Q&A with the trustees

**Zurich Lewis**

What makes you different?

"I believe, because I got elected as someone that is 21 years old, I believe that I can relate to students that much better. And my new perspective to the board of trustees, it's staying power. It's the ability to be backed by the students of Cerritos College, because, especially, two incumbents, it allows me to feel that I have more people available at different times that are needed. So, as a member of the board of trustees, I'm able to go in with that perspective and formulate that policy."

**John Paul Drayer**

How did you feel about the election results?

"I feel really great because Dr. Shin Liu won, as well. I think the voters saw they're happy with the college, especially our construction program. Constituents in my area drove by the construction site on Alondras and Studebaker and they were really impressed by the new building and how nice it looked and the new entrance to the building."

What were some of the difficulties you've faced on the board?

"Well, there are different personalities, that's different opinions and you can't please everybody. But you try and work through it and compromise and get to know each other, as well. So, I've worked to compromise with the board and will continue to do so."

How will your previous experience on the board help you in this next tenure?

"By having experience and relationships with the people on the table, we have shared governance. When I first came in, I didn’t know anyone at the table except for some of the board members, so I helped to elect Dr. Shin Liu. Five years ago, I knew her, but I didn’t know no one else as long as I knew Dr. Shin Liu. So now by having that understanding of people, the policies of the board and having spent two years writing the directions on the board, the goals are green buildings and a balanced budget for the campus."

**Shin Liu**

What are your goals for the board now that you've been elected again?

"I hope to achieve more student success through better budgeting and the use of technology to help ease the costs for students."

Hughlett honored as he retires

Dr. Bob Hughlett began his career at Cerritos as a professor for the Disabled Student Program and Services in January 1973, but went on to become the Dean of the same program until he retired in 2005. The career didn’t end there, however. He said, "I was working in DSPS from ’73 to 2005, when I retired. I ran for the board in 2005 and I was elected then. And I’ve been on the board for nine years now.

"Just being able to maintain the momentum of the college during a very tough times."

He has several years and to see the arrival of Linda Lacy, she is the best president the college has ever had," he said.

When he was working in DSPS, he recalls having only started with 25 students, but by the time he left DSPS there were over 1,200 students.

"I’m proud of the fact that we grew the program to where we had so many students able to benefit from the offerings of Cerritos College," Hughlett said.

Linda Lacy said she knew of Hughlett even before she came to Cerritos.

"Lacy recalls how Hughlett’s eyes lit up at the dedication of the DSPS reception area in his name, when his grandson came up to him.

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Noise complaint a common problem in library

‘Shhhhhhhhhhh.’

Dr. Elizabeth Hender, an environmental studies major, agreed with the librarian’s sentiments and added her own.

‘The problem is that the campus has become a place of recreation as opposed to one of studying. ’

Dr. Elizabeth Hender

Noise has become an issue for students regarding the Student Center and library areas. There is concern with students and ASCC members that the regulations and rules for the two areas have not been enough, and that the noise and atmosphere has reached an obnoxious level, seeming making it a not ideal place to study or concentrate.

ASCC, at its Cabinet and Senate meetings, proposed solutions to the problem. Additionally, at a recent Student-Life committee meeting, the same concern was brought up.

A proposed cause to this problem is that students do not have a place to interact or have fun on campus. Despite the Student Center serving as the “hangout” type of spot that is seemingly missing on campus, it still serve as an interference, according to Olivia Henderson, business and communication major, as she sometimes doesn’t even understand "why some people are here."

“They’re in here all day just doing really dumb stuff. Then’s this (woman) who comes in here; she’s just here for hours with a group, and she’s just always screaming. Every time she sees a new person, she’s just screaming. ”

Dr. Elizabeth Hender

And the library is a source of its own noisy issues, as well.

Librarian Stephanie Rosendlatt shares it up to an environmental issue.

“The problem is that the campus has a lot of students, and there’s not a lot of space where students can congregate, so it’s just kind of hard because we have a group of students that need a place to study, and then we have a group of students that need a place to connect with their friends.”

Dr. Elizabeth Hender

Human Resources major and student aid for the library, Carolina Perez, agrees that the library area has become a place of recreation as opposed to one of studying.

“it can be a nuisance. It’s really loud because we have a lot of students coming in... They come here just to socialize, basically. It interferes with the people that are actually studying.”

Hypprim Perry, landscape architecture major, agrees with the same point.

“I often hear the librarians over the speaker, telling the students to be quiet; that people need to study and concentrate. Then, you would hear it get quiet for a little bit, and then it will get loud again.

"Some people just want to joke and be with their friends, but that area is a place to be serious, and if you want to laugh, you should go outside.”

Even the computer room has issues, as nursing major Elizabeth Torres noted that the people in charge, Masued Alatari, has to sometimes kick people out of the lab because of how loud it gets.

“Tol do that’s good for him. I applaud what he’s doing, although some of the students get face-to-face with him.”

Dr. Elizabeth Hender

Alatari refused to comment on the matter.

As Rosendlatt believes the issue is an environmental one, an environmental approach is being proposed to combat it.

According to the librarian, a glass wall will be put up by next summer or next fall, dividing up the library into two parts - a “group, chatty side, and the other would be enforced to the more quiet, serious study side.”

Regardless, for now, the problem remains.

Rosendlatt said, “It’s just that we have computing needs, people study differently, people’s perceptions about public space are different. Hopefully by next fall it’ll be a lot better.”
Library needs to be silent

What do you think when thinking a library? A quiet place full of books, students with their textbooks out studying. Or do you imagine a place where people laugh and talk to their friends, making it impossible to study?

Well, if you pictured the second one, think twice. The library has become more of a social center than a place of peace and quiet.

Unfortuately, the students are the problem. Most students don't realize that the library is not a place to meet with your friends or chat.

Most people across the world realize that a library is supposed to be a place where you can focus in peace. Sadly this is not the case at Cerritos College.

Go inside the main area and you can see groups of people looking at their cell phones, talking about everything but books.

It has been a hot topic of conversation where earplugs are actually placed on the main desk for anyone who needs to block out the noise.

It seems crazy that rather than finding a way to fix the noise problem, we have given in and allowed the students to do what they want at the expense of others.

There is now talk of adding a barrier to the library, which will separate the library into an area for lounging and one for studying. It is not worth it to make Black Friday a holiday.

“Black Friday is a day to get free time.”
--- Jennifer Medina

Editorial

Employees need to get free time

For instance, Best Buy will be opening at 5 a.m. and Target will be opening at 6 a.m.

If some stores open on Thanksgiving, that means that employees that are celebrating the holiday are forced to learn their families and go to work.

Those employers look forward to spending time with their family, as well as the family wanting to spend time with them. So it is worth taking away that special time with their loved ones.

Rachel Arellano

Retail workers usually work an entire week (including weekends), and if they’re lucky, they’ll get two days off throughout a week.

Just imagine how difficult it is to find time to spend with family with such a schedule.

Making Thanksgiving a retail holiday is taking away the only time to spend with family and friends. It’s time to give employees a break from working an entire week.

It’s not worth it to make Black Friday two days long. Either get rid of it or keep it to one day.

Including Black Friday, there’s 364 other days to shop throughout the entire year, and 365 days to shop until Christmas.

We have to start doing things a little differently to give the employees time to spend with their family or friends and give parks a break.

Pamela Vasquez

Letter to the Editor

Skateboarding is not a problem

I was reading Talon Marks for October 15, 2014 and couldn’t help but notice the hateful article the editor-in-chief posted.

One particular paragraph that caught my attention was, “There is no reason that we should celebrate the holiday...”

This article is so wrong in so many ways. He goes further to complicate skateboarding to murder-mas.

I use a skateboard as a means of transportation and to support a greener campus. From Christian Ugbah.
If you’re sick of chain store eating, then Rodger’s Sandwiches is worth a try. Just a walk away from Cerritos College, Rodger’s offers garden salads, as well as Caesar salads.

Those who wish to grab a bite and get some homework or studying done, Panera Bread is definitely worth a try. Its menu ranges from soups and salads to paninis and pastries. Panera Bread also offers a loyalty card where customers receive rewards for dining at Panera Bread. It also offers to-go ordering where customers can place their orders online and pick them up in a matter of minutes.

Bonus: Alondra’s Mexican Food offers a Cerritos College student special menu, where students are able to receive rewards for dining at Panera Bread.

Game Room

The Game Room, recreational, social spot for students

For students, the Game Room serves as a sort of pit stop between classes, with pool and other arcade games available for recreational use. The popular choice at the Game Room seems to be pool, with a few pool sharks out there. Students enjoy the competitive atmosphere when it comes to the Game Room, in addition to the social aspect of it, as well.

Jenni Colchado, an administrative justice major, said, “It gets competitive when you meet other people. Sometimes you play pool, those arcade games, and people would be like, ‘I want you to go against me!’ So you actually get to meet these people, while you also get to kick their asses.”

Colchado was with Samanda Rhy, a hiking major, who was playing Initial D Version 3, which is a racing game.

There is still the usual student who would play one of the common fighting games found inside the room, like Tekken as aforementioned by Colchado. The pool is largely the prominent choice for people who come to play.

Most students use it as a place to take a break, or as an escape of the usual norm around campus.

Tirian Escobar, nursing major, said, “I come here in my spare time. I mean, I have to study at some point, but when I have nothing better to do, I just come here. I come here to get my mind off of things. It basically all I do.”

Students typically come in groups into the Game Room.

Alexandre Gaspard, an accounting major, was with a group of friends—Gilbert Gonzales,/talent major, and Jonathan Cantarana, engineering major, being some of their friends, playing pool. He usually comes by Monday and Wednesday.

He jokingly mentioned that the only thing that bothers him in the Game Room is that it’s “great fun,” regardless of the activity.

Gaspard makes it an ideal place to just hang out some stress, Cantarana and Gonzales both emphasized.

Gaspard said, “You can just walk in here and play games with all your friends.”
Standout athletes usually dedicate their life to a sport at an early age, learning the basics and mastering them throughout the years.

That is not the case for Cerritos College wrestler Dustin Kirk.

“I had no idea what wrestling was my freshman year of high school. I started wrestling around sophomore year and I didn’t really get into it until my junior year, so I’m still pretty fresh at it,” he said.

Kirk was encouraged by his uncle, a former wrestler, to join the Elmon High School wrestling team in an effort to turn his life around.

“I would say, sixth grade through freshman year, I was just a bad kid. I had a 0.8 grade point average and I got it up to 3.6 in order to wrestle and started getting more focused in classes,” he said.

Despite losing the first 11 matches of his debut season, Kirk went on to place fourth at the California Interscholastic Federation Championships during his junior year at 120 pounds, and took first place as a senior.

Now as a Falcon, he is ranked No. 1 in California at 133 pounds and is a captain of the team.

The team is top ranking, he said. “It’s the coaches. They’re great coaches and there are a lot of talented athletes on the team.

“There are a couple other captains on the team and we’re all ranked No. 1, and I feel like once everyone does (his) own thing, it brings the team together and we all believe in each other.”

After debuting between attending Palomar College and Cerritos College, Kirk decided that Cerritos had better training partners and coaching facility.

In the future, he hopes to win a state title, earn a Division 1 or 2 scholarship and continue wrestling.

Despite initial start Kirk stays humbled

“I always go into practice every day and I always give it my all. I’ve been following his success with respect and it’s a great thing to see him do all this. He’s like a role model for me and he’s very dedicated.”

Dustin Kirk

“I look up to him as someone that I wanted to be. He was a really good wrestler, he had all kinds of great accomplishments, he’s a state, and other than that, I think just the person he is – great family and very humble.”

Kirk cited the physicality as his favorite aspect of the sport at an early age, learning the basics and mastering them throughout the years.

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Golden State Bowl game next for football team

Less than a month after finishing the season with a ninth place finish in the California Community College Athletic Association championship game on Nov. 29, The Falcons host the Golden State Bowl game against the Vaqueros on Saturday at 7 p.m. at Falcon Stadium.

The Falcons are coming of a two-game winning streak and own a 6-1 record when playing at home.

Santa Barbara City College mirrors the exact same record as the Falcons but owns a 1-1-1 overall record when playing in bowl games.

Although the team has not played the Vaqueros (7-3) in over 30 years, the Falcons are confident enough to finish the season with a win.

“I feel confident, we have a really good team and really strong defense and a really good offense. We have to work harder to work better as a team and as a family,” Foster said.

According to the California Community College Regional State Football Poll, Cerritos College is ranked sixth in the National Division, while Santa Barbara City College is ranked fifth in the American Division.

Despite acquiring a bowl bid this season, the Falcons lose out in competing in the California Community College Athletic Association championship game.

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On the football team, a group of players that have made their presence known have built a very strong family connection and a brotherhood with one another. One of the Hawaiian Island brothers, Norman Unuga-Solomon, said, “We all live with each other. Right now, it’s only the four of us – me, Gio, Wiki and Cordell.”

The players have a strong connection with each other on and off the field, but the family back home is the strong force. Siosaia Kalavi said, “My brother got me involved, I didn’t like football but he started to play with me and started to take it. He would take me to his football games and I would sit there and watch.”

Kalavi actually has a deeper feeling of why he plays football today. He said, “The most inspirational person for me is my brother because he was the one who inspired me to play football and he passed away a couple of years ago so I play for him now. It reminds me of who I am playing for and what I am doing it for.”

Cordell Waahila, who is also a part of the Hawaiian family, has his family home that he would like to pay back his dues. “My mom is definitely my inspiration because I had it hard growing up. Hopefully I can pay her back for what I can do in my career,” Waahila said.

His family also played an important role in influencing him to play football. “My uncles encouraged me to play football. I would’ve considered rugby since it’s big in the Polynesian culture,” he said.

Giovanni Chanes and Unga-Solomon have two different stories when it comes to family and football. Chanes is the only one in his family that plays football, but with Solomon, his family is filled with football players. It runs in his family. “I do have family football history. My dad still holds the record for most interceptions and I am attempting to follow in his footsteps on defense,” Solomon said.

He also said, “I have a lot of family playing in college and the NFL level. My cousin Harvey Unga is playing for the Jacksonville Jaguars and I have a couple of cousins that are free agents. My cousin Joe Unga is playing for the Bills right now.”

Football is not the only passion, as school is a focus as well. Waahila would like to get his Bachelor’s Degree in business management. Kalavi would like to get into the NFL draft because of his size. Chanes would like to get into the NFL draft as well, but if it doesn’t work out, he plans to use his scholarships from South Alabama University and University of Alabama Birmingham.

Solomon plans to take football as far as he can, but would like to help people to become fitness trainers. Head coach Frank Mazzotta is very pleased to have the players, the brothers on his team and likes the way they conduct themselves toward the other players. He said, “They are really good athletes. They have really happy personalities, they are tough on the field but are friendly off the field.”

Not only are they good with the other players, but with each other they are truly a family. Mazzotta also said, “They are good to each other as well because they are really close and they are like brothers, they call each other brothers. They are very close, very dependable and very loyal and not only to their own people, but to football.”

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