

“Reading a book is like re-writing it for yourself. You bring to a novel, anything you read, all your experience of the world. You bring your history and you read it in your own terms.”~Angela Carter.



## COLLEGE READING SKILLS PROGRAM

A TRIO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

### ***Director's Message***

The College Reading Skills Program has experienced a very busy winter quarter and is now preparing for a temporary change in staff. Reading advisor, Cynthia Greco begins her maternity leave on March 4<sup>th</sup>. We expect her return date to be on or around June 28<sup>th</sup> depending on her delivery date. Robert Matranga will assume the advising role for Cindy's students and Martha Gallo, a recent graduate of Cal Poly, will assume the curriculum role on a part-time basis. Martha is currently enrolled in the Teacher Education program at CPP and teaches for the Boys and Girls Club in Pomona. She tutored for CRSP for three years and was a prior participant. We are grateful that Martha has agreed to join the CRSP team once again. We wish Cindy and her family well as they prepare for the birth of their second daughter.

### ***Student Advisory Committee***

The Student Advisory Committee is a group of students from the College Reading Skills Program that discuss and promote new ideas to enhance student interest within the program as well as through their college journey. The committee plans on becoming an official club during the 2010-2011 academic year. At least one community service project, a hiking trip to Bonelli Park, and study groups are just a few key events planned for next year! If you think you may be interested in becoming a member and getting involved with the committee, please feel free to email Tristian M. Monterastelli at: [Tristianm@csupomona.edu](mailto:Tristianm@csupomona.edu). We would love to hear from you!

### ***Professional Mentor Meeting and FAFSA Workshops***

For the winter quarter's professional mentoring event, CRSP and ARCHES co-hosted the now annual presentation by Crystal Steele of the Office of Financial Aid (OFA) regarding important issues and new developments in financial aid. On February 4, over 130 Attendees were treated to lunch while Crystal spoke about changes to federal grants and loans, such as the Perkins loan becoming unsubsidized in the coming year.

As a follow-up to her more general talk on financial aid issues at the mentor meeting, Crystal also provided two in-depth, FAFSA-focused workshops on February 16 and 17. The one-hour-long workshops focused on knowing what, and whose, information to provide, using a 2010-11 FAFSA Worksheet (available on [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov)) as a guideline. Each participant had the opportunity to ask specific questions and receive expert advice from Crystal. As OFA's liaison to CRSP and ARCHES, Crystal has provided several years of personal and attentive assistance to program participants.

### ***Book Club Corner***

Winter Book Club enjoyed *American Pastoral* by Philip Roth. The main character of the novel, Swede Levov, appears to embody the "American Dream": he is a high school sports legend, a successful businessman, husband to a former Miss New Jersey, and father to an intelligent daughter. He is someone who appears to have it all, and if not for the tragic actions of

## College Reading Skills Program In the LRC Library Rm. 2921

### STAFF

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

RACHEL DOMINGUEZ  
869.4349  
RPDOMINGUEZ

#### DIRECTOR

LAURA AYON  
869.6897  
LEMUNOZ

#### PROGRAM ADVISORS

MARTHA GALLO (FILLING IN  
FOR CYNTHIA GRECO)  
869.4347  
MEGALLO

ROBERT MATRANGA  
869.4802  
RMATRANGA

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

### PEER TUTORS/MENTORS

YESU BAYMUS

RICHIE CLEMENTE

EDWIN GUERRA

SCOTT KELLUM

VANESSA MEDINA-REYNAGA

DANIA MOBIN

RAYMOND NG

SAMANTHA MUIR-VALDOVINOS

REINA VILLANUEVA

MICHAEL ZHOU

LISA YOUNG

### PROGRAM HOURS

MON-THURS 8:00-5:00

FRI 8:30-4:00 (NON-FURLOUGH FRI)

\*TUTORING MON-THURS ONLY

his daughter it would be nearly impossible to empathize with this character. But as we know, things (and people) are never what they seem...

CRSP Book Club is offered every quarter. If you are interested in participating in future Book Clubs, please contact Robert Matranga at (909) 869-4802 or [rmatranga@csupomona.edu](mailto:rmatranga@csupomona.edu).

### **Tutor Spotlight: Vanessa Medina-Reynaga**

The winter 2010 featured tutor is Vanessa Medina-Reynaga. Vanessa is a history major who anticipates graduating in 2012. She joined the College Reading Skills Program in fall 2007—her first quarter at Cal Poly—as a participant, and was hired as a tutor/mentor by the program in fall 2008. As a founding member of the CRSP Student Advisory Committee, she has continued to be active as a participant in the program.

Her favorite aspect of working at CRSP is “helping people realize that reading and writing come hand in hand; everyone, even engineers, need to read and write well. They will be more successful!” She also appreciates “forming connections with students who really need help, and seeing them improve.”

Vanessa enjoys walking, running, out-of-doors activity (when she has time), and

**Note to current and former CRSP Participants who will graduate in spring: you are invited to the CRSP Graduate Recognition Luncheon. Contact CRSP staff for more details as soon as possible!**



*Vanessa Medina-Reynaga,  
CRSP Peer Tutor/Mentor*

reading. She has a new hobby as well: photography. Before getting to Cal Poly, Vanessa attended 12 different public schools, allowing her “to meet lots of interesting people.” “Moving around so much has made me restless, so I plan to travel after graduation,” she concludes.

Vanessa has recently joined the McNair Scholars Program, through which she will work to prepare for entrance into graduate school. For the program’s culminating research project, she will work to identify and analyze circumstances surrounding the settlement of a flourishing Asian community in Diamond Bar, California.

Though she is committed to many pursuits beyond her current classes, CRSP is grateful that she has enough time for participants to benefit from her steady, thoughtful, and kind presence quarter after quarter.