

TALON MARKS

CERRITOS COLLEGE

WEDNESDAY MARCH 23, 2011

First issue free, additional copies \$1

WWW.TALONMARKS.COM

VOLUME 55, NO. 19

Summer cuts still in debate

VICTOR DIAZ
Online Editor
online@talonmarks.com

Members of the Cerritos College Faculty Senate discussed cuts to the upcoming summer session during their meeting on Tuesday.

Economics professor Solomon Namala gave a presentation to begin the discussion in which he stated, "the district's finances are sound" and the school has been "fiscally prudent."

Namala used numbers from Cerritos College's adopted 2010-11 budget to categorize some of the school's expenses.

The numbers included ending balances for the General Restricted Fund (\$11.7 million), Capital Outlay Fund (\$19.1 million) and the Retiree Health Benefit Fund (\$3.3 million).

"The college is fiscally sound, but it does have a cash flow problem," he said, referring to the state government's system of apportionment and deferrals of funds.

Political science Professor Victor Obasohan and history Professor Walter Fernandez both voiced their opinions regarding the cuts, which

See Budget debate Page 2

Mobile News

Scan to listen to Victor Obasohan.



http://bit.ly/eJa5sw.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GREGORY HORSEY JR

Golden handshake: Veteran professors have been offered an early retirement incentive known as the Golden Handshake, a move that will save Cerritos College an estimated \$1.5 million.

Veteran professors offered an early exit

REBECA VEGA
Staff Writer
rebeca.vega@talonmarks.com

David Young, counselor at Career Services and counseling instructor for 25 years, admits he has thought about the younger, less experienced individuals who will one day teach his classes after he has retired.

"God bless them, you know? I was younger and didn't know diddley once, either. I thought I did at 30—a kid-caring psychologist.

"You learn you don't know everything,

Scan to listen to Linda Lacy



http://bit.ly/hZR9DX

and this is a learning environment. Attitude is everything, and most people in higher education appreciate that."

The "well-kept, almost-65-year-old" was pleasantly surprised to receive news that Cerritos College is offering an early retirement incentive program for employees, a program known as a golden handshake.

"My initial plan had been to go another year and a half, anyway, but then this thing came along, and it was like, 'Whoa, okay, I'll go sooner if it meets everybody's needs.'"

Eric O'Leary, a representative from Public Agency Retirement Services, presented information at the March 2 Board of Trustees meeting indicating the school would save roughly \$1.5 million during the first year if the program is approved by the Cerritos District.

Cerritos College President/Superintendent Linda Lacy is enthusiastic of the outcome.

"That's so helpful," she said.

"Those are just a

lot more classes we can offer our students."

PARS would pay qualified employees 80 percent of their respective salaries in addition to their regular retirement benefits with incentive disbursements commencing on Aug. 1.

Qualified employees must have worked within the district for five years, been employed at Cerritos College as of March 2 and must be eligible to receive benefits from one of two retirement programs- STRS or PERS- as of June 30.

Enrollment packets have already been sent out to employees and the deadline to submit them to the agency is April 18.

If at least 44 employees accept the offer, the District will

approve the plan and notify the Board of Trustees by May 6.

Members from all employee groups have been offered the incentive, but faculty is expected to generate the most savings, if a projected 26 members enroll in the program.

An average of five to seven faculty members retire every year, without an incentive program.

Faculty Senate President Debra Moore thinks retired instructors are likely to leave a void at the school for some time.

She predicts "some departments that have a lot of retirements may face some staffing challenges until they are able to hire new

See Golden Handshake Page 2



Feed a blue piggy and help Japan restore its state

ANTHONY HODGE
Staff Writer
anthony.hodge@talonmarks.com

The Associated Students of Cerritos College encourage faculty and students to donate to Japan.

The ASCC has piggy banks at the Student Activities Office to drop off money, or for other offices to check out a piggy bank from the ASCC office.

Director of Student Activities Holly Bogdanovich said that donations will be given to the American Red Cross.

"Right now, we're looking at running this

portion until the end of March," she said, "We may extend that date."

Bogdanovich said that other clubs are working on putting together a big charity drive for the school. No dates have been set yet.

"We also have the blood drive on campus in April," she added.

Aljen Medallo, business and arts major and active member of the ASCC, said that he wants the students to be aware of what happened in Japan and would hope for the student body to help give to Japan.

"Another step would be to get the word out to other people and have them donate as well," he said.

Money is not the only choice for individuals to donate.

Medallo added that students and faculty can give clothes, toothpaste, toothbrushes and other accessories.

"It's just a sense of involvement for everyone," he said.

Medallo had friends he knew who the earthquake in Japan and survived.

"However, the unfortunate part was their families were lost. I feel sorry for them," he said.

Many students thought that this is a good thing for Cerritos to participate in helping Japan.

Sports psychology major Ashley Pearson

said, "Overall, I think it is a nice thing to do to reach out and even think of other people in Japan. A lot of people don't think about other people or try to donate."

She added, "I would like to do things like give blood."

English major Joshua Craft said, "I think it displays that its (ASCC) priorities are in the right place. It displays a maturity of action."

Mary Dewar, an accounting major who plans on donating, said, "Who knows? One day we may need that aid and other countries might help us. It's good charity."

The ASCC has participated in Hurricane Katrina and the Haiti relief.



WHO CAN ENTER?

*At least one member of the band needs to attend Cerritos College

*Band can not be associated with Talon Marks

*Must have a demo or sample of music



TALON MARKS BATTLE OF THE BANDS

For more info come to FA-42 or e-mail
joey.berumen@talonmarks.com or
jim.brannon@talonmarks.com



HOW TO ENTER?

*Send a sample of music or demo to
joey.berumen@talonmarks.com or bring into
FA-42 by April 14.

*Be sure to include contact information

*Be sure to include a band bio

*Top four bands will be chosen to be featured in videos on www.talonmarks.com



Don't underestimate grandpa: Independent runner German Sanchez beat out nine other contestants for the title of Mr. Cerritos. The event was held March 16, as part of the 32nd Annual Hoe Down Days.

It's 'Sexy Grandpa Time'

Independent runner is named Mr. Cerritos in the second day of the 32nd Annual Hoe Down Days

PHILIP OKOLI
Staff Writer
philip.okoli@talonmarks.com

Crowd members enjoyed watching this year's edition of Mr. Cerritos on March 16, with Anime Club's German Sanchez winning the title, and Kabarkada club's Chris Strawder coming in second.

"I am in shock. There were honestly people who were actually sexier than I am, and I thought that they were going to win, and not me," Sanchez said.

This year's Mr. Cerritos contest had 10 students involved, and it gave students a chance to show their talents.

The informational meeting on March 11 gave the contestants information on what is allowed in their performances and what is expected in the event.

Afterward, Strawder began to prepare for the contest.

"I was kind of pressured to be in the contest, and I am nervous.

But I've been working out and listening to music everyday, trying to get in the zone by listening to my beats," Strawder said.

Accounting major, Justin McIntyre, who represented iFalcon, was also trying to get ahead by getting ready early, and have fun with the event.

"I've been watching my diet, and been work-

ing out a lot. I plan to start lifting weights and eat healthier; just trying to get rid of my pudge I got going in, and have a six pack by 'Mr. Cerritos,'" McIntyre said jokingly.

The day of the Mr. Cerritos competition, participants were set with their creativity and were ready to show judges and the crowd why they should be the winners.

"I've seen a lot of talent here over the years, and every time this event happens, it's different. It surprises me to see a lot of what [the participants] do, but in a good way," Master of Ceremonies Ray Martinez said.

The first events of the competition were random questions and a short performance by the participants.

Strawder, when asked by Martinez, "If you can ask anyone living or dead any question, who and what would it be?" answered by saying, "I would ask Michael Jackson if he can teach me how to moonwalk."

Strawder would follow by dancing the "Cat Daddy," which got the crowd into the performance.

Another participant who got a loud reaction was McIntyre, whose performance and jokes revolved around him being compared to singer

Justin Bieber, and jokingly claiming that Bieber was his idol.

Sanchez put on the gimmick of an old man in a young person's competition.

"[When getting ready for Mr. Cerritos] I was thinking, 'What exactly can I do that is good but untraditional?' Then I thought, 'What if I do an old man?'"

It was funny because I watched this old guy dancing, and I thought it would be cool to do that because he was all crunched down and next thing you know, 'Oh! I'm dancing!'" Sanchez said.

The second event of the Mr. Cerritos was the swimsuit competition.

The crowd's reaction went towards Strawder and Sanchez.

Strawder came out by flexing and strutting his stuff, and representing his club by carrying the Philippine flag.

Sanchez continued his old man gimmick, and added swim trunks and a shirt that read, 'Sexy Grandpa Time,' which brought a huge reaction from the crowd.

The crowd and judges alike voted Sanchez as the winner, and Strawder as the runner up.

Martinez was very impressed by Sanchez' creativity.

"I'm happy for the winner. I mean, let's give it up to the old man," Martinez said.

"It was funny because I thought German was confused that this was a Halloween contest, but it all worked out. Everyone got into his performance, and he finally showed what he can do, and he did a good job," he said.

Mobile News

Scan to view video of the Mr. Cerritos competition

<http://bit.ly/gwRxaB>

Golden Handshake: Cerritos faculty have mixed reactions over incentive

Continued from Page 1:

Adjunct faculty would fill the spots of retired individuals, at least for the first year after the plan goes into effect.

Jenine Nolan, instructional dean of Health Occupations, who is considering the option, feels the school is ready to take the hit.

"It will be a huge loss to the institution, and very importantly," Nolan insists, "I believe that people will rise to the occasion and the institution will thrive."

Young, who is also the co-adviser of Phi Beta Kappa and hosts his own show on WPMD, estimates that the school will lose 120 years of "institutional memory" with the instructors who retire from his division.

He also believes students won't mind or even notice.

"Students are much more concerned with whether or not they're getting their classes than who's teaching them."

He would like to have the opportunity to return to Cerritos to work part-time once the school figures out a plan to make that happen.

Lacy explains that the possibility exists, but those interested need to follow a process.

"It is up to the divisions as to who they employ as part-time faculty, therefore there are no guarantees."

"[Employees] will need to check with their representatives of the retirement system to determine if they are eligible to return in a part-time capacity. Each division has a procedure for hiring part-time faculty that would be implemented."

Lacy would like the school community to focus on the positive aspect of retirement: creating new jobs for eager instructors in a struggling economy.

"You always have that excitement of having a new faculty member who wants to come in and be that retiring person. [New instructors] want to make their mark and develop their loyal students, too."

"There are a lot of good folks out there that would be prepared and are needing a full-time job."

Budget Debate: Senate members concerned about cuts

Continued from Page 1:

would further limit course offerings for students.

"I would like to see the whole summer saved primarily for our students," Fernandez said. "If there was a way we could offer a full complement of summer classes, I would like for us to pursue that."

Obasohan told the senate that he did not believe that cutting summer classes was a definite to the school's financial woes.

He said, "It appears to me that if we were to capture this in a slogan, it would probably say, 'We are a solvent, not a liquid.'"

"If the state cannot pay us now, they will pay us [at a later time]. We are in a very ground financial ship."

He later said, "The argument was to say, 'if we are in that kind of financial footing, why can't you offer a full complement of summer classes as it was originally designed?'"

Cerritos College President Lin-

da Lacy explained the reason behind the state government's requiring of cuts to community colleges.

"Workload reduction is the first thing [the state government] is trying to hammer us with. We've always done more with less and now, it's saying, 'this is what we're going to pay you for, and as long as you keep telling the public you can do more with less, then that's what you're going to get,'" Lacy said.

After the meeting, Obasohan said, "What we wanted to do is encourage both sides to go back and see if there can be a financial accommodation to protect academic programs and open up more classes for students."

"We have an opportunity now, the money is there and we are very solvent."

TM
CLASSIFIEDS

JOBS

SUMMER AQUATICS AND RECREATION JOBS
CITY OF LA MIRADA

Cashier
\$10.81 - \$17.13 per hour
Completed applications and criminal supplemental questionnaires are due Fri., March 25, 2011 @ 4:30 pm or after 150 applications have been received.

Aquatics Positions
Water testing and interviews will be held for all applicants on Saturday, March 26, 2011.

Positions & Interview Times:
Swim Instructor/Lifeguard- 8:00 am
Swim Instructor-10:00 am
Lifeguard -10:00 am

Recreation Positions
Completed applications & criminal supplemental questionnaires are due Thurs., March 31, 2011 @ 4:30 pm.

Positions:
Recreation Leader (Seasonal) - \$9.67 - \$12.39 per hour
Recreation Aide (Seasonal) - \$8.54 - \$10.62 per hour

For more information, please call 562) 902-2317 or visit www.cityoflamirada.org.

Email vdorojas@cityoflamirada.org

Earn Your Bachelors Degree on Campus!

Information Session April 7th at 6 p.m. in the Auto Partners Building

- Bachelors in Business Administration degrees for working adults.
 - Management
 - Automotive Marketing Management
- Affordable Tuition
- Classes taught at Cerritos College

Scan to view information

Register for Summer and Fall Now!

Call for an appointment (562) 653-7852
dayp@northwood.edu

Learn more at www.cerritos.edu/northwood

Anti-war protest fills L.A. streets



Prisoner of war: (Top left) A demonstrator dresses up as a prisoner from Guantanamo Bay to protest U.S. occupation in Afghanistan. Protesters marched down Hollywood boulevard on March 19 to rally for peace.

Umbrella of hope: (Top right) The protest gathered a diverse group of people, including this older woman carrying an umbrella laden with anti-war sentiments. During the march, protesters chanted in unison.

Plea for peace: (Left) Women cheer during UC Irvine student Enas Khaleq's speech before the march. The crowd marched one and a half miles to a rally on Hollywood and Vine.

ARIANNA SMITH & BENJAMIN FARREN
Staff Writers
arianna.smith@talonmarks.com
benjamin.farren@talonmarks.com

A young man held a sign that read "9/11 was an inside job," while another young man held signs that read "Long live brother Gaddafi" and "Dude, where's my bailout?" Another angry young couple chanted "What do we want? Troops out! When do we want it? Now!"

This scene was universal throughout the protesting mob as hundreds of people walked 1 1/2 miles from Hollywood and Vine to Hollywood and Highland on March 19. The anti-war protest was led by ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) on the eighth anniversary of the start of the U.S.- Iraqi war.

Before the march, speakers took the stage to speak out against the wars and excite the crowd.

One speaker who took to the stage was UC Irvine and former Cerritos College student Enas Khaleq, who boldly stated that this war was about "Making wall street bankers and oil giants rich."

"This war is not good for anyone," Khaleq said, "Except for the fat cats and the government that make all this money while students and the middle class and everyone else are just suffering." Cerritos College history major Carolina Morales and Pasadena City College student Yvonne Bonilla were also there in support of the cause.

"All of these wars are a huge reason why we're in a huge deficit," Morales said. "It's why our education is at risk, why classes are being cutback, why our tuition fees are rising tremendously."

Bonilla said, "We're against the war because we see it as a way to target the youth; it targets people who don't have access to education and lures them into the military with promises of job training and job security, but that's all a lie."

After the march, a closing rally was held with more than 15 speakers, and featured Chris Shiflett, lead guitarist for the Foo Fighters.

"I really wanted to get out to the big one in D.C.," Shiflett said, "But I'm leaving tomorrow to go on tour, so that wouldn't be possible. I found out that there was a sister march here in L.A., so I wanted to come out and support the cause I believe in. I'm anti-war, end of sentence."

One of the voices heard at the rally, also recently spoke in the conference room on the side Cerritos College library.

Mike Prysner, an Army veteran delivered a speech before a full house on March 9.

He said the importance of people uniting in support of a cause is because "Change doesn't come on its own, it comes through a people's movement."



Standing tall: A demonstrator holds a sign during the anti-war rally on March 19 while wearing a shirt meant to signify the common working class citizen. While free signs were distributed at Hollywood and Vine before the rally, bigger signs encouraged onlookers to visit sites like YouTube to view the "Building 7" video, which, calls into question the events of 9/11.

PHOTOS: LAURA CHAU/TM, PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: JOEY BERUMEN/TM

TALON MARKS is a First Amendment publication.

Editorials express the views of the Executive Editorial Board. Other opinions express the view of the author and are not to be considered opinions of the publication's staff, the Editorial Board, the advisers, the Cerritos College Associated Students, the college administration or the Board of Trustees.

Production and printing of TALON MARKS is partially funded by the Associated Students of Cerritos College.

Facilities and academic supervision are provided by the Journalism Program. Newsroom offices are located in the Fine Arts Building, Room FA42.

Cerritos College is located at 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650

Telephone numbers: (562) 860-2451, ext. 2617 FAX (562) 467-5044

Vol. 55 © 2011 Talon Marks

Spring 2011 STAFF

Interim Editor-in-Chief Andrea Mora

Online Editor Victor Diaz

Managing Editor Wendy Solorio

News Editor Andrea Mora

Arts Editor Jim Brannon

Co-Opinion Editors Jimmy Edwards-Turner J.B. Witron

Co-Sports Editors Pete Moye Stephanie Romero

Production Manager Gregory Horsey Jr.

Multimedia Editor Joey Berumen

Campus News Hour Director Shawn Adams

Social Media Editor Gonzo Saucedo

Photo Editor Laura Chau

Staff
Tito Benavides
Carlos Blandino
Jimmy Bottom
Roberto Camacho
Stephanie Cobian
Aastha Dhakal
Orlando Dominguez
Benjamin Farren
Claudia Gonzalez
Dianna Gutierrez
Jared Head
Anthony Hodge
Melissa Maestro
Michelle Moreno
Mayra Murillo
Philip Okoli
Steven Quintana
Juan Ramos
Martin Reyes
Brandon Rodriguez
Arianna Smith
Cherelle Tisby
Rebeca Vega

Faculty Adviser Rich Cameron

Instructional Aide Alicia Edquist

JACC Pacesetter Award 2009-2010



•EDITORIAL•

Golden goodbyes for teachers



ILLUSTRATED BY JIMMY EDWARDS-TURNER/TM

Cerritos College needs substantial change if it is going to survive in this gloomy economic climate and the newly proposed retirement incentive program, the Golden Handshake, might provide a silver lining to these financial storm clouds.

The school is struggling to continue providing good service while funding diminishes, so it is great to see the administration trying to find effective ways to save money without cutting resources or courses.

This idea is not terrible; offer senior instructors on campus a fine sum of money to retire a little earlier than scheduled and save the cash that would have gone toward all those tenure salaries.

The money saved by adopting this program is estimated at \$1.5 million for the first school year. Those are funds that can be used for a session of summer classes for students.

Having the “Handshake” in place for about five years would see drastic improvement take place on campus, and that doesn't mean changes would be solely monetary.

Of the 295 employees at school that can utilize it, fewer than half are likely to accept the incentive. If at least 44 accept the offer, the district will approve the program.

Having 26 instructors retire, rather than the fewer than 10 each year, would impact the roster of professors at Cerritos.

With so many tenured teachers retiring at one time, a window of opportunity is wide open for the part-time faculty.

Other, younger educators would have a chance to step up and create their own legacies, while those who are no longer passionate about teaching or burnt out from decades of work can move on to the relaxation phase of their lives.

Students already know these part-timers and trust them. Giving them steady jobs would likely increase the work ethic of the student body.

It may be interesting to have a professor that has been with the college for 20 years, but it will always be easier to relate to a teacher that's only seven years older than you.

Cerritos College shows a lot of ingenuity and integrity to be so willing to alter this institution and affect its personnel, all to save funds without cutting things we need.

If the school can continue to come up with beneficial and practical ways to be frugal, then we might see the prosperous rays of sunlight yet.

New building stuck with old observations

The newly constructed Physical Sciences and Technology Building is truly a sight for sore eyes. But do the artistic features have any scientific merit?

Getting beyond face value, the educational purposes of some of the architectural decisions made must have been lost in translation.

What is so disappointing about the exterior features of this new building?

The subtle design of a dated solar system model is painted in the concrete in the east plaza, based on a historically accurate, but factually broken, concept.

For reasons that are possibly unexplainable, those who undertook this task chose the Tyconic model of our solar system, formulated by the brilliant astronomer Tycho Brahe, back in the 16th century.

It's a geocentric model, placing the Earth at the center for the sun to revolve around instead of vice versa.

Kudos to Tycho for his work, but he had an excuse; he lived in the 16th century.

There is no excuse for this choice of decor, but that isn't the only problem with the new building.



Jim Brannon
Arts Editor
arts@talonmarks.com

The east plaza also features a sun dial that, when observed, isn't even close to depicting the right time of day.

A seating arrangement of stone slabs in the east plaza spell out four mathematical equations with Morse code.

Honestly? Morse code? This is an SOS to all Cerritos students; it would be in our best interests to petition for the building to be outfitted with an observatory.

In our March 2 issue's story, psychology major Nasreen Sarvi said, “I think the money used for those things would have been a lot better for something like an observatory for the building.”

Rio Hondo has one. Astronomy and physics stu-

dents will flock there as they scoff at Cerritos' feeble attempt to attract them with building aesthetics.

According to El Paisano, Rio Hondo's newspaper publication, its telescope is four inches larger than the scope at the Griffith Park Observatory, coming in at 16 inches.

Give students something practical, and dazzle them with fancy designs later.

Don't expect students to play Indiana Jones and work to solve these riddles and puzzles, because the frontier of science isn't being explored through sun dials, Morse code, or geocentric systems.

The frontier of science is dependent upon pilgrims venturing into the unknown, so give them something real to solve.

With an observatory, even the newcomer astronomer can make a monumental discovery.

Give these students the opportunity, and Cerritos could be rewarded with a cosmic breakthrough.

Stick with outdated concepts about the nature of our universe, then don't be surprised when you receive what you give: bad science.

“Don't expect students to play Indiana Jones and work to solve these riddles and puzzles, because the frontier of science isn't being explored through sun dials, Morse code, or geocentric systems.”

Japan's tragedy's effects extend farther than we understand

In what is the greatest tragedy to befall Japan since the sub-surface explosion that devastated Hiroshima during WWII, understand that events of this scope, affect not just the people of the nation, but the economic and political allies as well.

The event occurred on March 11, 80 miles from Sendai, Japan; and according to the US Geological Survey was a 9.0 magnitude earthquake.

The earthquake was followed by a few hundred aftershocks, and a tsunami that caused waves to cover areas of coastal Japan.

Arguably the most significant after effect, was that two of Japan's nuclear reactors sustained damaged to cause enough damage to allow radiation to leak into the environment.

What does this have to do with California or the United States? The relationship that Japan has with California could affect us socially, environmentally, economically and commercially.

We live in a place that has had earthquakes and any day we could be facing a similar situation. Be consid-



Benjamin Farren
Staff Writer
benjamin.farren@talonmarks.com

erate. Environmentally, what happened in Japan has released massive amounts of energy into the ocean and this energy has to go somewhere.

While it has only appeared to do damage in a few countries in northern parts of the state, it could create dangerous water conditions at any time.

We will be fortunate if we do not see elevated radiation levels here in California, one of the closest parts of the United States to Japan, but as the radiation in the atmosphere increases, we could see more of an effect.

Economically, the impact would be a slow down on major exports from California to Japan that provide revenue for businesses and jobs for people.

It is possible that some companies may be able to

transition to products or services that could support the recovery of Japan, but that is solely dependent upon the individual business' ability to adapt.

Conversely, Japan's currency has actually seen a rise in value.

This is believed to be related to the anticipation of spending Yen domestically as Japan rebuilds and recovers.

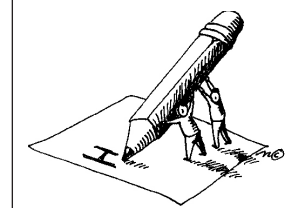
Commercially, the effects will be seen in rising costs of products we import from Japan.

This will be due to sluggish production of cars and electronic components, as well as the ability to transport these items.

What happened in Japan is a reminder of how little control we have over nature and an example of what could happen right here in Norwalk anytime.

It is up to you to take this seriously, determine what is valuable and important to you and your family and find out what actions you can take to prepare.

Preparation can be the difference between life and death, and a life beyond disaster.



Did one of us write something that ground your gears? Do you want to congratulate us on the great job we're doing? Whatever the case may be, we would love to hear from you, our readers. Send a **LETTER** to the **EDITOR**. We accept electronic mail at **editor@talonmarks.com** and boring regular mail at our office in **FA-42**. If you want your letter or e-mail to be printed, you must proudly sign it with your real name. Letters in poor taste will not be printed. This means we don't want any hate speech or conspiracy theories (unless they're hilarious). We only edit your letters for length to print them, but they appear in full online. If the subject of your letter is campus-related, then it will be given priority.



FREE
“How important is your cellphone to you?”
ZONE

COMPILED BY:
PHILIP OKOLI
PHOTOGRAPHS BY:
MAYRA MURILLO



ADAN HERNANDEZ
computer major
“In a way, it does mean a lot to me, but you can always get another one if you lose it.”



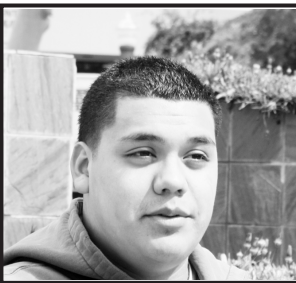
DEANNA SALAZAR
liberal arts and science major
“My cellphone means a lot to me because I have to keep in contact with my family and friends.”



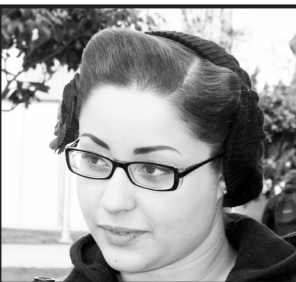
MOHAMMAD ANWAN
business major
“Actually I just had my cellphone stolen; my whole day is ruined. I feel naked without it.”



FRANK CEBALLO
music major
“I actually hate my cellphone. I don't like having it on me and I don't like knowing that people can contact me at any time.”



KEVIN RODRIGUEZ
business administration major
“It really doesn't mean anything to me. In the course of a day I might only use 10 minutes of my minutes.”



ZINEB FIKRI
vocal performance major
“My cellphone means a lot to me. I need to communicate a lot with my mother, boyfriend and my instructor.”

Former Marine uses talent to encourage others, note by note

ANTHONY HODGE
Staff Writer
anthony.hodge@talonmarks.com

Starting as a young saxophone player, then from serving in the Marines to becoming an aspiring teacher, these events and goals helped make Michael P. Herrera become the man that he is today.

Born on February 4, 1985, Herrera grew up in Bellflower, Calif. during his early childhood years.

When he was 11, his family moved to different cities, such as Downey, Norwalk and Cerritos, until finally settling in Artesia when he was 13.

Herrera was in the seventh grade when he first started playing the saxophone.

"It was kind

of an accident with how I started," Herrera said.

"I actually played drums the year prior at another school, and I registered in band [class] again as a drummer.

"Apparently, so did about half of the students in the class."

His teacher asked some of the students who wanted to play drums to try wind instruments instead.

"Nobody stepped forward at first, so I gave in," he said.

"I had no preference on instrument, so the teacher picked randomly for me. It just happened to be the saxophone.

"So the way I see it, I didn't choose the saxophone, it chose me," he said.

Herrera attended Gahr High School in 1999, where he played his first jazz solo.

"It was an eye-opener for everyone in my band since many of them had no idea that I could play as well as I did," he said.

Herrera played the saxophone all four years of high school, but stopped since he used the school's saxophone and was unable to purchase his own.

Herrera Enlists in the Marine Corp

After graduating in June of 2003, Herrera left home and, after enlisting, reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego in August of the same year.

In November 2003, he reported to Marine Combat Training in Camp Pendleton.

He graduated from boot camp as a squad leader and was promoted to private first class in October.

"I have always had the idea of joining the military since my freshman year [in high school].

"And since the Marine Corps is considered the toughest, sleekest and most revered military branch in the nation, it was the obvious choice for me."

Herrera served as an aviation mechanic in a harrier squadron.

He worked on equipment used to maintain aircrafts such as tow tractors, cranes and other machines.

While he was a lower-ranked private, Herrera was responsible for serving, repairing, and inspecting equipment, as well as keeping an inventory.

He eventually ranked up to corporal and sergeant, and started training other licensed Marines with equipment and kept up records of the Marines' entire squad-

ron licenses.

Herrera said that the four years of being in Gahr's marching band helped him make it through the Marines.

Between 2004 and 2009, Herrera took on different assignments and traveled to Hawaii, Australia, Iraq, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and many other countries.

In 2004, he was able to purchase his own saxophone.

By May of 2009, he completed the Marine Corps Martial Arts Instructor training.

Despite the hard work, Herrera said that he enjoyed teaching others how to work the equipment.

"If there is anything that I have learned, it is that the Marine Corps does not build character, it reveals it.

"Anyone can simply wear the uniform, but not everyone can live up to what it is suppose to represent: honor, courage, commitment. Though I no longer wear the uniform myself, I don't need to wear it to remind myself of these core values," he said.

Herrera was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps in 2009.

Pursuing an education

Now living in Lakewood, he enrolled in Cerritos College in the spring of 2010 and is majoring in music education.

"I really like [Cerritos], it's close to home. I knew people who were going to Cerritos."

He joined the Applied Music Program, and joined the concert jazz band.

"In his jazz band class, he met his current girlfriend, music major Krissia Molina. Molina said that they started talking to each other when Herrera sat next to her.

Molina, who also plays the saxophone, said, "I think he is very dedicated. He's a hard worker, very ambitious.

"He's a traditional gentleman; he encourages a lot. Even when I know something is bad, he encourages me," she said.

Herrera shared his thoughts on his girlfriend. "She's somebody I really respect as musician and overall as a person. She's a really talented musician."

Herrera said that her dedication to music is what attracted him to Molina.

Classmates also shared their thoughts on Herrera.

Music education major Janet Cisneros said that Herrera is a good jazz player and "a pretty cool guy."

Music major Reyneelynn Cameros added, "He's very serious, but he has a very quirky personality.

Herrera hopes to earn his music education degree to become a music teacher.

"I love to teach. It doesn't matter what it is- music, support equipment, whatever.

"I have always believed that knowledge is power, and to be the person who instills that knowledge into other people, and to see how they apply that knowledge to better their lives is extremely gratifying," he said.

"I am very happy to share this story with everyone. But one thing that I would like to make clear is that my past experiences and affiliations do not define who I am; I define who I am."

Herrera will be paying tribute to Charlie Parker, who was considered an influential jazz saxophonist and composer, on March 23 at 6 p.m. in BC-51.

ANTHONY HODGE/TM
Squad leader: Michael Herrera plays his instrument of choice; the saxophone. He has played saxophone for nearly 14 years.

Dance Concert to be held showcasing skills



Danceformer: Dance majors Sandy Ramos and Richard Silva rehearsing in the studio. Both will be performing in the concert.

MAYRA MURILLO
Staff Writer
mayra.murillo@talonmarks.com

The Cerritos College Dance Department will hold a dance concert that will show pieces including hip-hop, salsa, modern, and ballet dances, among others.

The dance concert will be held from March 31 to April 2, starting at 8 p.m., with a Saturday show starting at 2:30 p.m.

Students, choreographers and outside dancers will participate in an hour and a half to two hour show with presale tickets sold at \$10 and tickets sold at the door for \$12 dollars to students and \$15 to the general public.

Rebekah Davidson, part-time dance instructor, hopes that the people in attendance will be introduced to different genres of dance that they can enjoy and practice as well.

“I hope that they get an appreciation for dance, an idea of the broad spectrum [of dance], and if there is a certain style they already love, that they can broaden their understanding of it,” Davidson said.

Lesly Gomez, dance major, will be participating for the first time in the event and looks forward to the con-

cert.
“I’m so excited to participate in the concert. I want it to be right now,” she said.

Gomez, who has been practicing since two weeks after the semester began, will be participating in an interpretation of Cerritos instructor and choreographer Phoenix Cole’s contemporary, modern ballet piece.

Gomez will be accompanied by 10 other Cerritos College students in the performance.

Students of all skill levels, beginning to advanced, will partake in the dance concert.

Janet Sanderson, Dance Department chair, further explained what she hopes the audience will capture at the concert.

“The faculty and students hope to entertain and inspire their audience to become interested in dance as a means of creative expression,” Sanderson said.

Proceeds of the concert will help with “costs, technical design, production staff, costumes, as well as other department events such as the American College Dance Festival, guest choreographers, and guest artists,” said Sanderson.

‘Into The Fire’ addresses Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

GONZO SAUCEDO
Social Media Editor
socialmedia@talonmarks.com

As Karla Leyva finally broke out of denial from her Post Traumatic Stress Disorder issues after serving four years in the U.S. military, she concurrently broke into tears.

As part of the workshop after the play, “Into the Fire,” Leyva, a Cerritos College alumnus, shared her recent plight with the audience.

“For years now, I’ve been avoiding talking about my issues from PTSD. Things have been tough since I recently started my healing process,” she said.

“Into the Fire,” presented in the Tele-

conference Center on March 16, is a play exploring the stories and subsequent tribulations that returning veterans with disabilities and combat-related trauma go through.

Anthony Curry and Carrie Gibson of Had to Be Productions wrote and performed the play, which they’ve showcased in various regions, including inside the Pentagon.

Gibson said of their process, “We interview the people on the topic, and then we write down exactly what they say in the way that they say it.

“Then we take their words and arrange them in a way that we hope is going to tell a larger story to pull you in, but also really honor their individual stories.”

The production has been known to trigger emotional reactions from audiences.

“It can tend to get pretty emotional for some people, whether or not they’re veterans,” Gibson said.

Curry said, “We hope to show people that we’re all connected, we all have a part to play— that bringing someone home is all of our jobs, that any stigma for getting help is gone.”

Numerous veterans such as Leyva cried and spoke about their troubles during the open discussion subsequent to the play.

Sonia Ward, pharmacy major, said, “My husband is currently deployed in Afghanistan and I have noticed a change in [our email conversations].

“I wanted to know how to comfort him when he gets home.”

Veteran and ASCC President Felipe Grimaldo said, “There are times that I am vulnerable and I need the help. Usually, the only way that I can approach this is by continuing my services and giving back.”

Many veterans attending shared similar sentiments concerning Gibson and Curry’s work.

Graphic arts major Martin Miranda, who served for 32 years, said, “I’m happy that [they’re] showing this to people that are not in the military because they don’t know what we feel.”

Chris Markowski, history major and veteran, said, “It brought to light the many

issues that veterans go through when returning home that civilians don’t understand.”

Stephen Johnson, vice president of Student Services, stressed the potential of the Veteran Resource Center available to students dealing with these types of problems.

“What we have been looking at as part of our total mission for the Veterans Resource Center is that it be a resource to the entire college campus,” he said.

The Veterans Resource Center’s hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. from Monday to Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Fridays, and it’s located in TE 8 in the Technology Building.

Musical groups are welcomed to join in Band Exchange Concert

CARLOS BLANDINO
Staff Writer
carlos.blandino@talonmarks.com

The Cerritos College Music Department presented the Band Exchange Concert for students in Cerritos College on March 15 in the Student Center, featuring the Cerritos College Band, the Carmenita Cougar Band and the Concordia Wind Orchestra.

The Band Exchange Concert brought to Cerritos the different variety of music to students, giving them a taste of classical music.

Also performed were other types of music such as fandango or “Smoky Mountain,” a traditional piece, for middle school concert bands.

Carmenita Cougar Middle School, directed by Alan Hallback, gave the opening song to the concert by performing “Smoky Mountain” and three other songs.

“[I think it went] very well. The students just had to get used to how the stage sounded and how everything went,” Hallback said.

One of the other school bands that preformed was the Concordia Wind Orchestra from Concordia University, which was conducted by Jeff Held, director of instrumentals at Concordia.

He explained that they have been getting ready for this concert for three weeks and rehearsing twice a week.

He also said they have been on tour this semester performing in Sacramento, Bakerfield, Fresno, and Phoenix, Arizona.

They even played in churches, but added that it was his first time coming to Cerritos with his band.

“It was just fine, even though we didn’t get much time to rehearse in the hall, but I think we did well tonight,” Held said, adding that May 1 will be the last concert for the year.

The Cerritos College orchestra

band, directed by David Betancourt, closed the concert by performing three songs.

Betancourt said, “I am glad we did this tonight because it sounded good, but we have a lot of room to grow, so this was a good way to see where we are and now we have a few weeks to get ready and to represent our school.”

He also explained that the band had been rehearsing for this show since the beginning of the spring semester and getting ready to go on tour and play in Fresno.

Janet Cisneros, musical education and performance major, said, “I will be honest; I made a couple of mistakes but everything went well and everyone played well.”

TM
CLASSIFIEDS

JOB

SUMMER AQUATICS AND RECREATION JOBS
CITY OF LA MIRADA

Cashier
\$10.81 - \$17.13 per hour
Completed applications and criminal supplemental questionnaires are due Fri., March 25, 2011 @ 4:30 pm or after 150 applications have been received.

Aquatics Positions
Water testing and interviews will be held for all applicants on Saturday, March 26, 2011.

Positions & Interview Times:
Swim Instructor/Lifeguard- 8:00 am
Swim Instructor-10:00 am
Lifeguard -10:00 am

Recreation Positions
Completed applications & criminal supplemental questionnaires are due Thurs., March 31, 2011 @ 4:30 pm.

Positions:
Recreation Leader (Seasonal) - \$9.67 - \$12.39 per hour
Recreation Aide (Seasonal) - \$8.54 - \$10.62 per hour

For more information, please call 562) 902-2317 or visit
www.cityoflamirada.org.

Email vderojas@cityoflamirada.org

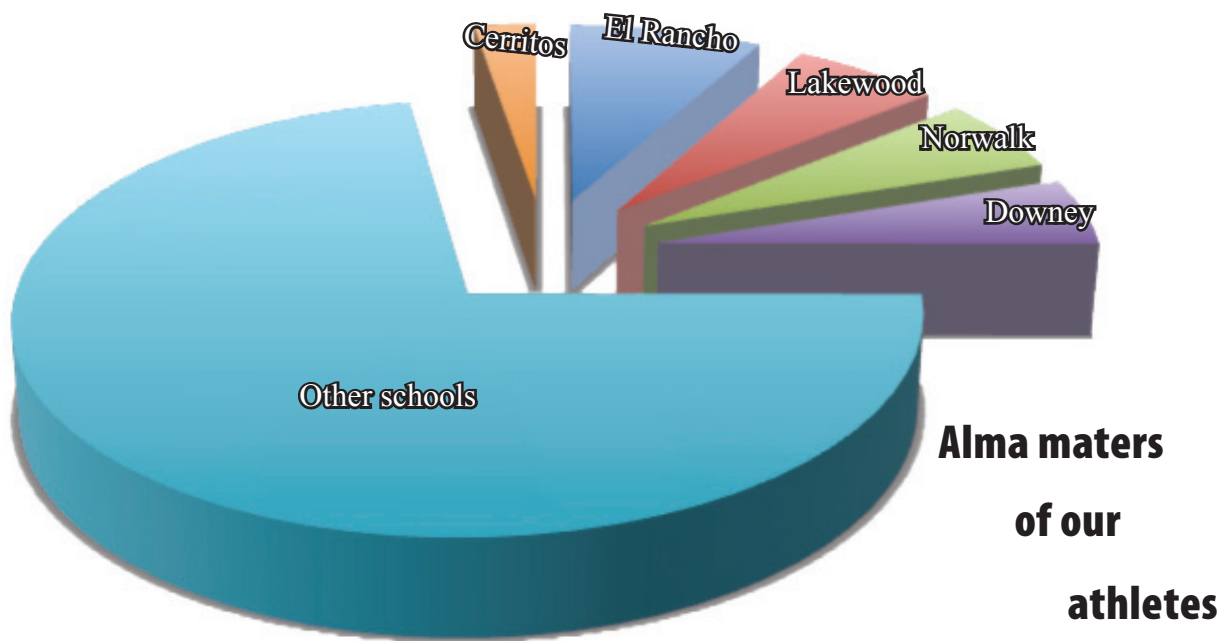
Get Your Associates Degree
and go to Law School.

- ☐ Good Idea.
- ☐ Great Idea.
- ☐ All of the above.

Enroll in Trinity Law School in the Fall.

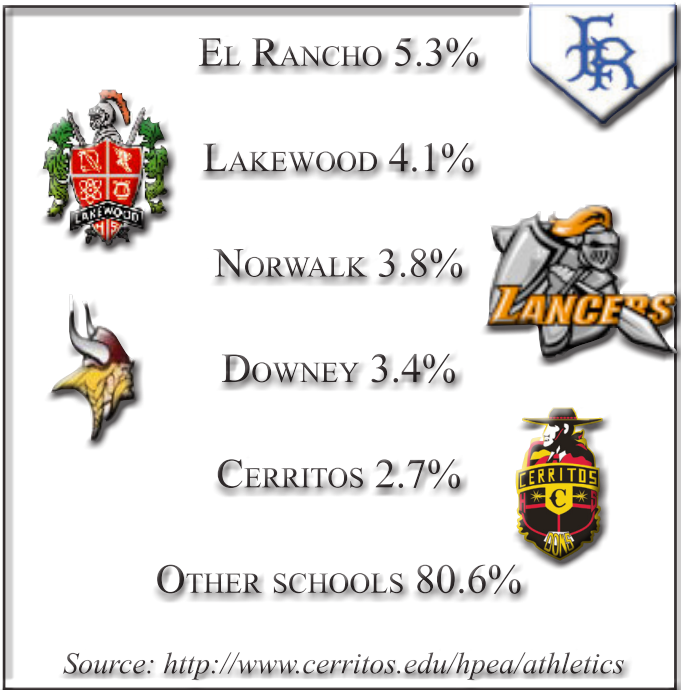
You can attend law school upon completion of your Associates Degree. Go straight to law school. Save time, save money, and get a great education with unlimited opportunities.

TRINITY LAW SCHOOL
2200 North Grand Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92705
800.922.4748 | www.TLS.edu



Slice it: Cerritos College has become one of the top junior colleges in the state in regard to athletics. The Falcons' sports teams have players from more than 90 different high schools including local, out-of-state, and international.

PETE MOYE/TM



Source: <http://www.cerritos.edu/hpea/athletics>

Where do our athletes come from?

BRANDON RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

brandon.rodriguez@talonmarks.com

While the mailing address of Cerritos College is located in the city of Norwalk, the remaining parts of the campus are in the city of Cerritos.

Obviously, not all the students went to high school at Norwalk and Cerritos.

So the question at hand is: What high schools are our athletes coming from?

Twenty-three athletes that came along are from Norwalk High School, which is north of the campus, while 16 attended Cerritos High School, which is just south of campus.

Also, Cerritos College athletes come from over 90 different high schools, some of those even include out-of-state high schools.

One student from out of state is freshman Jesse Ponce, who came from Arizona

to played on the wrestling team last semester.

"I had some friends who had success at Cerritos. One of my buddies was there and it was a nice change of scenery," he said.

Ponce, along with eight other athletes here at Cerritos, are not from the state of California at all and two of those athletes are from out of the country (Spain and Honduras).

What has to be the most surprising statistic was the number of athletes from El Rancho High school.

Thirty-one athletes come from ERHS.

Cerritos College is eight miles away, while Rio Hondo College is six miles away, with East Los Angeles College being 10.2 miles from El Rancho.

The reason why the athletes come to this school is because they like the history of the school.

Freshman Adrian Ramirez, an El Rancho graduate and redshirt for the Men's

Water Polo team, said, "I never liked the idea of playing at Rio Hondo or East Los Angeles College.

"I chose Cerritos because along with the distance, it seemed to always have successful programs."

A part from a few exceptions, the athletes are mainly a part of sports that are more individually based, such as Track and Field, Cross Country and Swimming.

When considering football, basketball and baseball, the high school that produces the most athletes is Lakewood High.

Lakewood is also in the vicinity of the average Cerritos College student.

Schools such as California State University, Long Beach are located in the area of Long Beach City College.

Also, the school is filled with athletes that want to shine at a school that would love to have their talents such as Cerritos College.

Mobile News

Scan to view PDF of cumulative stats



<http://bit.ly/hn0vxg>



AFTER THE WHISTLE

COMPILED BY:
STEPHANIE COBIAN
AND
MELISSA MAESTRO



MATAUAINA PAULUALO
Sophomore (Softball)

"I would be devastated; that's our ticket, that's a way for us ladies to come in and play college sports and move on to the next level."



DOMINICK SIERRA
Freshman (Football)

"Oh my gosh, are you serious? I wouldn't even come to school because football is my life."



DAVID MARTINEZ
Freshman (Football)

"I'd be devastated because I transferred over here for football, so that would suck. I would probably transfer to another junior college."



MONTANIQUE WASHINGTON
Sophomore (Basketball)

"I would be sad; I wouldn't know what to think. I wouldn't know what to do with my life because basketball is pretty much my life."



SONY THEODATE
Freshman (Track and Field)

"I would be very devastated because to some people, it's their ticket out and it would be very sad, but I'd still stay."



CSUDH students put their knowledge to work.

At **CSU Dominguez Hills**, we believe an excellent education should also be practical. Working side-by-side with nationally recognized faculty, CSUDH students conduct groundbreaking research. They intern for Fortune 500 companies who can't wait to hire them. They volunteer their time, talents and knowledge. And the experiences they have here, last a lifetime.

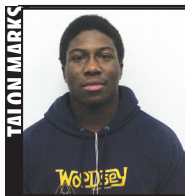
Learn more at CSUDH.EDU/FutureStudents.



APPLY NOW FOR FALL 2011

(310) 243-3696 • 1000 E. Victoria Street • Carson, California 90747

Don't save money to kill athletes' dreams



Pete Moyer

Co-Sports Editor
sports@talonmarks.com

The California Community College system has been forced to take a look at how money is being spent due to the current economic situation.

Classes are being cut, teachers are being laid off and programs are being disbanded.

The group of programs that shouldn't be tampered with is athletics.

Sports are the backbone of this country, and to cut them at any level is just un-American and wrong.

Sports build character, physical and mental strength, along with countless other intangibles.

Depriving our student athletes from gaining such skills and experiences shows a lack of intelligence from those who sign on the dotted line.

These student athletes dedicate so much time and energy to their sport while still managing on their academics.

Another thing to look at is the amount of money we've recently spent on renovating our athletic facilities, such as the Aquatic Center, Kincaid Field and the tennis courts, not to mention the ongoing construction of the Cerritos College aviary gym.

Long Beach City College is among several colleges who have been forced to make several budget cuts. School officials say the school plans to cut no less than seven million dollars during the 2011-12 school year with proposed cuts targeting program, courses and staff, according to LongBeachPost.com.

The cuts include the suspension of four sports programs, the loss of 222 course sections, which

is equivalent to losing 1,000 full-time students, a 5 percent salary reduction for all part-time faculty, which leads to the elimination of more than 25 classified staff positions.

Cerritos College is home to approximately 23,000 students and around 400 of those are athletes.

Why should we cut from the minority?

Every student cannot maintain a 3.8 GPA.

For those who don't, they have the chance to thrive in success by using their abilities on the playing field.

Some of our athletes have traveled across the country and even come from other countries just to participate in sports, and if we take away athletics, we rob them of a chance to achieve great things.

Other programs should have to suffer more cuts just because of the vast amount of other possibilities they can explore if their first choice doesn't pan out.

A straight-A student can find tons of options of things to participate in, but it may not be the same for a 6'5, 280-pound power forward whose only knowledge of working hard is establishing good position in the paint.

Typically, when budget cuts occur, everyone loses, but in this situation, athletes are losing the most.

Who are we to deprive several hundred student athletes a chance to play well at the community college level in hopes of earning a scholarship to a university and potentially changing the lives of them and their whole family?

For some of our athletes, their two years donning blue and white graced with a Falcon is the most important moment of their lives.

It is their chance to prove that they've dominated their position in their sport better than thousands of other athletes in the country.

ANTHONY HODGE
Staff Writer
ony.hodge@talonmarks.com

LONG BEACH
TRANSIT