

Fall Quarter 2011

"The beginning of all wisdom is to understand that you don't know. To know is the enemy of all learning. To be sure is the enemy of wisdom."

- Victor Villaseñor in Burro Genius

The CRSP Sun

...Bask in our news!



COLLEGE READING SKILLS PROGRAM

A TRIO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM LOCATED IN THE **LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER**

Director's Message

Welcome to the 2011-12 school year. It is already flying by so quickly. The College Reading Skills Program (CRSP) has had a busy and exciting quarter, which will continue over the next two quarters.

Because many individuals on campus are not aware of CRSP or have forgotten how it is that the program exists, I like to begin the first newsletter of the academic year with a little background information about the College Reading Skills Program (CRSP). The program is a federally funded retention and graduation program. Officially, CRSP is a TRIO Student Support Service project serving low-income, first generation college students, and students with disabilities. While funding for the program is extremely competitive, CRSP has received funding from the Department of Education since 1989.

CRSP offers various services to support qualified students in their academic endeavors. The core component is tutoring in reading skills to help students become more effective and critical readers. We also offer peer mentoring, supplemental academic advising, financial literacy and financial aid workshops, a scholarship opportunity, graduate school test preparation, a book club, a one-unit course, and other services. The program serves only 250 of the over 10,000 qualified CPP students each year.

The program is mandated to meet three objectives: academic standing, persistence, and graduation. In 2009-10, 95% of the students served ended the year in good academic standing and 97% of them persisted to fall 2010.

Of the new students served in 2004-05, 64% graduated within six years. Data for 2010-11 students served will be available next quarter.

Call to Graduating Students:

If you will graduate this academic year, or in fall 2012, please plan to attend our annual Graduate Recognition Luncheon in the spring of 2012. Each year, CRSP holds this luncheon to celebrate the achievement of graduating (and graduated) CRSP participants. Send us an [email](#) or give us a call at 909-869-4349 to let us know that you plan to graduate so that we can be sure to send you an official invitation to the event.

College Reading Skills Club

The College Reading Skills Club (CRSC) is an extension of the College Reading Skills Program but is open to all Cal Poly Pomona students. CRSC is a club dedicated to supporting the College Reading Skills Program, a program that helps students improve their reading and writing abilities. CRSC engages in activities such as fundraisers, community service and social gatherings. Recently the members of the College Reading Skills Club participated in Matt's Run and had a taco sale to raise money for future activities. Members of the club also enjoy social gatherings made so that the club members can associate with one another and can work together more efficiently. During finals, CRSC members also hold study group sessions to help each other prepare for their finals. What makes the club a success is the connection the members have with everyone within the club. The College Reading Skills Club always welcomes new members. For more information, please contact the club at crsc.calpolypomona@gmail.com

Continued

**College Reading Skills
Program
In the LRC
Library Rm. 2919**

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FALL 2011

PEER TUTORS/MENTORS

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JUDY JUAREZ
CHRIS MARIN
VANESSA MEDINA-REYNAGA
RAYMOND NG
REINA VILLANUEVA
LISA YOUNG
MICHAEL ZHOU

PROGRAM HOURS

MON-THURS 8:00-5:00

FRI 8:30-4:00

Book Club Corner

Fall quarter Book Club members read *The Feast of the Goat* by 2010 Nobel Prize winning author Mario Vargas Llosa. During the initial meeting, members discussed the author, his political ambitions and the Trujillo regime as depicted in the book. Consecutive meetings were spent distinguishing historical and fictionalized events and people, and discussing the forced collaboration of the Dominican people with the highly personal dictatorship, which culminated with the assassination of Trujillo (the "Goat") in 1961 by several officials within his own circle.

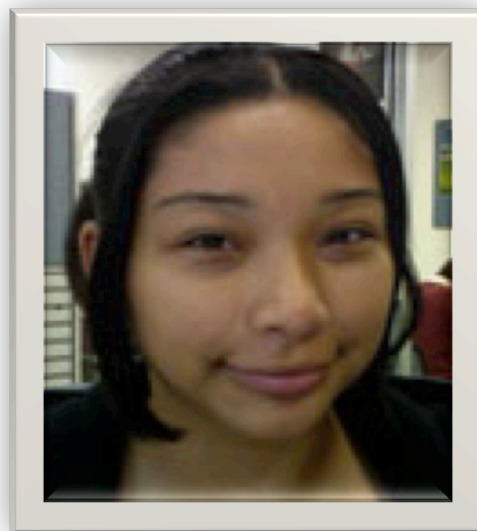
Winter Book Club will read *Burro Genius: A Memoir* by Victor Villaseñor. Meetings are scheduled for Thursdays during U-hour of weeks three, five and seven. If you are interested in Book Club, please call Cindy Greco at (909) 869-4347 or email at csgreco@csupomona.edu for more information.

Tutor Spotlight: Reina Villanueva

The fall 2011 College Reading Skills Program featured tutor is Reina Villanueva. Reina began tutoring for CRSP in fall 2009; she was a participant in the program before being hired as a tutor.

She is an Electrical Engineering major graduating in June 2013. In high school, Reina had designs on becoming a psychology major until she had an epiphanic experience when she was placed on the school's robotics team.

Reina enjoys electrical engineering because "you get to see a result at the end [of a project] and how it is helping us move forward . . . it's just



*Reina Villanueva,
CRSP Tutor/Mentor*

fascinating to see all the new technology coming out. I just can't wait to be a part of all that when I graduate."

Regarding her experience as a CRSP tutor, Reina was surprised to find that that not only was she able to help other students, but she also has gotten more out of the experience personally than she had expected to. She writes, "CRSP is its own little community and a very welcoming one at that, and more and more I see it as a place where I can unwind and interact with other CPP students, teach them what I know and at the same time they always end up teaching me something."

Despite her excellent achievements in academics and her love of engineering, the most interesting part of her life, she states, "is my son. He motivates me to keep going forward with school. I plan to go to grad school in EE, and hopefully I can attain a doctorate degree in engineering as well," perhaps focusing her efforts in "the renewable energy field or mobile electronics industry."

Financial Fitness Workshops

CRSP and ARCHES continued their collaboration this quarter to provide TRIO participants (ARCHES and CRSP are TRIO Student Support Services programs) with financial literacy workshops to help ensure they make thoughtful financial choices throughout their stay at Cal Poly Pomona and to be better prepared for life after college. Two workshops were offered in fall: Joy Tafarella of the CPP Federal Credit Union presented on November 3, discussing the importance of budgeting and credit management, as well as some tips regarding checking and savings accounts and pitfalls for students to avoid. Robert Matranga presented an introduction to some online tools that students can use to track their income and expenses, and to make, plan for, and execute various financial or purchase goals.

Professional Mentor Meeting

CRSP was honored to have Dr. Renford Reese, of the Political Science Department, speak to participants at the fall Mentor Meeting. Dr. Reese focused on the potential students have to be “change agents” in society, encouraging attendees to take pride in themselves and in Cal Poly Pomona. Attendees also heard about some of Dr. Reese’s many programs and efforts to foster a greater sense of community throughout the world, including the Colorful Flags program and recent Study Abroad trips. He closed by inviting interested students to take advantage of upcoming opportunities, such as the 2012 trip to Tanzania.

After the event, CRSP staff heard from many participants that Dr. Reese’s talk inspired and motivated them. CRSP appreciates the energy and honesty that Dr. Reese brought to this quarter’s Mentor Meeting.

CRSP and SSEP/EOP Collaborate

Laura Ayon, Cindy Greco, and Robert Matranga of the College Reading Skills Program continued their collaboration with the Student Support and

Equity Services Program (SSEP). All three presented a workshop on strategies for active, critical reading and effective essay writing for the program’s 2011 Summer Bridge, which aims to help students acclimate to the university environment and get a head start of preparing for the challenges of college-level coursework.

On October 19 and November 2, respectively, Cindy Greco and Robert Matranga teamed with Vicki Calderon, Coordinator of Tutorial Services and Summer Bridge at SSEP, to present one of SSEP’s “College Success Seminars.” The topic of the seminar was *Beating Procrastination*. The interactive presentation engaged participants in an honest evaluation of their current approach to managing their time, and led to a discussion of how to address deficits and conflicts, as well as how to rank and prioritize tasks in order to accomplish the most important goals first.

In January, Vicki Calderon will provide a training opportunity for CRSP tutors (as well as all other tutors in the Learning Resource Center) that will focus on “Brain-Based Learning,” which reveals how understanding more about the nature of learning and memory itself can help students succeed in their efforts to learn, remember, and use course material.

Coffee, Tea, and the LRC

Rachel Dominguez, along with the “Marketing Committee” in the Learning Resource Center, has worked to develop an event designed to bring greater faculty awareness of the programs and services provided by the Learning Resource Center. Tentatively scheduled for January 31, 2012, “Coffee, Tea, and the LRC” is an open house of sorts that will welcome all CPP faculty and staff to come and meet LRC staff, become informed about the LRC programs, and sip on coffee and/or tea.