

**Spring Quarter 2013**

**"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader."  
— Margaret Fuller**

*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**

We are quickly approaching the end of another academic year. We had a lot to celebrate, as you will read about in this spring edition of the *CRSP Sun*.

As mentioned in last quarter's newsletter, CRSP advisor Robert Matranga, took the quarter off to bond with his daughter, Madeline (now five months old), and Casey Thompson (former CRSP tutor) stepped in as temporary CRSP advisor. I thank Casey for a job well done this quarter. Casey had a smooth transition into his new role and did not regard the assignment as a temporary one. He not only had a vested interest in each of his assigned stu-

dents but also in the success of the overall program. Thank you, Casey, for your continued commitment and service to CRSP.

I am happy to report that CRSP once again met or surpassed its percentages for each of its three objectives as prescribed by the Department of Education for 2011-12. CRSP is required to have an 85% good academic standing rate; at the end of 2011-12, 93% of CRSP participants were in good academic standing. We were required to have an 80% persistence rate from fall 2011 through fall 2012; 95% of 2011-12 participants persisted through fall 2012. CRSP has a 55% six-year

graduation rate requirement; 63% of students who entered the program in 2006-07, graduated in 2011-12. We are proud of these success rates and we strive to continue to provide excellent services to low-income, first-generation college students, and students with disabilities. We thank all our campus partners who contribute to the program's continued success.

Congratulations to all the graduating CRSP students and tutors. It is our hope that we have been able to touch your lives in a positive way and we wish you all the best in the next phase of your lives. We look forward to hearing from you in the future.

### **Graduate Recognition Luncheon**

Fourteen CRSP students, including five current and former tutors, were honored by the program at the fifth annual Graduate Recognition Luncheon on May 30.

As Director Laura Ayon reminded attendees during her opening remarks, one of CRSP's primary missions, as a TRIO Student Support Services Program, is to enhance the graduation rates of its participants. The luncheon is a chance to acknowledge and celebrate those students who have met that goal.

This year's keynote speaker, Nick Mata, related his post-graduation experiences as a brand ambassador on the Oscar Mayer Weinermobile. As his story indicated, it is important for graduates to be open to new experiences as plans sometimes change, usually for the better.

The proceedings became especially emotional during long-time participant and tutor Reina Villanueva's speech. She recounted the obstacles she has overcome, with CRSP's support, to reach this point. She can now look forward to beginning a great job as an engineer and attending graduate school at the University of Southern California.



CRSP would like to recognize all of this year's graduating seniors and wish them much success in all their future endeavors.

This year's luncheon was once again funded by the Learning Resource Center.

*The content of this newsletter was developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.*

# TRiO

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

## College Reading Skills Program

In the LRC  
Library Rm. 2919

### Staff

#### Administrative Assistant

Rachel Dominguez  
869.4349  
rpdominguez

#### Director

Laura Ayon  
869.6897  
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#### Program Advisors

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869.4347  
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[www.csupomona.edu/crsp](http://www.csupomona.edu/crsp)

### Winter 2013

#### Peer Tutor-Mentors

Hannah Amante  
Molly Duong  
Raymond Ng  
Vanessa Reynaga  
Amanda Riggle  
Lauren Sumabat  
Reina Villanueva  
Connie Yeh  
Michael Zhou

#### Program Hours

Mon-Thurs 8:00-5:00  
Fri 8:30-4:00

## Financial Aid and Literacy Workshops

This quarter's series of financial aid and literacy workshops kicked off with a presentation on Satisfactory Academic Progress on April 25.

Educational Opportunity Program advisor Maria Ruiz and Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships counselor Mireya Martinez gave an informational presentation geared toward maintaining financial aid.

ARCHES, EOP, and CRSP students were walked through the academic requirements for receiving financial aid; these include a cumulative Cal Poly GPA above 2.0, completion of at least 80% of all units attempted, and not exceeding university unit caps.

Failure to meet any of these requirements will result in a one-year suspension of financial aid for the student.

The presentation also detailed the appeals process, which can be done every quarter during the suspension year, as well as tips for making satisfactory

academic progress.

Students were encouraged to meet with their academic advisors at least once per year, which is sound advice for ensuring ongoing academic success.

The series continued with Funding Your Future on May 7. Dr. Eric McLaughlin, a professor in the Finance, Real Estate and Law Department, gave a Powerpoint presentation on the various kinds of debt a student might be tempted to take on.

Student loans, car loans, credit cards, and mortgages were evaluated, with Dr. McLaughlin giving advice on what constitutes good or bad debt.

According to him, Cal Poly students can rest easy knowing that their student loans are relatively inexpensive. His complete Powerpoint is available at the CRSP office for any interested students.

The financial literacy workshops concluded with a second Satisfactory Academic Progress presentation on May 14.

## Tutor Spotlight: Amanda Riggle

Amanda Riggle, a relatively recent addition to the CRSP tutor family, is also one of the program's most distinguished employees. Although she has only been with CRSP since fall 2012, she has been a tutor for much longer. In fact, she still works for Fullerton College's Writing Center and Tutoring Center, where she has been a tutor since fall 2009.

Amanda decided to apply at CRSP after receiving an email from the English and Foreign Languages department, where she is pursuing a degree in English education with a minor in political science. She enjoys English because it is "versatile."

"You get to do a little bit of everything," she says.

This attitude is evident in Amanda's numerous interests, including British literature, ancient literature, and Shakespeare. She recently gave a presentation on the latter at the University of La Verne Shakespeare Center's annual conference.

Her presentation focused on the characterization of women in film as compared to Shakespeare's Portia from *The Merchant of Venice*, focusing on methods

of teaching the material.

This affinity also served her well as a volunteer for Beechwood Elementary's after-school program, where college students help the kids put on Shakespeare's plays.

"I think it's a great program and would like to do something similar as a professor," she says, alluding to her career goals. She is currently working with Cal Poly's resident Shakespeare expert, Dr. Edward Rocklin, on research in this area as part of the McNair Scholars program.

She will make her second trip to teach English abroad with the EFL department this summer when she

goes to Taiwan.

In her free time, Amanda participates in monthly poetry readings at the Night Owl Café in Fullerton.

She has put her level 3 CRLA certification from Fullerton College to good use as a CRSP tutor, introducing a grammar workshop to the peer mentoring offerings this quarter. It has been one of her favorite experiences with CRSP so far.

"I really like that I get to teach tutors how to tutor," she says.



## Student Spotlight: Victoria Roldan

Taking an unconventional path, Victoria Roldan became a CRSP participant in fall 2011. A sociology student in her second-to-last year at Cal Poly, Vicky was first introduced to the program as a member of the now-disbanded College Reading Skills Club. A former CRSP participant and friend of Vicky's urged her and others to join. Since becoming a CRSP participant, Vicky says she has seen a real academic improvement.

"I was getting really bad grades but, after the first quarter of tutoring, I got straight A's," she says.

She has also taken advantage of the program's many other services, receiving information about study abroad, scholarships, extra-curricular activities, and financial aid. She has also benefited from the personal relationships she has built as a program participant and, as of fall 2012, CRSP's student assistant.

"I've gotten to meet a lot of new people," she says of working for CRSP. "It feels good to help students and learn the system [of CRSP]."

In preparation for graduate school, Vicky has been utilizing CRSP's GRE tutoring service. She plans to take the test in the fall and would like to attend USC or UC Berkeley for her post-baccalaureate work. She eventually

wants to work with kids, perhaps within the foster care system, though she is not sure yet. It helps that her mother runs a home daycare.

"I love children... I've always been around them," says Vicky.

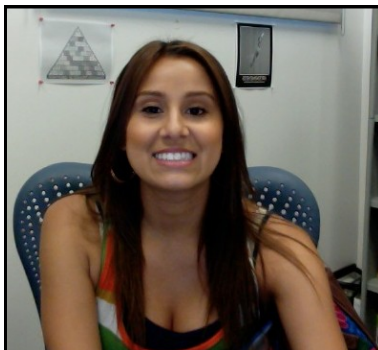
In addition to her involvement with CRSP, Vicky is also in the process of joining Alpha Kappa Delta, the sociology honors society. She was also a volunteer when Cal Poly hosted the Lanterman Development's Special Olympics in spring 2011.

After almost two years with the program, Vicky seems to have enjoyed the personal connections she has made the most.

"The advisors here are really helpful and personable," she says, before adding, "and easy to talk to."

According to her advisor, Cynthia Greco, the feeling is mutual.

"Vicky impressed me with her interest and engagement in our program before she became a participant," says Cindy. "Her easygoing nature and sense of humor make it a lot of fun to work with her. She is really bright and affable, and it is always nice to see her smiling face around the office."



## CRSP 2012-13 Challenge Scholarship Recipients

Qualifying students had to be freshmen or sophomores, Pell grant recipients, and in good academic standing. Recipients were selected based on their participation in a variety of CRSP programs, GPA, and scholarship essay. Of the 94 applications received, 46 students were awarded scholarships of \$800 each.

Ruth Abarca

Karla Acosta

Nathan Alvarez

Shakqeel Austin-Hakeem

Karla Ayala

Kelly Brigham

Kassandra Buzo

Luis Cortes

Donald Do

Brenda Duenas

Julio Duran

Crystal Ellis

Jonathan Fernandez

Michale Hamlin

Elizabeth Herrera

Geovany Jimenez

Daja Kinney

Cecilia Lopez

Jasmine Martinez

Juan Mendez

Daniel Moreno

Jasmine Moore

Van Nguyen

Stephanie Nieves

Crystal Nuñez

Esmeralda Pelayo

Lawrence Pudlik

Diana Rendon

Cynthia Rivas

Martha Rojas

Miguel Rubalcava

Brittany Ruiz

Xavier Ruiz-Pantoja

Emily Saenz

Sandra Salcedo-Martinez

Beatriz Sanchez-Mendez

Linda Sau

Jolie Savage

Alicia Shen

Jai Oni Sly

Izbel Torres

Kaly Trinh

Valentina Truong

Akash Vaidya

Iliana Valenzuela

Amy Vuong

## Dawn Van Bruggen 2012-13 Scholarship Recipients

The following students received this year's Dawn Van Bruggen Memorial Scholarship. They have demonstrated the qualities that Dawn encapsulated; each of them is a friendly, helpful, goal-oriented, hardworking, and dependable member of the CRSP / ASI Tutoring community.

Amanda Riggle – CRSP Tutor

Ines Nuño – CRSP Tutee

Rebecca Lomonaco – CRSP & ASI Tutee

## Grad School Preparation

Thanks to the efforts of Reina Villanueva and Michael Zhou, students seeking help in preparing for graduate school exams can now receive even better training from CRSP.

Reina and Michael have expanded the scope of exercises offered and drafted some comprehensive study plans for students taking the GRE, MCAT, and LSAT, among other tests.

The plan allows students to work with study guides on their own time, while the once- or twice-weekly tutoring sessions serve to reinforce test-taking concepts and offer additional practice.

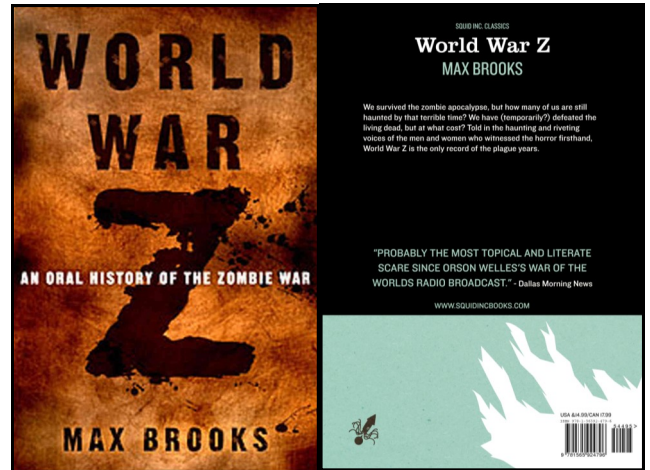


## ***(Zombie) Book Club Corner***

Are you prepared for a worldwide zombie outbreak? What would you do if your kin were infected? Do you think our government is prepared? Other countries? And why are people so into zombies these days, anyway?

These are some of the questions Spring Book Club members considered this quarter as we read and discussed *World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War* by Max Brooks during one of the best-attended book clubs in recent memory.

Fall quarter, Book Club will be reading *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* by Haruki Murakami. Tentative meeting dates are Thursdays of weeks 3, 5, and 7 during U-Hour. If you are interested in getting more information about Book Club, please contact [crsp@csupomona.edu](mailto:crsp@csupomona.edu) or (909) 869-4349.



## ***All Tutor Ceremony***

On June 6, the Learning Resource Center held an awards ceremony for some of its best tutors. The ceremony also recognized this year's graduating and CRLA-certified tutors. Several CRSP tutors were among those honored.



*The CRSP tutors enjoy lunch together during this year's All Tutor Ceremony.*



*(From Left) Cynthia Greco and graduating tutors Hannah Amante, Raymond Ng, and Reina Villanueva.*



*Cynthia Greco and Tutor Recognition Award recipient Michael Zhou.*



*Honorable Mention Award winners Reina Villanueva and Raymond Ng.*