Politics from the Inside Out
A Cerritos College Political Science Major Experience Life as a Congressional Intern

For recent Cerritos College graduate Rhianna Lemos-Girton, 21, of Whittier, being involved in democracy goes far beyond voting. Rhianna spent last summer interning for Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, the representative for California’s 39th Congressional District, getting a close-up look at the action inside a Congressional office.

As an intern, Rhianna assisted senior staff members with events, took calls from constituents, and spent lots of time researching. She interacted with senators and members of Congress from other districts, learning about the issues that they deal with and how they help their constituents. A large part of what she gained, she says, was simply having a better handle on how the political process operates.

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Greetings!

This issue of In Sight comes as we move into another year of progress, change and success both for students and the college as a whole. We are proud to highlight several of our students’ many achievements over the past months. As I reflect on the many accomplishments this year, I observe that the combination of talented students and faculty who strive for excellence never fails to produce impressive results, as you’ll see in these pages. I have tremendous pride and appreciation for faculty, staff, students and our communities.

We are committed to bringing you, our community members, the very best in higher education. In light of this commitment, our faculty constantly looks for ways to develop teaching strategies that enhance student learning. Our Scholar’s Honors Program, numerous learning communities, course offerings, supplemental instruction strategies and student engagement opportunities, supported by research, are demonstrating positive results and enhance students’ success. We are moving ahead on several construction projects as part of the campus master plan to give our students an environment supportive of and conducive to learning. We continue to ensure that our local bond dollars are maximized and supplemented with alternative funding sources whenever possible. We do not take this responsibility lightly and continually work to leverage our resources and to be good stewards of your trust and support.

Finally, I wish to remind you that it’s never too late to attend college; our doors are open to you. We want to assist you to effectively access the emerging opportunities for our students and the public that otherwise would have been difficult to duplicate. It’s nice to be one of the first colleges to pioneer this service.

Psychology Department Pushes Beyond the Status Quo

While most students presenting their research findings at national conferences are graduate students, Kimberly Duflaf, chair of Cerritos College’s psychology department, has encouraged her students and alumni to jump in. Two of her former students, Patty Singim and Fabiola Castro, began research on gender interpretations of sexist jokes while taking Duflaf’s research methods class. They presented their research after transferring to CSU Long Beach, and presented their findings at conferences of the Western Psychological Association (WPA) in 2006 and 2007.

Professors were impressed with what we found,” said Singim.

Marta Cosio, another of Duflaf’s former students who recently graduated from CSU Long Beach and now is one of her teaching assistants, accompanied Duflaf and presented research findings with her at the 2007 WPA conference last spring.

“Students were surprised that we were able to do research like this at a community college,” said Cosio.

Students Explore Hot Political Issues in Video Editorial Contest

“What does democracy mean to you?” was the question explored by students in the Political Science Department’s first ever MyDemocracy video editorial contest. Scores of students entered the contest, submitting videos covering topics such as poverty, environmental issues, abortion and gay marriage. Several of the winning videos will be posted on MyPolSciLab, a political science textbook companion site used by college students nationwide.

The videos also may appear on MSNBC On Campus, a Web site with content provided exclusively by students. The Political Science Department plans to hold the contest biannually.

Cerritos College Website Introduces Google Language Option

Persons viewing the Cerritos College website, www.cerritos.edu, will now be able to view it in three different languages. Using a tool provided by Google, viewers can have pages translated into Spanish, Korean, and Chinese. The translation is real time, and translates each navigated page, one page at a time.

Web Administrator Ty Bowman said, “This new Google service is so well prepared and provides opportunities for our students and the public that otherwise would have been difficult to duplicate. It’s nice to be one of the first colleges to pioneer this service.”

Cerritos College Auto Tech Showcases Advanced Transportation Concepts at O.C. Auto Show

Cerritos College’s Automotive Technology Department joined one of biggest gatherings of manufacturers and automotive enthusiasts in the region at the Orange County Auto Show in Anaheim, Calif. in October. Cerritos College, in cooperation with Rio Hondo College, Long Beach City College and Cypress College, featured a display on advanced transportation. The only display at the show hosted by academic institutions, it featured alternative fuels and hybrid vehicles and training aids that demonstrated alternative fuel, fuel cell, and solar power concepts, demonstrating a commitment toward environmentally-friendly vehicles in the latest industry developments.

Cerritos College Foundation Golf Tournament Raises $4K

The Cerritos College Foundation raised $54,000 in scholarship funds at its 23rd Annual Golf Classic last August, the largest total raised by the tournament to date.

“If the funds raised this year’s tournament will go a long way toward assisting our students,” said Cerritos College Foundation Board member and tournament chairperson Dr. Gerald P. Boodnatz. “We extend special thanks to Bovis Lend Lease and our corporate sponsors, as well as all the competitors, for their commitment to come alongside the Foundation in helping students pursue their dreams.”

Cerritos College Public Affairs Wins Regional Awards

The Cerritos College Public Affairs Department won eight Medallion Awards for electronic and marketing publications from the Western Region of the National Council of Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR).

“These awards recognize the excellent work of the Public Affairs creative staff and the fine working relationships we have with the college community,” said Mark Wallace, director of public and governmental relations. He said, “The competition this year from the other colleges was of the highest caliber, and we are honored to be named as winners in the various categories.”

Cerritos College won the following awards:

Student Handbook – Bronze

Academic Catalog – Bronze

Newsletter – Silver (In Sight)

Online Newsletter – Silver (Campus Connection)

Online Services – Silver (New Students Pages)

Brochure/Flier III – Silver (50th anniversary commemoration program)

Brochure/Flier II – Gold (Faculty Honors)

Brochure/Flier II – Gold (Classified Honors, we tied ourselves for the gold)

Cerritos College supports a tradition of excellence in scholarship, and we’d like to thank the students and the college’s campus.

Naveen Chugh Joins Cerritos College Foundation Board

The Cerritos College Foundation Board of Directors voted last summer to accept the appointment of George Gordon as a board director. Gordon is co-owner of Century 21 Home and Investment in Downey. In 1986 he served as president of the Downey Association of Realtors and has served as the district representative for the California Association of Realtors. He currently teaches a class in real estate at Cerritos College’s Business Division and is familiar with the students and the college’s campus.

J.P. Wang Joins Cerritos College Foundation Board

J.P. Wang joined the Foundation Board of Trustees in November 2007. Wang, a computer engineer, worked for Sanyo and Ericsson before founding Golden Star Technology, one of the largest privately-owned IT solutions providers in Southern California. He also started the International Buddhist Education Foundation, through which he has raised scholarship funds for underprivileged students.
Master Plan unfolds as plans turn into construction

like tumbling a domino in an elaborate puzzle, the transformation of the Cerritos College campus continues with a campus-wide infrastructure project which leads to the construction of several new facilities on the 135 acre campus. A major trenching project is just starting across campus that is preparing the way for new underground pipes that will carry chilled water from building to building for cooling, new storm drains, and high and low voltage wiring that will upgrade the campus electrical grid to support the new projects and buildings in the college's master plan.

As the campus-wide trenching project concludes this winter, construction for the new central plant and for the new competition and practice pools will begin. The central plant will include three chillers totaling a capacity of 3,000 tons in a loop providing chilled water to all campus buildings for air-conditioning. A by-product of the central plant is heat which will be captured and used to augment the pool heating system. A cost savings on electricity is expected along with rebates from the utilities. The campus is also replacing all of its building boilers for hot water and heating. This system works best decentralized.

The new competition pool will be approximately 25 yards by 35 meters and the general use adaptive pool will be 25 yards by 15 yards with an adaptive access alcove. A 3,000 square foot pool house will also be constructed as part of this project. An adjoining parking lot will be done in the second quarter of 2008. This is where the dominoes begin to fall carefully in order. The campus transformation plan calls for the use of swing space across campus. This means that as one building empties, it provides temporary quarters for classrooms, offices and departments until their new building is completed. The moves are synchronized so that the college will not have to bring temporary buildings onto campus to provide space for displaced classrooms and departments. In a transformation plan as big as the one underway at the college, this is a major savings.

A new classroom/lab/office building is slated for construction on what is now an empty lawn site on the west side of campus, former home to one of the science buildings that was demolished and replaced by the new science building completed two years ago. The Physical Sciences Building is due to be replaced as well as the Tech Ed building. The calendar for these projects lines up so that as one building is completed, another is vacated allowing swing space for temporary homes during the demolition and construction phases. These old and new single story buildings are all clustered together on the northwest portion of campus making the temporary moves manageable for the campus.

But first, due for completion very early in 2008 is the college's new soccer field. A championship field is befitting the state's top men's and women's community college soccer teams. Construction is underway now on the eastern part of campus near Falcon Stadium. Additional projects include the seismic retrofitting of the gymnasium, a new parking lot adjacent to the new soccer field, and the addition of a new building and remodel of old facilities in the automotive technology area.

The Southland/Cerritos Center for Transportation Technologies project will be funded in part by a $4.8 million capital campaign to raise private support to leverage dollars already provided for in the current bond allocation. In January 2007 the Southland Motor Car Dealers Association launched the fundraising for this campaign with a very generous pledge of $500,000. According to tBP Architects, the campus transformation is unfolding on schedule and within the budget provided for the projects. The campus transformation committee and campus planners are working together with the working groups to provide a better learning environment for all of the students who attend Cerritos College.
At Falcon football team’s home opener in September, there was a special group of fans in attendance. Back in 1957, the college was experiencing its first football season in the history of the school, and that team led the community on a ride that took them to the pinnacle of community college football.

The Falcon team of 1957 not only won the Western State Conference, they introduced the brand new school to a football season many look back on with fond memories. From that team of 43 players, seven went on the play in the National Football League, while 12 received college scholarships. The team was coached by Earl Klapstein, who played for the Pittsburgh Steelers and was then an assistant coach with the legendary Green Bay Packers before taking the Cerritos job. The school traveled to Utah for their first away game, a 33-7 win over Weber (UT).

Although the team was defeated, 21-12, in the team's first away game, they shocked everyone by winning their first seven games of the season before a 12-0 loss to perennial power Compton College. They were very helpful, and really dedicated themselves to their job," she says.

Ruiz took a course in human anatomy, and says that what she learned was “quite spectacular.” Ruiz had the option to enroll at a 4-year college right out of high school, but it wasn’t workable for financial reasons. But in the end, she says she’s better off having gone to Cerritos College.

If I had gone to a 4-year straight out of high school, I wouldn’t be pursuing a career in medicine," she says. "At Cerritos College, I could really explore what I wanted to go into, and know what I wanted to do. And thanks to perseverance and a lot of support, she’s already well on her way.