Q: Congratulations on becoming CRC’s new president… what does it mean to you?

Thank you! I feel privileged and excited to be selected as the new president of Cosumnes River College. It is an honor to become a part of such a vibrant and innovative learning community. What does it mean to me? It means I have an extraordinary opportunity to work with excellent faculty and staff in support of the success of community college students. It also means I have the incredible good fortune to be a significant participant in the effective stewardship of a growing, dynamic educational institution.

Q: Tell us briefly about your previous positions and how they prepared you for this next phase in your life.

I believe my career progression has been mostly logical, although there have been some serendipitous detours along the way. My early professional positions occurred in the private sector as a loan officer in the corporate world and then as a community developer for a nonprofit agency. These two organizational worlds had distinct values and goals and were formative in the identification of a public service career pathway which would engage me professionally and fulfill me personally.

In 1989, I came to Los Rios initially serving as the first director of the Sacramento Small Business Development Center and later as the District’s director of occupational education and economic development. These positions, through their intended link between educational programs and community vitality, affirmed my desire to be an active and long-term participant in higher education, specifically at the community college level. Knowing the real action occurred on campus through daily interactions among faculty and students, I transitioned to Sacramento City College as an instructional dean in 2000 and then became SCC’s Vice President of Instruction in 2002. My nine years of experience as an academic administrator have been fulfilling and replete with learning about instructional excellence, supportive student environments and services, the power of dreams, and the strength in relationships.

Q: What are some of your goals for CRC under your leadership?

For me, leadership is a daily learning process. So first, I’m taking time to learn, to talk with faculty and staff about the vision, mission, and values the CRC community has developed for itself. I know CRC is committed to excellence in its educational programs, relevance in its student support services, and collegiality and care overall. I share this purpose, these values and look forward to offering my leadership and stewardship to enhance and expand them throughout our community.

That said, there are three broad goals that I hold close and are touchstones for my educational work. First, to be attentive and responsive to student needs, supporting innovation in academic and technical programs and creating diverse opportunities for students to explore and participate in educational, career, and civic pursuits. Second, to be equally attentive and responsive to the professional needs of faculty and staff, encouraging the investigation of emerging academic and technical fields and creating venues for collegial discussions and inquiry to stimulate the teaching and learning connection. And finally, to be receptive to significant, beneficial partnerships with business, industry,

Meet CRC’s New President, continued on page 3

Accreditation Update

The Accreditation Self Study is done! Thanks to all the members of each committee for researching and writing the study last fall and a particular thanks to the lead writers of the standards. Thanks to go to the editors as well, Chris Wagner and Lisa Marchand.

The site visit team will arrive the week of October 12th and will be on campus conducting interviews and asking questions Tuesday the 13th and Wednesday the 14th. The exit brief is scheduled for Thursday the 15th in the early afternoon.

Since the last visit in fall 2003 much has changed. The number of students at CRC has grown by more than 25%. The commission has revised the accrediting standards from 10 to four, with subsections in...
CRC Colleagues:
Welcome to the 2009-10 academic year and the beginning of the fall semester! It is my hope that each and every one of you had the opportunity to relax a bit over the summer break and enjoy some time with family and friends. With the committed and hectic lives I know you all lead, time is a precious gift and provides, in my mind, an indispensable respite for recharging and renewing our relationships and ourselves.

In this inaugural message as your college president, let me first express how excited I am to be here at Cosumnes River College and how honored I am to be selected to lead and steward this wonderful organization into the future with colleagues like you. Your perspectives, your engagement, and your support will be needed and sought after to sustain and grow CRC’s reputation as the finest community college.

I felt at home the minute I stepped onto the campus and have been captivated and invigorated by the energy across the college. There is a visible and tangible vitality radiating from peoples’ conversations in hallways, in faculty and student gatherings at the fountain, across the athletic facilities and fields, and on the dusty, but promising paths around the science building construction. It is this collective vigor that shows our students just how much they matter and provides a true compass for new, amplified efforts to meet student needs despite unprecedented enrollment and fiscal challenges.

CRC continues to attract increased numbers of new and returning learners to its quality academic and career education programs, with record levels of summer and fall student enrollments. Thanks to ever-creative and time-generous faculty and staff members and community support, Cosumnes River College continues to provide frontline services, classroom access, counseling and tutoring assistance, and updated learning environments to accommodate the expanding population. A swift peek into any class, a glance in support service offices, and a walkabout of the campus grounds is clear testimony to our mission in action.

There are many new and exciting happenings at Cosumnes River College this fall, including the continuation of the basic skills initiative, the implementation of new clean and green technology courses and programs, the expansion of learning outcomes and assessments, intensive planning efforts for the Elk Grove Center and new, improved athletic fields, the ongoing construction of the Science Building, and the commencement of the bookstore and cafeteria expansions. The college is indeed “soaring into the future” with a familiar whirlwind of activity to serve its students and community to the fullest.

This fall term also offers an opportunity to publicly declare and affirm the excellence of our teaching and learning activities and our institutional effectiveness. With our accreditation site visit scheduled for mid-October, Cosumnes River College will showcase its exceptional educational programs, support services, and learning outcomes to a team of peers. Let me take a moment to acknowledge the thoughtful and collaborative work you, as CRC faculty, administrators, staff, and students, produced in the college’s self-study report. It is a comprehensive document and an outstanding point of departure for our upcoming dialogue with the members of the site team. Upon reading it, I felt a deep sense of gratitude for your participation and assessments and I look forward with confidence to the college’s completion of the reaffirmation process.

Finally, as we begin the new academic year, I encourage you to recall your own first day at college or in an unfamiliar environment and remember how everything looked and felt different. No doubt it was a day of mixed emotions ranging from sheer confusion to keen exhilaration. The student faces we see here at CRC in these early weeks are reminiscent of our own “first days” and reflect identical and equal parts of excitement and anxiety as they begin their new educational journey. Those faces, and the dreams within them, are why we are here again, launching a new session full of enriching opportunities and learning experiences!

I want to close by thanking everyone for their warm, welcoming messages and their generous offers of assistance and support as I begin my new role as president. I look forward to a busy and productive term at Cosumnes River College, keeping our promise for access and success to our students and to our community.

Have a great semester!
Accreditation Update continued from page 1

each of the four standards. The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) is the last region to adopt outcomes and ongoing assessment as a major part of the evaluation. In particular, Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for all instructional and student service programs and for the college are part of the requirements. The commission requires “sustainable continuous quality improvement” with regard to program review and planning. Part of the definition includes resource allocation tied to program review and planning.

Since the change in accreditation standards, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC)—the community college arm of WASC) has placed many colleges on sanction—either warning, probation or show cause. The colleges on sanction have had fiscal issues, board governance issues or a lack of compliance in conducting program review or planning over more than one site visit (over six years).

The visiting team will perform their investigation and make a recommendation for ACCJC to act in January. CRC will need to be a key player and architect in developing this system with our regional P-16 educational partners. Similarly, new research and technical developments are transformative and will necessitate the need to teach evolving skills and capabilities within our workforce education programs. Staying close to industry and engaging in collaborative efforts, such as GreenForce and other business-community college initiatives, will be an ongoing and important goal for sustaining the currency and relevancy of our college programs in the next five years.

Q: With the budget crisis in full swing, what challenges will we face and how will you lead us through this challenging period?

California’s budget crisis brings new challenges and uncharted dimensions to the promise of higher education and to the effective stewardship of community colleges statewide. What challenges will we face? Many challenges, no doubt. But I believe the key challenge will be maintaining our commitment to access and student success. The convergence of internal budget reduction strategies and external economic decline is already impacting our students and their ability to continue their educational programs.

We, as the CRC community, need to acknowledge this is not a simple, nor a short-term problem. The problem-solving process belongs to all of us and as your president, I am asking you to be active participants. It will take all of our best thinking and our collective, unwavering focus on the goals of access and success to meet the challenge of sustaining academic excellence and advancing students’ educational goals over the next few years.

Q: Where do you see the college in five or ten years… what will it look like?

Envisioning the college in five to ten years is a complex task, but an engaging one. From a physical perspective, the college’s master plan for facilities provides a virtual look at our future campus. And it’s a dynamic and attractive one!

The programmatic lens has less clarity and is more difficult to forecast. Since the mission of the community college is codified, much of the academic programming and student support services will be the same but delivered through alternative modalities and at more robust levels to handle the college’s student enrollment growth. I believe the areas with the most significant changes will be in our inter-segmental educational relationships and in our career and technical education programs. Public education is in a transformative stage and our educational system will hopefully become an actual “system” with clear and logical pathways for students. CRC will need to be a key player and architect in developing this system with our regional P-16 educational partners. Similarly, new research and technical developments are transformative and will necessitate the need to teach evolving skills and capabilities within our workforce education programs. Staying close to industry and engaging in collaborative efforts, such as GreenForce and other business-community college initiatives, will be an ongoing and important goal for sustaining the currency and relevancy of our college programs in the next five years.

Q: Finally, tell us about your family and your other interests in life.

My husband, Mark, and I were born and raised in southern California, but happily relocated to northern California and the Sacramento region more than twenty years ago. We have two sons, Logan and Wyatt, and currently reside in Davis. Mark is enjoying the creativity of a second career as a writer after many years as a prosecuting attorney. Logan is a student at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and nearing completion of a Masters degree. Wyatt is a senior at Davis High School and an avid snowboarder and lacrosse player. We spend considerable time (money, too) attending school and sporting events. A favorite family getaway is Mammoth Lakes in the Sierras, just off Highway 395. It’s been a great place for us to ski, hike, or bike ride and just catch our breath!

Q: Anything you want to add?

Oh, yes! CRC is a great college and I felt at home the minute I stepped on campus. I’m looking forward to meeting more of our faculty, staff, and students, contributing to CRC’s success, community recognition, and legacy, and truly making this my “home” for a long time to come.

Meet CRC’s New President, Debbie Travis continued from page 1

education, and community organizations for the purposes of serving students and sustaining the economic, cultural, civic, and social health of the region.

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CLASSIFIED SENATE UPDATE

Welcome back for fall semester 2009!

The Classified Senate and Staff would like to take this opportunity to cordially welcome our new college president, Debbie Travis to CRC! We are pleased to have Debbie leading CRC and look forward to collaborating with her throughout the 2009-2010 academic year and beyond.

As we are all aware, California continues to be in the midst of a budget crisis that has put a strain on resources in which students, staff, faculty, and administration utilize to help ensure academic success for all CRC students. Even through difficult times like these, CRC can take pride in the fact that staff, faculty, and administration are committed to working together in support of our students.

The Classified Senate continues to be committed to promoting staff development, leadership and growth for all our Classified Staff. Also, the Classified Senate would like to recognize those Classified Staff members that are participating in the accreditation process, shared governance, and/or other activities around campus.

Finally, I would like to wish the entire CRC community a successful and productive semester. I would also like to thank all staff, faculty, and administration for the continued hard work put forth in helping CRC students reach their fullest potential, especially during the challenging times that we are currently experiencing.

Emily Barkley
Classified Senate President

ACADEMIC SENATE UPDATE

Welcome to a new semester, everyone, and on behalf of all faculty, a big welcome to our new President, Dr. Debbie Travis. This semester promises to be full of challenges and opportunities as we prepare for our accreditation site visit, and work with a limited budget. No matter what sort of feelings these topics invoke in you, I encourage you to enjoy yourselves and your teaching this year. Remember our students, and the reasons why you chose this profession. I like the imagery in the quote from Nikos Kazantzakis, who said, “Ideal teachers are those who use themselves as bridges over which they invite their students to cross, then having facilitated their crossing, joyfully collapse, encouraging them to create bridges of their own.” May we all be joyful bridges this year, in spite of external limitations.

I also encourage you to join in, and share in the work of our college. There is plenty to do and it would be fabulous if everyone found meaningful ways this year to use their five weekly college service hours to benefit our students and CRC. If you aren’t sure what needs exist on campus, or how to allocate your time, please send me an e-mail and ask. You are all talented and valuable members of our community, and your contributions are wanted – and appreciated!

Thanks for reading, and best wishes for a great semester!

Majorie Duffy
Academic Senate President

Cosumnes River College
8401 Center Parkway
Sacramento, CA 95823
For more information, please call:
(916) 691-7199
Despite the ongoing turmoil with the state budget, the summer has been busy with several projects in various stages of planning, design, or construction as the college expands and modernizes facilities to accommodate its growing student population. The science building expansion project continues, with expected completion in late spring 2010, adding 15,000 square feet of classroom, lab, and office space and replacing the temporary portable lab facilities. Construction of a new surface parking lot on the southeast corner of campus will add 969 new parking spaces to campus. When the new parking lot is finished, construction will begin on a new parking garage just south of the Bruceville entrance, which will provide another 2,016 parking spaces to serve the campus and light rail riders when the south line extension opens on campus in 2012.

Other summer projects included replacement of building signs, repairs and remodels of several existing facilities to improve programs and services for our students, and completion of the Final Project Proposal (FPP) for the future College Center expansion, which will add some 27,000 square feet of space to the existing College Center. In addition, the process was begun to update the Facilities Master Plan so the plan can be completed by the end of the fall semester.

In the fall, the design process will continue or begin on several new projects, including the Winn Center for Construction and Architecture, Elk Grove Center, Northeast Buildings Modernization, Art Gallery, and Athletic Field/Perimeter improvements. In addition, construction will begin on the Bookstore/Cafeteria expansion during the winter break. The Bookstore will continue to operate from its current location and the Cafeteria will be relocated to the second floor of the CAC in the future Fitness Center located next to room CAC-204. All of these projects are scheduled for completion during 2011 and 2012 so we will be very busy over the next few years.

Thanks to the passage of measures A and M, the continuing vote of confidence from our community is enabling us to continue building and developing our campus to accommodate the ever-increasing number of students who appear at our doors looking for educational opportunities. We appreciate your continued support as we make dust and noise into the future for the benefit of our students and our community.
It’s not always about where you end, but often where you begin.

Not many of us indicate on our CV or resume where we began our undergraduate degree. Yet for many of our students, where they began their education is as important as where they complete it. This is the case for the two students who shared their stories about preparing to transfer and experiencing success as a transfer student.

Calvin Monroe is on his way to Morehouse College in Atlanta, a HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities). Calvin just graduated from CRC in May and was the graduation speaker and also served as Associated Student Government President for two years.

Chuente Castañeda has been at the University of Southern California for a year now as a communications major. Castañeda was also active in ASG while at CRC. We’ll hear from both students on how CRC prepared them to transfer to the university of their dreams.

“CRC prepared me by teaching me how to study,” said Monroe. “I learned how to take notes, test taking strategies, as well as how to be an upstanding citizen. The respect I was shown by the faculty and staff changed my entire outlook on the scholastic process. Now that I have completed my career at CRC, I can honestly say that I am well prepared for the academic rigor of a four year university.”

Monroe said he came to CRC because he was tired of outdoor manual labor and just wanted air conditioning. “I have a giant tattoo on my arm, constantly reminding me of my past, troubled life. Jail, crimes and underachieving was all I was. Now I am the opposite. From now on, I will spend my life teaching others how they can make it, just as I have,” he said. Monroe was fortunate to have an uncle who encouraged him to want more. “He has encouraged me the whole way. He has been my rock. I never would have thought that attending CRC would bring me all of the success that it has,” he added. And Monroe did succeed here, thanks to a support group that showed him he could do whatever he wanted.

When he began at CRC, Monroe wasn’t thinking about getting a degree. And it was not until he began taking on leadership roles in ASG that he began to think about transferring. “Attending Morehouse College still seems surreal to me. Since my major is African American Studies, I feel very fortunate to attend a HBCU in the heart of the South,” Monroe said.

After Morehouse and graduate school, Monroe is looking to come back to CRC as a professor. “The professors at this institution have made such an impression on me that I would do anything to get back here and teach with them. To be a part of the faculty at the college which changed my life would mean to me, a life fulfilled,” he said.

While Monroe begins his university career, another former CRC student tells us how her first year has been at the University of Southern California.

Chuente Castañeda chose CRC to give herself time to figure out what she wanted to major in and what university she wanted to transfer to. The time here prepared her well for whatever choice she made. “From composing essays to assisting fellow students, I gained a foundation of skills from CRC that would help carry me to success at my next level of education,” she said.

After discussions with counselors and others, she chose the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California. “While transferring to USC was my main goal, I knew I would need to gain much knowledge and experience during my two years at CRC in order to be prepared for the move,” Castañeda said.

Castañeda is the first in her family to go to college and she’s proud of her accomplishments thus far. She’s even had a few surprises along the way. “One life changing surprise thus far is being accepted to study abroad in Argentina. I will be studying at La Universidad de San Andres through the overseas program at Annenberg for the next five months,” Castañeda said. “I am very excited to begin my educational and cultural journey abroad and continue to gain learning experiences in all that I do.”

In the next five to 10 years, Castañeda plans to graduate from USC with a bachelor’s degree in communication and wants to be a talent recruiter for an entertainment company in Los Angeles. She credits her success so far to CRC. “CRC is an invaluable part of my educational career. I am forever grateful for my educational experience and campus involvement during my stay at Cosumnes River College,” she said.

Calvin and Chuente are just two of our outstanding alumni who are transferring or have transferred. We know there are many more transfer students who have also been impacted by their time at CRC. While most grads most often identify where they finished their degree, we know that it’s just as important to acknowledge where they began.
President's Letter

As I reflect on my 15th year at CRC, I am struck by incredible changes both inside and outside of our institution. The campus has expanded both physically and demographically. New programs, committees and policies have been put into place and a few have been abandoned. Some colleagues have moved on, and a few others have departed this Earth. New students bring with them fresh currents of activism and ideas that show a distinctive generational shift. We have seen globalizing trends reduce space and time to negligible importance, blurring “the domestic” and the “foreign” into sometimes obsolete concepts.

And yet, things that truly matter remain essentially the same. Unchanged is our core belief in a democratic institution that strives to serve a diverse student body. Our strength comes from our ability to acknowledge that we are a microcosm of the world around us, and our challenge continues to be how to best conciliate access with success in these changing times.

On a personal note, when I was offered a position 15 years ago, the world around me was collapsing. Genocide in Rwanda was claiming tens of thousands of victims daily, and among them, members of my own family. So for me, CRC became a “real” family. It allowed me to chart a new course for my life and come to terms with my troubled past by fulfilling my obligations to help my country of origin. Friends on campus who offered support became my lifeline, and some became vital partners on projects to help in the reconstruction process.

Even within the confines of a community college mission, it is gratifying to know that colleagues genuinely help each other to grow as individuals and that the institution offers the flexibility to reconcile personal and professional endeavors.

Matilde Mukantabana
History Professor

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Even within the confines of a community college mission, it is gratifying to know that colleagues genuinely help each other to grow as individuals and that the institution offers the flexibility to reconcile personal and professional endeavors.

Nyenbeku C. George
Sociology Professor

As I reflect back on my time here at CRC, I am both encouraged and blessed with fond memories that are pervasive throughout the phases of my academic experience. This is because I was first a student, then a teaching assistant, and now a member of the CRC faculty. As a student, I was exposed to new ideas, people, and feelings about the world around me. Simultaneously, I was exposed to all the options that were available to me through great work ethics and determination. The institutional sense of belonging that was instilled in me through the smiles (and sometimes handshakes or hugs) from people like Mathilde Mukantabana, Paul Zisk, Melvina Jones, Lanny Hertzberg, Tammy Montgomery, Marybeth Buechner, Travis Parker and many others is something that I treasure to this day.

As a teaching assistant at CRC, I was then entrusted with the confidence of faculty who saw and cultivated my talent, appreciated my commitment to my discipline, and shared my passion for learning, (which would subsequently lead me to teach). Now, as a first year member of CRC faculty, I am once again blessed to be in a position that enables me to come into peoples’ lives and present scholarship, alternative ways of thinking (which sometimes come from powerfully marginalized experiences, social conditions, and underrepresented notions), and engage in enriching practices with the hope of engaging students the way that I was engaged as a student and teaching assistant at CRC.

In each phase of my academic growth, the consistent quality of mentorship I received, coupled with the inspiration and empowerment that I felt, was and continues to be, the most memorable. First, my students and my colleagues inspire me daily. Both keep me grounded, yet, limitless. They help me sustain the courage that (I believe) is fundamental to being a great instructor. Both students and faculty also give me great suggestions and advice. Secondly, I am very grateful for the mentorship that has guided me through many aspects of my academic career. Additionally, I am grateful for their confidence in my talents and abilities, as well as their investment of knowledge, wisdom, motivation, and care. The endearing gestures that I received from my professors (as a student) at CRC, still mean as much as the ones I receive from these same professors (all of whom are now my colleagues) here at CRC. It is my hope that I am in step and practice with making students, faculty, and staff, feel as welcomed and encouraged as I felt from my first day in attendance as a CRC student 13 years ago.

Our People... Our Place
Welcome to the CRC Family

NEW FACULTY, CLASSIFIED STAFF & MANAGEMENT
SINCE JANUARY 2009

Maria Aguire
Student Personnel
Assistant-Assessment
Counseling & Student Services

Jorge Baca
Assistant Professor,
Mathematics
Science, Math & Engineering

Dustin Burks
Printing Services
Operator II
Printing Services / Mail Center

Paul Francois
Senior IT Technician
Learning Resources & College Technology

James Frazee
Assistant Professor,
Psychology
Humanities & Social Science

Robert “Bob” Johnson
Dean
Careers & Technology

Liz Johnson
Receiving Clerk
Administrative Services

Jeffrey Kimbler
Assistant Professor,
Art
Communication, Visual & Performing Arts

Ian Low
Account Clerk III
Business Services

Ginny McReynolds
Dean
Humanities & Social Science
Thank you for your service at CRC

Debra Luff  
Interim Vice President  
Student Services & Enrollment Management

Don Tingley  
Interim Dean  
Careers & Technology  
AND  
Humanities & Social Science

Angelo Williams  
Interim Dean  
Student Services & Enrollment Management

Carolyn Abrams  
Counselor  
After 35 years of service

John Pratt  
English Professor  
After 19 years of service

Retirements

Thank you for your service at CRC
Our classes are full, we’ve reached record high enrollments, and we continue to provide outreach to our feeder districts. Why offer outreach during times of capacity? Outreach is not just about recruiting new students. It’s about educating potential students about the benefits of higher education and the opportunities and options available at CRC. It’s about identifying for potential students the tools and resources necessary to navigate the matriculation process so that they can successfully enroll in classes. Most of all, our Outreach Specialists tell our story. They represent our campus, our fine programs, outstanding faculty and staff, the dynamic student body, and the comprehensive support services available. They tell our story when they visit high schools, community-based organizations, and businesses in Elk Grove, Sacramento, Galt, Amador County, and (with the help of the Internet) well beyond the borders of the state and the country.

Seventeen college fairs, sixteen information nights, eighty-eight presentations, fifty-two workshops, and countless one-on-one contacts, appointments, emails, conversations, and tours represent a typical year for Outreach Services.

Established as a department in 2000, Outreach Services began with one Outreach Specialist and has grown to now include Tiffany Clark and Peggy Ursin. Each Outreach Specialist maintains regular visits at local high schools, community agencies, and at annual community events. Each comprehensive and alternative high school in the Elk Grove Unified School District is scheduled for regular visits during the spring and fall semesters and an Outreach Specialist regularly attends special events at each high school. Both Tiffany and Peggy are well known in the school district and throughout the south Sacramento and Elk Grove communities.

One of our Outreach Specialists shared the CRC story internationally. Last year, Peggy Ursin participated in an Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce trip to China where she connected with a Professor from Beijing University of Chemical Technology who had requested a tour of our campus. While the tour could not be arranged, Peggy delivered a CRC catalog and international student application packet to the Professor.

Much of the research on student engagement focuses on the importance of the first contact. We know that one seemingly brief encounter with a would-be student can make a huge difference in how the student perceives oneself and potential opportunities. Our Outreach Specialists are often a student’s first contact. That’s why you’ll see Tiffany and Peggy on campus the first two weeks of each semester, reconnecting with students they recruited and assisting them with the transition to college. While the primary function of outreach happens off campus, our Outreach Specialists also provide “in-reach” to those who need assistance navigating the college’s systems. They encourage new students to meet with a counselor, to utilize campus services before they get into trouble, and remind them that CRC is not like high school. For many of our first time students, seeing a familiar face on campus eases their fears and makes the transition to college a little easier. After all, our collective interest is not just a sizeable admission yield, it’s the ability to retain students so that they experience the full benefit of open access and equity in higher education.
**Stimulus Funds Awarded to CRC**

The colleges of Los Rios Community College District were awarded American Recovery and Reinvestment (ARRA) funds to support student cohorts through seven different programs. These federal stimulus funds were awarded by the Sacramento Employment and Training Agency (SETA). Cosumnes River College will be offering three of the seven funded programs utilizing ARRA funds – welding in fall 2009 and weatherization and home energy auditing in spring 2010. Approximately $152,232 will support over 60 students during 2009-10 by covering instructional and support services, material and supplies, books and other incidentals necessary to attend CRC.

ARRA funds have been awarded to the U.S. Department of Labor local training agencies across the country for dissemination to preserve and create jobs to promote economic recovery. Funding awards are to assist those most impacted by the recession and those with multiple barriers to employment. Funding is to be used to prepare employees for good family-sustaining jobs that are relevant to local and regional employer needs. A focus is being placed on funding high-demand and emerging ‘green’ industries. As part of the Los Rios GreenForce Initiative, home energy auditing and weatherization courses are currently under development in the Careers and Technology Division, under the leadership of Construction faculty member, Ryan Connally. Classes in spring 2010 will be experimental offerings as the certificate moves through the curriculum approval process.

**Patrons Club Profile**

**In Memoriam - Barbara Evelyn Morse (1918-2009)**

As a member of the Cosumnes River College Patrons club, Barbara Evelyn Morse continued a long standing family tradition of service to the community. Known to most by Evelyn, her middle name, Ms. Morse was an Elk Grove native and spent 30 years as a teacher at Pacific Elementary School in Sacramento before retiring in 1981.

She often reached out to others in her community, donating her time to many volunteer causes including: Meals on Wheels, the Franklin-Laguna Community Planning Advisory Council and the Order of the Eastern Star.

During her 25 years of service as a member of the CRC Patrons Club, Evelyn Morse helped raise scholarship funds in support of student success. The club currently distributes nearly $9,000 annually in CRC scholarships.

In recognition of her lifelong commitment to education and service, the family of Ms. Morse has established a scholarship in her name to be offered to CRC students through the Patrons Club. “She did extremely well in school and liked it very much”, said Evelyn’s brother David Morse. “She wanted other students to have that experience.”

**Commencement 2009**

The 545 graduates in the class of 2009 are scattered about by now. No doubt some have already found a job, many are looking forward to the start of the semester at a university, and some may be finding their way back to CRC for additional classes.

Graduation in May proved once again how proud we are of the students that come through our college. The keynote speaker, ASG President Calvin Monroe, gave a speech that showed us all how our students can inspire us. As you will read from another article in this publication, Calvin is off to Morehouse College in Atlanta, and many other graduates are also heading to prestigious colleges and universities.

The average GPA for this graduating class was 3.01, with 174 of them graduating with honors and 100 with highest honors.

This year, the youngest graduate was 18 years old; our oldest was 87 years old. It is clear our students come to us for a variety of reasons.

Also during Commencement this year, we said goodbye to two faculty who received Emeritus status. Counselor Carolyn Abrams and Political Science Professor Roger Patching both spoke briefly to the crowd before Vice President Whitney Yamamura and Academic Senate President Marjorie Duffy presented them with medals. Anthropology Professor Paul McCormick and English Professor John Pratt also received Emeritus status, but were unable to make the ceremony.

The weather cooperated this year and the stage looked better than ever. For those unable to make it, keep in mind Commencement 2010 and plan to attend.
**President’s Letter**

**Chad Funk**  
Student Personnel Assistant | Student Services

1. **How long have you been here?**  
I will have been at CRC for a little over 1 ½ years.

2. **What do you like most about your job?**  
Every day I am given the opportunity to make a difference in someone’s life. It is an incredible experience to encourage and facilitate students’ navigation toward their life goals. I feel honored and humbled to be a part of something so valuable to a person's life and to the good of our greater society.

3. **What do you like to do for fun? Hobbies?**  
I find every opportunity to spend time with my family and friends. I enjoy travel, going to the beach, playing guitar, taking in movies, going to sporting events and gardening.

4. **Have you always wanted to be doing what you're currently doing?**  
Yes. I have wanted to be a part of higher education for many years. Education leads to so many positive results – both personally and professionally. I am very happy and satisfied working in this field.

5. **What were you doing before coming to CRC?**  
Before coming to CRC, I managed a non-profit agency that supported county agencies by providing child abuse prevention education and case-management services for “at risk” families. I managed an AmeriCorps team while in this role and provided oversight for college interns performing their hours in social work education programs. I also served as project director of a father-involvement research study conducted by Yale University. In the more distant past, I was in management in the retail industry.

6. **What are your plans for the future?**  
I am dedicated to completing my graduate education and growing my knowledge base so I can find additional means to add value to the institution and to support student success.

7. **Any words of wisdom or anything you’d like to add?**  
It is a joy to work with the dedicated cadre of intelligent, committed and inspirational individuals that make up the staff of CRC. I have found many kindred souls and good friends as a result of working here. It is the quality of our people that makes CRC a place I’m proud to call my professional home.

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**Hiwot Aberra**  
Biology Lab Technician | Science, Math & Engineering

1. **What is your position on campus?**  
Biology laboratory technician.

2. **How long have you been here?**  
I have been working for CRC since September 2004.

3. **What do you like most about your job?**  
What I like about this job is the fact that what we do helps students achieve their academic goal.

4. **What do you like to do for fun? Hobbies?**  
I like to spend time with my family and friends. As a hobby I enjoy singing and reading.

5. **Have you always wanted to be doing what you’re currently doing?**  
As a student here at CRC I have always thought the CRC biology labs are very neat and organized, but I have never thought I will be part of the team that keeps making that happen for students year after year.

6. **What were you doing before coming to CRC?**  
I was a student at CSU Sacramento. Before transferring to CSU I attended CRC as a full time student.

7. **What are your plans for the future?**  
I plan on going back to school and earn a master’s degree in nutrition.
The physical education and athletics division at CRC has been working hard to continually improve the way they support athletes to succeed academically. Examples of this include athletics counselor Allah-mi Allen working with the students, coaches, and dean Liz Belyea to create procedures that will be effective for students. Also, adding more hours to the athlete-only study hall (Talon Study Center). A recognition award for athletes with a GPA of 3.0 and above has been established and physical education professor Travis Parker is taking a sabbatical to find ways to provide additional academic support to athletes.

All of these things appear to be working as the average GPA of all the athletes last year averaged 3.43. But as one student athlete can attest, “it’s not easy.” Soccer player Arrianna Fragoso has been at CRC since fall ’07. She chose to study and play soccer here for several reasons. “I like to communicate with my teachers and be able to form the student-teacher relationship where I know I can go to them whenever I need help… the thought of huge classes scared me,” Fragoso said. “The best part of playing (soccer) at a community college is the competition is challenging and your friends and family are able to watch you play. A lot of athletes go off and play but only get to tell people back home how the game went.”

Although Fragoso excelled academically and as an athlete, it took discipline to manage her days. “As an athlete, most of your day consists of class and practice, so the little time left in the day, you have to decide if you want to go home and rest or start writing an essay that is due the next week,” she said. “This is how some athletes fall behind. Sometimes you have to just make the decision that will benefit you in the future, rather than what you really want to do at the time.”

Fragoso said the professors were great and understood her hectic schedule, allowing her to make up assignments or take tests early. And although the schedule can be a challenge for student athletes, according to Fragoso the joys are immense. “I always tell people that I don’t know how I would enjoy college if I was just a regular student. I love being an athlete, especially at CRC. All the athletes look out for each other and even though we play different sports, we are like one big family,” she said. “The physical education department goes above and beyond to provide resources, such as tutoring, our own study hall, and are willing to offer their services whenever needed.”

Every athlete must maintain a 2.0 GPA with no F’s to stay eligible during the season, with the division sending out grade checks every three weeks for verification by each of the athlete’s professors. Fragoso was awarded for her dedication and hard work when she received the All-state Academic Team award, the All-Conference team for the Big 8 Conference, and was voted by her team Most Valuable Offensive Player in 2007-’08 season in which she lead the team with 14 goals and 12 assists.

She also received the award for most valuable women’s athlete at CRC for the 2007-’08 school year and was a Pepsi Scholar Athlete last year. She’ll play one more season at CRC and then Fragoso is planning to transfer to a State University to finish her degree in accounting.

“I always tell everyone how much I love CRC because you are able to complete your lower division work and receive your AA, for a much lower price, in smaller classes, and tons of resources that make it almost impossible to not succeed. But, being an athlete at CRC makes the experience ten times better!!” Fragoso concluded.
**Rosalie Amer**
Adjunct Librarian Rosalie Amer won another award at the end of May. She received the Interfaith Education Award given by the Interfaith Service Bureau of Sacramento. The award was a “first” given for interfaith community education for consistent efforts to expand understanding and appreciation of different faith backgrounds. The theme of the awards banquet was “The Power of One” - a single person can change a community and that community coming together as one can change the world. Recognition was given to Rosalie for developing Islamic courses in higher education and for conducting more than 70 dialogues/trialogues since 9/11 on Islam and Islamic related topics in college, university classes, and in faith congregations. Special mention was made of Global Islam (HUM 324) at Cosumnes River College which Rosalie developed and teaches.

**Rose Martha Villareal-Mizerski**
Adjunct English Professor Rose Martha Villareal-Mizerski was one of seven winners of the 2008 Josephine Miles National Literary Awards given by the Oakland Public Library and PEN Oakland (a chapter of the International Organization of Poets, Essayists and Novelists). Rosa was recognized for her work “The Stillness of Love and Exile” (Fiction).

**Tony Bloomfield**
Baseball coach Tony Bloomfield was inducted into the L.A Harbor College Athletic Hall of Fame. Tony was a first-team all-state shortstop in his sophomore year while attending West Torrance High before going on to Nevada-Reno. He returned to Harbor as an assistant coach in 1989-90, when the Seahawks won another state title, taking over as head coach from 1991-98. While there, he compiled a 265-116-1 record before coming to CRC.

**Jeanine Coombs-Todd**
Adjunct Dance Professor Jeanine Coombs-Todd received the Professional Dance Educator of the Year award at the state CAHPERD conference back in March. It is an award given to post secondary educators. She was nominated by her peers.

**David Organ**
Automotive Professor David Organ received the SEO Senior Masters Service Engineer Award. Dave was one of 10 Service Technical Instructors who received the award.
The Cosumnes River College Foundation held its annual signature fundraising event, Gala 2009-A Taste of Jazz, at the college on May 2nd. This year’s event, presented by Methodist Hospital of Sacramento, featured notable local wineries and businesses, with CRC’s very own culinary arts department serving delectable dishes with a Caribbean flair.

While the weather forced us to move the activities indoors, there was no denying the buzz in the room as a record crowd of nearly 250 guests enjoyed performances by four local jazz bands and had the opportunity to bid on a number of unique items donated to the silent auction. Cosumnes River College’s immediate past President Francisco Rodriguez, was honored by colleagues, community and friends for his service to CRC.

This year, more than $45,000 was raised in support of the CRC Annual Fund, Textbook Scholarships and the Bernard Osher Scholarship Endowment. The CRC Foundation would like to express its gratitude for the continued generous support of our sponsors: Methodist Hospital of Sacramento, Frontier Communications, DeVry University and all those who came out to support student success.

Join us next year for Gala 2010!

ALUMNI Profile

DR. R AMIN M ANSHADI

Dr. Ramin Manshadi is a cardiologist in Stockton, as well as a clinical professor at U.C. Davis Medical Center. But he’s not just any cardiologist; he was named America’s Top Cardiologist by the Consumers Research Council of America 2006-2007. On hand to help him celebrate during the award ceremony last year was CRC coaches Travis Parker, Ron Preble, Cesar Plasencia and PE Dean Liz Belyea. He specializes in sports medicine and credits his love of sports to the CRC soccer program and coach Travis Parker. With plans of becoming the next great soccer star, little did he know that his time spent at CRC would take the slogan “Stay Close, Go Far” to new heights. As a CRC student scholar and athlete, Manshadi applied the skills he developed on the playing field to his classroom experiences, experiences which helped to take him to the “next level” of his academic career.

He states, “I learned how to be a team player and to make sacrifices for the bigger objective.” Recalling that his classes at Cosumnes were every bit as rigorous as classes he would later take at 4-year colleges, Dr. Manshadi felt well prepared for the challenge of medical school and beyond. His success in the challenging field of cardiology is a testament to his academic preparation and dedication.

Among the other awards Manshadi is recognized for, is the Future Leader Award from the American College of Cardiology, America’s Top Physician from the Consumers Research Council of America in 2003 and Cardiologist of the Year from Strathmore’s WHO’S WHO, 2006-2007. When asked what the most important lesson he learned while at CRC, Manshadi replied “To set a goal for yourself and to always strive towards that goal. No matter what the obstacles…always keep moving forward.”
Daniel Fagan
Daniel Fagan moved to Sacramento and started at CRC after growing up in Wyoming. “I had heard great things about the California community college system, and happen to have family in Sacramento, so I made a visit and was immediately drawn to CRC.” Daniel’s involvement in political issues has made him a staple on campus. As the president of the Society of Ethics and Justice student club, Daniel almost single-handedly energized the student body, Philosophy Professor Chuck Van Patten said. Daniel attended teacher union meetings and was an advocate for courses he felt were important. Additionally, Daniel participated in CRC’s voter registration drive. “He became a state-wide figure after testifying at legislative hearings, and he worked tirelessly at organizing the state’s student vote,” Van Patten said. Daniel also attended the Western States Communication Association Conference in Mesa Arizona, he founded a campus publication on social justice issues, and he served as a member of the Women’s History Month Committee. Daniel will soon be transferring to a university, but his efforts on campus continue to flourish.

Danielle Furtado
Life may not have turned out the way it did for U.S. Army Captain Danielle Furtado had she not attended Cosumnes River College. It was through the inspiration of Professor Chuck Van Patten and the subject of philosophy that her beliefs were further established, and it was through the inspiration of Professor Debra Sharkey that Furtado gained the courage to travel and experience life in many different countries. These two factors contributed to her decision to enlist in the army after 9-11. “I had traveled to third war countries and knew what life was like there,” she said. “I wanted to express gratitude to my country.” Furtado was first stationed in Korea and then Hawaii. Multiple positions and years later, Furtado feels it’s now time to return to civilian life. Her next goal is to attend graduate school and earn a master’s degree in diplomacy. “I want to work in a state department and then eventually go to law school,” she said. In law school, Furtado’s study of philosophy will give her an edge. “Those with a background in philosophy are often more successful in law school,” she said. “Philosophy has equipped me with both an argumentative background and an ethical foundation.”

Michael Luc
Michael Luc was born in Vietnam and moved to the United States when he was 12-years-old. “I had to learn a new language, make new friends and get use to American food;” he said. He also had to get use to the people around him. “In my country I had never seen all the diversity... so many different people all in the same place.” Luc started at CRC after high school, simply thinking he’d give it a try. Computer Information Science Professor Lance Parks was a great support to him. “He was always there to help his students,” Luc said. Luc earned his A.S. degree in computer networking in 2005 and transferred to Sacramento State. While at Sac State he decided to change his focus to accounting due to career opportunities. “I am getting ready to begin an accounting internship for the state at the Department of Rehabilitation,” he said. Luc said he would like to get his CPA license, but plans on working in governmental accounting for now. Luc said the conveniences in America help make it a great place to live.

Wendy Mazon
Wendy Mazon arrived at CRC with uncertainty. Her two interests were as different as they come — soccer and clarinet. Mazon enrolled in both and was influenced by her soccer coach, Liz Belyea. “I learned a great deal from her teaching and coaching techniques that I still use today,” Mazon said. During her second year at CRC, Mazon broke her wrist during soccer practice. “Unfortunately it was misdiagnosed as a sprain and because of this I needed surgery. It was a difficult decision since I’m a clarinet player and need full function of my hand, but the surgery went well and I was able to continue on my path.” Mazon said her experience with peers, teachers and coaches at CRC were integral at preparing her for the future. This month she’ll earn a doctorate in music performance. Presently she’s preparing to submit and present an article that she wrote on lung functions and musical performance abilities for publication and to various conferences and research competitions. She also plans on forming a chamber group with the intent of performing regionally, nationally and internationally. “Set your goals high, stay focused and positive,” she says.

Heather Downing
She’s a woman on a mission. Heather Downing, a geography major and Campus Sustainability Committee member, is the winner of a $2000 grant that’s central objectives are to conduct the campus’s first baseline greenhouse gas inventory and to increase awareness and participation in recycling efforts on campus, according to the CRC’s Green Scene. In other words, she’s going to green-up CRC. Downing was awarded the grant from the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). Throughout the duration of the grant, the NWF will offer Downing support and in return she’ll provide them with updates and reports. Downing said that so far preparations are underway to equip each classroom at CRC with blue recycle bins. “If people have a choice, I believe most will choose to recycle,” she said. Downing’s fascination with the Earth led her to major in geography. She said in geography everything relates to something else. “All subjects are combined into one. The cross-disciplines include humanities, culture, physical land, folklore and so forth.” In May, Downing earned an A.S. degree in geography and a certificate in Geographic Information Systems. Her future goal is to earn a master’s degree in geography.

Short Takes