Music

ARC
Mar 21 Concert Choir & Chamber Singers, 8:00 pm, ARC Cafeteria
Mar 26 Charlie Parker & Strings, ARC Chamber Orchestra with Capital Jazz Project, 7:00 pm, Davis HS Theatre
Mar 29 Vocal Jazz Ensembles, 8:00 pm, Rm 512, ARC Music Dept.
Apr 2 Charlie Parker & Strings, 7:00 pm, CRC River College Theatre
Apr 7 Joe Gilman Trio, 8:00 pm, Rm 512
Apr 24 Applied Music Student Recital, 8:00 pm, Rm 512

CRC
Apr 20 Orchestra Concert
Mar 21 Tuesday Jazz Ensemble
Mar 23 Thursday Jazz Ensemble
Mar 30 Thursday Jazz Ensemble
Apr 1 Orchestra Children’s Concert, 10:00 am
Apr 25 Chamber Singers
Apr 27 Gospel Choir
Apr 28 Chamber Singers at Sierra College Choral Festival, all day
May 8 Chamber Singers
May 9 Tuesday Jazz Ensemble
May 10 Concert Band with Elk Grove HS Concert Band
May 11 Gospel Choir at St. Ignatius Catholic Church 7:30 pm
May 11 Thursday Jazz Ensemble
May 15 Orchestra Concert
May 18 Thursday Jazz Ensemble

SCC
Mar 31 Pops Concert, 8:00 pm, A6
Apr 3 World Music, 7:00 pm, Student Center
Apr 4 Concert Band, 7:00 pm, Student Center
Apr 28 Cabaret, 7:00 pm City Cafe
Apr 29 Nada Brahma Music Ensemble, 8:00 pm, A27
May 4 Jazz Band, 8:00 pm, A6-Little Theater
May 7 Voice Recital, 8:00 pm, A6-Little Theater
May 8 World Music, 7:00 pm Student Center
May 11 Jazz Band, 6:00 pm, Flagpole
May 12 Commercial Music Ensemble, 7:00 pm, A6-Little Theatre
May 12 Choral Concert, 8:00 pm, Church of the Master
May 14 Choral Concert, 8:00 pm, Holy Spirit Church
May 16 Concert Band, 7:00 pm, Student Center
May 16 Choral Concert, 8:00 pm, St. John’s Lutheran Church

Theatre

ARC
Apr 28-May 7 The Hobbit, based on the novel by J.R.R. Tolkien, at the Inderkum High School Theatre
June 23-July 23 Gypsy, by Arthur Laurents, Jule Styne and Stephen Sondheim, at the Fair Oaks Park Amphitheatre

CRC
Apr 29-May 21 Spinning into Butter, River City Theatre

SCC
Mar 11-Apr 9 Storytime Theatre, Pinocchio, Sat & Sun 1:00 pm
Apr 1-2 The Tale of Peter Rabbit, Fairytale Town Outdoor Stage, Sat & Sun 12:00 pm, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm
Apr 28-May 22 Carnival, Art Court Theatre, Fri & Sat 8:00 pm, Sun 2:00 pm, Thur 5/18, 2:00 pm

For more information call the college Public Information Offices:
ARC 484-8647
CRC 691-7199
FLC 608-6993
SCC 558-2442
In their own words

From war zone to college.

by CRC student Julie Barron

In my short 23 years of life I have seen more and done more than most people my age. I was born in California but raised in Mexico until the age of nine when my family moved back to California. Learning the English language was difficult at first but I quickly learned and by the sixth grade I was in all English classes.

I graduated high school at the age of 17 but after graduating I was not ready to attend college. I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life so I decided to join the Army for four years. After graduation, I left for basic training where my entire life began to change. I trained to become a Chemical Operations Specialist in Missouri and after training I was stationed in Germany for two years. I traveled Europe while quickly advancing through the ranks in the military. After my travels in Europe I was stationed in Ft. Hood, Texas but immediately upon arrival to my new unit I was deployed to Iraq.

The deployment was a life altering experience that will forever be engraved in my mind. The living conditions were harsh and the situations my fellow soldiers and I encountered were difficult to deal with. Waking up was a blessing every morning but only to wonder if you would make it alive through the day. I do not take anything for granted now, especially the small things in life like cold water and toilets.

Business is more brisk than ever at American River College’s Oak Cafe, after receiving a four-star rating from the Sacramento Bee. “Staffed with students eager to show their stuff,” said the Bee, adding “the menu changes often and the fare is better than that found at many traditional restaurants.”

The Oak Cafe is designed to give students real-world experience in the running of a fine dining restaurant. The menu is designed to teach students a variety of different preparation techniques and the use of fresh, quality ingredients.

A recent menu featured a choice of shrimp salad with scallions, avocado and lemon aioli, or Leon’s artichokes stuffed with parmesan cheese and garlicky bread crumbs; and a main course of chicken and hot sausage filé gumbo or crawfish pie in a flaky crust with greens. Dessert choices included apple pie with praline ice cream or profiteroles au chocolat.

Lunch is served Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and reservations need to be made weeks in advance (484-8526). Currently there are 250 students in the culinary arts program, with 30 actively involved in the running of the cafe. Many program graduates now run their own business or restaurant while others have gone on to positions at such local eateries as Slocum House, Biba and Waterboy.

Yoshio’s Clock to Tower on Del Paso

Cosumnes River College Art Professor Yoshio Taylor was recently awarded the largest of four Art in Public Places projects by the City of Sacramento for Del Paso Boulevard. His proposed art work consists of a landmark 30’ tall, four sided clock tower incorporating design reminiscent of art deco with many of the historically significant images in terracotta relief tiles. The Art in Public Places project will be a median gateway element at Arden Way and Del Paso Boulevard.

Taylor will take the next year to complete the 30-foot design. The main structure of the tower will be constructed with steel columns and steel plates. The base will be finished with bricks and terra-cotta relief tiles. The history of the area will be incorporated into those relief’s which will be recessed within the bricks.

The first relief will depict Jenny biplanes manufactured by the Liberty Iron Works. The second one will show a trolley image from the past. The third relief will consist of fish, rivers, streams, oak leaves and acorns, reflecting the Native American presence in the region. The fourth design will represent the rich past and present effort to revive community arts, and the final design, with a horse image, will show the significance of horse breeding in Del Paso Ranch.

“My goal for this design is to appeal to the diverse residents of the Del Paso community and I hope this clock tower will symbolize the pride and unique culture that is developing in the region. I want it to serve as an identifying element and landmark to the community,” Taylor said.
In January the Los Rios Board of Trustees heard how its colleges plan to improve student success rates by targeting first-time college students.

The effort is in response to data that shows first-time college students age 18 to 20 are the most educationally at-risk. “When you compare these students to all students enrolled in our colleges, they tend to have lower course completion rates and lower grade point averages,” said Marie Smith, Vice Chancellor for Education and Technology.

The 18-20 group is compelling for other reasons as well. They tend to be more diverse than the student body as a whole with 54% non-white. They are also more evenly divided between male (48%) and female (52%) than the total student body, which is only 42% male. Nearly 31% have incomes that are below the poverty level and another 22% are low income. In spite of this, nearly 54% are full-time students and nearly 77% have a goal to earn a degree or transfer.

Most surprisingly, in spite of their struggles, these students persist at a fairly high rate with 74% continuing from the fall to spring semester. “Clearly these students want to get an education but to succeed they need some extra attention,” said Smith.

“After reviewing state and national data, we found that first-time community college students are struggling statewide and throughout the country,” said Judy Beachler, Los Rios Director of Institutional Research. “Within the first-time student group, males and African-American students tend to struggle the most.”

For example, course success rates reflect the proportion of student enrollments that are successful by earning grades of A,B,C or Credit. Using Fall 2004 data, the course success rates for all California community college students was 66.8% and for all Los Rios students it was 67%. But for the Los Rios 18-20 group the success rate was only 59% and for African-American students in that group, the success rate was only 42%. Although Los Rios student performance data is very similar to state and national data, Los Rios faculty and staff believe that a concerted effort targeting the first-time student can make a difference.

First-time students will receive intensive counseling and tutoring and will be placed in a variety of career fields. “More and more students are coming to us unprepared for college,” said Jane de Leon, English faculty member and education initiative coordinator at American River College. “Just putting these students in basic skills classes hasn’t worked well because we have found that many still need to acquire learning skills. We want to integrate learning-to-learn skills into their regular course work.”

The colleges will measure the performance of the targeted student groups each semester and will evaluate the effectiveness of programs and services in order to improve methods. “We know that not everything we are trying will be successful and we are ready to make changes to our approach as needed,” said Bill Kams, Vice President of Instruction at Cosumnes River College.

According to Albert Einstein, “After a certain high level of technical skill is achieved, science and art tend to coalesce in esthetics, plasticity, and form. The greatest scientists are always artists as well.”

Perhaps this can be said of dedicated teachers as well. Dr. Ruth Sime, retired SCC Chemistry Professor, was shocked into becoming a writer by the discovery that recognition of women’s contributions to science was fading fast. Dr. Sime focused her study on Austrian-born physicist Lise Meitner, whose research, in conjunction with German chemists Otto Hahn and Fritz Strassman, led to the discovery of uranium fission in 1938. “There was this period of forgetting after World War II, especially in Germany. And a narrative history was formed that didn’t include Meitner,” says Dr. Sime.

Due to the Nazi persecution of Jews, Meitner was forced to flee Germany just before the discovery of uranium fission. Her long-time collaborator, Otto Hahn, received and accepted the glory, including the Nobel Prize, for the discovery that was the result of years of research by both him and Meitner. In an effort to save Meitner’s contributions from extinction, a fate that many non-male and non-white contributors to science have encountered, Dr. Sime began exploring Meitner’s story.

Dr. Sime’s book, Lise Meitner: A Life in Physics, published in 1996 by the University of California Press, is the culmination of more than two decades of research and writing. “I was interested in the wronged woman angle—the woman written out of history,” Dr. Sime says. In fact, before Dr. Sime’s biography, far more of Meitner’s contributions to science were forgotten than remembered. “The book worked,” says Dr. Sime. “It showed that Meitner was really a part of the discovery [of uranium fission]. Serious historians around the world accept the legitimacy of the book and are rewriting her back into history.”

Although Germany has been slow to accept the importance of Meitner’s contributions, German scientists have recently named element 109 in honor of her. “I was interested in the wronged woman angle—the woman written out of history,” Dr. Sime says. In fact, before Dr. Sime’s biography, far more of Meitner’s contributions to science were forgotten than remembered. “The book worked,” says Dr. Sime. “It showed that Meitner was really a part of the discovery [of uranium fission]. Serious historians around the world accept the legitimacy of the book and are rewriting her back into history.”

With the success of the book, Dr. Sime was asked by producer Gary Johnstone to consult on NOVA’s Einstein’s Big Idea: The Story Behind the World’s Most Famous Equation, E=mc². Since then, Dr. Sime has acted as the chief consultant on a full-length documentary on Hahn and Meitner produced by Rosemarie Reed and set to air on PBS in June.

There have been other inquiries, as Meitner’s story has all of the dramatic elements of a good Hollywood film. “I’ve had lots of nibbles, but when people find out there’s no sex, they’re less interested,” said Dr. Sime with a chuckle.