

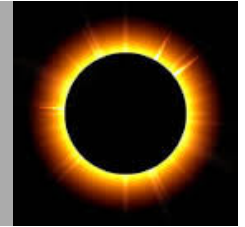
Spring Quarter 2014

"I would be a liar, a hypocrite, or a fool—and I'm not any of those—to say that I don't write for the reader. I do. But for the reader who hears, who really will work at it, going behind what I seem to say. So I write for myself and that reader who will pay the dues."
~Maya Angelou

The CRSP Sun

...Bask in our news!

FINAL EDITION



COLLEGE READING SKILLS PROGRAM

A TRIO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM
LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER ~ CAL POLY POMONA

Director's Message

We experienced yet another exciting quarter. We especially enjoyed going to the Getty Center, awarding challenge grants to several participants, and celebrating the accomplishments of our graduating students and tutors.

We also enjoyed the praise of English and Foreign Languages lecturer, Jeff Carman, who consistently invites a CRSP representative to share program details with his students. In his request for a winter quarter presentation, Carman wrote, "I love the CRSP! [...] My students who enroll in your program ALWAYS do well in my class--I think there is a connection!" In his spring quarter request, Jeff kept the praise coming, "I WANT my students to use your program; I'm already offering extra credit, so maybe I'll raise it. Every student who has ever been in your program says it REALLY helps them. It should be REQUIRED of all incoming students!" We truly appreciate our partnership with the EFL Department.

As another academic year draws to a close, the CRSP staff has begun planning for the 2014-15 academic year. We are looking to hire a few great peer tutors / mentors; we met with SSEP & ARCHES staff to plan next year's financial aid and literacy series; we announced fall's book club selection; we are discussing our annual fall orientation; and we are making preparations for adopting our new name (read on for details).

The 2014-15 year is the last year of our grant cycle. To continue receiving funding, we will submit a proposal to the US Department of Education's Student Support Services competition in late fall or early winter. This means that we will be in need of campus support in the form of letters of commitment and data. Somebody from our office or grant writing team will be contacting your office or department to discuss how you might be able to provide support.

As a reminder, CRSP is a 10-month program closed July and August. The best way to contact us during these months is by email: crsp@csupomona.edu.

Have a great summer!

CRSP Announces a New Name: RAMP

The College Reading Skills Program was founded in 1988 with the primary purpose to improve participants' retention and graduation rates by helping to make them stronger readers. Successful college-level reading demands strong vocabulary and comprehension of complex texts. Students must develop and apply critical reading skills that high school courses may not have demanded.

Over time, the program has developed an array of additional services while maintaining a focus on strengthening reading. As a TRIO Student Support Services Program, the program must provide a wide variety of services for low-income students, first-generation college students, and students with disabilities. This includes, for example, providing financial aid and financial literacy workshops. The program has also developed a more comprehensive approach to helping students develop study skills and strategies to prepare for graduate entrance exams.

Changing the program's name to the Reading, Advising, & Mentoring Program (RAMP) reflects the key opportunities the program offers and communicates its applicability to those who may not need or want to use the reading component of the program. Students who initially enroll in the program for help with reading and study skills may find that their needs change over time, and the new program name will help them continue to identify themselves as a program participant as they progress toward graduation.

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College Reading Skills Program In the LRC Library Rm. 2919

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SPRING 2014 PEER TUTOR-MENTORS

MOLLY DUONG

JOHNATHAN LOPEZ

JASMINE MARTINEZ

STEPHANIE MARTINEZ

AMANDA RIGGLE

LAUREN SUMABAT

CONNIE YEHL

While a focus on reading improvement remains central to the program's identity and its core tutorial service, this change will facilitate the program's reaching out and appealing to a broader segment of the Cal Poly Pomona population.

Sixth Annual Graduate Recognition Luncheon

On Thursday, May 29, graduating program participants, staff, and guests assembled at Kellogg West to celebrate. Whether participants joined the program as freshmen and developed a long-standing relationship with the program's staff, or just recently joined as seniors, CRSP relishes the opportunity to toast their accomplishment at this annual event. This year's luncheon was framed with the theme, "Picture Your Future." Each table's centerpiece consisted of picture frames containing an inspirational quote, a design flourish conceived by CRSP's own Rachel Dominguez.

Rachel gave welcoming remarks and the program's director, Laura Ayon, introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Ricardo Quintero. As the senior director of pre-college TRIO programs at Cal Poly Pomona, Dr. Quintero is a passionate advocate for student success. Attendees listened attentively as he shared his own story of overcoming adversity in order to recognize the role higher education plays in enriching the lives of young people and in helping them realize their aspirations. His heartfelt words of encouragement, and his well-placed bits of humor, roused the audience into an energetic round of applause at the conclusion of his speech.

The program proceeded with honoring each graduate with a certificate and a gift. The gifts—fine, leatherbound portfolios perfect for individuals entering the professional world—were graciously furnished by Cal Poly's Staff Council. CRSP advisors shared a few words about the honorees, who in turn shared some words with the audience about their own experience in graduating from Cal Poly. Stephanie Martinez, a program tutor-mentor, doubled admirably as photographer, capturing each honoree

displaying his or her certificate with program staff.

CRSP also used the opportunity to recognize the pivotal role its tutorial staff play in ensuring participants benefit from program services. Each tutor-mentor received a certificate of appreciation.

All the while, attendees enjoyed the delightful array of entrees, sides, and desserts supplied by Kellogg West. At the conclusion of the ceremony—which ended right on time—graduates were encouraged to take a picture frame from the centerpieces with them as a memento.

College Night at the Getty Center

Through a generous, collaborative offer from ARCHES, the program was able to send 12 participants to enjoy art, music, food, and entertainment at the Getty Center's annual College Night event. Although entrance to the event is free—round trip transportation to Los Angeles by chartered bus is decidedly not. We are very thankful to our sister TRIO SSS program for allowing our participants to access this great opportunity.

Attendees were able to see several featured exhibits, including *Queen Victoria and Photography* and Jackson Pollock's *Mural*. Entertainment and activities for the evening included live music with a DJ and vocal performance by the Mystery Skulls, a performance by the band Rivoah, meet-the-curator sessions, art demonstrations, and free food.

In a move that brought a touch of drama to the otherwise collegial evening, participants engaged in a scavenger hunt, which involved mimicking or engaging with several works of art and posting the images on social media sites. Many of the CRSP participants who attended said the event was much fun and felt fortunate to have been offered the opportunity to take the trip. Overall, the event was a great success.

Challenge Grant Awarded to 19 Participants

A difficult and competitive selection process resulted in 19 awards from a pool of 43 applicants. Each award was \$605. All applicants submitted an essay that described how their background and life experiences have shaped their worldview. Each essay had to be reviewed by a writing tutor before submission. In addition to the essay, applicants completed at least 10 tutorial sessions and attended at least two other program or campus events and activities.

The program heard very positive feedback from some award recipients that reminded us of the impact this award and the program itself can have on participants' experience at Cal Poly Pomona. One recipient, Ivonne Garrido, wrote, "I am thankful for the College Reading Skills Program because it has positively influence me as a student. I am honestly grateful for everything it has offered me. Concisely, the College Reading Skills Program is a life changing program. I genuinely thank the CRSP staff for selecting me to receive the CRSP Challenge Grant. What a wonderful blessing." Another, Tyler Hickerson, said, "Thank you so much for the tremendous opportunity to apply for this scholarship. I am honored and extremely grateful to have been selected as a recipient of the \$605 that the scholarship bears. It will help me with the purchasing of my text books and other various supplies that my classes require." Congratulations to all the recipients!

Tutor-Mentor Spotlight: Jasmine Martinez

Jasmine Martinez joined the CRSP staff in fall 2013. She studies plant science. When asked why she applied to work for the program, she replied, "I decided to apply to CRSP because I wanted to give back to others. I've always loved to help others, and saw that CRSP would allow me to not only help others improve their reading speed, comprehension and vocabulary skills, but to assist them in their education. Additionally, I saw how great the relationships between the other tutors were, and how open and friendly the tutors and staff were with everyone, so it made me want to join in."

Her favorite aspect of working for the program is that it has "allowed [her] to assist people who have never enjoyed reading, either because they felt they couldn't read fast enough or couldn't understand the vocabulary." She elaborates, "It's been fantastic to hear from tutees who have said that they're starting to enjoy reading a bit more, or even becoming happy that they have even 30 minutes in a session to read when they couldn't otherwise do so in a hectic day." Part of her enjoyment of working as a reading tutor comes from her own love of reading: "I've always been a big reader ever since I was little. Given the time, I could devour whole novels in one sitting."

Although she is not currently active with any clubs or organizations on campus, she will volunteer at an upcoming SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) garden run at a local elementary school.

It was difficult for Jasmine to identify any one thing she likes most about being a student at Cal Poly. "The biggest thing that I enjoy is how hands on everything is. I love being able to sit in lecture and then go out to lab, a field, a mini-hike, and use what I learned in theory and apply it. The motto 'Learn by Doing' has never been truer. The other thing I like most is the student life. There are so many activities to be done, clubs to attend, and the friendliness of fellow classmates."

Regarding her plans after earning her bachelor's degree, she explains, "my plan is to attend graduate school in Northern California, gaining a masters in Agronomy. After I have completed school, my ideal dream job would be to work with the Agricultural Research Services of the USDA, or research institutions like the Horticulture Research Institution or American Horticultural Society. My goal is to assist in the reduction of chemical use on agricultural or horticultural crops, as well as study how to utilize allowed (and limited) space for crops, which has become a major issue as urban areas are ever expanding to accommodate growing populations, thus reducing usable land for crops."

When asked which one kind of cheese she would eat for the rest of her life, if forced to choose, Jasmine replied, "This is a tough question to answer, since I am such a fan of cheese! If I absolutely had to choose, it would be between mozzarella and pepper jack cheese, with pepper jack being the winner. I love to cook, but pepper jack (the pepper part is important!) is much more versatile. It goes great eaten plain with just crackers, sprinkled on pasta, or melted in a quesadilla. It's my go to cheese for everything." Well played, Jasmine.

LRC Corner: Dawn Van Bruggen Memorial Scholarship Awards

The Dawn Van Bruggen Scholarship is awarded annually to an LRC tutor and tutee who exemplifies attributes that the namesake of the scholarship, Dawn, embodied. Dawn was an LRC tutor who made significant contributions to both the LRC and to CPP, and scholarship recipients are selected based on similar characteristics and campus and community contributions. This year, Molly Duong was awarded the tutor scholarship. Molly was noted for her exemplary work as a CRSP tutor and for her love of learning and her extensive interests, hobbies, and talents. Martha Rojas, a CRSP tutee, was awarded the tutee scholarship. Martha's enthusiasm for her on- and off-campus activities is admirable and her work as a certified state sexual assault counselor through Project SISTER Family Service in Pomona underscores her passion for advocacy and dedication to her community. Molly and Martha were honored at a luncheon sponsored by Academic Programs and attended by Dawn's family and friends, as well as LRC staff.

LRC Awards Ceremony: Three CRSP Tutor-Mentors Receive "Outstanding" Awards

On Thursday June 5, the Learning Resource Center hosted its annual, end-of-year celebration to recognize the accomplishments of LRC student employees. Those accomplishments include CRLA (College Reading & Learning Association) certification, graduation, and awards for tutors and front desk assistants.

CRLA certificates given to CRSP tutors included Level One certificates to Johnathan Lopez, Jasmine Martinez, and Stephanie Martinez. Stephanie Martinez also received a Level Two certificate.

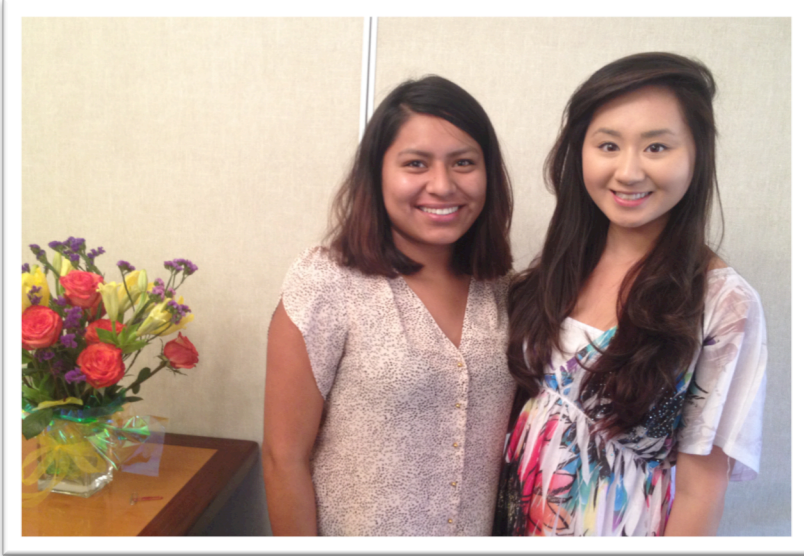
CRSP gave the Outstanding Tutor Award to Lauren Sumabat. Cindy Greco, presenting the award, remarked, "She was so impressive during her interview that we actually hired her on the spot. It took Lauren a few weeks to warm up to her role, but once she did, it was clear that our intuition about her was correct. Not only does she admirably carry out all aspects of the job that she was trained to do, but she has gone further than that; she has deeply enriched her tutorial sessions by developing and using tutoring techniques about which we will be asking her to—and she is just finding this out as I say this—train our tutors. Our director, Laura, referred to Lauren as a 'quiet excellent,' and that describes her very well. In working with students, she is thoughtful, careful, kind, attentive, and always professional. She is a role model not only to her students but to her fellow tutors as well. And it is for all of these reasons that we have selected Lauren as our Most Outstanding Tutor."

Robert Matranga presented two "Awards of Appreciation." Amanda Riggle garnered an award for "Outstanding Contributions" to the program. Robert stated that Amanda "received this award because she fully embraces the opportunity to practice and develop her repertoire as a CRLA Level 3 Master Tutor. She has made significant contributions to our program over the past two years: she has presented at workshops, developed several peer mentoring topic materials, and has taken on assignments with little notice, yet much confidence. One significant way in which she has distinguished herself is her ability to identify a need and fulfill it. For example, she took on a leadership role in developing GRE test prep materials and trained her fellow tutors in using them. Her revision of the GRE test prep materials better suit the structure and function of CRSP tutoring sessions. Her contributions will continue to benefit the program in the years to come. For all of these reasons we are honoring Amanda with this Award of Appreciation for Most Contributions."

Robert then named Molly Duong as our "Outstanding Mentor." She received the award because she always acts as a mentor for her students, which is exemplified in one student's nomination of her for an award: "Molly makes me excited for my sessions. I enjoy that she will sit with me and explain everything to the best of her ability. She also tells me what her previous clients understood in order to help me understand. Molly is great to talk to because she also tells me about her experience with CRSP and how it benefitted her, which motivates me."

In addition to how much her students appreciate her encouraging and positive personality, Robert noted that, "At first somewhat reserved, Molly has revealed herself over the past year as a vibrant, funny person who genuinely cares about progress and success of the program's participants. And she has impeccable handwriting, the content of which reveals the great lengths to which she goes to ensure that each participant leaves the session more knowledgeable, more confident, and more prepared to succeed at Cal Poly."

Spring Quarter Photo Gallery



Dawn Van Bruggen Award Recipients Martha Rojas (student) and Molly Duong (tutor).



Graduating student Phoebe Zhou speaks at the Graduate Recognition Luncheon



The RAMP tutorial staff for 2014–15 flanked on the left and the right by Director Laura Ayon, Administrative Assistant Rachel Dominguez, Advisor Cindy Greco, and Advisor Robert Matranga



Students and staff attending College Night at the Getty Center pose near the shuttle bus before departing for a fun evening.



A sharp-looking group of program participants pose for a shot at the Getty Center.



This edition's spotlighted tutor-mentor Jasmine Martinez



The graduating RAMP participants who were celebrated at the Sixth Annual Graduate Recognition Luncheon: (from top to bottom, left to right) Rebecca Lomonaco, Rochelle Raquel, Joshua Ruiz, Sandra Escoto, Phoebe Zhou, Angie Tang, Joy Chang, Ann Truong, Lauren Sumabat, Zunaira Tariq, Molly Duong, Victoria Roldan