FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 25—JULY 31, 2006

In Progress
Kristen Habbestad accompanied Sue Parsons on a trip to CSULB on July 27 to do a story on Teacher TRAC students helping to lead a summer math camp at the university. Ms. Habbestad will publish a news release and photos about the students in the coming week.

Coverage
*Herald American* – June 22, 2006 – Article about Cerritos College’s Health Occupations Department hosting several competitive skill test events organized by the Health Occupations Student Association’s National Leadership Conference.

*Long Beach Press Telegram* – June 28, 2006 – Article about 12 high school and college students awarded for Dollars And Scholars, two of whom are Cerritos College students Yesenia Cuarenta and Clifford Ross.

*Los Angeles Daily News* – July 28, 2006 – Article about College of the Canyon’s new automotive program that quotes Lexus of Valencia’s general manager, Bill McClendon, praising Cerritos College for having the best auto tech training program.

*The-Signal.com* – July 30, 2006 – Article about College of the Canyon’s new automotive program that will have a course of training modeled after the Cerritos College automotive program.

*TheDesertSun.com* – July 30, 2006 – Article about Cerritos College alumnus and former NFL player Bob Newton, and his struggles with alcoholism.

Related Articles
*Press Telegram* – July 7, 2006 – Article announcing Thomas J. Clark as president of the Community College League of California.

*Whittier Daily News* – July 18, 2006 – Article about UC Irvine’s $1.1 billion public and private building campaign.

*Long Beach Press Telegram* – July 30, 2006 – Article about new measure asking property owners to pay a $50 parcel tax to fund schools.
Cerritos College Honors Program Launches Participants into Top Universities

Program Boasts 91 Percent Acceptance Rate to UCLA for Fall 2006

For Immediate Release: July 24, 2006

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

NORWALK, CA – July 24, 2006 – Since its inception in 1997, Cerritos College’s Scholars’ Honors Program (SHP) has provided its participants with the guidance and extra academic requirements to successfully transfer to four-year universities such as UCLA, UC Berkeley and UC Irvine. This fall marks a banner year for SHP as it celebrates a 91 percent acceptance rate for fall 2006 at UCLA.

According to SHP Director and English Professor Timothy Juntilla, the SHP 2006 transferring class surpassed expectations and even achieved new milestones: two members of the SHP class of 2006 received Regent’s Scholarships to attend UC Irvine, and one student received both a Regent’s Scholarship and a Chancellor’s Scholarship to attend UC Berkeley.

“We are so very pleased with these students’ diligence and efforts,” said Juntilla.

“We look forward to each new semester—particularly fall—when a new cohort of SHP students begins the program and starts working toward the promise of transfer to a four-year university. It is so rewarding to see their efforts returned to them.”

Twenty-two SHP students who just finished their classes at Cerritos College in May 2006 have been accepted to and have transferred to institutions including UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC San Diego, UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, UC Riverside, CSU Fullerton, CSU Long Beach, CSU Los Angeles, and the University of Southern California (USC).

“I think that by putting in the extra effort through SHP and keeping my self challenged that I am better prepared to function at a UC school,” said Gwendolyn Juarez, a Cerritos High School graduate who, after two years, transferred from Cerritos College and will begin as a business major at UC Irvine in September.

“I really feel that SHP helps students interact more and better with faculty. I know it’s helped me; earlier, I didn’t know how to take advantage of office hours and was hesitant to approach professors one-on-one for help.”

The SHP program is the academic and social home that Cerritos College provides for talented and motivated students who plan to transfer to four-year institutions. Through the SHP program, many students have the opportunity to apply and receive prestigious scholarships. Benefits offered to students by SHP include opportunities for independent research with leading faculty members through the Honors Contract program, small-enrollment honors sections of courses needed for transfer, workshops to help in transferring to 4-year schools, and scholarships to selected transfer colleges and universities. For more information on the SHP, visit the program’s web page at www.cerritos.edu/shp or contact the SHP office at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2728.

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Cerritos College Mourns Death of Professor Emeritus Howard Taslitz

Taslitz Twice Received Most Outstanding Faculty Member Award

For Immediate Release: July 25, 2006

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

NORWALK, CA – July 25, 2006 – Cerritos Community College District announced with great sadness today that Howard Taslitz, professor emeritus of history, passed away on Sunday, July 23. A memorial service for Taslitz will be held on Sunday, July 30 at 2:30 p.m. at Harbor Lawn-Mt. Olive Memorial Park located at 1625 Gisler Avenue in Costa Mesa.

Taslitz, of Mission Viejo, served as a professor in Cerritos College’s Humanities and Social Science Division from 1962 to 1992. During his more than thirty years at Cerritos College, Taslitz served as the chair of the social science department, chair of the economics, history and political science departments, co-advisor to the Omnibus Society, and president of the Cerritos College Faculty Senate—an elected position he held for ten years.

“We are deeply saddened to lose our colleague and friend,” said Cerritos College President Dr. Noelia Vela.

“Howard was dedicated to his students and committed to his profession. Our deepest condolences go out to the Taslitz family and to those who were especially close to him.”

Taslitz was honored twice with Cerritos College’s prestigious Most Outstanding Faculty Award. In 1968, he became the first faculty member to deliver a commencement address at Cerritos College. Taslitz also provided the most recent commencement address for Cerritos College in May 2006.

Taslitz received his bachelor’s degree in political science from Roosevelt University in Illinois and his master’s degree in history from Northwestern University, also in Illinois. Well-known by his former students as someone who cared, Taslitz was dedicated in assisting them to reach their goals both in the classroom and in life.

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Actor Steve Carell Joins Cerritos College Students on Stage

For Immediate Release: July 26, 2006

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

NORWALK, CA – July 26, 2006 – It isn’t every day that the star of NBC’s “The Office,” shows up at your “Improvisation for Theatre” class.

But that’s just what happened for several surprised and delighted Cerritos College students last spring when actor Steve Carell—star of NBC’s “The Office”—stepped onto stage in the midst of a class improvisational performance and proceeded to act along with the other improvisational actors.

“I saw this guy come out of the back and come out from behind the curtain,” explained Barbara Lopez, a Cerritos College student who had to opportunity to meet Carell.

“I thought, ‘who is this guy? Who does he think he is coming on stage like that?’ and...it was Steve.”

Carell, who in addition to portraying Michael Scott, an “unctuous” regional manager on “The Office,” provides the voice of “Hammy” in “Over the Hedge” and appears in “Little Miss Sunshine,” two features that hit movie theaters this summer. Carrel has also starred in “The 40-Year-Old Virgin” and appeared in “Anchorman: the Legend of Ron Burgundy.” Meantime, he’s also wrapping up “Evan Almighty,” the sequel to “Bruce Almighty” (starring Jim Carrey), and will have the title role in the upcoming “Get Smart” movie.

Cerritos College drama instructor Kevin Hoggard was the one behind the Steve Carell visit—Carell is Hoggard’s former student from Denison University in Ohio.

Hoggard invited Carell to participate in an alumni reunion-type improv performance at Cerritos College last spring in the Burnight Center’s Little Theatre. The collaboration included Hoggard’s former students from his 20-year teaching career at Cerritos College. Hoggard has also taught at institutions including Tulane University, the University of Wisconsin and Denison University—that night, Carell was the only one of Hoggard’s former students who wasn’t an alum of Cerritos College.

At the time of the invitation, however, Carell was in the midst of filming “Evan Almighty,” and didn’t know if he would have time to participate in the performance.

“Kevin kept it all a secret—he didn’t want us to get our hopes up too much on Steve making it,” said Lopez.

But make it he did. And the show went on even later into the night once Carell got on stage.

“The audience went crazy—but we student actors, especially, flipped,” Lopez remembered.

“We all admire him and what’s he’s done. A lot of us aspire to be what he did. He started out like us and is now on a completely different level.”

Hoggard was just as pleased to see Carell as his students were.

“It was really terrific for Steve to do what he did,” Hoggard said, “not only because he’s juggling so many projects right now, but because he rushed to Cerritos College after shooting “Evan Almighty” for almost 14 hours that day, knowing that he had to be back on the set early in the morning.”

Once on stage, Carell blended right in with the candid tone of the evening by taking on the role of a character in a time and place (provided on the spot by the audience), and then improvising a scene with another actor. He and Renee Duron, a Cerritos College alumna, performed an improvised, humorous sketch in which a couple in divorce court waffle between divorcing and staying together because they love each other.

“Renee was so excited, she could barely get on with the scene,” recalled Lopez.

When the show finally ended, the actors went backstage, and many of them took photos with Carell.

“He is a totally normal guy,” said Lopez. “But it was really cool to meet him and get to see some of his personality traits that make him “him.”

Without a doubt, after his visit to Cerritos College, “normal guy” Carell will have a few more fans—and new friends—filling theater seats at his next movie.

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Cerritos College Offers Day and Evening ESL Courses
Learn English during Fall Semester Beginning August 14

For Immediate Release: August 1, 2006

Contact: Joann Sugihara-Cheetham, (562) 860-2451, ext. 2892

WHAT: Cerritos College's Liberal Arts Division offers classes in English as a Second Language (ESL) with the start of the fall semester on Monday, August 14, 2006. Classes are offered at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels, and are available for $26 per unit (most classes are three units).

Several classes are offered during both the day and evening. Most classes meet twice a week and are available during both the 18-week session and the first and second 9-week sessions. ESL classes at Cerritos College offer:
- Pronunciation
- Accent reduction
- Oral communication
- Speaking and listening
- Grammar
- Reading
- Vocabulary
- Writing and structure
- American expressions and culture
- Spelling

WHEN: 18-Week Session: August 14, 2006 - December 15, 2006
First 9-Week Session: August 14 - October 13, 2006
Second 9-Week Session: October 16 - December 15, 2006

WHERE: Cerritos College
11110 Alondra Blvd
Norwalk, CA 90650

CONTACT: For more information, please contact Joann Sugihara-Cheetham at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2892 or by e-mail at jcheetham@cerritos.edu.

COST: $26 per unit; parking is $1 per day.

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College hosts student health test competition

NORWALK — Cerritos College’s Health Occupations Department will host several competitive skill test events organized by the Health Occupations Student Association’s National Leadership Conference.

The competition events at Cerritos College will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday in the Health Occupations Building.

The tests will focus on medical assisting, dental assisting, physical therapy and sports medicine, according to Kristen Habbestad, the college’s media relations coordinator.

“The competitions require students to develop skills ... and apply health science learning in a competitive environment,” Cerritos College Health Occupations Division Dean Jenine Nolan said.

During the Anaheim conference, students first take a test and the highest scoring students travel to a clinical site to demonstrate selected career skills for a group of judges.

This year, Cerritos will serve as a clinical site for competitions and will host state winners to be a part of the national competition with the goal of helping to motivate and prepare these students to be practicing health professionals, Noland said.
Paramount helps students succeed

Dollars for Scholars.

Karen Robles

Staff writer

PARAMOUNT — Faith and a desire to help people inspired two local couples to establish the Paramount Dollars for Scholars program six years ago and graduate students with honors from Paramount High School will receive $192,500 this year to go to college. They are among the dozens of high school and college students awarded "Paramount Dollars for Scholars" this spring. The program will help students pursue their dreams of attending college.

Paramount High School seniorsmanicured and prepared for graduation ceremonies. Students were recognized for their academic achievements and presented with scholarships and awards.

"We were able to award $250,000 to 77% of our seniors this year," said Paramount High School principal Susan Johnson. "It’s a great way to support our students and encourage them to continue their education."
College reviving auto-tech training
BY ALEX DOBUZINSKIS, Staff Writer
LA Daily News

VALENCIA - For the first time in more than two decades, College of the Canyons will have an auto-motive training program in the fall.

The college will handle the instruction but use Saugus High School's garage.

Santa Clarita Valley auto dealers back the program and agreed last week to provide it with $100,000 in cash and in-kind contributions over two years. The dealers want to hire more auto technicians for their shops.

"This program is not designed for the hobbyist," said Audrey Green, dean of program development at the college. "This program is designed to train technicians to work in industry."

Many Santa Clarita Valley residents who want auto-tech training go to Pierce College in Woodland Hills or other schools even farther away.

Bill McClendon, Lexus of Valencia general manager, said his shop's best auto tech came from a training program in Cerritos, and he wants a larger pool of qualified local techs to hire from.

"There's a desperate need for technicians in our industry," he said.

The college's new auto-mechanics program, with seven courses planned, should help meet that demand.

Saugus High's auto-shop garage was falling into disrepair and the school was going to end its program before the college stepped in. Now the college has bought new equipment for the garage, which will have one or two part-time instructors.

The college has spent $100,000 on the program. Its state grant application is pending, and it also hopes to have the course approved by the state and certified by the National Automotive Technicians Education Association.

No matter how its various applications for funding and certification go, the college is prepared to offer the program, open to both high school students and adults.

Even though the courses will be taught at a high school, Green said the material and instruction will be college-level.

"Honestly, in the automotive industry, to be a technician, it's not just wrenches anymore," Green said. "And so there's a lot to learn. You can't walk in off the street and get a job. You have to have the training."

The program will start this fall with two courses, engine fundamentals and electrical systems. Topics to be covered in later courses will include suspension, brake and power systems, and transmission systems.

College officials hope to have at least 30 to 60 students complete the program in two years.

alex.dobuzinskis@dailynews.com
(661) 257-5253
**COC to Begin Automotive Training Course**

By Bette Keva  
*Signal Staff Writer*

The days of grease-under-the-fingernails auto mechanics rifling under the hoods of Chevy Impalas have long passed, giving way to the high technology world of today's computer-driven vehicles. While the mode of transportation is advanced, the need for people able to keep cars humming down the freeways is dire.

For a year, Audrey Green's top priority as program developer at College of the Canyons has been to get an automotive training course up and running. This fall, with the partnering of the Santa Clarita Valley Auto Dealers Association, college students will be able to begin studying for lucrative careers in the field, Green said. The William S. Hart Union High School District is involved as well.

COC has cleaned and expanded the auto shop garage at Saugus High School, turning its two useable bays into four to make it eventually certifiable by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation, Green said. COC has applied for a state grant of $250,000 to $300,000. It would have to be matched by local funds coming from auto dealerships and the college, she added.

The Santa Clarita Valley Auto Dealers Association will contribute $100,000 over two years in money, tools and assistance with on-the-job training, said association treasurer Bill McClendon.

NATEF reports there are tens of thousands of jobs needing qualified workers throughout the nation, which pay $30,000 to $40,000.

However, McClendon, who is general manager of Valencia Lexus, said salaries for master technicians can reach six figures.

Last week, the dealers association voted to participate in COC's training program.

"The dealers association is active in Santa Clarita," McClendon said. "We felt this was something that not only we could help with, but it would also benefit us. Our goal is to develop residents who live here. All the dealers here are always looking for qualified technicians."

The course of training will be modeled after the one at Cerritos College, Green said.

*Copyright: The Signal*
Newton had long history with destructive effects of alcohol
Leighton Ginn

One of Bob Newton's first memories came as a 6-year-old.

While sitting on his mother's lap, she was engaged in another fight with Newton's father. In a fit of rage, Newton's father threw a beer can at her that narrowly missed mother and son.

That was Newton's introduction to alcohol and the effect it has on people.

"I was scared, very scared," said Newton, a Palm Desert resident and counselor at the Betty Ford Center in Rancho Mirage.

"That fear was fairly prevalent throughout my childhood and adolescent years and adulthood - it was of my father's alcoholism and him being out of control, and hearing him and my mom fighting."

His father's drinking was a constant, as was the fighting.

On rare occasions, Newton's father would get physical with his mother. However, Newton said the fights were marked by constant yelling and screaming.

"I remember at age 16, I said I would never be like my father," Newton said. "We were sitting at the dinner table and he was intoxicated, and he and my mom were fighting. I remember looking at my dad and saying, I'll never be like that."

Newton's father wasn't the only family member with a drinking problem. Newton said grandparents, uncles and aunts, as well as his parents, all succumbed to health problems related to drinking.

To help escape the chaos at home, Newton turned to football, where he became a standout offensive lineman.

Like father, like son

That didn't stop Newton from taking the same path.

Newton's first drink came at the age of 13, when a friend broke into his parents' liquor cabinet.

Later in high school, Newton said he developed the first signs of a drinking problem, blacking out after nights of binge drinking.

After two seasons at Cerritos Community College, Newton was recruited out of the Los Angeles area by Tom Osborne, then an assistant coach with the University of Nebraska.

Newton went on to a successful college career, helping the Cornhuskers win the school's first national championship and earning All-American honors.

As part of the college environment, Newton adapted to a system where he would only drink on Thursdays and following games.

After winning the national championship, Newton traveled to Alabama to play in the Senior Bowl. For Newton, projected as a top-15 pick in the NFL draft, he had a chance to display his talents in front of NFL scouts.
But Newton celebrated by partying too hard, staying up all hours drinking and smoking pot.

The partying took such a toll that on the Thursday before the game, Newton was knocked down by back spasms that sent him to the hospital.

By the time the game arrived Saturday, Newton checked out of the hospital and insisted on playing. In his mind, he had a chance to improve his draft stock.

During the first quarter, Newton surrendered three of the four quarterback sacks he allowed.

Instead of being a top-15 pick, Newton dropped to the third round, where the Chicago Bears selected him. He went from a potential signing bonus of $100,000 for first-round picks to $12,000.

The man who beat Newton for all of those sacks was Jack Youngblood, the Los Angeles Rams defensive end who was inducted into the 2001 Pro Football Hall of Fame.

**Drinking takes personal toll**

Not only did the drinking damage Newton's draft position, it took a toll on his relationship to his college sweetheart Cheryl, who he married during his senior year.

Newton's personality changed drastically, and the marriage was filled with fights.

"Those personality changes could either be good or very bad, depending on what kind of mood I was in," Newton said.

"I had the potential to be agitated easily under the influence. There were quite a few fights and bad arguments in my 20s and 30s as a direct result of my drinking."

When Newton's wife couldn't take it anymore, she gave him an ultimatum.

"She had asked me to stop drinking," Newton said. "I remember how offended I was by that request. How could she expect me to stop drinking at age 20?"

"There was no way I was going to stop so the marriage ended in divorce. She saw personality changes in me when I drank."

The scars of Newton's divorce ran deep and affected his future relationships.

"I was always afraid to make a deep commitment like that because I was afraid I was going to be confronted about my drinking eventually," Newton said. "Someone would ask me to change, because my wife did it."

The situation was quite similar to his father, the man Newton swore as a teenager he did not want to be like.

"I turned out just like him, as far as developing alcoholism and having those personality changes," Newton said. "That's another example of how powerful the disease is, even though I really meant it that day, and I really meant it in my heart. I didn't want to turn out to be like my dad."
LBCC trustee new president of CCLC

From staff reports

Thomas J. Clark, Long Beach City College trustee, has been elected to serve as president of the Community College League of California.

"I am extremely honored to be elected president of the CCLC board," Clark said in a statement. "The community college system in California is the largest educational system in the United States, and as such, we have a tremendous opportunity to impact the future of our students by working with the state Legislature and the governor."

Clark represents Area 5 of the Long Beach Community College District Board of Trustees. He was elected to the board in 1998 and was recently re-elected to serve his third four-year term.

He received his associate’s degree from Long Beach City College before attending UC Berkeley.

Clark served on the Long Beach City Council for 30 years and as mayor for seven years.
Campus planning
$1 billion face-lift

IRVINE — The University of California, Irvine, is in the midst of a $1.1 billion public and private building campaign to add more than 20 major buildings.

The construction projects include a 191-bed hospital in Orange, biological science and engineering centers on the main campus and a new home for chip maker Broadcom in University Research Park.

The 2.7 million-square-foot expansion is meant to broaden the school’s research and to accommodate growth at a campus whose enrollment soared to 24,443 students during the past decade.

“We’re trying to keep up with projected enrollment,” said Rebekah Gladson, UCI’s campus architect. “And this won’t be the last boom we go through. The school will continue to grow.”
Prop. 88 uses tax to fund schools

State: If passed in Nov., the measure would charge property owners a $50 fee.

By Harrison Sheppard
From our Sacramento Bureau

SACRAMENTO — Every property owner in California, no matter how big or small or valuable their parcel, faces paying a flat $50 tax to fund schools under a measure voters will be asked to approve in November.

Although it's still early in the election season, the move already is generating criticism from taxpayer groups and property owners who say it's a regressive tax and adds to the burden on average citizens who are already overtaxed.

Proponents of Proposition 88 — authored by EdVoice, a coalition that includes backing from such wealthy philanthropists as Netflix CEO Reed Hastings, Silicon Valley investor John Doerr and SunAmerica Chairman Eli Broad — say the state's schools are in dire need.

But critics note the measure places the same tax on a small one-bedroom home in ROWDA as it does on a mansion in Bel Air or massive farm in the Central Valley.

"I think it's going to look foolish to have the two primary proponents, Reed Hastings, the owner of Netflix, and John Doerr, another Silicon Valley billionaire, impose a tax on everyone else that hits their multimillion-dollar mansions the same as a struggling family," said Jon Coupal, president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

"I'm not sure they have completely thought through how that's going to be perceived."

The measure would generate about $500 million by placing a $50 tax on every property in the state. The funds would go to specific K-12 education purposes, including class-size reduction, textbooks and school safety, plus facilities money for schools that have not received state bond funds.

"Californians want better schools," said Paul Mitchell, political director of EdVoice. "They're very optimistic, they're hopeful, but they also don't want to spend money on things where they think there might be waste. This is written so it ensures dollars go straight to the classroom."

The funds would come on top of a 2006-07 state budget that already calls for spending $55 billion on education, an increase of $3 billion from the previous year. Additionally, the November ballot has a $10.4 billion bond measure for school facilities.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell, who supports Proposition 88, said the needs still far outweigh the available funding.

"The needs are critical," he said. "Public education today is still underfunded. In terms of dollars on the per capita basis, we lag behind all but half a dozen states."

"Is it a panacea? No. Will it help, will it make a difference in students' educational opportunities? The answer is definitely yes. It's an opportunity to provide additional resources in the classroom."

Mitchell said proponents decided to go with a flat fee because they did not want a tax that increases as values rise.

They felt $50 was small enough not to cause financial hardship or have a substantial impact on a person's decision to buy a property.

But the measure has another quirk that could place a proportionally higher burden on timeshare owners.

Depending on local county tax laws, every individual owner of a timeshare could have to pay the $50, meaning a single unit could be taxed up to 52 times.

The timeshare provision varies according to a county's tax policies, according to officials in the timeshare industry.

"If the county sends separate tax bills to each individual owner of a timeshare, those individuals are likely to each have to pay $50."

But if the county sends a single bill to the timeshare association or management company, which typically then sends its own bills to the individual owner, it is likely they would only have to split a single $50 payment among all the owners.

That means in some counties, if a timeshare is divided among 52 weekly owners, the total tax bill on that unit would amount to $2,600. In other counties, it would total $50.

"It's very concerning because timeshare is a vital part of the