FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

In Progress

Lesley Wheeler is getting articles together for the summer 2009 In Sight publication.

Lesley Wheeler is also writing news releases that will be distributed after the winter break.

Coverage

The News: Community College League of California Quarterly Publication—Fall 2008—Article on Cerritos College student Ruben Gonzalez (from press release).


Long Beach Press Telegram—November 6, 2008—Article on the Long Beach Division of the California Retired Teachers Association scholarship awards luncheon.

Downey Patriot—November 7, 2008—Article on the Turkey Trot (from press release).


Long Beach Press Telegram—November 9, 2008—Informational brief on Holiday Choral Concert (from press release).

Wave—November 13, 2008—Informational brief on the Faculty Gala (from press release).

Wave—November 13, 2008—Article on the Turkey Trot (from press release).

Downey Patriot—November 14, 2008—Informational brief on Jazz Ensemble concert (from press release).

Downey Patriot—November 14, 2008—Article on the Turkey Trot (from press release).


USA Water Polo Web site—November 18, 2008—Article on Brenda Villa being honored by the Trustees (from press release).
Long Beach Press Telegram—November 21, 2008—Article on college’s surge in enrollment.

Los Cerritos Community News/Norwalk Community News—November 21, 2008—Article on recognition of Brenda Villa by Trustees (from press release).

Los Cerritos Community News/Norwalk Community News—November 21, 2008—Article on Foundation awarding scholarships (from press release).


Foster Care Student Dares to Care

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 16, 2008

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

NORWALK, Calif. – September 16, 2008 – One telephone call from Cerritos College changed it all. It was January 2008 and Ruben Gonzalez, who lives in Lakewood, had no idea what he wanted to do or what he could do with his life.

After both of his parents were arrested for drug use when he was five years old, Gonzalez and his four younger siblings moved in with his grandmother who became their foster parent. Since there was no one who went to college around him, it never occurred to him that there was such an option.

Then came the phone call – it was from Yvette Tafoya, financial aid specialist, inviting Gonzalez to a financial aid workshop. Tafoya was designated as the state-wide Foster Youth Success Initiative liaison for the college and has just begun offering workshops specifically for current and former foster youth.

After the workshop, Tafoya walked him through the application process for financial aid, enrollment and class registration.

When Tafoya created The Leaders Involved in Creating Change (L.I.N.C.) program, a support program designed to help link foster youth with support services on and off campus to ensure a successful transition from foster care to independent living, with her colleague Yajayra Vejar and the office of Foster & Kinship Care Education, Gonzalez joined the program and started taking classes in summer 2008.

“The program has been very helpful and my college experience so far has been great,” said Gonzalez.

He has barely started his college life a few months ago and he is already very active on campus. He obtained an on-campus job in the Financial Aid office and is helping other students applying for FAFSA. Gonzalez and his fellow student Jacinda Travis are in the process of founding the L.I.N.C. Club, which aims to connect foster youth students and provide them with resources and networking opportunities. “I’m trying to create a place where foster youth students can get connected with each other, so we all know that we are not alone and we can support each other,” he said.
His ambition to help others goes well beyond that. He plans to major in psychology, transfer to California State University, Long Beach and become a high school counselor.

“I want to help out students, especially those who have problems and don’t have much support or guidance from their family,” said Gonzalez. There is no doubt that he is setting a great example for such students and is becoming an inspiration to them.

On the weekends, he and his girlfriend love to take his younger siblings to the movies – evidently caring comes natural for him.

###
Recent Addition to Cerritos College gets Seal-of-Approval from the Chancellor’s Office

New Insurance Career Program gets Degree and Certificate Accreditation

For Immediate Release: October 31, 2008

Media Contact: Lesley Wheeler; Public Affairs, (562) 860-2751 ext. 7878

NORWALK, Calif. – October 31, 2008 – The California Community College’s Chancellor’s Office has officially approved the new Insurance Career Program at Cerritos College.

“If the State Chancellor had not approved our program we simply could not grant a certificate of achievement or an AA degree in the insurance subject matter,” said Cerritos College Professor Michael J. Farina, co-chair of the college’s Business Accounting and Finance Department.

The Business Division at Cerritos College announced in June that it would become the first to offer a California Insurance Career Program in Southern California.

“We are thrilled to have Cerritos College join the other 17 colleges running our program in California, seeking to meet the growing demand for skilled workers in the insurance industry,” said Mike Wilson, Program Administrator of the California Insurance Careers Program.

Classes were first offered during the fall semester for this program, which is designed to provide insurance, business and communication skills to students using an industry developed curriculum, and prepare them for entry-level positions in commercial insurance.

The new program provides web-based tools designed to create links between students and employers, as well, including company profiles and resume posting opportunities.

The Business Department at Cerritos College plans to add two more classes to the program starting in the spring 2009 semester: Insurance Code and Ethics, and Personal Insurance.

For more information on this and other business department programs, visit http://cms.cerritos.edu/accounting/insurance-program or contact the Business Accounting and Finance Department Co-Chairs Debra Schmidt (562) 860-2451 ext. 2712 or Michael Farina (562) 860-2451 ext. 2730. To register for classes, call 562-860-2451 or visit www.cerritos.edu.

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 nears 24,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at www.cerritos.edu.

###
Cerritos College to Host 11th Annual Turkey Trot November 18

Physical Education Department Promotes Exercise While Collecting Canned Goods for Norwalk Community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 27, 2008

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

WHAT: Combining a wellness event with community good-will, Cerritos College will host its annual Turkey Trot on Tuesday, November 18.

To enter the 2-mile walk/run, participants must donate at least one canned food item that will be passed on to the Norwalk Community Council’s Holiday Food Basket Program.

The Holiday Food Basket Program helps needy families in the Norwalk area.

Each year, the event raises nearly 1,000 cans of food from its 200-plus participants. Many who participate choose to exceed the one-can requirement, while others choose only to donate, but not to participate.

Canned food items can be donated prior to the event at the physical education office, as well.

Race participants also have the opportunity to earn prizes for guessing their completion time most accurately. Watches are not allowed for the event.

The first 200 finishers will receive a commemorative Turkey Trot T-shirt.
Pre-registration for the event is encouraged, but not mandatory. Registration forms are available in the Cerritos College physical education office.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, November 18  
Registration: 9:30 a.m.  
Race Time: 11:05 a.m.

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

Parking permits cost $1 and may be obtained in lots C-1, C-2 and C-10.

**COST:** At least one canned food item.

**CONTACT:** Carrie Edwards, Physical Education, cedwards@cerritos.edu or (562) 860-2451 ext. 2876

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###
Vision Set on Canvas

Taiwanese Student Artist Ready to Make Her Name in America

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 14, 2008

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

NORWALK, Calif. - October 14, 2008 - Yen Chun (Gina) Chang began drawing almost as soon as she could grip a crayon. Every year from elementary through middle school, her art teacher would call her mother and question what private art lessons Chang was taking. She never took any formal art class until she was in high school, but her drawing skills were far beyond impressive.

She is not sure how she started drawing. “It was just natural to me,” says Chang. “Ever since I can remember I’ve been drawing.”

Interestingly, no one in her family had artistic talent or recommended her to draw. Every year she won some art awards, and had garnered 30 before she reached the age of 20.

She had a “dark” period, too. When she was in high school, her grades were high enough to exempt her from taking term tests. The “immunity” spoiled her and she started to slack off. When she finished high school, she knew she needed to change her surroundings. She decided to go to college in California, joining her older sister who was already there studying at California State University, Long Beach.

Chang took some ESL classes and currently majors in Fine Arts at Cerritos College. She has already begun to distinguish herself in art competitions there. She won third prize in the college’s 2008 Student Art Exhibition. She was selected one of the finalists among entries from 15 states in the West/Southwest Scholarship Competition. No one would believe her entry for this large multi-state competition. “Landscape” was her first oil painting work ever.

“When I registered for Mr. Hagop Najarian’s class last year, I didn’t know it was an oil painting class!” laughs Chang. “I’ve used pencil, charcoal and watercolors, but never tried oil painting before. Mr. Najarian was very helpful in teaching me oil painting techniques. I never imagined I would win an award with my first try.”
“Gina is an exceptional student who possesses a natural ability of observing the world in a poetic way, capturing the nuances of light, atmosphere and color,” says Najarian. “She is a joy to have in the classroom and is already quite accomplished as an artist at a young age. I am sure that she will have great success in her career as an artist.”

Chang is hoping to transfer to the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena and to become a product designer. She would also like to hold an art exhibition in the near future.

Chang has not decided whether she will stay in the U.S. or go back to Taiwan after she receives her bachelor’s degree, but she is determined not to slack off again, especially for her sister who was diagnosed with lupus and is currently being treated back home. “I will get a degree and become successful in the design industry for my sister,” said Chang.

She also feels that she owes much to her father who left his family to work in Shanghai to pay for his children’s international tuition. One thing has been proven – Chang’s artistic talent and skills will naturally stand out wherever she goes.

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###
Cerritos College Music Faculty to Perform in Gala

Concert Proceeds to Fund Student Scholarships

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 20, 2008

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

WHAT: Cerritos College Music Department faculty members will showcase their talents in a Nov. 16 concert to raise scholarship funds for students in the applied music program. 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, the San Francisco Conservatory and Chapman University.

WHEN: Sunday, November 16 at 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Burnight Center Theatre (BC-17)
Cerritos College
11110 Alondra Blvd.
Norwalk, CA 90650

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

COST: General admission $10, Cerritos College students $5. Free parking is available in lots C-2 and C-3.

CONTACT: For more information, contact the Music Department office at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2629.

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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 averages nearly 20,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at www.cerritos.edu.

###
Cerritos College Jazz Ensemble Will Perform in a Free Fall Concert

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 4, 2008

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

WHAT: This concert will feature the Cerritos College Jazz Ensemble in an evening of traditional and contemporary jazz standards.

WHEN: Wednesday, November 19 at 7:00 p.m.

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

A map of the campus is available at http://cms.cerritos.edu/campus-guide.

COST: Free

PARKING: One-day parking passes may be purchased for $1 in parking lots C-1, C-2 and C-10.

CONTACT: For more information, please visit the Music performances web page at http://cms.cerritos.edu/music/performances or contact the Music Department office at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2629.

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###
Cerritos College Board of Trustees Recognize Olympic Silver Medalist Brenda Villa

Women’s U.S. Water Polo Team Captain Helps Coach Cerritos’ Girls Team to Championship

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 18, 2008

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

NORWALK, Calif. - November 18, 2008 - The Cerritos College Board of Trustees presented Olympic Silver Medalist and Cerritos College women’s water polo assistant coach, Brenda Villa, with a Certificate of Recognition at the November 12 board meeting.

The Cerritos College women’s water polo coach, Sergio Macias, introduced his childhood friend and coaching partner, Villa, to the Board as “one, if not the best, water polo player in the world.”

Villa has played on the United States Water Polo team in the last 3 summer Olympics and has won 2 silver medals and one bronze medal.

The passion Villa has for the sport was apparent as Macias spoke about some of his memories of her when they were younger, including how they played water polo on the same team at Bell Garden’s High School because there was no girl’s water polo team.

Her love of the sport and the skills she has when in the pool is obviously rubbing off on the girls Cerritos College team.

The Falcons women’s water polo team is advancing to the state championships for the first time in the program’s history. Seeded #3 out of the South, the team will play twice this Thursday and if they win their playoff bracket, they will play for the state championship this Saturday. If they come in second
place in their bracket, they will play for third place.

Villa brought her silver medal from Beijing with her to the board meeting and allowed all the members a chance to hold it.

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###
NORWALK, Calif. - November 19, 2008 – The Cerritos College Foundation awarded $19,650 in scholarships to Cerritos College students at their November Board meeting on Thursday, including three $600 tool vouchers and $700 in recognition awards. A Kurzweil LearnStation was awarded, as well.

The college’s Cheryl A. Epple Board Room was filled to standing-room-only with donors, presenters, recipients and their families.

“It’s a great morning and makes so much of what we do worthwhile,” said Steve Richardson, executive director of the Cerritos College Foundation.

In all, 28 students were given awards made possible by the generosity of donors.

Among the organizations presenting scholarships were the Habib American Bank, Woman’s Club of Artesia-Cerritos, Norwalk Woman’s Club, and the Southland Motor Car Dealers Association (SMCDA). A number of scholarships awarded were established by private individuals, as well.

The Habib American Bank Business Scholarship, an award of $1000 each, was presented to Christopher Pineda of Monterey Park; James Lee of Buena Park; Woosuk Kim of Garden Grove; and Mona Abassi of Paramount, by Nadim Junejo, branch manager at Habib American Bank in Artesia. The scholarship is awarded to students who are declared business majors, have a 3.0 or above grade point average and who have completed a minimum of 12 units at Cerritos College.

The $1,000, Cheryl A. Epple Memorial Scholarship, was presented to Nigora Sharipova, of Norwalk, and Melissa Wakefield, of Anaheim, by Bob Epple, Cerritos College Trustee and husband of the late Cerritos College Trustee, Cheryl Epple. The scholarship was established in 2004 by Epple and his family to honor Cheryl and recognize students who are committed to service in the community.
“Thank you for supporting my education, as well as my future,” said Sharipova to Epple when he presented her with the scholarship.

Sharipova came to the United States from Tajikistan and would one day like to work for the United States State Department in international relations. She is currently living with a house mother that took her in when she came here as an exchange student while still in high school.

Another scholarship established by a long-time Cerritos College Board of Trustees member, the John Moore First Step Scholarship was presented by Moore to Karen Olvera, of Pico Rivera. This was the first time the First Step Scholarship was awarded. It was established by Moore, a now-retired 19-year member of the Board, to help first semester college students who show the promise of succeeding.

Moore grew up in south central Los Angeles and never imagined that he would go to college. He was lucky enough to be the recipient of a scholarship right out of high school that gave him the boost he needed. The scholarship is used to help others like him.

Woman’s Club of Artesia-Cerritos member, Joanne Witt, presented the $750 Woman’s Club of Artesia-Cerritos Marguerite Phares Scholarships to Diana Gregory, of Lakewood; Jivka Rousseva, of Long Beach; and Jamilia Garcia, of Bellflower. The scholarship is for female students re-entering the academic world.

Witt also presented the $500 E. Maude West Scholarship to Billie Wilson, of Lakewood, who started attending Cerritos College after a work injury left her unable to do her job. She is currently working towards her master’s in construction management. The scholarship was established by long-time Artesia resident E. Maude West, who was renowned in the community for her charitable work and her commitment to women’s issues and the pursuit of educational goals.

Additionally, Witt presented Monique Barnett, of Los Angeles, with the $750 Ellen Carver Re-Entry Scholarship that was established by the Woman’s Club of Artesia-Cerritos in memory of club member Ellen Carver.

“When I first came back to school I almost couldn’t stay because I couldn’t afford my books,” said Barnett when Witt presented her with the Carver scholarship.

Barnett was also one of the recipients of the $1,000 Jean O. Michael Scholarships that were awarded Thursday.
and Stephanie Fernandez, of Riverside, with the scholarship that was established in her honor by her children. The scholarship is for re-entry women that are majoring in business.

Since they started the scholarship in 2000, the Michael family has given a total of 14 $1,000 scholarships to Cerritos College students.

Agnes Eyong, a native from Cameroon who now lives in Downey, received the Carmen Solis Pratt Re-Entry Scholarship, a $1400 award, presented by Judge Dan Pratt. The scholarship was established by Judge Pratt in memory of his mother who valued education, but was never able to attend college herself.

“This scholarship honors students in whom I see my mother’s sense of initiative and drive,” said Pratt. “I look for where it [the scholarship] will make the biggest impact and try to take the pressure off for one year so they don’t have to worry about tuition or books.”

Eyong got some more help with completing her educational goals with a $500 scholarship from the Norwalk Woman’s Club, who annually gives the award to a female Cerritos College re-entry student.

“It’s really a challenge for me to be here at Cerritos College because it’s expensive,” Eyong said when she was awarded with the scholarship. “The scholarships are helping me.”

The Golden Girls Scholarship is another scholarship that was first awarded this year. It was established by five women who wanted to help female re-entry students. The “golden girls” decided that instead of spending money on birthday and Christmas gifts for one another they would instead put $25 into a scholarship fund.

Golden Girl Betty McDougall presented Jivka Rousseva, of Long Beach, with the $750 award. Rousseva is a full-time student, as well as a full-time single mother of her son, Christopher, reminded McDougall of herself.

“She was special to me because I came to this country at 19 and it was a hard adjustment, but coming here on your own with a child is even harder,” said McDougall.

Administration of Justice faculty member, John Collins, presented the Robert W. Collins Scholarship for Administration of Justice Students to Leslie Almanza, of Norwalk, who received a $500 award. Almanza, who is expecting with her first child, wants to become a deputy sheriff and is currently a member of the Army Reserves.
Additionally, Myriam Inzunza of Montebello; Charles Rockwell of Norwalk; Fabiola Zamarripa of Bell; Vanessa Hack of Lakewood; Jose Garcia of Long Beach; Adela Garcia of Bellflower; and Jonathan Valle of Bellflower, each received $100 in recognition awards.

This scholarship was established in memory of John Collins’ father Robert W. Collins, a veteran of World War II and the Korean War, who rose through the ranks to become chief of police for the City of Monterey Park.

Executive Director of the Cerritos College Foundation, Steve Richardson, presented Velvin Atkins, of Long Beach, with the $500 Broderick/Commemorated Scholarship that was established by Cerritos College reading professor, Dr. William Broderick, and named in memory of Broderick and his father-in-law.

“I want to change my life,” said Atkins as he received the award. He continued on to read a poem that expressed his feelings of gratitude.

Todd Leutheuser, executive director of the Southland Motor Car Dealers Association (SMCDA) and Program Center Manager of Northwood University on the Cerritos College campus, presented the $1000 SMCDA Northwood 3rd Year Scholarship to Christopher Pineda of Monterey Park. This award assists Cerritos College students who have completed their first two years in automotive technology training and are pursuing their bachelor’s degree through Northwood University’s program.

Leutheuser also presented Vincent Gonzales of Cerritos; Jesus Salazar of Bellflower; and Jason Simpson, of Downey, with the SMCDA Automotive Technology Scholarship, which gives a $600 Tool Voucher to automotive technology students. Automotive techs usually need to have their own tools which can exceed $30,000. This scholarship allows its recipients to get a jump-start on their toolbox.

Sue Parsons, director of the Cerritos College Teacher Training Academy (Teacher TRAC), presented Sendy Mondragon, of Hawaiian Gardens, with the Guadalupe Sanchez de Hernandez Teacher TRAC Scholarship that was established in memory of Hernandez. This scholarship is awarded to a non-native English speaker newly admitted into the Teacher TRAC program.

Lastly, the Assistive Learning Scholarship was presented to 54-year-old, Lawrence Anthony Weathers, by Mary Hunt, Cerritos College Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) central intake and services specialist.

Weathers, who had two strokes in 2003 and came back to school as a computer science major in 2006, received a Kurzweil LearnStation that will allow him to burn his textbooks onto CDs so he can learn by listening, instead of by reading, the long text of computer science books.
“I can still learn even though it’s taken me awhile,” said an emotional Weathers. “This is the best gift ever.”

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

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###
Cerritos College Foundation Awards its First-Annual John Moore First Step Scholarship

Scholarship Was Established by Long-Time Trustee

For Immediate Release: November 19, 2008

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

NORWALK, Calif. – November 19, 2008 – The Cerritos College Foundation awarded the first-ever John Moore First Step Scholarship to Karen Olvera, of Pico Rivera, at its board meeting on Thursday, November 13.

The John Moore First Step Scholarship was established by John Moore, a now-retired 19-year member of the Cerritos College Board of Trustees.

Moore grew up in south central Los Angeles and never imagined that he would go to college. He was lucky enough to be the recipient of a scholarship right out of high school that gave him the boost he needed.

According to Moore, he established the First Step Scholarship to give others the opportunity he received and to help first semester college students, like him, who show the promise of succeeding.

Olvera demonstrated the promise Moore was looking for in a recipient. She graduated from El Rancho High School in Pico Rivera in June with a GPA of 3.8. She was raised by a single father and wants to major in business and technology so that she can, one day, get a great job and pay her father back for all of his hard work.

“I never thought I could get this scholarship,” Olvera said Thursday. “I want to help him [her father] out.”

To be eligible for the $500 scholarship, students need to have a high school GPA of 2.5 or higher and have less than a one year gap between high school graduation and their first semester at Cerritos College.

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community, individuals and alumni, to assist with financial support of Cerritos College. Visit the Foundation online at www.cerritos.edu/cco.

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###
Cerritos College to Perform in a Free Instrumental Holiday Concert

For Immediate Release: December 1, 2008

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

WHAT: This family event will feature the Cerritos College jazz ensemble, concert band and orchestra in a festive evening of holiday music.

WHEN: Friday, December 19 at 7:00 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.

COST: Free

PARKING: One-day parking passes may be purchased for $1 in parking lots C-1, C-2 and C-10.

CONTACT: For more information, please visit the Music performances web page at http://cms.cerritos.edu/music/performances or contact the Music Department office at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2629.

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###
Cerritos College to Perform in a Holiday Choral Concert

For Immediate Release: December 1, 2008

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

WHAT: The Cerritos College Community Choir, along with the choirs of the California Heights United Methodist Church of Long Beach, present a concert of holiday favorites.

WHEN: Sunday, December 14 at 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: California Heights United Methodist Church
3759 Orange Ave.
Long Beach, CA. 90807

COST: For ticket information please call (562) 595-1996.

CONTACT: For more information, please visit the Music performances web page at http://cms.cerritos.edu/music/performances or contact the Music Department office at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2629.

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One telephone call from Cerritos College changed it all. It was January 2008 and Ruben Gonzalez, who lives in Lakewood, had no idea what he wanted to do or what he could do with his life.

After both of his parents were arrested for drug use when he was five years old, Gonzalez and his four younger siblings moved in with his grandmother who became their foster parent. Since there was no one who went to college around him, it never occurred to him that there was such an option.

Then came the phone call—it was from Yvette Tafoya, financial aid specialist, inviting Gonzalez to a financial aid workshop. Tafoya was designated as the state-wide Foster Youth Success Initiative liaison for the college and has just begun offering workshops specifically for current and former foster youth.

After the workshop, Tafoya walked him through the application process for financial aid, enrollment and class registration.

When Tafoya created The Leaders Involved in Creating Change (L.I.N.C.) program, a support program designed to help link foster youth with support services on and off campus to ensure a successful transition from foster care to independent living, with her colleague Yajaya Vejar and the office of Foster & Kinship Care Education, Gonzalez joined the program and started taking classes in summer 2008.

“The program has been very helpful and my college experience so far has been great,” said Gonzalez.

He has barely started his college life a few months ago and he is already very active on campus. He obtained an on-campus job in the Financial Aid office and is helping other students applying for FAFSA. Gonzalez and his fellow student Jachinda Travis are in the process of founding the L.I.N.C. Club, which aims to connect foster youth students and provide them with resources and networking opportunities. “I’m trying to create a place where foster youth students can get connected with each other, so we all know that we are not alone and we can support each other,” he said.

His ambition to help others goes well beyond that. He plans to major in psychology, transfer to California State University, Long Beach and become a high school counselor.

“I want to help out students, especially those who have problems and don’t have much support or guidance from their family,” said Gonzalez. There is no doubt that he is setting a great example for such students and is becoming an inspiration to them.
Recent Addition to Cerritos College Gets Seal-of-Approval from the Chancellor’s Office

New Insurance Career Program gets Degree and Certificate Accreditation

NORWALK — The California Community College System Chancellor’s Office has officially approved of, and accredited, the new Insurance Career Program at Cerritos College.

“If the State Chancellor had not approved our program we simply could not grant a certificate of achievement or an AA degree in the insurance subject matter,” said Cerritos College Professor Michael J. Farina, co-chair of the college’s Business Accounting and Finance Department.

The Business Division at Cerritos College announced in June that it would become the first to offer a California Insurance Career Program in Southern California.

“We are thrilled to have Cerritos College join the other 17 colleges running our program in California, seeking to meet the growing demand for skilled workers in the insurance industry,” said Mike Wilson, Program Administrator of the California Insurance Careers Program.

The fall 2008 semester was the first to offer classes for this program, which is designed to provide insurance, business and communication skills to students using an industry developed curriculum, and prepare them for entry-level positions in commercial insurance.

The new program provides web-based tools designed to create links between students and employers, as well, including company profiles and resume posting opportunities.

The Business Department at Cerritos College plans to add two more classes to the program starting in the spring 2009 semester: Insurance Code and Ethics, and Personal Insurance.

For more information on this and other business department programs, visit http://cms.cerritos.edu/accounting/insurance-program or contact the Business Accounting and Finance Department Co-Chairs Debra Schmidt (562) 860-2451 ext. 2712 or Michael Farina (562) 860-2451 ext. 2730. To register for classes, call 562-860-2451 or visit www.cerritos.edu.
Luncheon serves up scholarships to young winners

Young scholarship students were the beneficiaries at the Sept. 10 luncheon of the Long Beach Division of the California Retired Teachers Association. Those who attended the event at the Los Alamitos United Methodist Church included the Laura Self Scholarship winner, Michelle Patrick; the Mabel Butler Scholarship winners, Katherine Fisherly and Kimberly Tasiemski; CRTA winners to CSULB Elizabeth Garcia and Theodora Loeb; Juliette Venitsky scholarship to Cerritos College winner, Monica Tang; CRTA scholarship to Cerritos College winner, Steve Ross; CRTA scholarships to Long Beach City College winners Amber Rodriguez, Janna Wicker, Katie Chaver and Sowmya Saha. The 21 scholarship winners who had to work or attend classes were greatly missed.

After the introduction and recognition of scholarship winners, the 160 retired teachers attending were entertained by musical groups from Renaissance High School. The extremely talented young musicians and entertainers included violinists, a viola player, conductors, pianists, a flautist, a trumpet player and dancers.

Said one of the audience: "I am so much enjoying this luncheon. It is so much fun. The entertainment is great. The food is delicious. I am enjoying this luncheon very much. Thank you for inviting me to this event."

Said another: "I am so much enjoying this luncheon. It is so much fun. The entertainment is great. The food is delicious. I am enjoying this luncheon very much. Thank you for inviting me to this event."

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Said a tenth: "I am so much enjoying this luncheon. It is so much fun. The entertainment is great. The food is delicious. I am enjoying this luncheon very much. Thank you for inviting me to this event."

Said an eleventh: "I am so much enjoying this luncheon. It is so much fun. The entertainment is great. The food is delicious. I am enjoying this luncheon very much. Thank you for inviting me to this event."

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Said a twenty-first: "I am so much enjoying this luncheon. It is so much fun. The entertainment is great. The food is delicious. I am enjoying this luncheon very much. Thank you for inviting me to this event."

Participants at the California Retired Teachers Association scholarship luncheon included, from left, winner Amber Rodriguez, Alida Kutzinger, LBCC Scholarship Coordinator; winners Steve Rosa, Kimberly Tasiemski, Katherine Fishherty, Sowmya Saha and Jenna Wicker; Ashley Tarin, CSULB coordinator; winner Theodora Loeb, Michelle Patrick and Monica Tang; Veronese Castro, Cerritos College Scholarship coordinator; and Virginia Baxter, LBCC Foundation director.

Charles Lynn

The 7th place team, “Low and Slow,” won $50 each, team members were: Matt and Melissa Howard, Stacey Pieniauskas, Mark Stavin and Jocie St. Asin.

How it worked: The Jackpot grew as contestants paid $5 at each week’s weigh-in. If a contestant gained a pound or any fraction thereof from week to week during the contest, they were required to pay $5 a pound into the Jackpot.

All fees collected were then distributed to the winning teams and individuals, at the awards ceremony.

This is the second year of the challenge, organized by Justin Rudd and his nonprofit

501(c)3 nonprofit Community Action Team (CAT), which began on July 21. Each week, door prizes were given. The prizes — each won $20 cash, free sandwich coupon from Chick-fil-A, free beverage coupon from Polly’s Pizza, $10 gift card to Roam-I-Rama, buy-one-get-one coupon to It’s a Grind, and a frozen yogurt coupon to Golden Spoon.

News of aerial events with charitable purposes may be sent to Shirley Wild at spurtlets@verizon.net or by fax at (612) 944-9086. Please include a brief note about your organization, including a contact phone number.

Send high-resolution jpeg photos to spurtlets@verizon.net and include group name and identification of individuals from left. Call Shirley at (612) 944-9086 for more information.
Turkey Trot scheduled for Nov. 18

NORWALK – Combining a wellness event with community goodwill, Cerritos College will host its annual Turkey Trot on Nov. 18.

To enter the 2-mile walk/run participants must donate at least one canned food item that will be passed on to the Norwalk Community Council’s Holiday Food Basket Program.

Each year, the event raises nearly 1,000 cans of food from its 200-plus participants. Many who participate choose to exceed the one-can requirement, while others choose only to donate, but not to participate.

Race participants also have the opportunity to earn prizes for guessing their completion time most accurately. Watches are not allowed for the event. The first 200 finishers will receive a commemorative Turkey Trot T-shirt.

Pre-registration for the event is encouraged, but not mandatory. Registration forms are available in the Cerritos College physical education office.

Registration on the day of the event begins at 9:30 a.m. The race begins at 11:05.

For more information, call Carrie Edwards at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2876.
來自台灣的天才畫家 — 張彥珺

一幅題名“瑞碧羅(Rebecca)”的肖像畫，由張彥珺教授於2008年於喜瑞都學院，擔任學生畫展中脫穎而出，榮登季座。這幅畫的作者當年尚年青，但作品卻獲美國畫壇指日可待。畫家本人則說自己尚有一方有待琢磨的璞玉，“美景”是她生平第一次以油畫展展。

這位年輕的天才畫家，是台灣來的張彥珺（Gina Yen Chun Chang）。張小姐2006年8月到美國，現在喜瑞都，就讀於喜瑞都學院（Cerritos College），專攻繪畫。

談到張小姐的繪畫，納芮瑾教授那句“渾然天成”一點都不誇張。彥珺說她來自一個“沒有藝術大分家庭的”，也沒有親人鼓勵她繪畫。但是自從她拿得動筆起，她就愛上了繪畫。不但是愛上繪畫，而是畫什麼像什麼。記得在她唸小學的時候，每個學期她的畫畫老師都會問她的爸爸：“誰是彥珺的私人畫畫老師？”

彥珺自己說，在進入高中之前，她沒有受過正規的繪畫訓練。她說：“我記得我小時候開始畫圖，大概是從有記憶開始，我就喜歡拿著筆隨便塗吧。畫畫對我來說，幾乎是一種天生的本能。”

沒有太多正式訓練，拿著畫筆隨意的塗，憑著天分不停地畫，彥珺居然連得奬，不到二十歲的年紀，她就獲得三十多項大小競賽。但是太過優異的表現，太過輕易的成就使人喪志。彥珺說，她因驕傲而鬆弛，而進入她生命的“黑暗”期。因此，她決定改變環境，在2006年8月，她來到了加州，初時，她和她的姊妹住在一起，到加州大學總分校英語，然後轉到喜瑞都學院學藝術。

納芮瑾教授對師的評語，正如張小姐習畫的歷程。他說：“Gina 對
“Festive Holiday Chorale Concert.” Bellflower Community Concert Association presents the Cerritos College Community Chorus and Gospel Choir and St. Cyprian Chancel Choir, 2:30 p.m. today, William Bristol Civic Auditorium, 16600 Civic Center Drive, Bellflower. $12. (662) 867-4871.

**Wave**
November 13, 2008

**Faculty will give benefit concert**

*NORWALK — Cerritos College Music Department faculty members will showcase their talents in a Sunday concert to raise scholarship funds for students in the applied music program. It will take place at 2 p.m. in the Burnight Center Theatre, on the local campus, 11110 Alondra Blvd.

Tickets are $10 for general admission and $5 for Cerritos College students.

Information: (562) 860-2451, ext. 2629.*
Collegiate Turkeys Trot

WAVE Staff Report

NORWALK — Combining a wellness event with community goodwill, Cerritos College will host its third annual Turkey Trot, beginning at 11 a.m. Tuesday in Falcon Square on the local campus, 11110 Alondra Blvd.

To enter the two-mile walk/ run, participants must donate at least one canned food item that will be passed on to the Norwalk Community Council’s Holiday Food Basket Program, said Lesley Wheeler, the college’s media relations coordinator.

The Holiday Food Basket Program helps needy families in the Norwalk area.

Each year, the event raises nearly 1,000 cans of food from its 200-plus participants. Many who participate choose to exceed the one-can requirement while others choose only to donate, but not to participate, Wheeler said.

Canned food items can be donated prior to the event at the physical education office on campus, as well, she added.

Race participants have the opportunity to earn prizes for guessing their completion time most accurately. Watches are not allowed for the event.

The first 200 finishers will receive a commemorative Turkey Trot T-shirt.

Pre-registration for the event is encouraged, but not mandatory. Registration forms are available in the Cerritos College physical education office.

Registration the day of the event begins at 9:30 a.m.

Information: Carrie Edwards, Physical Education Department, (562) 860-2451, ext. 2876.

Jazz Ensemble presents free concert

NORWALK — The Cerritos College Jazz Ensemble will perform in a free fall concert Wednesday at the school’s Student Center.

The concert begins at 7 p.m. and the community is invited. The performance is free, but one-day parking passes are $1.

For more information, call (562) 860-2451, ext. 2629.
Turkey Trot scheduled Tuesday

NORWALK — Combining a wellness event with community goodwill, Cerritos College will host its annual Turkey Trot on Tuesday.

To enter the 2-mile walk/run participants must donate at least one canned food item that will be passed on to the Norwalk Community Council’s Holiday Food Basket Program.

Each year, the event raise nearly 1,000 cans of food from its 200-plus participants. Many who participate choose to exceed the one-can requirement, while others choose only to donate, but not to participate.

Race participants also have the opportunity to earn prizes for guessing their completion time most accurately. Watches are not allowed for the event. The first 200 finishers will receive a commemorative Turkey Trot T-shirt.

Pre-registration for the event is encouraged, but not mandatory. Registration forms are available in the Cerritos College physical education office.

Registration on the day of the event begins at 9:30 a.m. The race begins at 11:05. For more information, call Carrie Edwards at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2876.

Turkey Trot to benefit needy

NORWALK — Cerritos College will host its annual Turkey Trot at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday at Falcon Square on campus, 11110 Alondra Blvd.

Registration for the 2-mile walk/run begins at 9:30 a.m. and the race kicks off at 11:05 a.m.

To enter, participants must donate at least one canned food item that will be passed on to the Norwalk Community Council’s Holiday Food Basket Program, which helps local needy families.

Race participants can also earn prizes for guessing their completion time in advance most accurately. Watches are not allowed for the event.

Each year, the event nets about 1,000 cans of food from its 200-plus participants.

Participants can donate more than one can. Others can donate but not participate in the walk/run. The canned food items can also be donated before the event at the college’s P.E. office.

The first 200 finishers will receive a commemorative Turkey Trot T-shirt.

Pre-registration is encouraged but not mandatory. Registration forms are available in the college’s P.E. office.

For information, call (562) 860-2451, Ext. 2876.
Cerritos College Board Of Trustees Recognize Olympic Silver Medalist Brenda Villa

11/18/2008 12:00:00 AM

NORWALK, Calif. - November 18, 2008 - The Cerritos College Board of Trustees presented Olympic Silver Medalist and Cerritos College women’s water polo assistant coach, Brenda Villa, with a Certificate of Recognition at the November 12 board meeting.

The Cerritos College women’s water polo coach, Sergio Macias, introduced his childhood friend and coaching partner, Villa, to the Board as “one of the best water polo players in the world.”

Villa has played on the United States Water Polo team in the last 3 summer Olympics and has won 2 silver medals and one bronze medal.

The passion Villa has for the sport was apparent as Macias spoke about some of his memories of her when they were younger, including how they played water polo on the same team at Bell Garden’s High School because there was no girl’s water polo team.

Her love of the sport and the skills she has when in the pool is obviously rubbing off on the girls Cerritos College team.

The Falcons women’s water polo team is advancing to the state championships for the first time in the program’s history. Seeded #3 out of the South, the team will play twice this Thursday and if they win their playoff bracket, they will play for the state championship this Saturday. If they come in second place in their bracket, they will play for third place.
Villa brought her silver medal from Beijing with her to the board meeting and allowed all the members a chance to hold it.

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.
LBCC has no space either

EDUCATION: Limits on state universities’ enrollment will put pressure on community colleges.

By Kevin Butler
Staff Writer

LONG BEACH — About 10,000 students who will be turned away from California State universities next academic year may have difficulty getting classes at crowded community colleges facing budget cuts.

To deal with state budget reductions, the CSU will discontinue its policy in the past two years of growing enrollment by about 10,000 students—even though the state had provided no funding to do so, CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed announced Thursday.

The CSU-system faces nearly $100 million in current and proposed state budget cuts this year.

The move will reduce CSU systemwide enrollment from about 460,000 students to a little over 450,000 next year. Cal-State-Long
Beach will enroll about 1,500 fewer students next academic year by offering fewer spots to applicants who attend schools outside of the CSULB service area.

All qualified local students will be admitted.

But students who are turned away from the 23-campus system may have more difficulty finding classes or desired class times at community colleges because they are also seeing budget cuts.

“I think they are going to have a tough reality ... and they are going to have to fight to get classes at the community colleges,” said Eloy Oakley, president-superintendent of Long Beach City College.

“So their road to get a college degree will be longer, more than likely, because the classes are just not going to be readily available to them,” he added.

LBCC is facing the possibility of $6 million in midyear budget cuts with an uncertain — but probably bleak — budget outlook for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, Oakley said.

The college, which has enrolled about 30,000 students this fall, is at capacity, Oakley said. The college has slightly more students than it receives state funding for, he added.

LBCC already is experiencing high demand as workers affected by the economic downturn are heading back to school, Oakley added.

Due to budget cuts, the college does not have the money to add class sections to accommodate more students, he added. As a result, classes are going to fill up more quickly.

That could delay students’ higher education by forcing them to take less than a full course load, he added. Some students may end up taking classes at multiple community colleges, he added.

“Some of them will just give up,” he added.

Although community colleges admit all applicants, enrollment effectively is constrained by the number of classes available.

Cerritos College saw an unanticipated surge in applications this fall, resulting in a 13 percent jump in enrollment, driven largely by the economic downturn, said Jim Albanese, vice president of business services.

To align its costs with available state funding, Cerritos College will offer 5 percent fewer class sections this spring, he said.

“What it will mean is that your ability to get the classes you want when you want them or to get a particular class at all is going to be more difficult,” he said. “And it’s probably going be worse next fall.”

The 24,800-student college is looking at a possible $4.9 million state budget cut this year, he said.

The Norwalk-based college expected a bleak state budget situation, but the scale of the downturn has been worse than anticipated, Albanese said.

“As chief financial officer, I have never seen anything this bad,” he added.

kevin.butler@pressstellegram.com, 562-499-1308
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See Medal-Cont on page 18
and one bronze medal.

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Villa brought her silver medal from Beijing with her to the board meeting and allowed all the members a chance to hold it.
Cerritos College Foundation Awards Thousands In Scholarships
Students benefit from the generosity of others.

The Cerritos College Foundation awarded $19,650 in scholarships to Cerritos College students at their November Board meeting on Thursday, including three $500 tool vouchers and $700 in recognition awards. A Kurzweil LearnStation was awarded, as well.

The college's Cheryl A. Epplie Board Room was filled to standing-room-only with donors, presenters, recipients and their families.

"It's a great morning and makes so much of what we do worthwhile," said Steve Richardson, executive director of the Cerritos College Foundation.

In all, 28 students were given awards made possible by the generosity of donors.

Among the organizations presenting scholarships were the Habib American Bank, Woman's Club of Artesia-Cerritos, Norwalk Woman's Club, and the Southland Motor Car Dealers Association (SMCDA). A number of scholarships awarded were established by private individuals, as well.

The Habib American Bank Business Scholarship, an award of $1,000 each, was presented to Christopher Pinca of Monterey Park; James Lee of Buena Park; Woosuk Kim of Garden Grove; and Mona Abdiss of Paramount, by Nadim Junjoo, branch manager at Habib American Bank in Artesia. The scholarship is awarded to students who are declared business majors, have a 3.0 or above grade point average and who have completed a minimum of 12 units at Cerritos College.

The $1,000, Cheryl A. Epplie Memorial Scholarship, was presented to Nigeon Sharipova, of Norwalk, and Melissa Wakefield, of Anaheim, by Bob Epplie, Cerritos College Trustee and husband of the late Cerritos College Trustee, Cheryl Epplie. The scholarship was established in 2004 by Epplie and his family to honor Cheryl and recognize students who are committed to service in the community.

"Thank you for supporting my education, as well as my future," said Sharipova to Epplie when he presented her with the scholarship.

Sharipova came to the United States from Tajikistan and would one day like to work for the United States State Department in international relations. She is currently living with a house mother that took her in when she came here as an exchange student while still in high school.

Another scholarship established by a long-time Cerritos College Board of Trustees member, the John Moore First Step Scholarship was presented by Moore to Karen Olivera, of Pico Rivera. This was the first time the First Step Scholarship was awarded. It was established by Moore, a now-retired 19-year member of the Board, to help first semester college students who show the promise of succeeding.

Moore grew up in south central Los Angeles and never imagined that he would go to college. He was lucky enough to be the recipient of a scholarship right out of high school that gave him the boost he needed. The scholarship is used to help others like him.

Woman's Club of Artesia-Cerritos member, Joanne Witt, presented the $750 Woman's Club of Artesia-Cerritos Margaret Phares Scholarships to Diana Gregory, of Lakewood; Iryka Rossabea, of Long Beach; and Jamilia Garcia, of Bellflower. The scholarship is for female students re-entering the academic world.

Witt also presented the $500 E. Maude West Scholarship to Billie Wilson, of Lakewood, who started attending Cerritos College after a work injury left her unable to do her job. She is currently working towards her master’s in construction management.

The scholarship was established by long-time Artesia resident E. Maude West, who was renowned in the community for her charitable work and her commitment to women’s issues and the pursuit of educational goals.

Additionally, Witt presented Monique Barnett, of Los Angeles, with the $750 Ellen Carver Re-Entry Scholarship that was established by the Woman’s Club of Artesia-Cerritos in memory of club member Ellen Carver.

"When I first came back to school I almost couldn’t stay because I couldn’t afford my books," said Barnett when Witt presented her with the Carver scholarship.

Barnett was also one of the recipients of the $1,000 Jean O. Michael Scholarships that were awarded Thursday.

Jean Michael, wife of retired Cerritos College President Dr. Wilford Michael, presented Barnett and Stephanie Fernandez, of Riverside, with the scholarships that was established in her honor by her children. The scholarship is for re-entry women that are majoring in business.

Since they started the scholarship in 2000, the Michael family has given a total of 14 $1,000 scholarships to Cerritos College students.

Agnes Eymong, a native from Cameroon who now lives in Downey, received the Carmen Stoll Pratt Re-Entry Scholarship, a $1400 award, presented by Judge Dan Pratt. The scholarship was established by Judge Pratt in memory of his mother who valued education, but was never able to attend college herself.

"This scholarship honors students in whom I see my mother's sense of initiative and drive," said Pratt. "I look for where it [the scholarship] will make the biggest impact and try to take the pressure off for one year so they don’t have to worry about tuition or books."

Eymong got some more help with completing her educational goals with a $500 scholarship from the Norwalk Woman’s Club, who annually gives the award to a female Cerritos College re-entry student.

"It’s really a challenge for me to be here at Cerritos College because it’s...
expensive," Fyong said when she was awarded with the scholarship. "The scholarships are helping me."

The Golden Girls Scholarship is another scholarship that was first awarded this year. It was established by five women who wanted to help female re-entry students. The "golden girls" decided that instead of spending money on birthday and Christmas gifts for one another, they would instead put $25 into a scholarship fund.

Golden Girl Betty McDougall presented Jivka Rousseva, of Long Beach, with the $750 award. Rousseva is a full-time student, as well as a full-time single mother of her son, Jonathan, reminded McDougall of herself.

"She was special to me because I came to this country at 19 and it was a hard adjustment, but coming here on your own with a child is even harder," said McDougall.

Administration of Justice faculty member, John Collins, presented the Robert W. Collins Scholarship for Administration of Justice Students to Leslie Almanza, of Norwalk, who received a $500 award. Almanza, who is expecting with her first child, wants to become a deputy sheriff and is currently a member of the Army Reserves.

Additionally, Myriam Inzunza of Montebello; Charles Rockwell of Norwalk; Fabiola Zamarripa of Bell; Vanessa Hack of Lakewood; Jose Garcia of Long Beach; Adela Garcia of Bellflower; and Jonathan Valle of Bellflower, each received $100 in recognition awards.

This scholarship was established in memory of John Collins' father Robert W. Collins, a veteran of World War II and the Korean War, who rose through the ranks to become chief of police for the City of Monterey Park.

Executive Director of the Cerritos College Foundation, Steve Richardson, presented Velvin Atkins, of Long Beach, with the $500 Broderick/Com- mewrod Scholarship that was established by Cerritos College reading professor, Dr. William Broderick, and named in memory of Broderick and his father-in-law.

"I want to change my life," said Atkins as he received the award. He continued on to read a poem that expressed his feelings of gratitude.

Todd Leuthesser, executive director of the Southland Motor Car Dealers Association (SMCDA) and Program Center Manager of Northwood University on the Cerritos College campus, presented the $1000 SMCDA Northwood 3rd Year Scholarship to Christopher Pineda of Monterey Park. This award assists Cerritos College students who have completed their first two years in automotive technology training and are pursuing their bachelor's degree through Northwood University's program.

Leuthesser also presented Vincent Gonzales of Cerritos; Jesus Salazar of Bellflower; and Jason Simpson of Downey, with the SMCDA Automotive Technology Scholarship, which gives a $600 Tool Voucher to automotive technology students. Automotive techs usually need to have their own tools which can exceed $30,000. This scholarship allows its recipients to get a jump-start on their toolbox.

Sue Parsons, director of the Cerritos College Teacher Training Academy (Teacher TRAC), presented Sandy Mondragon, of Hawaiian Gardens, with the Guadalupe Sanchez de Hernandez Teacher TRAC Scholarship that was established in memory of Hernandez. This scholarship is awarded to a non-native English speaker newly admitted into the Teacher TRAC program.

Lastly, the Assistive Learning Scholarship was presented to 54-year-old, Lawrence Anthony Weathers, by Mary Hunt, Cerritos College Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) central intake and services specialist.

Weathers, who had two strokes in 2003 and came back to school as a computer science major in 2006, received a Kurzweil LearnStation that will allow him to burn his textbooks onto CDs so he can learn by listening, instead of by reading, the long text of computer science books.

"I can still learn even though it's taken me awhile," said an emotional Weathers. "This is the best gift ever."

The Cerritos College Foundation, a non-profit organization, serves as a charitable vehicle for the community, individually and alumni, to assist with financial support of Cerritos College beyond that which state funding supports. Visit the Foundation online at www.cerritos.edu/ccf.
New scholarship goes to El Rancho High grad

NORWALK — The Cerritos College Foundation awarded its inaugural $500 John Moore First Step Scholarship to Pico Rivera resident Karen Olvera at a board meeting earlier this month.

The John Moore First Step Scholarship was established by John Moore, a now-retired 19-year member of the Cerritos College board of trustees.

Olvera, who graduated from El Rancho High in June with a 3.8 grade-point average, was raised by a single father.

She said she wants to major in business and technology so she can find a good job and pay her father back for all of his hard work.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students need to have a high school grade-point average of 2.5 or higher and have less than a one-year gap between high school graduation and their first semester at Cerritos College.

For information, call the foundation at (562) 860-2451, Ext. 2539.

I Hear the Sleigh Bells Ring

The LBCC Symphony Orchestra performs holiday favorites and leads an audience sing-along, 2 p.m. Dec. 14, Long Beach City College Auditorium, Clark Avenue and Harvey Way. $10; $5 seniors, students and children. (562) 938-4353.

Cerritos College Holiday Choral Concert, 4 p.m. Dec. 14, California Heights United Methodist Church, 3759 Orange Ave., Long Beach. Free. (562) 595-1996; or (562) 860-2451, ext. 2629, www.cerritos.edu/music

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy Holiday Show, big band swing and holiday songs, 8 p.m. Dec. 17, Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 12700 Center Court Drive. $27.50-$60. (800) 300-4345, www.cerritoscenter.com