In September 1970, Cosumnes River College opened its doors to 2,150 enthusiastic students and about 70 equally eager faculty members, including four adjuncts.

“I remember lots of dirt,” said Automotive Professor Clint Turner, who has been here since 1973. “And I remember on my way to school I would have to wait for the dairy cows to cross Bruceville Road, mornings and afternoons.”

“It was a primitive environment that took sacrifice from everyone,” said Elaine Rees, retired foreign language professor who was hired when the college opened. “We spent all winter walking through mud, and it was windy because there were no trees.”

Psychology professor Bud Hannan remembers being offered the job and how different it was back then. “We gathered around a conference table accessed through the President’s Office on the third floor of the Library building. We chatted a bit and then Oliver Durand, the founding president of CRC said, ‘Well Bud, we would like to have you join our CRC family.’”

Hannan said they really were like family for years after the college opened. “There was a tremendous sense of community, a progressive spirit that promised much in terms of the mission of the college to serve the educational needs of the Elk Grove and south Sacramento community,” he added.

Turner said he hugged the brick pillars of CRC when he was hired in ’73. Douglas Burris was president at the time, having served from 1971 to 1979. “There were a handful of college professors and everyone knew each other,” he said.

When CRC opened, facilities included the science building, automotive and technology complex, women’s physical education building, the pool and library building.

Retired librarian Rosalie Amer said the school resembled a medieval city. “As one walked up the stairs from the parking lot, the center of the campus was the cathedral or castle (Library building) with moat and guild areas surrounded by agricultural areas. Adjacent to the cathedral was the city square with cobblestones circling the fountain.” Amer added that the concept was intended by the architectural firm that designed the campus.

Classes have changed a bit since 1970. “Beginning Typewriting” is now “Computer Keyboarding” and there is no longer a class titled “Filing” as back then. In Physical Education, “Weight Training” was specifically for men, while “Body Mechanics” was specifically for women.

Students have changed over the years as well. In the beginning, the majority of the student body came straight from high school.

“They were willing, able and happy to be pioneers at our new college,” Rees said. After the end of the Vietnam War, veterans came to the campus in great numbers.

“I remember in the ‘70s when all of my night students were veterans,” Turner said. Hannan agreed adding, “One young man – I can see him dressed in military fatigues and combat boots – went on to pursue a degree in Philosophy at Sacramento State.
President’s Message
Fall 2010

CRC Colleagues,
Welcome to the new academic year and the beginning of the Fall 2010 semester! I hope the summer break offered you well-deserved, unfettered time to enjoy family and friends and amazing, unexpected moments of leisure to restore your minds, bodies, and spirits!

First, let me express my appreciation for your exceptional work last year as we faced unprecedented enrollment management and fiscal issues. The entire college pulled together, moving forward with shared purpose and strong community values despite the swirling state budget uncertainties and precarious economic outlook.

The 2010-11 year promises to be equally challenging, with shifting student needs and enrollment demands. I am confident in our commitment and capability to meet these challenges as CRC has so effectively done throughout its history as an institution of higher education. It is a history to reflect upon and celebrate. And celebrate we will!

September marks the college’s 40th year as an institution of exemplary learning and accessible higher education. This will be an exciting, commemorative year with many opportunities to chronicle our academically-distinctive history and honor those who first established and presently contribute their minds, hearts, and character to sustain our vision of service to all students. The work and passion of just a few of these special individuals are spotlighted in the pages of this letter, including a stirring recollection from Bud Hannan, Clint Turner, Rosalie Amer and Elaine Rees regarding CRC’s growth and changes over the decades. Don’t miss reading it!

From the photos below, you will not only see, but sense the college’s progress over the years. Spanning 40 years, not only have our students changed, but our silhouette has been transformed. From our unpretentious early landscape with four buildings surrounded by acres of vacant land, to our current Cafeteria and Bookstore construction and onto our newly-completed, Science Building, Cosumnes River College’s mission is showcased in the continued development of our learning environments and gathering spaces.

As you look about our campus grounds, you will see some new improvements that blend our college vision and values with our physical environment. Walk out onto the Quad or wander over to the entrance of the Recital Hall and look up. New CRC banners highlighting our motto, programs, and values are proudly displayed and visible for college staff and community visitors alike.

And through the persistence of esteemed and cherished retirees and the support of our college Executive Council, I am pleased to announce the formation of Cosumnes River College’s Emeriti Association as a significant building block of resources for our future. While it took considerable time to
arrive here, it is wonderful and fitting to establish the Emeriti Association at the start of our 40th year and acknowledge the power of history and continuity as positive forces in CRC’s advancement and growth. Our focus for the year will be on excellence and student success. There are so many vivid demonstrations of excellence within the college – academic, service, and organizational – it is a solid foundation upon which we will build our next 40 years!

Each day, I am more aware of the privilege I enjoy as the president and ambassador for Cosumnes River College. You, along with our students, radiate an infectious energy for learning, and the college’s reputation for academic rigor and unwavering encouragement is strong and rapidly growing. Whether I’m walking about the campus or participating in a community event, I inevitably receive affirming comments of our work and our influence in peoples’ lives. Current and former students share their aspirations and successes, business and government representatives provide endorsements of our dynamic programs and our students, parents, family members and friends express appreciation for the opportunities CRC affords those they love and care about so much.

You are all leaders and stewards of Cosumnes River College. Your backgrounds, knowledge, and expertise create the fabric of excellence that is CRC. As always, but perhaps more strongly amidst this uncertain educational landscape, I encourage your active participation in shared governance committees, professional development workshops, cultural events, and student clubs and activities. Your voice and perspective foster our strength and effectiveness as a premier community college, providing the best overall education in California’s community colleges and commitment to scholarship, integrity, diversity, innovation, and the transformation of students and society.

May you have an inspired and successful fall semester!

P.S. I add this postscript to remind you as Chancellor Harris noted in his Convocation remarks that we will undertake a district-wide strategic planning process this fall. I encourage you to participate in this very timely and important endeavor. The district will use the same consultants, MIG, who helped with the last strategic planning process. The consultants will visit all four Los Rios campuses to solicit ideas and thoughts regarding the issues facing our colleges and district. The meeting on our campus will be scheduled soon and will be open to all CRC constituent groups. I hope as many of you as possible will attend the meeting as your participation is vital to the development of successful strategies that will help our district and colleges to navigate the next five years successfully.
For the first time, the Los Rios Community College District is conducting a design-build collaborative for the construction of the Cosumnes River College Winn Center for Construction and Architecture.

The process started with 20 firms interested in participating putting together a team of architects, engineers and construction experts to present their ideas for the project. This is unique from the traditional model which separates the architects and the builders, and can potentially cause conflicts during the process. That is because traditional models choose the architect first and then the builder comes in later to finish the project without having input in the design process.

The 20 firms were narrowed down to three who are now being evaluated for their designs. After meeting with district and college personnel, one will be chosen and placed on the September board agenda for approval. "We are very excited to be doing the design-build process because it is based on the qualifications, not just on the price," said Pablo Manzo, Associate Vice Chancellor, Facilities Management. "During this process there is collaboration all the way through. This allows us to view what the building will look like from the beginning and gives us a choice of what concepts we like best."

"During this process there is collaboration all the way through. This allows us to view what the building will look like from the beginning and gives us a choice of what concepts we like best."

Pablo Manzo, Vice Chancellor, FM

The Education Code was recently changed to allow community colleges to go with a design-build process, rather than having just the traditional model to use. “This was the perfect opportunity for us to use the new process on a building that the CRC Architecture and Construction programs will be based out of,” added Manzo. “This sets an example for how collaboration can work.”

Don Wallace, Vice President for Administrative Services at CRC, observed that the design-build process is working quite well and added, “We are so pleased with how this process is working and we are looking forward to a great outcome, thanks in large part to Associate Vice Chancellor Pablo Manzo and his wonderful team who have guided the new process flawlessly from the beginning.” The Winn Center for Construction and Architecture is named after the Winn family who has given the largest private gift in the history of the Los Rios district. Brothers Michael, Peter and Tom recognized the potential of the new building and have been instrumental in their support of the project.

“The Winn family has given CRC an opportunity to create this amazing project in a unique way and will allow students to learn in a building that is an outstanding educational environment, and for that we are truly grateful,” said CRC President Deborah Travis.

The 34,000 square foot facility will be prominently located adjacent to the Bruceville Road entrance and the Learning Resource Center. It will house both the Architecture and Construction programs, along with the Photography and Pharmacy Technology programs, and will provide the building and design industry with meeting space so that professionals and students have regular opportunities to interface with one another. It will also house the Careers and Technology division office, several faculty offices and labs.

The $14 million project was funded by a local bond measure passed in 2008 by residents of Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Yolo and Solano counties, and of course, the generous private donations of the Winn Family and others who believed in this endeavor.

Once the firm has been approved to design and build the Winn Center, the documents will be developed and sent to the State for approval. Construction is expected to begin August 2011 with completion around December 2012.
**O.J. Durand Award Winner** *Thrilled At Recognition*

Sandra Rodriguez

CRC’s highest distinguished service award, the O.J. Durand Award, is presented each year at the Scholarships and Awards ceremony. The award, named after CRC’s first president, grants the recipient $2,500 funded by the Associated Student Government. Additionally, the recipient receives a personal plaque and has their name engraved on a perpetual plaque with names of previous winners.

Sandra Rodriguez is this year’s winner. Rodriguez has volunteered as a Student Ambassador and for various Associated Student Government events. She’s also volunteered and served as a student representative on CRC’s Asian Pacific Islander Heritage and CRC’s Women’s History Month committees.

Besides volunteer efforts, Rodriguez shows notable leadership skills. She’s acted as the Vice President and Treasurer of Club Puente, served two years as the student co-chair for CRC’s Hispanic Heritage Month and Cinco de Mayo celebrations, motivated students to vote in the 2008 national election during Rock-the-Vote, and served on the Student Appeal Panel.

During the ceremony Rodriguez had a feeling she was nominated, but it wasn’t until President Debbie Travis described all of the characteristics of the winner that Rodriguez knew for sure it was her. Rodriguez said, “I was so happy and my heart was beating so fast I could barely breathe. When she called my name I had chills and tears and had to be careful not to fall as I walked down the aisle.”

Rodriguez says she’s honored to be part of the legacy of CRC’s student history dating back to 1972 when the first O.J. Durand award was made. To meet the criteria, students must have completed or are completing a minimum of two semesters, show outstanding voluntary service to the college, and have maintained an overall GPA of 2.5 or above. Most importantly, the recipient must make contributions worthy of the Oliver J. Durand Award by exhibiting commitment and dedication to the college and CRC students.

Congratulations Sandra!

**CRC Celebrates Its 40th Anniversary** *continued from page 1*

and then completed a law degree at Harvard.”

Turner said he saw a lot of veterans even into the early ‘80s, when Pete Padilla (’79-’84) was president. He said the veterans were good automotive students partially because they had to maintain their GPA to qualify for benefits.

“In the mid ‘80s students either came straight from high school, or they were older, ‘hobby shopping’ clientele,” Turner said. Marc Hall was president then, from ’84-’95; the longest term so far of all seven presidents.

Rees said it was around this time the college experienced a big period of immigration. “The college deserves credit for how it (immigration) was handled,” she said. “People realized it was up to them to set the tone.” Rees said there were lectures devoted to this.

Merrilee Lewis (’95-’03) and Francisco Rodriguez (’03-’09) were the last two presidents, prior to our newest president Debbie Travis. All have made contributions to the college in positive ways.

Today CRC serves more than 16,000 students. There are almost 200 full time faculty, more than 200 adjuncts and almost 200 classified staff and managers. In the past 40 years, more than a quarter of a million people have earned a degree, transferred to a university, or upgraded their skills at the college.

Facilities continue to grow to accommodate those who rely on CRC for education. The modernization and expansion of the Science building was completed this year and construction is underway to expand the Bookstore and Cafeteria. Plans for the future include new athletic fields, instructional buildings and a parking garage for the eventual light rail access. See page 7 for an in-depth facilities update.
The Cosumnes River College Foundation is partnering with SMUD in support of CRC student success and a cleaner environment. When you join SMUD’s Greenergy® program, SMUD will contribute $20 to the Cosumnes River College Annual Fund! For just $6 per month, you can have 100% of your electricity needs met with purchases of renewable (green) resources for use on the SMUD power system. Using energy from these renewable resources — like wind, water and sun — reduces the amount of pollution in our community. You can also choose the 50% option for $3 per month.

The Cosumnes River College Annual Fund provides critical support for CRC students and the campus community through scholarships, grants and innovative programs that help create truly exceptional educational experiences.

Local small businesses are invited to support CRC as well! New business enrollments in SMUD’s Greenergy® program will generate a $40 contribution to the CRC Annual Fund.

To enroll or to learn more, please visit www.smud.org. When you enroll, be sure to enter “CRC” in the “Who Referred You” box. You can also contact Ken Cooper in the Cosumnes River College Office of College Advancement at (916) 691-7320.

Support Cosumnes River College and a Cleaner Environment

Raquela Burt

Her stage name is just “Raquela” and she is an American dance-pop singer-songwriter, assistant producer and actress. She is also a CRC alumnus.

“If it wasn’t for a bold and daring professor at Cosumnes River College, there is no way my dream would have ever come true,” said Burt. Donna Sparks saved my life. I took just about every class she taught. English, speech, theatre…the woman even tutored me for free. Donna must have said it a billion times, “Raquela, you want to make something out of your life? Then we have to get you out of Sacramento.” Burt said Sparks understood that to be an actress or singer, she should head to southern California.

After attending CRC in 1984-’85, Burt was given a full scholarship to Biola University in Los Angeles to study opera. “Suddenly my aspirations became a reality and the time to self-manage my future had to happen swiftly,” Burt added.

Raquela began singing and dancing at the age of seven and by nine she was performing professionally on stage. She was 12 when she wrote and performed her first original folk/contemporary/pop song on guitar in Elk Grove. Raquela said her German-Mexican heritage created obstacles in the once-small town, but she was able to move past them.

She studied at Biola for three years, and then transferred to California State University, Irvine to finish her Bachelor of Fine Art in Musical Theatre. While in southern California, Raquela was crowned the first Mexican American “Miss Orange County.” She won several vocal competitions and earned many nominations for “Best Actress” across the country before heading to New York. “The rest was easy…I started on Broadway for a stint…USO shows, benefits, charities…,” she said.

Some of Raquela’s Broadway credits include “Show Boat,” and “The Who’s, TOMMY.” She has worked on the stage with Carol Burnett, Cloris Leachman, Bernadette Peters, Mandy Patinkin, Angela Bassett and Joan Rivers while in New York.

Raquela’s voice and skills as a dancer have given her unique opportunities in the dance music community. Her music has hit dance charts and her 2005 release of the theatrical dance track “Balearic Phonk” with Supergroove continues to receive rave reviews.

Raquela is now back in Sacramento where she recently completed a music video of a dance track she released a few years ago. “While taking off from time to time to perform for festivals and concerts, I’m looking forward to teaching private voice lessons (part-time) here in Elk Grove,” she said.
President's Letter

Fall 2010

This past summer has been very busy with numerous facilities projects. While the parking garage remains on hold pending funding, other projects continue to move full speed ahead. Over the summer, the Science project was completed and faculty and staff have been busy moving and preparing the new building for fall classes. After five years of living in temporary classrooms and portables, the modernized and expanded building is a welcome addition to the campus and will serve our growing student population for many years to come.

The opening of the Science building provided several opportunities to relocate departments nearer to facilities that improve programs and services for students. Some of these moves included MESA from L-309 to SCI-104, Tutoring Center and Accounting Lab from L-303 to LRC-216, DSPS to P-48, CASSL to LRC-121, GreenForce offices from BS to LRC and Library offices from the 2nd to 3rd floor.

Construction continues on the Bookstore and Cafeteria expansion with estimated completion in May 2011. Throughout construction, the Bookstore remains open in its regular location in the College Center and the Cafeteria is located on the second floor of the CAC building in CAC-200.

A final draft to update the Facilities Master Plan (FMP) is being reviewed with final approval expected in fall. The FMP continues to develop with several new projects continuing through the design phase, including the Winn Center for Construction and Architecture, Elk Grove Center, Northeast Buildings Modernization and Athletic Field/North perimeter/TAP improvements. In addition, planning is expected to begin on a new Art Gallery in the next year. These projects will add exciting new changes to the north and east sides of campus, expanding capacity and positioning the college for continued growth for years to come.
Welcome to the CRC Family

NEW FACULTY, CLASSIFIED STAFF & MANAGEMENT

SINCE JANUARY 2010

ANDI ADKINS POUGE
Public Services Librarian
Learning Resources & College Technology

TANIKA BYRD
Student Personnel Assistant
Student Services

KERSTIN FEINDERT
English Assistant Professor
Humanities & Social Science

ELIZABETH HUFFMAN
Political Science Assistant Professor
Humanities & Social Science

MICHAEL MARION
Dean, Counseling & Student Services
Counseling & Student Services

TORENCÉ POWELL
Director, GreenForce Projects
Instructional Services

LEE WEATHERS
Counselor
Counseling & Student Services

ANNE WONG
Instructional Services Assistant
Instructional Services

FABIO ZAMPIERI
Senior IT Technician
Learning Resources & College Technology
YOLANDA GARCIA-GOMEZ  DSPS Coordinator

My experience at Cosumnes River College has been uplifting and surprising. After two years in the Chicago area (as Project Coordinator at Loyola University Chicago’s CPELL program), I cannot think of a better return to Sacramento than to be part of the community at Cosumnes River College. CRC students find value in their experiences—whether they participate in community service on campus or in their community, or take a small or large unit load. Here, every individual is working toward their goals, even if it is one class at a time. I have always found that contact with students helps me focus on why I am in higher education—and CRC is no exception. Recently, I had a single parent who enrolled for summer and fall. He faces some stiff challenges but step by step he is finding his way back to school—gaining a new skill or completing a goal. Students like him are returning to school focused; they are looking for programs like DSPS to get a good start.

Additionally, I find good energy and purpose in the staff and faculty that serve our students. This is important to me because it speaks loudly about the individuals that I work with and how small changes to student services can make a difference in the long run. As a first-generation college graduate in my family, I found college to be quite challenging. For instance, I found it necessary to get tutoring in class subjects that were foreign to me. I made connections with faculty that enriched my experience and opened opportunities for internships and employment. When I entered the private sector upon graduation, I found new challenges in a corporate culture—what I read about in business school, I experienced through actual practice. I have to admit that working in student services has been a perfect fit for me. I learned from being a student the value of work experience, the value of participating in activities outside of classes, and the need to be bold about getting necessary services in college. Many of the personal and professional experiences which I bring to the students that I serve as a DSPS Coordinator are universal and part of the experiences of many colleagues at CRC. Here, faculty and staff make the effort to further understand the diversity of CRC’s student body and the ever-growing challenges students encounter.

As DSPS Coordinator I look forward to sharing the challenges DSPS students face in an ever-changing and competitive academic environment. My goal is to help faculty learn more about this population so their needs are met in a positive way. Although every individual student faces unique challenges, I want to make a difference identifying campus resources that make their experience an enriching one.
Greetings from the Academic Senate! Summer is a time for a change of pace, personal reflection and refreshment and perhaps for catching up on some back burner projects that were put aside during the course of a regular semester. I sincerely hope you have all enjoyed it immensely! The 2009–2010 academic year was a busy and productive one, and summer has given an opportunity to review, redefine, and look forward to the coming year and its goals.

In the past year our newest shared governance committee, the Foundations of Academic Success under the leadership of Professor Rhonda Farley, continued exploring ways to most effectively teach some of our least prepared students. Formerly known as the Basic Skills Committee, this group met regularly to analyze data and methods of teaching, attended regional meetings, hosted outside speakers on teaching basic skills, and facilitated the formation of learning communities as well as supplemental instruction for our students. Best practices are being developed, and the senate is enthusiastic about the progress and possibilities for this committee. New members are most welcome!

Another first for CRC, the Workload Committee was initiated during the spring semester as a joint committee of the union, the senate, and administration. The senate had been exploring ways to minimize the impact of class cuts on students and faculty alike, and this committee convened several times in the spring and again in June to talk about enrollment management issues and options. The level of transparency, and the sharing of ideas and concerns through these conversations has been very gratifying, and the senate would like to express their deep appreciation for all the thoughtful input, time, and energy that the members of this committee have invested. In addition to the CRC meetings, the academic senate presidents and the union presidents from all four colleges convened twice this summer to discuss topics related to enrollment and workload committees. More work and discussion will certainly follow in the fall.

The Senate appreciates the Board of Trustee’s support of professional development. During the spring two senators were excited to attend the Equity and Diversity Institute, and two of the executive team participated at Plenary Session. This summer, Senate Vice-President Kale Braden received training at the Leadership Institute, as did our new Curriculum Chair, Cori Burns, at the Curriculum Institute. These statewide institutes give faculty an opportunity to immerse themselves in a specific area of interest, learn particular skills, and share ideas with other faculty from community colleges throughout the state.

Finally, the senate would like to thank all those faculty and staff who participated in hiring committees this spring and summer. We are thrilled that we were able to hire four new full time faculty in Counseling, English, Library, and Political Science, as well as several adjuncts. The senate offers new faculty training workshops throughout the year, and one of the summer projects has been to review and refine that training. The senate has also been working on plans for the district-wide new faculty training, which CRC will be hosting this August.

I wish you all a fabulous fall semester, and thank you for supporting your senate leadership. It is truly an honor to serve and represent you.

Marjorie Duffy, Academic Senate President

HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY CRC!
As we look back on how far we’ve come, it’s exciting to know how much farther we have yet to go.

The Classified Senate would like to congratulate CRC for having received a “10” on the Accreditation Commissioner’s Report, the highest ranking a college can receive. The Senate thanks you for your heart and excellence in making this a reality. The Senate would also like to extend a warm welcome to all for the Fall 2010 semester.

As the college undergoes physical changes and continues to provide academic excellence, the open door policy between administrators, faculty and staff will assist students in pursuing their higher education. The Classified Senate would like to foster this collaboration and encourage participation of all classified staff in helping lead our future graduates. Due to the State’s budget crisis and our limited resources as enrollment increases, this is the time to pull on one another’s strengths, utilizing our resources wisely and collaborating with our colleagues to provide the highest quality of education.

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

We invite you to take the time to find out more about the history of our campus. Seek out those that were here from the beginning: faculty, staff, administrators and alumni. Ask them what it was like coming to campus in the 70s. What will they have to say about the 2010/2011 year? What part of history will we make for our community to talk about? We are sure you’ll find that excellence and commitment to students have always been a part of our campus history.

Laurie Pownall, Classified Senate President
Nearly 600 CRC students received Associate Degrees this year. Those attending the commencement ceremony on May 19 enjoyed an evening of heartfelt speeches, and the worries about rain never materialized.

Family and friends filled the stadium seats. This year’s guest speaker was community member Tim Moran, President and CEO of Methodist Hospital. He spoke on the importance of community service and encouraged students to take the time to reach out in their own community for causes and organizations they believe in.

The student speaker was Humanities major Charlene Carthen, whose charisma had students on their feet to cheer enthusiastically. Carthen, a re-entry student, talked about her struggles and accomplishments while at CRC. Her excitement about the college was reflected in her powerful words about professors and fellow students.

Graduates included five students with perfect 4.0 grade point averages throughout their time at the college. The average GPA this year was 2.98; average age of graduates was 28, and graduates ranged in age from 18 to 61.

This was President Deborah Travis’s first graduation at the college. “What an amazing event at CRC,” she said. “I was so excited for each of our students, and hope the commencement ceremony is something they will always remember.”

Everyone present could feel the energy from graduates, other students, faculty, staff, and the audience. The college is proud of another successful commencement to mark a milestone in so many lives.
The Cosumnes River College Foundation held its annual signature fundraising event, Gala 2010—A Taste of Jazz, at the fountain quad, on a beautiful Saturday in May. This year’s event, sponsored in part by DeVry University, the University of Phoenix and Frontier Communications, featured select wines from the Napa Valley and delicious hors d’oeuvres from some of Elk Grove’s and Sacramento’s best restaurants.

The weather was perfect for enjoying cool wine and even cooler jazz performances by the Sacramento State Latin Jazz Ensemble and the Wendell Fishman Quartet featuring vocalist Yvette Gauff. The silent auction allowed the crowd of more than 200 guests to bid on a diverse collection of unique items. The event also marked the first Gala with our new president at the helm, Dr. Debbie Travis.

“This event is a great opportunity for campus staff, as well as the community, to support our students,” said Travis.

“I had a fun time meeting new people and experiencing this wonderful event in a beautiful setting.”

This year, more than $20,000 was raised benefiting the Cosumnes River College Foundation Annual Fund. The CRC Foundation would like to express its gratitude for the continued generous support of our sponsors; DeVry University, Frontier Communications, the University of Phoenix and all who invest in CRC student success.

Please make plans to join us for our signature event on May 14 as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of CRC’s service to the community and commitment to higher education in the Sacramento region.

Sponsorship opportunities available for next year’s signature event. Please contact Ken Cooper at (916) 691-7491.
President’s Letter

The Cosumnes River College Women’s Soccer team, its players and coach, had an outstanding season this year. They ended the season with a 16-5-4 overall record, taking 2nd in the Big 8 Conference and 2nd in the state. The team was ranked 3rd in the nation among community colleges. Several players received recognitions this season; Dani Arrellano was named Big 8 Conference MVP and Bianca Palomera was named Defensive Player of the Year. Additionally, two players were named National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) All-Americans.

Coach Cesar Plasencia, with an overall record of 64-64-25, was named NSCAA Community College Women’s Soccer National Coach of the Year, the Western Region Women’s Soccer Coach of the Year, and the Big 8 Conference Co-Coach of the Year.

Cesar Plasencia & Women’s Soccer Team

Photo by Mayra Fuentes

Irene Kucherova

Former CRC student, and recent UC Berkeley graduate, Irene Kucherova, received the Judith Lee Stronach Baccalaureate Prize for her project, “Enhancement Pilot Program for Orphanage 1 in Kherson, Ukraine.”

Kucherova was an architecture student at CRC who transferred to UC Berkeley in fall 2008. The Judith Lee Stronach Baccalaureate Prize supports intellectual and creative pursuits that heighten awareness of issues of social consciousness and the public good. The Judith Lee Stronach Baccalaureate Prize is one of the highest honors that UC Berkeley bestows on a graduating senior.

Kucherova said “My main goal is to raise awareness of the issue of marginalization in the orphanages and to involve the public in direct work with children. I would like to give the children of Orphanage 1 in Kherson an opportunity to be creative and build their future through education.” Besides organizing fundraising and facilitating educational activities, Kucherova will be spearheading extracurricular activities and events for the children “that will broaden the limited world experience these children now have by planning trips to Kiev… public universities… and historic and cultural places…,” she said.

Kucherova will be documenting her nine months in Ukraine through photography and a Web site she will set up. When she returns, she plans on eventually returning to college for a graduate degree.

Kucherova is one of 13 former CRC architecture students who graduated from the UC Berkeley Architecture program this year. Professor John Ellis attended the event and said having this many of his former students graduate from one university at the same time was a first for him.

Irene Kucherova

Yoshio Taylor

Ceramics Professor Yoshio Taylor was awarded the commission for the UC Davis Medical Center Art Mural Project and spent this summer building a 32-foot high, 17-foot wide, waterfall made with 9,000 pounds of clay. At the base will be a calming pool surrounded by flora and some medicinal plants. The art project will be in the new surgery and emergency service pavilion which is currently under construction. Yoshio said he is hoping to install the project before the fall semester starts.

Yoshio Taylor

Special Recognitions

Cesar Plasencia & Women’s Soccer Team

Irene Kucherova

Yoshio Taylor
**Getting to Know… Q&A**

**Christina Ocrant**

What is your position at the college?
Educational Media and Web Specialist

How long have you worked at CRC?
9 Years

What do you like most about your job?
Web technology is always changing and it gives me the constant opportunity to learn and grow. I love the exploration of Javascript, AJAX, PHP and more, reading web development blogs, experimenting with code and finding ways to improve the way I do things. There is always something new to learn, which keeps my job fresh and engaging.

What do you like to do for fun? What are your hobbies?
Right now I don’t have much spare time, so I listen to books on CD during my 45-minute commute. I enjoy sci-fi, fantasy, historical fiction and war stories. I like amateur photography and am learning more about it as I have the time to read, experiment and purchase new lenses. For fun I play video games like Rock Band or Mario Kart.

Have you always wanted to be what you are now? If not, what did you want to be?
When I was in high school I had a list of careers I was interested in. Some of them were landscape architect, graphic designer, webmaster and archeologist. So it was among my early interests. However, the web was a very different place at the time, and I never actively pursued this line of work until coming here and finding out that I loved it.

What do you like most about the campus in general? Would you change anything?
I love the exploration of Javascript, AJAX, PHP and more, reading web development blogs, experimenting with code and finding ways to improve the way I do things. There is always something new to learn, which keeps my job fresh and engaging.

Any words of wisdom or anything you want to add?
I feel very privileged to work here with all of you!

**IAN LOW**

What is your position at the college?
Business Services – Account Clerk III

How long have you worked at CRC?
I’ve been at CRC for about a year. I transferred from the District Office, Accounting Operations department. I have been an employee at Los Rios since 2001.

What do you like most about your job?
Being that I live in Elk Grove, I really enjoy the commute. I also enjoy working with the amazing people in my department! (They’re probably going to be reading this).

What do you like to do for fun? What are your hobbies?
I have 2 sons, an 8-year old and a 3-year old. Spending quality time with my family is always fun whether it’s at the park, a day-trip out of town, or just in the backyard.

Also, I like selling things on eBay. I will find different items from garage sales, thrift stores, or flea markets. If I think I can make a profit on an item, I’ll buy it and put it up for auction.

Have you always wanted to be what you are now? If not, what did you want to be?
Sitting in front of a computer all day long? Who wants to do that? I wanted to be a baseball player, an astronaut, a professional wrestler, an artist…..but I am happiest being a father and husband.

What do you like most about the campus in general? Would you change anything?
I like the diversity of the faculty, staff, and student body. I also like the abundance of trees. They give the campus a park-like setting.

Any words of wisdom or anything you want to add?
“Don’t blink. You just might miss your babies growing like mine did.” – Kenny Chesney
Martinez Family

Well known CRC counselor Steve Leake recently shined the spotlight on a family he is very familiar with, the Martinez family. Mother, Elizabeth Martinez and four of her daughters are nearly done completing the education they came to CRC for. Christina, 27, graduated in 2006 and earned a BA in Business Marketing from UOP last fall. Sierrah, 24, earned an AA in 2008 and plans to pursue a BA in Nursing. Leslie, 22, graduated in 2007 and transferred to UC Davis last fall to pursue a BA in Neurology, Physiology and Behavior. Natalie, who the family calls the “baby,” is 19 years old and will be done in spring 2011. She plans to transfer to Cal Poly to pursue a BA in Engineering. The sisters were home-schooled and started at CRC as soon as they could. They took many of the same teachers and agree who was the most influential, namely, Sociology Professor Paul Zisk, former English Professors Jamey Nye and Daniel Wenger and Mathematics Professor Mark Hunter. Elizabeth was schooled in the Philippines and decided when her daughters were young that she wanted them to be taught the way she had been taught. While the daughters all agreed they went through a lot of schooling growing up – mom’s philosophy was it’s done when it’s finished – their mom did a good job and was their best teacher.

Janet Atchan

Janet was working as a police dispatcher in San Francisco, when she felt a pull to do something else. After moving to Elk Grove, she started taking classes at CRC. She favored the sociology classes she took with Professor Paul Zisk and was intrigued with learning about our social environment and how society works in regards to it. She also enjoyed her classes with Physical Education Professor James Giacomazzi. It was a combination of the sociology classes and a coaching/mentoring class that set Atchan on her path. Atchan transferred to UC Berkeley in 2006 and earned a BA in sociology in 2008. She is now in a sports management Masters program at the University of San Francisco and will graduate in December. She has interned for the Sacramento Monarchs, the Sacramento Kings and the Oakland Raiders. Her goal is to start a non-profit organization geared towards serving athletes. Atchan said athletes want to be more involved with their community, but don’t know how other than by giving money. This is where she will step in. Her aim is to create a more fulfilling experience for everyone.

Bauj Chang

Bauj has gone far in life, not only in education, but also in distance. Just a few, short months ago she left the country to teach in Nonthaburi, a city approximately an hour from Bangkok, Thailand. Bauj is teaching English at a private high school for one year. This is her first time out of the country and before she left said she was nervous, excited and “looking forward to new experiences.” Bauj graduated from CRC in 2008 and earned a BA in Communications from Sacramento State earlier this year.

Stephen Gray

Stephen was caught off guard when all of his friends went away to four-year universities right after high school. He hadn’t been a good student in high school and hadn’t given college much thought. CRC was right down the street so the convenience encouraged him to give it a try. He’d always excelled in mathematics and economics and thought it was his obvious direction. Gray got serious about school, became a student ambassador and built a strong rapport with faculty and staff. In 2004, he transferred to the University of Santa Barbara because of the mathematics/economics degree he could earn there. While in Santa Barbara, Gray worked as a bellman at Hotel Mar Monte. He quickly developed a passion for hospitality. Gray said it was exciting, never a dull moment. Gray earned his BA in 2007 and now plans to go back to school to earn a MBA in Business Marketing. He is currently the West Coast Sales Manager for Luxe Hotels. He wants to grow with the hotel industry and someday be the General Manager of a property. He is now glad he started his higher education at CRC because he said his friends have twice the debt in student loans.

Carlos Porras

Carlos began working for an insurance company out of high school and progressed up the ladder over the next eight years until he hit the ceiling. He was happy in the technical position he’d worked up to, but would not go any further without a college degree. Porras decided to pursue a full time college schedule for a technology degree and chose CIS as his major. After taking geography to fulfill the physical science requirement, he was intrigued and inspired by Professor Debra Sharkey’s passion for the subject. Porras said he was sold on this “new world” and decided to meld his aspirations for technology with geography, by way of geographical information systems. Porras earned his BA in Geography from Sacramento State in 2005. He now works as a Geographical Information Systems Specialist for the City of Sacramento. He says he enjoys the fact that he can help people visualize and translate spatial data from its raw format by making maps or spatial graphics. While Porras works behind the scenes, his influence will be felt in Sacramento, as he plays a crucial role in the upcoming redistricting project. He said his experience at CRC was more than a stepping stone, it was at CRC he found his passion and future.