

June 2007

# the Coyote HOWLER



## CERRO COSO COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOLDS EVENT FOR LOCAL FIFTH GRADERS

The Cerro Coso Community College Counseling Office hosted an “I’m Going to College” event for local fifth graders on Monday, May 7, 2007. Students from Richmond, Las Flores, Inyokern, and Immanuel

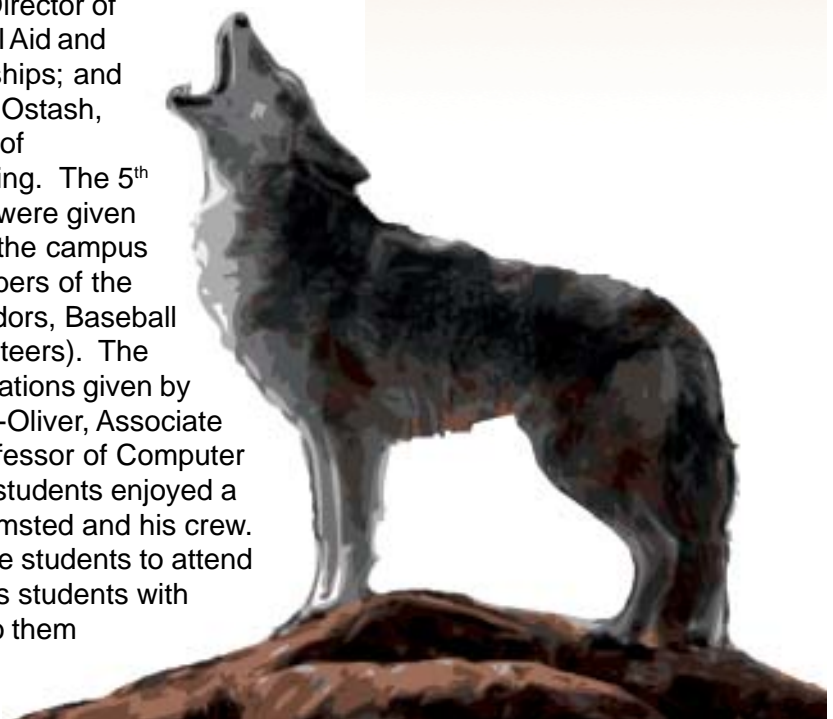


Christian Elementary Schools were on campus to learn about the opportunities that await them at Cerro Coso Community College. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders were welcomed by Dr. Mary Retterer, Interim President; Jill Board, Vice President of Student Services; Dick Adams, Athletics Director and Head Baseball Coach; JoAnn Spiller, Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships; and Heather Ostash, Director of Counseling. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders were given tours of the campus by members of the

Cerro Coso student body (Student Ambassadors, Baseball Players, Student Workers, and Student Volunteers). The fifth graders enjoyed three different demonstrations given by Dick Benson, Professor of Art; Melinda Fogle-Oliver, Associate Professor of Drama; and Debby Kilburn, Professor of Computer Information Systems. To top off the day, the students enjoyed a great lunch in the Coyote Kitchen by Dale Olmsted and his crew. “This event is tailored to excite and encourage students to attend college. In addition, it assists and familiarizes students with the different opportunities that are available to them when they decide to attend college,” stated Heather Ostash.

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## ROTARY SUPPORTS “I’M GOING TO COLLEGE” EVENT AT CERRO COSO



Wendy Adams, Educational Advisor, helping to guide attendees from Richmond, Las Flores, Inyokern, and Immanuel Christian Elementary schools on a tour of the campus. At the conclusion of the tour, the 5<sup>th</sup> graders participate in several different hands-on demonstrations provided by the Art Department, Computer Science “Robotics” program, and the Drama Club students. The Rotary Club of China Lake donated \$1,000 to sponsor the “I’m going to College” event at Cerro Coso. “We are sincerely appreciative of the support of the Rotary Club in making this event happen,” stated Dr. Mary Retterer, Interim President, Cerro Coso Community College.

## CERRO COSO CELEBRATES HONOR PROGRAM GRADUATES



CAPTION: From left to right, Vice President of Student Services, Ms. Jill Board; graduating students Justin Cosner, Michael Garrison, Mikhail Schumacher; Interim President, Dr. Mary Retterer, and Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Jane Harmon.

The Cerro Coso Honors Program celebrated its 2007 graduates: Moriah Baker, Justin Cosner, Michael Garrison, and Mikhail Schumacher on Sunday, May 6. The graduates, their families, Honors Program faculty, fellow Honors Program students, Interim President, Dr. Mary Retterer; Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Jane Harmon; and Vice President of Student Services, Ms. Jill Board attended a luncheon to honor these outstanding students. Graduates were presented with plaques and honors cords to wear at graduation. Additionally, two \$500 Faculty Honors Scholarships were awarded to Justin Cosner and Michael Garrison for exceptional academic performance.

Honors Program students have a 3.5 GPA or higher and have been accepted into the Honors Program. Graduates have completed at least 16 units of honors classes in addition to their degree and transfer requirements. The Honors Program at Cerro Coso’s is an academically rigorous program intended to meet the intellectual aspirations of highly motivated and high-achieving students. Honor classes, and the skills they provide, strengthen student’s performance in other courses and emphasize precisely those characteristics that are sought after by employers: flexibility, motivation, and skillful communication.



## CERRO COSO HONORS GRADUATES DURING 34<sup>TH</sup> COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

Cerro Coso Community College's 34<sup>th</sup> Commencement Exercises were held in the Gym of the Raymond A. McCue Athletic Complex on Friday evening, May 18.

Friends, relatives, staff and faculty gathered to honor a class of 308 eligible graduates from the Indian Wells Valley Campus in Ridgecrest (77%), South Kern Center at Edwards Air Force Base (2%), Kern River Valley Center in Lake Isabella (9%), Eastern Sierra College Center located in Bishop and Mammoth Lakes (5%), and Online students (18%). Out of the 308 graduates, 215 graduated with an Associate of Arts degree, with 77 receiving an Associate of Science degree. Thirty-one graduates received Certificate's of Achievement. Thirty-four students graduated with honors with 11 of them obtaining a 4.0 grade point average.

Dr. Mary Retterer, Interim President of Cerro Coso Community College stated to the graduates "Today is only the beginning for you, that's why we call today 'commencement.' Some of you are undoubtedly planning on attending a university and pursuing a baccalaureate degree. Perhaps even a master's or doctorate. You have a terrific start and a solid base for university work!"

Doug Schweitzer was selected as the Alumni Association's Distinguished Commencement Speaker. Schweitzer a native of Canada, moved to Ridgecrest to play baseball for the College. In addition to playing baseball, he helped manage Dr. Rosenberg's Community Outreach Program by placing over 40 Cerro Coso students in elementary schools to assist the younger students and to encourage them to continue their education. He graduated with honors from Cerro Coso in 2001. Mr. Schweitzer returned to Canada and began working full time with the homeless and at risk youth. He is also involved in politics having worked on six political campaigns. Mr. Schweitzer received his law degree from the University of Manitoba in 2006. He and his wife Jennifer live in Calgary, Alberta where he works at the largest law firm in Western Canada.

The Academic Senate selected three graduates to address the assemblage, Ted Higle (A.A. in General Education) and Scott Toborg (A.A.) in General Education) both from the Indian Wells Valley Campus and Christine Effinger (A.A. in General Education) who attended the Kern River Valley Campus.

## ASCC AWARD INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR



Dan Johnson



John Garcia

Cerro Coso Community College instructors (l to r) Dan Johnson, adjunct faculty and John Garcia, full-time faculty member smile after receiving the “Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year” and the “Full-time Faculty Member of the Year” award from the Associated Students of Cerro Coso (ASCC).

## CERRO COSO INSTRUCTOR RECEIVES EMS AWARD



Cerro Coso Community College Emergency Medical Technician & Industrial Technology Instructor, Michael Metcalf was selected to receive the Kern County Department of Emergency Medical Services “EMS Outstanding Service Award.” Metcalf was presented the award, and honored at two official events in Bakersfield: May 15, the Board of Supervisors presented a resolution at 9 a.m. and on May 22 the award was presented at noon during the EMS Week Conference.

Michael Metcalf was nominated by Steve Busby, Public Service Faculty Chair and Director of Public Safety Programs at Cerro Coso who stated, “Michael has shown a life-long history of outstanding service to the Kern County EMS System. He began his involvement with the system taking the EMT Course when he was 14 years old and again at 17 years of age. He started his career in the field when he was an Explorer Scout at a local ambulance company in Ridgecrest.”

Over the past 20 years Mr. Metcalf worked as a Paramedic in Ridgecrest, California City, Mojave, Rosamond, Boron, Coso Geo-Thermal, and Kennedy Meadows. He worked with the Kern County Fire Department as a paid call firefighter and volunteered in a program aiding BLM Rangers develop their medical procedures.

Metcalf currently maintains his Paramedic skills continuing to work as a Flight Paramedic and Medical Education Coordinator for Mercy Air Services. He then advanced to the position as the Medical Base Supervisor at Mojave prior to taking a full-time EMT teaching position at Cerro Coso in 2005.

Metcalf has been an active instructor in the EMT field for over 10 years as a college adjunct instructor. "Michael does not stop at teaching but he continues to seek out training courses that will not only keep his certification active but that enhance his skills and abilities. He continually averages close to 100 hours every two years of training directly related to his field," stated Busby.

## ROBERT VILLICANA NAMED CERRO COSO'S SPRING 2007 "STUDENT OF THE SEMESTER"

The Cerro Coso Community College Alumni Association has been recognizing the outstanding achievements of Cerro Coso students each semester since 1988. The Alumni Association proudly announces the recipient of the Spring 2007 "Student of the Semester" award is Robert Villicana from the IWV Campus. Mr. Villicana was honored at an Alumni Association awards luncheon on Wednesday, May 2, 2007 at Texas Cattle Company. He was nominated for the award by Cerro Coso speech instructor, Janis Jamison, who stated, "Robert has a lot of energy and passion for every speech he gives in my class. When other students speak, he is attentive and supportive. Robert sets a wonderful example for other students to follow. Anytime there is an event involving Cerro Coso students, in the community or on the campus, Robert is there! He is a student's student."

Overall GPA, class participation, extracurricular activities, and community involvement are all considered in the selection process for this award. Villicana is currently enrolled in 13 units and has completed 60.5 units overall. In addition to his college studies, Robert participates in the TRiO Program, serves as a Student Ambassador, President of the Special Services Club, Associated Students of Cerro Coso (ASCC) representative for the Students Intrigued by Technology Club, and is presently running for the position of President for the ASCC. He has listed his major as Social Science / History and his goal is to continue his education and one day teach history at a community college. In his spare time, Villicana enjoys reading, hiking, fishing and cooking.

Villicana was present with a framed certificate of appreciation, an alumni pin, a \$200 cash award, a special Cerro Coso remembrance gift, his name added to a perpetual plaque honoring all recipients of this distinguished award, and his photo will be displayed on a "Student of the Semester" bulletin board at the College.



The Interim President of Cerro Coso Community College, Dr. Mary Retterer (left) congratulates Robert Villicana as the recipient of the Alumni Association's Spring 2007 "Student of the Semester" award.

## Easter Project—Student Volunteers!

For Easter (2007), a small group of current and former Reading students volunteered to assist Associate Reading Professor John A. Garcia in providing Easter Baskets for underprivileged kids in the Ridgecrest area. While a large number of students initially volunteered to assist, this small group was able to set time aside when the project actually gained momentum. Mr. Garcia has aptly named the project: “Easter Baskets for Babies” Drive—this was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Easter drive and is similar to the Thanksgiving and Christmas drives that provided food baskets and gifts to underprivileged children and disadvantaged families.



The students who contributed much of their time and energy in assisting Mr. Garcia are pictured from left to right above: Ashlee Clem, Amber Clibbens, Professor Garcia, Heather Lynn Weber, and Dolores Henry. Three other students, who also contributed to the project (but were unavailable for the picture), included the following: Brenda Nelson, Doris Carbajal, and Zach Petersen.

During the two weeks leading up to Easter, students assisted in shopping for ready-made baskets in addition to shopping for all of the items necessary to create home-made baskets for children. The students then made up colorfully decorated baskets and, along with the ready-made baskets, delivered them to a non-profit group (Boys' & Girls' Club of Ridgecrest) who distributed the baskets to children for Easter. Each basket was overfilled with a variety of goodies, i.e., nutrition bars, candy bars, peanut butter/cheese crackers, solid chocolate bunnies, chocolate-marshmallow bunnies, crème-filled eggs, children's books, children's educational videos, and stuffed animals. This year the effort produced a total of 50 baskets, which were donated to the Boys' & Girls' Club of Ridgecrest. Another set of baskets were also distributed to children who were not members of the club. All in all, the students' hard work and tireless efforts with this endeavor put a smile on many kids' faces who otherwise would not have received an Easter Basket this year! This project is one of several that students from Mr. Garcia's Reading classes donate their time/effort for, mainly during the holidays throughout the school year. The next project is tentatively scheduled for mid-summer for underprivileged kids in the Ridgecrest area. Mr. Garcia welcomes any students wanting to assist in participating in community service projects, by donating only their time and effort to enriching children's lives in the Ridgecrest community and surrounding areas.



## Eberhardt Awarded Scholarship to Attend Leadership Institute

Cerro Coso Administrative Assistant Tammy Eberhardt has been awarded the Classified Leadership Institute Scholarship by the California Community Colleges Classified Senate (4CS). Each year the statewide Classified Senate offers two to three scholarships to attend the annual Classified Leadership Institute (CLI), which was established to promote leadership and strengthen classified staff participation in participatory governance. The scholarship covers the cost of attending the institute and provides some additional funds to assist with transportation costs. This year's institute, entitled "The Art of Creating Leaders" will be held in Tahoe City, California from June 21st to the 23rd.

Tammy, Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Academic Affairs, expressed an interest in attending the conference to her Classified Senate President, Cori Ratliff. I think she would be an excellent representative for Cerro Coso at the institute. I was pleased to write a letter of recommendation for Tammy in support of her application for the nomination, and I am ecstatic that she has been awarded the scholarship," Ratliff stated. Ratliff also suggested that the Classified Senate of Cerro Coso might be able to contribute towards Tammy's attendance at the conference, especially if she did not receive the scholarship.

When Tammy received the phone call informing her that she had been awarded one of the scholarships she said that she was sure that they had called the wrong person and even asked to verify that they called the right number. "You could have knocked me over with a feather," Tammy stated. While Tammy may have been shocked at the news, not everyone was so surprised. Dr. Mary Retterer, Interim President of Cerro Coso has this to say about Tammy, "Tammy demonstrates leadership in all aspects of her job. I don't know of anyone at Cerro Coso more deserving of this honor. The cream always rises to the top!"

Tammy is currently serving the classified staff as the Vice President of both the Classified Senate and CSEA chapter at Cerro Coso. While Tammy is uncertain she will move forward into the President position of the Classified Senate due to current obligations, she is a wonderful supporter of the classified staff and she will continue to advocate for them through her role in the CSEA and through her various roles on participatory governance committees.

Tammy began her career twenty years ago as a parent volunteer at her daughter's school and over the past two decades has worked in a variety of jobs. Five years ago Tammy joined the Kern Community College



District. She has served as switchboard operator and as the Administrative Assistant for the California Virtual Campus Regional Center 4 as well as for the Child Development Distance Learning Program associated with the First Five of California at both Cerro Coso Community College and Bakersfield College.

## CERRO COSO COLLEGE COMMUNITY BAND SPRING 2007 CONCERT

On Thursday, April 26th at 7:30 PM, the Cerro Coso College Community Band performed their spring concert, featuring Paul Decker on tuba, in a performance of "Tuba Tiger Rag."

The concert also feature the themes to classic TV shows including: Happy Days, Brady Bunch, Bewitched, The Addams Family, and I Love Lucy. For the kids, the band performed themes from popular cartoons including: Bugs Bunny, The Flintstones, The Jetsons, The Simpsons, Pink Panther, and Animaniacs.

The concert, also include an original animation created by the Department of Media Arts, which was shown while the band performed, "Stormchasers," by Larry Neeck.

Other musical selections included: "Into the Joy of Spring," "Plaza de Toros," "Spiderman" – from the movie soundtrack, "Travelin' Trumpets," "Birdland," and the original Sousa rag, "With Pleasure."

### 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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