**ESCC Fall Mid-Term Pot Luck**

Inspired by Christine Abbott’s Final Exam Slam, Leigh Duggan, ESCC’s Learning Assistance Center adjunct faculty member, collaborated with students in Bishop and Mammoth Lakes to host ESCC’s first Mid-Term Pot Luck in Mammoth Lakes on October 13th and in Bishop on October 15th. Leigh provided tostadas de tinga and homemade chocolate chip cookies. Students contributed spaghetti casserole, cake, donuts, cookies, french fries and other snacks. The Student Development Fund supported the event with utensils, paper goods, fruit, and water. Why have a pot luck for mid-term exams? Why not! Leigh believes that food brings us all together and sharing nourishing food during stressful times helps students to relax and feed their minds. The Mid-Term Pot Luck was a huge success, allowing students to take a break from their studies, unwind, and recharge!

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**Staff Strike Up Some Fun**

Eastern Sierra College staff were invited to roll on over to the Mammoth Lakes Rock ‘N Bowl on Saturday, October 24th to ‘strike’ up some fun. There was no time to ‘spare’ because they were going bowling and wanted everyone there. Staff members in attendance (l to r: Kim Blackwell, Leigh Duggan, Deanna Campbell, Yvonne Martin, and Caroline Sanderson) were in great company with lots of tasty food and laughter. Everybody improved their game! Next activity will be snowshoeing. Everybody do a snow dance for ESCC. That’s how they roll at the ESCC.

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Happy Holidays
From Hatred to Harmony—Frank Meeink

Former skinhead Frank Meeink shared his message of tolerance, diversity, and mutual understanding in racial, political, and all aspects of society with Cerro Coso students on November 17th and 18th, 2015. Meeink’s raw story of descent into America’s Nazi underground and his ultimate triumph over hatred and addiction is the subject of his book Autobiography of a Recovering Skinhead. His violent childhood in South Philadelphia primed him to hate, while addiction made him easy prey for a small group of skinhead gang recruiters. By 16 he had become one of the most notorious skinhead gang leaders on the East Coast and by 18 he was doing hard time. Teamed up with African-American players in a prison football league, Meeink began to question his hatred, and after being paroled, defected from the white supremacy movement. His life story and transformation from hatred, addiction, and intolerance to harmony, acceptance, and diversity is inspirational and heartwarming. Make a Choice to take a Chance or life will never Change.


Kristal Ibrahim, the new Educational Advisor for East Kern, grew up in the Antelope Valley and appreciates the access, flexibility, and convenience of distance education programs that allowed her to continue her education locally. She served as a Counselor for a charter school in Lancaster before joining the college’s East Kern staff in Edwards and Tehachapi. Ibrahim has always wanted to work in a community college setting with students who want to further their education to find interesting and fulfilling careers that utilize their knowledge and talents. Avid Disneyland patrons, Ibrahim, her husband of 12 years Brandon, and their three kids: Emery (2.5), Josiah (5.5) and foster daughter Angie (17), know how to “shoot the gap” and “bob and weave” the crowds in the magical playground. They also enjoy cooking together and spending time with extended family. Ibrahim holds an Associate’s Degree from Antelope Valley College, a Bachelor’s in Psychology from California State University, Bakersfield, a Master’s of Science in Educational Counseling from the University of La Verne, and was recently accepted to the University of Southern California to complete another Master’s Degree in Social Work. In the direction of your dreams - Live the life you have imagined.

Pang & Suarez Present at International Conference

Rebecca Pang, Director of Distance Education, and Paula Suarez, Director of Access Programs, presented at the 21st Annual Online Learning Consortium International Conference in October. They represented Cerro Coso Community College by giving a presentation on lessons learned and strategies to improve online instructions and services called, “Lessons from Navigating through the Challenges of Online Initiatives.” The focus of their presentation included: redesigning of the CC Online webpages, designing a universal course template, preparing students for online courses, providing faculty training, creating and embedding tutorial videos in the college learning management system, and providing online academic support to online students. Ms. Pang and Ms. Suarez were among the 1,723 onsite and 1,290 virtual attendees from 26 countries. The most powerful leadership tool we have is our own example!
Dr. Yohe—Every Bone Tells a Story

Dr. Robert M. Yohe II, Professor of Anthropology from California State University, Bakersfield, shared his personal cases in forensic anthropology and work with police in modern day forensic science with Dr. Sarah King’s classes at the Ridgecrest campus. “Every bone tells a story,” said Dr. Yohe. “They tell us if this was human or animal. Was this a man or woman? How old was this person? How did they live? And, more importantly how did they die?”

Dr. Yohe spent two hours explaining to the class how forensic anthropologists identify victims to help solve crimes. “Bones don’t necessarily tell us who committed a crime,” said Yohe, “but they can tell us how a person died and if a crime was committed.” To a forensic anthropologist, the analysis of human bones opens the portal of scientific truth that enables the justice system to discover the facts and circumstances surrounding criminal acts. The Director of the Center for Archaeological Research at CSU Bakersfield, Dr. Yohe has extensive experience in cultural resources management, having worked as a professional archaeologist for both Federal and State agencies during his career. He served as the State Archaeologist and State Historic Preservation Officer for Idaho (1993-1999), and has more than 26 years of experience in western North American archaeology, providing expertise in lithic technology, faunal analysis, and human osteology. Dr. Yohe holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in Anthropology from UC Riverside, and a B.A. in Anthropology from CSU San Bernardino. History is, strictly speaking, the study of questions; the study of answers belongs to anthropology and sociology.
Cerro Coso offers a supporting and caring campus environment for students to develop socially, physically, intellectually, and spiritually, and that’s what drew Pam Campbell to her new position of Director of Outreach and Student Life. “I love a challenge, trying new things, and being a part of the hub of activities that promote leadership, social activities, and community involvement among our students,” she said. “Student engagement is vital to recruitment, retention, and success and an integral part of the educational environment,” she continued. The Student Life Program at Cerro Coso affords students with leadership opportunities that help them to meet new friends with similar interests and create lasting memories. Campbell started working at the college as an adjunct Counselor in 2005 for Special Services (now known as Access Programs) and served as an Interim Director of the Lake Isabella campus for a year and a half. She says she is looking forward to working with faculty on outreach efforts, and helping students develop the leadership skills they need to build vision and understanding so they can advocate on behalf of the college. A newlywed, Campbell married husband Mike in a beautiful backyard setting this past September. She grew up in rural North Dakota and has three grown daughters: Michelle, Rachel, and Sierra, and four grandchildren with a fifth on the way. Both Rachel and Sierra are Cerro Coso alums. Campbell earned a B.S. in Social Work from the University of Mary in North Dakota, an M.A. in Clinical Psychology from Azusa Pacific University, is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, and a 2013 graduate of the Kern Community College District Leadership Academy. Congratulations Pam – the journey is the reward!

EOPS Trip to The Getty Center

Educational Advisor Reese Weltman and ACCESS Programs Counselor Jeff Stambook escorted a group of EOPS students from the Lake Isabella campus to The Getty Center in Los Angeles. Together the group explored the five two-story pavilions set around an open courtyard that house the J. Paul Getty Museum’s ever-expanding permanent collection, changing exhibitions, dramatic architecture, and tranquil gardens with breathtaking views. A floating megalopolis in a special contained world all its own, the Getty Center complex also houses the Getty Research Institute for the History of Art and the Humanities, complete with a million-volume library, reading rooms, study carrels, small exhibition space, and offices. Art Instructor Geoffrey Voigt provided students with insight and information of the various exhibits. Every experience, good or bad, is a priceless collector’s item.

Left to right: Donna Smith, Jeff Stambook, Reese Weltman, Tamara Lopez, Barbara Nichols, and Jesse Davidson.

Winter Holiday - College Closed
12/24/15 - 1/2/16
Small Wants to See People Succeed

Christine Small, the new Director of Counseling and SSSP, has a genuine desire to see people succeed with their educational and life goals. Originally, from the East Coast, Small grew up on Long Island and spent the last 12 years in Jacksonville, Florida. She has an extensive program development and management background in both the nonprofit sector and higher education, most recently serving as a Grants Manager at Florida State College of Jacksonville. Desiring to be closer to family, Small and her husband Jason set out to relocate to California. Having lived in places such as Chicago, Washington DC, and Long Island, Christine credits her love of travel to her mother and her mother's profession (pediatrics with a specialty in Infectious Diseases). “We traveled a lot when I was growing up.” Her mom states her motto was “have bag, will travel,” she said. Among some of her most memorable destinations were Thailand and Indonesia, but Costa Rica was one of her favorite trips in recent years. Small says she is looking forward to interacting with faculty, staff, and students to provide a great experience in higher education. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from the University of South Florida, and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the University of North Florida. An avid dog fan, Small enjoys spending time with her dogs, reading, movies, bargain shopping, and skiing. She has three grown step children all located in Jacksonville.

WELCOME to team Cerro Coso Christine.

Adjunct Faculty Earn Service Awards

Three faculty members were recognized for service milestones during an Adjunct Faculty Professional Development Day on Saturday, November 7, at the Ridgecrest Campus. Cerro Coso President Jill Board and Vice President of Academic Affairs Corey Marvin presented Helen Wang (Ridgecrest), Joseph Martin (Lake Isabella), and Sergio Ramirez (Ridgecrest) with their 10 semester service pins and thanked them for their teaching commitments. “I’m grateful to all of you for your contributions that help our students succeed and assist the college in meeting its overall mission,” said President Board. More than 30 adjunct faculty members representing all of the college’s service area gathered to participate in the day long workshop with Diego Navarro on strategies for closing equity gaps in the classroom. Service awards were presented during lunch. The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery.

College Hosts Geocaching International Film Festival

With every new incredible geocache container, every clever hide, every log that reads like an epic journey, it becomes more and more apparent: the geocaching community is one of the most creative groups of people on the planet. The Cerro Coso Business Club “Millionaires in the Making” showcased that creativity for Ridgecrest during the Geocaching International Film Festival (GIFF) 2015 Weekend on November 6. A presentation was given by Silverbells55 and members of the Ridgecrest Geocachers to educate visitors and students unfamiliar with geocaching. Participants were encouraged to grab some popcorn, get comfortable, and watch the entire reel of 16 finalist films from the 2015 International Film Festival, shown publicly for the first time. Attendees earned a new souvenir. The Business Club sold sodas and popcorn at the event. Geocaching…the world’s largest treasure hunt.
KRV Rolls Out a Thanksgiving Feast

The Lake Isabella campus held a “Giving Thanks” Thanksgiving feast potluck for students, faculty and staff on Monday, November 23rd. The Student Government of Cerro Coso hosted the event, led by their local SGCC’s Treasurer, Michelle Lundberg. The Holiday Season is upon us. Fall colors, great food, time with family and getting to slow down are some of the greatest things about the Season. The “Giving Thanks” potluck was a great time for students to gather together and celebrate the wonderful upcoming holidays, and provided a friendly environment for students to meet other students, faculty, and staff. Thanksgiving, to be truly thanksgiving is first thanks, then giving!

Fall Festival Extravaganza

The Student Government of Cerro Coso (SGCC) welcomed autumn and the changing of the seasons with a Fall Festival Extravaganza at the Ridgecrest Campus on Saturday, November 21, from 5 to 9 p.m. in the college Sculpture Garden. Local families were in for a treat at the evening of harvest fun that included: good food, games, a movie under the stars, talent show, hot dog eating contest, and oh so much more. Admission was FREE and the event proved to be a fun-filled experience for all ages. We’re ready for fall leaves, hoodies, pumpkins, and s’mores.

Thanks CCCC Foundation

The Cerro Coso Community College Foundation provided high school and college students’ drawstring sports packs to carry all the information and items they collected at Career Exploration Day. “Gifts are cool,” said one young man in attendance. It was a great way for the Foundation to show appreciation to participants at the event and made attendance more comfortable and convenient. Sports packs filled the gym as more than 400 students roamed the various booths collecting information on college programs and career prospects. Thank you CCCC Foundation for your support.

Great news! Cerro Coso’s brand new online school store has officially launched! Treat yourself or your friends with a purchase from the new school store for this school year!

Through the VIP Branding Program, the college has a new online school store filled with fresh, new Coyotes gear. Shop for yourself or a student and the Cerro Coso Community College Alumni Association will receive funds from every purchase to support students and programs. This drives much needed funding to the school and unifies all of us as our students, families, alumni, faculty, and others start to see more and more Cerro Coso Community College gear in the community! Every item sold in our Varsity Shop is custom-made. VISIT THE OFFICIAL NEW SCHOOL STORE BY CLICKING THE IMAGE ON THE COLLEGE HOMEPAGE OR BY ENTERING varsityshop.com/ca_cerro_coso_cc IN YOUR INTERNET BROWSER WINDOW.

Go Coyotes!