FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

In Progress

Aya Abelon is working on developing a series of student feature stories

Aya Abelon is pitching to the Long Beach Business Journal for the College’s participation in the Mini E test program

Coverage

Bellflower Bulletin — November 2009 — Article on the college’s Aquatic Center dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony (from press release)

Downey Business — November 2009 — Article on Mark Wallace of Cerritos College appointed to the Downey Chamber board of directors

Long Beach Press-Telegram — November 1, 2009 — Article on the Cerritos College board election candidates


Long Beach Press-Telegram — November 5, 2009 — Article on the Cerritos College board election results

The Compton Bulletin — November 6, 2009 — Article on an actor/comedian who is a Cerritos College graduate

Los Cerritos Community News — November 6, 2009 — Article on the college’s board member Dr. Tina Cho’s visit to Russia
The Downey Patriot—November 6, 2009—Informational brief on the annual Student Art Sale presented by Cerritos College Fine Arts Department (from press release)

The Downey Patriot—November 6, 2009—Informational brief on Faculty Gala music concert presented by Cerritos College Music Department (from press release)

Random Lengths—November 6, 2009—Critique on the Merry Wives of Windsor piece presented by the Cerritos College Theatre Department

Long Beach Business Journal—November 10, 2009—Article on the college’s appointment of the new president Dr. Linda Lacy (from press release)


Long Beach Press-Telegram—November 15, 2009—Informational brief on the Faculty Gala presented by the Music Department (from press release)

Long Beach Press-Telegram—November 16, 2009—Front page feature article on the new Cerritos College Aquatic Center


Los Cerritos Community News—November 20, 2009—Article on the college’s Aquatic Center dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony

Long Beach Press-Telegram—November 22, 2009—Informational brief on the Faculty Gala presented by the Music Department (from press release)


Herald American, Lynwood Press, The Press, Wave East Edition—November 26, 2009—Article on the Angel Tree program that the campus bookstore participated in
Related Articles

*Los Angeles Times*—November 12, 2009—Article on Californians giving public colleges high marks

*Los Angeles Times*—November 16, 2009—Article on state cuts benefiting private colleges

*Los Angeles Times*—November 17, 2009—Article on USC leading in number of foreign students

*Los Angeles Times*—November 19, 2009—Article on CCC Chancellor Jack Scott’s address urging colleges to focus on core mission

*Los Angeles Times*—November 30, 2009—Article on the for-profit colleges’ share of federal aid growing
COST: General $12, Cerritos College students/faculty/staff, seniors, other college, middle and high school students (all w/ID) $10, children 5 - 12 yrs $8

Tickets may be purchased online (credit card only) at www.cerritos.edu/theatre or in person at BC-G, Theatre Office in front of the Burnight Center Theatre Mon - Fri from 1pm - 5 pm only. (Cash only)

CONTACT: For more information on The Rivals and the Cerritos College Theatre Department, please call (562) 467-5058 or visit www.cerritos.edu/theatre.
Group Sales: ext. 2638

###
Cerritos College Music Faculty to Perform in Gala

Concert Proceeds to Fund Student Scholarships

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

WHAT: Cerritos College Music Department faculty members will showcase their talents in a Nov. 22 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 22 at 6:00 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.

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 180 areas of study in nine divisions. Annually, more than 1,200 students successfully complete their course of studies, and enrollment currently averages nearly 23,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at http://www.cerritos.edu/.

###
Vyikki Morgan Marries Passion for Teaching and Court Reporting – and More

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 3, 2009

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

NORWALK, Calif. - November 3, 2009 - “My mother was a teacher,” Vyikki Morgan says proudly. “She would have been proud to have known that her daughter followed in her footsteps.” Born to a school teacher/artist mother and a research chemical engineer father, Morgan traveled to various places for her father’s business. She ended up attending a total of three high schools, spending a year in Japan attending high school and earning extra credits at Sophia University, a prestigious private university in Tokyo.

After graduating high school, she journeyed through various career training paths. She first attended Cypress College with dreams of becoming a teacher. Then she changed her mind and decided to become a veterinarian and attended California State University, Long Beach. Again she changed her mind and attended court reporting school.

When she finished school and began working as an official court reporter, she bought her first house – which was quite an accomplishment for a 20-year-old. Morgan remembers her first computer system for court reporting – a computer almost as big as a small car that used a gigantic 9-inch floppy disk. “And it really was floppy!” Morgan said. The industry faced a transition to computerization and she was up for the challenge. Furthermore, it ignited her interest in technology.

Morgan began teaching court reporting at Cerritos College in 1992. She also continued her education while she was teaching. Pursuing her interest in computers, in 1997 she received her master’s degree in Educational Technology from Pepperdine University. She then began to offer several court reporting classes online as a pioneer in online teaching and online course development at Cerritos College. She also taught for the Educational Technology Department from 2003 to 2006.

Morgan has been a presenter at several workshops, including TechEd, a higher education technology conference, and the ASCC Leadership Conference for Cerritos College. She has visited many high schools to give presentations on careers in court reporting and captioning. She has also written several articles that have been published by court reporting publications.
Morgan developed the online stenotype theory courses offered by the Court Reporting Program. In fact, Cerritos College is the only public school in California that offers online theory classes where students first learn the stenotype keyboard. Online has been her particular interest, as she feels she can interact more with students than she can in a classroom any time of the day, and it gives students more flexibility and convenience in taking classes. She also enjoys the process of creating presentations that can be used for online learning by students with different learning styles.

“In some ways online courses give us more opportunities to interact with students than traditional lecture classes,” said Morgan. “I can answer questions students may have doing assignments in a snap, whereas in a regular lecture classroom, students would likely have to wait until the next class meeting.” Her online courses have had students from out of state and even from Canada.

Adding to Morgan’s qualifications to teach court reporting, she is a Registered Diplomate Reporter (RDR), meaning she has passed certification exams that put her among the top level of highly qualified court reporters across the nation. One has to pass a certification of 260 words per minute on the stenotype machine before one can even sit for the RDR examination. Morgan is a highly-qualified, experienced court reporter with 15 years of deposition and court experience prior to becoming a teacher.

This allows Morgan to share good insights with students from the job field. She knows what is expected in the courts and what is important to become a successful court reporter. “Ms. Morgan made a big difference in my learning. She is very effective and stresses the importance of accuracy,” said her student Priscella Kang. “She knows from her experiences that speed is nothing without accuracy in the real courtroom.”

Morgan looks for ways to be creative in her teaching. “We use a light board to indicate different speakers, so the students can practice identifying different speakers during dictation.” Morgan researched and found a company to make a device that adapted the light board to sound to aid sight-impaired or blind students, and she is thrilled that she can now share the light board with all of her students.

She received an Outstanding Faculty Award in 2003-2004, and again in 2006-2007. Besides teaching full time at Cerritos, she also takes classes at Cerritos nearly every semester. “I like to experience different classes from the student’s perspective,” she says.

Last year Morgan travelled to Washington D.C. to ask Congress to create competitive grants to train Realtime Captioners and to pursue federal monies to expand the captioning side of the Court Reporting Program. Both of her missions were accomplished. The Higher Education Reauthorization Opportunity Act passed, including a competitive grant program to train realtime captioners, and the college successfully received a $95,000 grant to train captioners. Morgan and Mary Balmages, who co-chairs the Court Reporting Program with Morgan, have been working on creating captioning curriculum and courses for the program.

Back in 1994, she was the victim of a car-jacking and consequently missed class. She returned in a rental car, but wound up in a multi-car pileup on the way home that totaled the rental car and she missed class again. Her students gave her a card that said, “You should write your life story,” and the second page said, “Naw, no one would ever believe it!” Indeed, she had faced a series of challenges, which included having a severely handicapped child with extreme medical difficulties, a mother with Alzheimer’s, and some more hardships that “all seemed to run together in one very long timeframe,” according to Mor-
gan. No matter what happens in her life, Morgan keeps coming to work with a smile and gives everything she can offer to her students.

One article that she published was about how she met her husband, and, yes, it did have to do with court reporting and Cerritos College. She was on sabbatical to study captioning in 1999 and traveled the country to visit captioning centers. She just so happened to attend a conference -- that just so happened to be offered aboard a cruise ship -- that just so happened to be in the Caribbean -- at the very end of the one-semester sabbatical. It was there that she met Mr. Morgan, who was vacationing from Scotland. She says she learned a lot about captioning during her research, but she also says he was absolutely the best thing she brought back from her travels.

As you can see, Vyikki Morgan has successfully “married” her passion for teaching, her passion for court reporting, and her husband, thanks to Cerritos College.
News Release

Cerritos College
Building Futures Through Learning

Cerritos Community College District • 11110 Alondra Blvd. • Norwalk, CA 90650 • www.cerritos.edu

Original Student Artwork for Sale

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 4, 2009

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

Event Contact: Steven Portigal, Fine Arts; (562) 860-2451 ext.2614

WHAT: The year’s most eagerly anticipated event is coming again! The Cerritos College Art Club presents the Annual Student Art Sale and invites the community to attend. The Art Sale will take place in the Student Center North Stage on Sunday, December 6 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., one day only! Woodworking will be participating in the sale.

Attendees can enjoy high-quality artwork, including ceramics, sculpture, wood, painting, jewelry and more. Pieces will be sold at prices ranging from a few dollars to $100.

The proceeds of the sale will benefit the artists, the different disciplines represented, and the Art Club programs. Previous art sales have enabled the Art Department to purchase much needed equipment and supplies.

Both cash and check payments will be accepted. Free parking is available in Lot C-9 and C-10.

WHEN: Sunday, December 6, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the Student Center North Stage

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

A map of the campus is available at cerritos.edu/guide. Free parking is available in Lot C-10.

CONTACT: For more information, please contact the Cerritos College Art Department at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2600 or ext. 2614.

###
College Receives Support from the I-CAR Education Foundation

Grant Will Help Auto Collision Repair Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 5, 2009

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

NORWALK, Calif. - November 5, 2009 - Cerritos College received a grant benefiting the college’s Automotive Collision Repair Program from the I-CAR Foundation, October 6. A ten-member team from the I-CAR Education Foundation visited campus to present the grant and to view the Automotive Program facilities.

The I-CAR Education Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, raises funds for donations that support philanthropic and collision repair education activities that promote and enhance career opportunities in the industry.

“All of us at the I-CAR Education Foundation are pleased and proud to help support the students in the Automotive Collision Repair Program at Cerritos College,” said Scott Kruger, executive director of the I-CAR Foundation. “Looking at all the construction around campus, I see that this is a very exciting time at Cerritos and I trust that students today and in the future will greatly benefit from this investment in their education and enjoy successful careers in the auto body and collision industry.”

The donation will go toward upgrading the current I-CAR curriculum and training material library which the college previously purchased, but are now out of date. “The donation comes in quite handy especially now – we have less flexibility in our budget for such replacement with the college budget severely cut by the state,” said Charles Robertson, instructor in the Automotive Collision Repair Program.

“The CDs donated provide for student pre-study and the live presentation by an instructor for four hour blocks of condensed learning,” said Robertson. All materials will be multi-media delivered by computer and projector – students spend a few weeks preparing for exams by using the CDs to preview the videos, content and sample questions.
Students that are successful in completing each module will receive one I-CAR Gold Class Credit – which is highly coveted in the industry. “This will help our students not only gain the much needed information, but also become more desirable as a future employee as they begin interviewing for jobs in the collision repair industry,” explains Robertson.

“We truly appreciate the I-CAR Foundation’s support for our Auto Collision Program,” said Steve Berklite, dean of the college’s Technology Division. “We look forward to working even closer with their team to train future professionals in the collision industry.”

###
Cerritos College Educators Receive LULAC Award

Walter Fernández and Graciela Vásquez to be Honored for Their Contribution to Latino Community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 9, 2009

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

NORWALK, Calif. - November 9, 2009 - Cerritos College’s History Professor Walter I. Fernández and Director of Adult Education and Diversity Programs Graciela Vásquez each received the first annual Hearts in Education Recognition Award from the Corazón De Los Valles Council of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the oldest national Latino civil rights organization in the United States.

The award was established by the council in collaboration with its State LULAC Director, the community, and the council’s elected officials to recognize individuals who made significant contributions to people of Latin descent in the council district through education.

"Graciela Vásquez and Walter Fernández were selected because they are a living example of the LULAC philosophy of creating positive change through personal integrity ethical leadership," said Rosa Barragán, president of the council. "They have empowered many over the years through their service with justice, love and the deepest of pride in their culture."

Fernández and Vásquez will be honored at the Hearts in Education Leadership Awards & Recognition Breakfast to be held on Saturday, October 17, 2009 at the Norwalk Marriott.

Fernández was nominated by his students for his commitment to the “Sociedad de Profesores Hispanos,” an association of professors and counselors which promotes educational events pertaining to peoples from the predominantly Spanish-speaking countries and interest in the Castilian language and its diverse regional forms. Fernández founded the association in 2006 and has dedicated himself to strengthen the success of all students at Cerritos College.

“It is a tremendous honor to be recognized by LULAC,” said Fernández. He credits the members of the Sociedad de Profesores Hispanos for his award. “I wish to thank my colleagues of the Sociedad de Profesores who deserve recognition for their service to the college.”

Vásquez was instrumental in the establishment and success of Project HOPE, a program at the college designed to increase the number of Latinos and disadvantaged students preparing to study careers in the health care fields. She has also managed programs for adults, largely immigrants, in the areas of
vocational education, job preparation, basic and language skills development, citizenship and civics education and bilingual education.

“I am honored to have been selected for recognition from LULAC,” said Vásquez. “LULAC is a very well established and respected organization in our community and I honor their work on behalf of our community. LULAC prides itself on advocating for participation of Latinos at all levels, particularly education. This recognition is indebted to the participation and collaboration of many individuals with a shared vision and passion for education.”

The League of United Latin American Citizens, the oldest and largest Hispanic membership organization in the country, advances the economic conditions, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 700 LULAC councils nationwide.

###
Business Alumna’s Got Competitive Edge

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 10, 2009

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

NORWALK, Calif. - November 10, 2009 - Patricia Urias was born in East Los Angeles and grew up in Lynwood to a very traditional Latino home. Her parents both emigrated from Mexico and her father worked as a foreman for a cold storage company and supported the family, while her mother stayed home and took care of Urias and her three younger sisters.

While the girls were still young, her parents decided to go to school and get a degree. Her mother attended Compton College and earned an associate degree in child development. She started working as a preschool teacher and is now a social worker. Her father also attended the college and received his real estate license. He is now a real estate broker for Prudential Realty.

Thanks to her parents who showed her the way, Urias knew that education was important, but had no idea what to pursue. After graduating high school she attended the University of California, Irvine, as biology major and failed miserably. She wanted to make her parents proud by pursuing a pre-med degree but her heart was just not in it. She dropped out after her second semester and began working for UPS. She worked as a part-time supervisor for about two years and she was terminated.

Urias was left to think about what she was going to do with her life. The only things she had to fall back on were her two-year work experience and a high school diploma. It did not take long for Urias to realize that this was not going to get her through life and decide to return to school. After about a four year gap in her education she was ready to finish what she started many years earlier.

While at Cerritos College she was involved in the accounting club as database manager. In addition to maintaining a 4.0 GPA and keeping up with club duties she also worked part-time at Costco Wholesale. She credits Kamal Demian, instructor of mathematics, and Debra Schmidt and Peter Moloney, professors of accounting, for her academic success. “If I ever needed any help or advice they were always there for me,” said Urias. “They went above and beyond their duties and played a major role in my success at Cerritos.”
She transferred to the University of Southern California in 2008 as a business major with an emphasis in marketing. She was initially torn between accounting and business and after her first semester at USC, she “just loved and enjoyed entertainment and decided to pursue the business side of it as a career.”

“I am most attracted to marketing because of the thrill. Trends are constantly changing and I love having to be on my toes thinking of new ideas,” she says.

In Spring 2009 USC had a panel discussion with top executives from the entertainment industry where Urias met the CFO of Chivas USA, the major league soccer team, among other executives. He mentioned to her that Chivas was looking for summer interns and asked if she had a resume. Urias gave him a copy of her resume and got a call a week later. She thought it was a great way to get experience and decided to apply.

“It was a little competitive because it is sports entertainment, but I felt confident that I would get the position,” said Urias.

Since then, Urias has been interning at Chivas USA, located at the Home Depot Center in Carson. Under the direction of special projects coordinator, Urias is involved in planning special events on game day and filling requests for sales staff members. She also helps organize special requests, events and player appearances. On game days she acts as a liaison between sales staff and clients. She helps ensure that things are running on schedule, assists at half time, and helps make sure that everyone has the best possible experience.

Armed with valuable experience at Chivas, Urias is ready to work in the competitive entertainment industry. “I don’t know what exactly I will be doing, but I do know that whatever it is I will definitely enjoy it.”

“If I have learned anything from my experiences, it is to follow what you love.”

###
Cerritos College Receives HSBC Donation for ESL Program

$5,000 Donation to Support ESL Program for Recent Immigrants

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 16, 2009

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

NORWALK, Calif. - November 16, 2009 - The Cerritos College Foundation received a $5,000 check on September 29 donated by HSBC Bank USA.

The check was presented to Dr. Linda Lacy, president/superintendent of Cerritos College at the grand opening ceremony of HSBC’s new Artesia branch.

Funds will support the ESL program serving recent immigrants between the ages of 18-25 years old.

Cathy Li, manager of HSBC’s Artesia branch, said, "HSBC is delighted to support the valuable ESL program at Cerritos College. As 'The world's local bank', we like to play an active role in every community where we have a presence and this part of Los Angeles is no exception."

"We are pleased to receive this $5,000 donation for ESL programs at Cerritos College," said Steve Richardson, executive director of the Cerritos College Foundation. “We value having a corporate partner like HSBC in our community. This donation will help the college continue the high quality ESL programs that have helped so many individuals further their goals and educational pursuits.”

HSBC Bank USA, N.A. is the principal subsidiary of HSBC USA, Inc. It has more than 470 bank branches throughout the United States, with over 370 in New York State. The Bank also operates in Florida, California, Washington, D.C. Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Oregon, Washington, Maryland, Illinois, Connecticut and Virginia. HSBC is the principal subsidiary of HSBC USA Inc., an indirectly-held, wholly-owned subsidiary of HSBC North America Holdings Inc. HSBC USA Inc. is one of the nation’s largest bank holding companies by assets. Deposits in the United States are offered by HSBC Bank USA, N.A. Member FDIC.
Cerritos College Introduces New Learning Evaluation Center

Services Provide Learning Disability Assessments and Academic Support for Eligible Students

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 19, 2009

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

NORWALK, Calif. – November 19, 2009 – Cerritos College’s Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) is proud to announce the services offered through its Learning Evaluation Center.

The Learning Evaluation Center (LEC) provides comprehensive assessments to Cerritos College students who may be struggling in their academics to determine eligibility for learning disabilities, and then recommends appropriate support services according to the students’ unique educational challenges.

According to Hunt, learning disabilities are invisible in general. “However, there are learning disability characteristics that we can identify through our three step assessment process,” she stated.

The three steps include a comprehensive intake, the assessment, and the results review with the student, where student’s eligibility, areas of strength and weakness, and recommended support services are identified.

Mary Hunt and Don Garriott, the college’s two certified Learning Disability Specialists, provide the clinical evaluations and individualized accommodations plan for each student.

Accommodations for challenge areas of Reading, Writing, Math, and Oral Language skills can include additional time for tests, note taking assistance, training on assistive technology such as computer screen readers and tape recorders, alternative textbook formats and priority registration to ensure appropriate class times and instructors.

“Our goal is to provide an optimal learning environment for students with learning disabilities and to improve their academic performances by leveling the playing field,” said Hunt.
Mary Hunt points out that learning disabilities are often misrepresented as “less intelligence.” In fact, most learning disabilities affect people with average to above average intelligence. “Their brains just process information differently,” she explained.

Hunt also works as a liaison between the college and four-year institutions to support a seamless transition when students transfer. “I strongly recommend students who are struggling to visit us. We will find out what they are eligible for and provide necessary assistance.”

All counselors and instructors are invited to contact the LEC or Mary Hunt directly to request an in-class presentation or to receive brochures for your students or your office. Please contact the LEC office at 562-860-2451 ext. 2351 or e-mail Mary Hunt at mhunt@cerritos.edu.

###
Trotters Give Back While Getting in Some Exercise

Cerritos College’s 12th Annual Turkey Trot Helps Families in Need

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 20, 2009

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

NORWALK, Calif. - November 20, 2009 - Runners, walkers and strollers alike all participated in Cerritos College’s 12th annual Turkey on November 17. The College’s Thanksgiving time tradition gives students, faculty, staff and community members an opportunity to pound the pavement before they pound the big feast and pumpkin pies while benefiting the local community.

“We have a record-breaking number of participants this year with nearly 400 people,” said Ni Bueno, chair of the Health Education Department and athletic coordinator.

Sponsored by the Health, Physical Education, Dance and Athletics Division; Student Health and Wellness Center; Pound by Pound Challenge and Staff Development, the event provided the 392 trotters with the opportunity to incorporate fitness and fun into their holiday spirit of giving.

Donations collected were 872 canned food items and $143 – all of which will go to the City of Norwalk’s Food Bank to help needy families in the Norwalk area.

First place (male student): Andre Velasco
First place (female student): Carmen Preciado
First place (staff/faculty category): Jerry Ramos (Business Administration)

The first finishers were awarded with a prize.
Science, engineering and mathematics division received the Spirit Award for involving the most participants. Additionally, the event hosted game and exercise activities for children at the Child Development Center.

Vice Mayor of Norwalk Gordon Stefenhagen thanked the participants for their support of the City Food Bank program. “Your gift will help families in need that live in Norwalk. Thank you very much for your generous support,” he said.

###
Cerritos College Hosts Dedication Ceremony for Aquatic Center

State-of-the-Art Facility Boasts New Competition Pool and Adaptive Pool

Cerritos College hosted a dedication ceremony for its newly completed Aquatic Center on Wednesday, October 21. Board of trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, students and community members marked the occasion with an unveiling of a commemorative plaque and a ribbon-cutting.

The ceremony began with rousing cheers from the Falcon cheerleaders followed by Cerritos College President Dr. Linda Lacy’s welcome.

“I would like to thank our community, for believing in the vision of our educational master plan and for voting “yes” on the bond measure, which allowed us to build this beautiful facility,” said Dr. Lacy to the assembled audience.

“As you can see, the facility is extremely attractive but also it is very functional. The facility offers the ability to host summer programs for our community and it expands everything we can do with the fabulous athletic programs that we are proud of.

The new $5 million Aquatic Center was funded by the G.O. bond and consists of a 115-by-75-foot competition pool, a 45-by-75-foot adaptive pool and a 3,400 square feet pool house building. The new competition pool section is one of the best facilities in the state which can host competition activities such as swimming, water polo and diving. The new adaptive pool makes possible an easy access for disabled users.

“We appreciate the community for making possible for this great facility to come into existence,” said Cerritos College Board of Trustees Vice President Dr. Bob Hughlett.

See Aquatic Center, next page
Aquatic Center,
from previous page

Dean of the Health, Physical Education and Athletics Division Dr. Dan Smith thanked his staff, the campus facilities staff, and many people in the college’s purchasing and finance areas for their countless hours spent ensuring the successful creation of the building.

“I am extremely happy that this facility is open,” said Dr. Smith, “We’ve waited a long time and are very excited to have this beautiful swimming pool.”

Cerritos College women’s swimming and water polo head coach Sergio Macias and men’s swimming and water polo head coach Joe Abing also expressed their excitement to be in the state-of-the-art pool.

Dignitaries in attendance included Mayor Pro Tem of Cerritos Dr. Joseph Cho, Cerritos Council members Carol Chen and Jim Edwards, Lakewood Council member Diane Dubois, ABC Unified School District Board Vice President Celia Spitzer, ABC Unified School District Board Clerk Maynard Law, Paramount Unified School District Board Member and Norwalk Chamber Executive Director Vivian Hansen, Norwalk Chamber President Teri Bazen and Jesse Cheng, Congressional Aide for Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.

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 180 areas of study in nine divisions. Annually, more than 1,200 students successfully complete their course of studies, and enrollment currently averages nearly 23,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at http://www.cerritos.edu.
Meet New Downey Chamber Board Member Mark Wallace

Mark L. Wallace, director of public affairs and governmental relations at Cerritos College, has joined the Downey Chamber’s board of directors.

He will begin serving November 2009. Mark is a member of the chamber's legislative advocacy committee.

He leads a division at the college that includes community relations, school relations, media relations, web administration, graphic design, and governmental relations. The department works to promote the college and its educational opportunities throughout the region.

Mark has served in higher education positions for nearly 30 years, at West Hills College in Coalinga, Pasadena City College, on loan to the Community Colleges Chancellor’s office in Sacramento, at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona and at Cerritos College. As Western University’s communications director, Mark served as a member of the Pomona Chamber board.

In Sacramento, Mark coordinated a statewide awareness campaign for the community college system that put the groundwork in place for 17 successful local bond acts that raised over $1 billion in facilities funding for colleges around the state.

In Pasadena he served on the host committee for the 1994 World Cup games at the Rose Bowl also co-chairing the public relations committee that coordinated hospitality events for the global media covering the games.

Mark is a graduate of Fresno State University with a degree in journalism. He lives in Long Beach.
Three spots on Cerritos College board attracts five candidates

By Kevin Butler Staff Writer

LONG BEACH — Five candidates, including three incumbents, are running for three spots on the Cerritos College board of trustees in Tuesday’s election.

Incumbent Carmen Avalos, who is seeking her second term, said that her familiarity with fiscal issues would be an asset if re-elected, as the college continues to struggle with cuts in state funding.

The community needs an experienced trustee “to understand how the funding mechanisms take place and to make the most reasonable cuts and still be able to offer good services for our students,” she said.

Avalos, a 35-year-old mother of six, said she is pleased that the college has developed a program to improve transfer rates to four-year universities. She works as city clerk for the city of South Gate.

Tom Chavez, who recently retired from Cerritos College as a lab technician in the music department, said that he wants to ensure that the campus is kept clean and that communication is improved between board members and the administration.

Chavez, 61, also wants to make himself available more to the public and members of the campus community than he says other board members have.

“I plan to be more visible on campus than the current board has been, or at least how the current board is perceived,” he said.

Chavez is a single father of two children — one attends Cerritos College and another graduated from the college.

Incumbent Bob Eggple said that he should be re-elected because he has the experience to handle the state budget problems the school is facing.

“I think I have been a good leader in helping to choose the direction that we have gone over the years,” said Eggple, 60. “We have had many years of keeping good reserves and still balancing the current needs of the district, and I intend to continue to do that.”

An attorney, tax-preparer and former California Assemblyman, Eggple was elected to the board in 2004 to finish the term of his wife, Cheryl Eggple, who died suddenly of a heart attack. He has one adult daughter.

Incumbent Bob Hughlett, who is seeking a second term, said that the college “has done an admirable job given the financial challenges in California.”

The board just hired a new college president and continues to oversee a bond-funded construction effort, said the 62-year-old retired Cerritos College professor.

“I’d like to be able to finish the job,” said Hughlett, who has a wife and two kids.

Challenger Shin Liu said that her experience as a professor at Whittier’s Rio Hondo Community College, working with technology, makes her the right candidate to lead the district.

“I want to build up Cerritos Community College as top-notch in technology,” said Liu, 58, a Cerritos resident who is married with three children.
School district elections are vital

Stay home, and you may pay the price for apathy.

Residents who live in the Long Beach, ABC, Bellflower and Paramount school districts and the Cerritos College district will — if they’re smart — go to the polls today. Smart, because school districts have a huge say in the quality of their children’s education. These elections also have the ability to hit taxpayers where it hurts — in their checkbooks.

School board members can recommend higher taxes (voters have the final say, of course), approve curriculum changes and hire and fire their districts’ administrators.

If their fiscal proposals pass, the toll on property tax bills can be hundreds of dollars, especially relevant this time of year, when tax bills come due.

If they choose the wrong administrator, their children’s education could suffer and teachers’ morale could be boosted — or affected negatively. They could use their bond money to build schools that benefit the few, while letting other neighborhood schools down, spawning parents’ discontent.

In short, school boards have a huge impact on your lives.

Given all that, turnout in these elections — especially in off-years — tends to be pitifully low. Even this time of year, when taxpayers scratch their heads and wonder why their tax bills have gone up. What may have seemed like a good idea for all kinds of bonds (not just school bonds) now seem burdensome. Given the economy, joblessness and struggles to avoid foreclosure on their homes.

If you vote today, you are not only doing your civic duty; you are looking out for all citizens in your city or district. If you stay at home, and don’t favor higher taxes and good governance, you have no one else to blame for inflated tax bills and inferior education.
Most incumbents win in school board races

BY ARNOLD ADLER
STAFF WRITER

Incumbents swept to victory Tuesday in battles for school board seats in the Bellflower, Little Lake City, Norwalk-La Mirada and Paramount school districts, but were upset in races for the Cerritos College Board of Trustees and the Cerritos-based ABC school board, which covers southern Norwalk.

Results are unofficial, pending a canvas of votes in the coming week, according to a representative of the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters office.

Cerritos College trustee Carmen Avalos, who is city clerk in South Gate and an announced candidate for the 50th Assembly District next year, was defeated in a bid for a second term on the college board by Shin Liu, a college professor from Cerritos.

Liu finished third with 6,741 votes while Avalos was fourth with 6,497.

Top vote-getters were incumbents Bob Haghbani of Cerritos, with 8,491 votes; and Bob Eppele of Bellflower with 8,179.

A fifth candidate was Tom Chavez, a retired educator from Norwalk, who received 6,152 votes.

ABC board member David Montgomery was defeated in his bid for re-election by challenger James Kang, a retired business executive. Kang received 3,492 votes to 3,038 votes for Montgomery.

Incumbent Mark Pulido was the leading vote-getter with 4,024, followed by Kang and incumbent Olympia Chen, who had 3,292 votes.

David Shaffer, a parent and businessman, finished fifth with 2,827 votes.

In the Bellflower school board race, incumbents Paul Helzer, Laura Sanchez-Ramirez and Rich Buonocore kept their seats, defeating challengers Angela Parrish, a court reporter, and...
Most area incumbents are re-elected

ELECTIONS from page A1

were returned to office. Mariza Romero, a civil servant, and Kennedy Collins, a vehicle maintenance coordinator, finished fourth and fifth.

In the Little Lake City School District, which covers Santa Fe Springs, northern Norwalk and part of eastern Downey, incumbent Hilda Zuniga of Santa Fe Springs easily won re-election with 1,626 votes.

She will be joined on the board by newcomer George Soe Buchman of Norwalk, who outpolled two other challengers with 995 votes. Aj Mumtaz, a fiscal director, received 802 votes, and Henry Jesus Beswick, an equipment operator, who received 340. Incumbent Gina Ramirez did not seek re-election.

In the Whittier-based Rio Hondo College District, which includes northern Norwalk and part of eastern Downey, Norma Garcia of El Monte, an environmental community planner, was elected in Area 1 over Dave Siegist.

In Area 3, incumbent Angela Acosta-Salazar of Whittier, defeated Crystal Chavez, a scholarship foundation president.

Madelene Shapiro, a teacher, from Whittier, defeated former board member Michelle Yance-Jimenez of Whittier, a college educator/businesswoman, for the vacant Area 5 seat.
Academic support program gets grant

NORWALK — Cerritos College has received a $2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to support its academic success program “iFALCON,” which is aimed at helping Latino and low-income students.

The grant, paid over a five-year period, is to be used for data collection, research, program and Web site expansions, development of a student support network, and ultimately to institutionalize the experimental iFALCON campaign, said Aya Abelon, the college’s media relations coordinator.

According to a study conducted by the Cerritos College Faculty Senate, 93 percent of its students are assessed as lacking basic skills and almost 40 percent fail to succeed in their course work.

Of the college’s Latino students, who comprise 54 percent of the student body, only 36 percent achieve their stated educational goals, Abelon said.

The iFALCON campaign, which was introduced by the Faculty Senate as a pilot program last fall, addresses those issues and aims to educate students on how to adopt success-oriented habits of mind.

The FALCON acronym engages students in six habits of academic success: Focus, Advance, Link Up, Comprehend, Organize, and New Ideas.

In the pilot semester, iFALCON was used around campus to help students remember to use the success-oriented habits of mind.

Falcon is used as a verb and “to Falcon” means to practice the habits of success that are being taught to the students in the classrooms, Abelon said.

“The program received very positive feedback from students during the pilot semesters,” said Stephen Clifford, an English professor and co-director of the iFALCON campaign along with Lynn Sewin, associate professor of English.

“It’s a very unique academic success program, which, I believe, doesn’t exist at any other colleges,” said Bryan Reece, interim dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, who founded the iFALCON initiative.
Military academy orientation planned Saturday in Norwalk

"The Merry Wives of Windsor," at 8 p.m. in the Huntright Center Theatre, on the college campus, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk. The play continues Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are $12 general admission, $10 for Ceritos College students, faculty and staff, seniors citizens, students from other colleges and middle and high school students with identification, and $8 for children ages 5 to 12. (562) 467-5088

Saturday, Nov. 7

Waste disposal: The Los Angeles County Sanitation District stage another house- hold hazardous waste round-up at Simms Park, 16614 Clark Ave., Bellflower, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Accepted materials include but are not limited to paint and paint thinners, used motor oil and other car fluids, cleaners, pesticides and pool chemicals. Electronically accepted includes VCRs, stereo, fax machines, computer keyboards and monitors, cell phones and other electronic equipment. (800) 288-0172

Library benefits: Friends of the Library conduct their annual holiday marketplace from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Cormorck Room of the Library, 7121 Brookshire Ave., Downey. Handmade crafts, heirloom and Christmas decorations, baked items, Christmas storybooks, compact discs and DVDs are among items offered plus used books. (562) 904-7366, ext. 130

Fashion show: Soroptimist International of Bellflower presents "Passion for Fashion," at 11 a.m. at the Centre at Sycamore Plaza, 5000 Clark Ave., Lakewood. The event includes a bootcamp at 11 a.m. followed by the fashion show and a children’s vegetarian lunch at 12:30 p.m. Cost is $45 per person. (562) 409-1167

Wednesday, Nov. 1

Veterans Day: The city of Monterey Park and American Legion Post No. 397 conduct a Veterans Day ceremony at 11 a.m. in front of City Hall, 320 W. Newmark Ave. It includes patriotic music and speeches by local officials and the laying of a wreath at the War Memorial.

Saturday, Nov. 14

Turkey Trot: The San Gabriel Parks and Recreation Department holds its annual Turkey Trot races at Vincent Lugo Park, corner of west and Ramona streets. Registration begins at 7:15 a.m. with the first race at 8 a.m. Races include 5K and 10K runs, a 1K youth run and a 5K fun walk. Winners in the 5K and 10K runs receive a gift certificate for a Thanksgiving turkey. (626) 307-1390

Western dancing: A free western dance social takes place each Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at the Norwalk Senior Center, 14640 Sun Antonio Drive. An all-volunteer band plays two-step dance music. Refreshments and snacks are served. (562) 929-5280

Fresh produce: A farmers market operates from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Monday at Simms Park, 16614 S. Clark Ave., Bellflower. Fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers, plants, breads, sprouts, honey and more are available. (562) 866-7510

Bingo play: The Norwalk Senior Citizens Center offers bingo each Friday at 1:15 p.m. at the center, 14640 Sun Antonio Drive. Cards cost 45 cents each and anyone 18 or older may play. Proceeds go to the senior center. (562) 929-5582

Bellflower networking: The Bellflower Leads Club, a business networking organization, meets at 7:15 a.m. each Tuesday at Mimi’s Restaurant, 4404 Candlewood St., Lakewood. (714) 484-8185

South Gate market: South Central Food Distributors sponsor a farmers market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Monday at South Gate Park, 10250 Willow Avenue. Fruits, vegetables, herbs, nuts, fish, eggs, honey, baked items and garden plants are available. (232) 774-0159

Democratic Club: Bellflower Democratic meets at 7 p.m. the Wednesday of each month at Starbucks Coffee House on Rosencrans Avenue.

Museum open: The Johnston-Hargitt House Museum open to visitors 1 to 4 p.m. each Saturday. Admission is free. (562) 929-5702

Huntington Park Fair: Market offers fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts and other items from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Wednesday at Salt Lake Park, 3401 E. FI Ave. (323) 584-6218

Bellflower museum: Carpenter Museum, 10500 Florence Drive, Bellflower, is open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. the last Saturday of each month. Admission is free.

Downey market: A farmers market offers fresh produce every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Downey’s Community Park, 1300 E Avenue. (562) 904-0226

Items for the Coma: Calendar may be submitted care of Wave Newspapers W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 800 Los Angeles, 90015, by: (213) 767-0584, or by to dounlass@wavepubl.com. Please include a phone number.
A few new faces on area boards, councils

**VOTE:** Incumbents are ousted in several local contests.

By Kevin Butler Staff Writer

**LONG BEACH** — Incumbents largely fared well Tuesday in area school board and city council races, but some challengers pulled off upsets.

The ABC Unified School District will have a new school board member. Challenger James Kang won, displacing incumbent David Montgomery. Incumbents Mark Pulido and Olympia Chen were re-elected.

Pulido received about 24 percent of the votes, while Chen garnered nearly 20 percent. Kang had the second-highest vote total, at nearly 21 percent.

Kang said he was pleased with his win, and he thanked his supporters.

"And I will try to improve our schools," he said. "And I want to give all students their best opportunity of their choice."

If a student wants the Ivy League, the district should support them to go. If the student wants to go to a trade school, we have to support that."

In the Bellflower Unified School District, incumbents Paul Bolker, Laura Sanchez-Ramirez and Rich Bienvenue were re-elected.

Bill Ste. Marie was unopposed in his race to complete the term of the late board member Michael Hensick, who died of a heart attack in 2007.

The Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District also will get a new school board member, as challenger Marzenita L. Rios was victorious, finishing third with 17.6 percent.

Incumbents Darryl R. Adams, Ed. Hengler and Ana Valencia were re-elected.

The three incumbents in the Paramount Unified School Dis...
Actor, comedian credits success to Compton

Family, neighborhood influences kept Mark Christopher Lawrence out of gangs, led to hot career path

By Cheryl Scott

You don't have to look far to find Mark Christopher Lawrence. One of the most respected character actors in the film and television business, he can frequently be seen on sitcoms like “Malcolm in the Middle,” “Dharma and Greg” and “Third Rock from the Sun,” or in movies like “The Pursuit of Happyness” and “Tales from the Hood.”

Lawrence has established himself as a producer, writer, musical performer and stand-up comic, as well, drawing from his upbringing in the Hub City to create unique and memorable characters.

The city provided him with more than comedic ideas.

“It was my upbringing in Compton that has most influenced me,” he told The Bulletin. “In fact, all of what I am is the result of growing up in Compton.”

Raised by a single mom, Lawrence lived in a neighborhood that was claimed as turf by various street gangs.

“I could easily have drifted into the street life if I had not had close supervision from my mom and an interest that kept me occupied,” he said.

“When I was at Compton High School, I had an English teacher named Mrs. Pat Schilling who talked me into doing a part in a play. I got bit by the acting bug big time.”

He decided that speech and debate could only help him in his pursuit of a career path.

“My interest in forensics kept me involved in competitions that sharpened my theatrical skills,” he said.

It also led to a full scholarship to USC, which he obtained when the university’s forensics director, Dr. Thomas Holliman, spotted him in a speech contest.

“He said he would love to have me on the speech team at USC,” Lawrence said. “I told him there was no way I was going to be able to afford to go there. I was working my way through City College. He just smiled and said, ‘I didn’t say anything about money.’”

The decision to get into forensics changed his life. Another came by way of a failed audition.

“I was auditioning for the part of a gangbanger,” he said. “The producers liked what I did, but they said I was too likeable to play this part. It was a disappointment at the time, but it turned out to be a good thing. I was never typecast as a gangbanger, and as a result I have been able to play a great many different roles, and I’ve become known for my versatility.”

Lawrence is currently beginning to produce his own screenplays. Next month he’ll begin shooting his show, “Chuck.” The show has been on NBC for three years.

He is also opening in the prestigious Cygnet Theater in Old Town San Diego in August Wilson’s “The Piano Lesson.”

“Um in a good place,” he said. “I’ve been blessed. And I grew up among some of the hardest-working people in the world. Not only my mother, but everywhere I looked, I saw people who worked really hard, and most of them loved what they did.”

One of his early jobs as a teenager was working at the Los Angeles Zoo.

“I saw people there who were incredibly devoted to their jobs, which were demanding physically and mentally. And they were very happy people because they loved working with the animals. I decided right then that what I needed to do was find something that I would be happy doing, that I loved and had passion for.”

“For me, it was not working at the zoo, but the lesson was not lost on me. I looked around and found that the thing that made me happiest was entertaining people, making them laugh.”

Today he still has ties to his hometown.

“My mother still lives here in the house I grew up in,” he said. “I still see the people who influenced me when I was growing up. Compton is still very much a part of my life.”
Cerritos College Board Member Represents Americans in Russia

By Larry Caballero

When Cerritos College Board of Trustees member Tina Cho was given the opportunity to travel to Russia last August, she took it. Cho was one of 21-28 psychiatrists, psychologists and academics to travel with a People’s Ambassadors Program located in Spokane, Washington.

This organization was created in 1956 by President Eisenhower to promote cultural understanding and world peace. Today, this organization has offices on all seven continents. The team’s leader was Dr. Nada Stotland, past President of the American Psychiatric Association.

Cho spent four days in Moscow and three days in Saint Petersburg. “The people in Russia were friendly, warm, hospitable and curious at times, and our guides were efficient, professional and fluent in English and Russian.”

Cho and her colleagues visited with clinicians and the President of the Russian Society of Psychiatrists at the Moscow Research Institute #1, the largest psychiatric hospital in Moscow; the Bakhirev Psychoneurological Institute; and the Childhood Psychiatry Rehabilitation Center in St. Petersburg.

Free time was devoted to going to museums, cathedrals, palaces, subway tours and ballets. “The art exhibit at the Kremlin was impressive as was the collection at the Hermitage Art Museum and Catherine the Great’s Palace in St. Petersburg.” Cho was amazed at the rapid state of transition between the old Communist regime and a new, capitalist economy.

“It’s pretty ironic to see the contrast between the old, deserted KGB building and advertisements for American Express across the street.” Cho describes the trip as educational “because we realized that despite cultural and political differences, there are many similarities between people separated on opposite sides of the world.”

Cho reported that Russians face many of the same problems as Americans regarding health care disparities, mental illness and substance abuse.
Cerritos students selling art

NORWALK – The Cerritos College Art Club will hold its annual student and faculty art sale Dec. 6 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Visitors can purchase high-quality artwork, ceramics, sculptures, wood, paintings, jewelry and more.

Pieces will be sold at prices ranging from a few dollars to $100. Proceeds will benefit the arts and Art Club programs.
Free parking will be available in lots C-9 and C-10.
The sale will take place in the Student Center.

Faculty concert at Cerritos

NORWALK – Faculty members from the Cerritos College Music Department will showcase their talents in a Nov. 22 concert to raise scholarship money 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 concert begins at 6 p.m. General admission is $10; Cerritos College students are $5. Free parking will be available.
For more information, call the Music Department office at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2629.
Merry Wives and Jupiter Returns Are a Pair of Hits

by: John Farrell, Special to Random Lengths News

Carpenter Performing Arts Center in Long Beach through Nov. 15. The musical is effectively staged with a moving set that brought gasps of delight from the audience opening night, and a cast as appealing and fresh as can be, especially Cassie Silva as Edith (the Judy Garland role) and Sarah Bermudez as Rose Smith.

As a tribute to a musical film, the show is effective and charming, with enough sense to recognize how the title song, Meet Me in St. Louis, is overplayed. (Thank God for Norman Lear, who plays paterfamilias Alonso and hates the tune). All the girls are there, in big, shiny production numbers. But, as a musical comedy it falls flat. The story made it in the movies. Musicals demand more. If you love the movie, use of Garland’s best, you’ll want to see it. Meet Me in St. Louis continues at the Carpenter Center, 6800 Abington St., Long Beach at 8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, at 7 p.m. on Sundays, and 2 p.m. matinees on Saturdays and Sundays, through November 15. Tickets are $10-$80. Information: (562) 856-9999 x 4, www.musical.org

88

Jupiter Returns, a reference to the astrological idea of 28-year cycles in life, is a lovely and moving look at one man’s tragedy-soared life, a trip back and forth through time, emotion and memory...

The South Coast Repertory production, which opened this weekend, takes a nostalgic, pain-filled and ultimately hopeful look at three seasons in the life of Gunther (played at eighty-eight by Nick Ullett), at fifty-eight by Connor O’Farrell and at twenty-five by Graham Michael Hamilton. Playing his young wife with Hamilton, his daughter with O’Farrell and a home health care worker with Ullett is Kristen Bush, who gives each character a subtle difference, a character of fragility for the young wife, a desperate independence as the daughter, a little fear as the home care worker. Her performance, is the center of the powerful one-act. The drama moves with ease from late in Gunther’s life to his youthful marriage to the tragedy of her death and then, 29 years later, his daughter’s death to the irascible charm of him elderly but aware, and takes your heart in the process. Highly recommended.

Jupiter Returns is at South Coast Repertory, 655 Tower Center Drive, Costa Mesa through Nov. 22. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday and 2:30 p.m.
Moffett & Nichol, a civil and coastal engineering consulting firm based in Long Beach, has hired David C. Sambaro as senior port consultant. Sambaro has made a career in the maritime and transportation industries, bringing more than 35 years of experience to the firm. He has managed a number of large projects, with international experience in management in the transportation industry. Sambaro has taken senior-level positions working in the United States, Europe, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan. Sambaro graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. He is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and a former Merchant Marine Officer. Moffett & Nichol serves both public and private entities across the globe in a handful of primary areas, including ports and harbors; marina, environmental and water resources; urban waterfronts and marinas; transportation; inspection and rehabilitation; energy; and construction management. For more information, visit www.moffettnichol.com.

Long Beach City College has hired Dr. Debra Low as the new interim vice president of student services. Low, who has more than 20 years of experience in student services administration and nearly 40 years in community colleges, will oversee counseling and guidance, admissions, financial aid and student affairs under his new title. Previously, Low served as interim dean of student services at Columbia College in Sonoma, California, and at the Norco Campus of the Riverside Community College District, interim dean of social sciences and arts at College of the Desert in Palm Desert, and executive director of academic affairs at Gavilan University. He was also the dean of counseling at Orange Coast Community College (OCOC) for 13 years, and a counselor and professor of psychology and biology for 15 years at OCOC. Low has served as a membership chair for the Student Services Program Advisory Board at Cal State Long Beach and as president of the National Association of School Counselors.

California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), librarian Susan Luziano has been named the 2009 Trojan Librarian of the Year by SELiOAM, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking. "I have to say that I’m going into my 35th year as a librarian and I have loved every day of my job," Luziano said in a statement. "It’s fascinating! I meet interesting people! I work with smart people! I work in a wonderful educational environment. I’m one of those people who went to college and never left." Luziano was born in Santa Ana, Calif., and previously attended Santa Ana College and California State University, Fullerton for her undergraduate degree. She earned her master’s degree from the University of Oregon with the goal of becoming a community college librarian. She began her career at El Paso Community College in Texas, then returned to Santa Ana College, where she worked for 14 years before coming to CSULB in 1995.

The Long Beach Redevelopment Agency (LBRA) has promoted Henry Foster to redevelopment officer for the North Redevelopment Project Area. Project Area was adopted in 1996. There are several projects in the works in the area, including the Five Points Station 12, the NorthBoulevard development and several new parks and recreation areas. Redevelopment Project Manager Amy Dodson said in a statement that Foster’s experience as a project manager for the UCDA’s Central Area made him the best candidate for the job. Foster worked on several projects in that area, including the relocation, rehabilitation and reuse of the former Drake Park/Wilmore City Historic District Homes; the assembly of land for the Long Beach City College Pacific Coast Campus Expansion; and major streetscape enhancement projects in the Midland and Wilgery Village areas.

Corporon College has named Dr. Linda Lacy as its new superintendents/president. Lacy was previously the vice chancellor of student services and operations at the Riverside Community College District (RCCD). Lacy’s administrative experience through her work as vice chancellor for student services and dean of student services provided a solid foundation for her role at CSULB. Lacy began her career at CSULB working in the former School of Humanities and the Art, Spanish/Portuguese and English departments before relocating to the CBA in 1998. Lacy’s duties range from processing state purchasing forms to obtaining procurement cards and overseeing travel funds. She said she tries to make sure the CBA is on target with its budget. "One of the primary reasons I’ve stayed here for 33 years is the students," Lacy said in a statement. "Working with them has always been enjoyable. I always look forward to each year’s crop of new faces I can help.”

CSULB named library assistant Nancy Walker employee of the month for September. Walker joined the campus in 1999 as an emergency hire and has called Long Beach home for 30 years. "It is a definite bright moment to be honored, especially considering all the great co-workers I’ve been blessed to work alongside," Walker said in a statement. Fellow staff noted her can-do attitude and people skills.

Long Beach Business Journal
November 10, 2009
San Gabriel hosts annual Turkey Trot

November 12, 2009

Community Calendar

San Gabriel hosts annual Turkey Trot

Wave Staff Report

The San Gabriel Parks and Recreation Department holds its annual Turkey Trot race Saturday at Vincent Lugo Park, corner of Millard and Ramona streets. Registration begins at 7:15 a.m. with the first race at 8 a.m. Races include 5K and 10K runs, a 1K youth run and a 5K fun walk. Winners in the 5K and 10K runs receive a gift certificate for a Thanksgiving turkey.

Information: (626) 308-2875

Other upcoming events include:

Sunday, Nov. 15

Holiday concert: The Bellflower Community Concert Association presents a Christmas concert at 2:30 p.m. featuring the Emanuel Reformed Church choir in the William and Jane Bristol Auditorium, 16600 Civic Center Drive. Tickets are $12. (562) 867-4871

Tuesday, Nov. 17

Cleanup effort: The Keep Downey Beautiful Committee and volunteers conduct a monthly cleanup session from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Empire Liquor parking lot, 8710 Imperial Highway. Volunteers under age 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Turkey trot: Cerritos College hosts its 12th annual Turkey Trot beginning at 11:05 a.m. on Falcon Square on campus. 11100 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk. Participants are asked to donate a canned food item, which will be donated to the city of Norwalk’s food bank for needy families. (562) 865-2451, ext. 2874

Senior karaoke: The Norwalk Senior Center, 14040 San Antonio Drive, offers a free karaoke program from 2 to 4:30 p.m. for those age 50 or older. Seniors can choose to sing a selection of more than 400 songs. (562) 929-5380

Foreclosure workshop: The California Foreclosure Institute presents a free two-hour workshop for investors and real estate agents on how to get started finding and buying foreclosure properties from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Norwalk Public Library, 12350 Imperial Blvd. Guest speaker is Lloyd Segal, author of “Stop Foreclosure Now!” “Foreclosure Investing.” The workshop is free but reservations are required. (888) 285-0101

Author speaks: Jessi Katz speaks about his new book at a free program at 7 p.m. in the Friends Room at Bruggemeyer Library, 318 E. Ramona Ave., Montebello. “The Opposite Field” is a father-son story with a baseball theme framed by the four years Katz spent reviving a youth baseball program in Monterey Park. (562) 307-1368

Wednesday, Nov. 18

Street lighting: The Greater Huntington Park Area Chamber of Commerce prepares for its annual Christmas Parade Nov. 21 with a street decoration lighting ceremony at 6 p.m. on Pacific Boulevard and Gage Avenue. Santa Claus throws the switch turning on more than 10,000 lights. The Millikan Elementary School Mariachi Band provides music. (323) 985-1155

Thursday, Nov. 19

Property managers: The Fair Housing Foundation sponsors a management training session from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Leland Weaver Library, 4035 Tweedy Blvd., South Gate. It is free to landlords, apartment managers, property owners, real estate and management companies. Topics include lead paint disclosure, families with children, sexual harassment, rules for tenants with minor children and occupancy standards. Reservations are required. (800) 446-3247, ext. 1104

Saturday, Nov. 21

Fall concert: The Bellflower Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Joseph Taylor, presents its fall concert at 7 p.m. in the Bristol Auditorium, 16600 Civic Center Drive, featuring music by Beethoven. Admission is free to Bellflower residents or members of the Bellflower Symphony Association. General admission tickets are $12, $10 for students and senior citizens. (562) 867-4871

Sunday, Nov. 22

Early Thanksgiving: The Love, Peace and Happiness Family Church, 11022 Oak River School Road, Downey, offers its annual pre-Thanksgiving dinner following the 10 a.m. worship service. The free meal is offered to the homeless and the hurting in the community. (562) 806-9890

Faculty concert: Cerritos College Music Department faculty members showcase their talents in a benefit concert at 6 p.m. in the Burright Center Theatre on campus, 11100 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk. Tickets are $10; $5 for Cerritos College students. Proceeds go to scholarships for students in the applied music program. (562) 860-2841, ext. 2629

Items for the Community Calendar may be submitted in care of Wave Newspapers, 1720 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 500, Los Angeles, 90015, by fax at (213) 835-0584, or by e-mail to downsawavepublication.com. Please include a daytime phone number.
Cerritos College Music Faculty Gala, faculty members perform in a wide variety of musical genres to raise scholarship funds for students in the applied music program, 6 tonight, Burnight Center Theatre, Cerritos College, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk. $10, $5 Cerritos College students. 562-860-2451, Ext. 2629.

Celtic Woman, 8 tonight, Terrace Theater, Long Beach Performing Arts Center, 300 E. Ocean Blvd. $45-$67. 562-436-3661.
Cerritos College swimmers find their depth in new pool

NORWALK: The facility is big enough to host playoffs, better equipped for the disabled.

By Kevin Butler Staff Writer

NORWALK — Not only was Cerritos College’s old competition swimming pool too small to host some playoff games, the nearly 50-year-old pool was so porous it lost thousands of gallons of water each day.

And it reached a depth of only 10 feet, making diving nerve-wracking.

All that changed this year with the debut of the college’s new $7 million Aquatic Center. The new 15-lane competition pool — large enough to host playoff water polo matches — goes to 14 feet deep.

The facility has more powerful night lights, making night play more comfortable.

“The lights we have are incredible,” said Sergio Macias, the head coach of the women’s water polo and swim teams. “Our night games feel like a day game.”

Stephanie Rosero, a sophomore water polo player at Cerritos College in Norwalk, swims laps to warm up for practice at the school’s new $7 million Aquatic Center.

The new facility also has a state-of-the-art color scoreboard, which is linked to the pool’s competitive timing devices and can display high-resolution video, said Dan Smith, the college’s dean of health, physical education, dance and athletics.

Smith is proud of the Aquatic Center’s adaptive pool for individuals with disabilities.

In the old pool, special-needs students would have to be lowered into the pool on an automatic chair lift — a process that was so time-consuming that it severely cut into time for group lessons, Smith said.

Although those students still have the option of a chair lift at the new pool, they also can enter the pool on their own, thanks to a gradual decline at the shallow end.

Similar to an underwater ramp, the adaptive pool is only six inches deep at its shallow end. The depth grows gradually, reaching a maximum of 3 feet, 6 inches at the other end.

There is a metal railing on one side of the underwater ramp for disabled individuals to grab onto so that they can guide themselves to a comfortable depth, Smith said.

The new facility is connected to a six-lane lap pool used for warm-ups and swimming classes. The adaptive-lap pool is heated.

Cerritos College student Stephanie Rosero, a water polo player, said playing in the new pool is a very different experience.

“It’s just a feeling you get,” said Rosero, 20, a South Gate resident. “You feel better in this pool as a player. The intensity just ups a bit.”

The women’s water polo team won the state championship last academic year, even though Cerritos’ pool was too small to host playoff games. So the team never enjoyed “home-pool” advantage.

The new Aquatic Center is used by students taking college swim classes. It can also be rented to outside individuals or groups. The college’s old pool facility will be dismantled and replaced with grass.

Smith hopes that the new aquatic facility will help lure more students to the school’s aquatic teams.

“It will be good for recruiting because it’s a better facility,” he added.
Foundation funds college car program

Wave Staff Report

NORWALK — Cerritos College has received a grant benefiting the college’s Automotive Collision Repair Program from the I-CAR Foundation.

A 10-member team from the foundation visited the campus to present the grant and to view the automotive program facilities, said Aya Abelon, the college’s coordinator of media relations.

“All of us at the I-CAR Education Foundation are pleased and proud to help support the students in the Automotive Collision Repair Program at Cerritos College,” said Scott Kruger, executive director of the foundation.

The donation will go toward upgrading the current I-CAR curriculum and training material library, which the college previously purchased, but is now out of date.

Students who are successful in completing each module will receive one I-CAR Gold Class Credit — which is highly coveted in the industry, Abelon said.

“We truly appreciate the I-CAR Foundation’s support for our Auto Collision Program,” said Steve Berkline, dean of the college’s Technology Division.

“We look forward to working even closer with their team to train future professionals in the collision industry.”

The I-CAR Education Foundation, a nonprofit organization, raises funds for donations that support philanthropic and collision repair education activities that promote and enhance career opportunities in the industry.
Monterey Park to host health fair Saturday at City Hall

The Asian Pacific Health Corps at UCLA and the city of Monterey Park sponsor a free health fair from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at City Hall, 320 W. Newmark Ave.

Student volunteers provide free preventative screenings for cardiovascular disease, including blood pressure and body mass index. In addition, service providers offer Hepatitis B, bone density, dental, glucose, cholesterol, hypertension, body mass index and orthopedic screenings.

Community organizations offer information and resources regarding other health and community issues. Physicians and other health care experts also are on site to provide direct counseling and referrals.

Information: (626) 307-1390

Other upcoming events include:

Saturday, Nov. 21
Compost workshop: The city of Huntington Park’s Public Works Department conducts a bilingual free composting workshop from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Salt Lake Park, 3401 E. Florence Ave. Composting bins and worm bins are for sale at reduced prices. (323) 584-6218

Fall concert: The Bellflower Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Joseph Taylor, presents its fall concert at 7 p.m. in the Bristol Auditorium, 16600 Civic Center Drive, featuring music by Beethoven. Admission is free to Bellflower residents or members of the Bellflower Symphony Association. General admission tickets are $12, $10 for students and senior citizens. (562) 867-4871

Sunday, Nov. 22
Early Thanksgiving: The Love, Peace and Happiness Family Church, 11022 Old River School Road, Downey, offers its annual pre-Thanksgiving dinner following the 10 a.m. worship service. The free meal is offered to the homeless and the hurting in the community. (562) 867-4871

Faculty concert: Cerritos College Music Department faculty members showcase their talents in a benefit concert at 6 p.m. in the Burnight Center Theatre on campus, 1111 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk. Performances encompass a wide variety of musical genres. Tickets are $10; $5 for Cerritos College students. Proceeds go to scholarships for students in the applied music program. (562) 860-2451, ext. 2620

Monday, Nov. 23
Coffee and politics: The South Gate Chamber of Commerce combines breakfast with a talk on state legislative issues by Assemblyman Hector De La Torre, D-South Gate, at 7:30 a.m. at Deny’s Restaurant, 5811 Firestone Blvd. Tickets are $12 general admission, $7 for city of South Gate employees and members of the Tweedy Mile Association and $6 for chamber members. (323) 567-1203

Tuesday, Nov. 24
Network breakfast: The Downey Chamber of Commerce conducts its Rise and networking breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at the Downey Company, 10924 Firestone Blvd. Those attending order from the menu. Speaker is Judge Philip of Los Padrinos Juvenile justice system, the State of Downey. See order form on the menu. (323) 567-1203

Items for the Calendar may be sent to Wave News in care of Wave News, 1730 W. Olympic Blvd., P.O. Box 506, Los Angeles, fax at (213) 835-0793, e-mail to downhawi@waveonline.com. Please include daytime phone number.
Cerritos College Opens Aquatic Center

Cerritos College Celebrated the opening of their new Aquatic Center with a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 21. The new $7 million facility consists of a 115-by-75 foot competition pool, a 45-by-75-foot adaptive pool and a 3,400 square foot pool house facility. College President Dr. Linda Lucey welcomed invited guests, faculty, students and community members and introduced the folks who brought the long term project to fruition. College Trustees and other local officials joined in the celebration of a GO Bond project funded by the community.
Cerritos students will sell art works

Wave Staff Report
NORWALK — The Cerritos College Art Club will present its annual Student Art Sale from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 6 in the Student Center North Stage on the local campus, 11110 Alondra Blvd.

Woodworking students will be participating in the sale as well, said Aya Abelon, the college’s coordinator of media relations.

On sale will be a variety artwork, including ceramics, sculpture, woodworking, painting, jewelry and more, selling from a few dollars to $100, Abelon said.

Proceeds of the sale benefit the artists, the different disciplines represented, and the Art Club programs.

Information: (562) 860-245 ext. 2600 or ext. 2614.

November 26, 2009

Norwalk seeks holiday angels

BY ARNOLD ADLER
STAFF WRITER
NORWALK — City officials are hoping area residents will be an “angel” for Christmas by helping obtain clothing for needy children via the Angel Tree program.

Tak Hamabata, director of social services, said the names of about 1,500 youngsters have been placed on pieces of cardboard shaped as angels, with each child’s first name, sex, age and clothing size.

Donors are asked to take one or two angels off a tree at the various sites, purchase the size clothing indicated, gift wrap it and return it to the tree by Dec. 7.

The Angel tag should be on top of the gift-wrapped package, Hamabata said.

Suggested gifts of new clothing include sweat suits, pants with shirt or blouse, and dresses.

Value of the gifts is suggested at least $20.

Angel Tree sites include the information office at Norwalk City Hall, 12700 Norwalk Blvd.; the Norwalk Social Services Department, 11929 Alondra Blvd.; the Cerritos College Bookstore, 11190 Alondra Blvd.; Doris Hair Designs, 10523 Alondra Blvd.; the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, 13000 Clarkdale Ave.; the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, 12040 Foster Road; the Norwalk Regional Library, 12350 Imperial Highway; the Norwalk Senior Center, 14040 San Antonio Drive; and Chase Bank, 11618 Rosecrans Ave.

Margie Reyes, a clerk at the Information Office in Norwalk City Hall, 12700 Norwalk Blvd., places an ornament on one of several Angel Trees in the city. The angels contain clothing information for children. Donors are asked to take one or two, purchase the indicated clothing and return the gift to the trees by Dec. 7.
Californians give state colleges high marks

LARRY GORDON

Despite damaging budget cuts at the state’s community colleges and public universities, Californians still have high esteem for the schools, according to a new survey. Yet most are not willing to pay higher taxes or student fees to protect the campuses from financial troubles, the poll found.

The survey by the nonprofit Public Policy Institute of California showed that solid majorities of state residents think California’s public colleges and universities do a good or excellent job: 65% say that about community colleges, 62% about the University of California and 61% about the California State University system. That contrasts sharply with approval ratings of 28% for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and 18% for the state Legislature.

The survey showed the public to be well aware of recent staff furloughs and reductions in class offerings at public campuses, and 59% of respondents said the colleges and universities should be a high or very high priority for state funding during the budget crisis. However, only 41% said they were willing to pay higher taxes to make up for state budget cuts and only 39% were willing to increase student fees.

Mark Baldassare, president of the institute, said he does not consider that a contradiction, given the weak economy and concerns about personal finances. “It’s a really tough time to ask people for more money,” he said in a telephone interview.

The report was released Wednesday night, a week before UC Regents were expected to approve higher student fees.

Baldassare said he was surprised by the extent to which poll respondents expressed worry about budget cuts to the historically well-regarded public colleges and universities.

“To see that level of concern spoke to the degree people value these institutions they see as very important for the state’s future,” he said, adding that legislators should pay attention.

Among the survey’s other findings: 77% of parents of children age 18 or under say they are worried about affording college and 69% say most families do not save enough for college; 88% are concerned about rising fees; and 86% worry about reduced enrollments and course offerings.

The telephone survey of 2,502 adult California residents was conducted from Oct. 20 to Nov. 6 and is reported to have a 2% margin of sampling error. The full report is available online at: http://www.ppic.org/pubs/pub597.pdf

larry.gordon@latimes.com
State cuts give private colleges an edge

Some campuses are luring students away from UC and Cal State schools with grants and assurances.

LARRY OSKIOS

Thousands of other students might have jumped at the chance to attend UCLA, but not Michael Rodriguez. He passed up his UC acceptance last year to attend Cal Lutheran University, a four-year institution in Thousand Oaks.

Rodriguez, who is happy with his choice, said one reason for the decision was a financial aid program that required no commitment. The program, which involves need-based aid, allows students who had been admitted to two UC campuses the option of attending either campus at a reduced tuition rate.

The program, which is based on the student's financial need, allows students to take advantage of the higher-quality education offered at UC campuses while avoiding the high tuition costs. The program is particularly beneficial for students from low-income families, as it helps reduce the financial burden associated with attending UC.

Rodriguez is one of the many students who have benefited from this program, and he is grateful for the opportunity it provided. "I was fortunate to have this option," he said. "It allowed me to attend a top-tier university without breaking the bank."
USC leads in number of foreign students

LARRY GORDON

For the eighth consecutive year, USC enrolled the highest number of foreign students of any U.S. university last year, a new report shows.

USC, which recruits strongly in Asia, had 7,482 international students in the 2008-09 school year, according to the study by the Institute of International Education with support from the State Department.

In all, USC enrolls about 34,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

New York University, with 6,761, had the second-largest international contingent and Columbia University, with 6,638, ranked third. UCLA was in eighth place, with 5,650. California has the most foreign students, followed by New York and Texas.

The Open Doors survey, released Monday, showed that the number of international students at about 3,000 U.S. colleges and universities rose 6% last year to a new high of 677,616. Big increases in students from China helped fuel the rise. As in other recent years, India once again sent the most students to the U.S., followed by China, South Korea, Canada and Japan.

But there are indications that the growth might have slowed this fall because of economic conditions and concerns about the H1N1 virus. A related but separate survey of 700 schools by the Institute and seven other education organizations showed that 45% of those campuses reported an increase in foreign students this fall, compared to 60% last year.

larry.gordon@latimes.com

Los Angeles Times
November 17, 2009

California Briefing

junior colleges urged to focus on core mission

California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott said Wednesday that the colleges are faced with a 3% jump in enrollment and an 8% drop in state funding and must be creative about cutting costs.

In an address before the annual convention of the state’s community colleges, Scott said he would ask schools today to focus their limited resources on core missions such as job training and basic education.

The system served 2.39 million students last year — 190,000 more students than state funding supported.

This year, the Legislature cut the community college budget by $530 million, to about $6 billion.

Scott also called on local colleges to think innovatively about funding, recalling that when he was president at Pasadena City College, the school rented out the front of the campus during the annual Rose Parade, earning about $35,000.

“A crisis is a terrible thing to waste,” Scott said.

— AMINA KHAN

Los Angeles Times
November 19, 2009
For-profit colleges’ share of federal aid is growing

For-profit colleges like the University of Phoenix, Kaplan and DeVry are attracting a growing share of low-income students — and the federal Pell Grant money that follows them — according to an Associated Press analysis.

Last year, the top five Pell Grant beneficiaries were for-profit colleges, collecting more than $1 billion. That was 2 1/3 times those schools’ take two years earlier, the AP found, analyzing Department of Education data on Pell disbursements.

And the trend continues to accelerate: In the first quarter after the maximum Pell Grant was increased July 1, the amount of dollars heading to for-profit, or “proprietary,” schools rose 67% from the same period a year ago, even though Washington's overall Pell payout increased only 45%.

The Pell program is Washington’s main form of college aid to the poor.