FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

In Progress

Aya Abelon is assisting Northwood University on its joint marketing efforts with the college. Abelon has provided a student photo to The Wave Newspaper and Los Cerritos Community News and arranged a feature article.

Abelon provided Los Cerritos Community News Publisher Brian Hews with a list of all graduates (degree and certificate) from Norwalk and surrounding cities.

Abelon is working on the fall 2009 class schedule feature stories and the president’s message.

Coverage

Bellflower Bulletin — April, 2009 — Article on the Cerritos College students named to All-USA and All-California academic teams (from press release).

Bellflower Bulletin — April, 2009 — Article on the college’s SCCTT groundbreaking ceremony (from press release).


Long Beach Press Telegram — April 8, 2009 — Article on Linda Sanchez requesting federal earmarks for the college’s alternative-fuels program.

Herald American — April 9, 2009 — Article on the GEAR UP fundraiser event (from press release).


The Downey Patriot — April 10, 2009 — Informational brief on the college’s Mega Mixer (from press release).

Los Angeles Times — April 11, 2009 — Article on the college’s woodworking instructor Patrice Pinaquy

Long Beach Press Telegram — April 13, 2009 — Informational brief on a meeting featuring the college’s English professor Frank Gaik on Victor Villasenor.

Long Beach Press Telegram — April 15, 2009 — Article on Cerritos College students arrests in alleged financial aid scam.
Daily Breeze—April 15, 2009—Article on Cerritos College students arrests in alleged financial aid scam.


Los Cerritos Community News, Norwalk Community News—April 17, 2009—Article on the College’ SID receiving Brass Top Award (from press release).

The Downey Patriot—April 17, 2009—Informational brief on the college’s commencement ceremony (from press release).


La Mirada Blog—April 20, 2009—Informational brief on the college’s Community Resource Fair (from press release).

Los Angeles Business Journal—April 20, 2009—Informational brief on the college’s business seminar.


Herald American—April 23, 2009—Article on Cerritos College students winning All-USA, All-California honors.

Los Cerritos Community News, Norwalk Community News—April 24, 2009—Article on the college’s ESL creating a community garden (from press release).

The Downey Patriot—April 24, 2009—Article on scholarships presented at the Academic Excellence Award ceremony (from press release).

Eventful Website—April, 2009—Informational brief on the college’s Community Resource Fair (from press release).

Eventful Website—April, 2009—Informational brief on the college’s Mega Mixer (from press release).
Related News


*Los Angeles Times* — April 19, 2009 — Article on Cal State and UC receiving federal stimulus aid.

*Los Angeles Times* — April 29, 2009 — Article on colleges checking social networking pages of the applicants.

*Los Angeles Times* — April 30, 2009 — Article on UC regents likely to OK fee increase.
Cerritos College’s New State-of-the-art Auto Complex Groundbreaking
A Grand Success

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 31, 2009

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

NORWALK, Calif. - March 31, 2009 - Cerritos College held a groundbreaking ceremony for its eagerly anticipated Southland Cerritos Center for Transportation Technologies (SCCTT) Friday, March 27th.

Over 200 people including college officials, community members, auto manufacturers, dealers and dignitaries attended the celebration. Two major donors for this construction project, the Greater Los Angeles New Car Dealers Association and the Southland Motor Car Dealers Association were each represented by their executive directors, Charlie Gil and Todd Leutheuser.

The SCCTT will house the Hybrid and Alternative Fuels Training Center, three manufacturer-sponsored technician apprentice programs (General Motors, Ford and Chrysler), and Northwood University’s West Coast program center that offers a bachelor’s degree in automotive management for full-time students and working adults.

“The Center is critical in creating thousands of jobs we need to help America’s recovery,” said Congresswoman Grace Napolitano. “Green technology is changing the industry, and Cerritos College is leading the path.”

Another highlight of the program was the showcase of environment-friendly vehicles brought by the world’s top car manufacturers. The green cars on display included: the BMW Hydrogen 7, Chevrolet Equinox Fuel Cell SUV, Chevrolet Impala CNG powered by IMPCO Technologies, Dodge Durango Hybrid, Ford Escape Hybrid, GMC Yukon Hybrid, Lexus Hybrid, Long Beach Transit Bus V10 gas engine, Mitsubishi full electric i-MiEV, Pontiac G8 with enhanced performance and gas mileage by aftermarket parts, Tesla Electric, and the Volkswagen Jetta Clean Diesel.

Master of Ceremonies was Bill Farmer, acting president/superintendent. Farmer was joined by speakers Bob Epple, Cerritos College board president; Steve Richardson, the Cerritos College Foundation executive director; Congresswoman Napolitano; Don Knabe, Los Angeles county supervisor; Billie Greer, director of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s Los Angeles office; and Steve Berklite, interim dean of technology.

The proposed training center will include a $9 million renovation of the existing three-acre auto complex and a new $6 million automotive partners building that will focus on management education for
the auto industry. When completed in 2010, the center will have a large role in filling the ever-changing, highly skilled employment needs of the auto industry.

“The SCCTT is a rarity for community colleges as it’s the result of partnerships between the college and private industry,” said Bill Farmer. “This training center will allow Cerritos College to educate and train tomorrow’s automotive industry workforce.”

###
Cerritos College Students Named to All-USA and All-California Academic Teams

Monirath Siv Named to All-USA Team and Sonia Gutierrez is All-California Silver Scholar

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 7, 2009

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

NORWALK, Calif. – April 7, 2009 – Monirath Siv and Sonia Gutierrez, students at Cerritos College, have each been named to 2009 All-USA Community College Academic Team and All-California Team respectively. Siv has also been chosen as California’s 2009 New Century Scholar, namely the top scorer of the state, and Gutierrez has also been selected as a 2009 Coca-Cola Silver Scholar.

Siv received a $4,500 scholarship ($2,500 from USA Today and $2,000 from the Coca Cola Foundation) and represented the state of California at the 2009 American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, on Saturday. Gutierrez received a $1,250 scholarship from the Coca Cola Foundation. Both Siv and Gutierrez were featured in USA Today on Monday, April 6th.

Siv, of Long Beach, is a straight-A sophomore studying engineering. Originally from Cambodia, Siv plans to expand his education by majoring in biomedical engineering at a private four-year university. This year he applied to schools such as Duke, John Hopkins and Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and is waiting for the admission letters.

Siv spends time volunteering on campus and at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center. He also volunteers as a tutor for the AmeriCorps After-School Program “Project APPLE” at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School. He plans on pursuing a Ph.D. in science and hopes to become a biomedical engineer.

“Applying for this award was a team effort,” said Siv. “We have the most outstanding team members here at Cerritos. That’s the reason I have won this prestigious award.”
“I want to thank Professor Timothy Juntilla, director of the Scholars’ Honors Program, for his exceptional effort towards having me selected to the All-USA First Academic Team. Special thanks go to my biology professor Smita Alves. The research I’ve completed with her was what made my application so strong.”

Gutierrez, of Norwalk, is an anthropology student who maintains a GPA of 3.95.

Gutierrez will be transferring to the University of California, Berkeley in fall. She will major in anthropology and plans on pursuing a Ph.D. in forensic anthropology. She hopes to become a university professor and medicolegal consultant.

Gutierrez, who spent two years on the Cerritos College women’s tennis team was also recently named as the 2008 Pepsi Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

“The good news came one after the other,” said Gutierrez. “First, I found out that I had been selected for the 2009 All-California Academic Team. About two weeks later, I found out that I had been named the 2008 Female Pepsi Scholar Athlete by the California Community College Athletic Association. To top it off, about a week later, I found out that I was also named a 2009 Coca-Cola Silver Scholar.”

“I feel extremely proud of my accomplishments. It’s an honor to be recognized for my academic excellence as well as my involvement in sports. It feels great.”

The Coca-Cola All-State Community College Academic Team program provides up to $450,000 in stipends. The top scoring student from each of the fifty states in the All-USA Academic Team competition is named a New Century Scholar and receives a $2,000 stipend from Coca-Cola. Fifty students are named Gold Scholars, receiving $1,500, fifty students are named Silver Scholars, receiving $1,250, and fifty students are named Bronze Scholars, receiving $1,000. All scholars also receive special medallions. Finally, an additional 150 national finalists are selected from multiple states, each receiving a $1,000 stipend.

The Coca-Cola Scholar program is sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and is administered by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. The All-USA Academic Team is co-sponsored by the American Association of Community Colleges, Phi Theta Kappa International Honors Society, the Coca Cola Scholars Foundation and USA Today.

“We are very proud of Monirath and Sonia, who are committed to their academic and athletic excellence and to making a difference in the community,” said Bill Farmer, acting president/superintendent. “They are great examples of the standard of excellence we achieve at Cerritos College.”

###
Power 106 All-Star Basketball Game for GEAR UP is a Success

Popular DJs Support Cerritos College and BUSD Partnership

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 6, 2009

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

NORWALK, Calif. - April 6, 2009 - Cerritos College and Bellflower Unified School District (BUSD) GEAR UP Partnership and Power 106 joined hands Thursday night, March 26 for a fun and exciting celebrity basketball game at Bellflower High School Gymnasium.

A crowd full of cheering fans enjoyed the Power 106 DJs, including E-man and Jaycee, taking on the Bellflower Buccaneer men’s varsity basketball players, faculty members, staff and students. The DJ for the evening was Cerritos College’s own Armando Ponce. Ponce, now known as Power 106 DJ “Mando Fresko,” is an alumnus of Cerritos College. New Boyz performed their new single “You’re a Jerk” during the halftime show.

The Buccaneers ended up beating the Power 106 All-Stars 71-63.

678 tickets were sold and the proceeds from the game amounted to $5,628. All of the proceeds went to support the GEAR UP Partnership.

The Cerritos College men’s basketball players ran the scoreboard for the night.
Music Department Announces Spring Performances

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 2, 2009

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

WHAT: Students and faculty in the Cerritos College Music Department will showcase their talents in a variety of performances this spring. 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. One-day parking passes may be purchased for $1 in parking lots C-1, C-2 and C-10. For updated information please visit the Music Department Web Site at: http://cms.cerritos.edu/music.

The complete schedule is as follows:

Friday, March 13 – 7 p.m.

Orchestra Exchange Concert with visitors from the Cal State L.A. Wind Ensemble. This concert will include classical favorites from Beethoven, Rossini and Andrew Lloyd Webber.
Cerritos College Student Center – Free Admission

Tuesday, March 17 – 7 p.m.

Band Exchange Concert featuring the Cerritos College Symphonic Winds Band in an evening of modern and classic band medleys, marches and overtures.

Cerritos College Burnight Center Theatre – Free Admission

Sunday, March 22 – 2 p.m.

Faculty Gala, raising scholarship funds for students in the applied music program, will showcase Cerritos College Music Department faculty. The concert will include performances by some of the most accomplished musicians in the greater Los Angeles area and will encompass a wide variety of musical genres. The faculty is honored to offer their talents in support of their students, many of whom have gone on to pursue degrees from USC, UCLA, CSU Bakersfield, CSU Fullerton, Berkeley School of Music, San Francisco Conservatory and Chapman University.

For ticket information call 562.860.2451 ext. 2629 or e-mail clopez@cerritos.edu
Thursday, March 26 – 7 p.m.

*Pop Exchange Concert* featuring the Cerritos College Rock Ensemble is a high energy concert including popular tunes from today and yesterday.

Cerritos College Student Center – Free Admission

Monday, March 30 – 7 p.m.

*Band Exchange Concert* featuring the Cerritos College Concert Band with visitors from the Bellflower High School Band in an evening of modern and classic band medleys, marches and overtures.

Cerritos College Student Center – Free Admission

Friday, April 17 – 7 p.m.

*Scott Henderson Memorial Scholarship Concert* features the most outstanding students from the applied music program at Cerritos College. The scholarship was established by the Cerritos College Music Department in memory of long-time music faculty member Scott Henderson. Proceeds from the concert benefit the Cerritos College applied music students.

Cerritos College Burnight Center Theatre
For ticket information call 562.860.2451 ext. 2629 or e-mail clopez@cerritos.edu

Sunday, April 19 – 3 p.m.

*Trio Chamber & Solo Concert* featuring Tammy Tsai on violin, Kihae Kim Defazio on cello and Christine Lopez on piano.

Cerritos College Music Department Room BC 51
For ticket information call 562.860.2451 ext. 2629 or e-mail clopez@cerritos.edu

Monday, April 20 – 7 p.m.

*Band Exchange Concert* featuring the Cerritos College Symphonic Winds Band with visitors North Park Middle School Band in an evening of modern and classic band medleys, marches and overtures.

Cerritos College Student Center – Free Admission

Friday, April 24 – 7 p.m.

*Orchestra Exchange Concert* with visitors from the Mayfair High School Orchestra will include classical favorites from Beethoven, Rossini and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Cerritos College Student Center – Free Admission
Tuesday, April 28 – 7 p.m.

Third Annual Spring Sing Concert featuring the Cerritos Community Choir and the vocal students of the music department including solo, duet and ensemble selections.

Cerritos College Student Center – Free Admission

Thursday, May 14 – 7p.m.

Jazz & Pop Spring Concert features the Cerritos College Jazz Ensemble and Pop/Rock Ensemble in an evening of jazz, rock, pop and dance tunes.

Cerritos College Student Center – Free Admission

Friday, May 15 – 7 p.m.

Band & Orchestra Spring Concert will feature guest pianist and adjunct faculty member Paul DaSilva and include the Cerritos College Orchestra, Concert Band and Symphonic Winds in an evening of classic band and orchestral favorites.

Cerritos College Burnight Center Theatre – Free Admission

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

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

PARKING: 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 Music Department at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2629.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 14, 2009

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

NORWALK, Calif. - April 14, 2009 - John Van Gaston, sports information director at Cerritos College, received the annual Brass Top award on April 1 at the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) convention in Ontario, California.

Sponsored by the California Community College Sports Information Association (CCCSIA), the award recognizes career achievement in sports information.

“I’m very humbled to receive this award because we all work very hard at what we do,” said Van Gaston. “I suppose the other SID’s felt I was worthy this year because of all the extra work I put in with the state tournaments last year. In addition to serving as part of the stat crew for the men’s and women’s basketball state championships, I also served as the state’s media representative for the wrestling, baseball, men’s and women’s tennis and men’s and women’s track and field state championships.”

Van Gaston, who has served as the college’s Sports Information Director for the last 23 years, was nominated and voted for by the fellow sports information directors throughout the state.

Some of his duties include providing all of the information on the website for the college’s 19 intercollegiate teams, writing, editing and overseeing all aspects of the media guides for all of the teams, which are used as recruiting tools for the coaches, supervising the press box for all home football games, as well as attending all home events and numerous road games. He also follows the successes of former Falcon athletes and writes press releases about their accomplishments.

“Over the past 23 years he has worked tirelessly for the college and has constantly put in extra work not only for the college but also for the entire state,” said Dr. Dan Smith, instructional dean of physical education/athletics. "His selfless commitment and dedication are attributes that support this tremendous recognition.”
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 3, 2009

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

NORWALK, Calif. - April 3, 2009 - ESL and community garden are not your usual combination. However, the two are working in perfect harmony for a Cerritos College ESL class and the City of Artesia.

Cerritos College’s ESL class, taught at A.J. Padelford in Artesia, is in the beginning stages of creating a community garden in collaboration with the City of Artesia. Led by Martha Robles, ESL instructor for the Cerritos College Adult Education Department, the class joined the A.J. Padelford Park Community Garden Project. The project is part of the City’s America in Bloom program. America in Bloom is a nationwide contest that judges cities on their attempts at beautification.

“The Adult Education Department at Cerritos College has provided ESL classes for over four years and members of the neighboring community have participated at various times,” said Robles. Robles explained why she took on a unique project for the ESL class, “Researches say that learning language in a real-life setting helps build a sense of purpose, community, and speeds up second language development.”

“Although the class will focus on ESL, the growing interest in “going green” has moved the class in the direction of a community garden project.”

There are two phases to the community garden project. First, the work will be planned out by forming a planning committee among the ESL students, who will design a garden plan, measure space, develop a planting scheme for year-round activity, and to create a supply inventory.

The second phase will be the actual groundbreaking ceremony, in which the class will introduce the garden to the community. Then the class will purchase materials and organize a community/student work day.
While studying English, the class will learn about good soil, use a soil tester, identify various plants, composting, and other gardening-related subjects.

“Students will also participate in the watering and maintaining, as well as harvest crops, troubleshoot problems, and implement resolutions,” said Robles. “This class will create a sense of ‘Yes we can’ among students.”

For more information about the ESL class, please contact Martha Robles at (562) 860-2451 ext.2400 or mrobles@cerritos.edu.

###
Cerritos College’s New State-of-the-Art Auto Complex Groundbreaking A Grand Success

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The SCCTT will house the Hybrid and Alternative Fuels Training Center, three manufacturer-sponsored technician apprentice programs (General Motors, Ford and Chrysler), and Northwood University’s West Coast program center that offers a bachelor’s degree in automotive management for full-time students and working adults.

“The Center is critical in creating thousands of jobs we need to help America’s recovery,” said Congresswoman Grace Napolitano. “Green technology is changing the industry, and Cerritos College is leading the path.”

Another highlight of the program was the showcase of environment-friendly vehicles brought by the world’s top car manufacturers. The green cars on display included: the BMW Hydrogen 7, Chevrolet Equinox Fuel Cell SUV, Chevrolet Impala CNG powered by IMPCO Technologies, Dodge Durango Hybrid, Ford Escape Hybrid, GMC Yukon Hybrid, Lexus Hybrid, Long Beach Transit Bus V10 gas engine, Mitsubishi full electric i-MiEV, Pontiac G5 with enhanced performance and gas mileage by aftermarket parts, Tesla Electric, and the Volkswagen Jetta Clean Diesel.

Master of Ceremonies was Bill Farmer, acting president/superintendent. Farmer was joined by speakers Bob Epke, Cerritos College board president; Steve Richardson, the Cerritos College Foundation executive director; Congresswoman Napolitano; Don Knabe, Los Angeles County supervisor; Billie Greer, director of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s Los Angeles office; and Steve Berkleic, interim dean of technology.

The proposed training center will include a $9 million renovation of the existing three-acre auto complex and a new $6 million automotive partners building that will focus on management education for the auto industry. When completed in 2010, the center will have a large role in filling the ever-changing, highly skilled employment needs of the auto industry.

“The SCCTT is a rarity for community colleges as it’s the result of partnerships between the college and private industry,” said Bill Farmer. “This training center will allow Cerritos College to educate and train tomorrow’s automotive industry workforce.”
Cerritos College Students Named to All-USA and All-California Academic Teams

Monirath Siv Named to All-USA Team and Sonia Gutierrez is All-California Silver Scholar

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“We are very proud of Monirath and Sonia, who are committed to their academic and athletic excellence and to making a difference in the community,” said Bill Fargo, acting president/superintendent. “They are great examples of the standard of excellence we achieve at Cerritos College.”

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 24,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at www.cerritos.edu.
College breaks ground on expanded auto shop complex

BY ARNOLD ADLER
STAFF WRITER
NORWALK — When those high-paying “green” jobs proposed by President Barack Obama open, hundreds of Cerritos College automotive technician graduates will be available to fill them.

College officials broke ground on the $15 million expansion of the Southland Cerritos Transportation Technologies complex, which includes a 9,200-square-foot building to house classrooms where students will learn how to repair hybrid and electric cars, considered the vehicles of the future.

Completion is expected in 2010.

About $1 million will come from donations by two automobile dealer groups. The rest will come from the $210 million general obligation bond issue approved by voters in 2004, said Bob Eyple, president of the college’s Board of Trustees.

Eyple thanked the college district voters and the dealerships, saying “they have made Cerritos College one of the most comprehensive training centers in the United States, promoting a path to a successful student future.”

“This vision started about six years ago by members of the dealership associations,” said Steve Richardson, executive director of the Cerritos College Foundation, through which the donations were made.

The new building, which also will include offices, storage spaces, conference rooms and restrooms will cost about $6 million.

Another $9 million will go toward remodeling the existing three-acre automotive technology center buildings, which include large bays and work areas, said acting college President Bill Farmer.

“We are excited that we finally will move some dirt,” Farmer said, before a number of local, state and national elected representatives donned hard hats and symbolically pushed the gold shovels into the dirt.

He explained that the Partners Building is so named because of $500,000 pledges from the Southland Motor Car Dealers Association and the Greater Los Angeles New Car Dealers Association.

Randy Sopp, owner of Sopp Chevrolet in Huntington Park and Bell, is a member of both boards and was among dignitaries.

Other guests included county Supervisor Don Knabe, Rep. Grace Napolitano, D-Santa Fe Springs; Billie Greer of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s office and Assemblyman Hector De La Torre, D-South Gate.

Napolitano promised to try to get some of the $500 million in federal stimulus funds “for shovel-ready projects” to Cerritos College. “We need to move some of that money out there to train students for green jobs. I will try to get some of that down here,” she said.

“This training center will enable Cerritos College to train tomorrow’s work force,” Farmer said.

Cerritos College has had auto mechanic classes since it opened in 1955, but officials pointed out that today’s vehicles are much different than the simple motors in vehicles of the past.

Farmer noted that John Jackson, brother of Cerritos College Board member Tom Jackson, was instrumental in starting the automotive training program more than 50 years ago.

Wilford Michael, college president from 1973 to 1986, was among the guests. He credited Automotive Technologies Dean Dick Whitenas with forming partnerships with automotive companies — General Motors, Ford and Chrysler — in 1983.

An important partnership began about five years ago.

Under those programs, automotive students took classes at the college but received on-the-job experience at the various dealerships and often became permanent employees there.

Today students may not only study how to fix cars and earn two-year degrees, but can go on to earn four-year college degrees from Northwood University in management and marketing.

Northwood, based in Midland, Cerritos College officials and guests break ground on a $15 million expansion of the school’s Transportation Center, which will train students to work on hybrid and alternate fuel vehicles. From left are college trustee Ted Edmondson, Randy Sopp, a contributing automotive dealer; trustee Bob Arthur, Board of Trustee President Bob Eyple, trustee Carmen Avalos, Rep. Grace Napolitano, D-Santa Fe Springs; Acting College President Bill Farmer, Billie Greer of the governor’s office and trustee Tom Jackson.

Completion is expected in 2010.

Mich., has satellite campuses at Cerritos College as well as in Florida and Texas.

This center will create thousands of jobs and improve the economy,” Napolitano said, noting that she took Cerritos College night classes for a number of years while raising five children.

She said students will learn new technology, now under way in Europe, to service vehicles getting 110 to 140 miles per gallon.

De La Torre praised the dealers

for their involvement, saying “things are hard in the auto industry, but they are committed. We will ride out these times through them with new fuel efficient cars.”

“These are visionary kinds of activities. At the end of the day there will be real jobs. We can benefit when competitors come back,” said Knabe, adding he drives a hybrid vehicle.

“This is a perfect spot for stimulus funds,” said Greer, pledging state support.
Sanchez seeks $23.5 million in federal earmarks

CONGRESS: Bulk of Lakewood Democrat’s request is for schools. Funds are for 2010.

By John Canalis Staff Writer

From improving street medians along Paramount Boulevard in Long Beach to adding a computer lab at a Lakewood community center, Rep. Linda Sanchez has requested nearly $23.5 million in federal appropriations for southeastern Los Angeles County projects.

The Lakewood Democrat, whose 39th District includes Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, Norwalk, Paramount and a sliver of Long Beach, included requests for schools, job programs, public safety, parks and transportation in her 2010 earmark requests.

There is no guarantee Congress will fund the wish list.

Education-related requests make up many of the appropriations requests. Sanchez’s wish list is $315,000 for technology to assist homeless youth and

District.

Another request would provide environmental job training programs for at-risk youth served by the Long Beach Conservation Corps in Belmont Shore.

The congresswoman also asked for $350,000 to benefit Latina Leadership Alliance, a tutoring and mentoring program that seeks to lower teen pregnancy and dropout rates in Bellflower.

Another $36,000 would go to after-school programs in Artesia.

Long Beach’s California Conference for Equality and Justice would get $75,000 for conflict-resolution courses.

About $500,000 would go for uniformed “resource officers” in South Gate schools.

The St. Francis Medical Center Foundation in Lynwood would get $445,000 for training programs.

About $7.5 million would fund ship-design programs at Cal State Long Beach.

Sanchez is also seeking $104,600 to build and enhance

Gardens and $200,000 for 25 bus shelters in South Gate.

Long Beach would receive $500,000 for median improvements, traffic signal upgrades and catch basins along Paramount Boulevard.

Lakewood is up for $240,000 in traffic signal improvements. South Gate would get $500,000 for streetlight replacement.

An alternative-fuels program at Cerritos College would receive $293,500 to teach students how to repair hybrid and alternative-fuel cars.

Sanchez would like $128,000 for a computer room for senior citizens at the Barnes Community Center in Lakewood.

About $220,000 would go toward solar lighting in Artesia’s parks.

The Water Replenishment District of Southern California in Lakewood would receive $100,000 to teach environmentally friendly gardening tech-
Basketball game benefits program

NORWALK — A total of 678 tickets to a benefit basketball game March 26 were sold resulting in $5,628 for the GEAR UP Partnership, a joint program of Cerritos College and the Bellflower Unified School District, according to Aya Abelon, the college’s media relations coordinator.

GEAR UP helps Bellflower Unified students prepare for college by taking courses offered by Cerritos College.

The benefit game took place in the Bellflower High School gym and saw the Bellflower Buccaneers boys’ varsity basketball players, faculty members, staff and students play against a team from radio station Power 106, including disc jockeys Eman and Jaycee.

The Bellflower team won, 71-63.

The DJ for the evening was Cerritos College alumnus Armando Ponce. Ponce is now known as Power 106’s DJ Mando Fresko.

The New Boyz performed their new single “You’re a Jerk” during the halftime show.

GEAR UP is a federally sponsored grant-funded program with a goal to increase the number of low-income students entering and succeeding in post-secondary education through academic preparation and support, Abelon said.
Memorial concert: Cerritos College music students sponsor the Scott Henderson Memorial Scholarship Concert 7 p.m. in the Burnight Center Theatre on campus, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk. The concert is in memory of longtime music faculty member Scott Henderson. Proceeds benefit the Cerritos
‘Mega Mixer’ at Cerritos College

04.10.09 - 02:00 am

NORWALK – Cerritos College will host their 13th annual Chamber Mega Mixer on April 21 from 5-7:30 p.m. in their Student Center.

The event is free and will include 50/50 drawings, door prizes, and networking opportunities.

For more information, call (562) 860-2451, ext. 2798.

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Published: April 10, 2009 - Volume 7 - Issue 51
Very old school
Period craftsman keeps artistry alive using 17th century tools and traditions.

BY JEFF SPURRIER

There is an edge to hand-cut wood, a sharp line on curves that you can see with your eyes and feel with your fingers. Master craftsman Patrice Pinaquy calls it “crispness.” You can witness it in Louis XIV furniture, its fleur-de-lis and sunbursts perfected more than 300 years ago, when carpenters made their tools by hand, when pulled bow saws left irregular strokes on wood grain, when no matter how fine the gold leafing, imperfection was inevitable — the signature of the anonymous builder.

Pinaquy makes furniture the same way, using no power machinery, no modern adhesives — just antique hand implements and a commitment to 17th century technique. The ethic is not some Renaissance fair gimmick but rather what this craftsman in L.A.’s Garvanza neighborhood sees as a logical approach to replicating or repairing period furniture. It’s why the Getty Center calls Pinaquy [See Pinaquy, Page E5].
Hand-hewn homage

Los Angeles Times (cont’d)
April 11, 2009

Finnegy, from Page 81

when an antique needs restoration.
The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in a
Huntington Castle will too.

For proof of his artistry, the draft-
table that Finnegy built for his
wife has few equal: 7 feet wide and 3
feet deep, definitely functional, with a
table made from wood, and inlays of silver and brass in
the marquetry. The top is beech em-
bossed with a scroll of gold leaf, done
by a master in France with flat tools
worked on the doors of the French
Senate. Brass arms, cut from a single
piece, are plated in gold and engrened.

Finnegy spent more than 1,000
hours over 2½ years creating the table
in his backyard wood shop.

“I thought if I’m going to spend all
time on this thing, it should be something that
Louis XIV, the Sun King, might have
had in Versailles,” he says.
The idea for the table came to him
while grabbing a room for architecture
fanboy Ben Pitt. (“He has a room
in this top of his house with a drafting
table for very good of the crafts-
man says.”

Finnegy, 61, a native of Burnet,
France, trained in that country for two
years, taught by others in hand-pow-
ered woodworking. He came to the
U.S. in the early 80s, eventually land-
ing an office job in L.A. and rarely think-
ing of a career in furniture. But as he
enjoyed the city he explored: Where
was the artistic craftsmanship that
surrounded him in Europe?

“It came from a strong sense of
nostalgia,” he says. “Every thing was
made for everybody and truly good,
but there are a few people that want
the special object, a special treasure.
It could be a piece of pewter or a canteen
of anything in between. I didn’t want
to make something that came out of
Levin, so after a few years I went back
to France to get formal training.”

He took classes that he didn’t care
about modern methods — no routers or
cutters or chemical stains. He
wanted to learn the old ways, the tech-
niques that decorated Versailles.

He saved money to buy antique
tools and then bought of a shop whose
owner had just died. The brother was
selling everything — saws, chisels, plow -
ning, chisels — all for 2,000 francs
(about 400 today), exactly how much
Finnegy needed to buy heating oil.

“I froze that winter,” he says, laugh-
ing. “I was warm inside.”

His rounded collection of antique
tools in museum-quality in its breadth
and depth. He believes it’s one of the
largest in the world and perhaps the
only one to own. If a piece breaks,
there’s a good chance he can make a
new one. He’s never bought a piece
in 30 years.

The exceptions are hand-guided
boxes that also a half-inch per minute are made with thin blades and
massive wooden clamps (which have
hand-nursed wooden arrows).

As part of his training, he made his
own workbench, an 800-pound, dou-
ble-bench-woodworking bench that
was carved entirely by hand. He
uses animal glue, preferred because
they’re easier to dissolve and furniture
can be dismantled without break-
ning the joinery. He brings up the
glass with the time-consuming French
soldiers method — shaping wads of
linseed and alcohol that are rubbed
down with circular motions.

“You can touch it up if it gets a
scratch,” he says, gesturing to his 3-
foot replica of a dining table made
for Michael Douglas and Catherine
Zeta-Jones. Customers pay more for the
polishing, too: you can still touch it up
300 years later. This is where the
architectural legs and the cabinet fills in
the gap of confidence.”

Finnegy wanted to bring that to American
craftsmanship, to be the most apogee of
erica & French house in Pasadena.
The edging in dining room was
thought to have been done in gold leaf,
but Finnegy determined the
finish was Beech leaf, a less-expensive
metal mixture that can tarnish.

“From a dream we are very thin —
you can’t even breathe around it,”
says Harvey Knoll, the Blackthorne
over who has spent yet years restoring
the house. “Fabric uses a very fine
finish brush and paint all from his
check to hold the leaf on the brush. It
was a long process.”

Finnegy’s passion for the old ways
has hired craftsmen-in-training to ask
for an apprenticeship, something be-
Yond his guest lectures at Caltech
College’s woodworking classes and he
the couple, landscape architect Ken Adroff, are planning something
more ambitious. Inspired by a med-
ceval fortress construction project in the
Harpocrates region of France, the
-couple say they will build a French
castle here entirely by hand, using
materials and tools — axes, hammers,

[Signature Style]

[Photo]

[Contact Information]

A furniture
craftsmen at work

For more photos of Patrice
Finnegy’s house and work-
shop, look for the gallery
planted with this article online.

[Contact Information]
BIXBY KNOLLS

Cerritos professor discusses works of Victor Villasenor. The Bixby Knolls
Literary Society meeting on Tuesday features guest discussion leader, Frank
Gaik.

He is an expert on the work of Victor Villasenor, the author of this month’s
selection, “Rain of Gold.” Gaik is a longtime professor of English at Cerritos
College.

The meeting is Tuesday at 7 p.m. at
Richard Goad Theatre, 4250 Atlantic
Ave.

Parking is available along Atlantic and
on Burlinghall Drive. Refreshments will
be provided. Call 562-997-1494 or visit
www.bixbyknollsinfo.com
Students arrested in alleged financial aid scam

CERRITOS COLLEGE: Police say dozens of people and as much as $200,000 are involved.

By Kelly Puente Staff Writer

NORWALK — Two Cerritos College students have been arrested and dozens more are being investigated for allegedly taking part in a financial aid scam that may have netted about $200,000, authorities said Tuesday.

Ronald Dennis Clark, Jr., 37, of Long Beach and Shanay Bobbie Beacham, 27, of Hawthorne are both facing multiple felony charges of fraud and conspiracy in Los Angeles Superior Court, authorities said.

The two were arrested on March 13 following a two-month investigation by Cerritos College police, said college spokesman Mark Wallace. He said that campus police launched the investigation after a student tried to buy a home and discovered a student loan on his credit report that he had not applied for.

Wallace said he did not have details on how the alleged scam worked but added that 30 to 40 other students are also being investigated.

The suspects applied for state and federal financial aid online and may have collected nearly $200,000, he said.

Clark and Beacham are accused of scamming about $17,000 in student aid, he added.

The college officially announced the arrests on Monday, after KTLA Channel 5 reported the story. Wallace said the school did not make any previous statements because campus police were still investigating.

Clark and Beacham have each been charged with criminal conspiracy, fraud, burglary and making a false financial statement, according to the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office.

Clark is scheduled to be arraigned today in Norwalk Superior Court. Beacham is due back in court for a preliminary hearing on April 24.

The campus police and the United States Department of Education are continuing to investigate the matter, Wallace said.

kelly.puente@presstelegram.com, 562-499-1305
Two arrests made in alleged financial aid scam. Two Cerritos College students — including one from Hawthorne — have been arrested and dozens more are being investigated for allegedly taking part in a financial aid scam that possibly netted about $200,000, authorities said Tuesday.

Ronald Dennis Clark Jr., 37, of Long Beach and Shanay Bobbie Beacham, 27, of Hawthorne are both facing multiple felony charges of fraud and conspiracy in Los Angeles Superior Court, authorities said.

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— From staff and news services
College to broadcast forum on Middle East

NORWALK — Cerritos College and Global Consortium will present a forum featuring student discussions on the Israel/Palestine issue from 2 to 3:30 p.m. April 22. The teleconference will be held jointly at UC Irvine and the Wilford Michael Library at Cerritos College, 11110 Alondra Blvd., John Haas, a history professor at Cerritos College and founder and director of the Global Consortium, will host the Olive Tree Initiative.

Members will deliver an interactive discussion on their recent trip to Israel and Palestine.

A group of student leaders at UC Irvine from Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Druze and unaffiliated backgrounds organized a trip to Israel and Palestine last September to find out for themselves what was going on in the region, said Aya Abelon, Cerritos College media relations coordinator.

The students will share their thoughts about the benefits and challenges of their endeavors with people worldwide through the video conference. The event will be broadcast live online at www.comediassolutions.org.

Abelon said.

The Olive Tree Initiative consists of a diverse group of students from organizations throughout UC Irvine that wanted to learn more about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict on a firsthand basis.

The group raised more than $60,000, traveled to Israel and Palestine, and met with academics, politicians and residents, obtaining a wide spectrum of perspectives on the conflict.

Upon their return, they began organizing presentations and forums to share their experiences and knowledge in the hopes of fostering dialogue and better understanding of the conflict between Palestinian and Israeli groups on campus and for members of the community, Abelon said.

Admission to the forum at the Cerritos College Teleconference Center is free. Daily permit for campus parking is $1.

Information: Haas at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2726.
College hosts chambers at mega mixer

Wave Staff Report

NORWALK — Cerritos College and the Cerritos College Foundation will host their 13th annual Mega Mixer for area chambers of commerce members and guests from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Student Center, 11110 Alondra Blvd.

Admission is free and includes networking, door prizes, a drawing and food prepared by the college’s Culinary Arts Department, a college representative said.

More than 400 business guests are expected from chambers of commerce in Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Lakewood, La Mirada, Long Beach, Norwalk, Paramount and Santa Fe Springs.

Forty-five exhibit tables are available on a first come basis for $145 each.

Information: Tony Grijalva, (562) 860-2451, ext. 2798.
Cerritos College’s Sports Information Director Receives Award

John Van Gaston, sports information director at Cerritos College, received the annual Brass Top award on April 1 at the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) convention in Ontario, California.

Sponsored by the California Community College Sports Information Association (CCCSIA), the award recognizes career achievement in sports information.

“I’m very humbled to receive this award because we all work very hard at what we do,” said Van Gaston. “I suppose the other SID’s felt I was worthy this year because of all the extra work I put in with the state tournaments last year. In addition to serving as part of the stat crew for the men’s and women’s basketball state championships, I also served as the state’s media representative for the wrestling, baseball, men’s and women’s tennis and men’s and women’s track and field state championships.”

Van Gaston, who has served as the college’s Sports Information Director for the last 23 years, was nominated and voted for by the fellow sports information directors throughout the state.

Some of his duties include providing all of the information on the website for the college’s 19 intercollegiate teams, writing, editing and overseeing all aspects of the media guides for all of the teams, which are used as recruiting tools for the coaches, supervising the press box for all home football games, as well as attending all home events and numerous road games. He also follows the successes of former Falcon athletes and writes press releases about their accomplishments.

"Over the past 23 years he has worked tirelessly for the college and has constantly put in extra work not only for the college but also for the entire state," said Dr. Dan Smith, instructional dean of physical education/athletics. "His selfless commitment and dedication are attributes that support this tremendous recognition."
Olympic star to deliver speech

NORWALK – Olympic medalist Brenda Villa will deliver the commencement address when Cerritos College hosts its graduating ceremonies May 16 at Falcon Stadium.

Villa, who grew up in Commerce, has played on the U.S. water polo team in the last three summer Olympics and has won two silver medals and one bronze medal. She served as team captain the last four years.

Villa scored 11 goals in the 2007 FINA World Water Polo Championships, helping Team USA win first place. She also helped lead the team to the 2007 Pan Am Games that qualified them for the Beijing Olympics last year.

The commencement ceremony will be Cerritos College’s 52nd and begins at 5 p.m. The Board of Trustees will present degrees and certificates earned during the 2008-09 academic year.

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Published: April 17, 2009 - Volume 7 - Issue 52

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Israel/Palestine relations discussed

NORWALK – Dr. John Haas, history professor at Cerritos College, will host the Olive Tree Initiative (OTI) from UC Irvine on April 22 from 2-3:30 p.m., where they will deliver an interactive discussion on their recent trip to Israel/Palestine.

The campus of UC Irvine has a history of clashes between pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian students. The OTI is comprised of student leaders from Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Druze and unaffiliated backgrounds. Last year, the students traveled to Israel/Palestine “to find out for themselves what is going on.”

The forum is free and open to the public. A one-day parking permit is $1.

The conference, which will be held inside Cerritos College’s Wilford Michael Library and Learning Resource Center, will also be streamed live online at www.3cmediasolutions.org.

For more information, call Haas at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2726.

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Published: April 17, 2009 - Volume 7 - Issue 52

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Cerritos College to Host Community Resource Fair April 23

Written by Aya Abelon
Monday, 20 April 2009 14:50

COMMUNITY

Norwalk–Cerritos College’s Re-Entry Resource Program will host the Community Resource Fair on Thursday, April 23, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Cerritos College Library Sidewalk, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650.

Attendees can learn about resources in the community that are available to all. Representatives from local social service and community resource agencies will be on hand to provide information and answer questions about the services they offer.

Participating agencies include: The Children’s Clinic, Department of Fair Employment and Housing, Employment Development Department, Kaiser Permanente Volunteer Services, Norwalk-La Mirada USD Head Start/State Preschool, Women’s and Children’s Crisis Shelter and many more.

This event is FREE and open to the public. Parking for the event will be in lot C-1 in white stalls ONLY. For more information call (562) 860-2451, Ext. 2382.

Last Updated on Monday, 20 April 2009 13:38
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How to Find Good Real Estate Buys</td>
<td>14461 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>20/04/09</td>
<td>(310) 471-0650</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entertainment Law Year in Review</td>
<td>Beverly Hills Bar Association</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>20/04/09</td>
<td>(818) 907-9922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 a.m. Pepperdine University Howard Hughes Center</td>
<td>6100 Center Drive, West Los Angeles</td>
<td>$195</td>
<td>20/04/09</td>
<td>(310) 473-9064, ext. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>All About Business Loans</td>
<td>Valley Economic Development Center</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td>20/04/09</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mini-Boot Camp for Contractors</td>
<td>Valley Economic Development Center</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>20/04/09</td>
<td>(562) 467-5050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Needs to Know: Sexual Harassment Prevention Training</td>
<td>Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>20/04/09</td>
<td>(310) 248-1000, ext. 114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profitable Exporting for Small Businesses</td>
<td>Cerritos College</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>20/04/09</td>
<td>(562) 467-5050</td>
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Community Calendar

Plaza Mexico walk-a-thon to focus on childhood obesity

Were Staff Report
A walk-a-thon and healthy kid celebration is planned at L.A. Care’s Family Resource Center at Plaza Mexico, 3180 Imperial Highway, Lynwood, Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon.

The event is designed to raise awareness about the child obesity problem in the area. Planned are prizes, healthy snacks, goody bags and cookbooks for the first 50 participants.

Other upcoming events include:

Friday, April 24
College concert: Students and faculty in the Cerritos College Music Department conduct an exchange concert with visitors from the Mayfair High School Orchestra playing classical favorites from Beethoven, Rossini and Andrew Lloyd Webber, at the Cerritos College Student Center, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk. (562) 860-2451 ext. 2520.

Saturday, April 25
Shelter walk: The Shelter’s Right Hand, an auxiliary that raises funds for the Women and Children’s Crisis Shelter, conducts its 13th annual Stepping Out Against Domestic Violence 5K Fitness Walk, beginning at 6 a.m. at Central Park, Bailey and Washington avenues in Uptown Whittier. Registration takes place at 6:30 a.m. The shelter distributes T-shirts and prize bags to participants and refreshments at the park after the walk. (562) 945-3937.

Antique fair: The Uptown Merchants Association conducts its 14th annual Antique Fair from 9 up to 4 p.m., on Philadelphia Street between Greenleaf and Painter avenues in Whittier. (562) 696-21662.

Earth Day: The city of South Gate conducts its fourth annual Earth Day from 8 a.m. to noon in South Gate Park, 4900 Southern Ave. Events include a community cleanup by volunteers at 8 a.m. Refreshments, lunch and T-shirts are provided. Free disposal of hazardous household items is between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. (323) 563-9577.

Community cleanup: The Huntington Park Police Department conducts a community cleanup from 8 a.m. to noon at Westside Park, 2061 Gage Ave. (323) 826-6673.

Smart gardening: The city of Downey’s Recycling Office and the county Department of Public Works offer a free program on composting and smart gardening techniques from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, 7601 E. Imperial Highway. (562) 904-7163.

Monday, April 27
Chamber golf: The Norwalk Chamber of Commerce conducts its 32nd annual golf tournament with registration beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Westridge Golf Club, 1400 La Habra Hills Drive, La Habra. Tee-off is at noon and the awards dinner is at 5:30 p.m. Cost is $150 per person, $600 for four. (562) 864-7785.

Tuesday, April 28
Network breakfast: The Downey Chamber of Commerce conducts its “Rise ‘N Shine” networking breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at the Downey Brewing Company, 10924 Paramount Blvd. Guest speaker is Stanford Kalm, business owner, discussing “How to Thrive and Prosper in a Turbulent Economy.” (562) 923-2191.

Opera Tales: LA Opera, county Supervisor Don Knabe and the county library system co-sponsor a program that introduces area families to the world of opera at 6 p.m. at the Alondra Library, 11949 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk. The program explores the music of composer Giacomo Puccini. (562) 940-8422.

Spring sing: The Cerritos College Music Department conducts its third annual Spring Sing Concert featuring the Cerritos Community Choir and Student Chorus. Students of the music department including solo, duet and ensemble selections, at 7 p.m. at the Cerritos College Student Center, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk. (562) 860-2451 ext. 2629 or e-mail cker@cerritos.edu.

Thursday, April 30
Lions carnival: The Norwalk Lions Club begins its annual four-day carnival through May 3 on the north lawn of City Hall, 12700 Norwalk Blvd., from 5 to 11 p.m.

Business watch: The Downey Chamber of Commerce hosts a meeting on the Business Watch Program from 2 to 3 p.m. at Downey City Hall, 11111 Brookshire Ave. (562) 923-2191.

Friday, May 1
Candleglight vigil: In observance of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, a candlelight vigil is planned at Lynwood City Park, 11301 Bullis Road, from 7 to 9 p.m. (310) 738-4218.

Saturday, May 2
Arts takedown: Individual artists and small budget organizations can benefit from free expert advice and information on various aspects of arts management from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Arts Tune-Up program at the Parnell Park Senior Center, 15390 Lambert Road, Whittier. Registration is recommended via www.SurveyMonkey.com.

Items for the Community Calendar may be submitted in care of Wave Newspapers, 1731 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 508, Los Angeles, 90015, by fax (213) 835-0584, or by e-mail dwnlass@wavepublications.com. Please include a daytime phone number.
Norwalk woman wins top academic honors

Wave Staff Report

NORWALK — Sonia Gutierrez of Norwalk and Monirath Siv of Long Beach, students at Cerritos College, have each been named to 2009 All-USA First Team and the All-California Team, a college representative said.

Gutierrez has also been selected as a 2009 Coca-Cola Silver Scholar, and received a $1,250 scholarship from the Coca Cola Foundation, said Aya Abelon, the college’s media relations coordinator.

Siv has also been chosen as California’s 2009 New Century Scholar, namely the top scorer of the state.

Both Siv and Gutierrez were featured in USA Today April 6, Abelon said.

Siv received a $4,500 scholarship ($2,500 from USA Today and $2,000 from the Coca Cola Foundation) and represented California at the 2009 American Association of Community Colleges Convention in Phoenix last week.

Gutierrez is an anthropology student who maintains a 3.95 grade point average. She will transfer to UC Berkeley in the fall, Abelon said.

Gutierrez will major in anthropology and plans on pursuing a Ph.D. in forensic anthropology. She hopes to become a university professor and a consultant.

Gutierrez, who spent two years on the Cerritos College women’s tennis team was also recently named as the 2008 Pepsi Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

The Coca-Cola All-State Community College Academic Team program provides up to $450,000 in stipends. The top scoring student from each of the 50 states in the All-USA Academic Team competition is named a New Century Scholar and receives a $2,000 stipend from Coca-Cola.
Cerritos College Theatre Faculty Nominated for Off-Broadway Award

Cerritos College’s faculty member Janet Miller in the theater department has been nominated for the Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Achievement Off-Broadway. Nominations for the 24th Annual Lucille Lortel Awards were announced on April 2 and Miller was nominated for the Outstanding Choreographer for The Marvelous Wonderettes.

Begun in 1986, the Lucille Lortel Awards are produced by the Off-Broadway League by special arrangement with the Lucille Lortel Foundation. The nominees are selected by the committee of 16-20 critics, theatre professionals, representatives of theatre organizations and local academia appointed by the Lucille Lortel Awards Foundation.

The awards will be presented on Sunday, May 3, 2009 at the “Off” Broadway Ballroom at the Marriott Marquis in New York.
Student awarded scholarship

NORWALK – Downey resident Tanakorn Chaivasin was recently presented the Newton Werner Chemistry Scholarship at Cerritos College, a recognition of her 3.85 GPA and community involvement.

Chaivasin volunteers time to several organizations and hopes to become a medical officer in the U.S. Navy.

The scholarship was established in memory of chemistry professor Dr. Newton Werner to recognize outstanding students in organic chemistry.

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Published: April 24, 2009 - Volume 8 - Issue 1
Eventful
April, 2009
Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced a partnership Wednesday with three local universities aimed at positioning the city to compete for hundreds of thousands of federal dollars for clean technology research and a proposed state institute to study climate change.

The partnership with Caltech, UCLA and USC is part of the agenda Villaraigosa outlined in his State of the City speech Tuesday to lure and retain companies that focus on green endeavors such as solar, wind, battery and hydrogen fuel cell technologies.

Villaraigosa said the CleanTech LA alliance, which also includes the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, Los Angeles Business Council and Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp., represented a "giant leap forward in our effort to make this city the global capital of clean technology."

"We're formalizing a partnership to leverage what we've done over the last four years in the city, what we're doing at all three universities to develop the jobs of the new economy," the mayor said, touting the clean trucks program at the Port of Los Angeles and his goal of drawing 50% of the city's electrical power from renewable energy by 2010.

UCLA Chancellor Gene Block said the partnership would ensure that the region "asserts its place as a hub in the emerging new clean-technology business." Most recently, the mayor's office has been working with the Community Redevelopment Agency to transform a four-mile industrial stretch — along the Los Angeles River east of downtown — into an incubator for clean-technology companies.

The area, which is rich in tax incentives, would be anchored at the northern end by a planned Department of Water and Power research center at the agency's Main Street site that would house laboratory projects with researchers from Caltech, USC and UCLA.

UCLA officials said they hope to test small-scale wind turbines at the site. USC officials are drawing up plans for a research center with the DWP to study how to make data centers more energy efficient.

Officials said the partnership stemmed from the city's intent to compete for a possible California climate change institute. Los Angeles was not even in contention four years ago as a site for the California stem cell research institute, and many city officials now view that as a missed opportunity.

A version of the climate change center proposal was approved by the Legislature last year but vetoed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who said the legislation was "too limiting and too premature."

State Sen. Alex Padilla (D—Los Angeles) reintroduced a proposal for the center in February. No decisions have been made about the process for locating the center — but it is clear that competition with other cities will be fierce if the proposal advances.
Cal State, UC to get stimulus aid

CARLA RIVERA

California’s education leaders on Saturday lauded the release of $5.1 billion in federal economic stimulus funds for education, which includes more than half a billion dollars for hard-pressed colleges and universities.

The state’s universities are facing budget-related enrollment cutbacks, higher fees and class reductions in the fall, and officials said they hoped some of the most painful cuts could be avoided. But lawmakers and educators who attended a morning news conference in Long Beach emphasized that the state’s education system — both K-12 and higher education programs — still faces formidable challenges.

“You can almost compare this to a blood transfusion to a very sickly patient,” said state Sen. Gloria Romero (D-Los Angeles). “But this is triage and only addresses a portion of the problems we face.”

Cal State University Chancellor Charles B. Reed and UC President Mark G. Yudof spoke at the news conference and applauded the arrival of the stimulus funds, which will total about $5.1 billion for colleges and universities. But they provided few details of how the money will be used, and it is uncertain whether the funding will help stave off deep cuts already ordered to meet state-imposed budget cutbacks.

The Cal State system, for example, is $600 million below its operational needs for its 2009-2010 budget, noted spokeswoman Clara Potes-Feliz. Even with the stimulus funds, the system will have to reduce student enrollment by about 10,000 next year and cut classes. And next month, the Board of Trustees will consider whether to increase student fees by as much as 10%, she said.

But Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who addressed the gathering at Long Beach’s Cabrillo High School, said he was hopeful that the funding will help prevent layoffs and protect reform efforts.

“We all know that schools are hurting, teachers are receiving pink slips and universities are turning students away,” Schwarzenegger said. “My mission is to shield our kids from the full brunt of the economic crisis.”

School districts and the state college and university systems can begin applying for the funds immediately through the state Department of Education website. The state will be able to apply for additional stimulus money in fall, but that is contingent on potentially revising state education standards and improving outcomes in areas such as dropout and graduation rates and student and teacher attendance, said state Supt. of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell.

About $2.8 billion of the stimulus funding is slated for K-12 schools.

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College applicants, watch your Facebook posts

LARRY GORDON

High school students, beware! College admissions and financial aid officers in California and elsewhere may be peeking over your digital shoulder at the personal information you post on your Facebook or MySpace page.

And they might decide to toss out your application after reading what you wrote about that cool party last week or how you want to conduct your romantic life at college.

According to a new report by the National Assn. for College Admission Counselling, about a quarter of U.S. colleges reported doing some research about applicants on social networking sites or through Internet search engines. The study, which included 10 California colleges, did not specify which schools acknowledged the practice or how often scholarships or enrollment offers might be nixed because of online postings.

David Hawkins, director of public policy and research for the counselors group, said the moral is clear: "Don't post anything that you don't want your mother or father or college admission officer to see," he said.

Colleges' use of such Internet sites raises ethical issues that need further study, including regarding whether online postings are genuine, Hawkins added.

The report, which also looked at colleges' use of the Internet to recruit students, was written by Nora Czajnik Barnes, director of the Center for Marketing Research at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. She said some colleges turn to the social websites because "no school wants to give a prestigious scholarship to someone standing on a beer keg and wearing a lampshade."

Calls Tuesday to several California campuses turned up none that acknowledged any online snooping.

"Do you think we have time for that?" asked Susan Wilbur, the UC system's director of undergraduate admissions, which received more than 100,000 applications this year. "We have not even discussed that."

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UC regents expected to OK fee hike

Yudof says much of the 9.3% increase would be offset by financial aid, tax credits. Students' reaction is mixed.

Larry Gordon

University of California officials Wednesday said they will proceed with plans to seek a 9.3% hike in undergraduate student fees for next school year and warned that faculty and staff layoffs might be needed if state funding measures fail in the May election and the budget deficit worsens.

The increase, according to $4,053, would bring the average basic cost for an undergraduate UC education to $5,759 a year for California residents, not including room, board and books. With those costs included, the annual price tag for students living in dorms would be about $21,000. Graduate and professional school fees also are expected to rise at least 9.3%.

UC regents are expected to approve the fee increase at a meeting in San Diego next week, despite student complaints that the cost of a UC education has doubled over the last decade. "The recession also has made it harder for families to pay," student leaders said.

In a conference call with reporters, UC President Mark G. Yudof said that most students would feel the fee hike because of increases expected in tax credits and in financial aid, financed in part by the Federal Stimulus Package. "The 9.3% shows of this is a paid fee," Yudof said, adding that the fee increase should be viewed in the context of recent UC underfunding, such as freezing professor's pay and cutting freshman enrollment by 6%.

Lucero Chavez, UC Berkeley's student government president of the UC Student Association, said there was no guarantee that financial aid increases would hold true beyond the coming academic year. She also criticized UC officials for assuming that families "can navigate their way through this system and apply for and get this financial aid."

Nevertheless, given the state's economic emergency, Chavez said she would not actively oppose the measure next week, but instead planned to urge regents to reform their long-term policies on fees.

UC regents have often said that the overall cost of a UC education is less than that of similarly priced public research universities nationwide. Student leaders challenge that, citing California's comparatively higher living costs.

One vote against the fee increase will be cast by Delfinum Serrano, the student representative on the Board of Regents. Serrano, a UCLA graduate student in education, said he wants the regents to look first for nonstudent and subsidy reductions and increases in charitable fund-raising.

"From where I stand, I believe there is more we can do before we raise fees," he said.

In the telephone briefing, Yudof promised that students would not face a second fee increase for the 2010-11 school year, even if the state budget determents after next month's election and UC needs deeper budget cuts than originally proposed. But he said other unfunded measures may be ahead for the 2011-12 campus year, which enroll about 238,000 students.

"If all that occurs, you will use loans, you will see enhancements, you will see salary reductions, either temporary or permanent," he said. "I think you will see more pretty significant state staff."