FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 28—SEPTEMBER 5, 2006

Coverage


_Wave, East Edition_—July 13, 2006— Article about Carl Stammerjohn, department chair of Cerritos College Woodworking Department, as the featured artist on display at the Orange County Fair’s woodworking competition.


_Long Beach Press Telegram_—July 20, 2006— Article announcing Lacinda Feagin, Cerritos College business student, as the recipient of the Della Doyle Scholarship.


_Composites World_— August 2006— Article by Terry Price, program chairman for the Composites Training Center (CTC) at Cerritos College.

_Signal Tribune_— August 3, 2006— Article about Mary Kay representatives and Cerritos College cosmetology students volunteering at the Long Beach Memorial Medical Center’s, “Mini Makeovers.”

_The Downey Patriot_—August 11, 2006— Brief about Cerritos College’s performance arts department hosting concurrent productions of “Hamlet,” and “Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead.”


_Community College Times_ – August 22, 2006 – Article about Cerritos College alumna Cristina Hernandez, and her success through the Cerritos College Teaching Scholar Program.
Norwalk Community News – August 25, 2006 – Article about the Court Reporting Club offering Cerritos College students an opportunity to take photos of Search Dog Foundation handlers and canines.

Press-Teleram – August 27, 2006 – Article recounts 1986 AeroMexico Flight 498 plane crash and mentions memorial services held at Cerritos College.

Whittier Daily News– September 1, 2006 – Article mentioning a, “Veteran’s History Project,” a class being offered by Dr. Elijah Levy of Cerritos College.

Whittier Daily News– September 3, 2006 – Article about Cerritos College alum and award-winning parade float designer Raul Rodriguez.
Cerritos College Student Receives $1,000 Coca-Cola Scholarship
Funding Made Possible through Coca-Cola Foundation’s Two-Year Colleges Scholarship Program

For Immediate Release: August 3, 2006

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

NORWALK, CA – August 3, 2006 – Karen Woods, a student at Cerritos College, has received a $1,000 scholarship award from the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. Woods, of Long Beach, is a court reporting student.

Through the Coca-Cola Two-Year Colleges Scholarship Program, the Foundation awards a total of 400 scholarships annually to students attending higher-education institutions granting two-year degrees. In April, one scholar from each state received a $2,000 scholarship from Coca-Cola through the New Century Scholar Program of the American Association of Community Colleges and Phi Theta Kappa, the two-year college scholastic honorary organization. On June 20, an additional 350 students were awarded a $1,000 scholarship. All recipients have demonstrated academic success and participated in community service within the past 12 months.

“The Coca-Cola Two-Year Colleges Scholarship Program gives support and encouragement to an under-served population of college students,” said J. Mark Davis, President of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundations.

“This program is an extension of our long-standing commitment to college education throughout the United States. These fine students, who often juggle school, work and family, continue to give back to their communities through volunteer service.”

The Coca-Cola Two-Year Colleges Scholarship Program is made possible with funding from the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation. The Whitehead Foundation provides grants in support of human services initiatives. The late Joseph B. Whitehead was one of the original bottlers of Coca-Cola.

The Two-year Colleges Scholarship Program complements the Foundation’s Coca-Cola Scholars Program, which awards more than $3 million annually in college scholarships to 250 outstanding high school seniors. The Coca-Cola Scholars Program is one of the most recognized and respected corporate-sponsored scholarships in America.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation is supported by the financial commitment of the Downey Coca-Cola Bottling Company and the Coca-Cola Company. The foundation was created in 1986 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Coca-Cola and to establish a legacy for the education of tomorrow’s leaders. Now in its 7th year of funding the Coca-Cola Two-Year Colleges Scholarship Program, the Foundation has provided $2.8 million in scholarship awards to students attending two-year degree granting institutions and more than $29.7 million towards the Coca-Cola Scholars Program during the past 18 years.

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.

###
Cerritos College Theater to Present “Hamlet” and Stoppard’s “Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead”

Open Auditions to be held August 15-16

For Immediate Release: August 7, 2006

Contact: John Zamora at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2638

WHAT: The Cerritos College Theater Arts Department will present concurrent productions of Shakespeare’s, “Hamlet,” and Tom Stoppard’s, “Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead.” Both productions, which open October 20, will consist of the same cast, set, and costumes, but will feature different directors.

Auditions for both plays will be on August 15 and 16 with callbacks on August 17. Auditions are open to everyone, including students, faculty, staff, community members and alumni.

“Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead,” is an existential comedy involving two minor characters in “Hamlet” and shows the play from their point of view.

John Zamora will direct “Hamlet,” and Kevin Hoggard will direct “Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead.” Previously, Zamora has directed “A Piece Of My Heart” and “The Laramie Project,” while Hoggard has directed “The Diary of Anne Frank” and “The Man Who Came to Dinner.” He recently starred in “The Man of La Mancha.”

WHEN: Performance dates are October 20, 21, 27, 28 and November 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 at 8 p.m.

WHERE: Burnight Centre Theatre
Cerritos College
11110 Alondra Blvd
Norwalk, CA 90650

View a map of the campus online at www.cerritos.edu/guide

CONTACT: For more information, please contact John Zamora at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2638 or jzamora@cerritos.edu

COST: For the individual plays, prices are $12 for general admission and $10 for students with a current ID. Special ticket prices for both plays will be offered, with price details TBA.

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.

###
Cerritos College to Host Lecture Commemorating Mexican, Central American Independence Movements

Lecture will Focus on Leaders from Mexico, Honduras and Puerto Rico

For Immediate Release: August 31, 2006

Contact: Walter Fernández, Humanities/Social Sciences; (562) 860-2451, ext. 2757

WHAT: Cerritos College’s Liberal Arts Division, along with the campus’ Sociedad de Profesores His- panos, will host a lecture entitled, “Commemorating Independence Movements: Mexico, Central America, and Puerto Rico,” on Tuesday, September 12, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

The Cerritos College campus and community are invited to attend a lecture that will explore three 19th century independence movements that erupted in revolts during the month of September: The Hidalgo Revolt in Mexico, also known as “El Grito de Dolores,” (September 16, 1810), Central American Independence (September 15, 1821), and Puerto Rico’s, “El Grito de Lares” (September 23, 1868). The lecture will discuss who rebelled and why, how are they remembered, and what became of the revolutionaries that pioneered the independence movements. The lecture will focus on leaders Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla of Mexico, Francisco Morazán of Honduras and Ramón Emeterio Betances of Puerto Rico.

WHEN: Tuesday, September. 12, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

WHERE: Wilford Michael Library’s Teleconference Center (LC 155)

Cerritos College
11110 Alondra Blvd
Norwalk, CA 90650-6298

A map of the campus is available at www.cerritos.edu/guide

CONTACT: Walter Fernández, Humanities/Social Sciences; (562) 860-2451, ext. 2757, wfernandez@cerritos.edu

COST: The symposium is free. Daily permit for campus parking is $1.

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.

###
Former Cerritos College journalism students plan reunion

1929 Staff Report

The Cerritos College Journalism Department holds a 50th anniversary reunion for current and former staff members of the student newspaper Talon Marks at 4 p.m. Saturday in the Cerritos College Student Center and the Talon Marks Newsroom, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk.

A dinner and a tour of the newsroom and a display of Talon Marks memorabilia from the past 50 years are part of the activities.

Danon Andrews, sports news director at KTLA Channel 5 and a 1987 Cerritos College graduate, is the main speaker.

Information: (562) 860-2451, ext. 2619.

Other area events all open to the public, include:

Saturday, July 8
Musical: The Bellflower Theater Company presents the musical “The Fantastics,” in a 50-seat theater at 9831 Belmont St., with shows at 4 and 8 p.m. The play continues Saturdays and Sundays through July 30. Admission is $20, $15 for seniors and students.

Sunday, July 9
Sunday concert: The city of Pico Rivera opens a series of free concerts from 5 to 7 p.m. at Smith Park, 6010 Rosemead Blvd., with the band Bomba Chante, playing contemporary Latin music. There are art activities for children.

Regional Medical Center, 11500 Brookshire Ave., presents a free class for the family on healthy eating and nutrition from 6 to 7 p.m. Andrea Giancol provides information on weight loss, ideas for healthy meals and snack planning for all family members. Advanced registration is required. (562) 904-5580

Tuesday, July 11
EZRA Center: The EZRA Center for Mature Adults meets at 10 a.m. at Temple Ner Tamid, 10629 Lakewood Blvd., Downey. David Kaufman, associate professor of American Jewish studies at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles, discusses his book on Jewish celebrities. Registration and refreshments are at 9:45 a.m. A kosher lunch is served at noon. Cost is $6 for EZRA members and $7 for non-members. (562) 861-9276

City Hall concert: Free concerts begin on the north lawn of Norwalk City Hall, 12700 Norwalk Blvd., at 7 p.m. The Silvestros perform country music. Residents may bring lawn chairs or blankets and picnics. Food is on sale. (562) 929-5700

Heritage Park concerts: The Santa Fe Springs Parks and Recreation Department presents a free concert at 6:30 p.m. in Heritage Park, 12100 Mora Drive. The Susie Hansen Latin Jazz Band performs salsa music. Residents may bring lawn chairs, blankets and picnics and a barbecue dinner is available. (562) 946-6476

Thursday, July 13
Twilight concert: The Downey Community Services Department offers a free concert at 7 p.m. at Purnum Park, 10415 Rives Ave., with the Pico Rivera Jazz Band performing.

Parran Park concert: The Whitter Cultural Arts and Parks and Recreation Commission present a free concert from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Parran Park, 15390 Lambert Road, featuring the band Swingstation playing Dixieland sounds. Residents may bring lawn chairs or blankets and picnics. (562) 464-3560

Saturday, July 15
Waste disposal: The county Public Works Department stages a household hazardous waste round-up at the Cockpit Airport, 901 W. Alondra Blvd., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Accepted material includes batteries, old paint and paint thinners, used motor oil and other car fluids, cleansers, pesticides and pool chemicals. Electronic items accepted include VCRs, stereos, fax machines, computer keyboards and monitors, cell phones and other electronic equipment. (100) 23
Genealogy meeting: Whittier Area Genealogical Society meets at 1 p.m. in Whittier Masonic Temple, Greendale Ave., at the “Story of War Soldier and His Family.” Nathan speaks on “The Story of War Soldier and His Family.”

Sunday, July 16
Allergy art show: Local can showcase their work in monthly Pacific Boulevard Art Show from 10 a.m. to in the alley west of Boulevard at Gage Ave. Huntington Park. Items for 10 Days Counting may be submitted care of Ware Newspapers, 1660 Westville Blvd., Suite 60, Los Angeles, 90010, by fax at 323-594-6218, or by e-mail to tor@wavenewspapers.com
Cerritos instructor shows work at fair

1424
Staff Report

NORWALK — Carl Stammerjohn, department chair of the Cerritos College Woodworking Department, is the featured artist on display at the Orange County Fair’s woodworking competition.

The fair began July 7 and runs through July 30 at the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa.

Stammerjohn’s display includes eight original pieces of furniture and is shown alongside projects in the woodworking competition held during the fair, said Kristen Habbestd, the college’s media relations coordinator.

Stammerjohn has made custom furniture professionally since 1998, receiving numerous awards for his work, including recognition for design, craftsmanship and finishing. He has taught woodworking at Cerritos Community College since 2000.

“I’m motivated largely by my desire to take this wonderful organic material we call wood and shape it into beautiful and functional furniture,” he said. “I do so with minimal ornamentation, distilling the essence of the piece into its simplest form, while celebrating the inherent characteristics of the wood.”

Carl Stammerjohn, chair of the Cerritos College Woodworking Department, shows some of his work being displayed at the Orange County Fair in Costa Mesa through July 30.
Learn to cut water use in your garden

Home gardeners interested in cutting their water bills can sign up to attend a “California Friendly Gardening Workshop” this Saturday at Cerritos College.

Enrollees in the one-day gardening class may be eligible to receive a free “smart controller” for their sprinkler system, according to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

The workshop, which runs from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Norwalk campus, costs $39. Registration is available by calling (562) 467-5050, ext. 2521, or online at www.cerritos.edu.

Participants may be eligible to receive the smart sprinkler controller worth $400 if they meet certain requirements and bring in their old controller. To find out if you qualify, call the MWD’s Diane Harrelson at (213) 217-6167.

“These state-of-the-art devices monitor your garden or landscape’s environmental conditions and water your plants accordingly,” said Andy Hui of the MWD. “Studies show the devices save up to 40 gallons of water per household per day, or about 10 percent of total water use.”
Soroptimists present scholarships

1429 Staff Report

DOWNNEY — Soroptimists International of Downey presented scholarships to students in the city at a recent breakfast in the Downey Event Center at Rio Hondo Golf Course.

Lacinda Feagin received the Della Doyle Scholarship, given to a Cerritos College business student. The award is named after Downey’s first city clerk.

• Louie Aguilar of Warren High School and Glenys Butler of Downey High received the Special Education Achievement Award, presented for outstanding achievement or improvement in academics by special education students.

• Vocational scholarships, given to those training in a vocational field, were won by Charis Higgins at Downey High, Jaclyn Castellon, Samantha Hernandez and Estebano Rio from Columbus High School; and Brenda Alvarez, Rolanda Jara, Wendy Jimenez and Ryan Cherry from Warren High.

The club also presented its Women in Sports scholarship to Cal State Long Beach. The award is given to a university which promotes gender equity by financially aiding women students in their athletic program.

The main speaker at the luncheon was Donna Boose, retired deputy superintendent of the Downey Unified School District.

The scholarship committee was headed by Jean Brazelton and included Marvel Dodson, Monica Goel, Linda Haines, Patricia Heineke, Beverly Mathis, Judy McDonnell, Sonal Mundhra, Lorine Parks, Dorothy Pemberton and Sue Potter.

Mathis is president-elect for the coming year. Dodson is a past president.

Other participants were outgoing President Ellie Eck and board director Dianne Lumsdaine.
College hires department heads

NORWALK — The Cerritos College Board of Trustees has approved the hiring of four managers to fill open positions at the college, according to Kristen Habbestad, the college’s media relations coordinator.

The board July 5 appointed Linda Rose as dean of the Cerritos College Liberal Arts Division and Renée DeLong Chomiak as dean of Counseling Services, both effective July 6; and Lucinda Aborn as dean of the Disabled Students Programs and Services, effective July 31.

Also named was Kimberly Westby as interim dean of Student Support Services effective Sept. 1 for a period not to exceed June 30, 2007.

Rose had served as interim dean of the Liberal Arts Division since August 2005. Rose was hired as a full-time English faculty member in the Cerritos College Liberal Arts Division in August 1994.

Chomiak most recently served as the college’s CalWORKs (Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids) manager, a position she held since 2001.

Prior to coming to the college, Chomiak was executive director of Su Casa in Artesia, a nonprofit, community-based agency serving victims of domestic violence and child abuse.

Aborn has served as acting dean of Health Science and Athletics at El Camino College in Torrance since 1994. In addition, she was project director of four grant projects, including the Rehabilitation Services Administration’s Region 9 Interpreter Training Grant.

Prior to joining El Camino College, Aborn worked for 10 years at Cal State Northridge’s National Center on Deafness and Career Center.

Westby has more than 24 years of experience in financial aid services and has worked as a student affairs assistant in Cerritos College’s Financial Aid office since 1985.

She currently serves as a Region 8 representative member of the California Community College’s Student Financial Aid Administrators Association Executive Board.
In my tenure with the Composites Training Center (CTC), I've attempted to serve the needs of those "new" to the technology, as well as provide training to experienced professionals. I've had the privilege of seeing a number of large corporations participate in our programs — Boeing, Hexcel, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, Hyundai Aerospace, Honeywell, Sandia National Laboratories, NASA, Air Canada, BF Goodrich, USG Corporation and Innovation Sports, to name a few.

My purpose here, however, is not to extol our program, but to drive home an important message for those composites manufacturers who intend to do business in the emerging global economy. That point is framed in the form of a question: What drives manufacturers such as these to take advantage, often at significant expense of employee training opportunities?

For one, that's how they got where they are. More importantly, that's how they intend to stay there. Successful companies have realized that in order to protect themselves in this global economy today, they must invest in their employees. That investment is, primarily, in training. Unfortunately, for many companies, this investment is overlooked, under funded, put on the back burner or ignored … until a major crisis. This crisis is usually identified in the form of "profit loss," attributable to any of a number of sources: high reject rates, damaged tooling, material waste (resins, gel coats, supplies, etc.) and accidents. Add to this downtime — the lost, unproductive hours during which the company makes no money at all while technicians troubleshoot and correct the previous mentioned problems. One of the worst, however, is employee turnover, especially those who walk away with tools — not physical tools, but mental ones — the knowledge they've acquired while working for you.

These issues impact companies of all sizes, from the "mom-and-pop" to sophisticated volume production companies. But none of the above need to happen if the company is paying attention to their employees and their production. How can anyone expect to do the job properly without the proper tools — again, not just physical ones, but the mental ones as well?

Over the years many educational changes have taken place, and will continue. Currently, those changes are trending in the wrong direction. When we think of the traditional secondary public education system, from which we get most of our vital "shop floor" employees — the people who work where "the rubber meets the road" — we tend to recall the industrial arts programs (shop classes) of yesterday, which included both mandatory and sought-after elective courses in junior high schools and high schools. We usually think of positive, adaptive "hands-on" training experiences for our next generation of employees. Now, due to budget cuts, the trend among principals, deans and superintendents of schools is to close down these "expensive" shops (auto, crafts, drafting, wood, welding, plastics, etc.) to avoid the upkeep on equipment and the rising cost of supplies. The shift often goes unnoticed, through attrition: When a shop teacher retires, the position is not refilled. Often, it is cheaper to replace the program with remedial education, which can take place in a less-expensive "lecture only" classroom. As it is, many school districts now sell off valuable school properties at pennies-on-the-dollar to meet tighter budgets, rather than continue to build and grow our natural resources (our own young adults) "hands-on" skills. And who can blame them for making what is, in fact, a necessary business decision? They're doing the same thing you would be forced to do in a similar position.

My point? To make an investment in training their employees today, companies must be willing to invest in the programs that provide that training. Opportunities to do so do exist. Colleges and universities, faced with the same kinds of budgetary dilemmas, are forming R&D partnerships with private industry, where students get real-world experience doing research, product development and prototyping of components intended for commercial manufacture. Such arrangements actually help private companies make R&D more affordable yet at the same time, they pump much needed funding into what could be funding-starved and largely theoretical education programs.
Terry Price is the program chairman for the Composites Training Center (CTC) at Cerritos College (Norwalk, Calif.). Involved in the program for 30 years, Price has developed basic and advanced "hands-on" technical training courses, which are supported and used by trade societies, major manufacturers and suppliers, the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Air Force and the Federal Aviation Admin. (FAA).
Mini makeovers, big difference

BY JOSEPH Serna
Staff Writer

Walk through the sliding doors, make a few turns and head down the elevator.
A masseuse, a manicurist, Mary Kay consultants and a hairdresser are waiting.

But this isn’t a spa for just anyone to get a few hours of pampering, this is Long Beach Memorial’s “Mini Makeovers,” a day for free massages, face treatments and hair dressing for dozens of cancer patients.

Thursday afternoon Mary Kay representatives and Cerritos Community College cosmetology students volunteered at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center for a day of beauty, a day inspired by Kevin McQuarrie, who succumbed to cancer three years ago.

“Kevin was very good about making sure his comfort was primary—the mental and physical comfort,” said his sister, Meg McQuarrie. “It made a huge difference, to him chemotherapy meant getting sick all the time, and he didn’t get sick.”

Indeed, while Kevin McQuarrie stayed in the hospital for treatment, his family would not be far behind with the comforts of home.

“We would end up having a whole cart that we would take with us to the hospital” with his chair, a portable DVD player, pictures for the walls, and more, Meg McQuarrie said. “Going to the hospital wasn’t something he would look forward to, but it wasn’t something he dreaded.”

And to remove that dread for other patients, if even for only a few hours, Meg McQuarrie and Kevin McQuarrie’s friends created the non-profit Elixir Fund, which, according to the website, is “an organization dedicated to improving the comfort and care of cancer patients and their families.”

Last week, patients at Long Beach got a taste of Kevin McQuarrie’s medicine.

“It doesn’t go together does it?” asked Margery Gray, of her hospital visit for cancer treatment and the curling iron being twirled through her hair.

Gray said the certainly did not expect the pampered experience when she came all the way from Maine for her cancer treatment, which is not available in her state.

Though the day of beauty only lasts for a short time, McQuarrie hopes to turn it into an annual event at Long Beach Memorial, noting how good it feels for the patients, and for the people volunteering.

“I want to give back because I know how important it is,” said Katie McBride, a Cerritos College student, as she curled Gray’s hair. She had an aunt that went through cancer treatment as well.

“They need a little bit of cheering,” she said. As for what she gets out of it, she said, “no words can explain it. It’s good.”

Mark Reyes, a massage therapist who was a friend of Kevin McQuarrie’s, said, “Anybody that does any kind of healing work gets the benefit as well as giving the benefit.”

“My vision is to make cancer treatment like a spa day, when you’re here you get pampered,” McQuarrie said.

The Elixir Fund organization, which can be contacted by calling (562) 856-5333, is hosting its third annual live and silent auction on August 11 at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles.
‘Hamlet’ presented by Cerritos College

NORWALK--The Cerritos College Theater Arts Department will present concurrent productions of Shakespeare’s, “Hamlet,” and Tom Stoppard’s, “Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead.” Both productions, which open October 20, will consist of the same cast, set, and costumes, but will feature different directors.

Auditions for both plays will be on August 15 and 16 with callbacks on August 17. Auditions are open to everyone, including students, faculty, staff, community members and alumni. “Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead,” is an existential comedy involving two minor characters in “Hamlet” and shows the play from their point of view.

John Zamora will direct “Hamlet,” and Kevin Hoggard will direct “Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead.” Previously, Zamora has directed “A Piece Of My Heart” and “The Laramie Project,” while Hoggard has directed “The Diary of Anne Frank” and “The Man Who Came to Dinner.” He recently starred in “The Man of La Mancha.”

Performance dates are October 20, 21, 27, 28 and November 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 at 8 p.m.

For the individual plays, prices are $12 for general admission and $10 for students with a current ID.
Fitch Rates Cerritos Community College District, CA GOs 'AA'

SAN FRANCISCO--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Aug. 18, 2006--Fitch Ratings assigns an 'AA' rating to $35 million Cerritos Community College District (the district), CA's general obligation bonds, election of 2004, series 2006B. In addition, Fitch affirms the 'AA' rating on $36.7 million of outstanding GO bonds. The bonds will be offered via negotiated sale led by UBS Investment Bank on or about Sept. 7. The Rating Outlook is Stable.

The 'AA' rating reflects the district's continued healthy assessed valuation growth, satisfactory financial position and good financial management practices, low debt burden, and strong community support. These strengths are somewhat offset by fiscal concerns resulting from declining enrollment levels in addition to a below-average rate of debt amortization. General fund reserve levels have declined in recent years, primarily due to management's efforts to address capital outlay needs, self-insurance, and retirement funds requirements. Given recent declines in enrollment and the district's limited revenue raising ability, maintaining adequate reserve levels is an important credit consideration.

Established in 1955, the district is located in southeastern Los Angeles County. The district encompasses 52 square miles and includes the cities of Cerritos, Bellflower, Downey, Lakewood, La Mirada, Norwalk, Artesia, and Hawaiian Gardens. While the district draws from a large and diverse area, 58% of the student population is from outside the district boundaries, an indication of the district's competitive advantage. The college has one of the most diverse curriculums in the state, offering collegiate instruction, degrees, and certificates in nearly 90 areas of study and unique partnerships and placements with the private sector. However, full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrollment declined to 16,824 students in 2006, representing a 2.1% decrease since 2004. The decline is attributed to an increase in student fees, growing job opportunities in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, and rising commuting costs. Area demographic trends suggest modest enrollment growth in coming years.

The district's diverse local economy continues to expand, while the tax base is experiencing healthy gains. Health care, aerospace, entertainment and finance are prominent sectors of the regional economy. Recent unemployment rates in the city of Cerritos reflect further improvement in the economy and are below county and state averages. Assessed valuation grew 10% in 2006 or an average 8.8% since 2002, mainly as a result of turnover of existing properties and escalating home prices in recent years.

The district's financial position is satisfactory, despite an intentional drawdown in the general fund balance from fiscal 2004 levels. Upon the arrival of new management in 2004, the district established several new funds, including a capital outlay fund, retiree benefits fund, and self-insurance fund. These funds are now funded through annual transfers from the general fund. After achieving a general fund balance of 15% in fiscal 2003, reserve levels have declined to a still adequate $7.4 million or 7.9% of expenditures and transfers out.

Financial operations also face pressure from slower state and local funding growth as a result of recent enrollment declines in addition to rising salary costs. Management anticipates a possible enrollment increase as student fees decline later in fiscal 2007. Although the fiscal 2007 budget indicates a further fund balance reduction, management intends to maintain reserve levels above the 5% state recommended minimum level through the near future, which remains a key credit factor to the rating.

Fitch's rating definitions and the terms of use of such ratings are available on the agency's public site, www.fitchratings.com. Published ratings, criteria and methodologies are available from this site, at all times. Fitch's code of conduct, confidentiality, conflicts of interest, affiliate firewall, compliance and other relevant policies and procedures are also available from the 'Code of Conduct' section of this site.
A love for teaching blossoms

Through TSP, student becomes teacher, then creates scholarships for students

By Madeline Patton

Cristina Hernandez had worked as a cosmetologist and as an office assistant and also has an associate degree in journalism. But her main ambition, kept at a flicker because of limited money and English skills, was to be a teacher.

Fortunately, Hernandez was in a position to explore a career in education when Cerritos College (California) announced its Teaching Scholar Partnerships (TSP) in 2001. The first time a student asked her for help while she was visiting a classroom as a Teaching Scholar under the program, Hernandez knew she had found her calling.

“I just fell in love with teaching,” she said.

Hernandez, who was in the first group of students in the program in 2001-2002, is completing her second year of teaching eighth graders in Paramount, Calif. One of her priorities after obtaining a full-time teaching job was to create a scholarship for Cerritos students interested in teaching. She currently funds two $500 scholarships for future teachers at Cerritos.

Hernandez’s story exemplifies not only the effectiveness of the TSP program, but also the success individuals can attain through community colleges. TSP to date has helped 10 community colleges and 18 four-year colleges and universities work together on developing more and better-qualified math and science educators. It was created by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the Council for Independent Colleges and the Independent Colleges Office, with support from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Since the mid-1990s, NSF has focused on the important role that community colleges play in teacher preparation. In addition to TSP, the federal agency has supported several competitive grant initiatives with AACC—including the Advanced Technological Education and Teaching by Choice programs—to improve the math and science preparation that prospective teachers receive at community colleges.

Multiple layers of mentoring were the signature element of TSP initiatives. The 220 undergraduates who participated in the program between 2001 and 2003 received mentoring from community college and university faculty, as well as from the classroom teachers they observed and assisted. Students in the program also served as science and math resources for classroom teachers.

“All the mentors felt equally important,” said Sue Parsons, associate professor of mathematics and director of the Teacher Training Academy and Learning Communities at Cerritos. Because of the high level of collaboration among educators and their partner institutions, most of college’s prospective teachers transfer as a cohort to California State University-Long Beach, completing their associate and baccalaureate degree programs in four years.

“We had the opportunity to see what teaching really was. That’s what appealed to me,” Hernandez said of TSP.

She and the other students in the program initially watched highly regarded public school teachers in their classrooms. Then they worked one-on-one with students. Next, they led lessons for groups of students and eventually for the entire class.

Having such an array of experiences during once- or twice-a-week visits to public school classrooms over two years while enrolled at the community college prepared Hernandez for student teaching.
“I was more mature. I was ready to take over. I was prepared to deal with little kids, discipline and classroom management,” she said. She completed her bachelor’s degree in education with a concentration in science in 2003. She worked as a substitute teacher until she was hired for fall 2004 as a full-time language arts teacher.

When Hernandez and her husband, Luis Camacho, moved to California from Mexico in 1989, she spoke only Spanish. She enrolled in English-as-a-Second-Language courses at Cerritos, and then took courses to get her cosmetology license. Today, she is halfway through her master’s degree course work at the University of Laverne in California, aiming to add reading specialist to her current teaching certifications in science, reading, language arts and math.

She named the first scholarship she established at Cerritos in memory of her mother, Guadalupe Sanchez De Hernandez, who taught herself to read, write and do math, reared five children with her husband and operated a small restaurant in Mexico.

The second is in memory of her father-in-law, Leopoldo Camacho Madrigal, a history teacher in Mexico. (Eight of his nine children became teachers.)

Parsons was impressed by the problem-solving skills Hernandez brought to her lessons when she observed her teaching, and more recently by the respectful way her students conducted themselves during their campus visit.

“I think that speaks volumes about Cristina,” she said.

The scholarships are the first from a former TSP student and the first awarded by a Cerritos alumnus for prospective teachers.
Court Reporters Bring Search Dogs to Cerritos College

The Reporters Association of Southern California will present a short intro about our community service memorial project at approximately 11:00 a.m. and then will proudly introduce our Search Dog Foundation handlers and canines to the Court Reporting Club (question-and-answer format). The Court Reporting Club is planning to raise monies for the project by offering the students an opportunity to take photos with the handlers and canines during their campus visit.

This presentation and luncheon will take place in the Fine Arts Bldg., Room FA-51, at Cerritos from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The affiliation of the Court Reporters and the search dog program began in March of 2005, 43 year-old court reporter Julie Ann Branda was slain during a violent rampage in a downtown Atlanta courtroom. Deeply saddened by the tragic loss of a fellow court reporter, and knowing that Julie Ann was a dog lover, the Reporters Association of Southern California (RASCAL) felt it would be fitting to honor her memory by supporting the mission of the Search Dog Foundation (SDF). RASCAL’s goal was to raise $10,000 to sponsor a canine-handler search and rescue team in Julie Ann’s memory.

RASCAL President Jan Garnett Lopez explains that thanks to help from reporters around the country, a total of $17,200 has been collected. Court reporters are now proud sponsors of L.A./Orange County Task Force firefighter Marc Valentine and his search-and-rescue canine Val.

“The partnership that has been forged between court reporters and Search Dog Foundation will assure that Julie Ann’s memory lives on by providing a vital service to our communities, and even the world, in the event of disaster,” Lopez writes. “Currently there are only 105 canine search and rescue teams across the country, and at a minimum we need 336! Reporters are a short step away from sponsoring their second team, L.A. County Deputy Sheriff Su Vodruzka and her search and rescue canine Hero. We’d love to have your support.”

Donations can be sent to Search Dog Foundation, 206 N. Signal St., Suite R, Ojai, CA 93023. Indicate “RASCAL” or “Branda” on your check so that your donation is earmarked for this project.
Cerritos rebuilds, moves on, Loreto prospers

History: Towns find friendship after the deadly plane crash.

By Samantha Gonzaga, Staff writer
Long Beach Press Telegram

CERRITOS - Nothing seems out of the ordinary in the three-block section bounded by Ashworth Place, Holmes Avenue and Reva Circle: beautiful single- and two-story houses with manicured lawns, tree-lined streets and families going about their daily lives.

Twenty years ago, the area was the scene of the city's most tragic disaster.

On Aug. 31, 1986, at about 11:56 a.m., AeroMexico Flight 498 plunged into the neighborhood shortly after the DC-9 jet's tail was hit by a Piper PA-28 Archer plane. The impact killed 64 passengers, 15 people on the ground and three members of a family riding in the blue-and-white single-engine plane.

Six hundred miles south of the city is the sleepy village of Loreto in Baja California, where older residents remember the 31 passengers who boarded Flight 498 after an overnight stay in the city of 10,000. The passengers were promised free airfare by the airline to compensate for over-booking original flights scheduled for take-off the day before. The flight was headed to Los Angeles International Airport.

"We were sad, when we were told about what happened to the airplane," recalled Loreto Mayor Rodolfo Davis Osuna.

In Loreto, the mention of Cerritos today doesn't conjure images of sorrow for many.

Instead, it brings to mind a constant stream of friends who over the years helped build Loreto's hospital, furnish its schools, provide fire trucks and ambulances, and even pump money into its local economy.

"I think (the relationship) could be described as a bond that grew out of tragedy that brought two distinctly different cultures together," said Cerritos resident Jim Weisenberger, co-founder of the Friends of Loreto Foundation.

The foundation was formed by a group of Cerritos residents - among them Weisenberger and his wife, Rose - who make regular fishing trips to Loreto. The foundation became official in the mid-1990s.

The nonprofit receives funding from private and corporate donations as well as fund-raisers. Older-model fire engines, water trucks and ambulances were acquired from Los Angeles County agencies that are discarding the vehicles for newer models, said L.A. County Supervisor Don Knabe.

The current offering represents the second issuance from a $210 million Proposition 39 authorization approved by 58% of voters in a May 2004 election. Direct debt totals $141 per capita or 0.3% of market value, while overall debt totals $1,166 per capita or 2.1% of market value. The district's capital improvement plan includes numerous renovation and modernization projects, technology and building upgrades, as well as new construction. Financing sources include bond proceeds, state matching funds, and local support. Debt levels should remain manageable including the authorized but unissued debt.
Nearly a generation has passed since that Sunday morning. Little physical evidence of the air disaster exists in Cerritos today, except for a granite and marble sculpture that the city dedicated in March in the civic center sculpture garden.

Loreto's landscape is a different story.

Traces of Cerritos touch landmarks such as Loreto's fire station, Centro de Salud hospital and schools. Members of the foundation have either furnished or painted murals for the city's 12 schools; livened up dormitories where ranchers' children resided during weekdays; outfitted the fire station with engines and equipment; and modernized what used to be a rudimentary clinic.

"Cerritos has helped us in different ways," Davis Osuna said.

And it doesn't end there.

Weisenberger said the foundation and residents are in the middle of constructing an emergency training center. When it is completed in six months, it will be the first fully staffed center of its kind in Baja California.

The final moments
AeroMexico Flight 498 flew out of Mexico City's Benito Juarez Airport at 6:15 a.m. that morning. En route to LAX, it picked up six Southland-bound passengers at Guadalajara, 31 at Loreto and 19 at Tijuana.

Nothing appeared amiss as the DC-9 jet flew toward LAX. Around 11:50 a.m. Flight 498 pilot Arturo Valdes Prom radioed the airline officer to say that he was on time.

Rancho Palos Verdes' William Kramer was already in the air, flying his Piper Archer out of Torrance Airport. Those who knew the 53-year-old described him as a cautious and meticulous pilot. He and his wife Kathleen, 51, and daughter Caroline, 27, were headed to Big Bear for Labor Day weekend.

Coroner's reports say sometime during Kramer's 17 minutes in the air, he suffered a non-fatal heart attack. It wasn't clear how that affected his ability to fly, but between 11:56 and 11:57 a.m., the Piper Archer clipped AeroMexico Flight 498's tail at 6,000 to 7,000 feet above Cerritos. The DC-9 jet's horizontal stabilizer sheared the canopy off the small plane's cabin, decapitating Kramer and killing his wife and daughter.

Valdes Prom struggled to pull the 28-ton jet out of its dive, but it dove toward the suburban neighborhood below, exploding into resident Frank Estrada Sr.'s house at 13426 Ashworth Place. Debris rained down on the area as jet fuel ignited, destroying eight homes and damaging 10 others.

The Piper Archer landed upside-down next to the basketball courts at Cerritos Elementary School. According to "Cerritos at 50: Celebrating Our Past and Future," the plane flew over the congregation just leaving morning services at Calvary Lutheran Church.

The property damage was estimated at $2.6 million, but the largest price couldn't be quantified by a dollar amount: 82 dead.

More than 1,200 came to a memorial service at Cerritos College. It would take numerous federal, county and local emergency and investigative agencies to examine and clear the wreckage.

Innovations, memorial
To Don Knabe, then mayor of Cerritos, the plane crash was a historical event that would affect his leadership. "It was a life-changing experience for myself, and my wife and family," he said. "I'll never forget the day, and what I saw. I came out of church and saw smoke and thought the new post office was on fire. I was there (at the scene)
within the first 35 minutes."

"The smell of death, the body parts, the whole thing was horrendous," Knabe continued. "From that point on, you wear a couple of hats - a mayor and as someone who'll keep everybody calm and see the city come together."

In a time before "emergency preparedness" was a familiar term, Knabe would glean from the disaster a heightened priority for public safety that would follow him from one leadership role to another.

"For me, anything I see pertaining to natural disaster brings back a lot of memories from that time," Knabe said.

In the aftermath of the crash, he set up a mental health station for law enforcement, construction and sanitation agencies - an innovation 20 years ago. Those involved with investigation and clean-up, from Sheriff's deputies and police officers to construction workers and public health, found professionals who taught them how to cope with the loss.

The disaster clean-up efforts inexplicably and unexpectedly turned Cerritos into a model, Knabe said. Officials from Dallas to New York visited the city to observe how it approached such a tragedy.

"A lot of the people who lived in Cerritos were affected," Weisenberger said. "These people have been active for years."

One is Cerritos resident and Foundation co-founder Rod Ornellas, who lived two miles from the crash site. At the time, the Ornellas family was out of the city camping. News of the tragedy reached through TV.

Ornellas rushed back to Cerritos, worried for a friend whose house was in the affected area. (The friend was fine.) The idea of forming a nonprofit to foster the sister-city relationship between Cerritos and Loreto came during a fishing trip in the village, Ornellas said.

Over the years, Foundation donations and projects have helped Loreto modernize several public safety facilities. "Many cities pledged assistance to Loreto, but residents reported that not all fulfilled their promises," Ornellas said. "We proved we weren't just another town who promised them something and didn't give ... The relationship between Cerritos and Loreto has evolved into a true friendship and true bond."

Davis Osuna's connection to the air crash was also personal.

The Loreto mayor worked for AeroMexico as part of an engineering staff. He was friends for 12 years with Valdes Prom.

"He was young," he said. "He was very serious, and a very responsible young man."

Osuna was one of the last to see the plane leave the runway.

On a rainy March Saturday, Davis Osuna shared this story for the first time before 100 people at the Cerritos Civic Center for the Sculpture Garden unveiling. Also unveiled that day was the Air Disaster Memorial, which bears all victims' names.

"I want you to know that the tragedy has impacted me personally," he said at the time. "The doors of the city and county of Loreto are always open for Cerritos."

Samantha.gonzaga@presstelegram.com or (562) 499-1284.
Around Whittier

Class to study vets' military memories

LA MIRADA - A class led by Dr. Elijah Levy of Cerritos College titled "Veteran's History Project" is set for the La Mirada Activity Center.

The class meets from 9 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the Activity Center, 13810 La Mirada Blvd.

Veterans are invited to record first-person accounts of their military experience. Class members must be at least 18.

For more information, call (562) 943-7277.
Float designer’s challenge

City enlists Rose Parade guru

By Araceli Esparza
Staff Writer

Raul Rodriguez is no stranger to Santa Fe Springs and the annual Rose Parade.

During his teenage years at Santa Fe High School, Rodriguez competed in a Rose Parade float design contest on behalf of the Whitter Union High School District and took first place.

That entry, entitled “Snowbound,” catapulted Rodriguez, then 15, into the spotlight as one of the youngest float designers for the Tournament of Roses.

So, this year, when the popular float designer was asked to design the city’s 2007 Rose Parade float entry, Rodriguez said he had home court advantage.

“I got it in my head right away, I got mental images right away,” he said.

Ana Alavez, Director of Community Services, said officials have given Rodriguez full artistic design when it comes to creating the Santa Fe Springs entry.

“This is where he grew up,” she said. “One thing that was very clear when we met (him) is that he has a real passion about Santa Fe Springs. It’s a personal job for him.”

Rodriguez was raised in Norwalk and graduated from Santa Fe High School.

He went on to attend and graduate from Cerritos College and Cal State Long Beach before studying at Pasadena’s Art Center School of Design.

Born into a lineage full of painters and artists, Rodriguez, who now lives in Los Angeles, said he’s always had a love “for everything aesthetic.”

He’s helped create more than 500 floats for the internationally televised Rose Parade and has gained more recognition than any other float designer in the parade’s 117-year history.

In January, he won nine awards and captured his 13th consecutive Sweepstakes trophy at this year’s Rose Parade.

All together, he’s won 21 Sweepstakes awards.

Rodriguez has also illustrated children’s books; designed every float for Disneyland’s 50th anniversary parade; devised the opening stage set for the World’s Fair in New Orleans; and helped design numerous entertainment venues throughout the world, among other accomplishments.

This year, he will be working with Fiesta Parade Floats for his Santa Fe Springs float design.

Rodriguez would not give too many details about his design proposal, but admitted it has a “vintage ... nostalgic look” that is well-connected to the history and character of Santa Fe Springs.

“For me, it brings back a sense of history and an admira-

John Kennedy / Staff

Master Craftsman: Raul Rodriguez of Santa Fe Springs will design the float for the city’s 50th anniversary entry in the 2007 Rose Parade.

Raul Rodriguez of Santa Fe Springs will design the float for the city’s 50th anniversary entry in the 2007 Rose Parade.

Raul Rodriguez of Santa Fe Springs will design the float for the city’s 50th anniversary entry in the 2007 Rose Parade.

Raul Rodriguez of Santa Fe Springs will design the float for the city’s 50th anniversary entry in the 2007 Rose Parade.

Raul Rodriguez of Santa Fe Springs will design the float for the city’s 50th anniversary entry in the 2007 Rose Parade.

Raul Rodriguez of Santa Fe Springs will design the float for the city’s 50th anniversary entry in the 2007 Rose Parade.

Raul Rodriguez of Santa Fe Springs will design the float for the city’s 50th anniversary entry in the 2007 Rose Parade.