FOR THE WEEKS OF SEPTEMBER 12—25, 2007

In Progress
Allison Abel is working with Dr. Robert Kreger in the Earth Sciences Department to publicize a lecture on environmental issues by a world-renowned oceanographer within the local academic and corporate community.

Coverage
The Press (Los Angeles) — August 9, 2007 — Short article about Congresswoman Linda Sanchez’s summer interns, including Rhianna Lemos-Girton, a 2007 Cerritos College graduate.

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

Los Cerritos Community News — August 10, 2007 — Short article about a 2007 Gahr High School graduate who won a scholarship and said he’d attend Cerritos College this fall.

Herald American — August 16, 2007 — Article regarding upcoming Cerritos College Board of Trustees election.

La Opinion — August 17, 2007 — Article about young people who do not let major obstacles get in the way of their goals. One person quoted in the article is attending Cerritos College.


Downey Patriot — August 31, 2007 — Article on recent Cerritos College graduate Rhianna Lemos-Girton, who interned in the office of Congresswoman Linda Sanchez over the summer (from press release).

Long Beach Press-Telegram — September 6, 2007 — Brief alert regarding a Cerritos College Jazz Ensemble performance.

Long Beach Press-Telegram — September 12, 2007 — Article about the 50 Years of Football celebration at Cerritos College.

Wave Community News — September 13, 2007 — Promotional article on Constitution Day event at Cerritos
College (from press release).

La Opinion—September 24, 2007—Article on upcoming conference to be held by Project HOPE.

Whittier Daily News—September 25, 2007—Short promotional alerts regarding upcoming performances by the Cerritos College Music Department (from press release).

Related News
Los Angeles Times—September 14, 2007—Article regarding the retraction from the chancellor of UCI of an offer of deanship made to prominent legal scholar Erwin Chemerinsky, generating widespread outcry among the academic community.

Los Angeles Times—September 18, 2007—Article regarding the reinstatement of Chemerinsky as the founding dean of UCI’s law school.

Los Angeles Times—September 20, 2007—Article regarding newly-approved pay raises for Cal State University officials.

Long Beach Press-Telegram—September 20, 2007—Article regarding newly-approved pay raises for Cal State University officials.

Los Angeles Times—September 24, 2007—Article regarding a bill waiting for Gov. Schwarzenegger’s signature that would help reduce the cost of college textbooks.
For Immediate Release: September 5, 2007

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

NORWALK, CA - September 5, 2007 - Cerritos College's second 9-week session begins Monday, October 15, 2007. Students may access a schedule of classes, complete an application and register online for a variety of classes by visiting www.cerritos.edu/admissions.

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

Cerritos College serves as a comprehensive community college for 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 www.cerritos.edu.
Cerritos College Theatre to Present “Anna in the Tropics”

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Drama Begins October 5

For Immediate Release: September 14, 2007

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

WHAT: The Cerritos College Theatre Arts Department and Associated Students invite you to the opening production for the 07-08 season: “Anna in the Tropics.” Harkening back to a time when cigars were hand-rolled in small, family-owned businesses, and lectors provided the only intellectual stimulation for the workers, this tale by Nilo Cruz follows a parallel to Leo Tolstoy’s "Anna Karenina."

Come experience the passion and intrigue that ensues in this Pulitzer Prize winner for Best Drama!

WHEN: Friday, Oct. 5 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 6 at 8 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 11 at 8 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 12 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 13 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 14 at 2 p.m.

WHERE: Burnight Center Theatre
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.

COST: General admission: $12
Students, staff and seniors with ID: $10

Tickets are available for all performance dates and can be purchased online at www.cerritos.edu/theatre or at the theater box office, open Monday through Thursday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Group rates are available.

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

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Cerritos College online at www.cerritos.edu.

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Pursuing a Global Perspective

Cerritos College History Student Jasmin Gonzalez Spends a Semester in New Zealand

For Immediate Release: September 14, 2007

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

NORWALK, CA -- September 14, 2007 -- When Jasmin Gonzalez started school last month, it wasn’t just a new circle of friends, new school and new teachers she had to get used to; she also had to adjust to life in a new country more than halfway around the globe.

Gonzalez, a 20-year-old history major from Norwalk, is the first exchange student from Cerritos College to study at International Pacific College in Palmerston North, New Zealand.

“It’s going to be a completely different experience,” she said in an interview conducted the week before her departure. “I don’t plan to think about L.A., my home or my friends. My goal is to absorb their culture.”

Having an interest in international relations in addition to her history major, Gonzalez could hardly ask for a better supplement to her education than to study overseas.

And as colleges go, IPC happens to be a prime institution for cross-cultural interaction, according to Nick Kremer, executive dean of Cerritos College’s Community, Industry and Technology Education division. Kremer, Cerritos College’s chief link with IPC, was a key player in negotiating an exchange agreement with the college several years ago.

“IPC is an excellent place to immerse one’s self in other cultures,” he said. “The college draws students from Japan, Malaysia, China and Indonesia, among other countries. And with her interest in international relations, Jasmin is a perfect fit for this opportunity.”

While Gonzalez is considered a minority in the United States, she’s grown up surrounded by others who share her Hispanic heritage. But she knew that once in New Zealand, being a minority would take on a whole new meaning. Fortunately, Gonzalez isn’t a stranger to being friends with those of other cultures. In the past, she’s served as vice-president and secretary of Cerritos College’s International Student Association, building friendships that transcend racial and ethnic differences.

“ISA and all its members and staff are a second family to me,” she said. “Through ISA, I have gained friendships I will always cherish and will always work hard to keep. Even though all of us come from either different cultures or different parts of the world, we all get along and understand each other perfectly.”

Danita Kurtz, coordinator of International Student Services at Cerritos College, knows well the benefits of interna-
"The experience Jasmin is getting for herself and her future career is wonderful," said Kurtz. "Studying abroad is an experience unlike any other. It exposes students to new cultures, opportunities and experiences."

Gonzalez found in Kurtz, as well as Kremer, enthusiastic support as she prepared to study abroad. "Both of them pushed and pushed to get me as much scholarship money, help and information as they could," she said.

Gonzalez originally learned of IPC through one of her instructors, history professor Dr. John Haas. Haas leads a program at Cerritos College called the Global Consortium, that gives students the opportunity to participate in teleconferences with students from other colleges and universities all over the world—one of them being IPC, where Haas has guest lectured.

“I have been involved in almost all the teleconferences Dr. Haas has done,” said Gonzalez. “The conferences are absolutely necessary, in my opinion. They not only connect many different parts of the world, but also allow us to hear others’ opinions and interact with them.”

Gonzalez also appreciates that the teleconferences have helped her see that “other parts of the world are interested in things that are happening here in the U.S., and vice versa.”

While Gonzalez thoroughly enjoyed the teleconferences, she knew that interacting with people in far-flung parts of the world and building cross-cultural understanding would take on a whole new dimension if it were face-to-face. So when Gonzalez heard of IPC, she wasn’t about to let the opportunity pass her by.

“I’m really excited about being surrounded by people from different cultures and different parts of the world,” she said.

One senses that for this outgoing 20-year-old, a semester in New Zealand is only the beginning.

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More on Jasmin Gonzalez and her experiences in New Zealand will follow in October.

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Sánchez says good-bye to interns

CERRITOS — Rep. Linda Sánchez, D-Cerritos, recently said good-bye and commended the work of six area students who served as summer interns in her office here.

They were Andrew Park, a Hawaiian Gardens resident and student at Whitney High School in Cerritos; and Margaret Chang Liao and Roma Jhaveri, both Cerritos residents and Cerritos High School students.

Also Whittier resident Rhianna Lemos, a Cerritos College graduate; Véronica Smith of La Mirada, student at La Serna High School in Whittier; and Kristina Campa, a Lakewood resident attending USC.

They were part of a small group of interns who worked with Sanchez’s full-time staff to provide constituent services on issues such as veterans’ benefits, the Medicare prescription drug plan and Social Security.

“This group of students has been a great part of our team,” Sánchez said. “I feel really grateful that we have so many qualified students who want to work in this office and make a difference by helping the residents of our community.”
Cerritos College
Fall Semester Begins August 13

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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Carlos Aguayo Awarded $1,000 Scholarship

Carlos Aguayo of Artesia has been awarded a 2007-08 California Grocers’ Association Educational Foundation Big Saver Food Scholarship in the amount of $1,000. Aguayo will attend Cerritos College this fall and major in film studies. He is a graduate of Gahr High School where he was president of the French Club and a member of the school’s Honor Roll.

Scholarships are awarded based on academic merit, evidence of outstanding character and leadership potential. Applicants must enroll as full-time students this fall at an accredited, nonprofit college or university in the United States.

This year the CGA Educational Foundation awarded 241 scholarships, totaling $285,000. The scholarships are awarded to college students who are either employees or dependents of employees of CGA member companies.
Slate forms against Cerritos College board members

BY ARNOLD ADLER
STAFF WRITER

NORWALK — Incumbents on the Cerritos College Board of Trustees and the Norwalk-La Mirada school board found themselves facing a number of challengers with a flurry of candidate filings last week while incumbents in the Bellflower and Downey school districts had no competition by the Friday deadline and are expected to cancel their Nov. 6 elections.

Cerritos College incumbents Tom Jackson and Bob Arthur, both of Norwalk; and Ted Edmiston of Lakewood have filed but John Moore of Cerritos did not, thus extending the deadline there until Wednesday, said a representative of the county Registrar of Voters office here.

Incumbents may not file in the extended period, the representative said.

Meanwhile, challenger Tom Chavez of Norwalk, a music educator, picked up three running mates in last-minute filings. They will run as a slate for the four open Cerritos College board seats, according to one of the newcomers, Martin Greenidge, an educator and telecommunications technician, also from Norwalk.

Chavez and Greenidge were joined by Rosa Barragan, an educator/social worker employed by the Norwalk-La Mirada School District; along with Tino Cho, an educator/doctor.

They all listed their addresses as 1212 S. Victory Blvd., Burbank, the location of their campaign headquarters, Greenidge said.

The other three candidates and their campaign manager, reportedly based in Burbank, could not immediately be reached for more information.

The college district covers La Mirada, Norwalk, Cerritos, Artesia, Hawaiian Gardens, Bellflower and Downey and part of South Gate.

In the Little Lake City School District, incumbents Richard Martinez and Lynn Berg, both of Santa Fe Springs, filed for re-election but board member Laurie Rios, also of Santa Fe Springs, did not, thus extending that deadline.

Richard Gonzales Lawrence, a community relations officer from Norwalk, was the lone challenger as of Monday.

The district covers Santa Fe Springs, northern Norwalk and part of southeast Downey.

Norwalk-La Mirada school district incumbents Pauline Deal and Karen Morrison, both of La Mirada; and Richard LeGaspi of Norwalk have filed for re-election, along with challenger Lorraine Neal, a Norwalk resident who is a teacher in the neighboring Downey school district.

Two new challengers, filing before the deadline last week, were Moses Covarrubias, a parent/business owner, and Greg W. Hunter, an economics professor, both of La Mirada.

In the ABC Unified School District, including Cerritos, Artesia, Hawaiian Gardens, eastern Lakewood and southern Norwalk, incumbents Louise Dodson, Armin Reyes and Celia Spitzer have filed along with challengers Howard Kim, a teacher; Paul Kahng, a professor; and Sophia M. Tse, a nurse/educator, all of Cerritos.

Incumbent Cecy Groom of Cerritos did not file, thus extending that deadline for challengers only.

In the Bellflower Unified School District, incumbents Jerry Cleveland and Michael Hersak, both of Lakewood, were the only ones to file.

The district covers Bellflower and parts of Lakewood and Long Beach.

That election is expected to be canceled, a district representative said.

The Downey Unified School District incumbents, who are unopposed, are Todd Cordin, District 2; William Gutierrez, District 3; Donald LaPlante, District 4 and D. Mark Morris, District 6.

Superintendent Wendy Doty said she will take the necessary steps to cancel the Downey election and save the district $108,000.

Final filings in other area districts included:

- The Paramount Unified School District, where incumbents Vivian Hansen and Linda Garcia, both of Paramount, filed along with challenger Kennedy N. Collins, a quality control coordinator from Long Beach.

See ELECTION on page A2

Board races set in November

ELECTION from page A1

- Rio Hondo Community College Board of Trustees, where District 2 incumbent Maria Elena Martinez of Pico Rivera, filed as did District 4 challenger Alma Martinez, Santa Fe Springs, a small business owner, and incumbent Gary Mendez, also Santa Fe Springs.

The district covers Whittier, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs and northern Norwalk, and a small part of eastern Downey.
EL VALOR DE LA

A muchos jóvenes, los problemas no les impiden llegar a sus metas

Rubén Moreno
ruben.moreno@laopinion.com

Sufir continúas golpizas sin sentido, tener a un padre drogadicto, perder a quien más te amaba o quedar sin recursos económicos. Sufir adelante y la suerte te da la espalda puede trastornar los planes de cualquiera, pero cuando se tiene toda una vida por recorrer, resulta más difícil saber a qué aferrarse.

Los objetivos parecen volverse inalcanzables cuando los sueños caen en un saco roto del que sólo se pueden recuperar con una buena dosis de persistencia. Esta fue justamente la que mantuvieron decenas de jóvenes de Los Ángeles, en su gran mayoría latinos y afroamericanos, para lograr lo que siempre habían soñado antes de que los problemas se cruzaran en sus vidas.

Persistente, Guadalupe Rodríguez, de 17 años y madre de un bebé de 10 meses, tiene claro que quiere estudiar medicina forense. Para algunos, esa meta es llegar a la universidad. Para otros, encontrar un trabajo que les permita costear sus gastos. Y los más ambiciosos, seguir superándose.

Lea Valor, Pág. 9A

Valor

Viene de la pág. 1A

Cansa que a veces, tener cuando antes una casa a la que te puedan llamar propios. De momento, lo que todos lograron fue dar el primer paso: graduarse de la escuela secundaria superando cualquier adversidad.

A sus 17 años, Guadalupe Rodríguez tiene claro que quiere ser médico forense. De hecho, ya está preparando en el Colegio Comunitario de Cerros, de donde quiere dar el salto a la Universidad. Ahora, de 10 meses, es ahora el motor principal de su vida.

"Esa es mi razón de ser para salir adelante, porque quiero darle lo mejor. No quiero que pase por lo mismo que he vivido yo", dijo la joven madre, que fue abandonada por su papá cuando tenía 2 años de edad, sin que haya vuelto a saber nada de él.

"Mi mamá murió cuando yo tenía 8 años y mi hermano que estaba aquí me mandó a Tijuana, sin papeles. Empecé la escuela, pero cuando quedé en estado, el padre no nos hizo responsable y mi hermano me corrió de la casa.

Guadalupe recibió ayuda del Departamento de Servicios Infantiles y Familiares del Condado de Los Ángeles (DCFS), cuando el hospital donde se alojó la reportó el ver que radie llegaba a visitarla por el cuidado de su bebé. Ahora, no solo vive con una familia de crianza en South Gate, sino que ya ha conseguido una beca de mil dólares para pagar sus gastos educativos.

"Recién cuando llegué fue muy difícil para mí adaptarme al ambiente, aprender el idioma. Me dejaron mucho porque la muerte de mamá me estaba recientemente, pero hice todo lo mejor que pude para salir adelante y lograr mis metas", dijo la joven, que además de trabajar medio tiempo, como mesera en un restaurante.

El caso de Guadalupe no es aislado. El Programa de Vida Independiente, administrado por el DCFS, reconoció el esfuerzo realizado por más de 140 chicos y chicas que viven con familias que no son sus propias, pero que han logrado graduarse superando el obstáculo más difícil de sus vidas.

"No es fácil estar centrado en la escuela y mantener un buen promedio de calificaciones (GPA) cuando estas luchando por estar en la calle y no tener en las drogas ni las pandillas", dijo David Dudley, que desde
hace seis años reside con una familia de crianza.

Los 20 años que lleva vividos le han valido para aprender que no hay meta que no se pueda conseguir; aunque no haya dinero y tengan que dejar a tus padres porque enfrentan problemas legales o sufren enfermedades.

“Nunca sentí que tenía una casa ni una familia. Y ahora, todavía no me creo que vaya a ir a la universidad”, expresó quien se espera graduarse de Administración de Empresas en Cal State dentro de algunos años para poner en marcha su propia corporación de abogados.

“Tratamos de hacer todo lo posible por ellos. Por muy difícil que sea, siempre buscamos una solución para abrirles un camino en el futuro”, señaló Wayne Taylor, coordinador del programa de DCFS.

“Hay casos en los que algún muchacho con problemas quiere que le den solo y tenemos que respetarlo. Entonces esperamos a que aprenda por su propia experiencia, hasta que regrese a buscar ayuda”.

La asistencia se ofrece a jóvenes con problemas entre los 16 y los 21 años, y entre los recursos dados están ayuda financiera, becas para el colegio, información y referencias para conseguir un trabajo o el primer pasaporte para poder rentar un apartamento.

Pero lejos de que algunos chicos se vean sometidos a experiencias, la experiencia por la que han pasado sus familias les hace abrir los ojos para no caer en los mismos errores que cometieron quienes les trajeron al mundo.

“Mi padre me pegaba, era alcohólico y tenía problemas con las drogas. Cuando salió de la cárcel, lo deportaron a México y yo tuve que irme también porque, aunque nací en Estados Unidos, [las autoridades] no me dejaban quedarse sola”, dijo Mónica Pardo, de 11 años.

“Ahora vivo con mi abuela en Burbank, y logré graduarme a tiempo cuando regresé gracias a que tomé dos cursos en uno, pero sobre todo aprendí que no deba pasar por la misma experiencia por la que pasó mi padre”.

“Por eso siempre me he centrado en los estudios, que es lo único que ahora me importa”, añadió la estudiante, que el próximo mes comenzará a ir al Colegio Comunitario de Glendale, para especializarse en negocios, sabiendo que la mejor recompensa en la vida es aprovechar la oportunidad que tienes manteniendo lo que quieres”.

La Opinion, con’t
August 17, 2007
Union groups endorse four challengers for college board

Contract negotiations may play a role in the Cerritos College Board of Trustees election Nov. 6.

BY ARNOLD ADLER

NORWALK — Saying they want to put the community back into the community college, a slate of educators has filed to run against incumbents on the Cerritos College Board of Trustees in the Nov. 6 election.

The slate's campaign manager, Howard Ryan, executive director of the Cerritos College Faculty Federation, representing some 100 instructors and certified employees, and the group formed as the Committee for a Better Cerritos College.

He said the committee seeks change and is not happy with the current board and administration, headed by President Nolaia Vela.

"Cerritos is a good college. We want to make it better," Ryan said.

But one of the slate members, Robert Arthur of Norwalk, says the group's main issue is money in contract negotiations now under way.

"Our students should be our number one concern," Arthur said. "About 90 percent of our revenue goes into salaries and benefits. We can't give [the federation] what we don't have."

The four members of the slate all filed Aug. 9, the last day of the filing period, and listed their address with the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters Office as 1212 S. Victory Blvd., Burbank. That's the location of their campaign headquarters, one of the challengers said.

The slate members are: Robert Arthur of Norwalk, an education/social worker employed by the Norwalk-La Mirada School District; Tom Chavez, employed in the music department at Cerritos College; Martin Greenough, an educator and tele-communications technician, and Tino Cho, an educator/director and a psychologist practicing at the Family Mental Health Center in Willowbrook, respectively.

Three of the four live in Norwalk. Cho lives in Cerritos.

Greenough has taught culinary arts for various adult schools, Ryan said.

Besides Arthur, incumbents Tom Jackson of Norwalk and Ted Edmond of Lakewood have filed for re-election, but John Moore of Cerritos decided to retire after 19 years on the board.

During the extended period, created by Moore not filing, Javier Gómez, a university administrator from La Mirada, threw his hat into the ring.

The college district covers La Mirada, Norwalk, Cerritos, Artesia, Hawaiian Gardens, Bellflower, Downey, Lakewood, and part of South Gate.

Ryan said the four challengers, who did not know each other before joining the faculty coalition, have been endorsed by the faculty federation, and the California School Employees Association, the union representing clerical and janitorial employees on campus.

"The energy and enthusiasm being applied to this historic effort is originating from a mix of sources," Ryan said in a new release. "Students, labor, community, faculty, and of course the candidates and their team of supporters, have all joined forces to insist that the incumbent board members leave."
Former Cerritos College softball coach Nancy Kelly and Cerritos College Foundation Director Steve Richardson awarded the 2007 Nancy Kelly Academic Scholarship to Manisha Vadgama.

Golf tournament raises $54K for Cerritos College

NORWALK – The Cerritos College Foundation raised $54,000 in scholarship funds at its 22nd Annual Golf Classic held Aug. 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 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.

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

Also at the tournament, Foundation Board members presented former Cerritos College student Manisha Vadgama with 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 Aug. 2, 2008.
Intern learns democracy from the inside out

BY ALLISON ABE
CERRITOS COLLEGE

NORWALK — For most college students, participation in American democracy simply means to vote in 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 39th 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 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 “committee” and advance legislation based on their knowledge of their assigned representatives.

“We get into groups, Democrat 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 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, Rhianna will enroll in CSU East Bay, where she has been accepted to the pre-law program.

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 says.

And, if Rhianna keeps to the path she’s on now, Sanchez won’t be the only one.
Most area cities have concluded their family concerts for the summer, but you can still enjoy free music in the great outdoors at 7 tonight in Cerritos. The **Cerritos College Jazz Ensemble** performs on the Island Stage at Heritage Park, 18800 Bloomfield Ave. Bring a blanket and a picnic dinner, or buy snacks at the concert. (562) 916-8570, (562) 916-1254 or www.ci.cerritos.ca.us
Cerritos turns back clock to ’57

By David Felton
Staff writer

Cerritos College fired up its wayback machine Saturday night and rolled out the synthetic carpet to welcome back a group that helped build the Falcons’ athletic tradition.

The very first Cerritos football team, which took its first snaps in 1957 and quickly proved itself one of the best in Southern California, was honored with two days of activities as the school celebrates 50 years of football. The weekend began Saturday afternoon with a reception, where the former players and a few coaches—17 of the original 23 players, two coaches and a publicist—reunited, some seeing others for the first time in nearly a half-century. Old photos were passed around, and the favorite seemed to be the one of Gary Lossette walking in full uniform toward “The Barn,” a converted stable on the campus—which was surrounded by tallies at the time—where the players shoveled and changed clothes.

The group was then introduced to the crowd at halftime of Saturday night’s home opener against Ventura—the Falcons won, 15-6—and went to lunch Sunday afternoon.

“I never expected such a thing,” said Dave Godwin, a halfback who scored the first touchdown in Cerritos history, a 30-yard run against Weber College in Utah.

Like many of his teammates, Godwin worked as a teacher and coach. He now lives in Goodyear, Ariz., and described himself as “very” retired.

Tarrin Clark, a wide receiver and strong safety, hadn’t been back to Cerritos in 30 years and was stunned by the size of the facilities. In the 57 season, Cerritos didn’t have its own field, using high schools such as Bellflower and Excelencia instead.

“It’s a little surreal,” he said, “because this stadium wasn’t here.”

That first team won its first seven games and finished the season in the prestigious Junior Rose Bowl, played in the legendary Rose Bowl stadium in front of more than 30,000 fans. The Falcons finished the season with a tremendous 8-2 record. Twelve of the original players received a college scholarship, and seven played in the NFL.

“This was really nice because we shared so much,” Clark said. Former players came from as far away as Oregon, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado to attend the reunion.

“We haven’t seen each other in 50 years,” said former wide receiver Ken Gregory, “so this was a real deal for us.”

Singed out

Long Beach City’s running back Curtis Thompson was selected Mission Conference Defensive Player of the Week for his role in the Vikings’ 41-24 victory over L.A. Harbor.

Thompson, a senioromore from Poly High, returned an interception 90 yards for a touchdown—the third-longest return in school history—late in Saturday’s victory. He also had five tackles and broke up two passes.

Passadena City quarterback David Pittman (489 total yards, 32-52, 148 passing yards, 6 TDs) and Riverside Kicker returner DJ Richardson (99-yard kickoff return for TD) were chosen the Offensive and Special Teams Players of the Week.

• LBC and Cerritos each play home games this week while Compton and L.A. Harbor hit the road.

Long Beach (1-1) hosts Saddleback at 5 p.m. Saturday at Veterans Stadium. Saddleback was ranked No. 3 in Southern California last week. Cerritos (2-0) ranked No. 11 in SoCal last week, hosts Golden West at 7 p.m. L.A. Harbor (1-1) visits East L.A. at 6 p.m. and Compton (0-2) visits Citrus at 7 p.m.

Polo power

Frishtman Stephanie Rosero scored 15 goals over four games at the Cuesta Tournament and led the Falcons to a 3-1 record.

Rosero, a former CIF Southern Section Player of the Year at Dosney Hill, had six goals in a 13-8 victory over Foothill to open the tournament and added four more in an 11-10 loss to San Joaquin Delta. She added four goals in a 13-2 victory over Santa Ana and a 14-1 win over Fresno City.

David Felton can be reached at david.felton@press telegram.com

Members of the 1957 Cerritos football team take the field during halftime of the Falcons’ home opener Saturday as the college honored its first football team on its 50th anniversary.
College to observe Constitution Day

Wave Staff Report

NORWALK — Cerritos College will celebrate Constitution Day with a musical performance on a rare colonial instrument and a discussion on Benjamin Franklin. The event will be held in the Teleconference Center on the local campus, 11111 Alondra Blvd., according to Allison K. Abel, the college’s media relations assistant.

To mark the 220th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution on Sept. 17, 1787, Cerritos College history professor John Haas will discuss Franklin and composer and historian William Zeitler. Zeitler will perform selections on a glass harmonica, an instrument invented by Franklin in 1761, Abel said.

Zeitler is the only full-time professional glass armonica musician in the world and is writing a book on the instrument’s history. He has composed music for the instrument, and performs at festivals and other special events, Abel said.

In 2006, Zeitler was featured on the History Channel playing his compositions on the instrument. He also was recently awarded a medal of honor by the Daughters of the American Revolution for his work to preserve the instrument as a part of America’s musical heritage.

Information: (562) 860-2451, ext. 2476.
Oportunidades educativas en el área de la salud

Conferencia informativa del Colegio Cerritos y la Universidad de California

Patricia Prieto
patricia.prieto@laopinion.com
24 de septiembre de 2007

La escasez de médicos, enfermeras, dentistas y otros profesionales en el campo de los servicios de la salud de Estados Unidos se hace cada día más evidente, al igual que la falta de representantes latinos en el campo laboral.

Como una respuesta a este problema, la Universidad de California en Los Ángeles (UCLA) y el Colegio Cerritos unieron hace cinco años esfuerzos para desarrollar el proyecto Oportunidades en el Área de la Salud y Conducto a la Educación (HOPE), que ayuda a los alumnos de secundaria a canalizar sus estudios hacia la medicina y otras carreras de la salud.

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

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

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

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

Igualmente, se presentará la obra teatral La decisión es tuya, que deja en los jóvenes un claro mensaje: sólo en ti está la decisión de estudiar, prepararte y crear un mejor futuro para ti y tu familia.
Representantes de empresas y agencias dedicadas al servicio de la salud hablarán sobre la escasez actual de profesionales en este campo y los numerosos puestos vacantes.

"La necesidad de profesiones en todas las áreas de la salud es evidente", puntualiza Vásquez. "Por eso, estamos trabajando con la Universidad de California en Los Ángeles (UCLA) para atraer al mayor número de estudiantes latinos a estas carreras del futuro, donde siempre tendrán empleo".
Para los estudiantes que todavía no han solucionado su situación migratoria, se ofrecerá un taller donde se hablará de la Ley AB-540, que les permite ingresar a colegios comunitarios y planteles de educación superior.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Este proyecto es único", afirma Vásquez. “Actualmente, no hay otro colegio comunitario que lo tenga”. El proyecto busca incrementar el rostro latino en las carreras de salud, al luchar contra la deserción escolar y mejorar el bajo nivel académico que siempre ha marcado a los estudiantes latinos.

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

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

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

Cuándo: 29 de septiembre; 8:00 a.m. a 3:00 p.m.
Dónde: Centro Estudiantil del Colegio Cerritos, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650.

Costo: gratis. Se servirá desayuno y almuerzo gratis a quienes lo soliciten y reserven con anticipación. Información: (562) 653-7847, rarellano@cerrritos.edu.
College music performances set

NORWALK - The Cerritos College music department’s season of performances featuring its jazz band, orchestra and chorus begin this week at various locations on campus, 11110 Alondra Blvd.

The first Band Exchange Concert takes place at 7 p.m. today in the student center. Admission is free.

The Jazz Exchange concert is also free of charge and takes place at 7 p.m. Oct. 3 in the student center.

The Orchestra Exchange Concert takes place at 7 p.m. Oct. 5 in the student Center. Admission is free.

The Piano Concert takes place at 7 p.m. Oct. 13 at the college’s Burnight Theatre, Room BC-51, and will feature guest artist Sergey Martinchuk.

Cost for the piano concert is $10 per person or $5 for students and senior citizens. For information, call (562)467-5058.
Furor disrupts plans for UCI school of law

The decision to drop Erwin Chemerinsky as dean could delay the 2009 opening.

By Garrett Therolf, Rebecca Thounson and Richard C. Paddock
Times Staff Writers

For decades, UC Irvine has aspired to open Orange County’s first top-flight law school, declaring it to be the university’s glaring “missing piece.” The effort was thrown into turmoil after UCI Chancellor Michael V. Drake abruptly dropped respected liberal scholar Erwin Chemerinsky as the school’s first dean. Drake said he had lost confidence in the educator, in part, because of Chemerinsky’s recent opinion articles that made him a “lightning rod,” including a scathing rebuke of U.S. Atty. Gen. Alberto R. Gonzales.

The action ignited a debate about academic freedom and political meddling that only grew more fierce Thursday, with some faculty members calling for Drake’s resignation after a hastily scheduled meeting of the university’s academic senate on Thursday afternoon.

Officials said the turnaround on Chemerinsky could delay the opening of the law school — scheduled for 2009 — and so tarnish the institution that it would be difficult to assemble the scholars and staff needed to establish the school as one of the nation’s best — UCI’s long-cherished goal.

On Thursday, an open letter gathered 181 signatures in the first six hours it was posted on a website for students, faculty and staff. In part it said: “We are disturbed because of the deep violation both of the integrity of the university and of the intrusion of outrageously one-sided politics and unacceptable ideological considerations.”

Social sciences professor Frank D. Bean said: “If it’s a matter of outside pressure, the chancellor should have stood up to that. If it’s a matter of concerns over Chemerinsky, why wasn’t [See UCI, Page A18]
Besieged chancellor addresses faculty

(Campus: Young men walk past the Jack Langson Library on Thursday at UC Irvine, which for decades has inspired to open Orange County’s first top-flight law school.

Related Stories:
Opinion: Erwin Chemerinsky and UCI Chancellor Michael V. Drake give their views on the controversy, A23

Two voices or an avalanche, asks the answer is that it was an avalanche. Lofthus said, “But we are not supposed to capitulate to that it is not the world of academia freedom.”

Chemerinsky said that in their final conversation Tuesday morning, Drake told him significant opposition to his hiring has developed but did not specify who the critics were.

“We just agreed that in the public statement, we’d say that to have proven too politically controversial,” said Chemerinsky, now of Duke University and for many of USC.

Drake told him that the appointment would prompt “a bloody fight” within the UC Board of Regents and that “if we win it would damage the law school.” Chemerinsky said, “... He said, ‘I knew you were liberal but I didn’t realize how controversial you’d be.” He said, ‘I didn’t realize there would be conservative voices out there.’

Chemerinsky said that when he was interviewed by Drake in June, the two men discussed how an administrator or dean need to be careful about public statements and the potential effect of those statements on the institution he or she leads. But Chemerinsky didn’t think so.
Moore said Drake never told him he couldn’t write opinion pieces. Several members of the Board of Regents said Thursday they were puzzled by Drake’s decision, adding that they believe Chemerinsky’s appointment would not have been blocked by the 20-member body.

Gerald Parsky, former chairman of the Board of Regents, and Richard Blum, the current chairman, were contacted by Drake in late August before the UCI chancellor had reached a final decision about the hiring.

Blum was in the Middle East on Thursday and unavailable for comment, but Parsky said Drake briefed him about the search process in that phone call and told him he was leaning toward Chemerinsky. Drake “did not ask my opinion on Chemerinsky and I did not provide it,” Parsky said.

“The regents support academic freedom and the right of the chancellor to decide on the hiring of a dean based on the academic needs and goals of his individual campus, and the regents do not interfere with those matters,” Parsky said. “And I do not believe we did in this case at all.”

Chemerinsky’s appointment did not initially appear to be controversial.

Under UC procedures, the authority to select a dean falls to the chancellor, and the candidate is not subject to approval by the regents, a university spokesman said. The regents are required to approve any salaries above $265,000. The board was scheduled to consider Chemerinsky’s salary at an upcoming meeting because the sum would have been above that threshold.

Regent John Moores said the chance that any regent knew about Chemerinsky’s hiring as dean and sought to intervene was “as close to zero as anything can get.”

Moores noted that people might speculate on what the Board of Regents would do in a certain situation. But he said that doesn’t mean that any of the regents have actually weighed in. “It’s awfully easy to hide behind the notion that the regents might not approve this,” he said.

Regents Moores, Sherry L. Lansing and Judy Hopkinson, and Michael Brown, chairman of the UC system’s Academic Senate and a non-voting member of the Board of Regents, all said they knew of no opposition that would arise when the salary came up for approval at their meeting next week.

State Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, a regent, condemned Drake’s decision.

Joan Irvine Smith, the heir to the James Irvine land fortune who donated $1 million to the law school through her foundation, said she was surprised by the news that Chemerinsky’s appointment had been withdrawn.

She said she had dinner with Drake and his wife, Brenda, Saturday night at a fundraiser and that he never mentioned it, even though they discussed a number of other issues about the school.

“This appears to be something that was extremely recent,” she said. “This sounded like a very fine gentleman. I think it’s a shame.”

In an interview, Drake said the law school’s namesake and $200-million donor Donald Bren, had no role in the decision. “He stayed away from the decision entirely,” the chancellor said.

One well-known political scientist at UC Irvine said the controversy might stir up Orange County’s old image as a bastion of right-wing conservatism.

“It’s possible for people external to the county to come in through the back door,” said UC Irvine political science professor Mark Peterson. “It has given the opportunity to bash Orange County for a reputation that is contemporarily undeserved. It gives people a chance to say, ‘There they go again.’ This could only happen in that part of the country — Orange County!"

The aborted effort to hire Chemerinsky is only the latest run of bad publicity to throw a shadow over the university. Seemingly at many points in its quest for prominence there has been a dramatic setback — a scandal in its medical school’s liver transplant program, the illegal sale of embryonic cells, and the sale of live children’s organs.

Drake was hired as chancellor in 2006, years after the end of the sexual harassment and fertility scandals and just months before news of the liver program broke. He was brought in to help the university move forward.

The open letter, which called on Chemerinsky to be rehired, said, “We are deeply concerned, because this action places UC Irvine once more in the spotlight for the most negative and debilitating reasons.”
Law dean is rehired as furor goes on

Chemerinsky's job is settled, but UC Irvine's chancellor may not be secure in his own.

By Garrett Therolf and Richard C. Paddock

UC Irvine's chancellor tried to salvage the reputation of his fledgling law school Monday by announcing that he had reinstated Erwin Chemerinsky as its founding dean, but his own troubles persisted as faculty members continued to question why he had sacked the liberal scholar and contemplated taking action against their university's leader.

The agreement with Chemerinsky, made five days after the deanship was rescinded, came after Chancellor Michael V. Drake and his wife flew to Durham, N.C., over the weekend so the two men could speak face to face.

The talks began Sunday morning over pastries at Chemerinsky's home and continued late into the night.

"Many issues were addressed in depth," the two said in a joint statement, "including several areas of miscommunication and misunderstanding. All issues were resolved to our mutual satisfaction."

Drake still faces crucial meetings this week when the UCI Academic Senate holds an emergency meeting to consider his actions and the UC Board of Regents meets in Davis, where [See UC Irvine, Page A19]
Chemerinsky and Drake talk their way past firing incident

[UC Irvine, from Page A1]

some members will probably ask why Chemerinsky had been dropped.

"People at the regents level will be asking what really happened," said Richard Blum, chair of the regents. "At the end of day, the whole thing was a little awkward.

"According to Chemerinsky, Drake had said he was pulling back the job offer because of pressure from conservatives over his past liberal politics. The chancellor denied it.

"In a conference call with reporters, the chancellor and new dean agreed that Chemerinsky would enjoy absolute academic freedom and would continue to write opinion articles on a wide range of issues, not just legal education as Drake suggested last week.

"Chancellor Drake reaffirmed the strongest possible way the academic freedom that I would have, as do all dean and faculty members," Chemerinsky said. He later noted that he was aware that his role as dean also would require him to build a broad base of support. Before he was ousted, the dean had sought conserva
tives for some slots on his board of advisors.

Drake declined to discuss his decision to drop Chemerinsky, and he was vague on the reasons behind his turnaround. "Circumstances change, knowledge comes in," Drake said.

Before the agreement, brok
ered with the help of a small group of influential Orange County attorneys, both men said their conflict left them feeling bruised. On Monday, however, both professed to have a strong relationship that would not hinder the law school.

Chemerinsky, a professor at Duke University, said he hoped Drake was not so politically damaged that he could not con
tinue as chancellor. "I never would have accepted this position if I didn't think I would have the chance to work with Michael Drake," he said.

Some faculty at UCI were not so supportive.

Business Professor Richard McKenzie did not think the chancellor could keep his job. "I personally do not see how (Drake) can be effective going forward given the opposition across campus to what he did. I've never seen the faculty so unified."

The cabinet of UCI's Academic Senate met in closed session Monday to consider a response to the flurry.

The panel has sway over the university's curriculum and has played a critical role at pivotal moments in university controversies. In 1983, UCI was the prime candidate to house Richard Nixon's presidential library, but the sponsoring foundation dropped the university as a prospect after the Academic Senate voted to place restrictions on it.

The panel's current vice chairwoman, Judi Hard, said: "I think that Chancellor Drake did an excellent job as chancellor for UCI until the Chemerinsky hire. . . . All the more surprising it is to see him be so secretive and vague about the reasons for resisting the offer." She declined to say what proposals were drafted in Monday's closed-door meeting, but an emergency meeting open to all faculty members will be held Thursday to discuss "concerns about academic freedom and the chancellor's leadership on campus," according to Timothy Bradley, a biology professor who is the senate chairman.

Some faculty members said one proposal to be presented would be to investigate whether Drake recused himself from political conservatives when he decided last week to drop Chemerinsky.

"Others have pushed for a no-confidence vote.

This week, Drake is expected to be at UC Davis for the meeting of the regents, who must approve Chemerinsky's $500,000 salary. The regents do not have veto power over Chemerinsky's appointment, only his salary. They must approve any salary greater than $200,000.

Some regents are likely to ask Drake informally to explain the controversy.

Blum had been traveling in the Middle East when the crisis over Chemerinsky began. He said he looked into the matter on his return and found no indication that any of the regents were involved in the decision to fire the law professor or to rehire him.

Blum said he had yet to talk to Drake.

"As to what happened, your guess is as good as mine," said Blum, a behind-the-scenes Democratic Party advisor and husband of U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.). "I think he was left pretty much on his own to do whatever he wanted to do. The call was up to him to straighten it out or not straighten it out."

The outing of the law school dean quickly shot through academic and legal circles, fast becoming a national story about academic freedom.

"I do not believe that Chancellor Drake realized how this could become an issue of national importance," said Joan A-
Los Angeles Times, con’t
September 18, 2007

Aug. 16
UC Irvine offers nationally known constitutional law scholar Irwin Chemerinsky the deanship of its new law school, scheduled to open in 2009.
The same day, The Times runs an opinion piece by Chemerinsky criticizing a proposal by then-LA City Atty. (Gen. Alberto R. Gonzales to make it more difficult for death row prisoners to have their cases reviewed in federal court.

Aug. 24
State Supreme Court justices ask the court clerk to send a letter to The Times criticizing Chemerinsky’s article as inaccurate. When he later learns of the letter, Chemerinsky sends his inaccuracy to the Times.

Sept. 4
Chemerinsky signs a contract to become dean of the Donald Bren School of Law.

Sept. 11
Drake tells Chemerinsky he is vacating the deal. Chemerinsky says Drake told him he was too liberal and that he had underestimated conservative animus toward him.

Wednesday
UCI acknowledges that Chemerinsky is out. Drake says outside pressure played no role in his decision and that he is rejecting Chemerinsky because his comments are “polarizing” and not in the best interests of California’s first new public law school in 40 years.

Thursday
Drake speaks to a hastily called faculty meeting and some professors call for his resignation. An open letter on a staff and student website draws 181 signatures critical of Drake in the first six hours after posting.

Friday
Chemerinsky and Drake address the controversy in opinion pieces in The Times.

Monday
Chemerinsky and Drake announce an agreement once again to bring the Duke law professor to UCI. His $350,000 salary as dean must be approved by the UC Board of Regents.

Source: Times research by John Tyrrell
Cal State trustees OK executive raises

Critics denounce the hikes for 22 campus presidents and four system officials. Trustees say the move is needed to retain, recruit top talent.

By Larry Gordon
Daily News writer

Despite protests from faculty, students and state officials, trustees of the Cal State University on Wednesday awarded pay increases to 26 top administrators and campus presidents that averaged nearly 12% and in some cases amounted to raises of more than $64,000 a year.

Trustees, voting 14-3, said the raises were needed to help the 23-campus system recruit and keep tenured administrators in a competitive national market. They contend the new salaries still will be substantially below those at rival schools, even though system Chancellor Charles B. Reed will be paid $420,000 and campus presidents will average about $260,000, plus annual housing allowances worth as much as $60,000 and other perks.

However, Lt. Gov. John Garamendi, who is an ex-officio trustee, called the raises “a very, very serious mistake” and “outrageous,” given tight budgets and rising student fees. Addressing the trustees’ meeting in Long Beach, he stressed that there is no evidence that administrators are leaving because of low pay or that the university has hiring trouble.

Including other recent raises, the administrators’ pay will have gone up 34.7% in three years. Those cumulative hikes are larger than the yearly salaries of some university lecturers and janitors, Garamendi complained. He and Trustee Ricardo F. Tocas, who is a labor union leader, cast the no votes.

Trusted in favor of the raises cited a survey sponsored by the California Postsecondary Education Commission, that examined salaries at 26 universities, mainly public, across the country. That survey found that top Cal state salaries lagged the average last year by 49%.

Reed said many strong out-of-state candidates eventually turned down Cal State offers because of “the compensation lag.”

The hikes come at a time when the Cal State and UC systems have been under much legislative and media scrutiny into the secretive and sometimes improper executive salaries and perks that were handed in the past. The Bureau of State Audits is currently looking into the Cal State compensation issues.

Lillian Takayama, president of the California Faculty Assn., said that the raises seem more fitting for the corporate world than for a public university at which students have trouble finding room in required courses.

Takayama suggested the administrators receive, if anything, just the nearby 5% annual raises faculty obtained last spring after lengthy negotiations. “If it’s good enough for us, it’s good enough for them,” said Takayama, a history professor at Cal State Los Angeles.

Retrospective to July 1, 2007, the raises affect 22 campus presidents and four system officials and costs $43.35 million. Some of the changes are to recognize longevity of service and the special challenges of large campuses, officials said.

Needless pay jumps $44,700 to $221,300, and some campus presidents will see similarly large increases. For example, James M. Rosser, who has been president of Cal State Los Angeles since 1994, will make $250,000 after a $43,755 raise.

Trustee Herbert Carter conceded that the hikes will not be popular politically, but he posed three questions: “Do the numbers properly reflect the market? Does it attract decent people? Does it pay?”

Assemblyman Anthony Portantino (D-La Canada Flintridge), who wrote one of those bills and is chairman of the Higher Education Committee, urged the trustees not to take action on the raises until the state auditor completes the review of Cal State’s compensation policies. In a telephone interview after the vote, he described his reaction as “somewhere between sad and outraged.”

State Sen. Leland Yee (D-San Francisco), who wrote the other bill, said in a statement: “It is completely irresponsible for the CSU to continue handing out exorbitant pay raises to the university’s top brass while the salaries of the faculty and staff lag behind and students are asked to foot the bill.”

barr.gordon@latimes.com
CSU gives executives big raises

What They're Making

President: E. King Alexander, CSU presidents, will get 20 percent hikes.

By Kevin Bartol

The Board of Trustees for the California State University will give raises to 12 percent for its presidents, starting with E. King Alexander.

The raises are part of a plan to help CSU attract more top candidates for its presidency.

The board approved the raises at its meeting last week, just a few days before President Alexander's 70th birthday.

CSU Chancellor Tim White said the raises are necessary to keep the university competitive with other state and private universities.

"We need to attract the best candidates for the presidency," White said. "This is a competitive market, and we need to make sure we're competitive."
CSU: Increase in salary OK’d

CONTINUED FROM A1

F. King Alexander, president of Cal State Long Beach, will get a 10 percent pay hike — to $230,329 from $219,308. Mildred Garcia, president of Cal State Dominguez Hills, did not receive a salary increase Wednesday because she is new to the job.

Some trustees said the pay hikes were necessary to retain and recruit high-quality presidents and executives who often can find greater salaries and retirement benefits elsewhere.

When looking to attract the best people, “we have suffered because our salaries lag so far behind,” said Jeffrey Bleich, the board’s vice chairman.

Compensation questions

But California’s Lt. Gov. John Garamendi, who also serves as a trustee, said that the raises were a “very serious mistake,” arguing that the hikes were excessive and inappropriate at a time when students have faced a recent string of fee increases.

He also said that he saw no evidence that salary levels were affecting recruiting and retention.

“If any of the presidents are leaving, that’s news to me,” said Garamendi, who joined trustee Ricardo Izazu as the only “no” votes on the salary hikes.

Garamendi also questioned whether there really is a gap in total compensation, which includes salaries and benefits.

But Reed said that the university has had difficulty recruiting the best candidates for presidential openings because of the salary gap and caps on contributions to the state retirement system.

“I have been turned down numerous times because of the compensation lags” at the CSU, he said.

Reed said that an analysis of other institutions shows that there is not a gap in benefits.

Students at the meeting said that the salary increases were unfair considering that they have seen fee increases and overcrowded classrooms.

“We simply do not understand why our funding is lining the pockets of CSU executives instead of investing it in the classroom,” said 22-year-old Angela Stubbs, a senior at Cal State San Marcos.

More increases is goal

The CSU is pursuing the pay increases to help offset a salary gap it says exists between the Cal State system and a comparison group of 20 academic institutions tracked by a CSU-hired consulting group.

In July, the firm — Mercer Human Resource Consulting — noted that the average CSU presidential salary of $259,435 lags behind the comparison group salary of $375,77A, a gap of 40 percent.

In addition to salary, CSU presidents also currently are able to live in a university residence or, if none is available, receive a $50,000 or $60,000 annual housing allowance based on the housing market of the region.

Presidents also receive either an assigned university vehicle or a monthly car allowance of $1,000.

In a separate action, trustees on Wednesday approved a new policy setting a goal of increasing faculty and executive salaries over the next four years to the point where they match the average salaries of the same group of 20 comparison institutions.

The CSU Chancellor would recommend appropriate annual salary increases with the aim of achieving parity by 2010-11.

Garamendi objected to a policy calling for presidents to receive a 46 percent raise over that time.

“I think that is just outrageous,” said Garamendi, who joined Izazu in opposing the new salary policy.

“Not that is what this policy calls for.”

Trustee William Hauck replied that the annual raises would not be automatic but would have to come back to the board for approval.

The board “will not go beyond what is prudent,” he said.

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Bills aim at pricey college textbooks

Two measures on the governor’s desk seek to control costs by helping faculty obtain data on the extent of revisions.

By LARRY GORDON
Times Staff Writer

The high price of college textbooks is a hot issue, not just among disgruntled students weary of spending more than $100 on an economics or a chemistry tome. In Sacramento political circles, efforts to lower those costs have produced two pieces of legislation that are competing for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s signature.

The main authors of both are Democrats, and the two legislators say they are trying, among other things, to get more advance information to college professors about the pricing of books and whether additional material in new editions is substantial enough to merit ordering them. Requiring new editions makes it tough for students to buy or trade cheaper second-hand copies.

But the two bills vary enough that one has the support of the Assn. of American Publishers and the other is backed by the California Public Interest Research Group, which has sharply criticized the publishing industry.

The Republican governor has until Oct. 12 to decide whether to sign one, both or neither of the bills. Schwarzenegger has not taken a position on the matter, according to his press office.

The College Textbook Affordability Act, SB 832, written by state Sen. Ellen Corbett (D-San Leandro), was being advocated by CalPIRG in a series of meetings last week at college campuses, including USC and UC Santa Barbara.

The bill requires publishers to provide faculty a price list of all books in a subject area, an estimate of how long the publisher intends to keep the texts on the market and a list of substantive changes the newest editions contain. Those lists would also be posted online.

Corbett said her bill was influenced by her own difficulties in finding out about book pricing and edition information when she taught political science in Chabot-Las Positas Community. [See Textbooks, Page B6]
Competing measures aim at costly college textbooks

[Textbooks, from Page 81]

College Districts in Northern California.

"This book is for the students," she said. Getting easily accessible information to faculty could have a huge impact, so what books students are required to read, she said.

The other bill, AB 548 of whose main author is Assemblyman Jose Solorio (D-Santa Ana), is called the College Textbook Transparency Act.

It requires that publishers print on or in new texts a summary of differences between the current and previous editions and provide faculty, upon request, a printed or online list of wholesale prices and edition changes.

Under Solorio's bill, campus bookstores at public universities would have to disclose their retail pricing policies. It also prohibits anyone from receiving anything of value in exchange for ordering a certain book. And it restricts the resale of instructors' editions, because those contain test samples and answers. Teachers would then want new editions with different tests.

Solorio said his bill was shaped in part by his days at UC Berkeley, where he was student body president and knew firsthand how difficult it was to afford textbooks. He wants to focus not just on publishers but also on the practices of college bookstores and faculty.

"I'm holding everybody accountable," he said, describing his bill as more comprehensive than Corbett's.

Robert Durell, Los Angeles Times

Glenn R. Landrón, Los Angeles Times

MEASURES: State Sen. Ellen Corbett, left, says her bill would require online printing and reselling information, while Assemblyman Jose Solorio says his bill also targets bookstores.

Robert Durell, Los Angeles Times

What it means that Corbett's bill would go into effect upon signing, while many of the required disclosures in Solorio's bill would not go into effect until 2011, students and advocates point out.

Sen. Chabot, president of USC's undergraduate student government, was among speakers at a campus event last week urging the governor to sign Corbett's bill. Other supporters include the UC Student Assn., the California State Student Assn., and the Community College League of California, according to legislative analysts.

Bruce Hildebrand, the publisher association's executive director for higher education, said his organization strongly opposed Corbett's bill. He predicted it would actually cause prices to rise, partly because of what he called its unnecessarily broad requirements for prices and edition change reporting.

Much of that material is already available on the Internet, he said.

CAPIRG's sister organization in Massachusetts said it surveyed nearly 300 professors at that state last year and found that book prices were not easy to find. For professors who met with sales representatives, 79% said those salesmen rarely if ever volunteered the price. Of those professors who use publishers' websites to research textbooks, less than half said those sites typically list prices.

In 2004, a CAPIRG survey reported that students in California and Oregon spent an average of $898 a year on books and that the average cost of a new textbook was $102.44. Students said they expected these figures to rise significantly since then. A federal report two years ago said that college textbook prices had climbed at twice the rate of inflation over the last two decades.

A wide range of efforts are afoot across the country to tame price increases. Some schools offer students the option of renting books and have organized book swaps and websites that offer secondhand texts. In May, an advisory committee to Congress recommended a variety of measures to control textbook costs, including more extensive use of books available online. 

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