

# the Coyote HOWLER



## HEATHER OSTASH NAMED NEW VICE PRESIDENT AT CERRO COSO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ridgecrest, California – The Kern Community College District Board of Trustees approved the selection of Heather Ostash to the position of Vice President of Student Services at Cerro Coso Community College at their August board meeting. Ostash replaces Jill Board, who was named President of the College in May.



An energetic and exceptional leader, Ostash inspires collaboration and will build on the many accomplishments of the College's Student Services Program. She has the full support of the CCCC campus communities, as well as the KCCD Board of Trustees, and administration. "Heather brings with her a wealth of local

experience, and a sound understanding of the needs of our students, which is very important to Cerro Coso Community College," stated College President, Jill Board.

Since joining the Cerro Coso staff in 1998, Heather has served as: Athletic Counselor, Honors Program Counselor, developed and lead recruitment and outreach in online student services and counseling efforts, served as Matriculation Coordinator, Counseling Coordinator, Transfer Center Director, and Articulation Officer. Ostash has also taught a variety of Counseling and Personal Development classes both onsite and online. She will begin her new duties in August.

Raised in Ridgecrest, Heather is a 1990 graduate of Burroughs High School. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from Fresno State University, and a Master of Arts in Counseling, and a Public Personnel Services Credential from Sonoma State University.



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## CERRO COSO WELCOMES CORNETT TO THEIR LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER



Julie Cornett

**JULIE CORNETT** has been selected by the Kern Community College District to the full-time position of Librarian at the Cerro Coso Community College IWV campus. Ms. Cornett is not new to the District, she has spent the last four years working as an adjunct Librarian/Instructor for the College's Eastern Sierra College Center and has assisted in meeting the Library needs of the College's online students.

Ms. Cornett replaces long serving librarian, Dr. Dennis VanderWerff who retired in May. "We are very excited and confident about the selection of Ms. Cornett to this position," stated Dr. James Fay, Vice President of Academic Affairs. "We recognize the important role our Learning Resource Centers play in providing access to information and the transfer of knowledge to our students and communities. Julie's part in developing Learning Resources Centers at our Eastern Sierra Center has been most valuable to those students. We consider ourselves to be very fortunate to now employ her expertise and leadership at the Indian Wells Valley campus which provides services to all of Cerro Coso's campuses and online students," concluded Dr. Fay.

## WELCOME NEW FACULTY TO THE START OF A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR



Dr. Scott Cameron

**DR. SCOTT CAMERON** - is a lifelong native of Michigan and newly hired as an Associate Professor of Physical Science for the Indian Wells Valley Campus of Cerro Coso Community College. Scott's educational background consists of a Bachelors of Science in both Physics and Astronomy & Astrophysics (2003), a Masters of Science in Astronomy & Astrophysics (2005), and a Ph.D. in Astronomy & Astrophysics (2009). All three degrees were earned while attending the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. During his Ph.D. studies there, Scott taught six years of introductory astronomy courses and helped coordinate the University of Michigan's astronomy outreach program. These teaching experiences redirected his professional interests towards the intellectual challenges and rewards of teaching science in both the classroom and public settings.



Bob Phung

**BOB PHUNG** – Instructor of Math. Bob joined Cerro Coso as a temporary Math Instructor in the fall of 2009, and much to the delight of his students, became permanent this fall. He teaches basic skills math along with other math classes. Originally from San Jose, Bob received his M.A. in Mathematics from San Jose State University. While a teaching assistant at SJSU, he discovered that not only teaching can be a career, but it is also a very enjoyable experience. In addition to being a new teacher, Bob is also a new resident of Ridgecrest. Since he has been here, Bob has noticed many good things about this community. The most noticeable of all is the friendliness of the people on campus and in this city. "The natural beauty of this area is stunning," he says.

## GREETINGS NEW CLASSIFIED STAFF

Meet **JANE ZACCHIA**, Accounting Technician II, in the IWV Business Office. A native of the Philippines, Jane and her husband Rick have two children. They are new to the area and enjoy the nice view of the Sierras. Some of the qualities that Jane admires most in people are honesty, friendliness, and people who don't judge you. She finds the people here to be very friendly. Her first job was as an Accounting Clerk in a manufacturing company and considers one of her greatest achievements to be passing all four parts of the Uniform CPA exam in one sitting. The best advice she ever received came from her father who told her "buy only

what you need not what you want." Most people would be surprised to know that Jane doesn't like buying stuff she doesn't need. Shopping is her least favorite chore. In her free time, Jane enjoys reading and walking. The last book she read was *The Lincoln Lawyer* by Michael Connelly and considers her ideal vacation to be traveling through the 48 states in an RV. If she wasn't working in the Accounting field Jane would probably be a librarian.

WELCOME JANE!

**CRYSTAL LEFFLER**, Department Assistant II has returned to the Counseling Department. She loves working in education and enjoys interacting with the students. Chrystal is a real family girl and shares that her favorite job was being a stay at home mom. She is married and has three children ages 22, 19, and 16, and a daughter-in-law. She loves spending time with her family and considers them to be her greatest achievement. If Crystal wasn't working at this job she would be "RICH", so until then she says "Thank you Cerro Coso for the employment". Her ideal vacation is anywhere near water, preferably the ocean because she loves riding quads, camping, and hanging out with her family. The last book she read was *Rich Dad Poor Dad* by Robert Kiyosaki and Sharon Lechter. The people she admires most in life are her "Paw" and "Granny" because they are "Awesome!" The best advice Chrystal has received in life is "Nothing Ventured Nothing Gained."

WELCOME BACK CRYSTAL!

**SARAH ERWIN** has joined the classified staff in the IWV Learning Resource Center as a Library Technician I. A native of Springfield, Illinois, Sarah graduated in 2009 from the University of Illinois with a bachelor's degree in Anthropology. She worked in the Library of the Health Sciences while attending the University as a student worker for three years. Sarah and her fiancé attended the University together and she followed her betrothed to California when he got a job working as an Engineer on base. In her spare time Sarah enjoys reading and cooking. She likes the nice atmosphere at Cerro Coso and finds the staff and students to be very friendly. Sarah finds humor in the fact that both she and her new boss, Julie Cornett, are petite red heads with degrees in Anthropology. WELCOME SARAH!



Jane Zacchia



Crystal Leffler



Sarah Erwin

## FACULTY TURN OUT FOR FLEX FRIDAY



Dr. Christine Swiridoff explains the benefits of using "turnitin".



A good turnout for Friday, afternoon's Faculty orientation.

The Fall 2010 Flex Day was well attended and highly educational. Coordinated by Academic Senate President Matthew Crow and President Jill Board the event was held at the Indian Wells Valley campus. Faculty were greeted with a reception jointly sponsored by CCA and the President's Office, followed by a presentation of service pins by President Board who recognized faculty for multiple years and semesters of serving our students and the college. A *State of the College* address covered high interest topics including the State budget, pending legislation, an update on college staffing, a progress report on construction, the new blog as a communication tool, and an emphasis of focusing on student success, retention and completion. John Daly, Maintenance and Operations Manager, gave an update on emergency preparedness sharing administrations participation in the Ridgecrest community's emergency preparedness drill and plans for college wide participation in *The Great Shake Out* scheduled for October 21, 2010.

New faculty member and Librarian, Julie Cornett, presented techniques and best practices utilizing the new iTV equipment. Faculty scheduled to teach iTV courses this fall were provided packets of information and were extended an invitation for individual training. Professor Christine Swiridoff presented on the valuable use of the online tool [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). This is a tool faculty can utilize to check for student plagiarism. Swiridoff also talked on how to use the website to teach students about plagiarism. The morning ended with a presentation by the Suzi Ama on course level outcomes.

Later that afternoon the administrative team provided a faculty orientation. All faculty were invited to attend with faculty chairs, faculty mentors, Academic Senate Executive Board members and the CCA College representatives specifically identified to join in the session. Various administrators and faculty leaders spoke and shared their role in serving the faculty followed by a review of an employee orientation moodle site. Valerie Karnes led the charge in creating the moodle site with input from the administrative team over the summer the outcome of facilitating consistent information used to orientate new employees. Deanna Campbell presented the site receiving welcomed input from those in attendance regarding additional information and links that were deemed to be useful. The day was well attended with timely and valuable information presented by faculty leaders!



## ESCC KICK'S OFF FALL 2010

With unprecedented enrollment at Eastern Sierra College Center for Fall 2010, the Mammoth Lakes Foundation's South Gateway Student Apartments (SGSA) opened its second year with a full house. New manager, Chrisina Worley and her team of Resident Assistants have created a warm, welcoming atmosphere commencing with a Kick Off Barbeque held on, August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Nearly all of the 49 full-time Cerro Coso Mammoth students residing at the SGSA attended the event Saturday night with their parents. The Mammoth Lakes Foundation also invited ESCC faculty and staff to meet the incoming students and their families.

Like Aliza Segal and Holly Smith, classmates from Orange County School of Performing Arts, most of the students are very excited about the opportunity to study in Mammoth Lakes while pursuing outdoor activities and a 'healthy lifestyle'. Both Aliza and Holly are planning to learn how to snowboard this year and are already working on their ping pong skills.

ESCC Director, Deanna Campbell was impressed by the collegial environment, "we are looking forward to the energy this group of students will contribute to the overall campus atmosphere. Parents were relieved that their students were already bonding and making friends." The SGSA team has prepared a calendar of events to enhance student life and encourage students to work together and become more involved with the college. For example, there will be an orientation meeting Monday night after the first day of classes, regular Wednesday evening dinners in the housing lobby and students will have an opportunity to meet Cerro Coso President, Ms. Jill Board, at a Pizza Party on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

## BETA KAPPA CHI HONOR SOCIETY RECEIVES SPECIAL COMMENDATION

The Beta Kappa Chi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at Cerro Coso Community College received special commendation during the Nevada/California Regional Convention for fulfilling all requirements to be named a "1 Star Chapter."

The Beta Kappa Chi Chapter at Cerro Coso encourages the academic achievement of two-year college students and provides development opportunities through participation in leadership and services. "We are very proud of our Beta Kappa Chi members and the chapter's efforts in providing rewarding educational experiences inside and outside of the classroom," stated Jill Board, College President.

The Five Star Chapter Development Plan strives to strengthen successful chapters by providing guidelines for organization and program implementation which improve student engagement on campus, and recognizes progress in the attainment of the goals set by the chapter. Using the Five Start Plan, chapters enhance their strategies to recognize eligible students, provide significant personal and professional development opportunities for members, and build a working relationship with the college administration by becoming active on campus and in the community. Established in 2006 under the direction of founding advisor, Dr. Christine Swiridoff, the Cerro Coso Beta Kappa Chi Chapter was also recognized for achieving 1<sup>st</sup> Star status at the Society's recent Annual Convention.



Aliza Segal and Holly Smith, high school classmates from Orange County School of Performing Arts and new residents in the Mammoth Lakes Foundation South Gateway Student Apartments, are excited to be in Mammoth going to college. They plan to learn how to play ping pong and snowboard in addition to English and to their classes at Cerro Coso.



Dr. Christine Swiridoff

## CERRO COSO TO OFFER FIRE SCIENCE CLASSES BEGINNING THIS FALL

Steven Busby, Director of Public Safety Training Programs at Cerro Coso Community College is pleased to announce the offering of Fire Technology courses during the Fall 2010 Semester. The Fire Program has been inactive for the past ten years, but with the addition of a new lead instructor the program will again offer degree coursework locally. The new instructor, Sean Stratton, is a Battalion Chief with the China Lake Fire Department.

Stratton has been in the fire service for the past 19 years, beginning his career as a Volunteer Fire Explorer with the Bellevue Volunteer Fire Department in Nashville, Tennessee. A few years after earning Firefighter status in Nashville Stratton joined the United States Navy where he served as a medic. He earned his Naval Aircrew Wings and served as a Search and Rescue Medic. Stratton was awarded the Bell Helicopter Rescue Award for his many rescues. In 1988 he was transferred to NAWC China Lake where he served as a Search and Rescue Medic.



Sean Stratton

## “ATTACK YOUR STUDIES AS HARD AS YOU ATTACK THE GAME”

That was the message of Vice President and Administrator in charge of athletics, Heather Ostash, given at the Men’s Baseball Orientation held on Sunday, August 22. Interim Head Coach, Billy Montgomery and Assistant Coach, Brian King were both on hand to welcome the players. The team was given an orientation to Cerro Coso and college baseball and the evening concluded with a BBQ hosted by the Coaches. Montgomery is a former Cerro Coso baseball player who started assisting duties last season. He took over for Coach Adams this season who is out on a coaching leave of absence due to health issues. Adams continues to instruct Physical Education and Health Science classes at the college. Brian is a returning Assistant Coach whose primary responsibilities include coaching the Coyote pitchers and assist with the catcher. Get ready for an aggressive season of “COYOTE BASEBALL”.



Coyote Baseball  
Head Coach Billy Montgomery  
and Assistant Coach Brian King



The 2010 Coyote Baseball Team



Bakersfield College  
Cerro Coso College  
Porterville College