FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 22 - 28, 2005

In Progress

- Kristen Habbestad conducted media outreach to publicize the December 1 Megaconference, at which Dr. John Haas is presenting.

- Ms. Habbestad also conducted outreach surrounding the December 6 informational session about the college’s new agreement with Northwood University that allows students to pursue a bachelor’s degree in business without leaving the Cerritos College campus.

Coverage


Whittier Daily News – November 14, 2005 – Blurb about Cerritos College being recognized for outstanding work by the American Association of Community Colleges.

Whittier Daily News – November 14, 2005 – Article about Cerritos College psychology student Lucy Sanchez receiving a full scholarship to attend the American Psychological Association’s 113th annual convention in Washington D.C.

Whittier Daily News – November 23, 2005 – Article about Cerritos College student Jun Min and his volunteer work with La Mirada.

Press Telegram – November 23, 2005 – College sports article about. Cerritos College included.

Related News
Los Angeles Times – November 22, 2005 – Article about Compton College’s future remaining cloudy.

Los Angeles Times – November 27, 2005 – Article about UCLA brining back its nursing program.
Cerritos College News Releases -- November 2005

Cerritos College to Present at Worldwide Online Megaconference

Theme of Megaconference VII is Increasing Empathy through Video Conferencing

For Immediate Release: November 28, 2005

Event Contact:
John Haas, Human and Social Science Division
(562) 860-2451, ext. 2726

Media Contact:
Kristen Habbestad,
Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451, ext. 2287

WHAT: Cerritos College History Professor John History will present at Megaconference VII on Thursday, December 1, 2005. The Megaconference connects many videoconferencing sites around the globe and boasts participation from 260 organizations from 31 countries and 39 states in the U.S.

Dr. Haas’ presentation is entitled, “Building Bridges to the World: Preparing Tomorrow’s Teachers to become Globally Competent,” and seeks to answer the question, “How can we prepare students and tomorrow’s teachers to become globally competent, embrace change, and recognize the interconnectedness of all people and systems to become productive and effective in the world arena?”

Other broadcast elements include:

- Presentations discussing and demonstrating how groups use videoconferencing for interactive meetings and lessons, engaging multiple
sites and the audience.

- Musical mini-concerts: Have you ever heard a Didgeridoo or a Tennessee Schmaltz? You have if you attended previous Megaconferences!
- Global Roll Call: all participants get a moment to say hello, sing their school fight song, or do whatever they like. You may see some funny hats. People do very imaginative things!
- Prizes of videoconferencing equipment have been donated by major vendors. The Grand Prize is often a high-end video station.

View a complete conference schedule here: http://www.megaconference.org/program.html.

The Megaconference seeks to connect people anywhere on Earth, in order to further the use of videoconferencing in education and research. Everyone is invited to watch the Megaconference from the comfort of his or her own office, classroom or conference room.

Like any professional conference, presenters and audience members will discuss current trends and work. Unlike other conferences, hundreds of participants, from universities, K-12 schools, and organizations, will gather simultaneously from all continents of the world using advanced Internet videoconferencing networks.

WHEN: 2:20 p.m. PST, Thursday, December 1, 2005 (Dr. Haas’ presentation). The entire Megaconference takes place throughout the day, from 5 a.m. - 8 p.m. PST on December 1.

WHERE: Live streamed video of Megaconference VI will be available online at http://commonsvec.a.ar.net/megaconference/. Archives of past Megaconferences are available at www.megaconference.org.

Cerritos College will also be broadcasting the live broadcast in the Wilford Michael Library’s teleconference center.

Cerritos College
11110 Alondra Blvd
Norwalk, CA 90650
Wilford Michael Library’s teleconference center (LC 155)

CONTACT: John Haas, Humanities and Social Science Division (562) 860-2451, ext. 2726

COST: Free and open to the public.

Cerritos College celebrates the 2005-06 school year as its 50th anniversary in serving as a comprehensive community college for southeastern Los Angeles County communities including Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, Lakewood, La Mirada and Norwalk. The college offers degrees and certificates in more than 180 areas of study in nine divisions. Annually, more than 1,200 students successfully complete their course of studies, and enrollment currently surpasses 22,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at
www.cerritos.edu, and view a celebratory site honoring the college’s 50 years of tradition, honor and values at www.cerritos.edu/50.

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KH
JC WRESTLING OUTLOOK
Cerritos College

Coach: Steve Glassy

2004 finish: 3-1 South Coast Conference (tied for first), third in Southern California, fifth in state

Top returners: Ronnie Hopkins, 165; Nathan Sare, 174; Emanuel Newton, 197.

Top newcomers: Jimmy Valvivia, 125; Andrew Holm, 133; Tony Aparicio, 141; Jeff Davis, 157; Louie Audelo, 184; Khoren Papoyan, 197.

2005 outlook: Second-year coach Steve Glassy feels this year's squad can improve upon last season's outstanding efforts, which include a tie for first in the SCC, a third-place finish at the SoCal regionals and fifth in state. "We have some very good talent," Glassy said. "It's just a matter of putting things together at the right time. We are a much improved and more mature team from a year ago." Glassy is looking to sophomores Ronnie Hopkins (third in the state at 157 last year), Nathan Sare (seventh in the state at 165) and Emanuel Newton (eighth in the state at 197) to provide leadership for a talented group of freshmen. Tonight, Cerritos takes on Palomar at 7 p.m. at home in an SCC meet. Glassy invites all former Cerritos wrestlers to attend the meet.

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David Felton
Villa is making a splash with Cerritos

Women's water polo: Olympian has helped Falcons as asst. coach.

By David Felton 1929

Players and coaches from great teams often attribute their success to rigorous practice sessions, workouts that are far more competitive and physical than any game they would play throughout a season. So it's not hard to figure out why the Cerritos College women's water polo team—has improved so much from last season. Just look who's in the pool with the Falcons.

Two-time Olympian and U.S. national team member Brenda Villa joined first-year Cerritos head coach Sergio Macias as an assistant this season. She can be found in the pool at nearly every practice, putting the Falcons through a workout they'll rarely face against any junior college opponent.

"She (practices with the team) because she's competitive," said Macias, who grew up swimming with Villa in the Commerce Aquatics program.

Macias says Villa will never take it easy against the younger players. It's just not in her nature.

"If somebody beats her (in a drill) it's because they beat her," he said.

Cerritos finished with a 13-14 record in 2004 and in fifth place in the South Coast Conference. This year, however, the Falcons are 18-8 overall and 4-1 in SCC play, with their only conference loss coming to two-time defending state champion Long Beach City. Cerritos travels to Chaffey for a 3 p.m. SCC game today.

The team features just one sophomore and the young players seem to appreciate the wealth of knowledge and experience at their disposal.

"Anything we work on, she'll pick us out and explain it in detail," said freshman driver Christina Edwards. "I have a lot of bad habits and she will stay after practice (to help). My game has improved a lot."

Fellow freshman Roxanne Cariga agrees.

PLEASE SEE CERRITOS / B6
CERRITOS: Improving with Villa

Continued from B1

"To get first-hand experience with an Olympian is awesome," the driver said.

Villa is well aware of the importance of training with better and more experienced players. She began playing water polo at age 8, before programs for girls were as developed as they are now, and had to play with boys, including her older brother Edgar.

"Water polo just looked fun," Villa said. "It's more intense than swimming."

At Bell Gardens High, she played four years on the boys' water polo team and was a two-time CIF Division III champion. In 1998, the season after Villa graduated, Bell Gardens began a girls team.

"You have to think faster and react quicker (playing against boys) because they're stronger and faster," Villa said. "You have to make up for that difference in strength."

All that tough competition paid off for Villa. She accepted a scholarship to Stanford — she graduated in 2003 with a degree in political science — and was a member of the Cardinal's 2002 NCAA championship team. She also competed for the U.S. at the 2000 and 2004 Olympics, earning silver and bronze medals.

"The Olympics were) unbelievable. U.S. national team and Olympic women's water polo star Brenda Villa is using her expertise to help Cerritos College and coach Sergio Macias this season. The Falcons are off to an 18-8 start after going just 13-14 last year.

"It was incredible," Villa said. "On my right foot, Villa has a small tattoo of the Olympic rings.

"That's the only one," she said. "My mother's not too fond of tattoos but I figured she'd let this one go."

Villa is still on the U.S. national team and later this month will leave for Italy, where she'll play for the club team Orizzonte.

Before Macias asked her to help him at Cerritos, Villa hadn't really thought of herself as a coach.

"I always said I didn't have the patience to coach," she said. "But when you've got a good group of girls, it's easier."

Macias says Villa's presence has been a tremendous help to him.

"She makes my job easier," he said, pointing out that she can reinforce instructions he gives in a different manner. "When I say it, it gets kind of redundant."

Villa can also serve as a buffer between the team and Macias, part coach and part friend. Being a female on a men's team coached by a man also helps.

"She's a friend and keeps her distance to maintain their respect," Villa said. "But she's just a friend to us."

She's also an example for the Falcons — someone who has earned a degree from a prestigious university, someone who has worked hard to make her dreams come true.

"She's an inspiration, just a hard worker," Macias said. "She's a great role model."

David Felton can be reached at david.felton@press telegram.com or (562) 439-1313.
Cerritos College's Emanuel Newton, above, had the upper hand the entire match as he beat Palomar's Mike Cioccoppo in the 197-pound class at the South Coast Conference meet Wednesday night. Below, Cerritos heavyweight Brandon Doran pins Palomar's Tyler McKay. Cerritos won the meet, 39-15.

JC wrestling: Wins by Valdivia, Doran key victory.

By David Felton

Staff writer

The present of Cerritos College wrestling will be known Wednesday night, when Palomar definitely met its match.

The Falcons, led by Alumni Night at Falcon Gym, welcomed back scores of former wrestlers and coaches. They were treated to a dominating performance by Cerritos, which improved to 2-0 in South Coast Conference action with a 39-15 victory.

“Cerritos is going to win,” said second-year Cerritos coach Steve Glassy, “but I thought it would be a little closer. The guys are starting to come along, starting to turn the corner.”

The Falcons won at seven of nine contested weights — they forfeited at 107 pounds — and posted six pins.

Glassy said the meet swung to Cerritos’ favor with wins by heavyweight Brandon Doran and middleweight Valdivia at 125.

“Once we had those two matches, I knew it was over,” he said.

The first match of the night was at 141 pounds, where Palomar’s Ryan Neal was down 1-0 victory over Luis Acosta. But Cerritos won at the next four weights to take control.

Emanuel Newton, ranked second in the state at 197, pinned Mike Cioccoppo in 4 minutes, 42 seconds and Doran pinned Tyler McKay in 1:21. Doran is ranked fifth in the state while McKay is ranked third. McKay, who placed fourth in the state last year, topped Doran two weeks ago in the semifinals of the Golden West Tournament.

Valdivia — normally a 133-pounder, who finished third in the state — then came through with his 3-1 victory over David Navasota, ranked fourth in the state.

“Valdivia looked really good,” Glassy said. “He’s the one who kind of did it in for Palomar.”

Andrew Holmes (125), Jeff Davis (133), Aparicio (141), Jeff Davis (155), Marcus (184) and Rodney Hopkins (197) closed out the night with pins.

The Falcons originally were going to battle at 145 pounds but instead used John McMillan at 133-pounder. He was pinned by Palomar’s Don Guevara in 2:36.

Cerritos travels to the Southern California Regional Duals meet this weekend at Moorpark College.

David Felton can be reached at david.felton@press telegram.com or (562) 490-1318.
Cerritos honored for teacher prep

NORWALK — Cerritos College is among just 10 community colleges in the nation being recognized and awarded $10,000 for excellence in K-12, teacher-preparation programs by the American Association of Community Colleges. Colleges were identified for outstanding work in six categories in AACC’s National Science Foundation-supported teacher preparation program.
Cerritos’ Sanchez wins scholarship

Norwalk — Cerritos College psychology student Lucy Sanchez received full scholarship to attend the American Psychological Association’s 113th annual convention in Washington, D.C.

As a scholarship recipient, Sanchez also participated in the 2005 “Diversity Project 2000” and “Beyond Summer Institute” in August, a mentoring and leadership program for future psychologists.

Sanchez, completing her second year at Cerritos College, received the scholarship through her involvement as a member of Psi Beta, the national honor society in psychology for community colleges.

She plans to graduate in 2006 and transfer to either Cal State Long Beach or UC Irvine.
Kim hailed as La Mirada's helper supreme
By Mike Sprague Staff Writer

LA MIRADA - Five years ago, then 15-year-old Jun Kim and his mother, Young Mi, emigrated from South Korea to the United States to be with his father and live here.

Kim didn't speak English, but five years later he's become one of La Mirada's best volunteers. He's so good that he recently won the spirit of service award in the general category of the city's Volunteers in Action program.

"In our Helping Hands program, he volunteered for almost every single event," said Roberta Gonzales, a community services coordinator for the city.

"We'll have an emergency and he's always the one we can call. He'll make time in his schedule."

Kim also is a hard worker, Gonzales said.

"He always works to the maximum," she said. "He doesn't like to stand there and doesn't want to take breaks. You almost have to force him to stop and get some water."

Kim, who graduated from La Mirada High School in 2004, started volunteering in February after hearing about the city's volunteer program from a neighbor.

He was looking for a way to volunteer to help him get into a four-year university. He now attends Cerritos College as a pre-med student.

"My first mission was to clean up the garage of a senior citizen," he said.

In the Helping Hands program, volunteers - typically high school and college students - go in and clean up or do minor repairs on the homes of local low-income seniors.

And he liked the experience so much that he soon was going on most of the events. They're held about once a month.

"I felt such accomplishment," he said. "It's people helping people. This country and city provide so much."

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He also has helped deliver the city's new resident packages.

Kim said he was surprised to receive the award from the city.

"I did nothing special," he said. "I just did what everybody
His father, Bum H. Kim, emigrated to the United States in 1993.

He came at age 43 because he wanted to study acupuncture. He now is a doctor of acupuncture.

In South Korea, he was considered too old to change his career. He raised and sold chickens there.

In 2000, he brought his wife and son to live with him.

Kim also wants to become a doctor, in part because of doctors he saw as a child.

"I had a number of injuries and I was impressed with the way they treated me," he said. "I save people."

Kim said he plans to transfer to a four-year university, possibly UC San Diego next fall and eventually would like to attend UCLA Medical school.

But he also wants to continue volunteering, if he can.

"As long as I'm going to school here and if I have the time, it would be no problem to help," he said.

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(562)698-0965, Ext. 3022
USC-Fresno St. deserved top billing on TV
Frank Burlison
Staff columnist

I know Stanford vs. Cal is the "Big Game" and all that.

But don't you think that the decision makers at ABC Sports Television, with a heaping helping of hindsight, would have preferred to have the telecast of the USC-Fresno State on Saturday afternoon?

That's every bit as rhetorical as is, "Do you think USC will ever schedule Fresno State again?"

Trojans' fans and ABC execs alike (rhetorical question No. 3: "You don't think ABC wants a USC-Texas Rose Bowl matchup, do you?") were sweating for the near-four hours the game lasted Saturday night.

Reggie Bush (wow) and just enough big defensive plays in the second half bailed Pete Carroll's crew and those of us who want to see the Trojans vs. the Longhorns in Pasadena on Jan. 4 out, big time.

As impressive as Fresno State's offense was, it was the Bulldogs' defense that also kept things nerve-wracking for Carroll & Co. Fresno's secondary, especially No. 24 (Richard Marshall, a junior from Locke High, who did a nice job against Dwayne Jarrett) has several future NFL players.

But, ultimately, USC has Bush and no one else has anyone remotely like him, which is why the Trojans will beat UCLA on Dec. 3 and Texas a month later.

Bush should win the Heisman Trophy and that performance against the Bulldogs may have propelled him over Vince Young of Texas as the front-runner for the hardware (which is presented on Dec. 10) if so many voters weren't sleeping while Fox Sports was broadcasting the game.

USC quarterback Matt Leinart already has one of the world's coolest paperweights. For Bush and not Young to get his own replica, Leinart is going to have to go to USC sports information director Tim Tessalone and tell him make a big push for Bush and Bush alone.

Trying to hedge the promotion for both Leinart and Bush is only going to strengthen Young's cause.

One last thought about the Trojans: It's official. There are now more USC flags (three) than American flags (two) hanging from homes on the street around the corner from mine in my Laguna Niguel neighborhood.

CIF football comments

It was an ugly Friday night for area teams that didn't wear Dominguez, Mayfair, Poly and Valley Christian uniforms.
Ouch.

I'm reasonably confident that Dominguez and Poly will advance to their respective division semifinals.

But then, again, I also felt "reasonably confident" that Lakewood and Los Alamitos would still be practicing, too.

The Wing-T (or Double Wing) offense is making its presence felt throughout the Southern Section playoffs, with Dominguez, Esperanza, Colton and Tustin (which stunned Orange Lutheran in the Div. VI first round) all running high-powered versions of the offense.

From what coaches have told me, that offense is especially difficult to prepare for if you don't see it and play against it much.

Defensive players instinctively pursue the ball once it is snapped from the center to the quarterback.

If a defense takes that approach vs. a Wing T-type offense, which relies on so much high-speed faking and misdirection, it will give up yardage in big chunks at a pop.

The first round gave credence to those who believe that the Serra League is the strongest football league in the Southern Section. Mater Dei, Servite and Loyola advanced to the second week of play and a wild-card representative from the league, Santa Margarita, lost in overtime at Citrus Belt League champion East Valley of Redlands.

And let's not forget about Bishop Amat, which was 6-4 with wins over Loyola and Mater Dei but, after a series of coin flips, was designated the league's No. 5 team. So a Huntington Beach team that was smashed by Poly (55-7) got the second at-large bid because it was a No. 4 designate from the Sunset League. Southern Section rules say a team's league designation is a criteria in making at-large selections.

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One of the best individual matchups of Friday night will involve the Mayfair vs. Valencia Div. VI game.

The Monsoons have one of the best cornerbacks in Southern California in UCLA-bound Attermann Verner while Valencia may have Orange County's most dangerous wide receiver in 6-foot-5 Ray Magee, who was the Empire League's MVP in basketball last spring.

OK, now for basketball

Cal State Northridge (beating USC Sunday in the Sports Arena) and UC Irvine (with a stunner at Stanford Saturday) did wonders for the reputation of the Big West Conference.

If Cal State Fullerton and Pacific prove as good as is expected, it should be the best overall BWC in a while.

Michael Irving, a starter on Poly's 1984 Southern Section and basketball officiating world.

He worked Long Beach State's game at UNLV Friday night, as well as the CSUN-USC game Sunday.

The Southern Section released its playoff divisional boys basketball pairings (by classes 10-12 enrollment) and there is no question which division is going to be the toughest this season.

That would be II-AA, which numbers Dominguez, Mater Dei, Villa Park and Capistrano, along with Mayfair, Ayala and Redondo.

There are going to be some gut-wrenching quarterfinals in that division.
That being said ... it will be the Dons vs. the Monarchs in the section title game (March 4) and then in a rematch in the Div. II State Southern Regional final a week later.

Jordan and Poly appear to be the two best teams in the I-AA division, which means they’ll compete head up for Moore League and Southern Section championships.

The USA Today national Top 25 included Fairfax (No. 3), Mater Dei (9), Concord De La Salle (12), Centennial (18) and Fresno San Joaquin Memorial (19).

It didn’t include Dominguez and Westchester, which seems a bit odd, doesn’t it?

You might want to free up an evening on either Dec. 22 or 23 and find your way to Comton College.

The Rise or Fall Invitational has Dec. 22 matchups of Artesia vs. Pasadena (7 p.m.) and Harvard-Westlake vs. Cincinnati North College Hill.

The next evening it will be Centennial against Poly at 7 and Dominguez vs. North College Hill at 8:30.

In case you’ve taken a couple years off from following high school basketball, North College is led by two of the best juniors anywhere in 6-4 O.J. Mayo and 6-5 Bill Walker.

I’d be stunned if the place isn’t packed the second night when, we can assume, Mayo will be matched against Dominguez sophomore Brandon Jennings. The camcorders will be out in force for that one.

The high school basketball season begins Monday.

You could do worse things with your time Monday than show up at Redondo High for first-round Pacific Shores Tournament games Jordan vs. Loyola (3:15), Sierra vs. Inglewood (4:30), Capistrano Valley vs. Palisades (6:15) and Santa Monica vs. Redondo (7:45).
Compton College's Future Remains Clouded

An education agency upholds its decision to strip the two-year school of accreditation, but the campus will stay open as appeals continue.

By STEVE SILVERSTEIN

Compton Community College announced Monday that it lost a round in its accreditation battle that threatens its future, but officials said they would file a follow-up appeal that will keep open the doors of the troubled two-year school.

The college's interim president, Jamilah Moore, disclosed Monday to her campus that an oversight organization has reaffirmed its June decision to strip the school of its accreditation due to financial and management irregularities.

But Moore said the college would file a formal appeal of the latest action by an accrediting arm of the Western Accrediting Association of Schools and Colleges within 30 days, allowing the campus to continue operating. College officials said even if the next appeal fails, they will pursue additional challenges.

"We will continue to exercise every legal option available to us," Moore said in a news release. "We are determined to overturn the commission's decision," she added, referring to the decision by the association's Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

School officials pointed out that the community college continues to be accredited and that registration will begin for winter and spring semester classes on Dec. 5.

It now enrolls between 4,000 and 4,500 students, after having lost about a third of its student body during its troubles over the past year, said Cheryl Fung, a spokeswoman for California Community Colleges Chancellor Marshall "Mark" Drakeford.

Compton College has been under state control since May 2008. The takeover followed an investigation by Drakeford's office amid concerns about the school's accounting practices and its failure to provide a satisfactory audit. A separate state study found potentially illegal practices, including college officials possibly steering contracts and jobs to relatives.

The school also has been under federal and local investigations for possible corruption.

A former Compton College trustee last month pleaded guilty to fraudulently diverting more than $1 million in public funds to himself and his family members.

Ignacio Pena was accused of siphoning money from a dummy organization that enrolled members of a community soccer league in sham college courses.

In June, the accrediting commission sought to withdraw the college's accreditation, but campus and state officials filed a preliminary appeal, saying more time was needed to turn around the school.

In a ruling released Monday, the accrediting commission said that the evidence supporting the June decision was substantial and credible. It added that changes brought to its attention "are not of sufficient magnitude to warrant a reversal of the June decision."

Fung said the chancellor's office was shocked by the latest accreditation setback. Still, she expressed hope that the college's problems can be solved in time to preserve its accreditation.

"While we're undergoing all of these appeals, every day we have through this process will give us additional time to remedy or correct any areas of concern that the commission may have had," Fung said. "So time works in our favor."
UCLA to Bring Back Nursing Program

By Rebecca Trounson
And Stuart Silverstein
Times Staff Writers

To help ease California's severe nursing shortage, UCLA officials have announced plans to reopen the university's undergraduate nursing program to freshmen next fall after a decade-long closure.

None of UC's other nine campuses currently offer a bachelor's degree in nursing, although UC Irvine hopes to start such a program soon, officials say. UCLA stopped admitting freshmen to its previous program in 1995 because of state budget cuts, and the last students graduated in 1997.

The University of California regents recently allocated $5.2 million to fund the new bachelor's program and expand graduate school studies in nursing at UCLA.

California's nursing shortfall is expected to intensify as the state's population expands and ages and as hospitals rush to comply with California's first-of-its-kind law mandating one nurse for every five patients in most wards starting this year. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger this month dropped his fight to suspend the law.

The escalating demand has state and local officials scrambling to increase capacity in existing nursing programs and cre-

[See Nursing, Page B14]
UCLA to Reopen Dormant Undergrad Nursing Program

INTERESTED: Michele Maines, 3L, of Electro hopes to enroll in the master's degree program and enter nursing as a second career.

[Image: UCLA School of Nursing]

California now has the second-lowest nurse-to-population ratio in the nation, with only Nevada ranking lower, according to statistics cited by Cowan. With the state's continuing population growth, the number of unfilled nursing jobs could exceed 123,000 by 2030, according to a recent study by UC San Francisco.

UCLA's plan also calls for a new master's-level clinical nursing program for students with no nursing experience, as well as an enrollment boost in the school's existing program for those who are already licensed registered nurses. A small number of RNs now transfer to UCLA as undergraduates and earn both their bachelor's and master's degrees in three years.

The curriculum for UCLA's new undergraduate nursing program still must be approved by the university's faculty but is expected to offer courses in case management, cost analysis and leadership, as well as more basic clinical training. Students will be able to minor in another subject, such as biology or psychology, to increase their knowledge.

Nursing students also will complete 40 hours each week of clinical work under the supervision of experienced nurses at UCLA Medical Center or other local hospitals, Cowan said. About 50 students are expected to be admitted to the undergraduate program for the first year, with another 50 likely to enroll in the new entry-level master's program. The nursing dean said the school hopes to double its current capacity of 356 nursing students within five years and plans to hire 22 additional faculty members.

For prospective nursing students such as Michele Maines, 3L, of Electro, UCLA's announcement is encouraging:

Maines, who is now a research associate at UCLA Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, hopes to enroll in the proposed master's degree program with the aim of entering nursing as a second career.

"I'm meant to be out there working with people, putting the knowledge that I have to use, but more in a hands-on way than sitting at a desk and doing research," she said.

Maines, who already holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from UCLA and a master's degree in gerontology from USC, said she found the options for nursing education programs very limited in Southern California. She was put off by the cost of tuition at private schools and by the long waiting lists at community colleges.

The planned master's program at UCLA, she said, "will give me the ability to apply the knowledge I already have to a career that I'm really interested in... without having to feel like I'm going to be stepping back to the entry level of the nursing profession."

Another prospective master's student, Garen Rodriguez, 34, was inspired to become a nurse while working as the manager of a cardiovascular research center. Many of the patients and research volunteers had relatively little knowledge of their own diseases or care, she said.

"They really needed somebody to help them in managing their healthcare," she said.

Rodriguez is in the process of completing her application for the new master's program. UC's statewide application deadline for the 2006-07 academic year is Wednesday.

The state's other nursing programs, many of which have long waiting lists, also applauded the move.

"The state of California is in desperate need to educate high-quality, brand-new nurses," said Ronda Miranda BLasier, dean of nursing at Los Angeles City College.

Miranda BLasier, who taught in the nursing program at UCLA from 1986 to 2000, said she hoped the expansion of UCLA's master's degree program would help relieve the state's severe shortage of nurses by increasing the supply of nursing graduates.

All 14 Cal State campuses have bachelor's degree programs in nursing and long waiting lists for entrance. In fact, demand already is higher than the expected capacity for classes starting at Cal State San Marcos in the fall, said Allison Jones, assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs for the Cal State system.

Eleven Cal State campuses also offer master's degrees in nursing and hope to increase enrollment in those programs next year, officials said.

The application deadline for all Cal State nursing programs — and many other majors for the university — is Wednesday.

At UC Irvine, officials said the school is in the initial stages of gaining approval for a nursing program that would include undergraduate degrees.

UC San Francisco also has announced plans to increase enrollment in two master's degree programs in nursing, one for students who hold a bachelor's in nursing, the other for those with degrees in other fields. The total number of students will rise by about 40 from the current 501, according to Marylin Dodd, assistant dean of the UC San Francisco School of Nursing.

"It will help," she said. "We're behind, but we're running as hard as we can to catch up."