FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 29—APRIL 4, 2007

In Progress
Kristen Habbestad is working to get advertisements for summer registration in area CSU student newspapers.

Ms. Habbestad is also finalizing artwork updates for theater slide ads, bus tails and billboards that will be featured in the district beginning April 13.

Coverage
Wave Community News—February 22, 2007—Article on events at Cerritos College celebrating Women’s History Month (from press release).

Westlake Village Acorn—February 22, 2007—Article on local high school students who took home an award from Cerritos College’s auto tech competition.


Los Angeles Herald-American—February 22, 2007—Article discussing candidates vying for seats on Bellflower’s city council, mentioning that two of them earned their associate’s degrees at Cerritos College.

Whittier Daily News—March 5, 2007—Promotional brief on Cerritos College’s Chinese New Year celebration (from press release).

Whittier Daily News—March 5, 2007—Promotional brief on the “Unprimed” exhibit at Cerritos College’s art gallery (from press release).

Norwalk Community News—March 30, 2007—Short article on Cerritos College’s art gallery featuring the work of students (from press release).

Norwalk Community News—March 30, 2007—Promotional article on chamber “mega” mixer to be held at Cerritos College (from press release).
Cerritos College to Host Darfur Conflict Discussion
Videoconference Event Includes Address from U.N. Representative

For Immediate Release: March 28, 2007

Event Contact: John Haas, Humanities and Social Sciences Division at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2726
Media Contact: Kristen Habbestad, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451, ext. 2287

WHAT: Cerritos College’s Humanities and Social Sciences Division along with the Global Consortium will host a discussion about the Darfur conflict in western Sudan on Monday, April 23 at 9:30 a.m. The event will help educate attendees about the genocide currently occurring in the Darfur region of Sudan. United Nations representative Peter Jackson will also be attending to give his perspective. This event will be broadcast live through the California Community College Satellite Television (CCCSAT) and online at www.cccsat.org.

WHEN: Monday, April 23, 2007, 9:30 - 11 a.m.

WHERE: Wilford Michael Library and Learning Resource Center
Room 155 (Teleconference Center)

CONTACT: For more information, please contact Dr. John Haas of the Humanities and Social Sciences Division at jhaas@cerritos.edu or at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2726.

COST: Admission to the event is free; on-campus parking is $1 per day.

Cerritos College serves as a comprehensive community college for southeastern Los Angeles County. Communities within the college’s district include Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and portions of Bell Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs and South Gate. Cerritos College offers degrees and certificates in more than 180 areas of study in nine divisions. Annually, more than 1,200 students successfully complete their course of studies, and enrollment currently surpasses 20,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at www.cerritos.edu.

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Cerritos College Theater to Present "Godspell"

For Immediate Release: March 28, 2007

Media Contact: Kristen Habbestad, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext. 2287
Event Contact: Mary Ann Boice, Theatre Department; (562) 467-5058

WHAT: The Cerritos College Theatre Department will present “Godspell,” a musical based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew, beginning Friday, April 27 at 8 p.m. Five additional showings will follow opening night.

Godspell" presents a whimsical view of Jesus, as his followers and disciples re-enact parables and scenes from Jesus' life with great energy through song and dance.

WHEN: “Godspell” will be presented on the following dates:

April 27, 28 at 8 p.m.

May 3, 4, 5 at 8 p.m.

May 6 at 2 p.m.

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

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

CONTACT: For more information on “Godspell” and the Cerritos College Theatre Department, please call ext. 5058 or visit www.cerritos.edu/theatre

COST: General admission is $18; Cerritos College students with current spring ID and senior citizens are admitted for $15. Group ticket prices are also available. Tickets are available for all performance dates and may be purchased through the Burnight Center Theatre box office. Box office hours are Monday through Thursday, noon to 5 p.m.

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Cerritos College to Host Interfaith Dialogue Featuring Dr. Judea Pearl and Dr. Akbar Ahmed
Guests Will Also Include a U.N. Representative

For Immediate Release: March 29, 2007

Event Contact: John Haas, Humanities and Social Sciences Division at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2726
Media Contact: Kristen Habbestad, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451, ext. 2287

WHAT: Cerritos College’s Humanities and Social Sciences Division along with the Global Consortium will host an interfaith dialogue with guests Dr. Judea Pearl, Dr. Akbar Ahmed and a representative from the United Nations on Monday, April 30, at 7 p.m. This event will be broadcast live through the California Community College Satellite Television (CCCSAT) and online at www.cccsat.org.

Dr. Judea Pearl is a UCLA researcher and the father of the late Daniel Pearl, a Wall Street Journal reporter who was killed in Pakistan in 2002. He has since begun the Daniel Pearl Foundation, through which he has worked with Professor Akbar S. Ahmed, chair of Islamic Studies at American University. Subsequent to a dialogue between Ahmed and Pearl last year held in Pittsburgh, the two jointly received the 2006 Purpose Award for “fighting intolerance, conflict and terrorism through dialogue and exchange.”

WHEN: Monday, April 30, 2007, 7 – 9 p.m.

WHERE: Wilford Michael Library and Learning Resource Center, Room 155 (Teleconference Center)
Cerritos College
11110 Alondra Blvd
Norwalk, CA 90650

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

CONTACT: For more information, please contact Dr. John Haas of the Humanities and Social Sciences Division at jhaas@cerritos.edu or at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2726.

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Cerritos College Fills Two Management Positions
New Directors Hired for Foster Kinship Care Education Program and Child Development Center

For Immediate Release: March 29, 2007
Media Contact: Kristen Habbestad, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext. 2287

NORWALK, CA – March 29, 2007 – Cerritos College’s Board of Trustees recently approved the hire of two individuals to fill management positions on campus. Lori Switanowski is the new director of the college’s Foster Kinship Care Education program, and Debra Ward joins Cerritos College as director of the Child Development Center.

Switanowski most recently served as a program manager providing mental health care for low-income families in Baldwin Park. She also worked for several years at a residential teen girls’ outreach program servicing foster care youth. During her career, Switanowski has also provided foster and kinship care training at Citrus, Rio Hondo and Pasadena community colleges. She holds a bachelor’s degree from the State University of New York (SUNY), Buffalo and a master’s degree in clinical psychology from Pepperdine University. Switanowski is a licensed marriage and family therapist.

“I’m tremendously excited to be combining my passion for both foster care and relative caregivers education in a full-time capacity,” Switanowski said.

“This generation of kids really needs our help, and I want to be a voice to advocate for children in foster or kinship care.”

Ward joins Cerritos College with more than 28 years of experience in early childhood education. Most recently, she served for five years as the director of the child development center at San Bernardino Valley College, where she also taught courses in child development for 15 years. In addition, she served as the associate executive director at Redlands Family YMCA for 18 years. Ward holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Redlands and a master’s degree in child development from the University of La Verne.

“I’m excited to be at Cerritos College because this particular child development program has always been held in high regard among other colleges,” she said.

“I am excited to continue with the success that it’s had and to continue to improve its success as well.”

The Child Development Center is looking to expand its services to include care for both infants and school-age children, in addition to the toddlers and preschoolers it currently admits. Ward hopes to enact these new programs, and also to improve both the indoor and outdoor play environments for the children.

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Cerritos College plans Women’s History Month events

NORWALK — Cerritos College will host a monthlong series of special events, guest speakers and lectures during March in celebration of Women’s History Month, according to Kristen Habbestad, the college’s media relations coordinator.

Events include a breast cancer walk, film festival and essay contest, she added. All events during Women’s History Month are free and open to the public.

Panel discussions and lectures will include topics such as gender representation in hip-hop music, an examination of whether women can balance their career and family and second-wave feminism from a historical perspective.

A film festival March 5-8 will feature “Water,” directed by Deepa Mehta about a Hindu girl who is suddenly widowed. “Yesterday,” a motion picture about a woman living in a remote village in South Africa; and “Leila,” set in contemporary Iran.

The film festival will also show “Maria Full of Grace,” which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2004, Habbestad said. Written and directed by Joshua Marston, “Maria Full of Grace” depicts a young woman who accepts a business and travels proposition in exchange for smuggling heroin into the United States.

A panel discussion will follow the showing of the film. March 20 will feature the “Clothesline Project,” a display allowing victims of sexual abuse a forum of expression. It will be featured in Falcon Square.

Winners of the Women’s History Month essay contest will be announced on March 20 in the Cheryl A. Epple Board Room at 6 p.m.

A breast cancer awareness walk will be held March 22 in Falcon Square, raising funds and support for the fight against breast cancer.

Information: Esther Choi at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2362.
Agoura High drives on to National Auto Tech Competition

UNDER THE HOOD—From left, Agoura High students Michael Amodio and John Theodsiou check out a car at the High School Auto Tech Competition recently.

Agoura High School finished first in the High School Auto Tech Competitions at Cerritos College Sat., Feb. 10.

The team will represent Los Angeles at the National Auto Tech Competition April 10 and 11 in New York City. Team members also received tool box sets.

Agoura High’s auto shop class, taught by John Andersen, will receive a late Ford Mustang courtesy of Ford ASSET Program.

Agoura High team members Michael Amodio and John Theodsiou competed with 14 other teams, exhibiting auto technology skills by reporting diagnostic conclusions in categories such as automatic transmission, fuel injection and emission, heating and air conditioning, brakes, basic electrical, tools and measurements.
Brenda Velis, a sophomore at Cerritos College, displays her research project which was honored at the annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students in Anaheim.

Student honored for medical research

NORWALK — Brenda Velis, a sophomore at Cerritos College, has received an award for research at the annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students.

Velis is a student in Cerritos College’s Project HOPE program, a federally funded program dedicated to increasing the number of Latinos and other minority groups entering health careers, according to Kristen Habbestad, the college’s community relations coordinator.

A graduate of Dominguez High School and a resident of Compton, Velis said she was proud to accept the award and that she looks forward to upcoming conferences at which she can participate in other research presentations.

“It wasn’t easy, coming out of Dominguez High School and being a young woman interested in science and math,” Velis said. “But I am determined to study hard, and I plan to earn both medical and research doctorates so that I can continue to pursue research, hopefully in the area of pediatrics.”

The conference is organized by the American Society for Microbiology and supported by a grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

About 120 undergraduates — including Velis — received monetary awards of $250 for their research.

Velis was recognized for her work identifying genes responsible for senescence (when organs of a plant die as a part of the normal development) in the plant Arabidopsis thaliana.

She worked with Bunkuong Lim, a student at Long Beach City College, to complete the research.
Four challengers seek seats on Bellflower City Council

BY ARNOLD ADLER
STAFF WRITER

BELLFLOWER — Four challengers, two who have sought office before, are running against two incumbents in the March 6 City Council election here.

A third council member, Mayor Pro Tem John Pratt, is not seeking re-election.

The two incumbents who are running are both citing the city’s recent accomplishments. Mayor Ray Smith and Councilman Randy Bomgaars point to reduce crime in the city and new developments as reasons to re-elect them.

Planning Commissioner Ray Dunton says he wants to follow in the footsteps of the man who appointed him, Pratt, and pledged to seek continued civic improvement and crime reduction.

Public Safety Commission member Aaron Drake, a law enforcement administrator, says he will make public safety and improving the quality of life in Bellflower as his main objectives. He was appointed by Councilwoman Dorothy King.

Educator John Paul Drayer, a third-generation Bellflower resident, pledges to seek tax reductions and support low-density standards of development.

Retired businessman Antonio Ramirez says simply he wants to help fix the city’s operating system, which he says is broken.

Drake is running for public office for the first time. Drayer was runner-up in 2005 when Councilman Scott Larsen and King were re-elected. Ramirez also was an unsuccessful candidate in that race.

Besides crime reduction, Bomgaars, 56, a teacher for 35 years, currently at Jefferson Elementary, points to accomplishments of the council during his stint since 1999.

They include completion of six plazas and beautification projects, soundwalls along the Artesia (91) Freeway and revitalization of the Bellflower Village shopping district.

He calls for effective public safety, quality development and “innovative” resident services.

A longtime resident of Bellflower, Bomgaars graduated from Valley Christian High School in Cerritos; earned an associate’s degree in education at Cerritos College, a bachelor’s degree from Cal State Long Beach, and a master’s degree from Pepperdine University.

He and his wife, Jennie, have three children and a granddaughter.

“We are experiencing one of the most dynamic transformation in our city’s history with new development, new businesses and a renewed sense of pride and accomplishment,” Bomgaars said.

Drake, 47, a Bellflower resident for 19 years, said his goal is “to continue to improve the quality of life in Bellflower. I will meet with residents to learn their concerns.

“I will work hard to increase homeownership in the city and explore programs that will induce renters to become homeowners. I will make public safety a priority by working closely with law enforcement to continue reducing crime. I will work with community members and address their concerns. Most residents want more visible patrols and a pro-active law enforcement department.

He said he would try to reduce the tax burden for residents and work to encourage more residents to consider opening a business in the city.

Drake calls for monthly clean-up days that will include residents and business owners. He would work closely with the city’s code enforcement department to ensure all laws and municipal codes are being enforced and would expand programs that help senior citizens maintain their property.

Drayer, 44, has been an educator for 20 years, working at Bellflower Adult School, as a counselor at Mayfair High, and currently at Webster Middle School.

He is a member of Friends of the Bellflower Library and the Bellflower Chamber of Commerce, a captain with the Northwest Bellflower Neighborhood Watch, president of the Bellflower Democratic Club and co-founder of the Julie Cross Scholarship at YMCA.

Drayer says he seeks to attract new business, calm traffic, support community policing and advocate for senior, park and fire protection programs.

See CANDIDATES on page A2
Bellflower candidates speak out on campaign issues

CANDIDATES from page A1

“My platform is economic and job development, neighborhood traffic calming, unifying the city and beautification,” Drayer said. He graduated from Bellflower High school, earned an associate’s degree at Cerritos College, a bachelor’s degree at Cal State Long Beach, and a master’s degree at Cal State Dominquez Hills.

“I pledge to refuse all meals, gifts and loans from city contractors or developers to ensure fair city contracts and limited density developments to protect neighborhood from overcrowding,” he said.

Dunton, 49, said he wants civic improvements and safer neighborhoods. “For the past eight years that I have been on the Planning Commission we have made major improvements to the downtown area and seen a major decrease of crime,” he said. “I’m proud to be part of the team that has made such major improvements in Bellflower over the last eight years. The Planning Commission had a major part in setting high standards of development in the city.”

Dunton also said he wants to help create an environment that encourages developments and new businesses. “A 44-year resident of Bellflower, Dunton operates a business in the city and is a member and past president of the Bellflower Kiwanis Club.

He pledges to use his business skills to help the city. Dunton and his wife, Dawn, have a daughter and a son, both in college.

He attended Bellflower schools, Cerritos College and Universal Technical Institute and is the owner of a business called Ray-A-Motive.

“More needs to be done to reduce crime and improve neighborhood quality,” he said. “We need higher development standards and more job opportunities for children.”

Dunton is on the board of directors the Bellflower Chamber of Commerce, is an ROP advisor to Bellflower High School and a supporter of ARC, a program for mentally disabled adults.

“I believe my education, business experiences and longtime involvement in the community qualifies me for a council position,” he said.

Ramirez, a resident of Bellflower for 10 years, said: “We need changes in Bellflower to attract businesses. Nobody wants to come here [because] the city gives [developers] a hard time.”

He said problems include gangs, “We should put the system to work,” he said. “We have laws, the capabilities and resources to enforce them.”

And his wife have six children and seven grandchildren.

Smith, a longtime Realtor in the city, said his major priority is “to focus on the future of Bellflower. I believe that well-planned redevelopment is a high priority.”

“We must continue to devote major resources to Bellflower’s safety,” he said, adding that he believes he has helped provide the city with “the best public safety program ever.”

“My business, family, home and life are here in Bellflower. I want to continue using my experience, fairness and vision for a better Bellflower.”
Chinese New Year event scheduled

NORWALK — Cerritos College, the Chinese Culture Association of Southern California and the Cerritos Chinese School will host a Chinese New Year Celebration from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday at its student center on campus, 11110 Alondra Blvd.

The year of the boar will be celebrated through various performances, exhibitions and workshops.

The event is free and open to the public. A map of the campus is available at www.cerritos.edu/guide.

For more information, call Danita Kurtz at (562) 860-2451, Ext. 2151, or e-mail dkurtz@cerritos.edu.

Art exhibit open at college gallery

NORWALK — “Unprimed,” an exhibition of artworks by Gary Garay, Xavier Cazares Cortez, Pedro Rios Martinez and Shizu Saldamando, is on display through Thursday at the Cerritos College Art Gallery in the Fine Arts Building, 11110 Alondra Blvd.

The public is also invited to attend an artists’ talk on the exhibition from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at the gallery.

For more information, visit www.cerritos.edu/gallery or contact Christina Fernandez at (562) 860-2451, Ext. 2612, or at cmfernandez@cerritos.edu.
Cerritos College Art Gallery to Feature Student Exhibit

Cerritos College Art Gallery will feature its annual exhibition of student artwork, on view from April 10 through May 8. The annual student art exhibit features more than 100 student artworks chosen by Cerritos College Fine Arts instructors from their courses that include photography, drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, computer graphics and design, video and computer animation among others.

The distinguished Los Angeles-based painter Patssi Valdez will jury the exhibition. Awards and cash prizes will be given to students for outstanding accomplishments in their respective disciplines. A reception and awards ceremony for the artists will be held on Wednesday, April 11, 5-8 p.m.

The Cerritos College Art Gallery is in the Fine Arts Building, room 50, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk. A map of the campus is available at www.cerritos.edu/guide. Gallery Hours are: Monday – Thursday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 6-9 p.m. For more information, please visit www.cerritos.edu/gallery or contact Christina Fernandez at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2612 or at cmfernandez@cerritos.edu.

The event is free and open to the public; parking is available in lot C-10 for $1.

Cerritos College Foundation to Host Annual Chamber “Mega” Mixer on April 24

The Cerritos College Foundation will host its 11th annual Chamber Mega Mixer on Tuesday, April 24, 5-8 p.m. in the Cerritos College Student Center. The mixer will feature an “It’s a Jungle Out There” theme and participating chambers include Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Lakewood, La Mirada, Norwalk, Paramount and Santa Fe Springs.

Since it began, the Chamber Mega Mixer has grown each year to feature booths from local businesses, along with several of the college’s award-winning programs. The mixer’s traditionally casual and entertaining atmosphere provides networking opportunities, door prizes and drawings, and a delicious cuisine prepared by the Cerritos College Culinary Arts Program.

Reservations for exhibitor tables are now available. Exhibitor tables will be sold at $145 each on a first-come, first-served basis. Only 45 tables are available. A credit card is required to reserve a table.

The Cerritos College Student Center is located at 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk. A map of the campus is available at www.cerritos.edu/guide. For more information, please contact Janice Cole or Kimberly Corbitt, Cerritos College Foundation, at (562) 860-5451, ext. 2526 or ext. 2539; e-mail them at jcole@cerritos.edu or kcorbitt@cerritos.edu.

Admission and parking for the event is free. Parking is available in Lot C-10 only, located off 166th Street next to the strawberry field.

The Cerritos College Foundation, a non-profit organization, serves as a charitable vehicle for the community, individuals and alumni, to assist with financial support of Cerritos College beyond that which state funding supports.