FOR THE WEEKS OF AUGUST 8 — 28, 2007

In Progress
Allison Abel is working with School Relations to create an official MySpace page for Cerritos College

Coverage
Los Angeles Business Journal—July 2007—List of top 25 colleges (ranked by full-time student equivalents) in the L.A. area, listing Cerritos College at number 11

Downey Patriot—July 13, 2007—Feature profile about a Downey Unified School District member Martha Sodetani, mentioning that she has taught classes at Cerritos College

Wave Community News, Lynwood Press—July 26, 2007—Article about a Cerritos College baseball player who is making an impressive showing playing for minor league club


Whittier Daily News—July 30, 2007—Alert regarding the start of the fall semester at Cerritos College (from press release).

Norwalk Community News—August 3, 2007—Article regarding ESL classes offered at Cerritos College (from press release).

Norwalk Community News—August 3, 2007—Article regarding Cerritos College Scholars’ Honors Program students’ acceptance rates at UCI and UCLA (from press release).

Norwalk Community News—August 3, 2007—Article regarding the graduation of 25 Cerritos College students from the GM Automotive Service Education Program (from press release).

Norwalk Community News—August 3, 2007—Alert regarding the start of the fall semester at Cerritos College (from press release).

Norwalk Community News—August 3, 2007—Promotional article for the Cerritos College Foundation Golf Tournament (from press release).

Norwalk Community News—August 3, 2007—Article regarding the awarding of the first Robert C. Hughlett Scholarship (from press release).
Norwalk Community News — August 3, 2007 — Article regarding the hiring of Mirna Cardenas as CTE project manager (from press release).

Sacramento Bee — August 10, 2007 — Article about an immigrant who came to the U.S. as a child and grew up to become a surgeon, mentioning that he began his college career at Cerritos College.

Los Cerritos Community News — August 10, 2007 — Alert regarding the start of the fall semester at Cerritos College (from press release).

Norwalk Community News — August 17, 2007 — Article on a presentation given to the Cerritos Regional Chamber by Dr. Vela.. Article was featured twice in the issue, once on the front page and once inside.

Norwalk Community News — August 24, 2007 — Article on Cerritos College Foundation Golf Tournament

Norwalk Community News — August 24, 2007 — Article on Rhianna Lemos-Girton, a former Cerritos College student who interned in the office of Congresswoman Linda Sanchez over the summer

Norwalk Community News — August 24, 2007 — Photos of Cerritos College’s early days, placed on a 2-page spread commemorating the 50th anniversary of the city of Norwalk

Related News

Los Angeles Times — August 14, 2007 — Article about the president of the UC system announcing he’ll step down by June

Long Beach Press-Telegram — August 14, 2007 — Article about the president of the UC system announcing he’ll step down by June

Long Beach Press-Telegram — August 15, 2007 — Article regarding CSULB being ranked as one of the top 5 colleges in the West by U.S. News & World Report

Los Angeles Times — August 23, 2007 — Article regarding UC regent’s plan to cut bureaucracy and over-haul operations
The Payoffs of Persistence

For One Cerritos College Student, Graduation Was a Long Time Coming

For Immediate Release: August 9, 2007

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

NORWALK, CA -- August 9, 2007 -- 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 left high school at the age of 17. After taking the exit test, she abandoned the idea of college and left home. 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, ‘Gosh, 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 emails 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 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, then why should they be working hard at school? We were able to share on a different level than if I hadn’t gone.”

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.”

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####
Cerritos College Art Gallery to Feature Selected Works by Alex Donis

For Immediate Release: August 9, 2007

Contact: Christina Fernandez, Cerritos College Art Gallery; (562) 860-2451, ext. 2620.

WHAT: A selection of Alex Donis’ work spanning 12 years of creative production will open Tuesday, August 21 at the Cerritos College Art Gallery. The exhibition will run through September 25. An opening reception for the artist will be held Wednesday August 29, 6-8 p.m., and an artist walkthrough will take place Thursday, September 6, 5-7 p.m.

Alex Donis is a Los Angeles-based visual artist whose work examines and redefines the boundaries set within religion, politics, race, and sexuality. Focused upon toppling societies’ relationship to culture and images, Donis’ work is often influenced by a tri-cultural (pop, Latino and queer) experience. He has worked extensively in a variety of media including painting, installation, video and works on paper.

“Alex Donis: Selected Works 1995-2006” includes work from his series, "Altar de Amor," "My Cathedral," "War," "Heroina" and "Pas de Deux." The series "Altar de Amour" and "My Cathedral" both draw from figures in popular culture particularly film history, politics and religion to comment on sexuality and spirituality. The figures in "My Cathedral" are depicted in embrace, kissing, their union a metaphor for a marriage of ideas and divergent points of view. The works in "War" and "Pas de Deux" include figures of police and gang members ("War") and combat enemies ("Pas de Deux") frozen in dramatic dance pose in contradiction to our perceptions of how these figures should interact. The series "Heroina" depicts women known to the artist in poses relating to well known paintings from art history, transforming the figures into sublime characters in epic dramas of the self.

Donis was born in 1964 in Chicago, IL and was educated at a Catholic school in East Los Angeles, an east-coast prep school in Massachusetts, and a military academy on the southern coast of Guatemala. He received his undergraduate degree at California State University, Long Beach and his graduate degree from Otis College of Art and Design.

Donis has exhibited his work at the Armand Hammer Museum of Art and Culture; the Santa Monica Museum of Art; the Longwood Art Center, New York; the Geffen Contemporary (MoCA); the Laguna Museum of Art, Laguna Beach; Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE); the Mexican Museum, San Francisco; Randolph Street Gallery, Chicago; Galeria de la Raza, San Francisco; Columbia University, New York; and Artspace, Sydney Australia. His work was included in the landmark exhibition "Made in California: Art, Image, and Identity 1900-2000" at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.
Donis’ work has been featured in FlashArt International, Art Papers, Art in America, the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, the Chicago Tribune, The San Francisco Chronicle, and the Sydney Morning Herald. His work is part of the two-volume anthology “Contemporary Chicano/Chicana Art in the United States” published by the Bilingual Press of the University of Arizona, Phoenix and “Potentially Harmful: The Art of American Censorship” published by Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA. Donis has also been awarded residencies at the University of Texas, Austin; the Brandywine Institute, Philadelphia; Artspace, Sydney, Australia; and at the 18th Street Arts Center in Santa Monica.

WHEN: Exhibit will be on view Tuesday, August 21 through Tuesday, September 25. An opening reception for the artist will be held Wednesday August 29, 6-8 p.m., and an artist walkthrough will take place Thursday, September 6, 5-7 p.m.

WHERE: Cerritos College Art Gallery - Fine Arts Building, room 50

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

CONTACT: For information, please contact Gallery Director Christina Fernandez at cmfernandez@cerritos.edu, or at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2620.

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6
Cerritos College 15-Week Session Begins September 4

Online Registration Makes Enrollment Process Easier

For Immediate Release: August 13, 2007

Registration Contact: Rose Alegre, Admissions and Records; (562) 860-2451, ext. 2211

NORWALK, CA - August 13, 2007 - Cerritos College's 15-week session begins Tuesday, September 4, 2007, and a second nine-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.

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###
Democracy from the Inside Out

A Cerritos College Political Science Major Experiences Life as a Congressional Intern

For Immediate Release: August 16, 2007

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

NORWALK, CA -- August 16, 2007 -- 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. Rhianna works for Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, the representative for California’s 39th Congressional District, and for three months this summer, she is finding out everything that goes on behind the scenes at the office of a U.S. representative—from phone calls from disgruntled constituents to hours of research on the issues.

Rhianna’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 representative Grace Napolitano from California’s 38th Congressional District, who discussed the ins and outs of everything that happens on the Hill. The visit made a big impression on Rhianna, who decided on her return to California to become involved in student government at her high school.

Entering college, Rhianna knew she still liked politics, but she wasn’t convinced that she should major in it. She enrolled at Cerritos College, with the thought of majoring in sociology. But after taking a few political science classes, she was hooked, and has never looked back. One of the reasons for this, she says, is her professors.

“Professor Falcon made the subject interesting...he had a lot of activities to get students involved and help them know what’s going on in government,” she said. “There was no boring reading—it was more fun, hands-on activities.”

One of Rhianna’s favorite projects was being assigned to research a member of Congress, and learning about their constituency and their views on issues. Each member of the class had to join “committees”
and advance legislation based on their knowledge of their assigned representatives.

“We got into groups, Democrats versus Republicans, and had to come up with a plan for budget cuts to balance the federal budget. We had debates in class about it ... everyone was fighting about the budget cuts.”

Though Rhianna didn’t know it at the time, she would soon be a lot closer to the real thing. As she neared graduation last May, one of her professors approached her about applying for an internship offered by Sanchez’s office. Originally, Rhianna applied for the internship in the congresswoman’s Washington, D.C. office. Even though she missed the deadline, those in the office who reviewed her file strongly encouraged her to apply for the internship in the district office. She did, and was selected.

Rhianna soon 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 says. In those instances, she must take down the name and concerns of the caller, and listen without giving any of her own views.

Rhianna acknowledges that her job does get emotionally exhausting at times, but she’s not complaining.

“Just having the opportunity to work in the office is a prestigious position, even if I’m only an intern,” she says. “It’s neat working in the government.”

“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.”

Something that’s surprised her, she says, is the amount of time she and the other staff members spend assisting constituents.

“I didn’t realize till now how much they help the people they represent,” she explains.

Once her internship ends at the close of the month, Rhianna will move to Northern California to enroll in CSU East Bay, where she has been accepted to the pre-law program.

“I’d like to become a lawyer, and stay involved in politics,” she says.

Sanchez is, of course, one of her role models.

“She is getting into it, doing big things and making a name for herself, even though she’s young, a minority and a woman,” Rhianna explains.

And if Rhianna keeps to the path she’s on now, Sanchez won’t be the only one. 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 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 http://www.cerritos.edu/.
Cerritos College Foundation Golf Tournament Raises 54K

Title Sponsor Bovis Lend Lease and Other Corporate Sponsors Help Raise Funds for Student Scholarships and Success

For Immediate Release: August 17, 2007

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

NORWALK, CA – August 17, 2007 – The Cerritos College Foundation raised $54,000 in scholarship funds at its 22nd Annual Golf Classic August 6 at Friendly Hills Country Club in Whittier. This year’s title sponsor, Bovis Lend Lease, was joined by numerous corporations and local businesses in helping the Foundation achieve its goal.

“This year’s tournament was a tremendous success, both in raising funds for student scholarships and in raising awareness of the significance of Cerritos College in the community,” said Cerritos College Foundation Board member and tournament chairperson Dr. Gerald P. Roodzant. “We extend special thanks to Bovis Lend Lease and our corporate sponsors for their commitment to come alongside the Cerritos College Foundation in helping students pursue their dreams.”

Underwritten by nearly 80 sponsors—13 of which were corporate sponsors—the tournament featured support from more than 60 local businesses and individuals. Corporate sponsors included Follett’s Cerritos College Bookstore, Frantone’s Pizza and Spaghetti Villa, Gerald P. Roodzant, DDS, GST Inc., Keenan & Associates, Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, North County Vending, The Pepsi Bottling Group, Southland Motor Car Dealers Association, TBP Architecture, Trane, Union Bank of California and Zebra Coffee. Hole-in-one prizes were courtesy of Moothart Chrysler Jeep and Norwalk Toyota.
Other specialty sponsors included shirt sponsor S&K Engineers; photo sponsor the City of Cerritos; trophy sponsor TDM Architects; golf ball sponsor Parker & Covert LLP; putting competition sponsor Musty Putters; beverage cart sponsors Frantone’s and Holiday Inn Select La Mirada; helicopter ball drop sponsors California INK Printing & Graphics, Mr. B’s Tees, PDQ Rentals, and Gerald P. Roodzant, DDS; and continental breakfast sponsor Zebra Coffee.

There were several competitions as part of the tournament. Most notable, Moore Flooring took home the prize for the “Business Competition.”

Foundation Board members presented former Cerritos College student Manisha Vadgama the 2007 Nancy Kelly Academic Scholarship, awarded each year to an outstanding athlete who displays high academic achievement. Vadgama, who graduated from Cerritos College in 2004, recently completed her bachelor’s degree at UC San Diego and plans to enter law school.

The 23rd annual Cerritos College Foundation Golf Classic is scheduled for August 4, 2008 at Friendly Hills Country Club.

Bovis Lend Lease is one of the world’s leading project management and construction companies, using industry best practices when working with clients to create high quality, sustainable property assets. The group has a presence in over 40 countries, spearheaded by regional hubs in the UK, Australia and the U.S.

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. Financial assistance and educational opportunities are made available to Cerritos College students through the kind support of donors. Supporters of the foundation can provide Cerritos College students with life-changing education assistance by donating to the Cerritos College Foundation online at www.cerritos.edu/ccf.

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###
Local Students Invited to Apply for $2,000 Scholarship

For Immediate Release: August 21, 2007

Media Contact: Allison Abel, Public Affairs, (562) 860-2451, ext. 2620.

WHAT: The Soroptimist International of Norwalk invites all female students in the Norwalk-La Mirada area to apply for the Women’s Opportunity Scholarship. The award, worth $2,000, is given to provide women with resources to improve their education, skills, and employment prospects. Winners of the scholarship have the opportunity to advance to regional and national competition for additional scholarships.

WHEN: The deadline for this scholarship is December 15.
WHERE: Applications may be obtained at the front desk of the Cerritos College Career Center, or by visiting soroptimist.org.

CONTACT: For more information, contact Esther Choi, Cerritos College re-entry resource specialist, at echoi@cerritos.edu or (562) 860-2451 ext. 2362.

Soroptimist is an international volunteer organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world. Founded in 1921, it comprises approximately 95,000 members in more than 120 countries and territories worldwide who contribute time and financial support to community-based projects.

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###
Cerritos College Hires Chief of Campus Police

Interim Chief Richard Bukowiecki Gains Permanent Position

For Immediate Release: August 28, 2007

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

NORWALK, CA -- August 28, 2007 -- Richard Bukowiecki, who has served as interim Chief of Police at Cerritos College since 2006, was formally hired as permanent Chief of Police on Wednesday, Aug. 15.

Bukowiecki will continue to oversee the Cerritos College Campus Police Department, a full-service police agency with over 50 employees including 14 fully-sworn peace officers.

Bukowiecki first joined the campus police squadron in 1988 as a part-time dispatcher, and a year later became an officer. He served as a lieutenant for 11 years before being promoted to interim Chief of Police.

In the late 1990's, Bukowiecki helped created 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 A.A. degrees. Participants in the program have gone on to jobs with the CHP and the Los Angeles and Long Beach police departments, as well as other agencies.

Bukowiecki also worked with a previous chief to install towers in campus parking lots to combat crime, which resulted in an immediate reduction in auto thefts and burglaries in the lots.

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Los Angeles Business Journal
July 2007
For Sodetani, it’s all been about the kids

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By Henry Veneracion
Staff Writer

Downey—Martha Sodetani, who took over the Downey Unified School District Board District 1 seat vacated by good friend Cheryl Andersen two years ago, admits that “as a child my stuttering was so pronounced that I was pretty much silent. I was silent in school, even if I knew the answer.” Today, she still stumbles over words now and then, but her near conquest of it has become a metaphor for pursuing her other dreams, and, despite a near chaotic broken first marriage, looking for not one, but multiple, silver linings.

At age 8, she knew she was someday going to adopt a child; today, in addition to her three biological children (Kimberly, Robert, Melissa), she has three adopted ones (Nachele, Gordon, Skylar). She also knew she later wanted pets in her house: currently the Sodetani household enjoys the company of four birds (two of them parakeets), two dogs, and two outdoor cats “who show up for food and the occasional visit.” Here’s how she describes the family’s special pet cow, a filly bird, named Taya. “We’ve had a pet cow who was injured in the nest and required horse care for the past 11 years. His cage is in the living room, with the door always open except for when he gets in a suit and he slams his door shut to close us out.

As a part-time trainer in foster parenting (P.S.-M.A.P.—Permanence and Safety in Medicated Approval to Partnership Parenting), K.E.P.S.—Kinship Education, Preparation and Support), as well as a variety of renewal classes—workshops on self-esteem, discipline, attachment issues, etc.) for Cerritos College and Long Beach City College, Martha gets to work for the welfare of children, an area that is the passion of her life. (“My stand in life is service to children,” was a major theme in her board seat campaign statement). She says there’s nothing more rewarding than spending time with or in the pursuit of serving children.

She has welcomed numerous (many ongoing) duties in several community service fronts, including being an active member of the Assistance League over the years. She has tended Second Tyree Assur, taken part in Operation School Bell, acted as a puppeteer for Kids-on-the-Block, and served on the Hugga-Bear Committee; as a volunteer for the Downey City Library, she serves as chairperson of Books on Wheels, member of the executive board of directors of Downey PTA H.E.L.P.S.; secretary to the Downey Coordinating Council; active memberships in Los Angeles Youth & Family Collaborative, and both Cerritos Community College and Long Beach City College Foster Care Advisory Boards.

For these contributions, she has been honored with the Downey PTA Gospel Oak award, the highest award given by PTA, and as Superintendent of Woman of Distinction, among other recognitions.

Service on the DUSD board, “with the possibility of making a difference in the lives of 22,000 children,” greatly appealed to her. Her declared goals of focusing on the classroom (“to improve education for all children in the school community”), supporting the district’s zero tolerance policy on guns, weapons or drugs on campus, upholding the Character Counts crusade in addition to insisting on strong academics, backing the AVID and other after-school programs (ASPPS, etc.), and supporting such programs as GOOD, remain in strong as ever.

As she had hoped, she thinks she has it well in hand at its deliberations on a variety of issues, its members sometimes “agree to disagrees,” and otherwise treat each other “with respect and leave their differences at the table.”

Of Superintendent Wendy Doty, she says she “sets the tone for the district and I admire her greatly, both professionally and personally.”

Martha had some things going on as a young age. “My mother, bless her heart,” she narrates, “enrolled me in dancing lessons, singing, and piano. This was in addition to singing in the children’s choir at First United Methodist Church in Long Beach. The piano and singing did not pan out, but the dancing was my joy!”

Martha Sodetani, far right, top row, six children, three biological and three adopted. The family picture above is from a recent trip to Disneyland. Photo courtesy Martha Sodetani.

She continues: “By age 14, I started teaching [dancing] so I could earn credit for more lessons each week. Also, at age 14, I was as tall as I am now and joined the American Guild of Variety Artists (AGVA), and started dancing professionally.” It was primarily TV work and occasional local shows. Her first TV show was dancing in the Miss Universe Pageant in Long Beach.

“My grades were excellent as the dancing had given me the structure and discipline to practice at home and that discipline transferred over to academics,” she says. She was also captain of the Polyettes, Long Beach’s Poly High School drill team, and taught the modern dance class in school. “From first grade at Edison Elementary through Washington Jr., to High, I was in every talent contest and loved it,” she says.

She then marries a mosaic of her first marriage that also didn’t pan out, but undoubtedly showed what she was made of: “I married a fellow I met in church choir and the result are my two oldest children, Kim and Robert. He was the sole provider and I thought the marriage would last. When we split after three years, I had no marketable skills. The only thing I knew was how to dance. So dance I did, in Reno, Lake Tahoe and Las Vegas with my two little children in tow.”

She goes on: “Some of my dearest friends to this day are of my childhood, from school, church and dancing school. Four of us from the Marion Rankin Dance Studio in Long Beach went on to dance together professionally. While with the Follies Bernie in Las Vegas, though, my heart yearned for Southern California.” A group consisting of former class mates and associates—six dear friends—fly in here every year for a reunion, she says.

It was just last year that her beloved Gordon, whom she married in 1975, passed away. She marvels: “He was just so much fun to be with that I never got bored. Growing up in Hawaii, he lived close to the earth. As such, he had a good singing voice. Each day I thanked God for the gift of Gordon in my life.”

She has two favorite sayings: The first one is: “Today is what counts. If you live on what you did yesterday, it is an ego trip.” The other: “Never give up.”

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Cerritos product off to a good start

BY RON GUILD
STAFF WRITER

Just a few months removed from Cerritos College, Robbie Dominguez is shining as a pitcher for the Florida Marlins’ Arizona League club.

The right-handed pitcher has yet to record a decision in six games (five starts) for the Rookie League Mariners, but has recorded an impressive 0.78 ERA. In 23 innings, Dominguez has recorded 18 strikeouts, six walks and 11 hits.

After going 3-3 with a 3.38 ERA as a freshman at Cerritos, Dominguez was selected on the 45th round of the Major League player draft in 2006. He chose not to sign right away, and returned to Cerritos, where he went 9-3 with a 2.55 ERA and earned first-team All-South Coast Conference honors this spring. He signed just prior to last month’s draft.

At El Rancho High School, Dominguez earned first-team All-Del Rio League and second-team All-CIF honors as a senior.

He earned all-league honors as a junior for the Dons.
Cerritos College
golf tourney is set

The Cerritos College Foundation will host its 22nd Annual Golf Classic on Aug. 6 at Friendly Hills Country Club in Whittier.

Registration is 9 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 11 a.m., a social hour at 5 p.m. and an awards dinner at 6 p.m. The tournament is held each year to help raise funds to support Cerritos student scholarships and programs.

Cerritos College Foundation Board member Gerald P. Rizzanti is this year’s golf tournament committee chairman.

The deadline for tournament registration is Monday. The cost per golfer is $265, or $1,060 per foursome.

The entry fee includes green fees, cart, golf shirt, photo, continental breakfast, lunch, on-course beverages and player package, snacks, goodie bag and dinner.

The player package, included with all golf packages, includes two tickets for the putting competition, two mulligans, 15 door prize tickets and a ticket for the opportunity drawing for a Majesty Putter.

Corporate sponsors may register for a $2,150 package that includes one foursome, corporate signage on the golf cart, a tee sign, special corporate shirts for each golfer, a corporate gift for each golfer and four additional dinner guests.

Corporate tee signs are available for $100 each, and those who wish to attend only the awards dinner may buy tickets for $45 each.

To register, or for more information, contact Janice Cole at (562) 860-2461, Ext. 2326.

Friendly Hills Country Club is at 8500 S. Villa Verde Drive in Whittier.

The Cerritos College Foundation, a nonprofit organization, serves as a charitable vehicle to assist with financial support of Cerritos College students beyond that which state funding supports. Visit the Foundation online at www.cerritos.edu/cdf.

— From staff report
Cerritos’ term begins Aug. 13

NORWALK — Registration is under way at Cerritos College, 11110 Alondra Blvd., for its fall semester, which begins Aug. 13.

Students can find class schedules, complete an application and register online by visiting www.cerritos.edu/admissions.

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

For more information, call (562) 860-2451.
Cerritos College Liberal Arts Division to Offer Day and Evening ESL Courses

WHAT: Cerritos College’s Liberal Arts Division offers classes in English as a Second Language (ESL) with the start of the fall semester, Monday, August 13, 2007. Classes are offered at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels, and are available for $20 per unit (most classes are three units). Several classes are offered during both the day and evening. Most classes meet twice a week and are available during both the 18-week session and the first and second 9-week sessions.

ESL classes at Cerritos College offer:
- Pronunciation
- Accent reduction
- Oral communication
- Speaking and listening
- Grammar
- Reading
- Vocabulary
- Writing and structure
- American expressions and culture
- Spelling
- Editing


WHERE: Cerritos College 11110 Alondra Blvd Norwalk, CA 90650

CONTACT: For more information, please contact Joann Sugihara-Cheetham at (562) 86052451, ext. 2892 or by e-mail at jccheetham@cerritos.edu.

COST: $20 per unit.

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Cerritos College Honors
Students Accepted to UCLA, UCI

Grades from Cerritos College’s Scholars’ Honors Program (SHP) in 2007 achieved a 95 percent acceptance rate to the University of California at Los Angeles this fall, up five percentage points from acceptance rates at UCLA in fall 2006. Additionally, the students had a 94 percent acceptance rate at the University of California, Irvine for fall 2007.

Twenty-six SHP students who just finished their classes at Cerritos College in May 2007 have been accepted to institutions including UCLA, CSU Los Angeles, UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, CSU Long Beach, CSU Sacramento, UC Irvine and UC Santa Barbara.

“Our students work incredibly hard and have proven that they have what it takes to enter some of the best universities,” said SHP Director and English Instructor Timothy Munilla.

Since its inception in 1997, SHP has provided its participants with the guidance and extra academic requirements to successfully transfer to four-year universities such as UCLA, UC Berkeley and UC Irvine. Last fall, students’ acceptance rate at UCLA was 91 percent, and 94 percent at UC Irvine.

“Our students are incredibly talented and motivated,” said Munilla. “I look forward to hearing of their successes down the road.”

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

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Cerritos College Honors Automotive Technology Grads

Cerritos College honored 25 graduates of General Motors’ Automotive Service Educational Program (ASEP) on June 27 at a ceremony held at the Norwalk Marriott. The students received both associate’s degrees in automotive technology and qualified certification to service GM vehicles. Cerritos College’s ASEP Coordinator Steve Berliot, Dean of Technology Raney Peebles, Vice President of Academic Affairs William Farmer, Jr., and General Motors Regional Manager Kelly Bradshaw welcomed and addressed the graduates during the event. Also in attendance were Cerritos College President Dr. Nosalia Vela, GM Powertrain Group Vice President Tom Stevens, and Kit Bailey of GM/Bay Area.

Graduates of the program included Daniel Arias, Luis Arias, Christopher Atwood, Edilberto Barajas, Chris Espinoza, Brendan Fimpler, Gervino Flores, Richard Flores, Kyle Gillette, Rene Gonzalez, Jeff Greer, John Kasabian, Nathaniel Lavers, Omar Moniez, Alvin Olliva, Daniel Palomares, Daniel Perez, Jeff Perez, Christopher Pineda, Khemara Pok, Alberto Rivera, Noc Rodriguez, Erin Roy, Daniel Saldana, and Daniel Zabeljan.

Students in ASEP take classes in traditional classroom settings, receive hands-on training on vehicles at Cerritos College and get on-the-job practice at local dealerships. Once they receive GM certification, graduating students begin their full-time employment at the dealer that sponsored them at the beginning of the program. By also graduating with an associate’s degree, the students are well positioned to pursue further education and to move into dealer management jobs.

“Through our partnership with GM’s ASEP program, we have the opportunity to offer our students outstanding training and unique experiences that aren’t available at other institutions,” said Berliot.

“Thanks to ASEP, these students have all the tools they need to excel in this well-paying career field.”

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Cerritos College Fall Semester Begins August 13

Online Registration Makes Enrollment Process Easier

Registration is underway for Cerritos College’s fall semester, which begins Monday, August 13, 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.

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Cerritos College Foundation to Host 22nd Annual Golf Tournament

Scholarship Fundraiser to be Held August 6 at Friendly Hills in Whittier

The Cerritos College Foundation will host its 22nd Annual Golf Classic on Monday, August 6 at Friendly Hills Country Club in Whittier. The day will begin with registration at 9 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 11 a.m., a social hour at 5 p.m. and an awards dinner at 6 p.m. The tournament is hosted each year to help raise funds to support student scholarships and programs.

Cerritos College Foundation Board member Dr. Gerald P. Rooodzant is this year’s golf tournament committee chairperson. The deadline for tournament registration is Monday, July 30, and cost per golfer is $265 or $1,060 per foursome. The entry fee includes green fees, cart, golf shirt, photo, continental breakfast, lunch, on-course beverages and player package, snacks, goodie bag and dinner. The player package, included with all golf packages, includes two tickets for the putting competition, two mulligans, 15 door prize tickets and a ticket for the opportunity drawing for a Musky Putter.

Corporate sponsors may register for a $2,150 package that includes one foursome, corporate signage on the golf cart, a tee sign, special corporate shirts for each golfer, a corporate gift for each golfer and four additional dinner guests.


Corporate tee signs are available for $100 each, and those who wish to attend only the awards dinner may purchase tickets for $45 each.

To register, or for additional information, please contact the Janice Cole at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2526. Friendly Hills Country Club is located at 8500 South Villa Verde Drive in Whittier.

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Cerritos College Student Receives First Annual Robert C. Hughlett Scholarship

Established in 2005 by staff members in Cerritos College’s Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) in honor of Hughlett, who is the retired director of DSPS, the scholarship provides $2,000 ($500 each semester for two years) to disabled students for educational needs.

“It’s an honor to present you with this scholarship, Melissa,” said Hughlett. “We’re very proud of what you’ve accomplished so far, and we want to support your future.”

Stayerman, of Norwalk, emigrated with her family from Israel two years ago in search of better opportunities. She credits her parents for piquing her interest in the medical field, stating that their former work as doctors created a passion in her to want to help people improve their quality of life. Her love for learning is evident in her high academic achievements and 3.83 grade point average. Stayerman plans to transfer to the University of California at Berkeley where she will pursue her dream of becoming a physician.

“I am so grateful for this scholarship,” said Stayerman. “It will help me fulfill my aspiration of giving back to society by healing others through medicine.”

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Cerritos College Gains New Program Manager for Career and Technical Educator Training Program

Mirna Cardenas will Direct Development of State-Funded Grant

Cerritos College recently hired Mirna Cardenas as project manager for the new Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teacher Pathways Program, a grant-funded initiative that seeks to provide training for potential CTE educators. In spring 2007, Cerritos College’s Teacher TRAC program—an award-winning teacher-preparation academy—received a one-year, $264,571 “Teacher Preparation Pipeline Grant” from the California Community College Chancellor’s Office to develop and implement a program to address the need for CTE educators at the secondary and community college level.

Six new CTE Teacher Preparation pathways will be supported: three for future high school teachers and three for future community college teachers. Career pathways will be developed in three CTE career sectors: Automotive Technology (Transportation Sector), Woodworking (Building Trades and Construction Sector) and Welding (Manufacturing and Product Development Sector). Grant funds will go toward developing curriculum, marketing and recruitment efforts and staff development.

Partners in the CTE pathways program include the Southeast Regional Occupation Program (SEROP), California State University Long Beach (CSULB), California State University Los Angeles (CSULA), and the Southland Motor Car Dealers Association (SMCDA).

Cardenas will oversee initial development of the program, recruit a new cohort of students and foster transfer relationships with CSU partners.

“The CTE pathways program is designed to allow students from our diverse community to fulfill CTE education requirements and eventually gain employment as highly desired CTE teachers,” Cardenas said.

Cardenas previously served in the counseling department at Glendale Community College and as a special programs coordinator at Rio Hondo College. She also served as chief of staff for a community development corporation and as a staff member in Washington D.C. for Arizona Congressman Ed Pastor. Cardenas received both a bachelor’s degree in political science and a master’s degree in education and counseling from UCLA.

For more information about Cerritos College’s CTE pathways program, contact Cardenas at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2745 or by e-mail at micardenas@cerritos.edu.

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Anita Creamer: Cutting through stereotypes

Some saw an immigrant child best suited for shop or mechanics, but Dr. Victor Rodriguez persevered to become a surgeon

By Anita Creamer - Bee Columnist
Published 12:00 am PDT Friday, August 10, 2007

In the past year, Dr. Victor Rodriguez has performed more than 150 complex aortic surgeries, reconstructing the hydraulic systems of worn-out hearts. He also repairs life-threatening thoracic aneurysms, having pioneered a hybrid procedure for particularly difficult cases.

And when his 93-year-old grandmother grew ill during his last visit with her in Mexico, he saved her life.

But "number of lives saved" is rarely a category of discussion these days when politicians and radio talk show callers rail about immigration issues.

His mother came to America illegally. In a country too easily conversant in the language of stereotypes, Victor Rodriguez was just another immigrant face to many people when he was young. In high school, he was steered into mechanic classes and discouraged from reaching for more.

So he joined the U.S. Marine Corps at 17, serving his adopted country. When he got out, he worked three jobs to put himself through school.

Now Rodriguez says: "I'm not political at all, and I don't like to talk about my life story. But right now with all this anti-immigrant ruckus, I think I owe it to immigrant Americans -- not to my people, but to all immigrants in general.

"We do make a difference. One of the reasons this country is great is because of its diversity. I have to admit my family came here illegally, but they were workers. All they wanted was to be able to provide for us."

A 42-year-old vascular surgeon, Rodriguez works for Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, south Sacramento, but other medical centers up and down the Central Valley call on him for help, too.

His is a uniquely American story of striving and contribution, one that deserves to be told in a time of renewed tension over immigration.

Grandparents 'raised us'
Margarita Martinez left her home in Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico, to work in the sweatshops of Southern California when son Victor was only 2. He never knew his father. Along with his older brother and sister, he lived with his grandparents, Cresencio and Jovita Rodriguez.

"They were the ones who raised us," says his sister, Veronica Char, 44, who lives in Rialto and manages a Wendy's restaurant. "We called them Mom and Dad."
Cresencio -- "a great man," Rodriguez says -- could fix whatever needed to be fixed. He was a welder, mechanic and carpenter, and he was still working when he died at age 87.

"When I was a kid, I followed him everywhere, hammering things," says Rodriguez. "He taught me how to work. I just replaced the windows in my house myself. I do my own oil changes. I don't do it because I'm cheap but because I remember him."

When Margarita came home to Torreon for visits, little Victor didn't really understand she was his mother.

All that changed when he was 11 and Margarita, newly married and with the appropriate papers finally in place, brought her children to the sprawl of Southern California. Victor entered the fourth grade in West Covina -- lost, speaking no English, but with a great facility for numbers.

He sat at the back of the classroom, and when the class read aloud, his teacher sat beside him, pointing out the words for him.

"That's how I learned English," he says. "And then one time, I started reading out loud with a heavy accent. My teacher was beaming, and everybody started clapping."

By the time he was in high school, the family lived in San Pablo. Teachers talked to other students about the classes they needed to get into college. But Victor ended up in shop class instead.

"Sure, I liked it," he says. "I understood it and did well, but I wanted to go to college."

Frustrated, he enlisted after a Marine Corps recruiter visited campus. He spent four years as a jet engine mechanic, deploying overseas, then working at the naval air station in El Toro. When he left the military in 1986, he focused steadily on becoming a doctor.

"It surprised me when he went to college to be a doctor," says Char. "It sure did. But he wanted to have a good job, something that would be worthwhile, and he wanted to help the family along the way."

Working through college
Rodriguez started from scratch at Cerritos College, squeezing in classes around a rigorous work schedule. He drove a Los Angeles city bus for 40 hours a week and tutored in the Cerritos College math lab for another 12 hours a week.

For a while, he threw newspapers early every morning, too.

"All this time, he was telling me, 'I'll do more to help you out,' " says John Baley, now retired, the professor who ran the math lab. "I just remember the amount of things Victor was juggling."

He ended up hospitalized with a bleeding ulcer.

"The doctor asked me if I had any stress in my life," Rodriguez says.

He dropped the paper route but continued working as a bus driver and teaching assistant through his...
years at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

"In college, nobody believed I was going to go to medical school," he says, "not even my brother and sister. But my mother did.

"I always used my mother's home address for my mail. Every time I got a med school acceptance letter, she'd call me. She really believed in me, and she was very proud."

Margarita Martinez died of cancer in 1995 at age 57. By that time, Rodriguez was at UC Davis School of Medicine, the president of his class.

"I think my mother worked herself to death," he says. "I'm almost sure of that. She was a hardworking woman, a very proud woman. She didn't believe in help from the government. That's who she was."

A dedicated doctor
On Saturday mornings, the waiting room at Clinica Tepati on C Street in Sacramento is filled with patients -- low-income, primarily Spanish-speaking clients who come to the free clinic seeking help from the UC Davis med students who volunteer there.

"Victor was dedicated to helping the underserved," says Dr. Rose Arellanes, a Kaiser adult medicine physician who was in med school with Rodriguez. "I don't even know when surgical residents find time to eat, but even when he was a surgical resident, he volunteered at Clinica Tepati.

"He's very bighearted and passionate about helping people."

From watching him at the clinic, his fellow residents thought he'd go into family practice.

"To be honest, it surprised a lot of us that he went into surgery," says Dr. Rick Vitangcol, another med school classmate, now a Kaiser assistant chief of medicine. "He's so good with patients. He has a genuine, caring way about him."

But Rodriguez liked working with his hands, and he liked his surgical rotations. UC Davis' vascular surgeons in particular impressed him, he says.

"I admired them and I wanted to be like them," he says. "It's a field I love. I can't see myself doing anything else.

"Plus, the vascular system is kind of like the hydraulics of a car. The fluids travel through hoses and pipes."

Like his grandfather, he's good at fixing things.

After a fellowship at the University of Wisconsin, he returned to Sacramento in 2003. His Kaiser home page fills his patients in on a few biographical details: Unmarried, he lives in the Pocket with his yellow Lab, and he likes
Family first
"He's such a good guy, and he's so modest," says Char, his sister. "He's a good role model, too. My daughter's only in the 10th grade, but she's thinking about going to UC Davis and becoming a pediatrician."

He sees his siblings and their families every few months, and several times a year, he goes back to Mexico to visit his grandmother, Jovita.

She always insists that he bring his stethoscope with him to Torreon, and he makes the rounds of relatives and old friends, hearing about their aches and pains, listening to their hearts.

On his last trip, at the end of May, Jovita was fading from a severe bout of gastroenteritis when her grandson the American doctor saved her.

"I couldn't convince her to go the hospital, so I went to the pharmacy and hooked her up with a couple of liters of saline," Rodriguez says. "For a while, I was scared. But it perked her right up."

He would've visited her for Mother's Day, but he was on call, making a difference in America.
Cerritos College
Fall Semester Begins August 13

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Cerritos College President Reviews Schools Progress & Goals, Major Cost Savings for Students

by Jerry Bernstein

Speaking before members of the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce at their August luncheon meeting, Cerritos College President Dr. Noelia Vela said community colleges are a great bargain for students. As an example, she pointed out that a full-time student taking 30 units annually will spend $20 per unit or a total of $600 in fees at the Community College. If that student was attending a California State University campus it would cost about $2,272 for the same. University of California students would pay about $6,576. “These figures don’t even include costs of books, transportation and housing, which can vary,” she said.

“A college like Cerritos is a perfect option for students who wish to maximize their transfer options, save money and receive the benefits of smaller faculty-to-student ratios. There is no reason not to get a secondary education. Your earnings are dramatically higher.”

Dr. Vela said more than 40,000 people attend Cerritos College in one year, and the school’s partnerships with Long Beach State and other universities are good. “We work well together.”

The president noted that today there is an all-time high in demand for skilled workers and that the 21st century economy needs such workers in a wide variety of fields with salaries ranging from $40,000 to $120,000.

In May of this year, California Manufacturing Technology Consulting (CMTC) presented Cerritos College’s Director of Economic Development Jose Anaya with the CMTC Partnership Award in recognition of his successful efforts in establishing and expanding collaborations between the college and industry manufacturers.

In January, with the support of the Cerritos College Foundation, the school launched a $4.8 million capital campaign for private support to help augment local bond funds for the $15 million expansion and the creation of the Southland/Cerritos Center for Transportation Technologies (CCTT). The proposed Center will include a $9 million renovation of the existing three-acre auto complex and a new $6 million automotive partners building that will focus on management education for the auto industry.

When completed in 2009, the Center will play a large role in filling the ever-changing employment needs of the auto industry. It will include a state-of-the-art hybrid and alternative fuel training center, three management-sponsored technician apprentice programs and Northwood University’s West Coast program center, which offers a bachelor’s degree in automotive management for full-time students.

“We are working hard to add career technical education, not only for college students but high school students, too,” Dr. Vela said.

Bond Project Update

Dr. Vela said the campus infrastructure is presently going through a change. New buildings are being constructed. Projects have been completed, including a new science building, exterior painting of the health sciences building, refurbishment of the soccer field with artificial turf and a new track, the latter of which she described as being the second best in the United States. She said the soccer field and a new nearby parking area are under construction. A new pool will be located east of the Health and Wellness Complex. While it is being built, the old pool will remain in operation.

Dr. Vela related that plans are being designed to renovate the liberal arts building and construct a new classroom lab office building. A new Child Development Center, which will serve as both a children’s center and an observation laboratory for studying child development, is also planned. Dr. Vela said the state has approved plans for the replacement of the Burnight Center and plans for a new fine arts center should be submitted to the state this summer. The new fine arts center, which are the arts center, should be submitted to the state this summer. In addition, preliminary and working drawings have been completed for the recently passed Proposition 1D for a new gymnasium.

The college has a five-year SFP and a new parking structure has been added to the peripheral campus along Legends Road and Alondra Boulevard. There will also be parking in back of the campus off 190th Street.

“According to our master plan, we are allowed 501 parking spaces. She said the college decided not to go with a parking structure because of cost.

Se CONTINUED ON 12
By Jerry Bernstein

Speaking before members of the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce at their August luncheon meeting, Cerritos College President Dr. Noelia Vela said community colleges are a great bargain for students. A full-time student taking 30 units annually will spend $26 per unit or a total of $800 in fees. If that student was attending a California State University campus it would cost about $2,272 for the same. University of California students would pay about $6,576. “These figures don’t even include costs of books, transportation and housing, which can vary,” she said.

“A college like Cerritos is a perfect option for students who wish to maximize their transfer options, save money and receive the benefits of smaller faculty-to-student ratios. There is no reason not to get a secondary education. Your earnings are dramatically higher.”

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“We are working hard to add career

See ‘PERFECT OPTION’
CONTINUED ON 17
Norwalk Community News, con’t
August 17, 2007

‘PERFECT OPTION’
Continued from page 4

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In addition, preliminary and working drawings have been funded by the recently passed Proposition 1D for a new gymnasium.

The college has a five-year replacement plan for all technology and labs, the president explained. Responding to a question about parking, she said there will be new parking on the periphery of the campus along Studebaker Road and Alondra Boulevard. There will also be parking in back of the campus off 166th Street.

“According to our master plan, we are allowed 901 parking spaces.” She said the college decided not to go with a parking structure because of cost.
The Cerritos College Foundation raised $54,000 in scholarship funds at its 22nd Annual Golf Classic August 6 at Friendly Hills Country Club in Whittier. This year’s title sponsor, Bovis Lend Lease, was joined by numerous corporations and local businesses in helping the Foundation achieve its goal.

“This year’s tournament was a tremendous success, both in raising funds for student scholarships and in raising awareness of the significance of Cerritos College in the community,” said Cerritos College Foundation Board member and tournament chairperson Dr. Gerald P. Roodzant. “We extend special thanks to Bovis Lend Lease and our corporate sponsors for their commitment to come alongside the Cerritos College Foundation in helping students pursue their dreams.”

Unlike written by nearly 80 sponsors — 13 of which were corporate sponsors — the tournament featured support from more than 60 local businesses and individuals. Corporate sponsors included Follett’s Cerritos College Bookstore, Frontone’s Pizza and Spaghetti Villa, Gerald P. Roodzant, DDS, GST Inc., Keenan See and more.

Former Cerritos College softball coach Nancy Kelly and Cerritos College Foundation Director Steve Richardson awarded the 2007 Nancy Kelly Academic Scholarship to Manisha Vadgana.

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Golf Tournament

Continued from page 3

& Associates, Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, North County Vending, The Pepsi Bottling Group, Southland Motor Car Dealers Association, RB Architecture, Trans Union Bank of California and Zebra Coffee. Hole-in-one prizes were courtesy of Moothart Chrysler Jeep and Norwalk Toyota.

Other specialty sponsors included shirt sponsor S&K Engineers; photo sponsor the City of Cerritos; trophy sponsor TDM Architectes; golf ball sponsor Parker & Covert LLP; putting competition sponsor Masty Putters; beverages cart sponsor Frontone’s and Holiday Inn Select La Mirada; helicopter ball drop sponsors California INK Printing & Graphics, Mr. B’s Tees, PDQ Rentals, and Gerald P. Roodzant, DDS; and continental breakfast sponsor Zebra Coffee.

There were several competitions as part of the tournament. Most notable, Moore Flooring took home the prize for the “Business Competition.”

Foundation Board members presented former Cerritos College student Manisha Vadgana the 2007 Nancy Kelly Academic Scholarship, awarded each year to an outstanding athlete who displays high academic achievement. Vadgana, who graduated from Cerritos College in 2004, recently completed her bachelor’s degree at UC San Diego and plans to enter law school.

The 23rd annual Cerritos College Golf Classic is scheduled for August 4-5, 2008, at Friendly Hills Country Club.

Bovis Lend Lease is one of the world’s leading project management and construction companies, using industry best practices when working with clients to create high quality, sustainable property assets. The group has a presence in over 40 countries, spearheaded by regional hubs in the UK, Australia and the U.S.

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. Financial assistance and educational opportunities are made available to Cerritos College students through the kind support of donors. Supporters of the foundation can provide Cerritos College students with life-changing education assistance by donating to the Cerritos College Foundation online at www.cerritos.edu/cecf.
For most college students, participation in American democracy simply means a trip to the polls every two years. But for Rhianna Lemos-Giron, 21, of Whittier, being involved goes far beyond just voting.

Rhianna works for Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, the representative for California’s 39th Congressional District, and for three months this summer she found out what goes on behind the scenes at the office of a U.S. representative—from phone calls from constituents to hours of research on the issues.

Rhianna’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 Representative Grace Napolitano from California’s 38th Congressional District, who discussed the ins and outs of everything that happens on the Hill. The visit made a big impression on Rhianna, who decided on her return to California to become involved in student government at her high school.

Entering college, Rhianna knew she still liked politics, but she wasn’t convinced that she should major in it. She enrolled at Cerritos College, with the thought of majoring in sociology. But after taking a few political science classes, she was hooked, and has never looked back. One of the reasons for this, she says, is her professor.

“Professor Falcon made the subject interesting... he had a lot of activities to get students involved and help them know what’s going on in government,” she said. “There was no boring reading — it was more fun, hands-on activities.”

One of Rhianna’s favorite projects was being assigned to research a member of Congress, and learning about their constituency and their views on issues. Each member of the class had to join “committees” and advance legislation based on their knowledge of their assigned representatives.
“We got into groups, Democrats versus Republicans, and had to come up with a plan for budget cuts to balance the federal budget. We had debates in class about it ... everyone was fighting about the budget cuts.”

Although Rhianna didn’t know it at the time, she would soon be a lot closer to the real thing. As she neared graduation last May, one of her professors approached her about applying for an internship offered by Sanchez’s office. Originally, Rhianna applied for the internship in the congresswoman’s Washington, D.C. office. Even though she missed the deadline, those in the office who reviewed her file strongly encouraged her to apply for the internship in the district office. She did, and was selected.

Rhianna soon 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 those instances, she must take down the name and concerns of the caller, and listen without giving any of her own views.

Rhianna acknowledged that her job does get emotionally exhausting at times, but she’s not complaining.

“Just having the opportunity to work in the office is a prestigious position, even if I’m only an intern,” she says. “It’s neat working in the government. 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.”

Something that’s surprised her, she says, is the amount of time she and the other staff members spend assisting constituents.

“I didn’t realize till now how much they help the people they represent,” she explained.

Once her internship ends at the close of the month, Rhianna will move to Northern California to enroll in CSU East Bay, where she has been accepted to the pre-law program. “I’d like to become a lawyer, and stay involved in politics,” she said.

Sanchez is, of course, one of her role models. “She is getting into it, doing big things and making a name for herself, even though she’s young, a minority and a woman,” Rhianna noted.

And if Rhianna keeps to the path she’s on now, Sanchez won’t be the only one.
Cerritos Community College Held Its First Graduation Ceremony in 1958.

Cerritos College Used Homes On Alondra As Their Offices.

Cerritos College Bookstore In 1958.
UC president announces he’ll step down from his post by June

Robert C. Dynes’ tenure has been marked by dwindling budgets and a compensation scandal.

By RICHARD C. PADDOCK
Times Staff Writer

University of California President Robert C. Dynes, whose four years in office have been marked by dwindling budgets and a scandal over compensation for top officials, announced Monday that he will step down by June.

Though praised by associates for his “extraordinary intellect,” Dynes appears to have lost the support of key members of the UC Board of Regents who believe the 10-campus system must act more aggressively to maintain its excellence.

Dynes, 84, a former chancellor at UC San Diego, said he was stepping down to spend more time with his wife, Ann, a former UC San Diego campus counsel whom he married in March.

An upbeat Dynes said that preparing to leave his post was “bittersweet.”

“I am in love with my wife, and it’s time for me to spend time with her before it’s too late,” he told reporters in a conference call. “You never accomplish everything you want to accomplish.”

As president, Dynes has been an energetic and enthusiastic advocate for a public university system widely acknowledged to be one of the world’s best, with an enrollment of nearly 200,000 students.

But he also has faced a series of difficult challenges, including maintaining UC’s quality with fewer resources and expanding its diversity without the help of affirmative action.

In the end, it was the university’s compensation practices, including quietly awarding millions of dollars in perks to top executives without the regents’ approval, that appear to have hurt him the most.

[See Dynes, Page B2]
UC president says leaving post will be ‘bittersweet’

[Dynes from Page B1]

“After all the missteps and missed opportunities, Dynes has largely lost his effectiveness and his support, both above and below him,” said a university official who insisted on anonymity. “A great guy in the wrong job at the wrong time.”

Dynes, a physicist who worked for AT&T Bell Laboratories for 22 years before becoming a professor and then chancellor at UC San Diego, said he would focus the remaining months of his presidency on advancing UC’s research partnership with industry and expanding the university’s international presence.

Provost and Executive Vice President Wyatt R. Bume, considered a leading candidate to succeed Dynes, will become chief operating officer and assume responsibility for the daily management of the university. The position of chief operating officer is new and will be eliminated when Dynes’ successor takes over.

“It has been a distinct privilege to know and work with Robert Dynes, and it is with sadness that I have accepted his decision to step down,” Board of Regents Chairman Richard C. Blum wrote in a letter to his fellow regents.

Blum said he would appoint a committee to conduct an international search for a new president. Dynes will step down in June or upon the appointment of his successor.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a member of the Board of Regents by virtue of his office, praised Dynes as a “great partner” who enhanced the prestige of the university system.

Robert Dynes Los Angeles Times
RESIGNING: UC President
Robert C. Dynes has faced a series of difficult challenges.

“For his dedication and commitment to the students, the UC system and the state, he will be missed,” the governor said. “I applaud all his years of service as president and wish him the best of luck in the future.”

Dynes, a native of Canada, took over as UC’s 18th president in October 2003 as the system was reeling from a series of budget cuts — and facing even more.

He set a goal of serving as president for five years and will fall just short of that mark, assuming his tenure ends in June.

The most damaging period for Dynes came last year with revelations that UC had given top administrators millions of dollars in perks and bonuses even as it raised student fees. Many of the payments were not disclosed publicly or approved by the regents, in violation of university policy.

Dynes accepted responsibility for the payments and apologized repeatedly. Some UC officials argued that they were necessary to attract and keep the most talented candidates. But the scandal left its mark.

“He never recovered from compensation because he never showed the leadership the regents were looking for,” said another university official who insisted on anonymity.

In his letter announcing Dynes’ departure, Blum noted that the regents had taken steps to avoid similar problems in the future and to keep tighter control over the president’s budget.

“We have successfully come through what has become known as the compensation crisis,” Blum said. “And we have laid the groundwork for restructuring of the university’s administrative infrastructure to create a more effective and efficient organization.”

Dynes said no one except his wife pushed him to resign.

But the first university official said Dynes received some prodding from the regents to act now.

“He was thinking about timing and was encouraged to think ‘earlier’ rather than ‘later,’” the official said. “You could say it was his decision, and you could also say he was pressured by individuals and circumstances. All of that is true.”

Asked in hindsight what he would have done differently as president, Dynes said one of his chief regrets was not producing greater diversity among professors and students. Affirmative action was banned in university admissions and hiring by voter-approved Proposition 209 in 1996.

“One of the things I am still dissatisfied with,” he said, “is how fast we have moved to a diversified faculty and student body.”

r.paddock@latimes.com
UC chief to stand down

By Juliana Barbassa
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — University of California President Robert C. Dynes announced plans Monday to step down, ending a tenure in which he overcame budget troubles but also endured criticism for millions in perks given to administrators while student fees were being raised.

Dynes said his tenure as head of the renowned public university system, which began in October 2003, will end in June 2008 — at approximately the five-year mark he set for himself when he took the job.

A well-known physicist before heading up the 10-campus system, Dynes plans to renew his focus on his superconductivity research, and spend time with his new wife, he said.

Under Dynes’ leadership, the university system overcame budget troubles and ensured future state funding by forging a deal with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, opened a new research campus in Merced, and won three Department of Energy national laboratory management competitions.

“I depart knowing that the university, at its core, remains strong,” Dynes said.

The governor praised Dynes’ dedication to students and the state.

“Bob has been a great partner in working with my administration to ensure educational excellence for our students,” said Schwarzenegger. “He enhanced the prestige of California’s world-renowned UC system.”

Criticism of Dynes began after it was learned that top administrators in the system were given millions in perks such as bonuses and housing allowances without proper disclosure to the public or to regents. The perks came at the same time student fees were raised significantly to offset state budget cuts.

Audits of executive compensation practices at the university system found scores of abuses over the years. One audit found 113 cases where senior managers were given pay or benefits beyond those established in university policies.

University officials countered their executives were paid less than their counterparts elsewhere, and the disparity made it hard to compete for top talent. Still, they acknowledged pay rules had been bent without authorization.

Dynes accepted responsibility for the irregularities and, following the controversy, voluntarily gave up a raise saying “the buck stops on my desk.”
CSULB again ranked in top 5 in the West

Education: U.S. News & World Report has put school in top 5 in region for 4 years.

By Jennifer Hall
Staff writer

LONG BEACH — Cal State Long Beach again placed among the highest-ranking universities in its category in the 2008 edition of America's Best Colleges Guide, released today by U.S. News & World Report. CSULB ranked No. 5 in the Western Region on the annual list of best public master's universities, which offer a full range of undergraduate and master's programs, but few, if any, doctoral programs.

The university has been ranked in the top five on that list for the last four years.

"I think it's flattering whenever you are ranked among the best universities in the region, in the country by any publication," said CSULB President F. King Alexander. "It also highlights the significance of the work that our faculty and staff do on an annual basis to provide top-quality educational experiences for our students."

The Western region includes 13 states from Texas to California to Washington.

CSULB also ranked first in having the lowest percentage of graduating seniors with student loan debt among public master's universities in the West and was second in the national ranking.

Thirty-four percent of the class of 2006 had debt upon leaving CSULB, compared to the national average of 70 percent, as reported by U.S. World and News Report.

Of those who borrowed at CSULB, the average amount was $11,068, the fifth-lowest average in the West and 13th lowest in the country. The national average is $20,000.

Over 120 public and private master's universities in the West were ranked in four tiers and CSULB ranked 28th overall.

Cal State Dominguez Hills made the list for most diverse campus for Western master's universities, an honor they've held since the mid-1990s. That category is not ranked by the magazine.

The report is compiled using up to 15 indicators provided by colleges. Each factor is then assigned a weight based on U.S. News and World Report's judgment of that factor's importance. Lastly, the colleges are ranked by their composite weighted score against other colleges in their region.

Among those used to measure academic quality are peer assessment (25 percent), retention (25 percent),风采 resources (20 percent), faculty resources (10 percent) and alumni giving rate (5 percent).

The magazine, which has been ranking colleges since the 1980s, has been criticized for favoring smaller universities — especially smaller, private ones — over larger public institutions.

Alexander said that in recent years the magazine's rankings have been criticized for favoring smaller universities — especially smaller, private ones — over larger public institutions.

For example, the magazine focuses on universities' graduation rates without taking into account that large, public universities educate far greater numbers of students.

"There's no value given to institutions who actually graduate a lot of students," he said.

Staff writer Kevin Butler contributed to this report.

LONG BEACH — Cal State Long Beach again has reason to be proud.

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"It also highlights the significance of the work that our faculty and staff do on an annual basis to provide top-quality educational experiences for our students."

Cal State Dominguez Hills also made the list for most diverse campus for Western master's universities.

See the full story on A4.
UC regent calls for operations overhaul

Board chairman aims to eliminate bureaucracy and update 'outmoded' administration.

By Richard C. Paddock
Times Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — In a sharp critique of University of California operations, Board of Regents Chairman Richard C. Blum called Wednesday for a major overhaul of the “outmoded and dysfunctional” way the UC administration operates.

In a six-page paper sent to his fellow regents, Blum called for restructuring the UC president’s office to eliminate arcane procedures that have existed for decades and often hinder decisions, costing the university millions of dollars.

"Why is it so hard to make broad-scale progress toward our goals?" Blum asked. “I believe the fundamental problem is an overgrown UC administrative infrastructure that substitutes motion for progress.”

He also proposed creating a scholarship fund of up to $1 billion to help students cope with rising fees and called for improving UC’s relations with the governor and Legislature, who have steadily reduced the university’s share of the state budget. The state budget finally approved Tuesday by the Legislature after a 51-day deadlock calls for raising student fees at state colleges and universities as much as 10%.

Blum, who made a personal

[See UC, Page B8]
UC regent seeks to cut bureaucracy and overhaul operations

Los Angeles Times, cont'
August 23, 2007

fortune buying companies and recognizing them, said in an interview that the multi-campus UC system should cut back its administrative staff and devote more resources to education, in particular raising faculty salaries to be competitive with other universities.

Streamlining UC’s construction practices to speed up the approval process for new buildings and relying on outside contractors to build them could save the university many millions of dollars, he said.

I am quite critical of the way the operations of the university have been run,” Blum said.

“There are some functions there, nobody knows why they exist. We need to make decisions quickly. We need to be nimble and we are anything but.”

UC President Robert Dynes announced 10 days ago that he would step down in June for personal reasons. His announcement came shortly after he met privately with Blum to discuss Blum’s plan for restructuring the university administration.

Blum, who is married to U.S. Sen. Diane Feinstein, would not comment on whether he encouraged Dynes to step down.

In his paper, Blum said the office of the president “should become a model for transformation to efficiency and service, rather than the frequent butt of jokes and cynicism.”

While UC searches for a new president, the management of daily operations has been assumed by Provost and Executive Vice President Wyatt R. Rume, a leading candidate to take over the president’s post.

Rume said he supported Blum’s proposal and would present a plan of action to the regents in the near future.

“I welcome Chairman Blum’s paper as a call to action, and we intend to set on it energetically.”

Rume said in a statement issued by his office.

“We must reinvigorate our administrative structure, particularly at the Office of the President, so that we operate with clarity and direction, provide effective service to the campuses and establish greater understanding and trust with the public we serve.”

Dynes’ presidency was tarnished by a scandal in which he approved millions of dollars in perks and incentives for certain administrators and faculty members without getting the regents’ approval or providing public notice.

But Blum said that amount pales in comparison to the money wasted by unneeded bureaucracy.

“Everyone is jumping up and down about the couple million that was given out,” he said. “No one has been paying attention to the tens of millions, maybe hundreds of millions, that are wasted because we don’t build sensibly.”

Blum, who took over as chairman of the regents in March, said at the time that he would try to use his skills as a corporate takeover artist to change the way business is done at UC.

Among his proposals Wednesday were lifting arbitrary debt caps to speed campus building projects, reducing cash reserves that are kept unnecessarily high and eliminating millions of dollars in unnecessary or duplicative administration.

“Some of the cost savings will be relatively easy to find and quick to implement,” he said. “I am of the belief that there’s a lot of low-hanging fruit.”

The idea of reducing staff, he said, is “distasteful,” but job cuts would be hard to avoid in restructuring an operation that has not been rationalized in more than 46 years.

“This is unusual form, I am a growth and strategic guy,” he said. “I have never gone in with a plan to cut way back. Why am I into it this time? Because it’s necessary.”

Some of the savings could be used, he added, to raise campus staff salaries.

Blum called on the university to develop a clear strategic vision and to pursue the same high quality in its administration that it strives for in its academic programs.

“Cumbrous and enormously expensive layers of bureaucracy have been added over the years, many of which may no longer make sense — if indeed they ever did,” Blum wrote. “Unless the University seriously and accountably commits itself to a new direction, we risk losing the perpetual battle for excellence in many areas.”

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