

September 2011

# the Coyote HOWLER



## WINSTON EARNS PH.D.



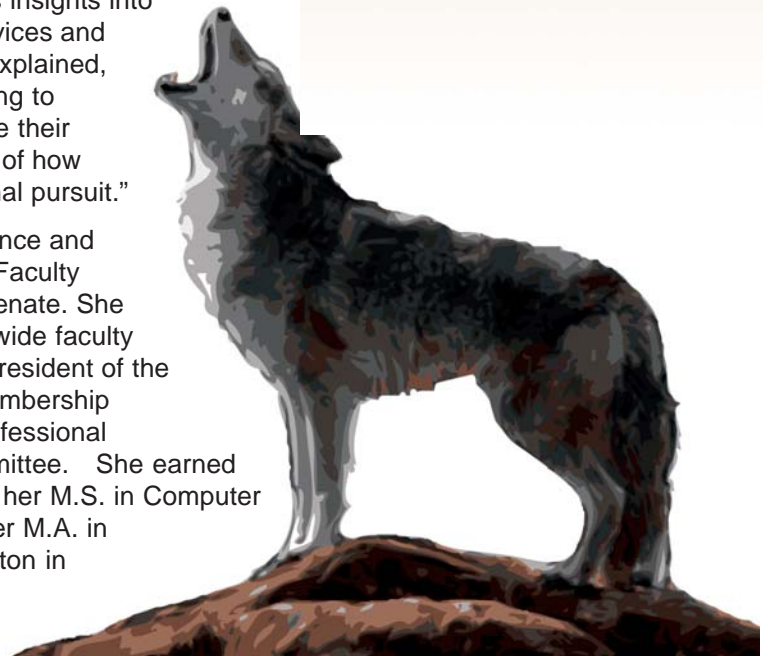
Dr. Rachel A. Winston, a full-time, tenured mathematics professor at Cerro Coso Community College, completed her Ph.D. in the Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas at Austin. Her dissertation topic, "Managing Academic and Personal Life in Graduate Studies: An Interactive Qualitative Analysis of Persistence and Transformation," offers a systems-based approach to understanding the academic and personal challenges in graduate studies. The major outcome of this study is a Four-Stage Model of Graduate Student Development which offers insights into student services and

programs to support graduate students. Dr. Winston explained, "With the economic shortfall, many people are returning to college, yet only 50% of all doctoral students complete their degree. This study presents a systems representation of how students persist and transform through their educational pursuit."

Dr. Winston developed her interest in student persistence and success at Cerro Coso, where she was the Full Time Faculty Member of the Year and President of the Academic Senate. She was elected to the Executive Committee for the statewide faculty Board of Governors, FACCC. She was elected Vice President of the Political Action Committee and also served on the Membership Committee, Awards and Scholarships Committee, Professional Development Committee, and Communications Committee. She earned her B.S. in Chemistry at Syracuse University in 1980, her M.S. in Computer Education from Pepperdine University in 1990, and her M.A. in Mathematics from California State University at Fullerton in 2001, and a certificate in Interpreting for the Deaf at Gallaudet University in 1977.

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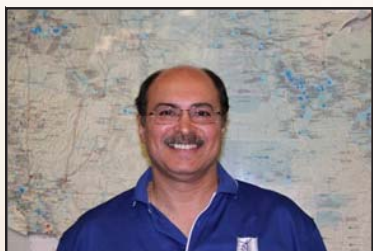
## PHI THETA KAPPA DONATES TO BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB



Southern Sierra Boys and Girls Club shows off pillowcase craft project donated by the Cerro Coso Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Cerro Coso Community College's chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society in conjunction with a local church donated pillowcases to The Southern Sierra Boys and Girls Club for an arts and crafts project for a recent sleepover. Twenty youths participated in the event and enjoyed the fun and games, making "walking tacos", and gazing at the stars with the help of a local astronomical group. Loretta Christiansen, Phi Theta Kappa Service and Fellowship Officer, organized the donation to support the efforts of the Boys and Girls Club and local youths. The Cerro Coso chapter of Phi Theta Kappa recognizes the importance of the Boys and Girls Club which inspires and empowers area youths ages 6-18 to achieve their maximum potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens. Phi Theta Kappa is an international honor society for students in two-year colleges that honors and encourages participation in leadership and service.

## ADNAN BUXAMUSA JOINS THE FACULTY



There are two posters on the wall of the Renewable Energy Lab., one reads, '*LEARN... The growth of the human mind is still high adventure, in many ways the highest adventure on earth,*' the other, '*There are no limits for journeys of the mind.*' "These represent my teaching philosophy," stated new Renewable Energies Technology Instructor, Adnan Buxamusa. "I want my classes to be a participatory learning experience, whereby students learn from each other as well as from me. While I encourage participation and teamwork, I will absolutely not tolerate plagiarism and cheating. By encouraging a supportive learning environment, I want them to become passionate about learning and teamwork, which they can then apply to their future careers," said Adnan.

Originally from India, Adnan attended the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay before transferring to Rutgers University where he received his Bachelor's of Science in Electrical Engineering. Now a citizen of the United State, Adnan has a Master's of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Youngstown State University with concentration in Wind and Solar Technology. He holds a Train-the-Trainer certification for Motorola's Six Sigma program, a business management strategy widely used in many sectors of industry to improve the quality of process outputs. This seasoned professional brings significant experience in the areas of engineering, research and development, manufacturing, renewable energies, quality assurance, business, marketing, and customer service. He has worked for major corporations all over the world including: Texas Instruments, General Telephone & Electronics (GTE), and Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC). "I want to see students take the knowledge they gain at Cerro Coso and leverage it in their jobs. Solar and wind are here to stay and these are the jobs I want to prepare Cerro Coso students by using best practices in my classrooms," concluded Adnan. His wife Cheryl is an ESL, English, and Speech teacher and together they have four grown children. Welcome Adnan!

## A DREAM FULFILLED

Elsa Granados, a native of El Salvador, realized a life dream on July 18, 2011. After more than twenty years of persistence and hard work she became an American citizen. She is fortunate to live and work in Bishop, Ca. where, in 2004 and 2005 she was able to take English as a Second Language classes from instructor Julie Metz at Cerro Coso Community College's Bishop Campus. In her own words, "I would like to thank Cerro Coso Community College for giving me the opportunity to learn English and for also giving me a way out of the dark into a brighter future. If you do not educate yourself it's like living in the dark, nobody will know that you are there. Schooling is a treasure that no one can take from you. Thanks to Cerro Coso I have completed my goal and now I am a citizen of the United States." Julie Metz currently has 22 students in her fall ESL class at Cerro Coso Bishop – the largest class to date. Congratulations Elsa on a dream fulfilled.



Elsa Granados

## WELCOME MATTHEW JONES

New to the online teaching environment, new History and Political Science instructor, Matthew Jones, is looking forward to developing innovative ways to engage students in his classes. With more than 90 students in his online classes this is a challenge Matthew is looking forward too. "I want to see and read faces to insure they understand what I am teaching," he said. "This is the part of the online environment I'm not comfortable with, but I will find ways to connect to them." He will commute to the Ridgecrest campus each week from Simi Valley where his wife, Meredith, and two children, Aidan and Mikayla, still reside. His family does plan to relocate in the future and are looking forward to skiing the Mammoth slopes in the winters. Matthew plans to evaluate the interest in a course in Law and Public Policy at Cerro Coso and will work with the College in developing a new course if there is a demand. Law is a major instrument of public policy and this type of course is common in lower division curriculum at many colleges. Matthew holds a Bachelor's degree from Gordon College in Massachusetts and a Master's and Ph.D. in American Politics and Public Law from the University of Southern California. Welcome Matthew!



## MEET NEW FACULTY MEMBER SARAH KING

For new full-time faculty member, Sarah King, it's all about the stories skeletons tell. Fascinated by the study of human remains from the Stone Age to modern day forensics cases, Sarah has experience researching evidence of violence in skeletal remains. She is teaching anthropology and sociology at Cerro Coso this fall and plans to offer archeology in the spring. Sarah holds a Bachelor's of Arts in Anthropology from UC Santa Cruz, and a Master's of Arts in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico. She spent 4.5 years in England earning her Ph.D. in Archaeological Science with emphasis in Violence and Warfare in Iron Age England from the University of Bradford, West Yorkshire, England. Originally from Redding, California, Sarah participated in two memorable archaeological digs in Paris and one in Spain. She loves the outdoors and enjoys hiking and kayaking. This summer she volunteered at Lake Whiskey giving kayaking tours around the lake. Welcome to Cerro Coso Community College Sarah!





## FORMER PLAYER RETURNS TO COACH AT CCCC

At Cerro Coso Community College, this year's Coyote Baseball team will serve as a homecoming for one coach. Former Coyote Baseball player, Jonathan Holmes, is now back with the team as head coach. An Alumni of Cerro Coso, Holmes played ball at the college from 1994-1996 and received All Conference Honors both years, and the Golden Glove Award his second year. Originally from Las Vegas, Nevada, Holmes met his wife, Carmela, while attending classes at Cerro Coso. They have four children, two boys and two girls, DeJuan, Julian, Kelsey, and Jasmine. He holds a Bachelor's in Kinesiology from California Baptist College and a Teaching Credential from California State University Bakersfield. Holmes spent the last five years running the Baseball Program at Burroughs High School. "My goal is to get this team competing again and move them on to 4-year schools while having fun," said Holmes. "It's a lot of work, but there is no reason they cannot have fun while they are pursuing their dreams." Cerro Coso WELCOMES Adjunct Coach, Jonathan Holmes!

## ESCC ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSE AND FAFSA WORKSHOP



ESCC staff member Matt Mahoney assists students with their online applications, updates and registration.

The Eastern Sierra College Center of Cerro Coso Community College Bishop campus held an Admissions Open House and FAFSA Workshop on Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. This was an opportunity for new and continuing students to complete the admissions and registration process in one day. The orientation provided new and returning students the opportunity to discuss their educational goals, with the help of several key student service components, including Admissions and Records, Learning Resource Center opportunities, Financial Aid and Counseling staff. Students and their families were given all of the information necessary to pursue higher education at Cerro Coso Community College. According to the Director of ESCC, Deanna Campbell, "the event was a great success." Nearly 100 students were assisted through the admissions and registration process during the Admissions Open House.

## ROBIN DUFF NEW FACE IN SPECIAL SERVICES



Meet Robin Duff the new Department Assistant II for Special Services. No stranger to meeting the needs of others, this mother of seven knows how to multi-task, a skill that will come in handy in her new position. Robin grew up in a military family and enjoyed moving around, "My favorite, by far, was the seven years we spent in Japan. I loved the culture and people," said Robin. She moved to Ridgecrest when she was a junior in high school. Robin met her husband, Andy, a native of Ridgecrest, and together they have chosen to stay and raise their children: Josh, Neil, Collette, Melissa, Aly, Bryce, and Hannah. Robin is a 2001 graduate of Cerro Coso Community College and is only six classes away from earning her Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies from Brandman University a fully accredited university within the Chapman University System. Reading is one of Robin's passions and in her spare time she is a proofreader for independent authors. WELCOME Robin to the Cerro Coso staff!

## VIVIAN BAKER SELECTED FOR NEW FULL-TIME POSITION

Cerro Coso Community College is pleased to announce the selection of Vivian Baker to a new full-time Child Development Faculty position. Vivian has been an active member of the Cerro Coso community for over 20 years. She began her career in the field of Early Childhood Education in 1990 as a student intern at Cerro Coso's IWV Child Development Center. It was while taking Child Development courses that she realized her life calling to serve children and families. She has vast experience as a classroom teacher, site supervisor, adjunct faculty member, and advocate for children. Vivian is a graduate of Cerro Coso Community College with an AA in Early Childhood Education, Pacific Oaks College with a Bachelor's in Human Development/Early Childhood Education, and a Master's in Human Development/College Teaching/Leadership in Education.

She is the Coordinator of the California Early Childhood Mentor Program for Cerro Coso piloting a statewide, virtual model for student mentoring. Through this pilot, Vivian works to pair Cerro Coso child development online students with early childhood professionals throughout the state. The availability of Virtual Mentors will provide Cerro Coso students with the opportunity to participate in one-on-one enhanced learning possibilities. Vivian is a member of California Community College Early Childhood Educators, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and is currently a member of the Eastern Sierra AEYC Conference Committee as well as serving on the Las Flores PTO Executive Board. Congratulations Vivian!



## LONGTIME STAFF MEMBER RETIRES

Accounting Assistant, Margaret Hunter, hung up her hat to enter retirement after 15 years of service to Cerro Coso Community College. A luncheon was held in her honor on Friday, August 12, 2011 at Casa Corona. "I still remember marching into my counselor, June Wasserman's, office and telling her to sign me up for some computer classes because I needed computer skills to support my family," she shared with those in attendance. She used a similar line on her first boss at the College, June Frederickson, when she was a student looking for work and asked her to "take a chance on me and let me show you what I can do," she recalled. Both ladies were in attendance and recognized for the role they played in her successful education and career. Margaret is a 1996 graduate of Cerro Coso Community College and was a student speaker at her commencement exercises. She was named "Student of the Semester" by the College Alumni Association in the spring of 1995, and went on to share her positive experiences with students as a distinguished alumni speaker for the College's Special Services Program. Margaret's stylish hats and vivacious spirit will be missed around the College campus but we wish her all the best in her retirement.



## CLARK RETURNS TO FINANCIAL AID DEPARTMENT

The Cerro Coso Financial Aid Department has a new Department Assistant II, Kimberly Clark, but she is not new to the Department. Prior to becoming a classified employee, Kimberly was a student worker for both the CalWorks Program and Counseling. In 2002 she took a part-time job as a Receptionist for the Counseling Department. Due to budget cuts the position was eliminated and Kim moved into a part-time position as a Receptionist for Financial Aid. She was then promoted to a part-time Financial Aid Assistant. When that position was eliminated due to budget cuts, Kim moved into the role of a Special Services Assistant in the Special Services Department. As a single mom, working two part-time jobs, Kimberly was thrilled when she was chosen for the full-time Department Assistant II position in Financial Aid. This is not a story about Kimberly getting a lucky break. Hers is a story about how situations change, needs change, and organizations are forced to adapt. This is a story about being in a place ALL the time and being persistent enough to wait for the perfect job. For Kimberly and her three daughters, Brittnee (15), Alexandria (13), and Alyssa (10), this is her perfect job. "My advice to everyone is NEVER give up love, hope and faith, in the end things do work out, just be patient," said Kimberly. Congratulations!



## GLEASON CCCC FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTOR

Military wives are heroes too, and CCCC Foundation Board of Director, Robynn Gleason, is no exception. For years she has followed her husband, Mick's, career in the United States Navy traveling to different duty stations and taking care of their home and three sons. To her it was life, to others it's the common sacrifice of a military wife. Sending a love one off to battle and not knowing whether they will return, is a sacrifice. The two made Ridgecrest their home when Mick retired as Commanding Officer for NAWS China Lake in 2008. Robynn then decided to pursue her education to earn a degree in nursing. She is a graduate of the Cerro Coso Community College Nursing Program and went on to finish the Registered Nursing Program through Bakersfield College via distance education. Her compassionate nature is well suited for her career caring for the health needs of others. Robynn and Mick have three sons: Wesley in Scottsdale, Arizona; Patrick and wife Natasha in Ridgecrest; and Jeffrey a student at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. They are very excited about the anticipated birth of their first grandchild, a girl, this December. "The Cerro Coso Community College Foundation is the principal organization through which private gifts are made and administered for the benefit of the College and its students. As a former student and military wife, Robynn's perspective and dedication to serving the needs of the Cerro Coso students is admirable," stated Cherryl Gates, Foundation President.

### *Foundation Features*



Bakersfield College  
Cerro Coso College  
Porterville College