

December 2007

# the Coyote HOWLER



## CERRO COSO COLLEGE PROFESSOR CO-AUTHOR OF MAJOR TEXT BOOK

Cerro Coso Community College recognizes the accomplishments of Professor, Mary Kowalski. Continuing a 35 year tradition, the ninth edition of *Textbook of*

*Basic Nursing* by Caroline Rosdahl and Mary Kowalski has recently been published. Cerro Coso Community College Professor, Mary Kowalski RN, MSN, has been a major contributor to this text for about 20 years and began as co-author to the text in 2001. The content of the ninth edition has been completely updated and provides expansive resources for instructors. In addition to the responsibilities of writing more than half of this edition, Kowalski states that she developed 63 chapters of the PowerPoint slides, drawing from her 25 years of vocational nursing instruction. Kowalski states, "The slides I created were designed for the practical, day-to-day use by an instructor and the students." The instructor, who may be a novice or veteran, can adjust the

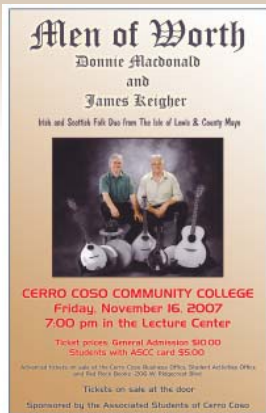


presentations for individualized classroom use. This text is used widely in the United States and also in Canada. Cerro Coso Community College has been using the text consistently since the start of the Vocational Nursing Program (long before Kowalski came to Cerro Coso). *Textbook of Basic Nursing* is considered a classic among textbooks for vocational nurses. "It is a lot of work to update the information and write for such a comprehensive text, but I find the end results are well worth the effort," continues Kowalski. The *Textbook of Basic Nursing* has received high rates on past National Licensing Exams which means a large percentage of nurses begin their careers with this book as their foundation of knowledge. Kowalski is a full-time professor at Cerro Coso Community College and has been at the College since 1996. She has also contributed to several other textbooks and nursing resources, both at the RN and LVN levels.

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## ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF CERRO COSO PRESENT MEN OF WORTH

**Men of Worth** featuring Donnie MacDonald and James Keigher once again delighted an Indian Wells Valley audience when they appeared at Cerro Coso Community College on Friday, November 16, 2007, in the Lecture Center, courtesy of the Associated Students. The concert featured the very best in Celtic music—songs that come from past generations as well as stories from present day observations.

Together, **Men of Worth** blend their voices with harmony and support their collection of songs with their varied selection of instruments. They have a very simple approach to their presentation, and in keeping with tradition, remain true to the music and story. Their show is a unique combination of humor, exciting tunes, and soulful heartfelt ballads.



## ASTRONAUT RICK SEARFOSS SPEAKS AT COLLEGE

As an astronaut with three space missions, Colonel Rick Searfoss shares with only a handful of people in history some of the most unique human experiences possible. Colonel Searfoss shared his experiences with students and community members on Friday, November 30 at Cerro Coso Community College's IWV campus. The lecture and presentation took place in the College Lecture Center, courtesy of the Associated Students of Cerro Coso. He presented the program entitled "As We Dream" – A Spacefarer's Vision.

Colonel Searfoss was the space shuttle mission commander & pilot on three different missions...STS-58, 76 & 90 on the Columbia and Atlantis shuttles. STS-58 and 76 were space flights to the joint Russian-American mission to the Mir Space Station. The STS-90 Neurolab flight on Columbia was the most complex science research space mission ever flown, with unparalleled mission success. Searfoss has over twenty-five years experience as a leader in some of the most demanding team endeavors possible – human space flight, test flying, and tactical military aviation.



## CERRO COSO FACULTY MEMBER PARTICIPATING IN PRESTEGIOUS UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

Dr. Anne Benvenuti, Professor of Philosophy/Psychology at Cerro Coso has been invited to participate in the Visiting Scholar Program at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C for the 2007-2008 academic year. Dr. Benvenuti is in the Center for Clinical Bioethics in the Medical School, working with Professor James Giordano. Dr. Giordano is also Vice President for the Center for Brain, Mind, and Healing Research at the Samuelli Institute. Dr. Benvenuti is developing a research and writing agenda related to the study of Brain, Mind, and Healing. The invitation to Georgetown and this particular work is a direct result of her second invited presentation at the Oxford University Round Table (Exeter College 2006, Lincoln College 2007) on Science and Religion, and the publication of her first paper, "Science and Religion as Modes of Human Participation in the Cosmos," in the *Forum on Public Policy* (summer 2007).

Dr. Benvenuti also has a publication coming out in the December issue of *Presence*, the journal of Spiritual Directors International, a non-demoninational professional organization for the study of spiritual experience. The up-coming article is entitled,

“Love Dogs” and it is about the importance of the natural world to human spiritual development.

Professor Benvenuti has also been invited to teach a “Semester at Sea” for the University of Virginia in spring 2008. During the spring semester Dr. Benvenuti will be traveling around the world with approximately 500 students and 30 faculty, and will teach three courses: 1) Mental Health from a Global Perspective, 2) Global Women’s Issues from a United Nations Perspective, and 3) an interdisciplinary course called Human Unity and Diversity, a course she developed for Cerro Coso in 2003. About this assignment Benvenuti said, “It is quite an honor to be selected, but I mostly feel like I won the lottery!”

## ASTRONOMY SPEAKER SERIES CONTINUES AT CERRO COSO

Lisa Wei from University of California, Berkeley and the Combined Array for Research in Millimeter-Wave Astronomy (CARMA) near Big Pine, CA gave a talk at Cerro Coso Community College, Eastern Sierra College Center - Bishop Campus on Tuesday, November 13, 2007. The talk was entitled “Evolution of Galaxies within the Hubble Sequence.”

Edwin Hubble was the first astronomer to classify galaxies, dividing them into two distinct types - elliptical galaxies, and spiral galaxies, and placed them on the “Hubble Tuning Fork.” Hubble believed that all galaxies started out as ellipticals, and evolved into spirals as time passed. Though we know that this is not exactly the case today, how these galaxies came to be and the exact relationship between ellipticals and spirals is still unclear. Lisa Wei discussed simulations and observations of elliptical and spiral galaxies that may be evolving, and what we can learn from them.

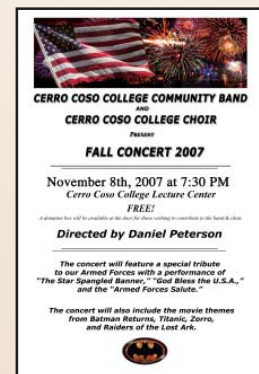
## CERRO COSO COLLEGE BAND AND CHOIR PRESENT FALL 2007 CONCERT

The Cerro Coso Community College Band and Choir presented their Fall 2007 concert on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> in the College Lecture Center.

Directed by Daniel Peterson, the concert featured a special tribute to our Armed Forces with a performance of patriotic classics including, “The Star Spangled Banner,” “God Bless the U.S.A.,” and the “Armed Forces Salute.” The performance included famous movie themes from “Batman Returns,” “Titanic,” “Zorro,” and “Raiders of the Lost Ark.” The concert also featured a special dedication to Todd Rogers, a music industry icon.

## CERRO COSO COLLEGE HOSTS IMPROV SHOW

On Friday, November 2, 2007, The Theatre Arts Club of Cerro Coso Community College presented “Shenanigans: A Night of Improv Comedy.” The Theatre Arts Club President, Joshua Horton stated, “Get ready to laugh! Shenanigans is a chance to take the whole family out for a good time.” Students pictured (from l to r) are the current 2007-2008 officers of the Theatre Arts Club – Rick Tobias, Josh Haefele, James Fern, Josh Horton, and Erin Ray.



## COYOTE PRIDE DAY

On Friday, October 26, 2007, the ASCC conducted their annual Coyote Pride day from noon until 4:00pm at the IWV Campus. Trash was retrieved from the parking lot, leaves were raked, and curbs were painted. The ASCC provided Pizza for the participants. A great time was had by all!

## BIOLOGY HONORS SECTION CERRO COSO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Honors Biology Section this year at Cerro Coso has been taking an in depth look at the science and management of endangered species, under the guidance of instructor Shannon Bliss.

The students began by reading and discussing parts of the Endangered Species Act and moved on to reading the Management Plan for the local endangered Kern Primrose Sphinx Moth, a species only found in Walker Basin and on Carrizo Plain. As a semester-long project, the students have each chosen an endangered species to research and are writing papers summarizing and critiquing management plans for their species.

Early in November a portion of the class experienced a hands-on role in the management of the endangered Desert Tortoise when they helped local consultant Peter Woodman and his crew set up sample Tortoise Surveying Plots for a consultant training of over 100 people. The students learned about tortoise biology as they simulated the sign they would leave in the desert: digging burrows, placing foam tortoises and real scat in plots near Ridgecrest.

As a capstone event, the entire class took a trip to San Diego on November 14<sup>th</sup>. They stopped at the Santa Rosa Plateau in Riverside County, meet with their interpreter and learned about the endangered species that live on the reserve. A theme of their visit was the corridors that are being established to allow large animals like Mountain Lions to move from the 8,000 acre reserve to the much larger Cleveland National Forest. They then traveled to the Manchester Mitigation Bank in Encinitas, where they witnessed how several threatened and endangered species are being preserved in this very small 400 acre natural island surrounded by development. For students used to the wide open spaces of the high desert and southern Sierras, the urban context of these reserves was eye opening.

Finishing off the San Diego trip, the students attended a talk at the San Diego Museum of Natural History by Walter Oechel, an internationally known expert on global climate change. He spoke about the possible effects of climate change on conservation of southern California endangered species.

This class has provided the opportunity for these Honors students to explore the very important boundary between Science and Policy. One of the most exciting emergent opportunities for the students in the class has been to see so many different working biologists doing a range of work with a range of education and experience levels.

### 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](mailto: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>  
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