FOR THE WEEKS OF AUGUST 29 — SEPTEMBER 11, 2007

In Progress
Allison Abel is continuing her work with School Relations to create an official MySpace page for Cerritos College.

Coverage
Wave Community News, Herald-American, Lynwood Press, The Press (Los Angeles) — August 2, 2007 — Article about several Cerritos College re-entry students who have recently received scholarships (from press release).

Downey Patriot — August 3, 2007 — Short promotional article about the Cerritos College Foundation Golf Tournament (from press release).

Downey Patriot — August 3, 2007 — Short article regarding the acceptance rate at UCLA and UCI for students from Cerritos College’s Scholars’ Honors Program (from press release).

Downey Patriot — August 3, 2007 — Alert regarding the beginning of the fall semester at Cerritos College (from press release).

Whittier Daily News — August 14, 2007 — Short article regarding the Alex Donis works currently on display at Cerritos College’s art gallery (from press release).

Long Beach Press-Telegram — August 19, 2007 — Article regarding options for higher education for students in the Long Beach area planning to attend college, mentioning Cerritos College.

Norwalk Community News — August 31, 2007 — Article about the City of Norwalk’s 50th anniversary celebration dinner, mentioning that Dr. Noelia Vela was present. Bob Arthur and his wife also appeared in a photo accompanying the piece.

Norwalk Community News — August 31, 2007 — Article on the appointment of attorney and MBA Navneet Chugh to the Cerritos College Foundation Board of Directors (from press release).

Norwalk Community News — August 31, 2007 — Article on scholarships awarded to Norwalk students by the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, accompanied by a photo in which Toni Grijalva, coordinator of community relations for Cerritos College who assisted in judging the entries, was pictured.

Lakewood Community News—September 7, 2007—Article regarding the acceptance rate at UCLA and UCI for students from Cerritos College’s Scholars’ Honors Program (from press release).

Norwalk Community News—September 7, 2007—Front-page article on the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Cerritos College football team (from press release).

Norwalk Community News—September 7, 2007—Alert on an upcoming performance by the Cerritos College Concert Band (from press release).

Norwalk Community News—September 7, 2007—Article on the screening of an Academy Award-winning film to be held at Cerritos College (from press release).

Norwalk Community News—September 7, 2007—Article on a re-entry student who graduated from Cerritos College last May after spending nearly 20 years in community college (also became a MyStory for the Cerritos College home page) (from press release).

Norwalk Community News—September 7, 2007—Article on works by Alex Donis now on display at the Cerritos College art gallery (from press release).

Norwalk Community News—September 7, 2007—Short article on upcoming Constitution Day event at Cerritos College (from press release).

Norwalk Community News—September 7, 2007—Short article on the hiring of Police Chief Richard Bukowiecki (from press release).


Related News
Los Angeles Times—August 24, 2007—Article regarding California high schoolers’ performance on the exit exam this year.

Los Angeles Times—September 4, 2007—Article on safety measures being taken at college campuses in California in the wake of Virginia Tech.

Long Beach Press-Telegram—September 5, 2007—Article regarding new legislation that requires trustees and regents in the UCs and CSUs to meet in open session when discussing pay of executives.

Los Angeles Times—September 8, 2007—Article regarding an overhaul made by Congress of the student aid system.

Long Beach Press-Telegram—September 8, 2007—Article regarding an overhaul of the student aid system made by Congress.

Los Angeles Times—September 10, 2007—Article regarding a large gift given to UC Berkeley to help the school retain top faculty members.
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.

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 Appoints Navneet Chugh to Board

New Member Brings International Business Experience

For Immediate Release: August 29, 2007

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

NORWALK, CA – August 29, 2007 – The Cerritos College Foundation recently added Navneet Chugh, an attorney-at-law, certified public accountant (CPA) and MBA, as a member of its Board of Directors.

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

Chugh has extensive experience in a wide variety of business and legal matters. He is the managing partner of The Chugh Firm, an international law firm providing companies with corporate, tax, litigation and immigration services. Chugh also has founded and served as president of the South Asian Bar Association of Southern California, North American South Asian Bar Association and the International Indian Bar Association. He founded The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE), Southern California in 1997.

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

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

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

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. Visit the Foundation online at www.cerritos.edu/ccf.

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For Immediate Release: September 1, 2007

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

WHAT: Writer, actor and director Chris Tashima will be screening his Academy Award-winning short film, “Visas and Virtue,” at Cerritos College on Saturday, September 15, with a Q&A session to follow. This dramatic short film is inspired by the true story of Chiune “Sempo” Sugihara, Japan’s newly appointed vice-consul to Lithuania, who in 1940, risked possible endangerment to his family and to his diplomatic career by defying his own government’s orders, helping save Jewish refugees with 2,000 transit visas. In 1998, the film won an Academy Award for Best Short Film.

The film was originally created as a play in which Tashima starred. It was subsequently presented by numerous organizations, including the Jewish Federation, the Anti-Defamation League and the Japanese American National Museum. Due to its impact, Tashima and several others began production on a film soon after.

Tashima has acted in numerous independent films and plays. In addition to “Visas and Virtue,” he also acted in, co-wrote and directed the Emmy-nominated film “Day of Independence” (2003), a tribute to the sufferings endured by Japanese Americans in WWII, which won numerous international awards. He has been honored for these and other efforts by community organizations across the country.

Tashima is an active member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as well as the Directors Guild of America, where he serves on the DGA’s Asian American Committee along with Steven Hirohama, film production faculty at Cerritos College. He studied film production at UC Santa Cruz, and with Visual Communications, an Asian Pacific American media arts organization in his hometown of Los Angeles.

WHEN: 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 15

WHERE: Teleconference Center (LC 155)
Cerritos College
11110 Alondra Blvd.
Norwalk, CA 90650

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

COST: This event is free and open to the public. On-campus parking is $1 per day.

CONTACT: For more information, contact Steven Hirohama at shirohama@cerritos.edu or (562) 860-2451 ext. 2637.

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walk, 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 averages nearly 20,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at http://www.cerritos.edu/.

###
Cerritos College to Celebrate Constitution Day

Event Will Include Musical Performance on Rare Colonial Instrument

For Immediate Release: September 5, 2007

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

WHAT: On September 17, Cerritos College will celebrate the 220th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution. This year’s event will focus on Benjamin Franklin, with a discussion on this founding father by history professor Dr. John Haas. The college will also host composer and historian William Zeitler performing selections on a glass armonica, an instrument invented by Benjamin Franklin in 1761.

Zeitler is the only full-time professional glass armonica musician in the world, and is currently writing a book on the instrument’s history. He has composed music for the armonica, and performs at festivals and other special events. In 2006, Zeitler was featured on the History Channel playing his compositions for the instrument, and was recently awarded a medal of honor from Daughters of the American Revolution for his work to preserve the instrument as a part of America’s musical heritage.

WHEN: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday, September 17

WHERE: Teleconference Center (LC 155)
Cerritos College
11110 Alondra Blvd.
Norwalk, CA 90650

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

COST: This event is free and open to the public. Parking is $1 per day.

CONTACT: For more information, contact Student Activities director Holly Bogdanovich at hbogdanovich@cerritos.edu, or at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2476.
Former ASCC President Finds Success, Challenge at UC Berkeley

Paulo Amaral Credits His Two Years at Cerritos College with Providing Him Skills and Preparation for University Life

For Immediate Release: September 5, 2007

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

NORWALK, CA -- September 5, 2007 -- Paulo Amaral, former ASCC president at Cerritos College, returned home last summer to his parents’ home in Artesia after spending his first year at UC Berkeley, where he is double majoring in peace and conflict studies and development studies.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Amaral points out that of the five founding members of the PACS advisory board, three transferred from community colleges.

This fall, Amaral is serving on an additional advisory council of 16 undergrads who meet once a month to talk
about student life and provide feedback to administration.

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

“Cerritos College, for me, was a learning experience,” he says. “Academically and socially it helped me grow as a person, a leader, a community person and a citizen.”

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

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

“I willing and ready to do anything to help my alma mater,” says Amaral. “I am grateful to Cerritos College for all it provided me.”

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Cerritos College Music Department Announces Fall Performances

For Immediate Release: September 11, 2007

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

WHAT: Students in the Cerritos College Music Department will showcase their talents in a variety of performances this fall. The season will include performances by the Cerritos College jazz band, orchestra and chorus, among others. All performances are open to the public, and many are free. The complete schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, Sept. 25 – 7 p.m.
Band Exchange Concert
David Betancourt, Director
Cerritos College Student Center – Free Admission

Wednesday, Oct. 3 – 7 p.m.
Jazz Exchange Concert
David Betancourt, Director
Cerritos College Student Center – Free Admission

Friday, Oct. 5 – 7 p.m.
Orchestra Exchange Concert
David Betancourt, Director
Cerritos College Student Center – Free Admission

Saturday, Oct. 13 – 7 p.m.
Piano Concert
Guest Artist: Sergey Martinchuk
Cerritos College Burnight Theatre, room BC-51
General admission $10, students/seniors $5

Saturday, Nov. 3 – 7:30 p.m.
Hollywood Revisited
Cerritos College Burnight Theatre
General admission $25, students/seniors $10

Tuesday, Nov. 6 – 7 p.m.
Fall Choral Exchange Concert
Dr. Anna DeMichele, Director
Cerritos College Student Center – Free Admission

Friday, Nov. 9 – 7 p.m.
Orchestra Exchange Concert
David Betancourt, Director
Cerritos College Student Center – Free Admission
Tuesday, Nov. 13 – 7 p.m.
Band Exchange Concert
David Betancourt, Director
Cerritos College Student Center – Free Admission

Wednesday, Nov. 14 – 7 p.m.
Jazz Exchange Concert
David Betancourt, Director
Cerritos College Student Center – Free Admission

Sunday, Nov. 18 – 2 p.m.
Faculty Gala
Cerritos College Burnight Theatre
General admission $10, students/seniors $5

Sunday, Dec. 2 – 4 p.m.
Christmas Choral Concert
Dr. C. Lopez & Dr. Anna DeMichele, Directors
St. Cyprian Catholic Church (Long Beach) - Free Admission

Thursday, Dec. 13 – 7 p.m.
Instrumental Holiday Concert
David Betancourt, Director
Cerritos College Burnight Theatre - Free Admission

WHERE: Cerritos College
11110 Alondra Blvd.
Norwalk, CA 90650

A map of the campus is available at www.cerritos.edu/guide. One-day parking passes may be purchased for $1 in parking lots C-1, C-2 and C-10.

CONTACT: For more information, contact the Office of Performing Arts at (562) 467-5058. For inquiries about group rates, contact Renée Bloch at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2638.

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###
Re-entry students receive scholarships

Wave Staff Report

NORWALK—Celeria Murillo, a re-entry student at Cerritos College, has received a $500 scholarship from the Long Beach Legal Secretaries Association.

Murillo, 26, of Cerritos, plans to become a court reporter. She became interested in that career during a career day at her high school, said Kristen Habbestad, the college’s public information officer.

Murillo worked full time for several years after graduating from high school, but later realized she was in a dead-end job and decided to enroll in college, Habbestad said.

She enrolled in Cerritos College, and, with help from the college’s Re-entry Resource Center, began collecting applications for scholarships and applying for every one she could.

“Even if I got just one out of 10, it would still be worth it,” she said. Still, she said, “I didn’t think I was going to get it. I was so excited. I was in complete shock.”

After gaining plenty of experience as a court reporter, Murillo would like to open her own court reporting agency. She also wants to do depositions because of the opportunity to travel as a part of the job.

Three other re-entry students earlier received awards from Soroptimist International of Norwalk to continue their education.

Alicia Calzada of Norwalk received the Women’s Opportunity Award for 2006-07, along with a $2,000 cash grant. Melanie Murua and Christina Bocanegra, also from Norwalk, were honored as well, and received $500 and $300, respectively. A re-entry student is one who prepares to re-enter the job market after a period of absence or start a new career.
Cerritos College golf tourney Monday

NORWALK – The Cerritos College Foundation will host its 22nd Annual Golf Classic on Aug. 6 at Friendly Hills Country Club in Whittier. The day will begin with registration at 9 a.m. following by a shotgun start at 11 a.m., 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.

Cost per golfer is $265 or $1,060 per foursome. The entry fee includes greens fees, cart, golf shirt, photo, continental breakfast, lunch, on-course beverages and player package, snacks, goodie bag and dinner.

Corporate tee signs are available for $100 each, and individual dinner tickets are $45 each.

To register, or for more information, call Janice Cole at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2526.

Honor students excelling, getting into universities

NORWALK – Graduates from Cerritos College’s Scholars’ Honors Program (SHP) in 2007 achieved a 95 percent acceptance rate to UCLA this fall, up five percentage points from last year, the school announced this week.

Honor students also had a 94 percent acceptance rate at UC Irvine.

Twenty-six honor students who just finished their classes at Cerritos have been accepted to schools including UCLA, Cal State Los Angeles, UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, Cal State Long Beach, Cal State 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 Juntilla.

SHP provides its students with extra academic requirements to successfully transfer to four-year universities.

“Our students are incredibly talented and motivated,” Juntilla said. “I look forward to seeing how their successes continue in the years to come.”

Classes at Cerritos start Aug. 13

NORWALK – Registration is underway for Cerritos College’s fall semester, which begins Aug. 13.

Students can access a schedule of classes, complete an application and register online for a variety of classes by visiting www.cerritos.edu. Most units cost $20.
Cerritos College to host art exhibit


The Los Angeles-based artist is known for artwork that examines the boundaries of religion, politics, race and sexuality.

An opening reception will also take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 29, and an artist walkthrough is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. Sept. 6.

Donis has exhibited his work at the Armand Hammer Museum of Art and Culture, the Longwood Art Center in New York, the Mexican Museum in San Francisco, Randolphi Street Gallery in Chicago and Columbia University in New York, among others. The Cerritos College Art Gallery is in Room 50 of the Fine Arts building on campus.

For information, call gallery Director Christina Fernandez at (562) 860-2461, ext. 2920.
Always an opportunity to learn

By Kevin Butler
Staff writer

The Long Beach area offers multiple higher education options for residents, including two Cal State campuses and two community colleges.

Cal State Long Beach — one of the most popular CSU campuses — enrolled about 38,000 students in the fall of 2006. Founded in 1946, the four-year university, known as “the Beach,” has more than 20,000 faculty members. The campus offers 83 baccalaureate degrees, 69 master’s degrees and two joint doctoral programs.

This fall the university will begin offering an education doctorate.

High school graduates who are seeking to enroll as freshmen are advised to find relevant information by visiting the Web site, www.csulb.edu.

Cal State Dominguez Hills, located in Carson, offers 44 undergraduate degrees, 21 master’s degrees, as well as certificate and credential programs.

Students three most popular undergraduate majors are business administration, nursing and Liberal Studies that is part of a teacher education program. The university had an enrollment of about 20,000 in the fall of 2006, according to CSU data.

CSDH is known for its ethnic diversity, with a student population that is about 40 percent Hispanic, 31 percent African-American, 18 percent White and 6 percent Asian.

The campus is the site of the Home Depot Center, a sports complex that hosts teams such as Major League Soccer teams Chivas USA and the Los Angeles Galaxy, recently joined by British soccer superstar David Beckham.

Long Beach City College’s enrollment stood at about 26,000 students in the fall of 2006. The college has two campuses: the larger, Liberal Arts Campus, at 4901 E. Carson St., and the Pacific Coast Campus, at 1305 E. Pacific Coast Highway.

LBCC offers 89 degrees and 319 certificates.

Cerritos College, a community college at 18800 Radford Blvd., in the city of Norwalk, enrolled more than 23,000 students in the fall of 2006, according to data from the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office.

Other area college campuses include Biola University in La Mirada and Los Angeles Harbor College in Wilmington.

AREA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Biola University, La Mirada
www.biola.edu
(562) 903-6000

Cal State Long Beach, Long Beach
www.csulb.edu
(562) 985-4111

Cal State Dominguez Hills, Carson
www.csudh.edu
(213) 570-3300

Cerritos College, Norwalk
www.cerritos.edu
(562) 880-2451

Long Beach City College
www.lbcc.edu
(562) 931-4111

Los Angeles Harbor College, Wilmington
www.lahc.edu
(310) 522-8200

MacKenzie Sheridan celebrates her graduation from Cal State Long Beach in May.
Continued on 2

WHAT A PARTY

Norwalk\'s 50th Celebration Final! What a Party!

It was a block party so of the shops held an event and the

The Ki.TA. Band performed.

the birthday cake was served a house
which also served all eyes were on
a beautiful red color paper. When the

bake sale, beers and buns. There was

By Helen A. Brown

August 31, 2007
Norwalk Community News
layer white cake with artistic swirls of chocolate sauce.

City Manager, Ernie Garcia, was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. He introduced Mayor Rick Ramirez, Vice-Mayor Mike Mendez, Council members Cheri Kelley, Gordon Steffenhagen, and Josie Luera. Mayor Ramirez recognized past mayors Luigi Vernola, Art Gerdes, Bob Arthur, and Judith Brennan. Paul Apodaca accepted recognition for his father. Demi Apodaca was the first mayor of Norwalk after the city was incorporated. Each past mayor and current council was presented with a framed Commemorative Plate with the City name and 50th Birthday on it.

Honored guests in attendance included County Supervisor Don Knabe, State Senator Calderon, Assemblyman Tony Mendoza, Cerritos College President Noelia Vela, CC Board members Tim Jackson and Bob Arthur, NLMUSD Superintendent Ginger Shattuck, and Board member Richard LeGaspi. Fire Stations #20 and #105 were well represented, as well as the Norwalk Sheriff Department.

Fifteen of Norwalk service clubs were recognized: American Legion Post #359 and the Ladies Auxiliary, VFW #7138 and their Ladies Auxiliary, Elks Lodge #2142, Jobs Daughters Bethel #10623, Norwalk Lions Club, Masonic Lodge #1739, Norwalk Woman’s Club, Women of the Moose #1126, Eastern Star Chapter #143, Norwalk Rotary Club, and Soroptimist International of Norwalk.

Norwalk currently has twenty-four churches that have been committee to the residents for fifty plus years. These churches were named and recognized. All guests who have lived in the City fifty plus years were asked to stand and be recognized.

A very special recognition was given, along with a framed Commemorative Plate was given to Mary Paxton, the city’s first City Clerk.

This was followed by a ten-minute DVD showing of the history of Norwalk dating from the time of the Shoshone Indians to the present day. Norwalk has such a rich history. It is a place we can all be proud to reside in.

Once the introductions and presentations, the Swing Kings took to the stage and began playing all the famous Oldies but Goodies, all from the 50s era. To the guess’s delight six couples, known as the Bobby Sox Brigade, took to the floor and did the swing version of the Jitterbug. They were wonderful... and very energetic!!! This brought back a lot of nostalgic memories to the older folks present. The guests were then invited to dance and Supervisor Knabe and his wife did us (older ones) proud with their fancy footwork.

It was a wonderful evening and everyone had a fantastic time. Each guest received a Commemorative Plate and Wingglass, a set of six Event Pins, and a colored 5 X 7 self photograph taken when we first arrived.
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Chugh is also a trustee and board member of the American India Foundation, the largest and most successful Indian charity based in the U.S., and a member of the Clinton Global Initiative, a community of global leaders who work to influence change. In addition, he is on the advisory board of Asia Society; is a board member of the Habib American Bank; and is chairman of the board of Premier Media, Inc., a publishing company based in Los Angeles.

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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. Visit the Foundation online at www.cerritos.edu/ccf.
Cerritos College Foundation Golf Tournament Raises 54K

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, Fratone’s Pizza and Spaghetti Villa, Gerald P. Roodzant, DDS, GST Inc., Keenan & Associates, Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, North County Vending, The Pepsico Bottling Group, Southland Motor Car Dealers Association, IBP Architecture, Trane, Union Bank of California and Zebra Coffee. Hole-in-one prizes were courtesy of Moo-thart 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 & Cevdet LLP; putting competition sponsor Misty Putters; beverage cart sponsors Fratone’s and Holiday Inn Select La Mirada; helicopter ball drop sponsored California INK Printing & Graphics; Mr. B’s Tees; PDQ Rentals; 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.
Cerritos College honors students accepted to UCLA, UCI

Graduates 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 Juntila.

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.
Cerritos College To Honor First Football Team

At this Saturday's Cerritos College home football game against Ventura College at 7:00 p.m. there will be a special group of fans in attendance. Back in 1957, the college was experiencing their first football season in the history of the school and that team led the community on a ride that took them to the pinnacle of community college football.

The Falcon team of 1957 not only won the Western State Conference, they were selected to play in the prestigious Junior Rose Bowl in Pasadena against Arlington (TX) College, now known as the University of Texas at Arlington. Although the team was defeated, 21-12, they introduced the brand new school and community to a football season many look back on with fond memories.

The college and the Falcon football team will be honoring that team at halftime of their game by introducing the members of the team, with 20 of the 43 players on the 1957 roster scheduled to be at the game. Prior to the game, the players and their families will be treated to a pre-game reception where they will view old photographs, memorabilia and a special showing of the Junior Rose Bowl. The former players will also be receiving special gifts provided by the college and will enjoy a brunch the following day at a local restaurant.

From that team of 43 players, seven of them went on to play in the National Football League, while 12 received college scholarships. The team was coached by Earl Klapstein, who played for the Pittsburgh Steelers and was then an assistant coach with the legendary Green Bay Packers before taking the Cerritos job. The school traveled to Utah for their first-ever game, a 33-7 win over Weber (UT) College (now Weber State University). They shocked everyone by winning their first seven games of the season before a 12-0 loss to perennial power Compton College and finished with an 8-2 record. Tickets $5, child $3.

Original members in attendance:
Coach Stan Cramer
Coach Gene Martin
Don Desfore (Publicist)
Ray Adermann
John Bower
Paul Burton
Tarvin Clark
John Desimone (Desmond)
Dennis Enkin
Frank Farrar
John Fronzillo
Jim “Jake” Garcia
Dave Godwin
Ken Gregory
Tom Harmon
Bobby Lane
Joe Mehrbrodt
Pete Nicklas
Harry Robinson
Chuck Young
Join the Cerritos College Concert Band for a concert of marches, medleys and well-known band works. Middle school, high school and college students, as well as community members, will join Cerritos College musicians under the direction of Cerritos College music director David Betancourt in presenting a family-friendly musical program. Among the works to be performed are Florentine March, Ashoken Farewell and selections from the musical “Rent.”

The concert will be held 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 25, at Cerritos College Student Center. This event is free and open to the public. On-campus parking is $1 per day. CONTACT:

For more information, contact David Betancourt at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2631 or dbetancourt@cerritos.edu.
"Visas and Virtue" at College

W

riter, actor, and director Chris Tashima will be screening his Academy Award-winning short film, "Visas and Virtue," at Cerritos College on Saturday, September 15, with a Q&A session to follow. This dramatic short film is inspired by the true story of Cesar bombs Spero's brother's family in the Nazi-occupied Levant, who survived the Holocaust. "Visas and Virtue," a film that highlights the sufferings endured by Jewish refugees during WWII, won multiple awards and has been honored for its educational value and community engagement. It was originally presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as well as the Directors Guild of America, where the film also won an Academy Award for Best Live Action Short Film. It is a powerful testament to the resilience and courage of refugees during a time of immense hardship.

The event is open to the public, and there is free parking available on campus. For more information, contact Cerritos College at (562) 860-2821.
Graduation Was a Long Time Coming

Last May, Janet Nickerson walked out onto the grass at Cerritos College’s Falcon Stadium to receive her diploma—an event 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 ever 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 just 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. Florez, 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.”
Art Gallery Features Selected Works by Alex Donis

A selection of Alex Donis’ work spanning 12 years of creative production is now on display at the Cerritos College Art Gallery. The exhibition will run through September 25.

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 works from his series, “Altar de Amor,” “My Cathedral,” “War,” “Heroine” 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 “Heroine” 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 Gefen Contemporary (MoCA); the Laguna Museum of Art, Laguna Beach; Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE); the Mexican Museum, San Francisco; Randalph 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 1960-2000” 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 Brandeis Institute, Philadelphia; ArtSpace, Sydney, Australia; and at the 18th Street Arts Center in Santa Monica.

The exhibit will be on view Tuesday, August 21 through Tuesday, September 25 at 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 cfernandez@cerritos.edu, or at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2620.
College to Celebrate Constitution Day

Join Cerritos College in celebrating the 220th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution. This year’s event will focus on Benjamin Franklin, with a discussion on this founding father by history professor Dr. John Haas. The college will also host composer and historian William Zeitler performing selections on a glass armonica, an instrument invented by Benjamin Franklin in 1761. Zeitler is the only full-time professional glass armonica musician in the world, and is currently writing a book on the instrument’s history. He has composed music for the armonica, and performs at festivals and other special events. In 2006, Zeitler was featured on the History Channel playing his compositions for the instrument, and was recently awarded a medal of honor from Daughters of the American Revolution for his work to preserve the instrument as a part of America’s musical heritage.

This event will be held from 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday, September 17 at the Teleconference Center (LC 155), 11110 Alondra Blvd, Norwalk, CA 90650. This event is free and open to the public. Parking is $1 per day. For more information, contact Student Activities director Holly Bogdanovich at hbogdanovich@cerritos.edu, or at ext. 2476.

Chief of Campus Police Hired

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 as 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.
Paulo Amaral, former ASCC president at Cerritos College, returned home this summer to his parents’ home in Artesia after spending his first year at UC Berkeley, where he is double majoring in peace and conflict studies and development studies.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Amaral points out that of the five founding members of the PACS advisory board, three transferred from community colleges.

This fall, Amaral will be serving on an additional advisory council of 16 undergrads who meet once a month to talk about student life and provide feedback to administrators.

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

“Cerritos College, for me, was a learning experience,” he says. “Academically and socially it helped me grow as a person, a leader, a community person and a citizen.”

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

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

“I am grateful to Cerritos College for all it provided me.”
California high schoolers improve on exit exam

But the achievement gap for poor and minority students persists, officials say.

By Howard Blume, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

August 24, 2007

More seniors are passing the state's high school exit exam, but failure rates among poor and minority students remain disproportionately high, and dropouts are not counted in the state's numbers, the state Department of Education said Thursday.

As of May, the pass rate for the class of 2007 was 93.3%, a 2.1 percentage point increase over the class of 2006 for that period. The pass rate also was higher for some lower-scoring groups, including African American students, who saw a gain of 4.7 percentage points. Latino students saw a gain of 3.1 points, and economically disadvantaged students 2.6 points.

"What a difference a year makes," said state Supt. of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell. "The exit exam is now an accepted part of our accountability system. I like to call it the capstone."

The figures also do not include students with disabilities, who have been exempted from passing the mandatory exam.

Because of dropout rates and other factors, graduating classes at urban high schools in Los Angeles and elsewhere are typically less than half the size of ninth-grade classes.

Critics have alleged that the exit exam pushes many students to drop out while unfairly denying diplomas -- which translate directly to higher wages and job opportunities -- to students who would otherwise qualify. Parents and activists sued the state on grounds that students were being penalized for a system that had failed them.

State officials estimate that 3% to 6% of seniors fail to graduate solely because of the exit exam. Students can take the test multiple times, beginning in 10th grade. Since last year, nearly 5,000 seniors statewide who failed the exam and didn't graduate have since passed the test.

Exam opponents made little headway in court and finally settled litigation in exchange for an agreement to codify in law programs to help students pass the test. Such efforts are already in place throughout most of the state.

School districts, for example, can receive $500 for every senior who has yet to pass the test. The terms of the settlement await ratification by the Legislature. A lawsuit over whether disabled students must take the test is continuing, officials said.
The current test results reflect a persistent achievement gap based on both student poverty and ethnicity. As in standardized test score results released last week, poor white students are outperforming Latino and African American students not classified as at or near the poverty level.

Reflecting that trend were the pass rates among 10th-graders taking the test for the first time in Oakland, a heavily minority district, said Deb Sigman, the state’s testing director. The pass rate was 60% on the English portion of the test and 61% on the math portion. For white students, the pass rate was 89.4% for English and 88.1% for math.

Another disappointing result: The performance of 10th-grade English learners in 2007 taking the test for the first time declined compared with previous years.

Numbers in the Los Angeles Unified School District reflected the general trends. The pass rate overall for the class of 2007 was 87%, compared with 86% for the class of 2006. Since last year, many students from the class of 2006 have retaken the test, boosting their current pass rate to 90%.

The English test is written to ninth- and 10th-grade academic standards. The math test includes material from Algebra 1 and seventh-grade general math.

"We see some closing of the achievement gap, but we still need to do much more," O’Connell said. "We know all students can learn, and all students can learn to high levels."

To see how your child’s school fared on the California High School Exit Exam, go to http://latimes.greatschools.net

howard.blume@latimes.com
Colleges outline security resources

Safety issues become a priority for students and parents after the killings at Virginia Tech.

By Larry Gordon
Times Staff Writer

Discussions about social life, academic success and meal plans still dominate college freshmen orientations, but a more somber note also is being heard this season as new students lug their laptops and mini-fridges into dorm rooms.

In the wake of the shooting rampage at Virginia Tech in April, many colleges and universities in California, and around the nation, are forcefully tackling issues of security and mental health during summer orientation seminars and meet-the-fresh gatherings with parents and new students before regular classes begin.

Some are introducing new emergency notification systems or reinforcing procedures already in place. Many are more explicitly telling students how and when to seek mental health counseling for themselves and urging them to report classmates who may need intervention, as the Virginia Tech gunman desperately did before he killed 32 people and himself in the campus...
Los Angeles Times
September 4, 2007

Checklist: backpack, security plan

(Campuses, from Page B1)

ten. “It’s one of those things we have and hope to never use,” Drayton said, stressing it would be triggered only by serious events like a major earthquake or reports of a gunman on campus.

Fred Miller, Cal Lutheran’s security director, said his staff and other university officials will be holding sessions with students over the next few weeks to explain the new warning alert system. He said he expects the training will be done “in a way that is not threatening, in a positive way, so it’s not going to put fear in them.”

Still, the references to violence and how to avoid it are often unavoidable as the school term starts, officials report.

“Many, many campuses are addressing this forthrightly,” said Kevin Kruger, associate executive director of the National Assn. of Student Personnel Administrators, a Washington-based group that focuses on student life. “There’s been a lot of dialogue throughout the summer.”

Yet, although those talks introduced a fleeting dark tone to orientation and freshman welcome weeks, they did not dominate, Kruger added. “College remains an exciting opportunity for young people. The excitement still exists. This is not changing the basic delivery of orientation,” he said.

The Virginia Tech horror was in the news again last week with the release of a report, commissioned by Virginia’s governor, that strongly criticized the university’s actions before and during the shootings. If the university had issued an alert or canceled classes after Seung-Hui Cho shot his first two victims in a dormitory, the death toll from his later assault on a classroom building might have been lower, the report said. It also detailed failures in the way reports of Cho’s mental problems — evidenced by his deep alienation and his writings about violence — were handled.

The Virginia Tech attack prompted UCLA to add a new feature to its orientation sessions: A half-hour video presentation, called “How to Handle It,” details ways to cope with such stressul factors as academic pressure, homesickness, making friends and depression, said Roxanne Nenez, UCLA’s orientation program director.

The video was shown 18 times throughout the summer to groups of 400 freshmen and transfer students.

Discussions also focused on mental health resources on campus and how to watch for signs that a fellow student might be having psychological troubles, such as not leaving dorm rooms. The goal was early prevention, Nenez explained: “What to do in a more proactive sense, rather than focusing just on when something happens.”

Incoming UCLA freshman David Alonzo said he fell “very reassured” after seeing the video and hearing about security measures on campus. But the 18-year-old from South Gate said he does not think many students dwell on the possibilities of danger. “We are more nervous about things like leaving home, being independent for the first time,” she said. “Am I going to pass my classes? Will I have time to do all my reading?”

Karthik Muralidharan, 18, of San Jose, another freshman, agreed. He said he feels very safe on the Westwood campus, where he was taking a tour Friday as part of UCLA’s final orientation session this summer.

He said he appreciated that the university was making students aware of issues stemming from Virginia Tech and was glad it was not done in a heavy-handed manner.

“You don’t want to create a sense of fear,” he said. “You don’t want kids worried constantly.”

Parents may be another matter, some colleges report.

Parents of this generation of college students already are much more involved in their children’s college education than previous generations, and their worries about another Virginia Tech-like incident are prompting discussions as they drop students off at schools across the country, officials said.

Anticipating questions from parents about the Virginia Tech killings, UC Santa Barbara added new material to the handbook it gives to more than 3,000 families during a series of two-day summer orientations.

One section states that the massacre showed “that universities are not ivory towers insulated from the concerns and dangers of the real world.”

“Sending a son or daughter off to college is a proud and happy moment. But with incidents like Virginia Tech on our minds, it can also be the source of anxiety,” said the message signed by Yonge Harris, dean of students. The booklet details security and counseling measures available “so that all students can be safe and successful.”

“We really wanted to put it all out here for them,” said Debbie Fleming, UC Santa Barbara’s associate dean of students. The campus sought to reinforce the philosophy that new students should be “proactive in safeguarding their own emotional and physical health.”

UC Santa Barbara has had tragic experience with a troubled student. In 2001, a freshman with a history of mental illness plowed his car into a crowd of pedestrians in the nearby Isla Vista student community, killing four young people. The student, David Attias, was convicted of second-degree murder and committed to a state mental hospital.

Pepperdine has faced different dangers: brush fires coming close to campus. Its new emergency warning system could be used for that in the future, although the Virginia Tech killings prompted the installation of the system, along with a new section in the student handbook. In that text, Pepperdine notes that campus shootings nationwide are very rare compared to suicides and alcohol-related deaths but emphasizes ways to get help for a troubled student and to report dangers.

As students leave their families to attend college, they join another sort of family, made up of all the other students on campus, said Mark Davis, Pepperdine’s dean of student affairs. “It is characteristic of healthy families to take care of each other,” he said.
UC, CSU pay talks opened up

By Samantha Young
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — State trustees and regents at California’s public universities would be required to meet in open session when discussing executive compensation under legislation approved Tuesday by the state Assembly.

The bill by State Sen. Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, was approved 69-0 in the wake of revelations last year that top administrators at the University of California were secretly given millions in perks and bonuses.

It was among more than 180 bills passed Tuesday by the Assembly and Senate in the final weeks of the session. Lawmakers adopted new rules to extend voter registration for new citizens, restitutions on lead bullets in areas where condors live and a ban on a common chemical found in plastic baby toys and products.

The university compensation bill would require all executive compensation packages at the University of California and the California State University be voted on in an open session of a subcommittee and the full governing board.

University compensation practices first came under scrutiny when the San Francisco Chronicle reported last year that CSU, the nation’s largest four-year public university system with more than 400,000 students, had paid as much as $4 million over 10 years to departing executives. They were awarded the perks in a period when student fees increased significantly to offset budget cuts.

Subsequent audits of executive compensation practices found scores of abuses over the years.

The bill now goes to the Senate for final approval.

In other business, lawmakers adopted the following bills:

**Voter registration**

Immigrants who become U.S. citizens after California’s 15-day registration deadline could register to vote until the polls close on election day under legislation approved by the state Assembly.

Supporters said the bill by Sen. Jenny Oropeza, D-Long Beach, would ensure that California’s newest citizens be allowed to vote.

A 43-28 vote sent the bill back to the Senate for final approval.

**Jail informants**

The Assembly passed legislation that would bar a court from convicting a person based on uncorroborated testimony of an informant who is in prison or police custody.

The measure passed on its third try by a 42-31 vote. It now goes to the Senate for final approval.

**Apartment recycling**

Apartments with more than five units would have to provide renters a place to recycle their plastic bottles, aluminum cans and newspapers under legislation approved by the state Assembly.

A 47-24 vote sent the bill to the governor. He vetoed similar legislation last year, describing it as an “overly prescriptive” measure that would create significant compliance costs.

**Condors and bullets**

Hunters would be barred from using lead-based ammunition in areas inhabited by California condors under a bill by Assemblyman Pedro Nava, D-Santa Barbara, that was approved by the Senate.

**Toxic toys**

The Senate also approved a bill by Assemblywoman Fiona Ma, D-San Francisco, that would ban the use of phthalates in toys and children’s products designed for kids under age three.

Read the bills at www.assembly.ca.gov, www.senate.ca.gov
Congress boosts financial aid to students, takes from lenders

BY NICOLE GAUDETTE
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Congress on Friday approved the largest overhaul of education funding in more than 60 years, a $70.6-billion program that would boost financial aid to students and reduce interest payments on their loans.

Students who enter certain public sector jobs would have their debts erased under the plan, the total cost of which would be offset by slashing government subsidies to lenders. It also calls for a $510-million investment in minority colleges.

The program would have particular impact in California, which has more recipients of low-income student grants than any other state. The bill’s increases to those Pell Grants are expected to benefit about 5.5 million needy students nationwide.

Democrats hailed the legislation, describing it as the largest college aid package since the 1944 GI Bill and a boon to families at a time of skyrocketing college costs. But lenders warned that the bill would drive smaller financiers out of business, leaving students with fewer and less attractive loan options. Republicans argued that it would burden taxpayers with costly new entitlement programs.

Despite GOP opposition, President Bush indicated Thursday that he would rescind an earlier threat to veto the bill and would sign it into law.

Passage of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act comes at a time when college

[See Student aid, Page A16]
Bush signals he will sign bill

[Student did, from Page A1]

1. Costs have soared nearly 40% in the last five years. It also coincides with increased scrutiny of the $550 billion student-loan industry, which has been shaken by recent scandals involving conflicts of interest among lenders and school officials, as well as kickback schemes.

2. Democrats campaigning to retain control of Congress in last year’s midterm election focused on the issue, with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) declaring that cutting student loan interest rates in her would be one of her party’s top priorities.

3. On Friday, one of the bills’ sponsors, Rep. George Miller (D-Martinez), described the bills as a victory for middle-class families. “This bill is a good investment in education,” he said. "It’s an urgent need to provide financial relief to students and families who are working very hard to pay for college,” he added.

4. The Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Reno), left, confers with Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), who heads the Senate Education Committee. Kennedy co-sponsored the measure.

5. "Supporters: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Reno), left, confers with Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), who heads the Senate Education Committee. Kennedy co-sponsored the measure.

6. Coming Sunday in Business

One parent’s financial dilemma

Stick to the budget, or shall out for a private college?

rates for students starting July 1, from a current 5.5% to 3.4% phosph in over four years. Those rates would reverse an increase enacted by the previous Republican-led Congress to fund tax cuts. The lower rates would expire after five years unless Congress renewed them.

At the beginning of the 2008-09 academic year, the bill would begin increasing the maximum Pell Grant from $4,000 to $5,400 by 2012. In the 2005-06 school year, $34,360 California students received those grants.

Students with direct loans from the government would receive debt forgiveness after 10 years of working in certain public sectors, including emergency first-responders, nurses, firefighters, prosecutors, early-childhood educators and librarians. That provision would take effect July 1.

Undergraduates who committed to teaching in high-need public schools would receive upfront tuition assistance of $4,000 a year, up to $10,000, starting from the 2008-09 academic year. From July 1, 2009, onward, the bill would cap students’ monthly federal loan repayments at 15% of what the government considers their discretionary income.

It also would funnel $2.95 billion toward Upward Bound, a program that prepares students who are in financial need or whose parents did not receive higher education to go to college.

Patrick Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education in San Jose, described the bill as a “response to the large, building public anxiety about the cost of college.”

He said that since the early 1980s, family income increased 17%, inflation rose 0.5%, the cost of healthcare climbed 229%, and the price of a college education soared 375%.

“This bill restores the principle of educational opportunity without having it depend on your financial resources,” Callan said. He noted that the bill particularly helps states like California, with a rising generation of elementary-school children who are “heavily low-income, first-generation students.”

Janice Mertlack, president of the Institute for Higher Education Policy in Washington, praised the investment in institutions serving black, Latino and Native American students.

“That will be a big help given the demographic trajectory of the country,” she said.

Miller and his co-sponsor, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), who lead their chambers’ education committees, stressed that the bill’s programs would be fully covered by the $26.3 billion in cuts to lender subsidies over five years.

Those cuts target the student loan companies receive from the government for lending to students. The subsidies are meant to offer some security for extending loans to students who have little, sometimes no co-signer and usually no collateral.

A few lenders, including SLM Corp., known as Sallie Mae; Stu-
How the changes affect borrowers

BY KATHY M. KRISTOF

Millions of indebted current and former students should get relief from crushing loan payments thanks to the College Cost Reduction and Access Act.

The bill, which passed both houses of Congress on Friday and appears certain to become law, does not provide immediate relief. But it phases in interest rate and payment cuts over the next several years.

How will the lending changes work, when will they apply and whom do they affect? Here are a few answers.

How will student loan interest rates be affected?

The law phases in interest rate reductions on subsidized student loans, mainly Stafford loans, starting next year. Subsidized loans are provided to borrowers who qualify for need-based aid. They differ from unsubsidized student loans in just one respect under current law: The government pays the interest on subsidized loans while the student is in school; on unsubsidized loans, the interest accrues and will add to the loan balance if not paid by graduation time.

Under the new law, there will be a second difference between these two types of loans. Unsubsidized loans will accrue interest at today’s 6.8% fixed rate. The interest rate on subsidized loans will ratchet down, starting at 0% for loans taken out after June 2008, 5.0% in 2009, 4.5% in 2010 and to 3.4% in 2011. In 2012, the rate will return to 6.8%.

These rates will be fixed for the life of the loan.

What about loan repayments?

The law creates an income-based repayment plan that ensures that both subsidized and unsubsidized borrowers would not have to dedicate more than 10% of their discretionary income to repay federal student loans. Because repayment is based on the borrower’s income, many with entry-level jobs would end up paying less than 10%, said Robert Shireman, executive director of the Berkeley-based Project on Student Debt.

How is discretionary income defined?

It’s your income, minus 50% of the federal poverty level for your family size. For example, the federal poverty level is $10,010 for one individual living in the continental U.S. So, discretionary income would be only the amount that exceeds 50% of that, or $5,005.

The poverty level varies by family size and is

Q&A

Los Angeles Times, con’t

September 8, 2007
Student loans to get boost

By Nancy Zuckerbrod
AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON — Congress sent President Bush legislation Friday to boost financial aid for college students by cutting some $20 billion in government subsidies to banks that make student loans.

Bush has indicated he will sign the legislation, despite previous objections to parts of the bill. Specifically, the administration has criticized a student loan interest-rate cut and a new loan-forgiveness program, among other things.

House Democrats had made the popular interest-rate cut a priority during the run-up to the last election in which they regained control of Congress.

The House voted 292-97 for the student aid bill Friday. Earlier in the day, the Senate approved the measure 79-12. All the lawmakers who voted against the bill were Republicans.

The boost in financial aid to college students was one of half a dozen domestic priorities Democrats set when they took control of Congress this year. Two others — an increase in the minimum wage and mandatory air and sea cargo inspections — already have become law, and a third, ethics reform, is awaiting Bush’s signature.

“This is an exciting day for parents and students who struggle to put together the financial means to pay for college,” said Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., chair of the House education committee.

The bill would increase the maximum Pell grant, which goes to the poorest college students, from $4,130 a year to $5,400 a year by 2012.

It also would cut interest rates on federally backed student loans to poor and middle-class students from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent over the next four years.

California Rep. Buck McKeon, the leading Republican on the House education committee, criticized the rate cut. He said students will go back to paying the higher rate in four years and taxpayers will have to foot the bill for the cut to continue.

“What once was a campaign promise has become a trap that will ensnare either students or taxpayers,” McKeon said.

Democratic lawmakers say the roughly $20 billion in cuts to banks are aimed at excessive government subsidies to lenders. The subsidies were established to ensure that banks enter and stay in the college loan business.

Banking industry officials have objected to the cuts and said they could adversely affect services provided to borrowers.

Nearly all of the cuts would go toward making college cheaper, but $750 million would be spent on federal budget deficit reduction.

The bill also sets up a loan-forgiveness program for college graduates who work for 10 years in public service professions, such teaching or nursing.

It also would cap annual payments for students at a percentage of their income.

Once signed by the president, the legislation will begin taking effect Oct. 1.
Berkeley gets big gift for faculty

The $113 million from the Hewlett Foundation will go toward keeping professors wooed by better-paying rivals.

By Richard C. Padroco
Times Staff Writer

BERKELEY — UC Berkeley plans to announce today that it will receive $113 million from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to create 100 endowed faculty chairs and slow the exodus of top professors to wealthy private universities.

The university and the foundation hope that the huge gift will help Berkeley retain faculty members who are sometimes wooed by private universities with offers of $100,000 pay hikes and millions of dollars in research money.

Attracting and keeping the best faculty members, they say, is the key to maintaining the campus' excellence.

"This Hewlett gift will be transformational," UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Birgeneau said. "We are moving toward a model that has been developed successfully at private universities."

The effort is not a move toward privatizing the university, the chancellor said.

"We are in the ironic position of needing private support for our public character," he said.

Traditionally in higher education, large donations often help erect buildings or create programs. But the Hewlett gift, the largest in UC Berkeley's history, is unusual because it is devoted to supporting the campus' basic activities.

UC Berkeley has endowments totaling $2.5 billion, but nearly all of those funds are restricted to specific purposes.

The Hewlett donation will be used to attract matching gifts from other private donors and create a $220-million endowment that the university can build on. It also includes $3 million to improve management of the campus' endowments and maximize their return.

The gift, to be paid over seven years, is designed to help compensate for cutbacks in state funding that threaten to erode the quality of the university. UC officials have assured the foundation that the gift will be a supplement to state funding, not a substitute.

"Our goal is to take a great state institution and help it maintain its greatness," Hewlett Foundation President Paul Brest said. "It's a different model for a public university, one that has worked very well for the privates."

The endowments of many private universities have soared in recent years. Harvard University has an endowment of nearly $30 billion; Stanford University's is about $15 billion.

[See Gift, Page A15]
Hewlett Foundation will give $113 million to UC Berkeley

(By David Lohr)

"Private universities figured out long before we did the importance of building up an endowment," Birgeneau said. "If you look at income from Stanford's endowment, their payout is $500 million a year, more than what we get from the state.

UC administrators say that maintaining the faculty's quality has been one of the biggest challenges after cutbacks in state funding since 2001. At Berkeley, where the average faculty pay is $10,000, salaries in many fields lag 20% behind those at comparable private institutions.

In recent years, Birgeneau said, wealthy private universities have sought to lure more than 200 of Berkeley's best professors with promises of higher salaries and more resources. The campus has managed to hang on to nearly 70% of them, he said, but it has not been easy to counter the private offers.

"It's an unrelenting battle," he said.

"Typically, private universities go after professors who have been at Berkeley for many years and have received tenure and national recognition," he said.

Three such faculty members each were recently offered $150,000 salary increases and $4.5 million in laboratory and research funds by one private university, he said. Berkeley could not match the offer but came up with enough additional funds to keep the trio, including meeting the professors' insistence that labs for their students be upgraded.

"For these three faculty members, it wasn't that they wanted things for themselves, they wanted things for their graduates and undergrads," the chancellor said. "Frankly, I was so impressed with that it made me work harder to keep them.

Faculty chairs, often named after donors, are a way of providing permanent sources of funding for eminent professors and additional money for their research facilities and graduate students. Berkeley's first endowed chair was established in 1972; the campus now has 351. Most of Berkeley's existing chairs come with an endowment of $500,000. The Hewlett gift and matching funds will endow 93 chairs at $2 million each, in line with the practice at private universities. It also will endow 20 "distinguished" endowed chairs at $3 million each that will span multiple academic areas.

Birgeneau said the standard $500,000 will go to support the chair, and the remaining money will be used to support graduate students, equip laboratories, develop libraries and pay for common university functions.

The money is expected to help in recruiting top graduate students — another hallmark of a great university and an area in which Berkeley is in danger of falling behind.

Professors who hold named chairs are often recognized as the leaders in their discipline. The new chairs will be spread throughout the university.

"Some universities are phenomenal in three or four fields, but we have 35 departments that are ranked in the top 10 nationally," said Executive Vice Chancellor Provost George Breslauer. "So, we have to invest broadly in order to maintain that breadth and depth of excellence."

The Hewlett Foundation, which was established by Hewlett-Packard co-founder William Hewlett and his wife, Flora, will not be involved in naming the chairs. Instead, donors who provide matching funds will have the chance to name them, creating a greater incentive for giving.

Breslauer, a former dean of Stanford Law School, said that part of what keeps faculty members at Berkeley is a commitment to its public mission of providing a high-quality education to a diverse student body. About 36% of Berkeley undergraduates are nonwhite, 44% come from low-income families and 21% have parents who never attended college. UC says Berkeley has more low-income students than all the Ivy League schools and Stanford combined.

But Birgeneau, who used to recruit professors from Berkeley's Boalt law school, said loyalty to the university goes only so far when salaries and resources fall significantly.

"Berkeley is a very strong institution, but I have watched it become vulnerable to losing faculty to other institutions because of salary differences," he said.

Birgeneau said the Hewlett Foundation's board is made up of members connected to private schools but who recognize the need for strong public universities.

The board includes Yale University President Richard Levin, former Harvard Provost Harvey V. Fineberg and Walter Hewlett, the Hewlett's son who is a Stanford professor and serves on the Harvard Board of Overseers.

"To a person, they understand the importance of a great public university," Birgeneau said. "Imagine California without the premier public universities and it would be a sorrowful state."

Source: University of California

"We are in the ironic position of needing private support for our public character."

— ROBERT BIRGENEAU
UC Berkeley chancellor