

March 2007

the Coyote HOWLER



CERRO COSO FACULTY REPRESENTED ON UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION

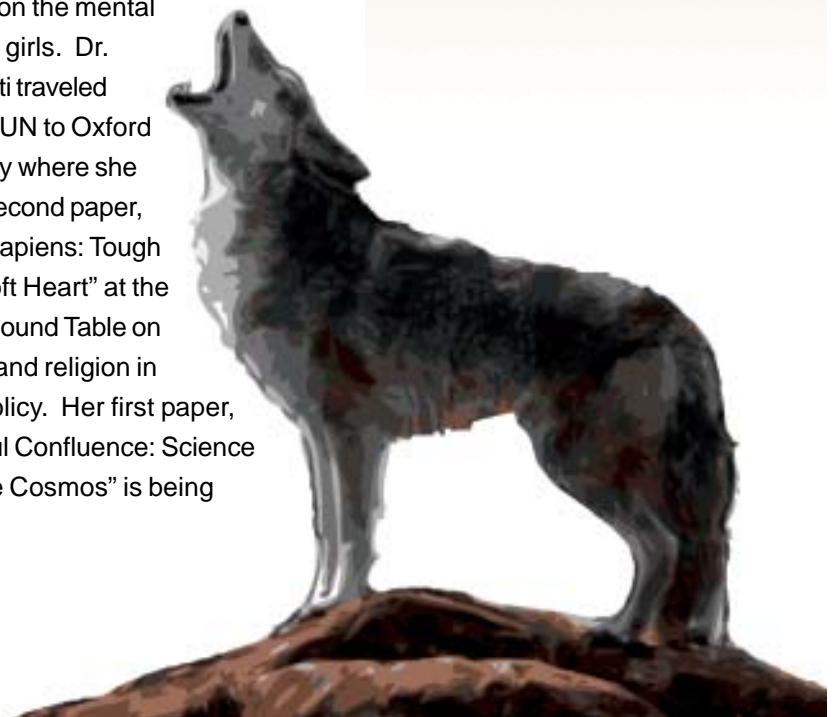
Dr. Anne C. Benvenuti, Cerro Coso faculty, traveled to New York City as an NGO (non government organization) delegate to the 51st meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. This year's meeting theme is The Girl Child, and Dr. Benvenuti attended meetings and caucuses focused on the mental health of girls. Dr. Benvenuti traveled from the UN to Oxford University where she gave a second paper, "Homo Sapiens: Tough Mind, Soft Heart" at the Oxford Round Table on science and religion in public policy. Her first paper, "Beautiful Confluence: Science

and Religion as Modes of Human Participation in the Cosmos" is being published this spring in Forum on Public Policy.



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CERRO COSO FACULTY RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS JANE BUGAY AWARD



Speech Instructor Janis Jamison-Nichols recently received the prestigious Jane Bugay Award for her dedication to the Community Light Opera and Theatre Association otherwise known as CLOTA.

The Jane Bugay Award was established in 1972 to honor Jane Bugay a charter member of the CLOTA organization. Jane served on the CLOTA Board for several years and was secretary at the time of her death. She was killed in a car accident, along with one of her children, on April 1, 1972. The impact of her death on CLOTA members was significant, since Jane was respected and admired for her devotion to getting in there and doing whatever needed to be done. Jane Bugay was one of the first board members to look beyond just doing productions, to see what the greater possibilities for CLOTA were. The Jane Bugay Award was established by the 1972 Board of Directors to honor the work and spirit of this dedicated woman. This coveted award has been presented by CLOTA every year since 1972.

Janis is a talented actress and virtuoso singer. When she first moved to Ridgecrest she displayed her talents on stage in several musical productions. It did not take long for her to become immersed into the CLOTA community and soon she was inviting guest directors and co-producing plays while mentoring young actors. She took up the publicity torch helping to design logos, writing publicity releases, even painting the large road signs used for visual publicity. Her vision of providing the highest quality of amateur volunteer theater in the Indian Wells Valley is contagious and has sparked much activity within the CLOTA organization. Her background in professional acting has made her a valuable asset to the CLOTA organization as a whole and specifically to the recently revived Play Reading Committee. Janis constantly promotes the role of CLOTA in the community and continues to encourage young actors and stage craft students to follow their dreams. Ridgecrest is fortunate to have such a knowledgeable, dedicated and active patron of the performing arts. She exemplifies through her actions the spirit of the Jane Bugay Award.

CERRO COSO FACULTY DONATES TO “CHIPS FOR KIDS” CAMPAIGN



During the holiday season, it is not always so happy for many children. Thanks to the California Highway Patrol’s “Chips for Kids” Program and the generosity of caring individuals some children had something to smile about.

Thanks to people like Associate Professor John A. Garcia and his very generous donation of toys and gift cards, children from Trona, Inyokern and Baldwin Park, had a happier holiday.

“Growing up poor, John knew what it was like to do without, and how the kindness of others made a difference,” says Garcia.

CERRO COSO COMMUNITY COLLEGE JOB DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Could your company use an economically-priced assistant? Wouldn't you love to have help? Employ one of Cerro Coso's students and have 75% of the wages paid for you. Cerro Coso Community College is interested in partnering with your business/organization to assist you in your staffing needs while providing a realistic employment setting for students in training. Benefits to your company include:

- Acquire eager, educated and qualified part-time trainees
- Have the satisfaction of helping students become independent
- Assist students who are receiving on-going career development training
- Build community partnerships

The CalWORKs (The California Work Opportunity & Responsibility to Kids) Program is a State and Federal-mandated program designed to assist parents who are receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) gain employment by providing training and work-study internship opportunities. Cerro Coso's Job Development Program is helping with California's welfare reform (CalWORKs) by training individuals and assisting in their placement into paid temporary short-term work experiences. Cerro Coso Community College is offering organizations a chance to partner by the business providing a work site for paid internships and "hands on" training that parallels the intern's educational training.

Cerro Coso has received State funding that will pay 75% toward's the intern's salary. The employer would be required to pay appropriate employee benefits and the difference in salary, which would be the remaining 25%.

"We're excited by the opportunity to assist our student's transition into the job market. The College has a commitment to be an active member in the development of our local workforce" says Paula Suarez, CalWORKs Coordinator at Cerro Coso Community College.

Cerro Coso's Job Development Program is designed to assist the CalWORKs student population achieve their personal career goals and self-sufficiency. "The work study opportunities provided to the local community will assist students in transitioning from education to employment" stated Mary Adams, Job Placement Specialist.

Have your Human Resources Office contact Mary Adams, Job Development Specialist, Cerro Coso Community College; CalWORKs Office; 760-384-6219 to learn more about this special partnership program.



CERRO COSO HOSTED CAL POLY-POMONA JAZZ ENSEMBLE

The Cerro Coso Community College, Associated Students of Cerro Coso (ASCC) hosted the Cal Poly – Pomona Jazz Ensemble performed in the Lecture Center on Thursday, February 8, 2007 at 7:00 pm. The 25 piece band comprised of dedicated jazz enthusiasts who excel in all aspects of jazz. They are taking their Ensemble on the road to gain experience in performing before crowds in preparation for the up coming college competition to be held later in the year.

ROMANTIC DINNER FOR TWO HOSTED BY ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF CERRO COSO

The public was cordially invited to a Romantic Dinner for Two given by the Cerro College A.S.C.C. (Associated Students of Cerro Coso). The Romantic Dinner for Two was held Friday, February 9, 2007 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the Student Center.

Sweethearts enjoyed a delightful romantic dinner in a facility with a gorgeous view overlooking the valley. The atmosphere was enhanced by soft music and mood lighting.

The dinner included two glasses of sparkling cider, salad, spaghetti, garlic bread, and ice cream with chocolate syrup for dessert. Coffee/tea, water, iced tea and punch are also available.

CERRO COSO AND WATER DISTRICT TEAM UP TO CONSERVE

On Wednesday afternoon, Cerro Coso Community College Interim President Dr. Mary Retterer (left) and Indian Wells Valley Water District (IWVWD) Board President Harold W. Manning celebrated an official collaboration on a large scale water conservation project on the college campus.

The cheapest water is conserved water. Cerro Coso's Interim President Dr. Mary Retterer firmly believes in this concept. So when the Indian Wells Valley Water District approached her with an idea to help make the college campus more water efficient, she welcomed the opportunity.

"As teachers and caretakers of the environment, Cerro Coso is delighted to partner with the IWV Water District on this exciting venture," Retterer said.



A few years ago, Cerro Coso Community College had received grant money for and subsequently invested in a sophisticated satellite-controlled automated irrigation device. A so-called “smart timer” on a large scale, the attendant technology has been proven by independent studies to significantly cut outdoor water usage because it adjusts watering levels to account for such variables as heat, chill, rainfall and even wind. However, California’s community college system went through a prolonged period of budget belt tightening and CC was unable to put their smart timer into full implementation mode.

In August, then IWWWD Board President Peter Brown wondered aloud at a District Water Management Committee meeting if there was some way the District could assist Cerro Coso’s water conservation needs and efforts. Shortly after, representatives from the community college, including their Director of Operations John Daly, met with IWWWD General Manager Tom Mulvihill to thoroughly discuss the situation.

And a plan was born.

With the assistance of Water District funds specifically set aside for conservation programs coupled with an investment by Cerro Coso to purchase and install water-system upgrades and a weather satellite connection, the college will soon enter into a new phase of water stewardship. Mulvihill is looking forward to water savings on the campus.

“District staff has developed a method for approximating the amount of irrigation water used by Cerro Coso over the last five years as a base for comparison,” Mulvihill explained. “By averaging water usage totals during months when outdoor irrigation is negligible and subtracting that figure from months when it is high, we have been able to come up with a reasonable number for average outdoor use. This is the number we will monitor in the months to come and we expect to see real results.”

This week, the IWWWD and Cerro Coso formally entered into an MOU (Memo of Understanding) designed to clarify the goals and scope of this project. Next, the smart timer computer software will be fine tuned. Daly is optimistic about the possibilities.

“Using water wisely is important to Cerro Coso – a high priority,” Daly said. “As our Valley continues to grow, we at the College want to do our part to conserve. This system is going to be awesome. It will allow us to maximize our irrigation process because we will water only when we need it and only at amounts that the ground can absorb at any given time.” Mulvihill and Daly expect all the software, the weather station and other upgrades to be in place and operational before spring sets in.

“Because of its sheer size, Cerro Coso is our biggest water user here in the Valley,” Mulvihill said. “And they are setting a great example by their tireless support of this effort. I am looking forward to a positive result.”

CERRO COSO FACULTY WRITES LEAD ARTICLE IN STATE PUBLICATION



Ms. Rachel Winston, Associate Professor of Mathematics at Cerro Coso Community College and an accomplished writer has a featured article in the upcoming Winter 2007 edition of the *“Faculty Association of California Community Colleges”* magazine. The article titled “Crossing the Digital Divide – Understanding and Engaging 21st Century Students” is sure to be a big hit among the State’s Community College faculty” stated Dr. Mary Retterer, Interim President of Cerro Coso Community College.

Rachel Winston is a member of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges Board of Governors.

As a member of the Executive Committee, she serves

as the liaison to the Communications Committee, Professional Development Committee, and the Political Action Committee. She holds graduate degrees in mathematics and computers, and teaches full-time at Cerro Coso Community College, where she is Academic Senate vice-president, and an adjunct instructor at Orange Coast College. Ms. Winston will be giving a presentation on this topic at the Teaching and Learning Colloquium, March 2 -3 at DeAnza College. For a copy of the article visit, www.faccc.org.

CERRO COSO GETS COLOR



Deems Morrione, who is a graphics designer and runs the College Print Shop operation is standing by the first color copier in Cerro Coso’s history. “Cerro Coso has finally entered the 21st Century with its first color copier. The copier will produce up to 11x17 size documents, print two sided, hole punch, all with full connectivity,” stated Morrione.

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.

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