

TALON MARKS

CERRITOS COLLEGE

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11, 2013

First issue free, additional copies \$1

WWW.TALONMARKS.COM

VOLUME 58, NO. 09

National Champions once more Women's soccer wins second championship in a row

SEBASTIAN ECHEVERRY
Associate Sports Editor
sebastian.echeverry@talonmarks.com

Being officially ranked no. 1 in the nation makes head coach of the Cerritos College women's soccer team Ruben Gonzalez feels as if he himself "scored in the championship."

"I feel humble," he said. "The feeling has been great all day." This is the third time the team has been ranked number one by NSCAA in the last six years.

The team played an extraordinary season ending with a record of 24-0-1, defending the state title.

Gonzalez has a very technical eye when it comes to recruiting players with specific talents to fulfill the department's goals.

"We (coaching staff) have already started the recruiting level," Gonzalez said. "We try to see who we will be missing in the next couple years and try to find players with the same characteristics."

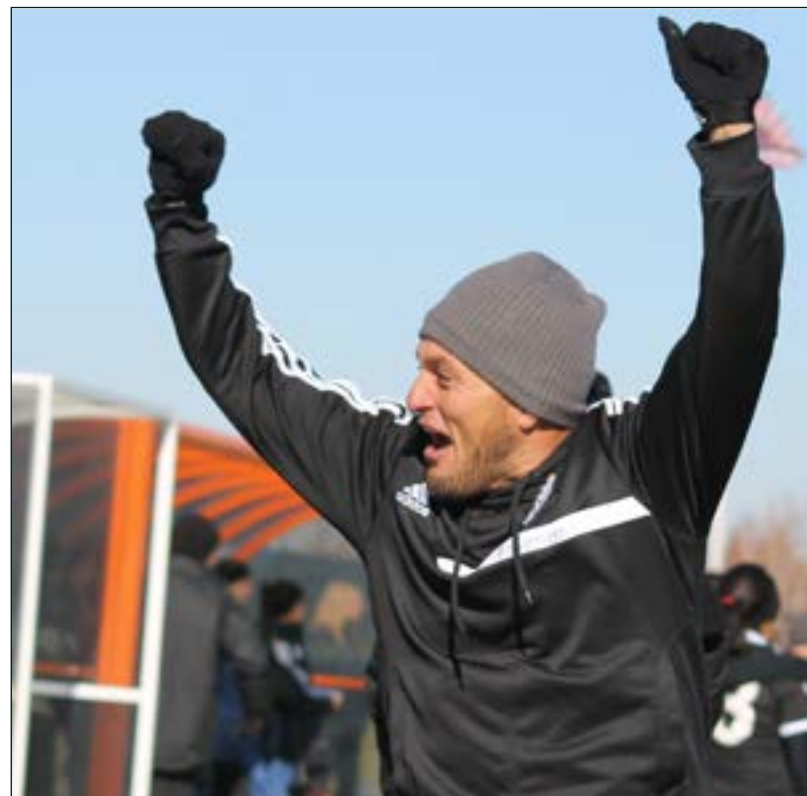
With the women's team being back-to-back champions, Gonzalez's recruiting eye has proven to be successful.

Freshman defender Celinna Montano is ecstatic to see the team's effort honored.

"I'm very happy that we got the win and all our hard work has paid off," Montano said. "Now we are looking forward to continuing to work hard and getting the title again next year."



Champions: Liliana Hernandez raises her medal. The women's soccer team won repeated as state champions in a shut out victory over Santiago Canyon College. The team won its third title in six years on Sunday and were announced as the national champions on Tuesday. The women ended the season with a record of 24-0-1.



PHOTOS BY: SEBASTIAN ECHEVERRY/TM

Balancing Act: Budget vs. classes

Cerritos College tries to provide students with their classes while saving money

DANIEL GREEN
News Editor
news@talonmarks.com

Beginning in November, students have waited patiently for their registration dates to try to enroll in the classes they need for next semester.

In recent years students have had a hard time getting in to classes especially those considered to be "core classes" such as Math and English due to budget cuts stemming from the recession.

Do to the loss of money, the school cut the amount of classes they offered

While this has saved the school money some believe that the school has cut back too far on classes.

Soloman Namala, the president of the Faculty Union, recently brought a presentation to the Board of Trustees detailing the school's finances, student enrollment and the number of sections offered.

"I have all along said that the recession started (around 2007), and you can see since the recession started you can see the full effects we felt in 2008-09," Namala said, "and you can see a drop in (full-time students). What is more disturbing is the drastic drop in number of sections offered."

According to the budget reports released by the college, the number of classes offered has dropped from 7,770 in 2008-09 to 5,910 in 2012-13.

The biggest factor for the college's money woes has been the deferrals from the state.

The college is financed by the state of California, which was going through its own financial troubles.

The state decided to deal with its money problems by "deferring" payments to the college which means the state was cutting the amount the college was supposed to receive annually.

The state eventually pays the college what it is owed but does so at a later date meaning the college has to stretch the money it has already.

"Well the state cut our funding and we lost about 16 percent of our funding in the last four years. All the colleges across the state had to do that," said Cerritos College president Linda Lacy.

Since the cut in classes, the college's budget reports show that the school's reserve has been growing and is currently at around \$33.9 million spread across different accounts.

Namala believes that the while the school is trying its best to deal with tough economic times it is not fully taking the needs of students into account.

"I have always brought this up with Dr. Lacy and others that we are being so cautious with our money. We are going against the mission of the college in terms of serving students and offering sections."

David El Fattal, vice president of Business Services, explained that the reserve the school

has is being used like a family's savings account and is still needed due to the economy.

"In previous years there were additional general funds money that were set aside during the difficult economy that we (have) been through, said El Fattal, we haven't gotten out of that difficult economy quite yet."

He explained that the reserves had helped the school from making tougher choices than it already had.

"It's nice to have that money there so we don't have to resort to more extreme things such as cutting services."

Lacy also emphasized that Cerritos College is doing better financially than other colleges in the surrounding area.

"We didn't cut our classes nearly as much as our surrounding colleges did and we didn't lay off any of our full-time employees."

The school's reserves serve another aspect as the college waits to be reappraised for accreditation when the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges visits the campus in March.

According to Lacy, who has served on visiting teams to other campuses, some schools have been criticized in their reports for not having adequate savings in case of emergencies.

Another aspect that Lacy mentioned was that in the past semester the college has added 300 classes back to the schedule.

"You see when we added 300 classes back there's classes now that aren't full. So is there really that pent up need?"

"You see when we added 300 classes back there's classes now that aren't full. So is there really that pent up need?"
— LINDA LACY
Cerritos College President

Active Minds focuses on dangers of stress

EDUARDO MEDINA
Staff Writer
eduardo.medina@talonmarks.com

An esteemed group of selected leaders from around the country, who serve as Active Minds Inc., a team of national student advisers, help strategize about programs, branding and fundraising for mental health problems and help people know about mental health awareness.

It was founded by Alison Malm when she was a junior at the University of Pennsylvania. It was established due to the fact that Malm's brother ended his life due to mental health problems.

Alison founded this organization to prevent future tragedies such as the death of her brother known as "open minds."

It did so well its first year and had great support that open minds spread to other campuses.

Kate Hard was a student at Georgetown University and supported mental awareness and founded Active Minds.

Perris Edwards is a psychology student and member of Active Minds, and is involved to educate the public about mental health awareness, and let people know that

everyone can have a disorder even if it's minor and that there are ways to get help.

This week was stress week, so the club is promoting distress especially because finals are coming up. Showing students how to get rid of anxiety, stress and other normal disorders people deal with.

Active Minds also does something called "Post Secret", allowing one to unanimously post a secret on a post card and submit it to Active Minds, who post them on campus.

The students are also active in doing volunteer work with mental health patients, providing games with prizes for the patients, with opportunity for the students to get hands on work within their field, and could intern and possibly receive a job offer.

Oriel Gomez, a political science major, spoke on why he joined the club "the fact that Active Minds really tries to educate the public about health awareness and how people should erase the negative stigma against mental disorders."

"One in four students suffer from a mental illness. It can be a minor disorder (like) depression. These sorts of (disorders) can really push someone into harm's way and/or ruin someone's life."

Keynote speaker to focus on women’s leadership in colleges

MARIA LOPEZ
Associate Online Editor
maria.lopez@talonmarks.com

Professor Angela Hoppe-Nagao is a woman who accomplishes juggling a job, motherhood and pursuing a doctorate in education. In March, she will add conference keynote speaker to her accomplishments as well.

The local chapter of American Association for Women in Community Colleges will be holding a Women Hold Up Half the Sky annual conference in March 2014 and Professor Hoppe-Nagao will be the keynote speaker at the conference.

The AAWCC is a network of women and men in Orange and Los Angeles counties community colleges.

The conferences have been going on for over 20 years and it includes students, staff, faculty and board members.

It was created in 1973 to promote leadership for women in education and to help them pursue career opportunities and learn how to be strong role models and community members.

Miriam Tolson is the current Secretary of the Faculty Senate and represents Cerritos College in the committee of different members from different colleges for the AAWCC local chapter. She has worked at Cerritos College for 18 years and has been involved with the AAWCC for 14 years.

Tolson contacted Hoppe-Nagao and asked her to be the keynote speaker at the event.

“When she contacted me and asked me to do this, I think I was honored, super excited, and then the thought went through my mind ‘why me?’

“I know that there are so many people that have amazing life stories and experience who would be wonderful for this type of event. But even though I go ‘why me?’, I think I’m not going to let that stop me and I’m going to go forth and do the best keynote speech I possibly can for this wonderful organization,” she said.

“I was really honored,” Hoppe-Nagao said, “I don’t know that I’m deserving to be the keynote speaker but it’s an opportunity that I really

look forward to.”

Hoppe-Nagao has a history in the community.

She is a graduate of Cerritos College, Cal State Fullerton and has been a part of the Cerritos College faculty since 1995.

She has also served as department chair and vice president of the Faculty Senate for three years and is currently pursuing a doctorate in Community College Educational Leadership at Cal State Fullerton.

Tolson believes Hoppe-Nagao is a perfect choice for the keynote speech.

“She is a dynamic woman and speaker skilled in conflict-resolution. She’s very empowering and educated and very wise. She juggles a lot. She’s a young mother, she’s a professor and pursuing a higher education for herself,” Tolson said.

“She’s a perfect role model for any woman and she has a history at Cerritos, not only as a faculty member,” Tolson said, “but she’s also been a student here as well and a community member so we can all relate to her somehow or another.”

Hoppe-Nagao plans to share her own story in the community college journey and plans on talking about the importance of cultural intelligence.

“I want to talk to these leaders at this event about how we as educators can use culture to engage our culturally diverse student population and help promote their success,” she said.

The conference will be held in the Hilton Hotel in Costa Mesa.

Tolson says it will be taking a different spin and will merge with a global women’s conference.

There will be over 100 speakers and will have an amalgam of small and corporate vendors.

Tolson encourages students and faculty members who may be interested to go to contact ASCC to help estimate the funds that are required for the conference.



PHOTO BY: EDUARDO MEDINA/TM
Going the Distance: Coach Jensen Adviser of Kinesiology club, prepares for a punt. Jensen helped organized the club event.



PHOTO BY: EDUARDO MEDINA/TM
Kick-Off: Marine Biology major Brandon Romero winds up for the kick-off. Romero is a place kicker for the football team.

Students punt, pass and kick way to victory

Kinesiology Club hosts event to get students active on campus

ANDREW CASILLAS
Arts Editor
arts@talonmarks.com

“We wanted to bring the school together and thought kicking a ball as far as you can is good competition,” said club adviser Coach Deborah Jensen.

The Cerritos College Kinesiology Club held the first Punt, Pass and Kick contest on campus.

The event had no rules other than to stay behind the limit line (when kicking or throwing the football) and waiting for your turn to compete.

“The idea of the event was to get out and move around because most people don’t have a physical education class and can use some

exercise,” Viviana Gallaga, a kinesiology major and president of the club said.

The event went on from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and cost \$2 to enter.

The game consisted of receivers down the field that would measure where the football would land.

Whoever had the farthest punt, pass or kick won.

One of the participants in the event was Brandon Romero, a marine biology major and place kicker for the Cerritos College football team.

He mentioned how he was approached on campus and how anyone is able to join the event, but Romero had a special reason,

“I’m a kicker and my team was calling me out to do this, so might as well.”

“The event was more than just a fundraiser for the club, but also provided great exercise.”
—BETTY MARTIN
Nursing Major

“This guy came up to me and told me about the event (Punt, Pass and Kick contest) and handed me a flier.”

The turnout for the event may not have been what was expected, according to Jensen.

Kinesiology means “the study of moving anatomy.”

“The major is very broad, it can cover a physical education teacher, physical therapy, coaching and even go into nursing.” As the major has progressed, the spectrum has broadened out a lot,” Jensen said.

“Part of this club is that we want the students to learn how to run events properly and that’s part of the focus to learn how to run activities.

Other than discussing kinesiology topics, the focus of our club is to gain leadership experience and learn to work in a community.”

Participant Betty Martin, Nursing major, shared, “I was having a lot of fun. I wasn’t here to compete. I wanted to support the club.”

“The event was more than just a

fundraiser for the club, but also provided great exercise.”

The event helped Martin through physical fitness, reminding her of abilities she forgot she had.

“This helps keep me (to get) in shape and use the skills I forgot I had deep down inside.”

The true idea of the game is supposed to be run by relay teams having three people making up one team.

The turnout wasn’t what the club hoped for, which called for improvisation and most participants receiving rewards.

Child Development major Xitlaly Salcedo was the score keeper of the event, and said, “It was pretty close. Actually, the guys were pretty competitive. (I) would definitely want to do it again. It was really fun.”

The second contest will be held in spring 2014.



PHOTO BY: DANIEL GREEN/TM
Hips Don’t Lie: Ariel Hughes performs at the Talent for a Cause show hosted by the Child Development Club. Hughes performed a belly dance for the crowd.

Child Development Club shows their talent

LARISSA MORALES
Associate Opinion Editor
larissa.morales@talonmarks.com

The Child Development Club hosted its first talent show in order to raise toys and money for children who wouldn’t be able to receive gifts at Christmas this year.

The goal of the show was to bring people from all around campus together to help out children and families who could be struggling during the holiday season.

The event took place in the Student Center last Tuesday.

“Admission (to the event) is free, but we’re asking for unwrapped toys to go to the Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles. We’re also having a bake sale. All of the proceeds from our bake sale will go to adopting a family for Christmas through the department of Social Services,” said Suleyma Castillo, a co-president for the Child Development Club said.

The baked sale took place when the doors

opened for the event and continued through the whole show, featuring a variety of goodies such as horchata, cookies, nachos and popcorn.

Different clubs from Cerritos College participated in the event such as the Karbakada Club, which performed a Disney melody, and the Dynamic Dance Club, which put on a variety of different dances.

Also children from the Child Development Center sang and danced to different songs like Michael Jackson’s “Thriller,” the “Little Mermaid’s” “Part of your World” and ended the show with a group dance of the “Cha Cha Slide.”

There were also acts from people outside the campus like a magician known as “The Great Omar” and a band called “Mommy and Her Singing Sensations,” which consisted of a mother and her two daughters that sang and played guitar to “Ho Hey” by the Lumineers.

When asked about how the show went, other co-president, Jovanna Ledesma said, “I think it went great. The performances were awesome and I enjoyed everybody.”

Ledesma also went on to say that the turn out was great and that she was surprised. “We got a lot of support from everyone.”

The show had no winners nor losers because the idea was to raise money for charity and for everyone to have a good time.

A basket full of goodies was given out at the end to a winner of the raffle of which the club sold tickets for before hand.

The princess court of the city of Downey awarded the basket to the winner.

“It was a good crowd. We didn’t expect as many people to show up and it turned out to be a big crowd. We are very happy and pleased and thank everybody for coming out,” said Broderick Woods, president of the Dynamic Dance Club, who helped co-MC the event, said.

The Child Development Club was able to raise \$390 along with three large industrial size bags filled with toys.

CAMPUS CLUBS

Covered California helps untangle health care laws

Representatives from Covered California visited Cerritos College to address faculty and students concerning the new healthcare laws. Scan the QR code to the right to see a video of the event.

Scan to watch the seminar on Covered California

<http://bit.ly/1gndPCC>

ASCC STUDENT ACTIVITIES

ASCC Awards

ASCC Awards Banquet rehearsal on Thursday at 11 a.m. in BK 111

ASCC Awards on Friday at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Center.

Finals Week

Last week of class begins

Finals week begins Monday and will end on Friday.

VISIT TALONMARKS.COM/NEWS

Spring Semester

Spring semester officially begins

The first week of the spring semester begins on January 13.

For more info on important dates, use the bit.ly below.

<http://bit.ly/1cnxVFQ>

ONLINE POLL

How are you preparing for finals?

A. Lots of studying
B. Cramming the night before
C. I’ve been keeping up
D. I’m praying for a miracle
E. When are finals?

VOTE ON TALONMARKS.COM



“How do you prepare for finals?”

COMPILED BY:
ABRAHAM DAYFALLAH

PHOTOGRAPHS BY:
SOLMAYRA MENDEZ



CYNTHIA AVILA
Journalism major

“I study a lot, I’m starting to study like right now.”



CHRIS THOMAS
Music major

“I procrastinate, but I try to study just pretty much anything that we go over in class and study as hard as I can.”



ALICIA PALMA
Therapist counseling major

“I will study like every hour for every subject and I also drink coffee so that I could be really alert during the test.”



ANGELICA PELAYO
Liberal arts major

“I prepare the last two weeks, I print out my schedule to make sure that I can study at least eight hours per class.”



JENNIFER TORRES
Communications major

“I get enough sleep. I practice... I don’t get stressed. I go off by what I know, my knowledge already and see what happens.”



STEVE GIVENS
Art major

“I make room for at least four hours to study.”



Daniel Green
News Editor
news@talonmarks.com

Keep guns out of class

Arming teachers and administrators in schools is a dangerous and risky move that brings more problems to schools.

After events such as Columbine and Sandy Hook, many start to wonder how we could have prevented them.

One town in Arkansas has taken a step that some politicians and political groups have called for by arming school teachers.

While many say this is the best way to protect students, it also increases the risk on campus.

Different justifications for armed educators have been offered by proponents of this bill.

One is the belief that if teachers are armed, a gunman will not attack a school knowing they will be able to protect themselves.

It seems logical to think that someone would not attack someone able to fight back it.

However, this logic fails when you consider that many of the shooters do not seem concerned about their safety.

The two Columbine shooters Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold both committed suicide after they shot and killed 12 students.

If someone is not afraid to die or is not planning to survive an attack, how will armed teachers dissuade them?

If guns were a way to prevent being attacked, the police would never have to worry about their safety.

The experience of the teachers should also be a concern.

While some teachers may have experience with firearms, most will probably not be prepared to handle them.

Even with proper training, they will still be inexperienced if put in the middle of a school shooting.

Police officers have been known to make mistakes when involved in firefights.

Parents will have to ask themselves if they feel safe having someone who has never been in this situation before

Teachers will have to be able to not just handle a gun, but also be prepared to shoot to kill.

•EDITORIAL•



LAUREN GANDARA/TM

Once is enough to pass your class

Students need to stop being so lazy in their classes and not have the mindset that they can take classes that they don’t care about over again.

Cerritos College offers repeatability courses to students if they fail or withdraw from a class.

They are able to take the class over again. However, some students take a negative advantage of this offer.

Instead of working hard to do well and try to pass their classes, some students are just kicking back until the end of the semester and then retaking the course over again.

It sucks for those students who are actually doing well in their classes but can’t move forward to the next course because those lazy, second time students are taking up seats.

Some people just want to get the heck out of school already!

What’s even worse is the students who are receiving financial aid and then retaking courses.

Students can lose their financial aid so easily because they think that just because they don’t have to pay for the classes, they can fail them without there being some kind of penalty.

What’s even worse than losing free money

is spending your own on classes that you won’t even take the time to study for.

I’m sure your parents won’t be too thrilled having to pay another \$45 or so on a class they already paid for once before.

Many students come to community college to save money, but if they have to take a class multiple times to pass, that’s like paying for one class for one semester at the university level.

And, like at a university, if you fail too many classes, you will be put on academic probation and eventually, the school will expel you.

Even if you don’t get expelled, it looks awful on your transcripts.

What makes you think that four-year schools are going to be impressed that you had to take the same class multiple times?

The whole point is to get in and get out as soon as possible.

If they wanted students to stick around forever, they wouldn’t refer to themselves as “two-year” and “four-year” schools.

There are certain exceptions where athletes need to take a physical education course again in order to participate in their respected sports and some other majors need to repeat classes

because they are required by UCs and CSUs.

However, the repetitive classes even have a limit.

If you’re really struggling that much, talk to your teacher or visit the Success Center. It has a tutor for almost every subject.

You can’t solve the problem without asking questions.

Many teachers don’t mind answering questions in class, that’s what they’re there for.

It also has office hours so that it can help you one-on-one.

If you’re going to spend money to learn, then learn.

College is a privilege, not a right. If you just aren’t academically ambitious, then go get a full-time job instead of wasting money and class seats. There’s nothing wrong with working in a store or factory to make a living.

However, if you strive for better, do yourself and everyone else involved a favor and stop taking up the same seat multiple times and get through your class once!



Luis Guzman
Multimedia Editor
multimedia@talonmarks.com

Rated O for only fantasy

Video games are a source of many ways of progress toward a means.

Video games don’t have a bad influence on people in the real world.

They are a source where we can vent our stress, our frustration and our sadness into a fantasy world.

Recent buzz has surrounded the immensely popular “GTA V” because of the violence that is infused with the game.

Zachary Burgess was a person that recently that has been in the news for hijacking a truck and kidnapping a woman to replicate “GTA V.”

Another tragic episode linked to “GTA V” happened in Louisiana where an eight-year old boy shot and killed his grandma after playing “GTA V.”

Those are just separate incidents that don’t reflect the real problem that is going on.

It’s like watching a scary movie or reading a suspenseful book, you have fun watching them or reading them because of the way you interpret them.

We can’t have bad apples ruining the art that is video games.

The responsibility lies in the parents, in the case of eight-year-old who shot his grandmother.

There is no clear evidence that video games have a bad influence on other people.

There is the argument that playing video games is more active than watching television or seeing a movie due to the fact that people who play video games have a more hands-on experience with that type of entertainment.

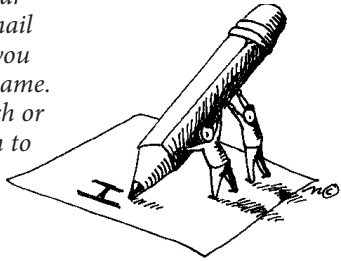
Studies have shown that surgeons who play video games perform much better than those who don’t play video games.

Another point to add here is that video games can also be used as teaching tools.

It is up to people to choose how they interpret things, whether it would be playing video games or watching television.

But people should also understand the difference between fantasy and reality.

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.



TALON MARKS is a First Amendment publication. Editorials express the views of the 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. 58 © 2013 Talon Marks

Talon Marks Fall 2013 Staff	Editor in Chief Lauren Gandara				Associate Editors			Staff	Faculty Adviser Rich Cameron Instructional Lab Tech. I Alicia Edquist JACC Pacsetter Award 2009-2010
	Online Editor Jonathan Garza	News Editor Daniel Green	Sports Editor Denny Cristales	Copy Editor Trinity Bustria	Online Editor Maria Lopez	News Editor Alexandra Gomez	Sports Editor Sebastian Echeverry		
	Opinion Editor Gustavo Olguin	Multimedia Editor Luis Guzman	Arts Editor Andrew Casillas		Opinion Editor Larissa Morales		Arts Editor Amairani Mendez		

What should students work on at the end of the semester?

Final project

TALON MARKS



Gustavo Olguin
Opinion Editor
opinion@talonmarks.com

Final exams are almost here and most students are either freaking out about the exams or projects that they have to do.

However, final exams should be the way to test students on their knowledge of the entire course instead of assigning a final project.

It is scary to think that your final grade rests in the hands of other people that you don't really know and even if you do your part of your project, there is still a chance you will get an incomplete.

Projects are almost always designed for people to work in groups, but the same thing always happens when it comes to getting the project done.

There is the person that takes the lead and breaks down how things are going to go from here on out and he will make sure that everyone knows that everything will be done his way.

He is needed when it comes to getting the group started, but could end up becoming too hands-on with everything that the group is doing.

When you have someone in charge, there is always the person that disagrees with any topic the group decides to discuss.

This person will find ways to refute what people have to say as long as he gets his two cents into the conversation.

Then, you have the slacker or flake of the group that only seems to find a way to show up to class without doing any of the work that the group has to do.

He must be constantly reminded of what the plan is and what he has to do, but he is always willing to get a conversation going about something that is completely irrelevant to the project

The next person is the one whose schedule never seems to be able to match up no matter what time you guys agree on.

There is always a family party going on or he seems to work every single hour of his life with no chance of getting time off in the near future.

However, there are positive people in the group that always find their way into your group that keep to themselves for the most part.

These people are often quiet until you find their hidden talent, then they become your best friend because of their expertise in making a PowerPoint presentation.

The rest of the people are willing to follow along with anything that is going as long as they can go with the flow and there are no bumps in the road.

Yes, group projects help you work with other people and help you develop social skills, but it shouldn't help determine if you pass or fail a class.

You and you alone should be the one to prepare for the most important part of a class because you are the one that decides on your future.

Final exam

TALON MARKS



Solmayra Mendez
Staff Writer
solmayra.mendez@talonmarks.com

The end of the semester is approaching which means students can either look forward to winter break or look forward to the dreaded finals.

The finals that roll around at the end of every semester are just beginning and students are getting ready for the long hours of studying or preparing for final presentations.

Final exams can often be very stressful for a student to not being confident in the final result that may come of it.

Unlike final exams, projects are different in that they can be done in various formats.

A final project can be a speech, a model demonstration of some sort, a PowerPoint presentation or some other crafty thing.

Also, in many occasions, a final project can be done in groups instead of alone and let's students be more confident in their final outcome of a class overall.

Working with final projects might actually be a better option of the two considering that the whole class will

probably be doing one and a student or group can take their time deciding on the different ways that the final project can be presented.

A final exam, on the other hand, puts students in a room for at least two hours and lets them deal with the multiple-choice questions that sit on the page in front of them.

While no one actually takes the full two hours given to them to finish a test, it often just leads to a student's eyes wondering around the room or taking those hours to ponder about their own life.

A final exam also tends to really stress out the students in the class.

There are always a few students who either look freaked out, look like they didn't sleep the night before or look like they're completely unprepared.

Then, once the test is actually on the desk, there are the distracting noises.

Yes, the noises that are more common, the ones that seem to come from everyone who suddenly has a runny nose or an unsettled stomach that seems to make its calling every few minutes or so, sound off.

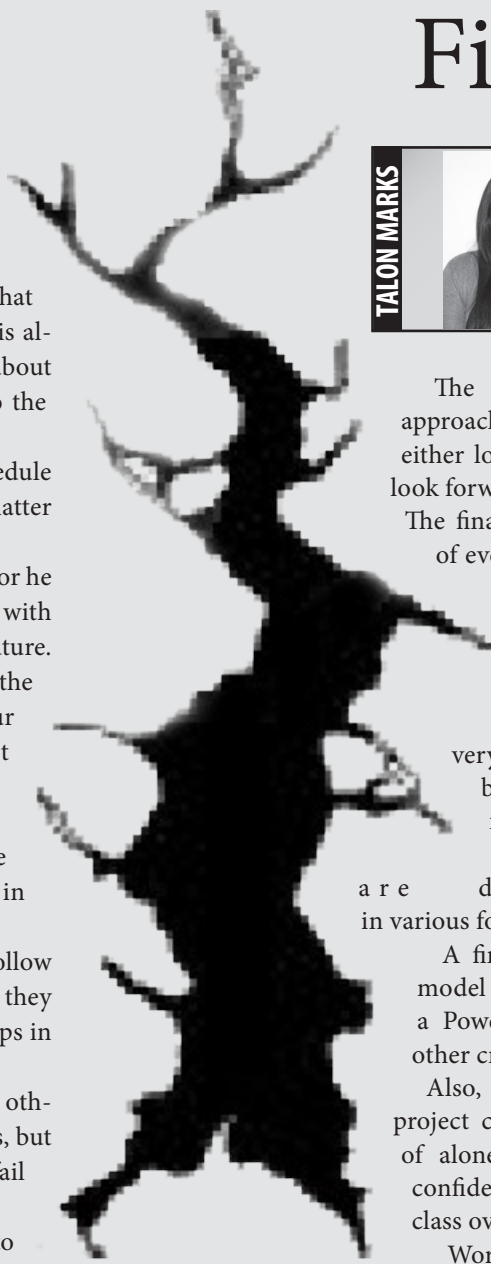
Final projects however often give a student the opportunity to make last minute friends as well as partners whom will all get the same grade as them.

This can help students create new networks.

Final projects can be very fun, very sociable, and often give a student the outcome of actually learning something instead of just memorizing some information and then forgetting about it the minute that it's no longer useful to them.

Sure, the semester is almost at its end and for some, a final is still just a final, no matter what form it comes in.

After all, once the new semester rolls around, the process is repeated all over again.



TALON MARKS



Denny Cristales
Sports Editor
sports@talonmarks.com

Being a pro can wait

Waiting a couple of years before hitting the NBA or NFL can do wonders for college athletes. Maintaining patience and allowing one's talents to season and develop in a certain time frame is absolutely the mindset college athletes need to take in order to understand why they should wait a few years before going professional.

College athletes are quick to grab a hold of the brass ring that is the professional field.

The fact is, college athletes go to school for a reason, not only to learn, but to earn experience and mature into what they were meant to become.

When the NBA implemented its one-year rule on drafting players and how one has to wait an entire calendar year after graduating from high school in order to play professionally, there was a lot of skepticism surrounding such a decision.

Life as a professional athlete is demanding. It takes a toll on the mind and the body.

An 18 year old coming out of high school is not wired to go out and confront the challenges that the world throws at him.

The controversy behind a one or two year rule for student athletes goes beyond just professional sports or draft stock.

One can easily point out the likes of Kobe Bryant, LeBron James and Tracy McGrady, who were all drafted into the NBA out of high school, and argue that such a wait for college athletes is unnecessary as success can still be at arm's reach.

Not everybody has the mental will of Bryant or the sheer dominance of James.

Staying in college provides a sanctuary for a student, and understanding the opportunity that is accompanied with waiting a few years before being drafted is a part of the journey.

Maturation and a risen stock of success and draft stock are what is best for a college athlete's future.



MCT CAMPUS

LAUSD's iPads were a waste

TALON MARKS



Maria Lopez
Associate Online Editor
maria.lopez@talonmarks.com

What happens when you mix money and one of the biggest school districts in the country?

Answer: You get crazy, unnecessary spending.

Recently, the Los Angeles Unified School District has decided that the best way to spend money it barely has is to give every student an Apple iPad.

According to Los Angeles Times education reporter Howard Blume, the district voted in August to spend \$1 billion on the project, half of which would go to \$700 iPads for every student and the rest to installation of wireless networks.

The details of the agreement haven't been smoothed out and there is a lot of uncertainty.

Who will reimburse the LAUSD if a kid breaks the iPad by accident?

Some parents won't be able to afford to pay the district back if this happens.

Would the child get left behind in the classroom if his parents decide to not let him get an iPad?

What happens if some hooligans decide to target these students and actively seek out to steal these iPads?

Are parents responsible for replacing them?

There are too many uncertain variables that make this whole iPad decision too risky.

The blatant, trigger-happy spending of this board is ridiculous.

There is no real reason to believe that giving iPads will greatly improve learning when electronics have been proven to be distractions in the classroom.

There is a reason why LAUSD schools don't let students use their phones in class, and giving iPads to them defeats the purpose of eliminating personal electronics from the classroom.

The money that is going to these iPads would be better spent on other things like new classrooms, more teachers and revamping older schools.

Instead of giving students iPads, the district should build more computer labs in its schools.

Giving students the freedom to take these expensive electronics wherever they want is a terrible idea because it can only lead to trouble.

Trusting adolescents and thinking they will use these iPads wisely is naive on the district's part.

With the new technology coming out, kids are more tech savvy than ever before.

Just recently, students from Roosevelt High School figured out how to gain access to blocked websites from iPads.

The protocols in place to keep websites like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter from getting accessed clearly are not working.

With the way that word of mouth travels, it's only a matter of time before all LAUSD students figure out a way to bypass security measures.

LAUSD has clearly made a terrible choice with this, decision and because of this students and parents will suffer in the long run.

Video games aren't sports

TALON MARKS



Lauren Gandara
Editor in chief
editor@talonmarks.com

Video gaming is something anyone at any age level can do and requires very little physical activity and therefore should not be considered a sport.

Sports like football, baseball and basketball are real sports. They require a lot of physical training and energy to do.

Even Grandma Lilly in the movie "Grandma's Boy" can play video games!

It doesn't take a lot of effort to play a video game; all you need is two hands, sometimes one depending on what game console you're using.

The main reason it is even a sport is because of the game "League of Legends."

According to Tech News World, com, e-sports require the same level of training and specialization as regular sports.

People don't need to run across 50 yards or dribble a ball to play a video game.

All you need to know is how to work the controller. In order to be an athlete, you need to be in top physical shape and have some type

of athletic ability.

Anyone can learn how to play video games, no matter what age or physical capability he has.

It's doubtful we'll ever see video gaming in the Olympics. Yes, video games are popular in this modern day but does that mean it deserves to be called a sport?

We have professional football players, basketball players and baseball players. People like Michael Jordan, Payton Manning and Babe Ruth are all looked up to and admired by sports fanatics for their specific talents and skills in their respected sports.

A guy who does nothing but eat and play video games all day at home as someone that would be considered a sports role model is unfathomable. That's not exactly a profession that parents would encourage their kids to get into.

Just because it has the word "game" in it doesn't mean it should be considered a sport.

You can play video games from almost anywhere. Other sports require you to physically be in the same room as your opponent(s) when competing.

The bottom line is how lazy is our society becoming where we make sitting at a computer and twiddling our thumbs while we eat chips all day a sport?

Learn a second language

TALON MARKS



Sebastian Echeverry
Associate Editor
sebastian.echeverry@talonmarks.com

In the modern world, there is no greater tool than the skill of communicating in an extra tongue.

Because of globalization, business is done in diverse languages. Major corporations move the world on deals that were not negotiated in English.

Employers seek out a person with a second language and give him a boost when it comes to hiring.

According to the Chicago Tribune, bilingual jobs are on the rise in almost all employment fields.

In the medical field, emergency situations where the patient or his

family may not speak the primary language, perhaps a second language, could be the difference between life or death.

In the American education system, a teacher must be aware of the many cultures in the school yard.

A student may learn better in a different language.

Even at an early age, children's television shows, like Nickelodeon's "Dora the Explorer," teach kids phrases in a different language such as Spanish.

The more the merrier, and when it comes to knowing a second language, it can give one an advantage over others in the modern competitive world.

In our ever-shrinking world, national borders are beginning to divide less and cultures are starting to intertwine.



Back-to-back

A 3-0 final win gives the women's soccer team another state championship.

SEBASTIAN ECHEVERRY
Associate Sports Editor
sebastian.echeverry@talonmarks.com

History repeats itself once more for the Cerritos College women's soccer team as it was named back-to-back champions of the CCCAA state championships. The final, hosted by Cosumnes River College on Sunday, saw Cerritos College and Santiago Canyon College in a physically brutal game, as the match ended with a 3-0 score.

The key player of the match was sophomore striker Claudia Lopez, who scored the first of the three goals. The opportunity to score arose from a penalty kick when a Cerritos College player was dropped in the 18 yard box of Santiago Canyon College. Lopez inhaled a breath of cool Sacramento air before rifling the shot in the lower left hand corner of the net.

The second half came around and Lopez came back to score for the Falcons. Build up play on account of the Falcons led to confusion and chaos for the Hawks.

In that confusion, Lopez stuck a hard shot at the ball. Although the ball hit a Santiago defender, the rebound off her leg swirled into the back of the Hawks' net, making the score 2-0.

With a 2-0 lead, the Falcons began to reject any ball in their half of the field in a defensive effort to neutralize all hopes of a Santiago equalizer.

Freshman forward Carolina Ornelas made a mark of her own in this final match as she scored another goal for Cerritos College and ultimately sealed the fate for Santiago on the scoreboard that read 3-0.

Utter joy and pleasure sprang from the players and the committed Cerritos College fans as the field was overtaken by the team and cheering spectators after the whistle blew to finalize the match.

"It's never easy," head coach Ruben Gonzalez said. "I think we were well-prepared from the summer class in June.

"We kept preaching that we needed to be the better team, we needed to continue to work (and) we were never satisfied," Gonzalez said. "It was great to be able to finish the season undefeated and win the championship."

The Falcons only experienced one tie the whole season and the rest of the matches were victories for them. Gonzalez and much of the coaching staff saw the team on paper in early June and just knew that it would do great things.

"I feel so blessed to be able to have a team of young ladies that bought into what we have been preaching from the beginning of this season," he added. "I'm lucky that I have them and I'm lucky that I have a great coaching staff." With a big grin on his face, Gonzalez went home with trophy in his hands.

Carillo said in regard to her team's tactics, "Making sure that we finish strong in our opportunities and making sure our defense was strong."

Carillo was ecstatic and feeling "awesome" and "amazing" knowing that her team had made it through it all without losing.

The winner of the tournament's Most Valuable Player Claudia Lopez could not have been happier with her team's performance.

"Go in with a lot of energy (and) a lot of determination," Lopez said. "Play like it's your last game."

She believes winning an award like the MVP takes a lot of determination and the will to lead in crucial games. The season closes for the Falcons, and six months of training all went into ending it with the ultimate win.

PHOTO (ABOVE) BY SEBASTIAN ECHEVERRY

Champions: Midfielder Claudia Lopez carries the CCCAA award given to her for MVP of the game.

Timeline of the sporting events of the fall 2013 semester

Sept. 7
MMA fundraiser event takes place in Falcon gym. Stars Tito Ortiz and Rampage Jackson in attendance.

Sept. 15
Long-time football coach Ernie Johnson passes away.

Sept. 22
Men's water polo team scrimmages against the United States Naval Academy.

Nov. 9
Basketball teams tip-off their seasons.

Nov. 16
Shoe City Open, a paralympic event is hosted by the cross country team.

Nov. 23
Coach Frank Mazzotta's 35th season is capped off with a 64-33 Western State bowl victory over Grossmont College.

Nov. 30
Running back Elijah Penny is named Northern Conference offensive player of the year.

Dec. 2
Midfielder Thiago Lusardi is named South Coast Conference player of the year.

Dec. 8
Women's soccer team defeats Santiago Canyon College 3-0 to win CCCAA state championship.

Dec. 10
Women's soccer team is voted as NSCAA national champion.

Illustration by: Jonathan Garza

Fall season comes to a close; spring's time to shine



Men's soccer
Record: 13-6-5

The men's soccer team managed to reach the third round of the Southern California Regional Playoffs before being eliminated by Mount San Antonio College in a 2-1 overtime loss on Nov. 30 to end the season.

DENNY CRISTALES
Sports Editor
sports@talonmarks.com

Daniel Smith, dean of athletics, had high expectations for Cerritos College athletics and he feels the fall semester has lived up to such expectations while standing firm on his belief that the athletic success will carry over into spring.

"We want to be the best athletic program in the state, that's our goal," Smith said. "And we certainly had an outstanding fall. To do as well as we did in every fall sport, we've had some excellent finishes.



Football
Record: 7-4

Falling short of the playoffs, the football team still managed to find positives toward the end of the season as it notched a 64-33 win over Grossmont College in the Western State Bowl game on Nov. 23 to end the season.



Volleyball
Record: 9-13

The volleyball team ended its season against Los Angeles Harbor College on Nov. 20 with a 3-0 win.

The team was expecting a play-off run, but failed to do so.

"I feel sad, but it was a great season," Ashley Castro said.

"We have women's soccer winning the state championship, men's water polo progressing into the playoffs (and) men's soccer finishing fifth in the state. The fact that we've been making the playoffs for so many different sports is remarkable."

The season also witnessed grandeur events such as the MMA fundraiser that occurred in September in the gym and the Paralympics event in November at the football stadium.

"Now that our facilities are top-notch, we can do more of that," Smith said. "Now it's more about which events we pick and which we decide not to sponsor."



Cross-country
CCCAA ranking: Men: 4th place
Women: 5th place

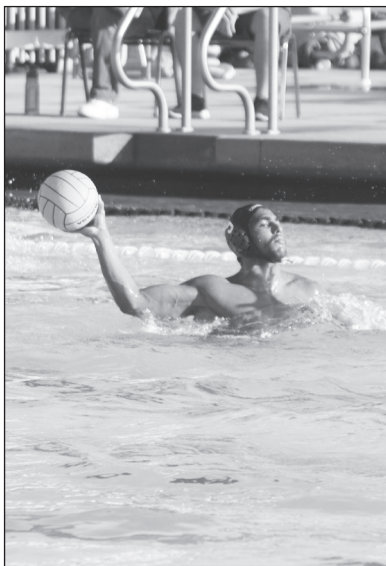
Christopher Richardson, cross country director, thought the men and women's teams had "one of the best program finishes that Cerritos College has ever had" at Fresno on Nov. 23 as the season closed.

It is more likely the events will be occurring more in the future, with another MMA event possibly coming as soon as spring.

"We talked about having one in the spring," head coach Don Garriott said. "The event was a success, so we're definitely considering it."

Spring is just around the corner and sports such as baseball and tennis will be seeking their own success.

"Spring holds the same expectations as fall," Smith said. "Women's track is also defending (its) state championship and the goal will be to defend that championship the same way women's soccer did."



Men's water polo
Record: 16-14

Reaching the playoffs, the men's water polo team's run ended at the Southern California Regional Tournament during the second round as it was eliminated by Golden West College at home 13-9 to cap off the season.



Women's water polo
Record: 14-17

Women's water polo ended the season at the SCC Tournament in a 12-5 loss against Chaffey College on Nov. 9.

CerritosFalcons.com claims, "Catie Tuning finished the season with 94 goals, third most in school history."

Christopher Richardson, director of cross country and track and field, said, "I don't think there's ever been a more talented track and field team at Cerritos College, physically, in terms of performances. We have extremely talented people in every event."

Smith noted the credit goes to the student athletes for solidifying Cerritos College as a top tier school for athletics.

Now it's time for spring sports to show what they're capable of.

"All our teams have potential, we just have to wait until they materialize and live up to that potential."

CCCAA championships

Wrestling seeks title



Motivation: Assistant coach Eric Gould wrestling freshman 125-pounder Dustin Kirk during practice.



"Mat-rats:" Freshman 125-pounder Dustin Kirk performing drills. He placed second at the Southern California Championships.

DENNY CRISTALES
Sports Editor
sports@talonmarks.com

Although the wrestling team is coming off what head coach Don Garriott called a "flat performance" at the Southern California Regionals last Saturday when it earned fifth place at the competition, he understands the physical toll the season takes on wrestlers and has faith in the team's ability to bounce back this Friday and Saturday at the CCCAA State Championships.

The meet will be at San Joaquin Delta College at 9 a.m.

A common problem among the team's members at regionals was the fact that they failed to cut weight efficiently.

"A lot of the guys didn't control their weight like they should of, so we had some hard weight cuts," Garriott said. "This is a hard time of year to have passion. Guys have been cutting weight all year, so it's a hard time. It's something we talk about all day, finding things that motivate you."

As that problem will be tweaked within the team, so will the game-plan, as planning certain tactics for different colleges can prove to be difficult.

Offensive lineman Robert Chism, who transferred over to wrestling, said, "(The team) had a good season so far and I'm glad that I could join in and help finish the season off and hopefully bring back the state championship."

Garriott said, "Most of them (Cerritos College wrestlers) are going to wind up wrestling the same people (the team) has been wrestling all year. Once we see the brackets, we'll have a better understanding on how we'll prepare against certain individuals."

Last season during the state championships, the wrestling team notched eighth place during the event. Striving for more, Garriott sees more of a desire in this year's team compared to not only last season, but in recent years.

"We have a great group of freshmen who I like to call 'mat-rats,' guys that live it. I'm really excited about that. I'm not sure I've had that for a couple of years, but I see it in (the athletes). (The team) will wrestle all year long and try to get better."

Freshman 125-pounder Dustin Kirk said, "I trained really hard. I'm still pretty new to the sport, so I'm looking forward to my first state title."

No matter the result of the competition this weekend, Garriott can firmly say that this fall season is an absolute success and is step above last season.

"Overall, the season has been good. I had a really good freshman class. (The freshman) have actually been our leaders. It's a great group of kids who work hard and don't get into any problems."

"We've always been at the top in every tournament we've been in, about top three or four in every tournament, so it's definitely been an improvement."



Take-down: Freshman Michael Palafox taking down a Santa Ana College opponent during a meet on Nov. 6.


NIGHTS WEEKEND


MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

Are you going with us?

Bigger

As a student, you're always on the go, whether you're hitting the beach, catching a movie or, yes, even going to classes. Long Beach Transit is the best way to get where you're headed. Plus, with a Day Pass or Student 30-Day Pass, no parking fees and our Rider Rewards — it saves money you could be spending on all those extracurricular activities. **And for ultra convenience** use our mobile site m.lbtransit.com

562.591.2301 | Like us on  lbtransit.com



LONG BEACH
TRANSIT

