FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11—18, 2006

In Progress
- Kristen Habbestad helped a Press-Telegram reporter compile a story based on a news release issued September 12 about recent funding attained by the college for applied technology. The article appeared along with a photo in the Press-Telegram on Thursday, September 14.

Coverage
Pasadena Star News—August 13, 2006—Article featuring recipients of the Scudder-Singleton Scholarship Grant, includes Russell Suyenaga, a Columbia High School student who will attend Cerritos College.

The Press Telegram—August 30, 2006—Photos featuring Capt. Marc Valentine and Cerritos College students with search-and-rescue dog Val at a demonstration held on campus on August 29.

The Press Telegram—August 31, 2006—Brief article announcing the correction of an error in a photo caption that failed to mention that the search-and-rescue demonstration was held to raise awareness of the Court Reporters Association.

Southeast Perspective—September 13, 2006—Article about Cerritos College Teacher TRAC students helping lead middle school math camp at Cal State Long Beach.

Macobserver.com—September 14, 2006—Brief mentioning registration for the 2006 MacFair taking place at Cerritos College.

Macworld.com—September 14, 2006—Brief mentioning the fifth return of the MacFair to Cerritos College.

The Press Telegram—September 14, 2006—Article about the Cerritos College Regional Occupational Program receiving a state grant worth $450,000.

Related News
Whittier Daily News—August 30, 2006—Article about the new SAT test format as the result of a decline in test scores.

The PressTelegram—September 12, 2006—Article about Long Beach City College’s recent decision to drop high school exit exam test scores as a determining element in admission.

The PressTelegram—September 13, 2006—Article about Cal State Long Beach’s newest parking structure.
Pasadena Star News
August 13, 2006

RUSSELL SUYENAGA  
Columbia High School  
Cerritos College, Welding  
Son of Debbie Suyenaga, Advertising, Long Beach Press Telegram.  
“Russell is a great friend and very knowledgeable of the automotive field. He has been very helpful in being there when I need him.”  
Ryan Gillette, Friend

MARCELO VIDAL  
Poly High School  
Long Beach City College, Physical Therapy  
Son of Louise Vidal, Finance, Long Beach Press Telegram.  
“Marc is dedicated, focused and intellectual student. In addition, he is able to make time to participate in sports activities.”  
Emma Espiritu, Neighbor

SAM GREGG  
Claremont High School  
Pitzer College, Claremont, History  
Son of Leo Goss, Editor, San Bernardino Sun.  
“Working with students like Sam reminds me of exactly why I entered teaching in the first place. Sam has the intellectual gift required of advance academic study, and perhaps more importantly, he has the strong drive to learn and understand.”  
Dave Lakkarula, AP Economics/World History Teacher

ASHLEY RAIZER  
Alta Loma High School  
Chaffey College, Liberal Arts  
Daughter of Robert Bulzer, Publisher, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin.  
“I have watched Ashley grow from a rambunctious twelve year old into a very competent, caring young woman. Her outgoing personality and her mature insight of others will only add to her success in future years.”  
Jackie Mrzaler, Community Relations Manager

DEANDRE NIX  
Rancho Cucamonga High School  
Chaffey College, Liberal Arts  
Son of Jacqueline Nix, Accounting, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin.  
“DeAndre is a very intelligent young man with tremendous potential. He is very insightful and articulate and adds much to classroom discussions. DeAndre will flourish in college and go on to do great things.”  
Rita A. Vassquez, School Counselor

MARISA MURRIETA  
Arroyo Valley High School  
University of California, Davis, Animal Science  
Daughter of John Murrieta, President, San Bernardino Sun.  
“Her obvious passion for helping her community, commendable work ethic, and deep understanding of the role of education in the pursuit of her long term goals make Ms. Murrieta truly outstanding in my eyes.”  
Christian Daniel Angeles, Youth Choir Coordinator, St. Anne’s Catholic Church

MATTHEW BROOKS  
Valley View High School  
Chaffey College, Musical Engineering  
Son of Diane Brooks, Retail Account Executive, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin.  
“Matthew is looking forward to a successful future and this scholarship will certainly give him a good start. We all know him to be a very personable, amiable young man.”  
Marcia Griffith

ALEX OLSON  
Etowha High School  
Chaffey College, Liberal Arts  
Son of Cynthia Olson, Account Executive, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin.  
“Alex is industrious and has an exemplary attitude. He seems goal oriented and determined to succeed. I feel Alex will be very successful in any endeavor he chooses to pursue.”  
Deborah Haigh, Teacher
Cpl. Marc Valentine and his partner, search-and-rescue dog Val, bond before a demonstration at Cerritos College Tuesday. The pair participated in the effort to find survivors of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Below left, Val climbs down a ladder slanted at a 45-degree angle. Below right, Hero, also a search and rescue dog, enjoys attention from students after the demonstration.

Cristina House / For the Press-Telegram

For more rescue dog photos, visit our Web site at www.presstelegram.com
A typographical error in a poverty graphic in Wednesday’s Press-Telegram misstated the population of Downey. The correct population is 111,137.

A photo caption in Wednesday’s Press-Telegram did not mention that a demonstration of search and rescue dogs at Cerritos College was to raise awareness for a Court Reporters Association effort to sponsor search and rescue dogs. The group raised $10,000 last year to sponsor a dog that aided the effort after Hurricane Katrina. The group is in the process of raising an additional $10,000 for a second rescue dog.
Southeast Perspective
September 13, 2006

Cerritos College Teacher TRAC
Students Help Lead Middle School
Math Camp at CSULB

"This program makes the concepts very engaging and energetic," explained Teacher TRAC student Susan Massey.

NORWALK, CA - There's nothing like having ancient Greek mathematician Thales himself-complete with a grape-leaves head wreath and white toga-explain the concept of similar triangles. But that's just what happened for nearly 50 area middle school students during Math Camp in July at California State University, Long Beach. Joining the students as camp leaders were four Cerritos College Teacher TRAC students.

For two weeks each summer, CSULB organizes a hands-on, half-day "math camp" that challenges and refreshes students in Geometry and Algebra. The camp is funded in part through a state grant that seeks to increase students' abilities in the areas of mathematics and science.

The Teacher TRAC students are involved with the program as part of the Cerritos College Teaching Secondary School Scholar Partnership (TSSP) grant funded by the National Science Foundation. Next summer, Teacher TRAC Director Sue Parsons stated that Cerritos College students will assist in both science and math camp at CSULB.

Serving as "camp counselors" were Gabriela Gonzales, a mathematics major; Nancy Mendoza, also a mathematics major; Beatriz Soria, an engineering major; and Susan Massey, a liberal studies major. Working alongside master teachers throughout the two weeks of Math Camp allows the Teacher TRAC students a chance to see what lies ahead of them in a teaching career.

"I think this will seal the deal for them," said Sue Parsons, director of Cerritos College's Teacher TRAC.

"They'll either decide that they love it and want to continue on the path to

MATH CAMP page 10
Cerritos College Teacher TRAC Students Help Lead Middle School Math Camp at CSULB

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

teaching full-time, or they'll find that teaching is perhaps secondary to their love of math or science."

The Teacher TRAC students lead the math camp students in hands-on activities such as constructing and measuring a small, three-dimensional pyramid; another morning, the group visited CSULB's Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden to estimate the number of koi in the garden's pond.

"When I was in school, you learned and didn't do," said Massey, as she walked with her students from a morning presentation to their smaller group session.

"But this program makes the concepts very engaging and energetic...it allows the students to make discoveries on their own."

Massey led her 15 students in a discussion about congruent triangles. They tossed a blue stress ball across the room as they responded to questions posed by Massey: How do we know the triangles are similar? What's the difference between similar and congruent triangles?

In another classroom, Gonzales lead students through a problem that helps them compare angles and sides of a triangle.

The middle school students range in ages between 11 and 15 and are from area schools such as Rogers Middle School in Los Alamitos and Cubberley School in Long Beach.

Serving as master teachers during the math camp were veteran educators Robert Nguyen, a high school teacher Mayfair High School, Bill Rodriguez, a sixth grade teacher at Cubberley K-8 School in Long Beach, and Stephanie Siavli, a fourth grade teacher also from Cubberley. Paula Granillo oversees the math camp as part of CSULB's education department.

"True math camp experience is enthusiastic children who can't wait to learn and explore new concepts," said Granillo.

Cerritos College's Teacher TRAC program offers many services, programs, and pathways for students interested in teaching K-12. The Teaching Secondary School Scholar Partnership Program (TSSP) focuses on developing much-needed mathematics and science teachers for grades 7-12. For students interested in becoming an elementary school teacher, Teacher TRAC's flagship program is a partnership with California State University Long Beach. As a student in the integrated, standards-based Teacher TRAC / CSULB program, students can earn their bachelor's degree and multiple subject teaching credentials and complete their student teaching within four years. For more information about the program, visit www.teachertrac.com.

Cerritos College serves as a comprehensive community college for southeastern Los Angeles County. Communities within the college's district include Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and portions of Bell Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs and South Gate. Cerritos 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 20,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at www.cerritos.edu.
SoCal MacFair returns Nov. 3-4
By Peter Cohen

The Southern California MacFair returns to Cerritos College in Norwalk, Calif. for its fifth year, from November 3-4, 2006. The even is expected to gather more than 40 companies.

The show features both an exhibit area and hands-on and classroom training workshops. Scheduled to hold workshops are experts including James Rea, Stephen M. Burns, Scott Immerman, Marni Melrose, David Barrett and Michael Levin.

The Southern California MacFair 2006 will feature the “Virtual MacFair 2006” for the first time this year — an abbreviated version open to “virtual attendees” who can’t come. The Virtual MacFair will enable users to listen to select seminars using Skype, the Voice over IP (VoIP) chat software.

Discounts are available for attendees who register in advance.
SoCal MacFair 2006 Opens Registration
by Jeff Gamet, 9:55 AM EDT, September 14th, 2006 - Digg This

Registration for the Southern California MacFair 2006 is now open. The event is on November 3 and 4 at Cerritos College in Norwalk, CA. Hands-on classes, workshops and presentations are scheduled for both days, along with an exhibitors hall. New this year is the Virtual MacFair, which lets southern California residents remotely attend certain events through Skype.

Workshops and presentations are scheduled all day on Friday and Saturday. The exhibitor hall will be open on Saturday. Advance ticket prices start at US$17.
Cerritos college wins grant

Education: Funding will support automotive classes at the school.

By Samantha Gonzaga

NORWALK — Don’t let their absence at local Southland high schools fool you — auto shop classes are far from being a thing of the past.

They’re a window to the future at Cerritos College, where about 90 juniors and seniors from ABC, Norwalk-La Mirada and Bellflower unified school districts became the first crop of students to take automotive automotive courses at the college at the campus’ Regional Occupational Program. Made possible by a $450,000 state grant, the program introduces high school students to the technology side of the industry.

The program is one of the innovations in the college’s automotive technology and manufacturing programs, thanks to a recent flood of grants and auto industry donations. The most recent contribution $25,000 the Nissan Foundation gave Aug. 29 — put the dollar amount to about $1.2 million.

The new money is earmarked for automotive education programs and projects such as the Southland Cerritos Center for Transportation Technology, a state-of-the-art center to study alternative fuel technologies and a design lab that local manufacturers could use.

“The important thing is that as we’re doing all this, it puts the focus on Cerritos College as having a real center for excellence in transportation training, and I hope we can call it a regional training center that can serve our students as well as the community,” said Randy Peebles, dean of the business and technology division.

Many students in the college’s automotive programs have gone on to work in specialized, high-wage jobs at local auto dealerships, Peebles said. Student enrollment has risen steadily in the last three years, with about 1,000 studying in the college’s Center for Advanced Transportation Technology.

Peebles said the college’s relationships with industry leaders, Michigan’s Northwood University and trade organizations have helped the college qualify for grants, as well as made them attractive to corporations that invest in the college’s programs. Northwood is the only university in the nation that offers bachelor’s degrees in automotive and automotive management, which Cerritos College students could earn through a joint program.

Since the summer began, Cerritos College has received $338,000 from the Industry Driven Regional Collaborative from the California Community College Chancellor’s Office; $570,000 from the California Manufacturers Technology Center; a $205,000 grant from the Advanced Transportation Technology Consortium and a $14,000 DaimlerChrysler grant.

The money also spells greater opportunities for the manufacturing program, said Jose Anaya, director of the college’s Center for Applied Competitive Technologies.

There, training is focused on work such as alternative fuel solutions, 3-D automotive designs and carbon fiber technology — some of the elements that help manufacturers stay competitive.

The Southland Motor Car Dealers Association — a trade association representing 80 Los Angeles County car dealerships — helped the college receive its Nissan grant with an endorsement, said SMGCA executive director Todd Leutheuser.

In addition to supporting the college’s automotive program, SMGCA has also donated $200,000 toward the planned renovation of a management training facility on campus, he added.

Samantha Gonzaga can be reached at samantha.gonzaga@presstelegram.com or at (562) 499-1284.
Mt. SAC welcomes 25,350
College debuts new 3-story, $28 million science lab building

BY SANG LEE
STAFF WRITER

WALNUT — Trading in pristine beaches on the Caribbean wasn’t an easy decision for Mt. San Antonio College freshman Stakira Hulse.

But, on her first day of school, the 19-year-old Belize native expressed no regrets over making the trek to Walnut to pursue her professional dreams. Mt. SAC welcomed more than 25,350 students, a 7 percent increase from last year, to the new school year Monday for the first day of instruction.

“My friends in Belize told me to come to Mt. SAC,” Hulse said. “I want to become a doctor and I heard they have good science programs.”

Luckily for Hulse, Mt. SAC recently completed construction on its $28 million, 70,000-square-feet Science Lab Center as part of the Measure R bond passed in 2001. The three-floor structure, containing 23 labs, is the first new science center since the school was originated in 1946. Mt. SAC Dean of Natural Sciences Larry Rediger believes that nearly one-third of the student population will use the facility this year. The center’s construction is the first phase in a project estimated to cost $70 million over five years to revamp the science and math departments.

“Our natural sciences department is bigger than 20 percent of all community colleges in California,” said Rediger, citing the department’s budget and the size of the faculty and student body. Mt. SAC has the highest enrollment for a single-campus community college in California. Mt. SAC’s vice president of student services, Audrey Yamagata-Noji, credits the increase of freshman to a vigorous recruiting plan the college made over the summer.

“We worked conscientiously with our high schools to give students information about our programs. We also went to the concerts in the park, the West Covina mall and the farmers market,” Yamagata-Noji said.

“We tell them that we are a very well-established college with the greatest array of courses and programs literally from A to Z, from airplane powerplant to zoology, we have the whole gamut.”

Although focused solely on credits for matriculation, 20-year-old J.P. Hegeman said he hopes to go into either movie production or acting. Receiving his GED in Indiana, Hegeman said his first day at Mt. SAC gave him inspiration to pursue his ambitions.

“I feel motivated, like this is my life. This is what I’m about to do,” Hegeman said. “Sometimes, it can be overwhelming, but I’m planning my future so that I do what I want to do.”

sang.lee@sgvn.com
(626) 962-8811, Ext. 2393
New SAT scores show big decline
Dip blamed in part on updated format

By Justin Pope
Associated Press

The new scores also stand out because just two weeks ago the rival ACT exam reported its biggest score increase in 20 years.

“It does show how meaningless the test is as a measure of educational quality, that technical changes in the test can significantly alter the [scores],” said Bob Schaeffer, an SAT critic and public education director of the group FairTest. “It’s the test, not the education, that’s being measured.”

Christine Parker, executive director of high school program development at test-prep company Princeton Review, said the College Board has always called even small increases important, so it’s surprising to see it downplaying the decline.

“This is just the latest in a long line of bad news,” she said. “They’re in a very defensive posture.”

The results were not a surprise in the academic community. The College Board had previously indicated scores would be down this year after numerous colleges began reporting the trend.

Average reading scores for African-American students rose one point to 434, while math scores fell two points to 429.

The College Board lists three categories for Hispanic students. Scores for Mexican-Americans rose three points overall, Puerto Ricans’ fell two points and scores of students who identified themselves as “Other Hispanic” fell 11 points.
Group: Exit exam failure may not prevent college

By David Rogers
Staff writer

LONG BEACH — If you’re a student who hasn’t passed the California High School Exit Examination, fear not: You can still go to college.

That was the message of Long Beach Unified School District and Long Beach City College officials at Monday’s meeting of the city’s Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force.

The group invited the officials because it heard concerns about students who haven’t passed the exam, and “we don’t want education to be passed off for them,” said Anitra Dempsey, the city’s human dignity officer and a task force member.

Students will still need to earn a high school diploma to earn a college degree, although Long Beach City College has career programs that don’t require a diploma, said Provost Pauline Merry and Dean Farley Herzek of the college’s Pacific Coast Campus.

But plenty of after-school help is available for students having trouble passing the exit exam, said LBUSD Superintendent Chris Steinhauser. Students are also encouraged to sign up for Advanced Placement and receive university credit for their high school work, and a limited number of students can also take college courses without paying any fees at either LBCC campus, or at Jordan, Wilson or Cabrillo high schools, the officials said.

Eddie Pierson, a member of the task force and the founder and CEO of Academic Uprise, a nonprofit with a goal to help at-risk youth succeed academically, said he was encouraged “that the school district and the city college are going to work together. It’s going to give this task force an opportunity to enhance the lives of many students.”

The task force formed in 2004 to coordinate various gang preventive efforts and help gang members turn their lives around.

David Rogers can be reached at david.rogers@presstelegram.com or (562) 499-1246.
NEW CSULB STRUCTURE EASES BURDEN

Parking problems solved?

A picture of success? Empty spaces at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday in the new campus parking structure suggest that every Cal State Long Beach student who wanted a parking space on campus was able to find one.

Education: Students paid for $22 million facility; now they're reaping the benefit.

By Kevin Butler
Staff writer

LONG BEACH — New Cal State Long Beach student Matias Cardenas had been told of the parking difficulties he would face during the first two weeks of the new semester.

"I heard it was the most atrocious thing in the world the first two weeks," the junior transfer student said.

That's when students descend on the campus to ask professors to add them to classes after the registration deadline has passed.

This fall, though, CSULB students have the benefit of a new, 1,400-space parking structure in the northeast part of campus, near the intersection of Palo Verde Avenue and Atherton.

Cars line up to enter the structure Tuesday morning. The building provides a net increase of 900 parking spaces. The campus overall has 13,427 parking spaces; 10,172 are for general student parking.
CONTINUED FROM A1

Street.
The parking isn’t free, though.

About three years ago, a student fee advisory committee approved increasing the semester student parking fee from $63 to $98 to fund two new parking structures.

Unexpected increases in construction costs forced the university to forego the planned second new structure, said Scott Charmack, CSULB associate vice president of physical planning and facilities management.

“Over the last three years, we’ve seen building costs go up close to 50 percent, and that’s never happened before,” Charmack said.

The university did build the roads and utilities for the planned second structure, which would be located just north of the newly constructed garage, Charmack said.

The newly built structure, which cost about $22 million, provides the campus a net gain of 900 spaces, since surface parking spaces already existed at the site before the garage’s construction.

Members of the public can purchase day passes for $3.25 to park in the garage as well.

The CSULB campus has a total of 13,427 parking spaces — 10,172 of which are general student spaces.

On Tuesday morning, students’ cars streamed into the new parking structure. By 10:30 a.m., about half of the spaces on the structure’s roof level were filled.

Shawna Abbott, a 21-year-old senior studying journalism, said the structure will allow her to get to classes more quickly. The structure is not far from the journalism building.

“It really helps if you are late or if you just want to get there early to talk with your teacher,” she said.

Finding a parking space after the crowded first two weeks isn’t difficult — if you get to campus at least 15 minutes before class, she said.

Gutierrez, new to CSULB this fall, hasn’t experienced campus life without the new structure.

“I’ve been lucky enough to have it here the whole time,” the 21-year-old said.

Kevin Butler can be reached at kevin.butler@pressteamagram.com or (562) 499-1308.