

April 2007

the Coyote HOWLER



Phi Theta Kappa All California Academic Team



L to R: Michael Garrison and Michelle Arnts Cerro Coso students selected to the 2007 Phi Theta Kappa All-California Academic Team.

IN THIS ISSUE

Phi Theta Kappa	1
Undecided Student Workshop	2
Financial Aid Workshop	3
Art Exhibit	3
Nurses Open House	3
Student's Resolution	4
Bishop LRC & LAC	5

Cerro Coso Community College students Michelle Arnts and Michael Garrison have been named to the 2007 Phi Theta Kappa All-California Academic Team, a state-wide competition co-sponsored by the Community College League of California and Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. Both students are members of Phi Theta Kappa and were nominated for this award by Cerro Coso Community College Interim President, Dr. Mary Retterer. "Both Michelle and Michael exemplify Cerro Coso Phi Theta Kappa students. We are very proud of their academic achievements and community involvement", stated Dr. Mary Retterer, Interim President, Cerro Coso Community College.

Ms. Arnts and Mr. Garrison were invited to attend a luncheon in Sacramento on March 29 where the



state's top community college students will be formally recognized for their academic achievements, community service, and for the example set for their fellow students. Prior to the awards luncheon, the 69 members of the All-California Academic Team will be honored on the Senate and Assembly Floor. Ms. Arnts and Mr. Garrison were also invited to meet with Senator Roy Ashburn, who delivered a Senate Certificate of Recognition; and along with Assembly Member Jean Fuller, will present an Assembly Scholastic Achievement Award to these deserving students to commemorate their outstanding achievements.

Michelle Arnts has a 3.93 GPA at Cerro Coso Community College. Her goal is to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and become a Child Life Specialist. She currently works as an Emergency Room Technician and enjoys caring for children. Since Cerro Coso first received its Phi Theta Kappa chapter in May 2006, Ms. Arnts has served as its Fellowship and Service Officer. She spearheaded the Phi Theta Kappa effort to collect goods and money for Give2TheTroops, a non-profit-political organization aimed at supporting U.S. deployed and wounded troops through letters and packages, was the co-captain of Phi Theta Kappa's Relay for Life team, and worked to deliver meals to families and toys to children at the holidays.

Michael Garrison has a 4.0 GPA at Cerro Coso Community College. He plans to transfer to UC San Diego or UC Berkeley in the fall as a Chemical Engineering major and to attend graduate school to become a Molecular Biologist. Garrison volunteers for the Rose Varga Discretionary Fund in Ridgecrest, an organization, that lends at no cost medical equipment to the physically disabled, and donates a few nights a week to care for an Alzheimer's patient. In addition, Mr. Garrison has participated in research projects in the Chemical Division of Michelson Laboratory at China Lake. Cerro Coso, faculty named Mr. Garrison the Math Student of the Year and the Physical Science Student of the Year in 2006. Furthermore, Mr. Garrison received an Outstanding Achievement Award from the American Chemical Society for obtaining a perfect score on the standardized ACS Organic Chemistry Exam.

Last year Cerro Coso Community College became a part of Phi Theta Kappa, an international honors society for community colleges nation wide, through the efforts of Professor of English, Dr. Christine Swiridoff who continues her service to the society.

“UNDECIDED STUDENT WORKSHOP” OFFERED BY CERRO COSO

On Monday, March 26, 2007, The Career and Transfer Center at Cerro Coso Community College hosted an informative workshop entitled, “**Undecided Student Workshop**” in the Learning Resource Center, Room 710. The workshop is designed for students who have not yet declared an educational goal or major at Cerro Coso.

During the workshop the students were taught about the different resources available to them to explore majors, careers, and how best to approach the decision making process. Students also explored the web resources: ECOS and Eureka and took a personality assessment (offered on these web resources) to learn what major and/or career that best fits their personality. The workshop was conducted by counseling staff Wendy Adams and Karee Hamilton.

Financial Aid Workshops

On Friday, March 2, 2007 was the Cal Grant priority deadline. Cerro Coso College Financial Aid staff conducted six Outreach Financial Aid Workshops for high school juniors, seniors, and their parents in Ridgecrest, Trona, Lone Pine, Independence, Big Pine, and Bishop during the month of February.

Conducting the financial aid workshops in the high school classrooms was exhilarating and proved to be a valuable effort to promote financial aid opportunities and priority deadlines, per JoAnn Spiller, Director of Financial Aid. The students received pens, calculators, application packets, and a general overview on state and federal grants, work study, fee waivers, student loans, and scholarships to help pay for college. This was the first step in helping students understand that going to college is affordable and easy by applying for financial aid.

Students and their parents from the Bishop area attended a Financial Aid presentation at the Eastern Sierra College Center (ESCC); this included a question and answer session. Deanna Campbell, Director at ESCC and Greg Kost, the ESCC Counselor provided their support at the Bishop College Center presentation. Rochelle Sutton, Financial Aid Technician assisted with Outreach Workshops in Ridgecrest. In addition, to the various presentations, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) assistance was available for both students and their parents.



CERRO COSO TO HOST NEW ART EXHIBIT -The Constructed Image

Cerro Coso Community College presented an exciting art exhibit in the new Learning Resource Center Art Gallery for the month of March. Beginning March 1st and continuing through March 31st the art gallery will display a collection of digitally created images by students taking courses in the Media Arts Department of the College.

"The Constructed Image", as the show is titled, provided a special opportunity for these students to show their work in a public venue, perhaps for the first time. It is also an opportunity for the rest of us - to see a collection of unique images that express traditional design principles while employing alternative methods of creating art. A common element among the images is the aspect of collage; many incorporate photographs and graphics, blended with original digital painting. The results of combining such disparate elements within one image are compelling; these pieces juxtapose the ordinary with the extraordinary, the real with the imagined, and the innovative with the conventional.





Cerro Coso's Student Nurses Host Open House

Having become a very popular event, the Annual Health Career's Open House will be sponsored by the Student Vocational Nurses at Cerro Coso Community College on Thursday, April 12, 2007. The event will start at 8:30 AM and end at 2 PM. At each Open House, the student nurses provide demonstrations and information about several health topics. This year's topic is *Challenges for Everyday Health*.

High school students, parents, and the general public are encouraged to attend. Guests can talk with the student nurses about the challenges of entering and surviving in a strenuous academic environment such as nursing. As a bonus, several times during the day, the student nurses take guests on a tour of the general college campus. During a typical tour, guests may have the opportunity to see the Art Lab, the Library, and some of the science labs. Students can also see the room where LVN graduates, who are enrolled in Bakersfield College's LVN to RN Associate Degree Career Ladder Program, attend lecture RN courses. It is in this classroom where the RN students listen and watch theory lectures by Interactive TV that are broadcast live from Bakersfield or Porterville College.

The Counseling Center takes an active part in this event. Counselors speak to students about basic college issues including admission requirements, types of college majors, and how to seek financial aid.

Cerro Coso Community College's Health Career Programs has a comprehensive website that will answer many questions for anyone interested in Health Careers. In addition to vocational nursing, courses include Administrative and Clinical Medical Office Assisting and Certified Nurse Aide. Health career courses are offered in assorted arenas that suit the needs of a variety of students both regionally, in the Indian Wells Valley, as well as Kern River Valley (Lake Isabella). Many courses are available online. New programs are in the process of development for the Bishop Eastern Sierra Campus. Updates and information are available at the Health Career website: <http://academic.cerrocoso.edu/health-careers/healthcar/>



Cerro Coso Student's Resolution Passed to House of Representatives

Valerie McLaughlin Associated Students of Cerro Coso Community College (ASCC) Financial Manager, spearheaded writing a resolution about Pell Grant payout, at the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) that was passed the House of Representatives.

Ms. McLaughlin was elected into office for the ASCC in the spring of 2006 and with the new executive board attended the 2006 Spring General Assembly for Student Senate for California Community Colleges. At this General Assembly Ms. McLaughlin was elected as a Representative to Region IX. She has since been elected to the office of Vice President of SSCCC. Working with other representatives Ms. McLaughlin became involved in government and legislation that involved community colleges. One of her concerns was that the Pell Grant payout was based on how much tuition a student paid. The lower the tuition money dropped, the lower the payout to students. This concern prompted Ms. McLaughlin to compose a



resolution that she presented to the SSCCC which was unanimously adopted January 21, 2007.

The SSCCC presented this resolution to the Honorable Congressman George Miller who is serving as Chairman on the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Congressman Miller then presented HR-990 to the House of Representatives which passed February 27, 2007. It is now slated to be presented to the Senate, if it passes, it will go to the President of the United States for his signature, to be made into law.

Pell Grant Tuition Sensitivity

Whereas, The Federal Pell Grant, authorized by the Higher Education act of 1965 provides financial assistance for students, including tuition and fees, books and supplies, transportation, room and board, child care and miscellaneous personal expense;

Whereas, The Higher Education act includes a provision entitled "tuition sensitivity" that prevents Community College student from receiving the maximum Pell grant award of \$4,050 when fees are low; and

Whereas, The student enrollment fees for California Community Colleges were recently reduced from \$26 to \$20 per unit, effective January 2007, which may result in a reduction of Pell grant awards affecting more than 260,000 community college students with an approximate loss of \$17 million as a result of the "tuition sensitivity" provision;

Resolved, That the Student Senate Council for California Community Colleges support the removal of the tuition sensitivity provision as proposed in the President's fiscal year 2006 budget and the House and Senate Higher Education Act (HEA) reauthorization bills. In addition, the SSCCC implores Congress to include language in the fiscal year 2007 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education appropriations bill that would prevent California community colleges students from receiving lower Pell Grant awards.

Author: Valerie McLaughlin, Cerro Coso Community College, Region 9

Eastern Sierra College Center's Bishop Campus Announces Opening of the Learning Assistance and Resource Center

The Bishop campus of the Eastern Sierra College Center, Cerro Coso Community College is, for the first time, opening the Learning Assistance and Resource Center (LAC/LRC). "Thanks to Cerro Coso's library information technology adjunct faculty member, Julie Cornett, full-time faculty, department chair and Director of Learning Resources, Dr. Dennis VanderWerff, and the tremendous efforts of our other faculty and adjunct faculty who are providing office hours, the LAC/LRC is offering vast resources to students and the community at large," stated Deanna Campbell, Director Eastern Sierra College Center, Cerro Coso Community College.

What used to be utilized solely as a computer lab is quickly emerging as a campus resource hub that offers many remarkable services. The Center's computing lab



offers high speed Internet, databases, printing services and software used for classes. The LAC/LRC is staffed by faculty members and student-tutors who offer free tutoring and specialized research assistance on Library and Internet databases.



The new, improved LAC/LRC also boasts private group meeting rooms and a spacious, comfortable place to study while viewing student, faculty, and community artwork.

The LAC/LRC has an expanding reference library which includes rare, local references and textbooks. In 2004, Altrusa International of the Eastern Sierra, gave the library a “jump start” with their “Get Hooked, Donate Books” drive. Over 15,000 books were donated by the community. Books which did not meet the Library’s criteria were either donated to other local libraries or sold to raise money for the college library. Also, the Eastern Sierra Foundation through their scholarship program and the Learning Assistance and Resource Center is offering various textbooks on reserve for students, as well.

“Considerable progress has been made in the development, organization, and launching of a Learning Resource/Learning Assistance Center. Funds were made available and a core collection of reference books were purchased out of State new facilities monies. Additional assistance was augmented by book donations from the Bishop Community. Students are able to take advantage of the library’s resources including assistance with accessing the many online reference databases as well as course-specific tutoring and other basic skills services. Deanna Campbell and Julie Cornet have worked to create a hospitable setting made all the more inviting by displays of student art work. We are quite pleased with the result of efforts put into the development of the LRC/LAC and look forward to its continued growth and success in serving student needs,” stated Dennis VanderWerff.

This state-of-the-art Learning Assistance and Resource Center is available to all enrolled students at either the Bishop or Mammoth campuses. Community members are encouraged to enroll in classes to take advantage of this wonderful resource. Cerro Coso’s new 0.5 unit “Special Research Topics” classes this fall semester are only \$10. These classes will introduce students to specialized library and Internet research tools and databases for a variety of disciplines. Topics will include medical and legal research strategies, government information on the Internet, business information topics, Google.com as a research tool, and more.

The Eastern Sierra College Center invites you to visit the Bishop campus to find out about our most recent hours of operation and to learn more about our tutoring and other services. For more information, contact the Bishop campus at (760) 872-1565.

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The Coyote Howler is a publication of Cerro Coso Community College. For more information about the stories in this publication, or to include information in this publication, contact Joann Handeland, Director of Public Information, at (760) 384-6230 or email jhandela@cerrocoso.edu.

OUR CAMPUSES

Indian Wells Valley

3000 College Heights Blvd.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
(760) 384-6100

Kern River Valley

P.O. Box 3204
5520 Lake Isabella Blvd.
Lake Isabella, CA 93240
(760) 379-5501

South Kern

95 MSS/DPE
140 Methusa Avenue
Bldg 2453
Edwards AFB, CA 93524
(661) 258-8644

Eastern Sierra College Center Bishop

4090 W. Line Street
Bishop, CA 93514
(760) 872-1565

Mammoth Lakes

P.O. Box 1865
101 College Parkway
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
(760) 934-2875

CC Online

(760) 934-2796
(888) 537-6932
<http://cconline.cerrocoso.edu>

Visit Cerro Coso on the web:

www.cerrocoso.edu

