

Winter Quarter 2012

"One must be an inventor to read well. There is then creative reading as well as creative writing."

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

## 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

The College Reading Skills Program (CRSP) had a busy and successful winter quarter. I attribute much of that success to the program's dedicated staff, particularly the peer tutors/mentors. While the CRSP tutors are wonderful, they have had an exceptionally impressive quarter. The tutors have a sense of ownership of the program and support the program in several ways beyond tutoring. The tutors conducted most of the many presentations offered to English instructors at beginning of the quarter, which resulted in many new program participants. Each quarter, a few tutors collaborate to prepare the materials and the plan of action for the peer mentor sessions. This quarter's two peer mentoring topics were Summer Opportunities and Health and Wellness Centers. Recently, a couple of tutors took the initiative to research graduate entrance exam materials that would better suit our students. CRSP tutors had 100% attendance at the LRC's one-hour training on brain-based learning and CRSP's Tutor Skills Development meeting.

In late January, the LRC hosted an open house and CRSP tutors were available to greet guests and answer questions. When asked if they could help cover tutoring sessions because a fellow tutor called out sick, they respond. They are supportive of one another and the program and work as a true team. As indicated on the tutor recognition forms available for tutees to nominate their tutors for an award, the tutors work hard and the students are grateful for their dedication. I, too, am grateful for their dedication. College Reading Skills Program tutors truly step up to the plate.

### Book Club Corner

"I AM...A BURRO...GENIUS! MIRACLEMAKER! I KICK ASS!" Winter Book Club began with a short viewing of Victor Villaseñor's recent lecture at Cal Poly Pomona this past November in order to give face and voice to the prolific Mexican-American author's memoir, *Burro Genius*. Members spent the first meeting discussing their impressions of the author at the event, which was sponsored by several organizations on campus, including the

Spanish Language Association, the EFL department, and the library, to name just a few. During subsequent meetings we discussed Villaseñor's memories of growing up Mexican in a school system that degraded non-white students and where his growth as both a student and a writer was often stunted by instances of institutionalized racism. We look forward to next quarter's reading selection: *Marching Powder: A True Story of Friendship, Cocaine, and South America's Strangest Jail*. Meetings are tentatively scheduled for Thursdays during U-Hour of weeks 3, 5, and 7. If you would like more information about Book Club, please contact Cindy Greco at (909) 869-4347 or email [csgreco@csupomona.edu](mailto:csgreco@csupomona.edu).



Rachel Dominguez,  
(CRSP Administrative  
Assistant) and Victor  
Villaseñor (author)

### Professional Mentor Meeting and FAFSA Renewal Workshops

During winter quarter, CRSP focuses its Mentor Meeting and Financial Literacy Workshops on student financial aid. At the Mentor Meeting on February 9, Crystal Steele of the Office of Financial Aid informed students of important new developments for the 2012-2013 academic year, including changes to state grant and Pell Grant funds. Crystal fielded questions from several of the nearly 70 students in attendance.

Following the Mentor Meeting, the FAFSA Renewal Workshops took place on February 14 and 15, where Crystal shared some tips and suggestions for successful applications. Each event was well attended, and allowed Crystal to address questions about students' individual situations. The FAFSA renewal deadline for priority access to financial aid funds is March 2.

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

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### WINTER 2012

#### PEER TUTORS/MENTORS

HANNAH AMANTE  
RICHIE CLEMENTE  
REBECCA DURFLINGER  
JUDY JUAREZ  
CHRIS MARIN  
VANESSA MEDINA-REYNAGA  
RAYMOND NG  
REINA VILLANUEVA  
MICHAEL ZHOU

#### PROGRAM HOURS

MON-THURS 8:00-5:00  
FRI 8:30-4:00

### Tutor Spotlight: Ricardo Clemente

The winter 2012 College Reading Skills Program featured tutor is Ricardo Clemente. Ricardo began tutoring for CRSP in January 2010; he was a participant in the program before being hired as a tutor. He is a Computer Engineering major who will graduate spring quarter 2013.

Regarding his experience as a CRSP tutor, Ricardo reports that his favorite aspect of working for the program is "being able to share knowledge with students seeking it." Ricardo enjoys reading casually and playing all kinds of sports. He will not pass up an opportunity to play some video games as well. Ricardo's plans following graduation are to work full time in a position where he can design and create new things. After spending time in the industry, Ricardo hopes to find a focus and pursue higher education at the master's level.

When asked about his opinion on manned space exploration, he wrote, "it is unrealistic due to funding." He is saddened by the fact that children will no longer be able to grow up wanting to become an astronaut.

Ricardo's favorite thing to eat is jalapeño kettle-cooked chips with any meal.



Ricardo Clemente  
CRSP Tutor/Mentor

performances by providing tickets to students to see *A Memory, a Monologue, a Rant & a Prayer* on February 3 and 4. Students also obtained vouchers to see the Cal Poly Pomona Theatre Department's *FOB* at the Studio Theatre and *Dracula* on the Main Stage. The program encourages students to be active and engaged with campus life to foster a stronger connection with the University.

### On- and Off-campus Cultural Events

On January 27, CRSP and ARCHES teamed up to take 26 students to Hollywood to see *Wicked* at the Pantages Theater. It was the final weekend of the show's run in Los Angeles. Within hours of announcing the event, CRSP had already amassed a lengthy waiting list of eager students. Unfortunately, not every student who hoped to attend was able to go. Nonetheless, the two programs enjoyed providing many students with their first opportunity to see a professional stage performance of a Broadway play. Before the play, attendees sat for a special dinner at the Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch with a panoramic view of nearby hills as the sun set. Students were abuzz after the event; it was roundly enjoyed for its lavish set and costumes, as well as its humor, acting, and singing.

CRSP continued its tradition of encouraging students to see on-campus



Sharon Zhu, Brittany Ruiz (CRSP students) and Laura (CRSP director)

"Seeing *Wicked* at the Pantages Theatre with CRSP was unforgettable! The lights, singing, dance numbers, and costumes were absolutely amazing and vibrant! I am so glad I had the opportunity to see *Wicked*!" ~Brittany Ruiz