teachers look at education. The whole experience made me feel really fortunate that I found my way into such an important and rewarding profession as teaching.”

The International Conference on College Teaching and Learning was established in 1988 to promote the exchange of ideas to improve the teaching and learning process through innovative and effective uses of pedagogy and technology in higher education.
CRC Receives Grant to Create K-12 Career Pathways to the Building Trades Clean Technology Sector

Cosumnes River College (CRC) and Sacramento City College (SCC) were recently awarded an SB70 grant of $369,700 to use over 18 months to create Career Pathways for middle school students enrolled in colleges’ feeder school districts—Davis Joint Unified, Elk Grove Unified, Sacramento City Unified and Washington Unified.

The Building Trades Clean Technology Career Pathways project will encompass various activities involving CRC’s construction, construction management, building inspection technology, architecture and architectural design programs, along with SCC’s HVAC/plumbing systems, architectural/structural drafting, surveying (geomatics), and engineering design technology programs, with two thrusts to the project. This grant-funded project will involve strong support from the Greater Sacramento Area business and industry groups, as well.

The first project focus will be the development of career exploration lessons to be taken to at least eight different middle schools in the four school districts. Lessons will focus on green building concepts related to the building trades, to include practical and fun hands on learning modules. Students will also assess their career goals and interests and the schools and colleges will begin to expand their middle to high school and their high school to college career pathways and articulation processes. Lessons will also include important across-the-curriculum learning—math, science and social studies components will be incorporated into the green building and sustainability lessons. Students will be introduced to both the high school and college curricula and how they can land successful employment in green building related careers.

The second project focus will be to create industry externships for a minimum of 24 middle and high school teachers that will provide opportunities for state-of-the-art hands-on learning that can be brought back into the classroom to enhance curriculum development and pathways related to green building, clean technologies and sustainability in the building trades and energy industry sectors.

In addition to the school district partners, CRC and SCC will be working closely with the Sacramento Builders Exchange, Inc., which will work primarily on middle school lesson development. The North State Building Industry Association will work closely with college, middle school and high school team members to coordinate the middle and high school faculty externships with area industries. Local industries endorsing the project to date include Teichert Construction, ANOVA Architects, Harris & Associates and Kitchell Corporation.

CRC Agriculture Program is Best in State & Region

The California Agriculture Teacher’s Association recently announced that the Cosumnes River College Agriculture Department is recognized as the Overall Outstanding Community College Agriculture Department in the State of California.

In addition, the department was also recently recognized as the Regional Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Education Program by the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE). This is the best in the Western United States. Along with the recognition, awards included a two-year lease on a Toyota Tundra, lodging and travel costs to the NAAE convention for winner and guest, registration to the NAAE convention, $150 cash award, engraved plaque, and an invitation to a special dinner and reception held in the winners’ honor. The agriculture department at CRC consists of veterinary technology, horticulture and agriculture programs.

“It is quite an honor for our program to be recognized by our peers for the job our agriculture faculty has done the past few years,” said Agriculture Professor Howard Lewis.

“The agriculture program has been very active in state, regional and sectional activities, bringing more than 2,000 high school students on campus for the past six years. The veterinary technology program consistently produces students who pass both the state and national boards to become RVT’s. The next step toward excellence is the equine science program that will begin in fall of ’08.”

The Association is also recognizing the agriculture program as the outstanding small program, as it has for the past few years. The purpose of the organization is to promote and improve the teaching of agriculture in California and to foster the welfare of those engaged in this work. In recognizing Cosumnes River College’s agriculture program, students are finding a quality, award-winning program with dedicated faculty who care about the future of our state’s agriculture and educating future leaders in this area.

“The accomplishments of the agriculture program could not have been achieved if not for the highly trained students that have come from our feeder programs and the hard work and dedication of the faculty taking students to state and national competitions, leadership activities and industry trips,” added Lewis. “The students and faculty who sacrifice their time to take advantage of these opportunities should be commended.”
In the spring of 1971, ten dedicated women of the community met with CRC’s first president, Oliver Durand, to organize a women’s group to act as liaison between the new college and the community. Calling themselves the Patrons Club, the ladies agreed to hold monthly luncheon meetings on campus, with programs to orient members to the operation and needs of the college.

For 30 of those years, Patricia C. Deatherage has served as a member of the Cosumnes River College Patrons Club as both President and currently as Publicity Chair. Born and raised in the California Bay Area, Deatherage has spent decades serving the greater Sacramento community. In addition to her service at CRC, she has also been a member of the Mercy General Hospital Guild since 1971.

In her role as Publicity Chair, Deatherage documents and photographs club activities, including monthly meetings, guest speakers and fund raising events. She also stays in contact with local media.

The Patrons have raised funds for various campus needs including; choir robes, draperies, a bus shelter, library books, trophy cases, trees, the Child Development Center, and establishing a President’s portrait gallery. The club currently contributes more than $9,000 annually in scholarships.

In her spare time, Deatherage enjoys knitting, spending time with family and friends and traveling. Her dedication and service to the Cosumnes River College community have helped make the difference for many students between an adequate educational experience and a truly exceptional one.

PATRONS CLUB PROFILE

Simon Silva Visits CRC

Cosumnes River College welcomed noted artist and author Simon Silva to campus in May as part of Latino Culture Week activities. Silva met with students enrolled in Art and Puente classes, signed copies of his prints and books, and spoke to students, as well as visitors from the community and other campuses about his life growing up in a family of migrant farm workers. He shared anecdotes from his youth, such as when he caused a stir in his family by announcing that he wanted to attend college. He enrolled in Imperial Valley College, where he earned his A.A., and then transferred to the Art Center in Los Angeles, where he completed his bachelor’s degree in fine arts. Silva is included in the Americanos book by Edward James Olmos, as well as the Rising Voices - Profiles in Leadership book published by the Nestle Company. He has been commissioned by numerous organizations, including Arizona State University, Time Magazine, and Houghton Mifflin Publishers. CRC’s Puente students expressed interest in hosting a visit by Silva again in the near future.
The planning, construction, and modernization of facilities at CRC continues at a brisk pace with many projects in various stages of development as we build for our future to provide access to an increasing number of students. Since the last summer, a new parking lot (Lot “C”) was added which increases parking on campus by 525 spaces; the Fountain Quad area was renovated providing students and staff a place to congregate and relax by the reflection pool, watch live entertainment or student life activities on the stage in the heart of the campus; the Science Building modernization (approximately 19,000 square feet) was completed which addresses safety, aesthetic, and operational issues; a new high speed fiber optic connection to the internet was installed; and many other projects such as providing multi-media in additional classrooms and improvements to the baseball and softball facilities were completed.

Additionally, during the past year, construction began on Phase II of the Community and Athletic Center, which will provide 9,600 square feet of additional usable space, including two new classrooms, an expanded fitness center, additional seating capacity, and other improvements to make this facility a great venue for basketball, volleyball, and other athletic and special events. This project is scheduled for occupancy in spring 2009.

Additionally, during the past year, construction began on Phase II of the Community and Athletic Center, which will provide 9,600 square feet of additional usable space, including two new classrooms, an expanded fitness center, additional seating capacity, and other improvements to make this facility a great venue for basketball, volleyball, and other athletic and special events. This project is scheduled for occupancy in spring 2009.

Planning continues on several future projects including the construction of approximately 15,000 square feet of additional space for the Science Building which is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2008 and to be complete by 2010; expansion of the Cafeteria and Bookstore which is expected to begin in the summer of 2009 and to be complete by fall 2010; addition of a new educational center in the City of Elk Grove; construction of the new Winn Center for Construction and Architecture; and modernization of the Welding, Horticulture, and Maintenance facilities at the north end of campus. Additionally, in preparation for the light rail extension to CRC, a new surface lot is being planned for the Southeast corner of campus and a 2,000 stall parking garage is expected to begin construction in 2009 and to be complete in 2011. Construction of the light rail station is expected to begin shortly after construction of the parking garage.

As always, we appreciate your patience and continued support as we work through the Master Plan to provide exceptional facilities for our faculty, staff, and students.
Welcome to the CRC Family

NEW CLASSIFIED STAFF

Banafsheh Amini
Laboratory Technician
Science

Gilbert Aguilar
Clerk
Learning Resources &
College Technology (DEMS)

Kevin Bilyak
Instructional Assistant
Computer Lab

Banafsheh Amini
Laboratory Technician
Science

Anna Davtian
Student Personnel Assistant
Counseling Center

Jessica Owens
Evaluator
Admissions & Records

Silvana Giacalone
Clerk
Admissions & Records

Rachel Larsen
Clerk
Tutorial Center

Ena Ilagan
Accountant
Business Services

Norbert Meroux
Instructional Assistant
Computer Lab

Myaisha O’Ray
Account Clerk

Kevin Bilyak
Instructional Assistant
Computer Lab

Banafsheh Amini
Laboratory Technician
Science

Anna Davtian
Student Personnel Assistant
Counseling Center

Silvana Giacalone
Clerk
Admissions & Records

Rachel Larsen
Clerk
Tutorial Center

Norbert Meroux
Instructional Assistant
Computer Lab

Myaisha O’Ray
Account Clerk

Jessica Owens
Evaluator
Admissions & Records
NEW CAMPUS ADMINISTRATORS

APRIL ROBINSON
Clerk
Communication, Visual & Performing Arts

CYNTHIA ROSENDALE
Instructional Assistant
Physical Education & Athletics

DANIEL SANTIAGO
Custodian
Custodial Services

JOHN SHULER
Instructional Assistant
Physical Education & Athletics

FELIX TORRES
Custodian
Custodial Services

KHOU VANG
Clerk
Business & Family Science

VIRASANE KEOONLA
Laboratory Technician
Careers & Technology

LIZ BELYEAA
Dean
Physical Education & Athletics

DON TINGLEY
Interim Dean
Humanities & Social Science

WHITNEY YAMAMURA
Vice President
Instruction & Student Learning
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<td>Jena Bills</td>
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<td>Assistant Professor</td>
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<td>Joseph Gee</td>
<td>Assistant Professor &amp; Program Coordinator</td>
<td>Allied Health/Pharmacy Technician</td>
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<td>Nyenbeku George</td>
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<td>Loi Nguyen-Vo</td>
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<td>Lee Winton</td>
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**CRC Community Q & A**

**Barbara Perrault**
*Administrative Services Analyst*

1. **How long have you worked at CRC?**
   Nine years.

2. **What has changed?**
   It's grown a lot. There are more students, staff, and buildings. In nine years the CAC, CDC, LRC, COP, and bookstore were built. We have a new fountain, parking lot, entrance and not to mention the landscape, equipment, and furniture. There's been a lot of moving, planning, growth, and buying. We also switched accounting systems and upgraded a couple times. I'm sure I'm overlooking many of the changes…but looking forward to the many more to come.

3. **What do you like most about your job?**
   It constantly changes; new rules/laws, new people, new plans and priorities. There is never a dull moment. The one thing remaining constant is the CRC spirit of helping students and each other succeed. Whether it be guiding a student or tracking down paperwork, everyone takes responsibility for helping in any way possible. This spirit makes CRC a great place to work.

4. **What do you like to do for fun? What are your hobbies?**
   I like to go through new home models and do home improvement projects. I also like to watch all the HGTV shows (House Hunters, Color Splash, Miles of Style, Design Star, Curb Appeal, Flip that House, Property Ladder…wow there are a lot of them). I'm trying to like tennis, walking and anything more active. Oh and let's not forget shopping…always enjoyable. Last fall I took a clay sculpture class. I learned a lot and what fun.

5. **Have you always wanted to be an accountant? What were some of the other occupations, if any, you thought you’d pursue when you were younger?**
   Always wanted to be an Indian princess, but the job requirements were too restrictive. It's boring to sit around waiting to be rescued. So I switched to Bat Girl and Agent 99, more fun to capture the bad guys.

6. **Words of wisdom?**
   Hmmmm, not sure… a stitch in time… Do unto others… Don't worry, be happy. There are so many words of wisdom but they aren't always understood until hind sight (it's 2020).

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**Susan Scott**
*Biology Professor*

1. **How many years have you been at CRC?**
   I have been teaching for 20 years. I just got my pin.

2. **What is your philosophy on teaching?**
   Good teaching is challenging students to achieve the most they can but to do that you have to make it really interesting and relevant so they look forward to coming to class. You must give well organized and clear instruction and model how to think by demonstrating steps first. You must also have compassion.

3. **What do you do that causes your students to sing your praises? Which they do!**
   I enjoy when students come back and tell me they've done well and accomplished what they wanted.

4. **What have you learned over the years at CRC about yourself and about the profession?**
   I've never thought of myself as a people person but I've learned that teaching is much more of a social activity. It's more than just delivering instruction of a subject—there are added unseen, unexpressed factors.

5. **What do you enjoy most about teaching?**
   I enjoy when students come back and tell me they've done well and accomplished what they wanted.

6. **Other than just the main outcomes you expect from students in the classroom, is there more that you want to see from them or expect from them?**
   I expect them to become more independent and conscious of the world in general. I want them to develop a bigger world view.

7. **What do you like to do outside of work?**
   Travel! I'm going to Tanzania this summer. This is either my fourteenth or fifteenth trip there. I love watching the wild life because you never know what you're going to see. There's a sense of discovery. I spend some of my time as a safari guide when I'm there.

8. **Anything you want to add?**
   I have really enjoyed being at CRC. The school and students have been rewarding for me. I have learned so much from my students and I have so much respect for them. This experience has enriched me because I've come to understand human potential.
A little wind didn’t prevent the mass of graduates from participating in the Commencement Ceremony on May 21. Men and women from all different walks of life united as they made their voyage from gym to stadium. The faculty, also in cap and gown, stood on the sidelines smiling and clapping abundantly as the graduates entered the stadium. Included in the celebration were family and friends who filled the bleachers and chairs with anticipation.

Guest speaker Dr. Victor Rodriguez, noted vascular surgeon at Kaiser Permanente, gave a personal speech beginning with an account of the struggles and hardships he endured while pursuing a higher education. “In high school I remember listening to teachers talk with other students about their plans for college. For the most part they were talking about schools like USC, UCLA and UC Santa Barbara. To me it seemed like an unattainable goal to even consider going to one of those big universities.” Not knowing about scholarships or student loans, Rodriguez enlisted in the armed forces as a means to get an education. It took four years of duty before he got his chance. Rodriguez concluded his speech by stressing the importance of being true to oneself. “Leave your mark in this world; be confident in your abilities and never take no for an answer. Walk tall and proud to be a Cosumnes River College graduate. Lastly I want to remind you to remember where you came from, remember your roots. Like me, you had the support of your families and teachers. Never forget them, for they were the shoulders that lent you support when you needed it most, and now it’s their shoulders that carry you in victory.”

Student speaker Ebony Watkins emphasized “being the change we want to see in the world.” She reminded us that change starts internally and as CRC graduates change was achieved. “With our change came discipline, responsibility, and commitment. We became disciplined enough to study diligently and to go to class. We had a responsibility to ourselves to pursue a higher education, to set goals, to dream, and to hope. We made a commitment that no matter what mountain came in our way, we wouldn’t try to move it, instead, we would climb it.”

Of the 612 graduates and candidates, the largest eligible graduation class in CRC history, 318 received Honors or Highest Honors for their academic achievement. Five students, Amanda M. Gaut, Nancy A. Spears, Svitlana Krupka, Katherine Elizabeth Ross and Allison I. Stewart maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA in all their college coursework. Dozens of graduates seated in the front row wore the gold stole signifying membership in Phi Theta Kappa, the international community college honor society. Graduates ranged in age from 17 to 63, and their fields of study encompassed 46 different majors.

A standing ovation respectfully showed gratitude to retiring Art Professor Patricia Wall who was honored for her 28 years of service (both adjunct and full-time) to CRC. Professor Wall received Faculty Emeritus status from President Francisco Rodriguez and Academic Senate President Jamey Nye.

I had the pleasure to serve as the 2007-2008 Classified Senate President and work with a great team of Senators: Aselia Valadez, Tina Nguyen, and Jennifer Kepple. Working together and achieving goals as a team has been a great shared governance experience. I would like to thank them for their tireless work on the senate.

Last year, the Classified Senate worked diligently to bring more activities for our campus staff. The 2008 year was specially marked by the Classified Appreciation Week. The week was filled with activities to recognize and acknowledge the contributions of the classified staff to our educational community. In addition to recognizing and acknowledging all classified staff, we honored our Custodial Services staff with a breakfast for the great job they do to maintain our beautiful campus. A special thank you goes out to the subcommittee members that planned all these events. And what a successful week it was!

On behalf of the Classified Senate, I would like to thank our President Francisco Rodriguez and management for their continued support to the Classified Senate and campus staff. It has been great working with all of you. We, your classified staff, take great pride in the work we do to support our students, faculty, and management.

I would like to welcome the incoming Classified Senate for the 2008-2009 academic year and wish you all the best as you represent the CRC-classified staff, campus and district wide. They are:

Aselia Valadez, President
Emily Barkley, Vice President
Leanne Rogers, Treasurer
Paula Garrett, Secretary

Thank you for all your support and welcome to the Fall 2008 semester!

Mariela Arevalo,
Classified Senate, Past President 2007-2008
**Academic Senate Update**

Student access and success will continue to guide the Senate's approach to shared governance and decision making in the upcoming 08-09 academic year. This past semester, focusing on these core values, CRC faculty, classified staff, and administrators participated in a Planning and Leadership Summit to refresh our Vision, Mission, and Values Statement. The comprehensive statement now highlights our shared values of teaching excellence, student success, and administrative leadership.

This summer we have begun implementing our Basic Skills Initiative action plan developed by faculty across campus under the leadership of four committed faculty from English (Lesley Gale), ESL (Rhonda Farley), Math (Camille Moreno), and Student Services (Sharon Padilla-Alvarado). The group has already made significant progress in aligning reading, ESL, and English curriculum to better serve our basic skills students. Math faculty have also begun revising curriculum and discussing changes in pedagogy with the aim of improving the retention, course completion, and persistence of basic skills math students.

Other important work for the upcoming academic year includes writing our self-study for the accreditation visit in Fall 09, streamlining our process of Outcomes Assessment, transitioning from our current Learning Management System (Blackboard) to our newly adopted system (Desire2Learn), reviewing and revising the charges of shared governance committees to meet our college's changing needs, supporting campus cultural events and our annual philosophy conference, kicking-off the Campus Sustainability committee, finalizing our Faculty and Staff Resource Guide, updating our faculty prioritization process to reflect our best practices, expanding our honors program, and working to involve the entire campus in our Basic Skills Initiative.

The Senate welcomes 12 new full-time tenure track faculty to CRC this fall, a robust incoming class of professors that will help us meet the needs of our ever-expanding student population. We also extend a warm welcome to Whitney Yamamura, our new Vice President of Instruction and Student Learning, and Liz Belyea who has transitioned from outstanding classroom instructor into her new role as Dean of Physical Education, Health and Athletics.

Congratulations to two outstanding CRC faculty: Travis Parker (Physical Education) and John Ellis (Architecture). Professor Parker was selected as a recipient of the prestigious Hayward Award for Excellence in Education sponsored by the statewide Academic Senate. Professor Ellis received the Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology at the 19th annual International Conference on College Teaching and Learning.

Finally, on a more somber note, this year CRC mourned the loss of one of our most beloved professors, John Landes (Professor of Music). I had the good fortune several years ago of taking an introductory piano class taught by Professor Landes. I greatly admired his teaching ability and ease with students, and I thoroughly enjoyed his infectious personality and charm. John was a mentor and friend to many at CRC, and we will miss him.

Thank you for all of your support over the past year in my role as Senate president. It is truly an honor to serve and represent you.

Sincerely,

Jamey Nye, Ph.D. – Academic Senate President

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**Accreditation Update**

Accreditation is the process used for evaluating and assuring the quality of education. As part of the accreditation process, the College will write and submit a self-study to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior College of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges that will inform and frame a visit by representatives of the Commission during the fall of 2009. It is important that this self-study accurately reflect the college. This will happen if each member of the college participates by providing feedback through the employee survey, by providing information to the self-study teams, and by reviewing the draft documents that will be disseminated during the spring 2009 semester.

During the spring 2008 semester more than 100 CRC faculty, staff, and administrators prepared for the self-study process. The participants received training and materials, developed an organizational structure, and began the process of accumulating evidence about the college's activities and structures in the four accreditation standards, which include: (I) Institutional Mission and Effectiveness, (II) Instructional Programs, (III) Resources, and (IV) Governance. The teams also helped develop an employee survey to collect additional information about the College's processes and outcomes. All employees will be asked to complete this online survey in August and/or September.

This fall, the self-study teams will review and supplement the evidence that has been collected to write a description and analysis of how well the college meets the accreditation standards and will formulate planning agenda items to enhance our performance in the areas outlined in the standards. Drafts of the self-study teams' analysis and recommendations will be available for review and editing during the spring 2008 semester and will be finalized for presentation to the Board during the summer of 2008. The final self-study will be sent to The Accrediting Commission for review by the visiting team prior to their visit to the college in October of 2009.

More information about the Accreditation process and the self-study teams is available online at [http://www.crc.losrios.edu/Faculty_&_Staff/Planning/Accreditation_Self_Study_2008-2009.htm](http://www.crc.losrios.edu/Faculty_&_Staff/Planning/Accreditation_Self_Study_2008-2009.htm).

If you are interested in participating in one of the self-study teams, please contact Norv Wellsfry at x7269 or wellsfxn@crc.losrios.edu or Whitney Yamamura at x7326 or yamamuwx@crc.losrios.edu
Summer 2008

ALUMNI Short Takes

David
In the past year and a half David Nisson’s hard work has paid off, his 4.0 grade point average paving the way to recognition with an Area Award of Excellence in Physics, the Phi Theta Kappa All California Academic Team Award, an Area Award of Excellence in Mathematics and the prestigious UC Davis Regents Scholarship, which will cover nearly all of the tuition at UC Davis. Quite an accomplishment when, at 4-years-old, was diagnosed with high functioning autism, a complex developmental disability that affects a person’s ability to communicate and interact with others. As Physics Professor Michael Lawlor said, “His achievements are all the more impressive considering his background, specifically the social and communicational obstacles he’s had to constantly overcome.” Nisson has big dreams for his future. After graduating from UC Davis, David plans to transfer to UC Berkeley or Stanford. His long term goal is to work at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva, Switzerland on the ATLAS experiment, which is a scientific experiment designed to test theories and unlock the mysteries of the world.

Ebony
The guests at this year’s Commencement Ceremony had the privilege of listening to student speaker, Ebony Watkins. Her speech was electrifying, full of energy and life. Without the podium, Watkins’ fire still burns for Cosumnes River College. “Through positive and encouraging experiences with fellow students, faculty and staff, I have been given the ability to grow, mature, dream, hope and to achieve. My experiences at CRC have not only been a pathway to my success, but it has been the cornerstone of my success.” Watkins’ future goals are to attend Sacramento State where she plans to earn a master’s degree in social work specializing in juvenile therapy. “Afterwards I will pursue a PhD in marriage and family counseling with a focus in mental health,” Watkins said. She would like to return to CRC, but instead of seeking education, she’ll be seeking employment. “Why not have a career at the place that gave me my wings to fly,” she said.

Ivan
The account of what has happened in the world of politics in the last year have been ground-breaking and former Cosumnes River College student, Ivan Carrillo gets a taste of it firsthand while he interns at the State Capitol for Assemblymember Mike Feuer. Carrillo currently attends UC Davis, where he is majoring in sociology and double minoring in history and Chicano studies. He is the current president of the Associated Students, University of California, Davis. He said he’d like to eventually get into public policy, with the possibility of running for Public Office. However, first he’d like to earn a master’s degree in educational policy and begin his career working with kids who come from a lower socio-economic class or other disadvantaged group. Carrillo said CRC helped cultivate his growth as an adult. “At age 18 I wasn’t mature enough to succeed at the university level. The classes, professors and my peers helped with my maturation process.”

Jeremy
Jeremy Jacinth is the first student from Cosumnes River College to be offered a full scholarship to The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art. The Cooper Union is an exclusive private school in Manhattan, New York in which less than 5% of students who apply are accepted to the School of Architecture every year. Rankings show The Cooper Union is ranked second only to Harvard as the best school of architecture in regards to research and creating leaders in the field. When asked what Jacinth’s thoughts were when he opened his acceptance letter his reply was, “Is it April Fools? The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art has and is my dream school. Since I opened my letter I have been waiting for the pinch.” Jacinth said CRC created a foundation of experiences which have shaped his work ethic and overall academic drive. His advice to those continuing their education is simply, “GET INVOLVED.”

Robert
Robert Taylor grew up in a big, loving family of 16 and he said it was great. “We all got along well, encouraging one another,” Taylor said. But while the family encouraged each other through life, education was something they were unfamiliar with. “My grandparents had 14 children and only one graduated from high school,” he said. Taylor had always done well in school and eagerly enrolled at Cosumnes River College after he graduated from high school. His excitement was short lived however when he began to struggle. “I didn’t know how to study. I found it a challenge to find balance and I didn’t have a work ethic,” he said. Fortunately Taylor discovered the Math, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program on campus and it proved to be a life saver. “The MESA program taught me to do well,” he said. “I went everyday and took advantage of all of the opportunities it offered me.” In 2007, Taylor earned his Ph.D. in molecular toxicology from the University of California, Los Angeles. He said the work ethic he learned at CRC sustained him throughout his quest for higher education.

Susan
Susan Garcia’s success story began with a book called, “Who Moved My Cheese.” The book challenged Garcia to re-evaluate her career choice. “I realized I wasn’t where I should or wanted to be,” she said. Garcia took a leap of faith, left her job and enrolled at Cosumnes River College to pursue her love of horticulture. She said CRC prepared her for her future because her classes were more than just textbooks and lectures. “Our labs were based on real life scenarios that happen in the landscape industry.” Now, three years later, Garcia has completed three certificates in horticulture and has opened her own landscape maintenance company, “Creative Plantings.” She said she’s grown from one employee, herself, and two commercial landscape maintenance accounts, to three additional employees and six commercial landscape maintenance accounts. Horticulture professor Dave Andrews said Garcia is an outstanding example of a student taking former life and career experiences and meshing them with new knowledge and skills acquired from CRC to create a new and wonderfully successful business.