

*Spring Quarter 2012*

"Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly, into another's skin, another's voice, another's soul." --Joyce Carol Oates

## *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 final *CRSP Sun Newsletter* of the year. We had an amazing year filled with workshops, plays (both on and off-campus), approximately 3,000 hours of tutoring, and \$36,800 in CRSP scholarships. I am happy to report that the College Reading Skills Program (CRSP) met its federally mandated objectives based on last year's data. According to our objectives, 85% of students will remain in good academic standing, 80% will be retained, and 55% will graduate within six years of joining the program. At the end of last year, 93% of active CRSP participants were in good academic standing and 80% returned fall 2011. Sixty-six percent (66%) of students who joined CRSP in 2005-06, graduated by the end of 2011.

As a reminder, CRSP is a 10 month program closed during the months of July and August. If you have any questions or concerns that need attention prior to September, feel free to email us at [crsp@csupomona.edu](mailto:crsp@csupomona.edu). Be on the lookout for an announcement inviting students to our annual Fall Orientation/Welcome Back event usually scheduled the Friday of week zero.

Congratulations, Class of 2012! Thank you to all our campus partners, tutors, and students for a wonderful year of retention and graduation. Enjoy your summer and see you in September.

### **Book Club Corner**

Spring Book Club read *Marching Powder: A True Story of Friendship, Cocaine, and South America's Strangest Jail* by Rusty Young and Thomas McFadden. The book tells of the arrest, incarceration, and ensuing experiences of Thomas McFadden, a British national who was put in San Pedro prison for drug trafficking. Members enjoyed learning about and dissecting the fascinating details of corruption and life in San Pedro: the prison quite literally has its own economic, political, and social structures. Inmates are forced to pay for their own cells while also sharing advantages not typically associated with prisons, such as their families being allowed to live in prison with them. Cocaine is

readily available to prisoners and visitors alike; in fact, many visitors are even allowed to pay to tour the prison and stay the night (if the right people are bribed).

At our final spring meeting, Book Club members voted on fall's reading selection, which will be *The True Story of Hansel and Gretel: A Novel of War and Survival* by Louise Murphy. If you are interested in joining our Book Club, please contact Cindy Greco at [csgreco@csupomona.edu](mailto:csgreco@csupomona.edu).

### **A (College) Night at the Museum**

CRSP and ARCHES students were treated to yet another collaborative off-campus cultural event this quarter. Staff for both TRIO programs took 23 students to the Los Angeles Getty Center for its annual College Night. Before beginning the festivities, students were privy to a Behind-the-Scenes tour in which a Getty educator took students through areas of the Center not open to the general public. Students were led through the Photography Study Room and Design Studio and were literally walked through the creative process behind creating an exhibit—from inception through the research and design phases—and into its featured exhibition of photographs by Herb Ritts titled "L.A. Style."

Students dispersed shortly after the tour to enjoy the food and atmosphere of College Night: the Getty provided taco stands, dessert tables, and several additional outdoor exhibitions to complement the current collections. There was an outdoor fashion show highlighting the process of fashion photography; a living art demonstration; and a digital scavenger hunt. All of this in addition to a local DJ and a band providing live music throughout the event! CRSP students expressed their appreciation for being given the opportunity to interact with ARCHES students in such a visually and intellectually rich environment.

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

### STAFF

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

RACHEL DOMINGUEZ  
869.4349  
RPDOMINGUEZ

#### DIRECTOR

LAURA AYON  
869.6897  
LEMUNOZ

#### PROGRAM ADVISORS

CYNTHIA GRECO  
869.4347  
CSGRECO

ROBERT MATRANGA  
869.4802  
RMATRANGA

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

### SPRING 2012 PEER TUTOR-MENTORS

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

### PROGRAM HOURS

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

## Tutor-Mentor Spotlight: Judy Juarez and Rebecka Durlflinger

Two graduating tutor-mentors share a dual “spotlight” in this edition: Judy Juarez and Rebecka Durlflinger. The College Reading Skills Program and its participants have benefited tremendously from the contributions of Judy and Rebecka.

When asked about their favorite aspect of working at CRSP, each focused on positive interactions. Judy replied that she enjoyed “the friendly staff, tutors and environment.” Rebecka highlighted “all the interesting, intelligent, and diverse students that [she is] lucky to meet and interact with every quarter,” particularly enjoying to work with those attending two sessions per week so that she can “really track their progress and see improvements.”

Judy found that working for CRSP gave her experience in “learning how to work with a diverse population and apply effective tutoring techniques.” Regarding her personal development while working for the program, Rebecka noted, “I have gained the knowledge of knowing and understanding the benefits of reading as well as a desire to promote reading skills wherever possible.”

Their idea of a good time diverges somewhat: Judy enjoys “being social,” “being part of different organizations,” and “attending as many concerts as possible.” Basically, she enjoys being around lots of people. Rebecka took a more leisurely tack, stating that she enjoys “resting and relaxing! It’s something I don’t get to do very often so these days I want to get some sun and sleep.”

Regarding their future plans, it appears neither is eager to depart from university life. Judy will begin an MS Degree in the fall, the “College Counseling Program for Higher Education” at Azusa Pacific University. Rebecka will enroll in a “credential/master’s program for a Single Subject Credential in the fall, most likely at the University of San Diego,” which is close to her home.

Not surprisingly, when asked what she’ll miss about being a Cal Poly Pomona undergrad, Judy replied, “the daily interaction with students and staff.”

Rebecka will miss CRSP (aw!) and all the “free food” the program provides

(a- ha!). She will also miss the “strong sense of community” that she enjoyed on campus.

Their beverage preferences are no less practical than their post-undergraduate plans. Judy’s favorite non-water beverage is milk. Rebecka earnestly states, “I love apple juice.”



*Rebecka Durlflinger  
CRSP Tutor/Mentor*



*Judy Juarez  
CRSP Tutor/Mentor*

## Financial Literacy Workshops

Continuing its collaboration with the ARCHES program, CRSP co-hosted two spring quarter financial literacy workshops, on April 10 and April 17. The first workshop focused on making sure students understand their financial aid award package. Saul Ramirez, of the Office of Financial Aid, spoke to the attendees about grants, loans, work study, and other important facets of funding a college career.

The second workshop, presented by Joy Tafarella of the Cal Poly Federal Credit Union, focused on credit. Joy spoke about the importance of establishing and maintaining a good credit history, and that students must

begin to do so now. She explained how several factors influence a credit score, and gave tips for avoiding negative effects on the score. While encouraging students not to be afraid of using a credit card wisely and responsibly, she also emphasized balancing the concept of spending to build credit with saving to avoid debt. Many students were unaware of the significant impact that their financial activity while in school has on their later access to other kinds of credit, such as vehicle and home loans. Joy has become a regular speaker for CRSP participants and they benefit greatly from her excellent and engaging workshops.

### **Crunch N Munch**

During finals week, June 4 – June 7, CRSP will hosted its quarterly Crunch N Munch. CRSP participants have become increasingly accustomed to using any available CRSP space and computers during the quarter to study, work on projects and essays, and to take the occasional social networking break. During finals week, a swarm of hungry and stressed students gather to study in the CRSP area, and to enjoy some light refreshments, such as scones in the morning and cheese with crackers in the afternoon, to fuel their efforts. CRSP does not hold tutorial sessions during this time, so all of the study stations and computers are available for students preparing for final exams. The event also gives CRSP staff a chance to interact with participants and re-connect with otherwise inactive students. The Crunch N Munch event furthers CRSP's goal of being seen as a "second home" at Cal Poly.

### **Graduate Recognition Luncheon**

On May 24, CRSP hosted its 4<sup>th</sup> annual "Graduate Recognition Luncheon." As a TRIO Student Support Services Program, one of CRSP's primary missions is to enhance the graduation rate of its participants, who are either first-generation college students, low-income students, or students with disabilities. CRSP, with the assistance of Dr. Allison Douglas-Chicoye of Academic Support and Learning Services, hosts this event to commemorate and celebrate the tremendous achievement of graduating students.

The speaker at this year's event has special significance to the program. Dr. Carol Zitzer-Comfort, Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Single Subject Credential Program for English at California State University, Long Beach, directed the College Reading Skills Program for many years before leaving for her position at CSU Long Beach. Her efforts helped establish the program at Cal Poly Pomona and she took a lead role in writing several of the grant applications that have kept CRSP funded for 22 years.



*CSU Long Beach faculty member and former CRSP director Dr. Carol Zitzer-Comfort speaks to attendees of CRSP's Graduate Recognition Luncheon.*

*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.*

## ***Tutor Recognition Award Ceremony***

Each year, participants in LRC tutorial services nominate tutors that have had a positive impact on their academic success. The nominations result in the recognition of outstanding LRC tutors at the “Tutor Recognition Ceremony” at the end of spring quarter. Students who received tutoring in fall, winter, or spring quarters are welcome to submit nominations. Nearly all of the CRSP tutor/mentors received a nomination. The award winner was Rebecka Durlinger. She received several nominations that were full of glowing praise for her earnest effort and deep care for her tutees and mentees. Congratulations, Becka!

## ***College Reading Skills Club Hosts “Ocho de Mayo” Mixer***

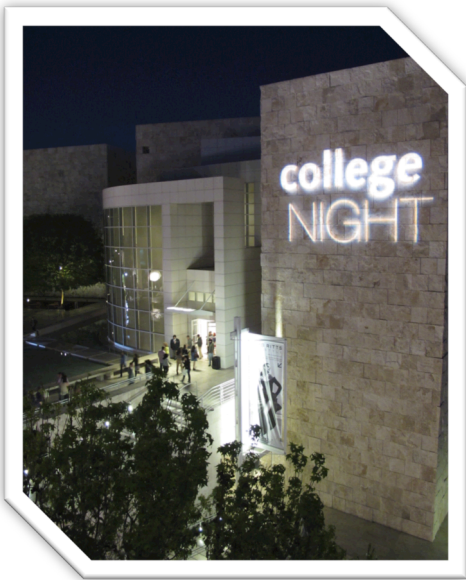
*Article Written by CRSP Participant Hilda Sandoval*

I attended the Ocho de Mayo Mixer event held by the College Reading Skills Program (in conjunction with the club). I had a wonderful time indeed. I met some wonderful people, enjoyed a tasty lunch, and socialized for fun! The music and decorations were quite festive, too—just like a Cinco de Mayo celebration. First, I met Ann and her sister Valentina. They sat next to me and we had an opportunity to speak with one another. We talked about our majors and we shared that this was our first time attending a CRSP event. Then I met Alan who shared with me that his favorite childhood cartoon was Conan. Next, I met Becka and Judy, who are tutors at CRSP. I also met Jamal who shared that Eminem is his current favorite musical artist. I let him know Selena is mine. Lastly, but not least, I met Cindy. Her favorite hobby is reading. She especially enjoys autobiographies and fiction novels. Overall, this event was a wonderful experience and I am glad to have attended. I feel it was a positive use of my time because it reminded me of how important it is to mingle with other people, especially students like myself. All work and no play can become depressing and dull. This event turned out to be a special treat and a break from schoolwork.

## ***Event Pictures***



*The CRSP/CRSC Ocho de Mayo Mixer took place in the CLA’s Heritage Room. On the left, club board members Edgar Roldan and Ruben Soria discuss the future of CRSC. On the right, several attendees chat and enjoy the taquitos, rice, beans, salsa, and guacamole.*



*College Night at the Getty*



*Group shot of ARCHES and CRSP students and staff at the Getty Museum*



*President Ortiz gives an impromptu speech to the Graduate Recognition Luncheon attendees.*



*Cindy Hernandez stops by CRSP "Crunch N Munch" for a snack to fuel her final exam preparations.*