FOR THE WEEKS OF SEPTEMBER 26—OCTOBER 16, 2007

In Progress
Allison Abel is gathering and editing articles to be used for the spring edition of In Sight.

Ms. Abel is also working with designer Kelly Kwan to create newspaper ads in preparation for the spring semester.

Coverage

Downey Patriot—September 7, 2007—Article on the appointment of Navneet Chugh to the Cerritos College Foundation Board of Trustees (from press release).

Downey Patriot—September 7, 2007—Article on a recent Cerritos College graduate who had finally gotten her A.A. degree after nearly 20 years in college (from press release).

Downey Patriot—September 7, 2007—Brief regarding the Constitution Day celebration at Cerritos College (from press release).

Whittier Daily News—September 11, 2007—Article regarding two men running for the school board of the Little Lake City School District, one of whom is a student at Cerritos College.

La Opinion—September 12, 2007—Article about a Latin food expo, in which a Cerritos College culinary arts student is quoted.


Whittier Daily News—September 15, 2007—Short article on the screening of an Academy Award-winning film at Cerritos College (from press release).

Orange County Register—September 16, 2007—Mention in calendar section of Alex Donis exhibit at Cerritos College Art Gallery (from press release).

Whittier Daily News—September 18, 2007—Alert regarding “Anna in the Tropics” play at Cerritos Col-
lege (from press release).

*La Opinión*—September 18, 2007—Mention in calendar section of job fair at Cerritos College.

*La Opinión*—September 18, 2007—Article about job fairs, in which Christina The from Career Services, as well as a student in Cerritos College’s culinary arts program, are quoted.

*Wave Community News*—September 20, 2007—Article about Rhianna Lemos-Girton, a recent Cerritos College graduate who interned with Congresswoman Linda Sanchez over the summer (from press release).

*Long Beach Press-Telegram*—September 21, 2007—Article on recent honors won by Cerritos College athletic coaches and the school’s athletic program as a whole.

*La Opinión*—September 24, 2007—Promotional article regarding a conference held by Project HOPE to inform Latino families about the importance of pursuing higher education.

*Orange County Register*—September 30, 2007—Mention in calendar section of “Anna in the Tropics” play (from press release).

*Bellflower Bulletin*—October 2007—Alert regarding the start of the second 9-week session at Cerritos College (from press release).

*Norwalk Community News*—October 5, 2007—Article on Viviana Ruiz, a Cerritos College alumna who recently transferred to UC Berkeley on a large scholarship (from press release).

*Norwalk Community News*—October 5, 2007—Promotional photo for O.C. Auto Show with mention of Cerritos College’s involvement (from press release).

*Norwalk Community News*—October 5, 2007—Article on the Scholars’ Honors Program at Cerritos College, emphasizing its benefits for students (from press release).

*Norwalk Community News*—October 5, 2007—Article on a technology previously being used only for Cerritos College’s DSPS students, which has been found to be beneficial for all students (from press release).

**Related News**

Cerritos College Auto Tech to Showcase Advanced Transportation Concepts at O.C. Auto Show

For Immediate Release: September 28, 2007

Media Contact: Allison Abel, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451, ext. 7878

NORWALK, CA -- September 28, 2007 -- Cerritos College’s Automotive Technology Department will join manufacturers and automotive enthusiasts at the Orange County Auto Show in Anaheim, Calif. the weekend of Oct. 4-7.

The Southland Cerritos Center for Transportation Technologies (SCCTT) at Cerritos College, in cooperation with Rio Hondo College, Long Beach City College and Cypress College, will host a display in the Auto Show Underground area on the theme of advanced transportation. The display will feature alternative fuels and hybrid vehicles, including a hybrid Honda Insight vehicle, a 2008 Ford Escape hybrid, and a compressed natural gas (CNG)-powered truck. There will also be various tabletop model vehicles and training aids that demonstrate alternative fuel, fuel cell, and solar power concepts.

For the first time, the college will also hold an on-site R & R (remove and replace) spark plug contest, where contestants can test their wrenching skills. This contest will be held on Saturday morning October 6 at 10 a.m. Winners will be announced at noon. The top prize for the contest is a working model fuel cell vehicle.

“The SCCTT at Cerritos College is one of the premiere auto technology programs in the region, and we’re excited to spread the word to visitors at the Auto Show about the many excellent opportunities we offer,” said Eli Jaramillo, director of the Advanced Transportation Technology Center at the SCCTT.

“Many visitors may not be aware of the high demand for properly trained workers in the automotive industry, and the convenient affordable educational options offered by the SCCTT at Cerritos College. Visitors entering our display area will leave with a greater understanding of the
advantages that a job in today’s advanced transportation industry can provide.”

Among those options is a unique program with Northwood University, located on the Cerritos College campus. Here, students can take all the classes required for a bachelor’s degree in automotive management. There will be information available about this exciting program, as well as the college’s other automotive classes and certification programs. Instructors will also be present to explain some of the advanced technology and provide helpful tips on career and learning opportunities.

The 2007 Orange County Auto Show will be held October 4-7, 2007 at the Anaheim Convention Center. More information may be found at www.cerritos.edu/auto.

Cerritos College has offered automotive technology training since the school’s inception in 1955. The offerings consist of certificates and degrees in automotive mechanical repair and auto collision repair. Additionally, the Advanced Transportation Technology Center offers courses in alternative fuels/EV-hybrid vehicles, and intelligent transportation systems. All told, the SCCTT at Cerritos College has one of the most comprehensive automotive training programs in the U.S.

Additionally, the SCCTT at Cerritos College provides students the opportunity for hands-on, nationally authorized “factory” training with major nameplates GM, Ford and Chrysler. There is also a unique, one-of-a-kind import vehicle training program patterned after the nameplate programs mentioned above. Finally, the SCCTT operates an Advanced Transportation Technology Center to encourage public awareness and development of clean energy and alternative fuel sources.

Perhaps most impressively, Cerritos College is physically located just blocks from the world’s largest auto mall, where students at Cerritos College have excellent opportunities for hands-on training. Additionally, the greater Los Angeles area is home to more than 17 corporate support centers for the robust Southern California auto industry. It is also home to a number of design centers producing vehicle prototypes for future sales. The close proximity of these entities to Cerritos College affords excellent employment and higher education transfer opportunities for graduates. Automotive-industry management opportunities, available in local dealerships and at nearby automotive corporate headquarters, routinely require a minimum of a bachelor’s degree, available through Cerritos College’s partnership with Northwood University.

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Cerritos College to Host Performance by Pianist Sergey Martinchuk

For Immediate Release: October 9, 2007

Media Contact: Allison Abel, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451, ext. 7878

WHAT:Cerritos College will welcome special guest Sergey Martinchuk in a piano concert including works by Mozart, Rachmaninoff, Liszt and Schumann on Saturday, Oct. 13. Martinchuk is currently a faculty member at California State University Fullerton and has performed in piano concerts worldwide.

Sergey Martinchuk began his piano studies at the music academy in the Ukraine at the age of seven, receiving instruction in solfege, music theory, and ear training. At age 11, he was selected to be interviewed by and to perform on the public radio in the Crimean region of the Ukraine. Having won a number of competitions for young performers, Martinchuk graduated from the music academy with top honors and moved to the United States. He received his Master of Music degree in piano performance from University of California Los Angeles, and went on to obtain a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance from the University of California Santa Barbara. He also holds an artist diploma from the music academy in the Ukraine. His teachers have included Irina Chumazenko of the Ukraine, Elena Beckman of Israel and Vitaly Margulis of the United States.

Martinchuk has taught piano and music courses at Irvine Valley College, Master’s College in Santa Clarita, Calif., Westmont College in Santa Barbara, and at the University of California Santa Barbara. He joined the faculty of the California State University, Fullerton in 2001. He has also taught master classes and adjudicated competitions in the United States and abroad.

Martinchuk has performed live on the radio and television in Europe and in the United States. During the summer of 2004 he played a sold-out concert in the city of Yanji, People’s Republic of China, a performance highly praised in the Yanbian Daily, the city newspaper. He also delivered a well-received lecture-recital at the University of Yanbian in the city of Yanji and taught a master class, for which the university honored him with a commendation certificate and the rank of a visiting professor. He is currently working with a Ukrainian agency to arrange an upcoming concert tour.

Martinchuk’s recent performances on the radio include a solo recital broadcasted on KKSM 1320AM
and Beethoven's 3rd Piano Concerto with the West Coast Symphony on classical 93.7 KDB.

WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 13, 7 p.m.

WHERE: Burnight Center building, room BC-51
Cerritos College
11110 Alondra Blvd.
Norwalk, CA 90650

A map of the campus is available at www.cerritos.edu/guide. Parking is free on weekends.

COST: General admission tickets are $10. Tickets are $5 for students and seniors with ID.

CONTACT: For ticket information, contact the Music Department office at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2629.

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###
Honors Students at Cerritos College Get a Glimpse at the Road Ahead

For Immediate Release: October 12, 2007

Media Contact: Allison Abel, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451, ext. 7878

Students who want the fast track to a UC know where it’s at: Cerritos College’s Scholars’ Honors Program (SHP). Now in its 11th year, the program provides advanced students with unique opportunities for scholarships, closer interaction with professors, smaller class sizes, priority admission consideration from top California universities, and other benefits.

At an orientation last month, a new group of students met with director Timothy Juntilla to find out all that the year has in store for them. Juntilla has high hopes for this crowd; last year’s outgoing class had a 94 percent acceptance rate at UC Irvine, and 95 percent at UCLA.

“I want students to know that there’s nothing standing in the way of them and the top schools in the state,” said Juntilla.

During the past several years, program has seen steady growth. Its increase this fall over the previous year stands at 10 percent.

Several students at the orientation were returning as sophomores to complete their second year of studies at Cerritos College before transferring. Bryan Rowe, an English major, says he hopes to attend UCLA, UC Berkeley, or perhaps Columbia University. He says he’s appreciated SHP because he gets the opportunity to take classes with like-minded students. “It’s a better learning environment,” he says. “Students in your classes are harder-working.”

Rowe is the 2007-08 president of the Scholars’ Honors Club, which provides an avenue for students to form support structures for each other. It also assists them in their transfer goals by setting aside time for community service, something that college admissions officials want to see on the records of incoming students. Club members volunteer at a senior center across the street from the college, and also participate in beach clean-up days.

Sarah Jimenez, an art major, has taken several honors courses through SHP since she entered the program in the fall of 2006. She says the program has helped her build relationships with her professors.
“A lot of students are afraid of their professors, but SHP helps you overcome that,” she says.

Students are brought into closer contact with instructors through smaller class sizes. They also work closely with professors in contract courses—non-honors courses that SHP students can count as honors classes when they complete an additional research requirement.

“One of the strengths of SHP is that it allows students to customize their own learning experience,” says Juntilla. “Aside from the many courses custom-designed for honors students, the students can make their honors experience virtually anything they want through means of contract courses.”

Rowe, who is enrolled this fall in a contract course in logic, is currently working on a research project which he describes as “the ontological status of definite descriptions”—or, in layman’s terms, the validity and existence of nouns that refer to a singular individual or object.

Upon completion of his research, he’ll have the opportunity to make presentations at student research conferences.

“Conferences are beneficial to the students not just in giving them experience in presenting research to experts in academia, but also for the fact that they can network with honors administration, faculty and students. In addition, the experience they gain gives them understanding in how to apply for research grants and internships.”

Students who present at conferences also gain the benefit of a more competitive admission application when it comes time to transfer.

Scholars’ Honors Program students are typically among the best and brightest of students seeking to transfer. Not only do they frequently gain admission to the most competitive public universities in the state, but they’re in the running for large scholarships as well. One SHP student who recently graduated from Cerritos College received a $5,000 scholarship to UCLA, and many other SHP students also receive awards.

As the semester kicks into high gear, Juntilla is eager to see the new honors students achieve and even surpass the successes of their predecessors.

“They already have the ability; now, through SHP, they have the resources as well,” he says. “I’m tremendously optimistic about their future.”

To learn more about the Scholars’ Honors Program at Cerritos College, visit http://www.cerritos.edu/shp.

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###
Technology Enhances Learning at Cerritos College

For Immediate Release: October 16, 2007

Media Contact: Allison Abel, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451, ext. 7878

NORWALK, CA — October 16, 2007—With the proliferation of technology in recent years, educators have become increasingly competent at using these new tools to create better learning environments. One innovative example of this is the Kurzweil 3000 program, a text-to-speech tool. The many features of the program have been used at Cerritos College to assist visually impaired students, as well as those with learning disabilities who have trouble interacting with and synthesizing printed material.

Now, however, it’s becoming apparent that the software can be a valuable tool for all learners.

“Kurzweil has traditionally been used for students with dyslexia and other disabilities, but its features are such that it is beneficial across the board,” says Stacey Kayden, a learning disabilities specialist from Laney Community College in Oakland, Calif.

Kayden has taken the lead in broadening the appeal of the program beyond students with learning disabilities. She travels around the state giving workshops to specialists and faculty members, showing them how to take advantage of all the valuable features of the program. At a recent workshop at Cerritos College, educators from many different schools received training to help them more fully utilize the program’s capabilities.

Kurzweil has many valuable features built into it. Designed to expand on the concept of e-books, the interface allows students to take notes on the material in a separate window side-by-side with their on-screen text. It enables highlighting of the material, and also boasts a tool which extracts highlighted material into an instant, student-generated study guide.

In addition, the program can be used to teach study strategies to students. Instructors using the programs for their classes can insert their own comments into the text, pointing out areas that they particularly want students to be familiar with. As they see notes made by instructors, students gain the benefit of learning how to read actively and observing how to interact with the text. Feedback from students also indicates that they love knowing what to study, and what not to study, pointed out for them as they read.
The program even helps students with their writing. “Many times when students review their own papers, they read what’s in their minds—what they think they’ve written—rather than what’s actually on the paper,” says Kayden. “The result is omitted words and other errors. But when you have a program read your paper back to you, the mistakes become much more obvious, and students are far more likely to catch them. The program will even let you edit your paper as you listen.”

Kayden says she’s gotten a lot of positive feedback. “Students love it,” she says. “It seems to really help improve their focus. With Kurzweil, the textbook becomes more engaging.

“Students in this day and age are interactive and connected. They are constantly text messaging and connecting with each other on MySpace. Then they come to class, and when education doesn’t follow that, they’re not engaged.”

According to Kayden, one of the most appealing aspects of the program is its ability to level the playing field for students. “In classrooms where the program is used by all the students, everyone is able to keep up. Visually-impaired students lose their disadvantage; students with weak reading skills no longer have such a giant impediment. The program helps all learners progress at a similar pace.”

The program also boasts a valuable feature for ESL students; a built-in dictionary allows them to highlight unfamiliar words and access definitions instantly, without the hassle of large, clumsy reference books.

Cynthia Alexander, department chair of educational technology at Cerritos College, teaches a class designed to help instructors effectively use assistive technology in the classroom. Many of her students, she says, are actually Cerritos College faculty members themselves. In the past, she’s required her students to work with the program so that they can use it to assist students with disabilities in their own classrooms. Alexander attended the Kayden’s recent workshop to learn how to more fully take advantage of the program’s features. With her new knowledge, she plans on requiring her students to explore more features in the program, enabling them to better serve their own students in turn.

One of the drawbacks of the Kurzweil program is the expense involved. Students at Cerritos College get free access on campus, but studying at home again becomes a chore, especially for students with disabilities. For this reason, Mary Hunt, a learning disability specialist in the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) at Cerritos College, created a scholarship opportunity for its students—DSPS students who become proficient at using the Kurzweil program qualify to apply for the Kurzweil scholarship. The scholarship, which was recently funded by the Cerritos College Foundation, provides one recipient per academic year with the Kurzweil read-version software.

“We are committed to helping all students achieve their education goals, regardless of the hardships they face,” says Hunt. “The Kurzweil program is a big step toward making that happen.”

To learn more about the Kurzweil 3000 program, or to obtain information about an upcoming conference designed to help educators adapt the program to general education classes, visit collegeinfofocus.com or email Stacey Kayden at cifocus@pacbell.net.

More information on DSPS at Cerritos College may be obtained from the DSPS website at http://www.cerritos.edu/dspss/, by calling (562) 860-2451 ext. 2333 or by emailing dspsinfo@cerritos.edu.
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###
Distinguished Geochemist to Lecture at Cerritos College

For Immediate Release: October 15, 2007

Media Contact: Allison Abel, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451, ext. 7878

WHAT: Cerritos College has the unique opportunity to host Joint Oceanographic Institute (JOI) geochemist Dr. Philip A. Meyers, an internationally-recognized authority on oceanography, as a guest lecturer on Tuesday evening, Oct. 23. This lecture is free and open to students and the general public. There will also be an informal luncheon and discussion held on the campus earlier in the day.

Meyers’ lecture will focus on the “greenhouse model,” an alternative to popular theory in geology regarding petroleum-producing rocks. As the two classic models of how the rocks were formed don’t answer all the questions, this theory has been devised in order to shed additional light on the subject. The greenhouse model suggests that global climate change was necessary to create geographic formations containing oil.

This lecture will be of interest to anyone wanting a deeper understanding of the world’s petroleum supply, how this supply came to exist, and the possibility of new petroleum being produced at the current time.

Meyers earned his Ph.D. in oceanography from the University of Rhode Island and his B.S. in chemistry from Carnegie-Mellon University. He lectures worldwide and has edited and written for numerous peer-reviewed publications, including Organic Geochemistry and Marine Geology. Meyers currently serves as a professor in the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He has been honored as an elected fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Geochemical Society, and the American Geophysical Union.

WHEN: Lecture: Tuesday, Oct. 23, 7 p.m.
Luncheon: Tuesday, Oct. 23, 11 p.m. — 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: Lecture: Science building, room 201
Luncheon: Student Center Stage

Cerritos College
11110 Alondra Blvd.
Norwalk, CA 90650
A map of the campus is available at www.cerritos.edu/guide.

COST: Lecture: There is no cost to attend the lecture.
Luncheon: There is no cost to attend the luncheon, and lunch will be provided. However, please note that an RSVP is required. RSVP to Robert Kreger at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2668 or Meg McQuarrie at ext. 5037.

Parking permits cost $1 and may be obtained in lots C-1, C-2 and C-10.

CONTACT: For more information, contact Dr. Robert Kreger, professor and chair of the Cerritos College Earth Science Department, at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2668 or rkreger@cerritos.edu.

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###
A Will to Excel

Cerritos College Graduate Viviana Ruiz Pursues her Passion at UC Berkeley

For Immediate Release: October 16, 2007

Media Contact: Allison Abel, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451, ext. 7878

Viviana Ruiz came to Cerritos College knowing that she wanted a career in science, but without a specific direction in mind. Through her science classes, she discovered she had a passion for molecular cell biology. Ruiz is now at UC Berkeley with the assistance of a large scholarship, and is planning to attend medical school.

Attending one of the top-ranked public universities in the nation, Ruiz is nowhere near being overwhelmed.

“I feel that the science faculty at Cerritos College prepared me very well to face this transition. The level of instruction was top-notch. I feel that I’m competitive—I’m at the level that I can excel.”

Ruiz entered Berkeley with an impressive background, boasting two internships doing biomedical research at California State University Long Beach and UC Irvine. In both her internships, Ruiz studied fruit flies, attempting to identify genes that are similar to those found in humans, so that insights gained about immunological and developmental disorders in the flies could eventually be applied to people. It was this research, Ruiz believes, that gave her a leg up on the competition when she applied for a large scholarship through Berkeley.

“I wondered at what my chances were of actually receiving such a big scholarship, but I’d won several at Cerritos College, so why not try it?” Ruiz reasoned.

In the end, the results were well worth the effort—Ruiz came away with $7,000. Part of it is designated for tuition assistance and other college-related expenses, and another portion is to be used for research. Ruiz hopes to have an opportunity to research abroad, possibly in Brazil, Argentina or Spain. She would like to contribute to cancer research at some point during her college career. But ultimately, she says, she wants to become a physician.

“I got involved in community service while I was at Cerritos College,” says Ruiz. “I began to see that more than just a passion for human biology, I also felt that there was a need for people who were competent to take care of the patients, who were humane and who cared. I knew that it was my call. I could-
n’t sit in a lab; I needed to be interacting with humanity and helping cure people.”

Beyond helping her narrow down her career field of interest, Cerritos College also gave Ruiz a much-needed support group through the grant-funded program Project HOPE, which was created to assist underrepresented groups obtain careers in healthcare fields.

“Project HOPE empowered me,” asserts Ruiz. “It was one of the main supports that I had at Cerritos College because it connected me with other students who had great potential. It gave me confidence in terms of feeling that I wasn’t alone—I had people to count on. It gave me academic tools, like tutoring, sponsorship for conferences and educational workshops. It also gave me a job as a tutor for fellow students.”

Besides Project HOPE, Ruiz also benefitted from the attention of professors in several departments. “I was working 30 hours per week and taking a full load of classes. But early on in my time at Cerritos College, I took a class with Diane Keenan from economics, who took me under her wing and offered me a position as her assistant. I started being able to spend more time in school, because I could work and go to school at the same place. She had a lot to do with helping me concentrate and find my path—she encouraged me to pursue my dreams. And she helped me not to get down in the middle of difficult family circumstances.”

Keenan and other professors, says Ruiz, were very important all throughout her time at Cerritos College. She especially appreciates that “they went out of their way to make sure students understood the material. They were very helpful, and really dedicated themselves to their job.”

After the one-on-one attention Ruiz received at Cerritos, it was a bit of an adjustment being at UC Berkeley, where professors often don’t have time to talk to students and competition for individual appointments with faculty can be intense. Still, she loves her new life. This semester, Ruiz is enrolled in a course on human anatomy, and says that what’s she’s learning is “quite spectacular.”

Besides delving into the mysteries of human life, Ruiz says the professor frequently invites practitioners from other specialties to talk to her class.

“At Berkeley, I’m seeing a lot of options. I initially thought about ob-gyn. Now I’m thinking I might become a surgeon.”

Ruiz had the option to enroll at a 4-year college right out of high school, but it wasn’t workable for financial reasons. But in the end, she says she’s better off having gone to Cerritos College.

“At a 4-year there’s so much pressure to get in and out and get your degree. If I had gone to a 4-year straight out of high school, I wouldn’t be where I am now. I wouldn’t have ended pursuing a career in medicine,” she says. “At Cerritos College, I could really explore what I wanted to go into, and know what I wanted to do.”

And thanks to perseverance and a lot of support, she’s already well on her way.
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###
Cerritos College picks Bukowiecki as chief

Wave Staff Report

NORWALK — Richard Bukowiecki, who has served as interim chief of police at Cerritos College since 2006, has been given the chief’s title on a permanent basis.

Bukowiecki will continue to oversee the Cerritos College Campus Police Department, a full-service police agency with more than 50 employees including 14 sworn peace officers, a college representative said.

He first joined the campus police in 1988 as a part-time dispatcher. A year later he became an officer.

Bukowiecki served as a lieutenant for 11 years before being promoted to interim chief, the representative said.

In the late 1990s, Bukowiecki helped create the community service officers program, which allows Cerritos College students majoring in administration of justice to work for the department and gain practical experience while they complete their associate degrees.

Participants in the program have gone on to jobs with the California Highway Patrol and the Los Angeles and Long Beach police departments, as well as other agencies, the representative said.

Bukowiecki also worked with a previous chief to install towers in campus parking lots to combat crime, which resulted in an immediate reduction in
College Foundation appoints new member

NORWALK – The Cerritos College Foundation recently added Navneet Chugh, attorney-at-law, certified public accountant (CPA) and MBA, as a member of its Board of Directors.

“Cerritos College fulfills a tremendous need, and I’m so pleased to be a part of it,” Chugh said. “The opportunities it offers are extremely beneficial to the students, to the business community in California and to society in general. I’ll do whatever I can do to help further its reach.”

Chugh has extensive experience in a wide variety of business and legal matters. He is the managing partner of The Chugh Firm, an international law firm providing companies with corporate, tax, litigation and immigration services. Chugh also has founded and served as president of the South Asian Bar Association of Southern California, North American South Asian Bar Association and the International Indian Bar Association.

He founded the Indus Entrepreneurs, Southern California in 1997.

“We are extremely pleased to welcome Mr. Chugh to the Cerritos College Foundation,” said executive director Steve Richardson. “Not only does he bring a great deal of business and legal expertise to the Board, but he also has a keen desire to enrich his community, and we are excited that he is partnering with us to build better futures for our students.”

Chugh is also a trustee and board member of the American Indian Foundation, the largest and most successful Indian charity based in the U.S., and a member of the Clinton Global Initiative, a community of global leaders who work to influence change. In addition, he is on the advisory board of Asia Society; is a board member of the Habib American Bank; and is chairman of the board of Premier Media Inc., a publishing company based in Los Angeles.

Chugh attained a B.S. degree in business from Nagpur University, India in 1985, ranking first in the university. He received his master’s in business administration from USC in 1985, and his Juris Doctorate from Western State University in 1992 under a President’s Scholarship.

The Cerritos College Foundation is a non-profit organization that gives financial support to the college.
Graduation was a long time coming

NORWALK – Last May, Janet Nickerson walked out onto the grass at Cerritos College’s Falcon Stadium to receive her diploma—a day she and hundreds of other graduates had worked toward with commitment and determination. But for Nickerson—a 47-year-old single mother of two with a full-time job—the accomplishment was even sweeter: she started college before many of her fellow graduates knew their ABCs.

Nickerson, of Whittier, left high school at the age of 17. After taking the exit test, she abandoned the idea of college and left home for another state. But Nickerson soon found herself back in California, working a full-time job with the idea of school far from a priority.

“I wasn’t thinking about college then...my dad said I would marry and wouldn’t have to worry about it,” she recalls.

Ten years passed. Nickerson married and had twins. But as time went by, she found herself looking back.

“I realized that I never got to walk with my class. I thought, ‘Geez, I think I missed something,’” she says. “There was also the fact that as a kid, I had never finished anything I started. I wanted to prove to myself that I could carry something all the way through.”

Nickerson returned to school first at Long Beach City College, but transferred to Cerritos College when she moved from Long Beach to Whittier. This proved to be a turning point, specifically because of one of the counselors from the Cerritos College Distance Education office.

“When I met Yvette Juarez, she pointed me in the right direction and gave me focus. She always returned my e-mails and was really encouraging,” said Nickerson.

With the prodding of Juarez, Nickerson enrolled in the Weekend College program at Cerritos College, a program designed specifically for working adults.

Almost immediately after she started back to school, Nickerson faced major obstacles. She went through a divorce. Her mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease, and Nickerson became one of her primary caregivers.

“I could never go full-time; it was start and stop,” she recalls.

Nickerson also had to deal with issues of confidence. She wasn’t sure if she had the academic skills necessary to succeed, and she felt different than the other students around her.

“It was the feeling of, ‘Do I belong here? Do I fit?’” she recalls. “I would tell myself, ‘Just keep going.’ And then I saw my grades—I was getting fairly good grades—and I kept going.”

With each new success, Nickerson gained confidence.

“In the beginning, I hardly said a word in class. The last two years I’ve been right out in the front and not afraid to say anything.”

Nickerson also attributes her success to the attention of her professors: “I had a lot of good teachers, mainly at Cerritos College. For example, going into my statistics class, I was a bit intimidated. I told the professor that I hadn’t had algebra for quite a long time. Mr. Flores, the professor, was very encouraging. He said to me, ‘Janet, you can do this.’”

Nickerson’s children also became part of her motivation.

“I felt like if they saw me going to school when they were little, it would encourage them. It would make it a family thing. If mom and dad are lying on the couch, they why should they be working hard at school? We were able to share on a different level than if I hadn’t done.”

Finally, after almost 20 years at community college, Nickerson graduated with a degree in liberal arts—with honors. Nickerson’s son, who is a student at UCI, and her 85-year-old father were both present to see her graduate, as well as her new husband. Her daughter, she is quick to add, could not attend but was with her “in spirit.”

“It was the biggest high in the world. I was very, very proud of myself,” she recalls. “It felt like it had been a long time.”

Next on Nickerson’s to-do list? Transfer to a four-year university and then pursue a career in psychology or business. For this single-working mother-turned-student, finding time to further her education will never be easy—but it will always be worth it.

“It gets tough when you have kids or you lose your job,” she said. “But you just keep going.”
Event celebrates U.S. Constitution

NORWALK — On September 17, Cerritos College will celebrate the 220th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution. This year’s event will focus on Benjamin Franklin, with a discussion by history professor Dr. John Haas. The college will also host composer William Zeitler performing selections on a glass armonica, a rare colonial instrument.

Performances will be held at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the school’s Teleconference Center. For information, call (562) 860-2451, ext. 2476.

For board hopefuls, a sure thing

2 will run unopposed for Little Lake City School District board seats

BY TRACY GARCIA Staff Writer

SANTA FE SPRINGS — When he ran for a board seat in the Little Lake City School District two years ago, Ronald Gonzalez-Lawrence said he worked on many precincts during his campaign that he lost 30 pounds — and he lost the election to boot.

But this time around, he won’t have to walk precincts. He won’t have to participate in debates. And at the end, he will still win a seat on the Little Lake City board, just by having filed to run for office.

As will Los Nietos School District board candidate Hcremento Chacon, who joins Gonzalez-Lawrence this fall in running unopposed for the five-member governing board at Bellflower.

For both, it will be their first stint as school board members.

“T’ve been through an election campaign, I understand what goes into it, and I don’t feel bad not going through it this time,” said Gonzalez-Lawrence, a Cerritos College student.

Hitting an Election Day victory by any possible write-in candidate, Gonzalez-Lawrence and Chacon have their board seats in the bag — all they have to do is show up for the swearing-in this December.

“I’m happy the district doesn’t have to spend $80,000 on an election,” Gonzalez-Lawrence said.

And because there is no election, we can spend the next couple of months learning and studying about being board members because we won’t be busy with the campaigning.”

Chacon, 38, said he never expected current Los Nietos board President Oscar Payan to not run for re-election with fellow trustee Nicolas Aquino.

“T’ve been very surprised,” said Chacon, who is a deaf student at the Los Angeles Unified School District. “I thought he would have the insider to the whole election because he was the incumbent who had been there the longest.”

Payan decided to make another bid for the board, which oversees three elementary schools and one middle school in Santa Fe Springs and the West Whittier areas.

Shortly after, Chacon said, an email statement was issued and had confirmed an investigation and found no wrongdoing on Vasquez’s behalf.

“T’ve known her a long time, and she knows we both want the same thing for the district: the success of our students.”

The Little Lake City district has about 4,908 youngsters at seven elementary schools and two middle schools in Santa Fe Springs and Norwalk.

Gonzalez-Lawrence, 20, a community relations officer for an environmental company, says he’ll bring an unusual perspective to the board when he replaces his own teacher, Louise Shaw.

“It wasn’t long ago that I was sitting in their classrooms learning from a teacher,” he said, adding that he attended Patten Elementary and Lakeside Middle.

“This is my community,” he said. “And I want to give back and help the students in our district get the best quality education possible.”

tracy.garcia@sgvn.com
(562) 596-0955, Ext. 3001
Comida latina para todos

Feria anual presenta gran variedad de alimentos étnicos

Patricia Prieto
Miércoles, 12 de septiembre de 2007

Los olores y sabores de la comida mexicana, asiática y judía se mezclaron en la sexta feria Expo Comida Latina, que se efectuó en el centro de Convenciones de Los Ángeles el 10 y 11 de septiembre del corriente año.

Más de 300 chefs, dueños de restaurantes, empresarios y representantes de diversos productos de uso culinario tuvieron la oportunidad de intercambiar ideas y experiencias, abrir nuevos mercados y hacer demostraciones de especias e ingredientes que permiten obtener los sabores originales de la comida latina, en particular la mexicana, una de las más degustadas en California.

Es por ello, que el reconocido chef mexicano Ricardo Muñoz, autor de cuatro libros sobre la gastronomía auténtica del país azteca, fue uno de los invitados especiales.

Muñoz, de 41 años y originario de Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz, se acreditó el privilegio "de ser un chef diferente de los tradicionales".

"En mis más de 25 años de carrera me he preocupado no sólo por cocinar platillos típicos de México, sino también por investigar sobre sus orígenes para tener una clara idea de sus ingredientes originales y sus variaciones con cada especia. Esto me hace único y, por ello mismo, no cocino nada sin antes saber de su historia", señaló Muñoz.

Aferrado a los datos históricos que ha obtenido de los diversos platillos étnicos de las varias regiones geográficas de México, Muñoz se atreve a decir que la comida mexicana que se vende en Los Ángeles es más que todo Tex-Mex.

"Pueda que como tal, sea muy sabrosa", anotó. "Pero, lamentablemente, no podemos decir que la comida auténtica que trataron de elaborar los primeros inmigrantes mexicanos sea autóctona en su sabor, ya que no está elaborada con ingredientes originales de nuestro país. Sin embargo, pienso que con la comercialización global que se está dando de semillas y hierbas naturales, pueda que de ahora en adelante podamos ver en esta urbe la comida mexicana auténtica y tradicional".
Usando precisamente los productos originales de México, Muñoz elaboró ante más de cuatro docenas de dueños de restaurantes, comerciantes y estudiantes de la industria culinaria un pollo en salsa verde de pipián, una salsa de atún para comer con tostadas o tortillas chips y un queso fresco marinado en hierbas frescas al estilo de Jalisco.

"Ustedes pueden encontrar ahora en el mercado las semillas de calabaza, que vienen ya tostadas, para dar el sabor auténtico a este pollo en salsa verde de pipián", dijo el chef Muñoz a los presentes. "Recuerden, lo fuerte de este plato es la salsa, no el pollo".

Al concluir la demostración, un estudiante de artes culinarias del Colegio Cerritos, de Norwalk, se dirigió al chef Muñoz.

"¿Qué tengo que hacer para ser un chef especializado en cocina mexicana, pero de la auténtica?", preguntó Jimmy Torres, residente de Pico Rivera y de origen mexicano.

"Primero que todo, estudiar mucho, porque esta no es una carrera fácil. Segundo, graduarte, porque muchos se retiran en medio de la carrera y, por último, te aconsejo vivir un tiempo en México para tomar de primera mano los sabores auténticos de los mexicanos".

María Salazar, dueña del restaurante Mary, de Santa Ana, participó por primera vez en la feria.

"Me gustaron los platos que preparó el chef Ricardo, sencillos y muy típicos", dijo. "Valió la pena venir. Uno saca muchas ideas para agilizar las actividades del oficio".

Para Roy Bara, dueño del restaurante Fiesta Grande, de Amarillo, Texas, ésta era su tercera feria. Estuvo a comienzos de año en la de Nueva York y Houston, y esta vez vino a Los Ángeles, porque "las demostraciones y talleres que ofrecen en cada una de ellas sirven para diversificar el menú y dar un sabor más exclusivo y étnico a los platos que se ofrecen".

Por petición de los participantes de la feria, la Chef LaLa —autora de libros de cocina, y nutricionista certificada— dedicó una hora a demostrar cómo se pueden integrar los productos orgánicos a cualquier receta sin cambiar su sabor.

"Este mercado es el que más ha crecido en los últimos años en la industria del comercio de comestibles y de restaurantes especializados en ofrecer menús elaborados con productos orgánicos", resaltó la reconocida chef a La Opinión.

Brian Randall, director del evento, informó que Expo Comida Latina surgió hace seis años por esta realidad: "En Estados Unidos viven 45 millones de latinos; por lo tanto, la comida latina es un elemento importante en la parte comercial de este país... no sólo por estos consumidores, sino también por otros grupos étnicos que gustan de la comida mexicana, centroamericana y sudamericana".
Former student credits
Cerritos for success

CONTRIBUTED BY CERRITOS COLLEGE

NORWALK — Paulo Amoral, former ASCC president at Cerritos College, returned home last summer to his parent’s home in Artesia after spending his first year at UC Berkeley, where he is double majoring in peace and conflict studies and development studies.

Even after carrying a heavy academic load all year at UC Berkeley, Amoral was eager to take a few summer courses at his former campus, Cerritos College. He signed up for two summer classes: a microeconomics class in the business division along with a triathlon class.

Amoral, who is trilingual in English, Portuguese and Spanish, says he is enjoying his time at UC Berkeley while majoring in development studies, which examines developing regions and nations, as well as interpersonal, local and international conflicts.

“it was very prepared by my classes at Cerritos College,” says Amoral, who majored in business while attending the institution. “I am proud to say that I came from a community college. The Cerritos College faculty is just as phenomenal as at Berkeley.”

When he began in fall 2006 at UC Berkeley, Amoral cut back on his previously busy life. Less than a year and a half ago, he was committing vast amounts of time and energy to his role as Cerritos College’s ASCC president and student trustee while concurrently managing his own business, Jump for All, which rents bounce houses for parties and events.

During his first year at UC Berkeley, Amoral focused on adjusting to university life. But even after initially placing a focus solely on his studies, it didn’t take Amoral long to be recruited by UC Berkeley officials to assist in serving in student advisory and leadership roles at the campus.

“One of the things I do is to serve as a founding member on an advisory board of five students representing the peace and conflict studies (PACS) major to the faculty and administration,” he explains.

“We meet twice a month. Our present academic year, 2007-08, will include outside review for department accreditation. We’ll be taking a major part in analyzing the courses and suggesting changes. My experience serving in the curricula committee and as a student trustee at Cerritos College was really good preparation for this new job.”

This fall, Amoral is serving on an additional advisory council of 15 undergraduates who meet once a month to talk about student life and provide feedback to administration.

Amoral credits his two years at Cerritos College for helping him mature and to gain leadership skills. A graduate of John Glenn High School, he regularly meets former Cerritos College students at UC Berkeley.

“Cerritos College, for me, was a learning experience,” he says.

“Academically and socially it helped me grow as a person, a leader, a community person and a citizen.”

One particularity about UC Berkeley that Amoral says surprised him was the higher costs at the student health clinic on campus. At Cerritos College, most services at Student Health Services are free for students. He says he wants to use Cerritos College as an example in encouraging UC Berkeley to adopt free or subsidized health services for students.

Next semester, Amoral will again have an intensely full academic load of 17 units, including a graduate course from the UC Berkeley International and Area Studies Department. He plans to graduate from UC Berkeley in fall 2008 and is planning to enroll in a program that would enable him to concurrently complete a master’s degree in public affairs and a law degree. Before he commits to graduate school, however, Amoral hopes to spend a semester “off,” possibly volunteering at Cerritos College.
Actor/director to discuss film

NORWALK — Writer, actor and director Chris Tashima will screen his Academy Award-winning short film, “Visas and Virtue,” at 10:30 a.m. today in the Conference Center (LC 155) at Cerritos College, 11110 Alondra Blvd.

A question-and-answer session with Tashima is scheduled to follow the screening.

The short film is inspired by the true story of Chiune “Sempo” Sugihara, Japan’s vice-consul to Lithuania during World War II.

In 1940, Sugihara risked endangering his family and his diplomatic career by defying his own government’s orders to help save Jewish refugees with 2,000 transit visas.

Tashima’s film won an Academy Award for Best Short Film in 1998.

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

Admission is free and open to the public. On-campus parking is $1 per day.

For information contact Steven Hirohama at shirohama@cerritos.edu or call (562) 860-2451, Ext. 2837.

Orange County Register
September 16, 2007

Alex Denis Selected Works

A selection of Alex Denis’ work spanning 12 years of creative production is now open at the Cerritos College Art Gallery, 6 p.m. Sep 18 through 6 p.m. Sep 25, Cerritos College, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk. (562) 860-2451. www.cerritos.edu/events/calendar.asp

Whittier Daily News
September 18, 2007

Cerritos College to stage play

NORWALK — The Cerritos College theatre arts department will perform “Anna in the Tropics,” beginning Oct. 5 on campus, 11110 Alondra Blvd.

The play is a parallel to Leo Tolstoy’s “Anna Karenina.”

Performances are at 8 p.m. Oct. 5, 6, 11, 12 and 13; and at 2 p.m. Oct. 14 in the campus’ Buraght Center Theatre.

Cost is $12 per person, or $10 for students, staff and senior citizens with ID card.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.cerritos.edu/theatre, or at the theater box office, open from noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Group rates are available.

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

One-day parking passes may be purchased for $1 in parking lots C-1, C-2 and C-30.

For information call the Office of Performing Arts at (562) 467-5068.
En su comunidad
Calendario comunitario de La Opinión

CLÍNICA GRATUITA EN LOS ÁNGELES
Los Ángeles Free Clinic abre su nuevo centro para servicios gratuitos de salud y dental. La nueva clínica atiende a personas sin seguro médico en el condado de Los Ángeles.
Se ofrece cuidado médico y dental. Los pacientes también pueden recibir clases sobre nutrición y salud, programas para niños con diabetes, asma y otras condiciones crónicas.
Todos los servicios son gratuitos.
Dónde: 5705 Melrose Avenue (Wilcox), Los Ángeles, CA 90038
Más información: (323) 653-1890
www.labfroclinic.org

FERIA DE TRABAJO DE “LA OPINIÓN”
Cuándo: 20 de septiembre; 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Dónde: Doubletree Hotel 5767 Telegraph Road, Commerce, CA 90040
Más información: (213) 822-8332

FERIA DE TRABAJO EN LOS ÁNGELES
Cuándo: 2 de octubre; 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Dónde: Holiday Inn, Aeropuerto Internacional de Los Ángeles, 9901 La Cienega Blvd., LA, CA 90045
Más información: (310) 649-5151

FERIA DE TRABAJO EN EL COLEGIO CERRITOS
Cuándo: 9 de octubre; 10 a.m. a 2 p.m.
Dónde: afuera de biblioteca del colegio, 11110 Aornúa Blvd, Norwalk, CA 90650
Más información: (662) 860-2451, Est. 2366

FÉRICA DE TRABAJO EN ANAHEIM
Cuándo: 7 de noviembre; 11:00 a.m.

CENTRO DE CONSEJERÍA DE YMCA
Esta actividad provee consejería a abuelos que tienen la custodia de sus nietos, naciones embarazadas y jóvenes con alto porcentaje de riesgo.
Este programa sirve a entre 50 y cien hogares de bajos ingresos.
Dónde: YMCA Community Counseling Center, 2000 W. Beverly Boulevard, Montebello, 90640
Para más información: contracte al centro: (323) 887-8622

CENTRO JACK CRIPPS
El centro para personas de la tercera edad Jack Oppeen ofrece una variedad de clases y asistencia a la comunidad para personas mayores de 18 años.
- Clases de yoga, decoración del hogar, cerámica y pintura, español e inglés.
- En el centro también se ofrece ayuda para llenar los formularios de impuestos para los pensionados de la tercera edad.
- Grupos de apoyo: el cuarto miércoles de cada mes a las 9:30 a.m. se reúne el Grupo de Apoyo para diabéticos.
- Durante la reunión se puede obtener información acerca de dieta y nutrición. El mismo miércoles, pero de 13:00 a.m. a 12:00 p.m., se efectúan exámenes de sangre a todos aquellos interesados.
- Invito a venir a jugar con nosotros los lunes a las 10:00 a.m. y los jueves a las 6:30 p.m.
- Servicios legales: consejo legal a aquellas mayores de 60 años. Los servicios son gratuitos, se aceptan donaciones.
Para más información: (626) 589-2210
La feria del trabajo

Un buen recurso para quienes buscan empleo

Patricia Prieto
Martes, 18 de septiembre de 2007

José Ramírez es hoy un chef de un reconocido hotel de Los Ángeles, gracias a una feria de trabajo que hubo hace cinco años en el Colegio Cerritos donde estudió Artes Culinarias. Este mexicano de 32 años de edad, quien entró inicialmente al plantel para estudiar soldadura, asegura que al participar en una ferias de trabajo "uno nunca sabe quién puede tener el puesto que uno está buscando, por eso hay que ir preparados".

Según Christina The, directora del Centro de Desarrollo de Carreras del Colegio Cerritos, de Norwalk, las ferias de trabajo "nos ayudan a abrir nuestras posibilidades de ubicarnos en un empleo".

Numerosas empresas efectúan (bajo un solo evento) este tipo de ferias anualmente en diversos colegios comunitarios, universidades y centros públicos de la ciudad, para posiblemente reclutar a empleados para sus puestos vacantes.

Para maximizar la posibilidad de ser contratado por una de las empresas participantes, es importante saber qué hacer antes, durante y después del evento.

Francisco de León, director de los programas del Centro de Recursos de Empleos, de Santa Fe Springs, Los Ángeles, indica que semanas antes del día de la feria es importante realizar una investigación sobre los lugares donde se van a tener esta clase de ferias.

"El periódico dominical, las oficinas locales del Departamento de Empleo de California (EDD), las oficinas de desarrollo de carrera de los colegios comunitarios, universidades y centros comunitarios son los principales recursos informativos para esta investigación", comenta De León.

Peter Vogt, orientador de carreras de la agencia cibernética de empleos MonsterTRAK, asegura que para alcanzar al mayor número de empleadores se tiene que elaborar una tarjeta de presentación con nuestros datos personales: nombre y apellido, profesión, domicilio, número telefónico y correo electrónico.

De León agrega: "Hay que elaborar también una carta de presentación y un currículum vitae y hacer unas 20 copias de cada documento, para así dejarlos en manos del mayor número de representantes de las compañías participantes".

Para que la carta de presentación y el currículum vitae sean efectivos, deben ser de sólo una página.

De León y Vogt aconsejan preparar también los siguientes datos, que servirán para llenar los formu-
larios de solicitud de empleo que algunas compañías piden ser tramitados en el mismo evento:

Nombre, dirección y número telefónico de las compañías donde se ha trabajado en los últimos cinco años.

Nombre y número telefónico del supervisor directo que se tuvo en cada una.

Nombre o título del cargo que desempeñó.

Número telefónico del Departamento de Recursos Humanos (Personal) de cada una de las compañías en la que no tuvo supervisor directo.

El nombre y el número telefónico de tres o cuatro personas que puedan dar referencia sobre usted y su trabajo.

Informarse de cada una de las compañías que participarán en la feria es otra de las tareas a realizar.

"Cuanto más informado estemos sobre la compañía a la que deseamos postular, más seguros nos sentiremos a la hora de una entrevista", afirma Vogt.

Es importante desarrollar con anticipación respuestas a las preguntas que por lo regular se hacen durante una entrevista laboral, como son:

¿Por qué dejó la compañía donde trabajaba?

¿Por qué está usted interesado en trabajar para esta compañía?

¿Por qué cree usted que es la persona idónea para este puesto?

¿Qué espera usted de la compañía y cómo se ve en ella en los próximos cinco años?

De León explica que la forma de hablar y proyectar nuestra imagen durante la feria determina que logremos o no una entrevista con el representante de la compañía a la que queremos postular. Es indispensable hablar con seguridad y vestir apropiadamente para el evento.

Si se desea postular para un puesto de cuello blanco —dice el entrevistado—, hay que vestir un traje o un sastre, y si se busca un puesto en la industria de servicios o manufacturera, se puede lucir con un aspecto deportivo, pero siempre tenemos que estar pulcros de pies a cabeza.

"Al llegar a la mesa de cada empresa participante es importante hablar con seguridad y claridad con el representante y, antes de entregarle el curriculum vitae, solicitarle su tarjeta de presentación y preguntarle por el nombre del director del Departamento de Recursos Humanos de la compañía, para luego llamar a la compañía y solicitar una cita personal", explica De León.

¿Por qué? Sencillamente, porque "podría traspapelarse nuestra información personal durante el evento y, ante esto, nuestra solicitud quedaría afuera de las de los candidatos para una posible entrevista."
De llenar algunas solicitudes de empleo durante la feria, es importante anotar en una libreta el nombre, dirección y número telefónico de las empresas a las que presentamos nuestra solicitud para más tarde darle seguimiento.

Peter Vogt explica que al llegar a casa hay que sentarse de inmediato con papel y lápiz y hacer una recopilación de los nombres de los representantes de las compañías a quienes les entregamos nuestro currículum vitae o una solicitud de empleo.

"Esto es importante porque si dejamos pasar el tiempo, lo más probable es que se nos olvide qué fue lo que hablamos con cada uno", dice el experto.

Luego de tener nuestra lista clara de los nombres de las personas con quienes hablamos, hay que elaborar y enviar —en las siguientes 24 horas— una carta de agradecimiento por "la oportunidad brindada", o una carta recordatoria en el caso de haber llenado una solicitud de empleo y conducido una entrevista de interés.

En detalle Para una visita efectiva a una feria de trabajo, siga los siguientes consejos:

Antes de la feria, averigüe qué compañías participan.

Haga una lista de sus habilidades y experiencias.

Hable con interés y claridad al entrevistarse con un representante.

Vista de forma apropiada.

Lleve suficientes copias de cartas, tarjetas de presentación y currículum vitae.

Lleve una libreta y bolígrafo para anotar nombres y compañías a las que dejó su currículum vitae o para las que llenó una solicitud de empleo.

Envíe una carta de agradecimiento o un recordatorio a las personas con quienes se entrevistó durante el evento.
Whittier resident Rhianna Lemos-Girton, right, a student at Cerritos College in Norwalk, poses with Rep. Linsa T. Sanchez, D-Cerritos, for whom the student interned the past summer. Lemos-Girton plans to study law in Northern California.

Whittier woman ends Sánchez internship

Wave Staff Report

NORWALK — For most college students, participation in American democracy simply means a trip to the polls every two years. But for Rhianna Lemos-Girton, 21, of Whittier, being involved goes far beyond just voting.


Lemos-Girton’s interest in politics was sparked during an eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C. One of the highlights of the trip was a meeting with Rep. Grace Napolitano, D-Santa Fe Springs.

In June she began an internship with Sánchez and was exposed to one of the challenging sides of politics. Her first day on the job she picked up the phone to get an earful from an angry constituent.

“It’s just a part of the job, she said.

“In the classroom you can read about government, and you can know about it to a certain point, but it’s the hands-on experience that really gives you an idea of how it works,” she said.

With her internship ended, Lemos-Girton will move to Northern California to enroll in Cal State East Bay, where she has been accepted to the pre-law program.
Oeding, Murray honored

Staff reports

Long Beach City College men's and women's water polo coach Chris Oeding, Cerritos softball coach Kodee Murray and the Cerritos athletic department were honored for their performances during the 2006-07 school year at a meeting of South Coast Conference athletic directors Wednesday.

Oeding, who led both the LBCC men and women to state water polo titles in 2006, was voted Men's Coach of the Year and Co-Women's Coach of the Year. Murray, who led the Falcons' softball team to the state final, was also honored as Co-Women's Coach of the Year.

Cerritos also won the SCC Supremacy Award after claiming seven conference crowns and a state championship.

Oeding's men's team finished at 31-3 and claimed its second consecutive state crown. The women were 32-4 and won their third title in four years. Oeding also coached LBCC's men's swim team to a fifth-place finish at the state final.

Murray took 11 freshmen all the way to the softball title game and set a school record with 39 victories.

Cerritos men's soccer coach Benny Artega, who guided the Falcons to the program's first state championship, was also a candidate.
Oportunidades educativas en el área de la salud

Conferencia informativa del Colegio Cerritos y la Universidad de California

Patricia Prieto
Lunes, 24 de septiembre de 2007

La escasez de médicos, enfermeras, dentistas y otros profesionales en el campo de los servicios de la salud de Estados Unidos se hace cada día más evidente, al igual que la falta de representantes latinos en el campo laboral. Como una respuesta a este problema, la Universidad de California en Los Ángeles (UCLA) y el Colegio Cerritos unieron hace cinco años esfuerzos para desarrollar el proyecto Oportunidades en el Área de la Salud y Conducto a la Educación (HOPE), que ayuda a los alumnos de secundaria a canalizar sus estudios hacia la medicina y otras carreras de la salud.

El Colegio Cerritos efectuará el próximo 29 de septiembre una conferencia informativa sobre este proyecto.

"Nuestro objetivo es brindar a los jóvenes y a sus padres la información que necesitan para saber cómo aprovechar los recursos académicos y financieros de que disponen para ingresar a una carrera en el campo de la salud", dice Graciela Vásquez, directora del proyecto HOPE.

La conferencia se desarrollará de 8:00 a.m. a 3:00 p.m., en el Centro Estudiantil del 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650. Constará de tres talleres informativos donde adolescentes y padres de familia recibirán información sobre los recursos académicos y las oportunidades financieras que tienen para seguir una carrera de educación superior, técnica o vocacional en el área del cuidado de la salud.

Antes de comenzar los talleres, el doctor David Hayes-Bautista, de la Universidad de California en Los Ángeles (UCLA), hablará sobre la nueva imagen de California y la necesidad evidente de incrementar la presencia latina entre los profesionales de la salud.

Igualmente, se presentará la obra teatral La decisión es tuya, que deja en los jóvenes un claro mensaje: sólo en ti está la decisión de estudiar, prepararte y crear un mejor futuro para ti y tu familia.

Representantes de empresas y agencias dedicadas al servicio de la salud hablarán sobre la escasez actual de profesionales en este campo y los numerosos puestos vacantes.

"La necesidad de profesiones en todas las áreas de la salud es evidente", puntualiza Vásquez. "Por eso, estamos trabajando con la Universidad de California en Los Ángeles (UCLA) para atraer al mayor número de estudiantes latinos a estas carreras del futuro, donde siempre tendrán empleo".

Para los estudiantes que todavía no han solucionado su situación migratoria, se ofrecerá un taller donde
se hablará de la Ley AB-540, que les permite ingresar a colegios comunitarios y planteles de educación superior.

En uno de los talleres se explicará sobre las materias que los escolares tienen que aprobar para ingresar a la educación superior y cómo pueden avanzar en ella.

Los padres también tendrán un espacio informativo. En él se hablará sobre los cursos de educación bilingüe y las clases de alfabetización, primaria y secundaria que el programa Plaza Comunitaria, del Colegio Cerritos, opera en colaboración con el Departamento de Educación del gobierno mexicano.

"Los padres son la pieza más importante en el desarrollo escolar de sus hijos. Si los padres, al igual que sus hijos aprovechan los programas que los preparan, el beneficio es doble en el hogar, porque se incrementa la motivación y el trabajo en equipo de toda la familia para lograr sus objetivos claros", dice Dary-abuth Martínez, asistente de los Programas Bilingües del Departamento de Educación de Adultos.

La admisión a la conferencia es gratis, al igual que el estacionamiento. También se servirá desayuno y almuerzo gratis a las personas que notifiquen su asistencia con anticipación.

Esta es la segunda vez que el proyecto HOPE organiza un evento como éste. Edith Vega, una madre de la comunidad de Norwalk, estuvo en la primera reunión y opina: "Recibí la información y las herramientas necesarias para ayudar a mis hijos de 12 y 9 años. Como ejemplo, ahora sé que pueden comenzar a tomar clases en el colegio comunitario mientras están cursando la secundaria. Esto les ayudará mucho para entrar a la universidad".

Hace cinco años el proyecto HOPE comenzó a desarrollarse en el Colegio Cerritos, con el apoyo del Centro para Estudios de Salud y Cultura Latina de la Universidad de California en Los Ángeles (UCLA).

"Este proyecto es único", afirma Vásquez. "Actualmente, no hay otro colegio comunitario que lo tenga".

El proyecto busca incrementar el rostro latino en las carreras de salud, al luchar contra la deserción escolar y mejorar el bajo nivel académico que siempre ha marcado a los estudiantes latinos.

En lo que lleva el programa, HOPE ha logrado transferir a más de 75 estudiantes a diferentes universidades del estado, incluyendo UCLA, UC Berkeley y UC Irvine.

Para más información sobre el proyecto HOPE, llame al (562) 653-7847, o visite en internet www.cerritos.edu/hope.

Qué: Conferencia informativa del proyecto de Oportunidades en el Área de la Salud y Conducto a la Educación (HOPE).

Cuándo: 29 de septiembre; 8:00 a.m. a 3:00 p.m.

Dónde: Centro Estudiantil del Colegio Cerritos, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650.

Costo: gratis. Se servirá desayuno y almuerzo gratis a quienes lo soliciten y reserven con anticipación.
Anna in the Tropics

Anna in the Tropics portrays the lives of cigar factory workers in Ybor City, Tampa, Florida, when a new lector, perhaps the last to ply his trade, is hired. 8 p.m. Oct 6 through 2 p.m. Oct 14, Cerritos College, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk.

Admission: $10-$12. (562) 860-2451
Cerritos College’s Second 9-Week Session Begins October 15

NORWALK — Cerritos College’s second 9-week session begins Monday, October 15, 2007. Students may access a schedule of classes, complete an application and register online for a variety of classes by visiting www.cerritos.edu/admissions.

All eligible returning students have an option to either register online through MyCerritos or by using the automated Falcon Phone registration system at (562) 865-3276.

Cerritos College serves as a comprehensive community college for south-eastern 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 200 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 Graduate Pursues Her Passion at UC Berkeley

Viviana Ruiz came to Cerritos College knowing that she wanted a career in science, but without a specific direction in mind. Through her science classes, she discovered she had a passion for molecular cell biology. Ruiz is now at UC Berkeley with the assistance of a large scholarship, and is planning to attend medical school.

Attending one of the top-ranked public universities in the nation, Ruiz is nowhere near being overwhelmed.

“I feel that the science faculty at Cerritos College prepared me very well to face this transition. The level of instruction was top-notch. I feel that I’m competitive—I’m at the level that I can excel.”

Ruiz entered Berkeley with an impressive background, boasting two internships doing biomedical research at California State University Long Beach and UC Irvine. In both her internships, Ruiz studied fruit flies, attempting to identify genes that are similar to those found in humans, so that insights gained about immunological and developmental disorders in the flies could eventually be applied to people.

It was this research, Ruiz believes, that gave her a leg up on the competition when she applied for a large scholarship through Berkeley.

“I wondered at what my chances were of actually receiving such a big scholarship, but I’d won several at Cerritos College, so why not try it?” Ruiz reasoned.

In the end, the results were well worth the effort—Ruiz came away with $7,000. Part of it is designated for tuition assistance and other college-related expenses, and another portion is to be used for research. Ruiz hopes to have an opportunity to research abroad, possibly in Brazil, Argentina or Spain. She would like to contribute to cancer research at some point during her college career. But ultimately, she says, she wants to become a physician.

“I got involved in community service while I was at Cerritos College,” says Ruiz. “I began to see that more than just a passion for human biology, I also felt that there was a need for people who were competent to take care of the patients, who were humane and who cared. I knew that it was my call. I couldn’t sit in a lab. I needed to be interacting with humanity and helping cure people.”

Beyond helping her narrow down her career field of interest, Cerritos College also gave Ruiz a much-needed support group through the grant-funded program Project HOPE, which was created to assist underrepresented groups obtain careers in healthcare fields.

“Project HOPE empowered me,” asserts Ruiz. “It was one of the main supports that I had at Cerritos College because it connected me with other students who had great potential. It gave me confidence in terms of feeling that I wasn’t alone—I had people to count on. It gave me academic tools, like tutoring, sponsorship for conferences and educational workshops. It also gave me a job as a tutor for fellow students.”
Besides Project HOPE, Ruiz also benefitted from the attention of professors in several departments. “I was working 30 hours per week and taking a full load of classes. But early on in my time at Cerritos College, I took a class with Diane Keenan from economics, who took me under her wing and offered me a position as her assistant. I started being able to spend more time in school, because I could work and go to school at the same place. She had a lot to do with helping me concentrate and find my path—she encouraged me to pursue my dreams. And she helped me not to get down in the middle of difficult family circumstances.”

Keenan and other professors, says Ruiz, were very important all throughout her time at Cerritos College. She especially appreciates that “they went out of their way to make sure students understood the material. They were very helpful, and really dedicated themselves to their job.”

After the one-on-one attention Ruiz received at Cerritos, it was a bit of an adjustment being at UC Berkeley, where professors often don’t have time to talk to students and competition for individual appointments with faculty can be intense. Still, she loves her new life. This semester, Ruiz is enrolled in a course on human anatomy, and says that what’s she’s learning is “quite spectacular.”

Besides delving into the mysteries of human life, Ruiz says the professor frequently invites practitioners from other specialties to talk to her class.

“At Berkeley, I’m seeing a lot of options,” Ruiz had the option to enroll at a 4-year college right out of high school, but it wasn’t workable for financial reasons. But in the end, she says she’s better off having gone to Cerritos College.

“At a 4-year there’s so much pressure to get in and out and get your degree. If I had gone to a 4-year straight out of high school, I wouldn’t be where I am now. I wouldn’t have ended pursuing a career in medicine,” she says. “At Cerritos College, I could really explore what I wanted to go into, and know what I wanted to do.”

And thanks to perseverance and a lot of support, she’s already well on her way.
CCC Auto Tech to Showcase Advanced Transportation Concepts at O.C. Auto Show

The Southland Cerritos Center for Transportation Technologies (SCCIT) at Cerritos College, in cooperation with Rio Hondo College, Long Beach City College and Cypress College, will host a display in the Auto Show Underground area on the theme of advanced transportation. The display will feature alternative fuels and hybrid vehicles, including a hybrid Honda Insight vehicle, a 2008 Ford Escape hybrid, and a compressed natural gas (CNG)-powered truck. There will also be various tabletop model vehicles and training aids that demonstrate alternative fuel, fuel cell, and solar power concepts. Show runs from Th., Oct. 4- Sun, Oct. 7, at Anaheim Convention Center.
Honors Students Get a Glimpse of the Road Ahead

Students who want the fast track to a UC know where it’s at: Cerritos College’s Scholars’ Honors Program (SHP). Now in its 11th year, the program provides advanced students with unique opportunities for scholarships, closer interaction with professors, smaller class sizes, priority admission consideration from top California universities, and other benefits.

At an orientation on Tuesday, Sept. 25, a new group of students met with director Timothy Juntilla to find out all that the year has in store for them. Juntilla has high hopes for this crowd; last year’s outgoing class had a 94 percent acceptance rate at UC Irvine, and 95 percent at UCLA.

I want students to know that there’s nothing standing in the way of them and the top schools in the state,” said Juntilla.

During the past seven years, program has seen steady growth. Its increase this fall over the previous year stands at 10 percent.

Several students at the orientation were returning as sophomores to complete their second year of studies at Cerritos College before transferring. Bryan Rowe, an English major, says he hopes to attend UCLA, UC Berkeley, or perhaps Columbia University. He says he’s appreciated SHP because he gets the opportunity to take classes with like-minded students.

“It’s a better learning environment,” he says. “Students in your classes are harder-working.”

Rowe is the 2007-08 president of the Scholars’ Honors Club, which provides an avenue for students to form support structures for each other. It also assists them in their transfer goals by setting aside time for community service, something that college admissions officials want to see on the records of incoming students. Club members volunteer at a senior center across the street from the college, and also participate in beach clean-up days.

Sarah Jimenez, an art major, has taken several honors courses through SHP since she entered the program in the fall of 2006. She says the program has helped her build relationships with her professors.

“A lot of students are afraid of their professors, but SHP helps you overcome that,” she says.

Students are brought into closer contact with instructors through smaller class sizes. They also work closely with professors in contract courses—non-honors courses that SHP students can count as honors classes when they complete an additional research requirement.

“One of the strengths of SHP is that it allows students to customize their own learning experience,” says Juntilla. “Aside from the many courses custom-designed for honors students, the students can make their honors experience virtually anything they want through means of contract courses.”

Rowe, who is enrolled this fall in a contract course in logic, is currently working on a research project which he describes as “the ontological status of definite descriptions”—or, in layman’s terms, the validity and existence of nouns that refer to a singular individual or object.

Upon completion of his research, he’ll have the opportunity to make presentations at student research conferences.

“Conferences are beneficial to the students not just in giving them experience in presenting research to experts in academia, but also for the fact that they can network with honors administration, faculty and students. In addition, the experience they gain gives them understanding in how to apply for research grants and internships.”

Students who present at conferences also gain the benefit of a more competitive admission application when it comes time to transfer.

Scholars’ Honors Program students are typically among the best and brightest of students seeking to transfer. Not only do they frequently gain admission to the most competitive public universities in the state, but they’re in the running for large scholarships as well.

One SHP student who recently graduated from Cerritos College received a $5,000 scholarship to UCLA, and many other SHP students also receive awards.

As the semester kicks into high gear, Juntilla is eager to see the new honors students achieve and even surpass the successes of their predecessors.

“They already have the ability; now, through SHP, they have the resources as well,” he says. “I’m tremendously optimistic about their future.”
With the proliferation of technology in recent years, educators have become increasingly competent at using these new tools to create better learning environments. One innovative example of this is the Kurzweil 3000 program, a text-to-speech tool. The many features of the program have been used at Cerritos College to assist visually impaired students, as well as those with learning disabilities who have trouble interacting with and synthesizing printed material.

Now, however, it’s becoming apparent that the software can be a valuable tool for all learners.

“Kurzweil has traditionally been used for students with dyslexia and other disabilities, but its features are such that it is beneficial to the board,” says Stacey Kayden, a learning disabilities specialist from Laney Community College in Oakland, Calif.

Kayden has taken the lead in broadening the appeal of the program beyond students with learning disabilities. She travels around the state giving workshops to specialists and faculty members, showing them how to take advantage of all the valuable features of the program. At a recent workshop at Cerritos College, educators from many different schools received training to help them more fully utilize the program’s capabilities.

Kurzweil has many valuable features built into it. Designed to expand on the concept of e-books, the interface allows students to take notes on the material in a separate window side-by-side with their on-screen text. It enables highlighting of the material, and also boasts a tool which extracts highlighted material into an instant, student-generated study guide.

In addition, the program can be used to teach study strategies to students. Instructors using the programs for their classes can insert their own comments into the text, pointing out areas that they particularly want students to be familiar with. As they see notes made by instructors, students gain the benefit of learning how to read actively and observing how to interact with the text. Feedback from students also indicates that they love knowing what to study, and what not to study, pointed out for them as they read.

The program even helps students with their writing. “Many times when students review their own papers, they read what’s in their minds—what they think they’ve written—rather than what’s actually on the paper,” says Kayden. “The result is omitted words and other errors. But when you have a program read your paper back to you, the mistakes become much more obvious, and students are far more likely to catch them. The program will even let you edit your paper as you listen.”

Kayden says she’s gotten a lot of positive feedback. “Students love it,” she says. “It seems to really help improve their focus. With Kurzweil, the textbook becomes more engaging.”
“Students in this day and age are interactive and connected. They are constantly text messaging and connecting with each other on MySpace. Then they come to class, and when education doesn’t follow that, they’re not engaged.”

According to Kayden, one of the most appealing aspects of the program is its ability to level the playing field for students. “In classrooms where the program is used by all the students, everyone is able to keep up. Visually-impaired students lose their disadvantage: students with weak reading skills no longer have such a giant impediment. The program helps all learners progress at a similar pace.”

The program also boasts a valuable feature for ESL students; a built-in dictionary allows them to highlight unfamiliar words and access definitions instantly, without the hassle of large, clumsy reference books.

Cynthia Alexander, department chair of educational technology at Cerritos College, teaches a class designed to help instructors effectively use assistive technology in the classroom. Many of her students, she says, are actually Cerritos College faculty members themselves. In the past, she’s required her students to work with the program so that they can use it to assist students with disabilities in their own classrooms. Alexander attended the Kayden’s recent workshop to learn how to more fully take advantage of the program’s features. With her new knowledge, she plans on requiring her students to explore more features in the program, enabling them to better serve their own students in turn.

One of the drawbacks of the Kurzweil program is the expense involved. Students at Cerritos College get free access on campus, but studying at home again becomes a chore, especially for students with disabilities. For this reason, Mary Hunt, a learning disability specialist in the Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) at Cerritos College, created a scholarship opportunity for its students—DSPS students who become proficient at using the Kurzweil program qualify to apply for the Kurzweil scholarship. The scholarship, which was recently funded by the Cerritos College Foundation, provides one recipient per academic year with the Kurzweil read-version software.

“We are committed to helping all students achieve their education goals, regardless of the hardships they face,” says Hunt. “The Kurzweil program is a big step toward making that happen.”

To learn more about the Kurzweil 3000 program, or to obtain information about an upcoming conference designed to help educators adapt the program to general education classes, visit collegeinfocus.com or email Stacey Kayden at cifocus@pacbell.net.

More information on DSPS at Cerritos College may be obtained from the DSPS website at http://www.cerritos.edu/dps/, by calling (562) 860-2451 ext. 2333 or by emailing dps-info@cerritos.edu.