

Fall Quarter 2010

"Whether or not you reach your goals in life depends entirely on how well you prepare for them and how badly you want them." –Ronald E. McNair

The CRSP Sun

...Bask in our news!



COLLEGE READING SKILLS PROGRAM

A TRIO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Director's Message

In August, we received the wonderful news that CRSP was awarded grant funds for another five years through the Department of Education. CRSP is a Student Support Services project that works with low-income, first-generation college students, and students with disabilities to ensure that they persist at Cal Poly and graduate. With this purpose in mind, CRSP offers an array of services including tutoring in reading and study skills, supplemental academic advising, cultural exposure, campus networking opportunities, grant aid, book club, peer and professional mentoring, financial literacy workshops, and assistance applying for financial aid and graduate school. CRSP has been in existence since 1989 and serves 250 of the over 12,000 eligible CPP students.

There were several individuals who were instrumental in preparing and submitting the grant proposal including staff from the Learning Resource Center, Upward Bound/Math & Science, SAITS, Financial Aid, DRC, ARCHES, and Research and Sponsored Programs. Thank you for your assistance!

Peer Networking Meeting

On Friday, October 29, CRSP and the College Reading Skills Club jointly hosted a fall networking meeting for participants and tutor/mentors; the meeting was interestingly dubbed the "Pumpkin Island Social," with décor mashing island themes with Halloween. Participants enjoyed, for example, posing for pictures with three coconut-jack-o-lanterns, or coco-lanterns. Lunch and heaps of candy were served to the attendees, who won prizes while playing musical chairs, a quiz game, and a social scavenger hunt. For those who festooned themselves in a Halloween costume, there was a contest and a prize for the winner. The purpose of the peer networking meetings is to facilitate interaction and collaboration amongst program participants and tutor/mentors, so that their on-campus networks and contacts grow and strengthen.

Professional Mentor Meeting

Fall Quarter's Professional Mentor Meeting on October 28 brought a panel of ASI officers to speak to CRSP participants in the Ursa Minor room of the Bronco Student Center. The panel was moderated by CRSP tutor/mentor Samantha Muir-Valdovinos. Each panelist took their turn explaining their personal investment and history in taking student leadership roles, describing what benefits they derive from doing so, and encouraging CRSP participants to use the opportunity to get involved while it is available.

Panelists noted that ASI involvement is a great way for students to develop their voice, confidence, and public speaking ability. They noted the benefits of having an active role in determining the quality of life and education at Cal Poly Pomona. They surmised that their experiences with ASI will benefit them in their professional lives as they learn to network and build relationships, to collaborate, and to work in teams and on committees.

Book Club Corner

Fall Book Club read *A Million Little Pieces* by James Frey. The first meeting was spent putting the book into context by introducing the book's author and discussing the controversy surrounding the marketing of the book as a "memoir." Subsequent meetings focused on the reading of the memoir as a "book," and we were pleasantly surprised to find that most members, though perhaps bothered by the embellishments of the author, were able to read the book for the story rather than as a definitive work of non-fiction.

Book Club is offered every quarter by CRSP. Winter Book Club will read *The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America*. Book Club meetings are typically held Thursday of weeks 3, 5, and 7 during U-hour. All students, staff, and faculty are welcome. If you would like more information about Book Club, please call or email Cindy Greco at (909) 869-4347 or csgreco@csupomona.edu.

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College Reading Skills Program

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RAYMOND NG

LISA YOUNG

MICHAEL ZHOU

PROGRAM HOURS

MON-THURS 8:00-5:00

FRI 8:30-4:00

Tutor Spotlight: Michael Zhou

The fall 2010 featured tutor is Michael Zhou. Michael is a biotechnology major who anticipates graduating spring 2011. He joined the College Reading Skills Program in fall 2007 as a participant, and was hired as a tutor/mentor by the program in fall 2008. As a founding member of the College Reading Skills Club, he has continued to be active as a participant in the program.

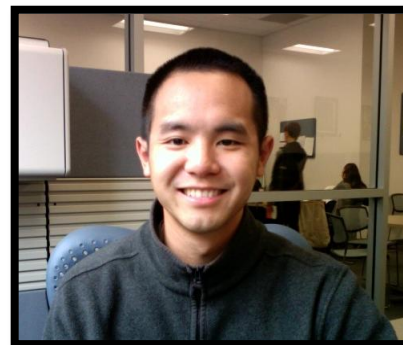
His favorite aspect of working at CRSP is being able to help students through their struggles in academics and see excitement on their faces when they learn and understand a new concept. Having witnessed firsthand many first-generation college students entering Cal Poly Pomona with little confidence and resources, Michael is thankful that they were able to join our program and be transformed into motivated, confident individuals ready to conquer challenges of life beyond academics.

Michael enjoys teaching and playing tennis as well as other sports such as basketball and swimming. Besides trying to keep an active lifestyle, he is also a photography enthusiast who loves to capture all the precious moments in his life.

Michael's plan following graduation from Cal Poly is to apply to medical school and enter in the fall of 2012. He hopes to become a community physician and serve in underserved communities.

Michael is frightened by winged mammals such as bats. Although he is a big fan of Batman, he hopes to never be in contact with a real bat.

Michael was just selected as one of the 2010 Norman Priest Scholarship recipients offered through the Foundation. Congratulations!



Michael Zhou, CRSP Tutor/Mentor

Financial Fitness Workshops

Two "Financial Fitness" workshops were jointly hosted by CRSP and ARCHES on November 9 and 16 as part of a collaboration initiated last year. CRSP began providing students with workshops on financial aid and FAFSA several years ago, but has ramped up efforts to provide students with opportunities to develop financial literacy. The Higher Education Opportunity Act included new stipulations that TRIO Student Support Services programs, including CRSP and ARCHES, provide information on financial aid and financial literacy to all program participants. The two workshops offered fall quarter included information about credit, banking, budgeting, and fraud prevention. Joy Tafarella, of the Cal Poly Pomona Federal Credit Union, presented on November 9. She focused on budgeting for college students, using credit reports and credit scores, and avoiding scams. The CRSP staff presented on November 16 and focused on credit cards, banking, and fraud prevention.



CRSP students and tutors at "Pumpkin Island" Peer Networking Meeting