

June 2011

the Coyote HOWLER



STUDENT SUCCESS FOCUS OF CERRO COSO COMMENCEMENT



Faculty and staff congratulate students on their accomplishments following Commencement Exercises.

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Cerro Coso Community College hosted its 38th Annual Commencement Exercises on Friday with special emphasis on student success. The ceremony was held in the Gym of the Raymond A. McCue Athletic Complex on May 13. "It's a new day" said Cerro Coso President, Jill Board. "Last year at this time Cerro Coso awarded 262 degrees and certificates, this evening we are conferring 359. This is a 37% increase!"

Friends, relatives, staff and faculty gathered to honor the Class of 2011. Out of the 359 awards, 230 Associate of Arts degrees and 96 Associate of Science degrees were conferred. Thirty three graduates received Certificate's of Achievements, seven students are 4.0 graduates, 47 graduated with honors and 57 were Phi Theta Kappa honor graduates. Jon Tittle retiring long-time faculty member served as the Faculty Marshal for the ceremony.

Dr. Ana G. Petrovic, a 2001 graduate of Cerro Coso Community College was the Distinguished Alumni Speaker. Four exceptional graduates were chosen to address the assemblage: Darryl Moline (AA Liberal Arts, Arts and Humanities emphasis & AA Liberal



Arts, Social and Behavioral Sciences); Pedro Santiago (AA Humanities & AA Social Sciences); Rebekah Cash (AA Liberal Arts, Arts and Humanities) all three from the Ridgecrest campus, and Michael Kinney (AS, Business Management) from the South Kern campus.

“It is the college’s intention that our degree represents you having achieved specific outcomes that represent your abilities in utilizing foundational life-long learning skills, culminating with demonstrating personal, civic, social and environmental responsibility and cooperation in order to become a productive local and global citizen. We believe that outcome will assist you as you move on to your ‘new day’,” concluded President Board. The Ridgecrest Band led by Dan Peterson provided a musical backdrop for the processional of faculty and graduating class.

DR. ANA PETROVIC DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI SPEAKER

Every year the Cerro Coso Alumni Association invites an outstanding alumnus who has excelled in their chosen field to share some of their relevant experiences and encourage the graduates. Dr. Ana Petrovic was this year’s distinguished alumni speaker. She was born and raised in Belgrade, Serbia and came to the United States in 1998 as an exchange student to experience the American culture, improve her knowledge of the English-language, and finish her senior year of high school. The support she received from her host family and the academic community of Cerro Coso Community College has given her opportunity and incentive to continue her higher education in America. She was a member of the Cerro Coso Honors Program and graduated from the college in 2001 with an Associate of Arts degree in General Education with a 4.0 GPA.

Ana’s education and accomplishments at Cerro Coso opened the doors for her transfer to Whitman College with a full academic scholarship. She graduated from Whitman College in 2003 with a BA in Chemistry (summa cum laude). In 2007 she graduated from Vanderbilt University with a PhD in Physical Chemistry. In the summer of 2007 she began a three-year postdoctoral experience at Columbia University where she taught an undergraduate class called “Frontiers of Science” and pursued research in structural investigations of chiral organic inorganic and biomolecules via tandem implementation of chiroptical methods.

Currently Ana is working as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at the New York Institute of Technology (NYIT), where besides continuing research involvement, she is pursuing her commitment to undergraduate teaching and mentoring.



Dr. Ana Petrovic 2011
Distinguished Alumni Speaker

HONORS PROGRAM RECOGNIZES GRADUATES

On Saturday, April 30, the Cerro Coso Honors Program celebrated its 2011 graduates: Rebekah Cash, Jordan Covert, Morgann Havig, Abigail Homer, Jennifer Jones, Steven Mayhugh, Daryl Moline Jr., and Michelle Pope. The graduates, their families, Cerro Coso faculty, and fellow Honors Program students attended a luncheon to recognize these outstanding students. Additionally, two \$500 Faculty Honors Scholarships were awarded to Morgann Havig and Michelle Pope, and a \$1,000 President’s Honors Scholarship went to graduating Burroughs High School student Brian Moore for exceptional academic performance.



Luncheon honoring tutors. Those holding certificates are the newest tutors to earn College Reading and Learning Association’s International

COLLEGE HOLDS COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE AT BISHOP CAMPUS

The Cerro Coso Community College, Eastern Sierra College Center (ESCC) held its 7th Annual Commencement Ceremony at the Bishop Campus on Friday, May 6 at 5:30 p.m. Commencement speakers included: President of Cerro Coso Community College, Jill Board; Director of the Eastern Sierra Foundation and Inyo County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Terence McAteer, Director of the Eastern Sierra College Center, Deanna Campbell; campus graduating student speakers, Jillian Flavin, Rose Martin and Sandra Warlie; Alumni Speaker, Keith Glidewell; and Kern Community College District Trustee, Stuart Witt.

"This was the largest graduating class ever, up 35% from last year and nearly triple the number only four years ago" stated Deanna Campbell. Over 350 family and friends attended the event. The Felici Trio and Eastern Sierra Community Chorale provided the music for Commencement and the reception that immediately followed the ceremony.

The Eastern Sierra Foundation held a Donor Recognition Ceremony just prior to the Commencement Ceremony to honor the donors to the Foundation who had contributed more than \$5000. The Eastern Sierra Foundation provides 60 scholarships each semester for local Inyo County residents. Scholarships cover full tuition and up to \$300 towards textbooks. Two-thirds of the 2011 Bishop graduates were recipients of an Eastern Sierra Foundation scholarship.

The Mammoth Lakes Foundation provides full scholarships for residents of Mono County. Forty percent of this year's Mammoth graduates were recipients of a Mammoth Lakes Foundation scholarship.

KRV STUDENT AWARDS CEREMONY

The Kern River Valley Campus of Cerro Coso Community College held their first Student Awards Ceremony Friday, May 6th at the Kern Valley High School Auditorium. Approximately 40-50 students and family members were in attendance. **Director, Dr. Erie Johnson**, was keynote speaker; Debra Rundell award presenter and emcee and ASCC Faculty Chair. Counselor Pam Godfrey, Professor Gary Enns, Instructors Ted Little, Mark Hosman and Mary Ann Fountain were in attendance to show support and make presentations.

KRV ASCC Officers for 2011-2012 were acknowledged as follows: President: David Barry; Vice President: Darren Smith; Secretary: Chrystal Handley; and Treasurer: Kyle McDade. Awards were given to: Kimberly Word, Award of Excellence-Admin of Justice and Certificate: Human Services A.S. requirements (PTK member); Robert Ennis, AA Graduation Certificate; Karen Patino, KRV Staff Member of the Year; Karen Priest, Award of Excellence-Abnormal Psychology. **Patrick McGaughey**, Award of Excellence – English, Multiple Award Recipient (PTK member); **Marilyn Booth Horn**, (PTK member) Multiple Award Recipient; Amber Pyle, Multiple Award Recipient (PTK member).



Commencement Exercises in Bishop



Commencement Exercises in Bishop



L to R - Kimberly Word (Award of Excellence-Admin of Justice & Certificate: Human Services A.S. requirements) Robert Ennis (AA Graduation Certificate) Karen Patino (KRV Staff member) Karen Priest (Award of Excellence-Abnormal Psychology)



Phi Theta Kapp International Honor Society inducts 95 new members.

PHI THETA KAPPA INDUCTION CEREMONY

Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society held its induction ceremony for its newest members on April 29, 2011 at the Cerro Coso Community College's Learning Resource Center. Heather Ostash, Vice President of Student Services at Cerro Coso Community College, was the keynote speaker. Ninety-five students were inducted into the Beta Kappa Chi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honors Society at Cerro Coso Community College for the 2011-2012 academic year. Phi Theta Kappa is the International Honor Society of the Two Year College, founded in 1918. Its mission is to encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and provide development opportunities through participation in leadership and service. These students earned the privilege to join Phi Theta Kappa based on their academic excellence, earning at least a 3.5 grade point average in degree- and transfer-level courses, making them the top 10% of Cerro Coso Community College students. By joining Phi Theta Kappa, they become life-long members of the world's largest honors society, have access to over \$36 million in scholarships, and join an outstanding fellowship of scholars.



Students discussing academic programs with Counselor, Greg Kost

HUMAN SERVICES CAREERS IN THE EASTERN SIERRA

On Thursday, April 14th, the Eastern Sierra College Center (ESCC) in Bishop held a Human Services informational reception. There were 13 presenters in total from the Human Services industry, Cerro Coso College and current and former students, each speaking about their education, experiences and careers in the Human Services field. Barbara Lieberman, a graduate of the HMSV program, produced and presented a video that described the program and highlighted possible career opportunities. Each presenter's personal story of educational achievement and career advancement as a result of the Human Services program was emotional and very inspirational.



Student registering for class with help from Cerro Coso staff.

On the panel were Debra Rundell, Director and Founder of Cerro Coso's Human Services program discussed the requirements of and skills developed in the program; Daniel Ranson was introduced as the new Case Management class instructor; Lisa Reel, Director of Wild Iris and Beth Himelhoch, Executive Director of Inyo Mono Advocates for the Handicapped (IMAH) provided an overview of careers and opportunities in the Human Services field in the Eastern Sierra; Gina Jones, Director of the Owens Valley Career Development Center (OVCDC) and Deanna Campbell, Director of the Eastern Sierra College Center, introduced funding opportunities, including grants and scholarships, for students interested in the program. Former student presenters included Barbara Lieberman (OVCDC), Kelli Brown (Progress Center), Kelli Braithwaite (OVCDC), Jenny Parks (IMAH) and Adelina Rico (IMAH). Light dinner was provided through SB70 funding.

ESCC ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSE AND FAFSA WORKSHOP

The Eastern Sierra College Center of Cerro Coso College (ESCC) held its inaugural Admissions Open House and FAFSA Workshop, Monday, April 25th on the Bishop Campus and Tuesday, April 26th on the Mammoth Campus. This was an opportunity for new and continuing students to complete the admissions and

registration process in one day. According to ESCC's counselor Greg Kost, "The orientation provided new and returning students the opportunity to discuss their educational goals, with the help of several key student services components, including Admissions and Records, Learning Resource Center opportunities, Financial Aid and Counseling staff." Topics presented included Learning Resource Center (LRC) information. Cerro Coso staff member Nancy Willard helped students learn about the LRC and what kinds of resources are available to our students. She also assisted students in taking their placement exams. ESCC Counselor Greg Kost worked with Vice President of Student Services Heather Ostash and Academic Counselor Amy Kennedy in providing students with assessment information and developing educational plans.

Housing information in Mammoth was presented by Laura Goforth of the Mammoth Lakes Foundation. ESCC staff Jenine Cushman, Cindy Duriscoe, Matt Mahoney and Lori Olivera each assisted students with their online applications, updates and registration. Joann Spiller, Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships helped students complete their FAFSA applications online and answered general financial aid and scholarship questions. Joanne also gave a one-hour financial aid workshop on each campus in the evenings. Cerro Coso Student Ambassadors Lindsey Moss and Sadie Finney (Bishop) and Jillian Pieter and Ingrid Humes (Mammoth) were on hand to greet students and guide them through the process. Students and their families were given all of the information necessary to pursue higher education at Cerro Coso Community College. Nearly 70 students were assisted through the admissions process during the two-day event. When asked about the Admissions Open House, Student Ambassadors agreed, "This was a great experience for our students – we look forward to doing it again next year."

GRANT BENTLEY SONGWRITING WORKSHOPS

Grant Bentley a local prize-winning songwriter performed some of his original work and offered a FREE songwriting workshop to the public on Tuesday, May 3rd, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Bishop's Cerro Coso Campus. Grant is the second presenter in the College's new Lecture Series: Artists, Scholars & Writers. Grant complemented the evening with visuals and a free hand-out of suggested tips for creating original songs.

APPRECIATION LUNCHEON HONORS TUTORS

Cerro Coso students take advantage of free tutoring provided by a select group of highly recommended and talented tutors available online and at most campuses. Each semester peer tutors are recognized for their diligence and dedication with an appreciation luncheon. Many tutors carry heavy academic loads, participate in campus and community activities and work other jobs, while maintaining high grades. Many of the tutors attending the luncheon are upcoming honors graduates and members of the college honor society-Phi Theta Kappa. After hours of training and tutoring, many tutors this year have earned an International Tutor Certificate from College Reading and Learning Association's (CRLA) which is a tutor prerequisite at many colleges and universities.

The benefits of tutoring are many. Often students on campus attribute course success to the assistance received from a tutor. Students comment: "Tutoring



Student award recipients pose for picture following Special Services Program 30th Annual Awards Ceremony.



Grant Bentley



From left to right, graduating students Jordan Covert, Jennifer Jones, Steven Mayhugh, Abigail Homer, Morgann Havig, Michelle Pope, and Rebekah Cash.

helped me a lot with my writing and grammar.” “I used it for accountability for my homework...timed right to have homework questions answered before I turned in the problems.” “It’s good to have another opinion from someone who does not see it in the same light.” “It’s very helpful in practicing homework, for answering questions and expanding your work using different software programs.” Tutors find benefits from tutoring too. Brian Repsholdt considers tutoring great for “refreshing your memory on courses even if they (*courses*) are low. The greatest form of learning is teaching.” “It’s ...the satisfaction of helping other students.” David Santiago finds tutoring “reinforces concepts I learned early on.” “Getting familiar with different types of people is pretty cool...” and adds becoming “better at explaining things to other people.” Surprisingly, peer tutors may be the first to sign up for tutoring; they comprehend the benefits of tutoring-shared learning and higher grades. Employers find tutoring skills as an indicator of the ability to provide clear information to customers, clients or other employees. Peer tutoring experience is a plus on a job application, resume or college application.

CERRO COSO CAPPING AND PINNING CEREMONY STEEPED IN TRADITION

A time-honored tradition, the Cerro Coso Community College Nursing Capping and Pinning ceremony signifies the successful completion of a rigorous and physically demanding program of study. On Saturday, May 14, 2011 Cerro Coso symbolically welcomed 11 Student Vocational Nurses into a profession of service to others. Friends and family were honored for their support during the numerous hours of study, classroom instruction, and work at clinical facilities. “Our students really appreciate the opportunity to celebrate their achievements with those close to them,” stated Cheryl Gates, Director of Vocation Nursing and Health Career Programs at the college. Guest Speaker, Matt Wanta, gave an inspiring address to the nurses.

The ceremony commemorated the successful completion of their nursing coursework and clinical rotations for the following 11 students: Kathleen Barney, Rowena Elizabeth Becker, Linsey Marie Booth, Jill Butler, Chastity Rose Johnson, Faith Ann Lorenz, Teresa Marshall-Sloan, Janelle Lynn Olsen, La Shaun Rutledge, Sandy Thao, and Karen Dianne Witcher.

The highlight of the ceremony was the candle-lighting and recitation of the Nursing Pledge. “The nursing capping and the Nightingale Ceremony remain a treasured part of the total student nursing experience,” said Gates. The history of the ceremony and pledge reach back to Florence Nightingale who distinguished herself during the Crimean War nursing sick and wounded British soldiers. Because of her selfless duty, Florence Nightingale became known as the “lady with a lamp”. As a tribute to her dedication, the lamp icon became symbolic of nursing. The lamp will always shine brightly as a symbol of the care and devotion nurses administer to the sick and injured. A reception was held immediately following the ceremony to honor their well deserved achievement.



Bakersfield College
Cerro Coso College
Porterville College