FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20 – 26, 2005

In progress
- Kristen Habbestad worked with the Long Beach Press-Telegram to plan a full-color advertising supplement on Cerritos College’s history to come out in late October.

Coverage
Herald American – August 18, 2005 – Article about new members to local school boards. Cerritos College included in article.

Wave (East & North editions), The Press, Lynwood Press, Herald American – August 18, 2005 – Article about Cerritos College alum Jeff Tedford.

Downey Business – September 2005 – The second article from a series focusing on the history of Cerritos College in the 60s.

Press Telegram – September 1, 2005 – Article about Cerritos College coach Frank Mazzotta apologizing for his insensitive remarks.

Press Telegram – September 1, 2005 – Article about junior college football teams. Cerritos College included in article.

Press Telegram – September 3, 2005 – Article about local colleges kicking off their football season. Cerritos College included in article.

Press Telegram – September 3, 2005 – Blurb about sports team round-up. Cerritos College included in article.


Southeast Perspective – September 8, 2005 – Article about Cerritos College receiving $282k National Science Foundation grant.
Orange County Register – September 9, 2005 – Article about Cerritos College developing its program for students training to be high school math and science teachers.

Westside Weekly – September 16, 2005 – Q&A with Cerritos College pharmacy technology professor Ralph Casas.

Whittier Daily News – September 19, 2005 – Calendar blurb about Cerritos College’s Burnight Center Studio performing “The Diary of Anne Frank.”

Related Articles
Whittier Daily News – September 6, 2005 – Article about the new UC Merced campus opening.

Whittier Daily News – September 21, 2005 – Article about UC officials considering using private funds to supplement top executives’ pay.

Whittier Daily News – September 22, 2005 – Article about the bleak fiscal forecast for the UCs.

Los Angeles Times – September 22, 2005 – Article about the UCs facing tough policy choices in the months and years ahead.

Los Angeles Times – September 23, 2005 – Article about the UC Board of Regents giving initial approval to a proposal to boost all employee salaries to market levels within a decade.
Cerritos College, ASCC Host Memorial Ceremony, Plaque Dedication for Former Student

NORWALK, CA – September 19, 2005 – Members of the Cerritos College Board of Trustees, Associated Students, administration, faculty and staff joined family and friends of former Cerritos College student Donald Palicz on Thursday evening, September 15 for a plaque dedication to honor the life of Palicz, who, at age 20, met an untimely death while attending Cerritos College.

Donald Palicz’ Story

Donald James Palicz was born October 24, 1942 in Oak Park, Illinois to Emil and Alice Palicz.

A few months after Don’s birth, the family moved to Iowa where they resided until leaving for Bellflower, California in 1952. Not too long after their arrival to the golden state, the Palicz family built their home and settled in La Mirada in 1953.

Don was a student at Moffett Elementary, Centennial Junior High and Excelsior High School where he earned his high school diploma in June 1960.

– More –
Upon graduation he enrolled at Cerritos College and started classes in the fall of 1960.

Early on, Emil and Alice noticed that their son Don was gifted. At age 15 his artistic ability was displayed through cake decorating. He took such an interest in the art, that at age 16 he competed with professional adult bakers in a contest, placing 2nd and 3rd.

In addition to cake decorating, during Don’s high school years he took drafting classes. His drafting skills along with what he learned from his father, allowed Don to draw the plans for the family’s guest house. The plans passed Los Angeles County’s requirements, and Don and his brothers actually helped build the 616-square-foot building in 1958-59. Those same skills came in handy when he took on a job at the Biltmore Trailer Company after high school graduation.

Don was a busy young man, attending Cerritos College, working at the trailer company by day and the La Mirada Drive-In Theater by night. But he was content. He told his mom many times that his six months at Cerritos College meant more to him than the previous 12 years of school. He said he finally felt that he had found his place and began enjoying each day as it came along.

With earnings from his job, he purchased a 10-speed racing bike so he would have transportation to Cerritos College. He, Bill Axline (who was the ASCC vice president at the time) and other friends were making plans for the summer of 1961 to bicycle throughout Europe staying in youth hostels. He was going to finance the trip with his savings, hoping to meet some pastry chefs in Europe.

Don never had the opportunity to see Europe. Death came suddenly on April 1, 1961, as he peddled home from work at the drive-in theater. Don was struck by an intoxicated motorist in a hit-and-run collision.

— More —
As a result of Don’s tragic death, Cathy Ireland, a Cerritos College student, started a collection to build a memorial in Don’s honor.

The Original Memorial

Less than a year after Don’s death, the Associated Students of Cerritos College decided to build a fountain in his honor. Students pulled together to raise money and develop designs for the fountain, and even the college president got involved. Dr. Ralph Burnight, the first president of Cerritos College, joined the Palicz family in their home to look over and select the fountain that would honor the memory of their son. A formal ceremony was held on January 16, 1962, as Dr. Burnight accepted the memorial on behalf of the college. The fountain read: “In Memoriam, Donald J. Palicz, April 1, 1961.”

In the late 1970s the fountain mysteriously disappeared and a reporter for Talon Marks, the college’s student newspaper, went in search of the fountain. According to the February 28, 1979, issue of Talon Marks, student reporter Nancy Haase discovered that the fountain was removed to have some repair work done and would soon be relocated 50 feet from its original location. The reconstructed fountain stood in its new location until 1999 when it was removed during the renovation of what is now Falcon Square.

A Lasting Tribute

The memorial fountain may no longer stand in the “quad” as it was known; however the memory of Donald Palicz still lives on.

“In thinking about today’s event, I was reminded that the backbone of Cerritos College is the students,” said Cerritos College President Dr. Noelia Vela.

“We exist to serve the community by building students’ futures through learning, and Cerritos College is pleased to honor Donald and his family with this memorial plaque.”

— More —
Cerritos College Board President Dr. Ted Edmiston and ASCC President Paulo Amaral assisted in unveiling the new plaque and the re-dedication of the Donald J. Palicz Memorial. As the plaque was unveiled, members of Don’s immediate family, his mother Alice and his siblings, Richard, Charles, and Linda, were at the podium and were the first to see the memorial plaque.

The new memorial plaque in Falcon Square reads: “In Memoriam, Donald J. Palicz, 24 October 1942 - 1 April 1961.” In addition to being the first to view the plaque, each member of Donald’s family was presented a piece of the original marble fountain.

Don’s mother and two siblings each shared a few words at the podium and thanked longtime friends for attending the service. Alice Palicz shared that she was “overwhelmed” to receive a portion of the original marble fountain, and shared that the memory of her son was truly honored by the evening’s events.

“In his time at Cerritos College Don left a lasting impression,” said Board Trustee and Emcee Bob Arthur, “and it is our honor to have a plaque placed here in his memory.”

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 within the college’s district include Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, Lakewood, La Mirada and Norwalk. 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 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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Three area boards to get new members

Staff Report

NORWALK — There will be at least one new face on the Cerritos College Board of Trustees, the Norwalk-La Mirada school board and the Little Lake City school board come December after an incumbent on all three boards chose not to file for re-election in the Nov. 8 ballot, according to a representative at the Registrar of Voters office here.

College Trustee Eric Gutierrez of Norwalk, Norwalk-La Mirada board member Gabriel Garcia of La Mirada and Little Lake board member Janet Rock of Santa Fe Springs did not file for re-election by the 5 p.m. deadline Friday.

That extended the filing deadline for those three offices until Wednesday at 5 p.m.

Two incumbents, Bob Neidigh of Downey and Bob Eggle of Bellflower, who was appointed to the board after his wife Cheryl died, will face Robert Hughlett, a retired college administrator from Cerritos, and South Gate City Clerk Carmen Avalos for the Cerritos College board Nov. 8.

Avalos was unsuccessful in her effort two years ago. Her city clerk position also is an elected one, but she has said there would be no conflict between the two posts. She resides in the part of South Gate which is in the Cerritos College District.

The college district covers the cities of Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, Downey, Lakewood, La Mirada and Norwalk.

In the Norwalk-La Mirada race, incumbents Ed Hengler of La Mirada, Ana Valencia of Norwalk and Daryl Adams of Norwalk will face challengers Barbara J. Baiz, a county grant manager from La Mirada and John Jesus Johnson, a math teacher from Norwalk. Victor R. Juan of Norwalk and Chris Pflanzer of La Mirada took out nomination papers and could complete filing by Wednesday.

Appointed incumbent Karen Morrison of La Mirada will be unopposed for the remaining two years in her term.

In the Little Lake district, Mercedes G. Uribe, a payroll supervisor from Santa Fe Springs, has filed to challenge incumbent Hilda Acosta of Santa Fe Springs and challenger Ronald Gonzalez-Lawrence of Norwalk. Gina Almanza-Ramirez of Norwalk also has taken out nomination papers.

In other area school district races, the following candidates will be on the Nov. 8 ballot:

• ABC Unified School District: Paul Kabing, an educator, and Linda Lindell will challenge appointed incumbent Louise Dodson for the remaining two years of her term. All are from Cerritos.

Incumbent Olympia Chen, David Montgomery and Mark
November election races are set

Artesia, Hawaiian Gardens, eastern Lakewood and southern Norwalk.

Bellflower Unified: Incumbents Paul Holzer and Richard Buonocore of Lakewood and William Ste. Marie of Bellflower will face Ivanna Royse and Sonny Santa Ines, a controller. Both challengers are from Bellflower.

All terms are for four years.

Downey Unified: Ricardo Alarcón-Salazar, a railroad conductor; Nancy A. Swenson, a management systems analyst; and Luis Manquez, a state Senate legislative deputy; are seeking to replace Betty Ferraro, who is not seeking re-election in District 5.

Barbara (Bobbie) Samperi is unopposed in District 7 while candidates Joseph Serrano, an educator; and Martha E. Sodeiani, a parent educator, have filed in District 1.

Paramount Unified: Incumbents Tony Pena and Alicia Anderson, both of Paramount, and Sonya P. Cuellar of Bellflower, will face Kennedy Collins, a quality control coordinator from Long Beach. All terms are for four years.
He's a master at arms

California coach Jeff Tedford, a three-time Warren High School and Santa Clara College star, has been a remarkable developer of quarterback talent on the college level. He directed the Golden Bears to a 10-2 record in 2004, and cornerback Daymont Hughes (Consrow), who was born in Las Vegas and grew up in Downey, faces another rebuilding job.

"We do have a lot of new faces, but there is a lot of talent here," he said. "We have an All-American center in Marvin Phillips, and two tailbacks in Marques Downey and plush in Sione. We can flank them out wide. There's a lot of things we can do with him. I'm looking forward to him being an every-down kind of back."
Downey Business – September 2005

1960s Was a Decade of Expansion for Cerritos College

The 1960s were years of societal growth, change, reflection and reform. This period marked growth for the Cerritos Community College District as its campus grew and raised pride in its vis- a-vis. There were the college's first five academic years as additional buildings adorned the campus, new departments and curriculums were created and many past World War II Baby Boomers found the bargaining institution from surrounding communities.

By the end of 1969, eight buildings had been completed on campus, and floors were made available to grade the campus. In addition, there were two additional academic buildings. Tuition Center was completed on March 8, 1969 and became a social media for students who could collaborate, question, debate and discuss the topics of the day.

The library, completed July 6, 1969, became an anchor of valuable knowledge for students and the benefactors of improved campus news publications that would later serve as windows into the thoughts, goals, ambitions and events that garnered the college's evolution. The campus included 95 acres, and the permanent buildings brought the value of the college to $6.5 million.

The Ralph A. Romig Center for Performing Arts, named after the first president of the college, was also built in the early '60s and would serve as a reminder of Romig's commitment to the creation of the institution after his retirement in 1962.

The $1.5 million performing arts center was constructed north of the quad to serve the college and the community. It was a magnificent addition to the campus, offering facilities for virtually any type of theatrical performance.

The main wing of the building included classrooms, concert rooms and individual practice rooms. Also included were production rooms for the audiovisual services and a radio studio. The music department offered a wide range of courses, including a large workshop equipped for costume making, scene construction and lighting.

Following President Ralph Romig's retirement in 1962, Dr. Jack W. Means became the second president and superintendent of the college. Means, a former president at Siskiyou Area College, was praised by his colleagues for his personal warmth and genuine interest in the students. It was during his tenure that the college began to establish its identity as a comprehensive institution.

Means expressed great confidence in the abilities of the institution's faculty and staff, saying that with the proper leadership, the college could become a model for other community colleges. He added, "As long as we remain committed to the success of our students, we will continue to grow and expand our programs and services."
Cerritos coach

Cerritos College head football coach Frank Minnella finally apologized for his immature, stupid, sexist and insensitive remark regarding rape. He then blames the Press-Telegram, stating that the newspaper took his remarks out of context.

Really? That makes it sound like what he said was OK. How could, "I just wish he had raped someone and been convicted, then he could probably still coach for us" be taken out of context?

It's obvious Cerritos College has problems with two coaches. One will face the justice system. The other should be shown the door.

RON THOMBLE
Lakewood
JUNIOR COLLEGE

Aispuero returns to lead L.B. City

Preview. Experienced QB, solid defense strengths for Vikings.

By David Felton
Staff writer

An experienced quarterback and strong defense seem a bad foundation for a football team, and those are exactly what Jerry Jass has this season at Long Beach City College. The Vikings claimed the Mission Conference American Division title a year ago, won their bowl game and advanced to the Southern California playoffs. Leading the charge toward another strong season are sophomore quarterback Alex Aispuero and a defense that returns nice players.

Aispuero, a Jordan High graduate, was an All-MCAD first-team selection a year ago after throwing for 2,706 yards and 19 touchdowns. He led LBCC to three touchdowns in the fourth quarter and into field-goal range in overtime in a 51-50 victory over Mt. San Antonio that earned the Vikings the MCAD title. "As far as he takes us," said Jass, new in his third year at LBCC, "as far as we'll go."

The defense is led by its front four, which returns second-team All State and Henry Filo and tackles Josh Tazumun and Fale Westbrook. An outstanding group of linebackers is led by sophomores Antonio Strobi (All-MCAD first team) and Willie Davis. In the secondary are sophomore Damian Porter (second-team free safety) and Daniel Hemphill. "Defense will be our strength," said Jass, whose team topped West L.A., 46-06, in the American Bowl before a 42-21 loss to Saddleback that ended the Vikings' season at 7-5. "We're very fast...and experienced in the secondary; at linebacker and up front."

The defense may need to keep LBCC in games early while a young offensive line jells. Only second-team left tackle John Thomas returns up front. Freshmen Ben DePalma, LBCC and LeRoy Dickens will play a lot at receiver but no running back has emerged as a clear-cut replacement. For first-teamer Richard Nichols (1,130 yards, 13 TDs), Dion Myers, James Bady, Maurice Greigton, Josh Henry and Grant Thomsen are part of what Jass calls his "running back by committee" crew.

"We're young on offense but I think we're kind of talented at receiver and quarterback," said Jass, whose team is ranked ninth in Southern California and 16th in the state.

LBCC was the only area team to reach the postseason a year ago. Cerritos suffered through an injury-plagued season that saw the Falcons go 5-7. Cerritos returns seven players on offense, including first-team receiver Anthony Oliver and second-tean running back Jaron Johnson. "We think we had a really good fall camp," said Cerritos coach Frank Mazzotta, "capping his 28th season at the helm of the Falcons. "Our depth is a little better (than last year)."

Coppin (4-6 overall in 2004, 4-3 in the Western States Conference Southern Division) is strong on offense, led by Junior Ramses, Philip Mejia, Zadil Lepe, Jose Hernandez and Brandon Corna. Transfers Devin Stevens (Canyons) and Tim Simmons (Cerritos) are part of a revamped receiving corps for first-year coach Angelo Jackson, and sophomore Thomas Perez will handle the running back chores. Linebackers Anthony Atkins, Henderson Taylor, Larry Hutchinson and Larry Dennis have been impressive and the Tornados also field a talented secondary led by safeties Ashlee Palmer and Brian Stilger and corners Kevin Woods and Keenan Jones.
Local colleges kick off football season

Long Beach, CA (Los Angeles, Co.)
Press Telegram (Clin. D. 106,485)
(Clin. S. 124,865)

SEP 3 2005

Allen's P.B. Eq. 1954

The junior college football season kicks off today with two local teams on the road and two more opening at home.

Defending Mission Conference American Division champion Long Beach City, ranked 18th in the California Community College Football Coaches Association preseason poll, travels to play Ventura at Ventura High at 5 p.m.

The Vikings finished last season at 7-6 and advanced to the Southern California semifinals. Ventura, 5-6 a year ago, is ranked 20th in Southern California.

Arroyo, hoping to rebound from a disappointing 3-7 campaign in 2004, opens at 7 p.m. at Moorpark. The Falcons are ranked 14th in Southern California. Moorpark, 5-6 a year ago, is ranked 26th in the state and 13th in Southern California.

Compton opens the season at 1 p.m. at home against Santa Ana. The Tartars finished last season at 4-6. Santa Ana, 5-5 a year ago, is ranked 17th in Southern California.

L.A. Harbor hosts College of the Desert at 5 p.m. at San Pedro High. The Seahawks went 5-5 a year ago and tied for first place the Western State Conference Southern Division but missed the postseason. Desert went 6-4 in 2004.
Falcons spoil Rustlers’ opener

From staff reports

The Centrefox College women’s soccer team shut out visiting Golden West 8-0 and spoiled Golden West’s 2005 opener Friday in a nonconference matchup.

Silvia Ruiz, Yesenia Montenegro and Jackie Flores all scored twice for the Falcons (4-1). Centrefox goalie Megan Stanovich recorded four saves.

JO MENS SOCCER

Cypress 4, Citrus 1: Javier Rodriguez scored in the 16th and 58th minute to lead the Chargers (2-1) to a nonconference victory over Citrus (0-2).

WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL

UCLA 3, E. Kentucky 0: The Bruins opened up their 2005 season with a sweep of Eastern Kentucky.
A perfect start for Long Beach State poloists

Senior Brett McCleave had seven goals Sunday and 15 for the tournament. Brad Scales combined for four goals Sunday and goalie Thomas Ouyushko made 12 saves. The 49ers traveled to the inland Empire Tournament next weekend.

The Falcons put themselves in position to win Saturday’s game on the final play but Jeff Kline’s pass never found Anthony Oliver in the end zone in a season-opening loss...

Kline drove Cerritos 60 yards in just 26 seconds, setting up a final play from the 11-yard line. Oliver worked himself open in the back of the end zone but Kline’s pass was off the mark, ending the game.

Sophomore Jeron Johnson scored three times for the Falcons and Kline rushed for 100 yards on 10 carries. Kline also complete 22 passes for 211 yards but was intercepted three times.
Cerritos College Receives $282K National Science Foundation Grant

Three-Year Funding Supports Teacher TRAC Partnership with CSULB

NORWALK, CA — September 1, 2005 - Cerritos College announced today that its Teaching Teacher Training Academy (TARAC) program has received a $282,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The award, which goes into effect October 1, 2006 and expires September 30, 2008, will go toward developing a secondary school mathematics and science Teacher Training program called Teaching Secondary School Scholars Partnership (TSSP).

“With the increased emphasis on science and mathematics education, we are excited to have this opportunity to expand and improve our Teacher TRAC Partnership,” said Dr. Fabio Marzano, Director of Teacher TRAC.

“Qualified mathematics and science teachers are vital in providing expanded educational opportunities not only within the classroom,” said CSULB Dean of Education Joan Moni, “but as a necessary element to adequately prepare students for today’s technically sophisticated workplace.”

There is a great need for a secondary school teacher development program, given recent changes in state credentialing and an increased emphasis upon technological skills. Additionally, there are far too few qualified secondary teachers in the mathematics and science area, particularly in the high school classroom, which serves the majority of our high-poverty, multi-racial urban region.

The TARAC program is based on an existing, highly successful partnership between Cerritos College and California State University, Long Beach (CSULB). The program trains elementary school teachers through a streamlined program that allows the completion of a baccalaureate degree, student teaching, and a multiple subject teaching credential in just three years. TARAC will expand on this foundation by creating a secondary school teacher development program.

The overall goal of TSSP is to increase the number of secondary school teachers who have single subject credentials in mathematics or the sciences. To accomplish this goal, TARAC will accomplish the following goals and objectives:

1) Recruitment and retention of high quality candidates;
2) Development of a comprehensive program emphasizing mathematics and science content and pedagogy;
3) Development of a comprehensive professional development program;
4) Development of a comprehensive support program.

The project seeks to train and assist future high school math and science teachers in transitioning from a one-year to a four-year institution without “transfer shock” and to provide them with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in their new environment.

The CSULB Partnership is committed to the continued success of the project and has already committed $150,000 in additional funding to support the project.

Cerritos College’s Teacher TRAC program offers many services, programs, and opportunities for students interested in teaching K-12. For more information, contact Dr. Fabio Marzano, TSSP Director, at (562) 865-6572, or email teacher.trac@cerritos.edu.

For more information about the program, visit www.csulb.edu/teacher-trac.
CERRITOS

Teaching tool: Cerritos College will develop its program for students training to be high school math and science teachers with a new $292,380 grant from the National Science Foundation. The three-year grant will go to the Teaching Secondary School Scholar Partnership, a teaching program Cerritos College shares with Cal State Long Beach.

Cerritos Shiff
(714) 445-6695
cerritos REPORT.com
The doctor is in
Pharmacist goes back to school –
to teach and inspire students

By GRANT ROMAII
WESTSIDE WEEKLY

Ralph Casas wanted to try something different on the first day of school. He, a former
Pharmacist at Cerro Coso College, walked
into his dental hygiene class and took a seat in the back.
"I wanted to just sit there until they thought I should
ask me something," said Casas. "Eventually someone said,"\n"So, are you the teacher?"
Casas’ goal is to make students think. For 11 years he
has been using his unique teaching methods to com-
hibit his passion for medi-
time and education. As
department chair, faculty
co-
ordinator for Project HOPE (a
program to help underrepre-
sented students enter the
field of health) and vice presi-
dent of faculty senate. He also
teaches at Mirada High School.

Q: What is your typical
day like?
A: Is there such a thing as a
typical day? Generally I'm in
my office and begin my day by
teaching a class or meeting
with students or other col-
leagues. Discussing ways to
improve our teaching are key.
Part of Project HOPE is looking for new, innovative
ways to teach and serve stu-
dents.

Q: What inspired you
to get into this field?
A: I was a chemistry major. I
looked at all the appropriate
classes, but I knew I didn't
want to go to medical school.
Somewhere I ended up in phar-
acy. I took a college course
called physiological psychol-
ge, and became fascinated with
drugs and their ability to heal
and influence.

Q: What did you do after
school?
A: I worked for 15-20 years
in a clinical pharmacy at the
Presbyterian Hospital. I
worked in critical care.

Q: How did you come to
work for Cerro Coso College?
A: After graduating from
pharmacy school, I continued
my education and earned a
Ph.D., which stimulated my in-
terest in the way people learn.
I discovered through the pro-
gram that that was my true
passion. There was an en-
thusiasm to teach here. I applied
for the job and got hired.

Q: How have things
changed in your time here?
A: We have to keep up with
technology. We have a health
skills lab. You can walk into
the lab and whatever you would
find in a pharmacy you would
find there. We didn't have
anything even 10 years ago.
In this field everything is changing, and we have
to adapt to that.

Q: Do you keep in touch
with your former students?
A: Yes.

Q: What are some of them
doing now?
A: Some are in the first year
of pharmacy school. Martha is
doing her first year of a fellow-
ship at the National Institute
of Health. Mark is applying to
pharmacy school this year. Hugo
got accepted to Berkeley.
He's in his first year there
and he loves it. I could go on.

Q: What do students say
about you around campus?
A: I'm a tough teacher. I
make them think, and that's hard.
NORWALK — The play, "The Diary of Anne Frank," will take place from Oct. 7-16 at the Barnight Center Studio Theatre at Cerritos College, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk.

The play, which celebrates its 50th anniversary on Broadway this year, is a re-enactment of events from the diary of a Jewish girl who hid with her family from the Nazis in Amsterdam.

Seats are limited. General admission is $12 per person, $10 for students and senior citizens. Shows will take place at 8 p.m., Oct. 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15, and at 2 p.m., Oct. 16.

For more information, call (562) 465-0028 or go to www.cerritos.edu/theatre.
UC unveils new campus in Merced
Region hopes to benefit economically

By Julianne Barbusse

UC MERCED — Construction equipment still rumbles past the dorms at UC Merced, but a thousand students are ready to start classes and build new traditions at the university's first campus to open in 45 years.

Classrooms and engineering buildings — low-slung, towerless structures that blend into the flat Central Valley landscape — remain unfinished. And just beyond the library, a reminder of the property's former past as a cattle ranch. But the university, opening on Labor Day, has a job that seems as large as the Sierra Nevada's peaks, visible from the school on a clear day.

Students, business leaders and community members are the University of California system's 19th campus as the region that will bring economic diversity and the academic rigor of a research university to a mostly agricultural region where low-wage jobs dominate.

And university officials hope the new campus, expected to add about 300 students a year, reaching 2,000 by 2015, will quickly prove the UC system's powerful engine of innovation, which has become known for research and teaching excellence.

"With the current scientific revolution in the Valley that is the future home of the campus, we think that this will be an enormous difference in the economy of the region, and it will be directly tied to this campus," said Vice Chancellor David Ashley.

California's booming Central Valley is expected to almost double in population to 12 million people in the next 35 years, potentially providing the university with the dynamic set of findings that will make the valley an even more diverse and prosperous place. Turning that around will be the university's role, as Watts says, even for one of the world's premier higher education systems.

The agricultural basin is home to some of the nation's highest-paying farms and counties, but the economy depends on seasonal, low-wage jobs, creating entrenched pockets of poverty where educational attainment lags behind the rest of the state.

Merced County's farms, known for their dairy products, poultry and almonds, produced $2 billion in 2003 — a year when the county's unemployment rate was the highest in the state, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

California's top business leaders say they have to teach outside the university to find skilled employees.

"It's very difficult to find people in the valley that have the skills that we need to help our businesses grow — marketing, sales, research, engineering," said Fred Ruh, chairman of the Dinuba-based Ruh Foods, the country's leading manufacturer of frozen Mission-style salsa.

He drew $200,000 to develop the Ruh Family Chair in Entrepreneurship at UC Merced. His hope is that Merced graduates will start their own businesses and attract jobs to the region.

Admissions officials have made efforts to reach out to the valley's students, cutting the beginning class from 3,000 applications that come from as far away as the East Coast and Europe.

"We are excited to have that," said admissions Director Dwi Hsu. "About half of our new students are first-generation college students. And just under one-third are Latino, and 7 percent are African American. One-third come from low-income families, and one-third of the Californians are from the Central Valley.

University officials hope their presence in the valley will foster a college-going culture by making it easier and less expensive for local students to get a degree. About 75 percent of the valley's high school graduates went on to UC schools in 2002, which was not the case in the average of 70.5 percent.

"We also hope to see more students from here," Ruh said. "For now, you don't have a whole lot of kids from the valley being eligible."

Some experts worry that the university's boosters are setting themselves as impossible goals — that in a school with so many problems that have defied policymakers for decades.

"It's supposed to be this wonderful place where any institution can reasonably be expected to do," said Patrick Galligan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education in San Jose. "It'll do the Central Valley some good, but it won't be a panacea."
Donations may boost top UC salaries

Officials defend marketing strategy as program funding alternative

By Michelle Locke
Associate Press

OAKLAND — University of California officials are considering using private funds to supplement top executives' pay.

The idea behind the approach, which already is used by a number of other universities nationally, is to fix a problem UC officials have long complained about — that top pay at UC trails that of comparable institutions, making it hard to recruit and retain the best.

"We have had huge challenges in compensation of chancellors and other very senior deans and executives," said Regent Judith Hopkinson, one of the proponents of the plan, which was to be presented to a regents' committee on Thursday.

The proposal wasn't popular with longtime critics of UC executive pay, who say the system needs to bolster lower-paid workers' paychecks first.

"It's kind of outrageous that they're talking about increasing the salaries of these executives," said Dominic Chan, systemswide director for the University Professional and Technical Employees union, which has been bargaining with UC officials since May 2004.

But Hopkinson said donations could free up state money, benefitting all employees.

"It's not a salary increase. It's an alternative method of funding program, and that will mean over time that the money that would normally come from state funds will be available to go elsewhere," she said.

The executive pay proposal is part of a $2.5 billion plan to raise all salaries to market levels over the next 10 years.

Under the proposal being put forward Thursday, private funds would be used to supplement salaries of people making more than $250,000, with the donations going to pay amounts in excess of that. There are now seven such positions. Ultimately the list of privately supplemented salaries could be expanded to 42 positions, including chancellors of the 10-campus system and some deans.

Hopkinson said those are positions that were shown to be below-market by an independent study and are also the kind of jobs donors might be interested in supporting.

Only certain donors would be approached for contributions "in a manner approved by the Regents," the proposal states, and no university official could ask for money for his or her own salary.

The seven UC executives making more than $500,000 are President Robert Dynes, $356,000; Provost M.R.C. Greenwood, $360,000; UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Birgeneau, $390,000; UC San Francisco Chancellor Michael Bishop, $396,000; and Senior Vice President Joseph Mullinix, UC San Diego Chancellor Marye Anne Fox and UC Irvine Chancellor Michael Drake, who all make $300,000.
Officials: UC faces bleak fiscal future

SAN FRANCISCO — The fiscal forecast for the University of California is bleak, and administrators said Wednesday some tough decisions are ahead.

"This is really a critical time," UC President Robert Dynes said. "The erosion has been going on for decades."

UC administrators gave the long-term financial rundown to the system's governing Board of Regents at their meeting Wednesday, saying the need and demand for a UC education is going up at a time when state funding continues to decline.

Since 1984, California has increased spending for prisons by 126 percent and boosted spending on K-12 education by 26 percent. But spending on higher education dropped 12 percent, said Bruce Darling, UC senior vice president for university affairs.

Early signs of trouble include a student/faculty ratio that has risen above the goal of 17:1 to roughly 18:1 and staff and faculty salaries that have fallen behind comparable institutions, said Larry Hershman, UC's budget director.

Meanwhile, student fees have increased sharply in recent years, now approaching $9,000 a year including various campus fees.

However, UC is still cheaper than other major public institutions and increases in financial aid have kept percentages of low-income students high, Hershman said.

Some regents were frustrated by the presentation, saying they're familiar with UC's state funding slide and want to see more solutions.

"Our plan, it appears, is that we whine a lot about the inability of the Legislature to fully fund," said Regent John Moores. But UC administrators said the point was to open a discussion on some of the big issues; more detail will be presented when regents formally take up the 2006-07 budget in November.
Lean Times Foreseen for UC System

By Rebecca Trounson

SAN FRANCISCO — With little likelihood of major increases in its state or federal funding, the University of California will face tough policy choices in the months and years ahead, including possible enrollment caps, steep hikes in student fees or a decline in the quality of academic programs, UC officials said Wednesday.

The warning, delivered by the university's top administrators, sounded a grim note as UC's Board of Regents launched a long-term planning discussion that is expected to continue over several board sessions.

Some regents, however, said they had heard similar concerns in the past and wanted more specifics and ideas for solutions.

UC President Robert C. Dynes pointed to what he and some other officials described as early signs of trouble for the university. They cited faculty and staff salaries that have slipped below par with comparison institutions, rising student-faculty ratios and declining financial support for graduate students, among other factors.

"We can no longer go on band-aiding," Dynes told the regents, referring to several years of tough budgets. "We're going to face some stark decisions regarding the quality, the accessibility of the university. Something has to break."

The presentation, intended as an overview, drew complaints. Regent John J. Moore expressed frustration with the presentation. He said he had not heard enough concrete details or "anything particularly innovative."

"Currently our plan, it appears, is to whine a lot about the inability of the Legislature to fully fund the university and to "hope something magic happens," Moore said."

But administrators said the idea Wednesday was to begin a long-term discussion, with more details to come when the regents take up UC's 2006-07 budget in November.

Chairman Gerald I. Parson said he and other regents hoped that administrators would consider all options.

The regents are expected to discuss and vote today on a proposal to use private funds to supplement the salaries of UC's top executives, a move the university's leaders say is necessary to attract and keep the best administrators.
UC Regents OK Salary Increases

By REBECCA TROUTON

SAN FRANCISCO — The University of California's Board of Regents gave initial approval Thursday to a proposal to boost all employee salaries to market levels within a decade but put off a decision on the plan's most contentious aspect, the idea of using private donations to supplement the pay of UC's top executives.

A committee of the governing board had been scheduled to vote on the recommendation Thursday, but delayed that until at least November after several regents and faculty representatives raised concerns about using private funds to pay public employees.

UC officials say years of tight state funding have left UC salaries on average about 10% below those of comparable public and private universities, and have made it difficult to attract and keep the best professors and administrators.

The finance committee did approve two less controversial parts of the plan: the goals of raising all employee salaries to competitive levels within three years and adopting new guidelines for determining and setting salaries for about 400 senior managers throughout the UC system. Those proposals are expected to come before the full board in November, when the committee could again consider the private support proposal.

The procedures endorsed Thursday, if ratified by the full board, would establish many salary ranges and delegate pay decisions to campus chancellors and systemwide administrators, relieving regents of such duties. The regents still would be required to authorize salary increases for about 30 top positions, as well as any exceptionally large raises.

Supporters of the private support plan argued that UC leaders must have greater flexibility in recruiting and retaining top talent and said that, many universities nationwide, facing a number of public service cuts, have turned to such outside funding.

"We are facing a massive challenge to maintain quality at the University of California and pay competitive salaries," said Regent Judith Hopkinson, a key proponent.

Under the proposal, private donations could be used to supplement funding for salaries of UC's most highly paid executives, those making $350,000 a year or more. There are now seven such officials, including UC President Robert C. Dynes ($385,000), Provost M.R.C. Greenwood ($380,000) and UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert J. Birgeneau ($360,000); that list could be expanded to include 42 positions, including the 30 campus chancellors and some deans.

But John B. Ostry, a faculty representative who is a UC Irvine law professor, said he was concerned that the use of private donations for public salaries would set a bad precedent and that it might allow outside influences.

Regent George Marcus said he was worried that such a move could encourage the state to make additional cuts to the university's funding. UC should be willing to pay such salaries from its regular public budget if such pay is necessary, he said.

Employee union leaders and students also have criticized the plan, saying that more attention should be given to lower-paid staff and to keeping fees as low as possible.

Also Thursday, the regents received an update on safeguards and security measures aimed at ending repeated break-ins involving bodies donated to science at UC's five medical schools, including an alleged body-trafficking scheme that was broken up last year at UCLA.

The report, one of which was announced in January, include centralized management of the university's will-body programs, significantly strengthened security measures and new inventory controls, including the use of radio frequency devices to track cadavers.

Cathryn L. Nation, UC's interim vice president for health affairs, told the regents that many of the reforms have been implemented, and that a new systemwide director for the program, Brundie Schmidt, former director of the will-body program at UC Davis, had been appointed in May.

UCLA's program was suspended in March 2004 after authorities uncovered the allegedly illegal sale of hundreds of cadavers donated to the school. The director of the program, Henry Reid, and an associate, Keith Lewis, were placed on leave on suspicion that they had sold donated bodies for personal gain. Both denied wrongdoing and neither was charged in an ongoing investigation. Lewis died last summer. A third man, Robert V. Nelson, was arrested in the case but not charged; he too has denied wrongdoing. UC officials said Thursday that they did not know when the UCLA program would reopen.

At a criminal court hearing this summer, a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge criticized what he called the "glacial" pace of investigation of the case, and attorneys for Reid and the plaintiffs in a related civil case have questioned the ability of UCLA's Police Department to handle the complex probe.

UC police officials have defended their investigation. A spokeswoman for the district attorney's office said Thursday that UCLA police have yet to present the case to prosecutors.