

Fall Quarter 2009

“No entertainment is so cheap as reading, nor any pleasure so lasting.” ~Mary Wortley Montagu.

The CRSP Sun

...Bask in our news!



COLLEGE READING SKILLS PROGRAM

A TRIO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Director's Message

The College Readings Skills Program, like other programs and services on campus, exists to assist students in meeting their educational goals. The CRSP staff and peer tutors/mentors work hard and creatively to help CRSP participants as they face financial and academic challenges. CRSP offers the following services in an effort to assist students and achieve the program's objectives: reading tutorials, a one-unit course, supplemental advising, professional mentoring, peer mentoring, book club, workshops, networking meetings, cultural exposure, campus involvement opportunities, graduate school preparation, student advisory committee, finals week space and snacks, and supplemental grant aid (almost \$79,000 in 2008-2009). As demonstrated by the following statistics, the program has enjoyed great success in assisting students: 92% of the students served in 2008-09 persisted to the next academic year or graduated; 88% were in good academic standing at the end of the year; and 66% of the new students who were served in 2002-03 graduated within six years. Thank you to everyone on campus who contributes to the program success.

Student Advisory Committee

This fall, CRSP established a new student advisory committee. The purpose of this committee is to give students some ownership of the program by providing a forum for new ideas and changes to services. Further, the committee is tasked with coordinating and planning the program's networking events.

The Student Advisory Committee planned and executed the Fall Networking Meeting for CRSP participants. Members selected the food and decorations, and helped plan the activities for the event. The meeting took place in the Ursa Minor room of the Bronco Student Center on October 30. Participants enjoyed a feast of sandwiches and pizza while also using the opportunity to meet and mingle with fellow participants. The event culminated with a raffle and costume contest.

The Student Advisory Committee is a great

opportunity for participants to develop leadership and teamwork experience while helping to improve CRSP at the same time.

Professional Mentor Meeting

CRSP held its quarterly Professional Mentor Meeting on November 5th. During U-hour, over 100 CRSP participants gathered in the Student Union's Ursa Minor room to partake in the event. The speaker for the event was Vanessa Janovick of the Cal Poly Career Center. She shared a multimedia presentation regarding the resources and services provided by the career center. Meanwhile, the diminutive croissant sandwiches and cookies were ravaged in short order by the larger-than-expected crowd, for which the smaller-than-expected sandwiches proved no match. Reinforcements of chips and pizzas provided just enough food to make everyone happy. The upside of such a large turnout is that Vanessa's important message was spread broadly amongst the CRSP participants.

Book Club Corner

Fall Book Club read *Siddhartha* by Hermann Hesse. Members enjoyed reading about Siddhartha's quest for experience and enlightenment and discussing his spiritual and physical wanderings.

Siddhartha is often found on syllabi for high school English and Comparative Religions classes because of its accessible style and relatable characters; indeed, many of the Book Club members did read this novel in high school. The members felt that this quarter's experience of reading and discussing the book was even more insightful and enjoyable due to the communal nature of the club.

Book Club is offered every quarter by CRSP. Winter Book Club will be reading *American Pastoral* by Phillip Roth. Meetings take place during U-hour on the Thursday of weeks 3, 5 & 7. All students, staff and faculty are welcome. For more information, please contact Cindy Greco at (909) 869-4347 or csgreco@csupomona.edu.

Continued on reverse

College Reading Skills Program in the LRC Library Rm. 2921

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SAMANTHA MUIR-VALDOVINOS
REINA VILLANUEVA
LISA YOUNG
MICHAEL ZHOU

PROGRAM HOURS

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

*TUTORING MON-THURS ONLY

Tutor Spotlight: Scott Kellum

Fall quarter's featured tutor is Scott Kellum. Scott is a former participant of the program, and was hired to be a tutor/mentor in September 2008. Since then, he has proven to be an excellent member of the team, and has been awarded the title of "lead tutor" due to his professionalism, reliability, and willingness to help develop the program and improve students' experience.

Scott is a Chemical Engineering major who expects to graduate in 2012. He chose this major because of "the promising opportunities and wide variety of careers from which to choose."

When asked why he wanted to be a peer tutor/mentor for CRSP, he replied, "So I can help other students realize that reading is a powerful tool." His favorite thing about the job is "seeing students return to the program—it shows that it helps them and they feel comfortable [being here]."

In addition to his studies and working for CRSP, he is involved on



Scott Kellum, CRSP Tutor/Mentor

campus as an officer for the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Outside of campus, he prefers to engage in outdoor activities such as running, hiking, and playing soccer because he does not like to spend too much time indoors.

After graduation, Scott plans to take a trip to Santorini, Greece to begin his career and "to live in another country for a while." The staff know that Scott will be very successful in his eventual pursuits, but are also glad that he'll be on campus for a couple more years.

Financial Awareness Workshop

On October 8th, CRSP hosted a Financial Awareness Workshop for the first time, an event that will be a regular fixture of the program's services in the future. In the recently passed Higher Education and Opportunity Act, TRIO Student Support Services programs were mandated to contribute to participants' financial wisdom by providing information about managing finances in order to ensure students have the financial knowledge they need to avoid common pitfalls for college students and budget effectively.

The event featured Joy Tafarella of the Cal Poly Federal Credit Union, who engaged attendees in a fun and interactive "financial Jenga" activity. Managing credit and allocating funds on a limited budget were key topics in the presentation.

CRSP staff look forward to continuing their new partnership with the Cal Poly FCU to ensure students are savvy spenders.

The contents of this newsletter were 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.