



Fall 2008, Issue 1

August 25th, 2008

Welcome to the New Semester!

by Erika Lund, student body president



Hello and welcome to College of the Redwoods Mendocino Coast's Fall semester of 2008! This time of year hustles and bustles as many of us continue our education after a summer break (having been long or short), while some of us are just beginning our higher education with enrollment anew.

The Associated Student Body is pleased to greet you at this time, and we appreciate the

opportunity to represent you and our campus within the larger community. First and foremost, we are happy to announce that the college has hired a wonderful new Director, named Geisce Ly (pronounced Jesse Lee). At the tender age of 34, he brings a youthful exuberance to the position and his positive energy is contagious. We are pleased to have such a motivated individual working hard on our behalf. Be sure to say "hello" to our new director, and let your ideas be heard!

Get ready for the "Welcome Back" barbeque on Wednesday, September 17, from 11:30am-1:30pm. This is al-

ways a fun event, with time to get to know your fellow student body over a free lunch. What's not to love?

Our first student body meeting will take place on September 8th at noon in the former DSPS lab.

Remember, if you EVER need help or a question answered, just ask. The future is ours...and it needs our help! Best of luck to us all!

For more on student government and campus clubs, see the back page article "Getting Involved on Campus."

A Message from Our New Director

by Geisce Ly, CRMC Director



On behalf of the College, I want to thank you for taking classes with us. As you'll soon find out, our faculty is outstanding. They care about you and want you to succeed academically so be sure to reach out to them if you have any

questions. Our staff is also very committed to providing you with excellent student support services. As the director, I want to ensure that we are doing everything we can to make your CRMC experience a positive one.

If you would like to share your ideas about what we can do to improve our services, don't hesitate to stop by my office or schedule a meeting. I also encourage you to attend the frequent Open Forums I will be having throughout the semester. The first one is

Meet Geisce at the Open Forum this Wednesday, August 27th, at noon in the Grind.

scheduled for this Wednesday, August 27th, at noon in the Grind.

I look forward to meeting you and serving you. Good luck this semester!

Upcoming Dates:

8/25	Classes Begin
8/27	Open Forum with Geisce Ly
8/29	Last Day to Add a Class
8/29-9/1	Paul Bunyan Days
9/1	College Closed (Labor Day)
9/5	Last Day to Drop Class with Refund and without a 'W'
9/8	Census Date; ASCRMC meeting
9/17	Welcome Back BBQ
9/26	Last Day to File CR/NC option
10/31	Last day to petition to graduate; last day for student-initiated drop

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Spotlight On...Student Success Workshops

by David Gonsalves, Counselor

This fall, College of the Redwoods will be offering weekly Student Success Workshops. These workshops will present useful techniques and knowledge to help you succeed at CR. Most of the workshops are scheduled for Wednesdays at noon in Room 112; however, there are two special “encore” presentations on Thursdays.

The first workshop is:

The New Student's Guide to College

Have you ever wondered what is expected of you as a new college student? Do you know what your rights and responsibilities are? Did you know it's your responsibility to drop a class if you decide to stop attending? Do you know the drop deadlines? Do you know where to turn to if you have questions or need help? For the answers to these and many more questions, please join us at our first

noon workshop the second week of classes!

Learn more about how college differs from high school. Explore what sets successful students apart from those who struggle. Become familiar with various student support services and clubs on campus. Understand how co-creating an educational plan with your counselor can help you keep on track. Let us help you make the most of your time here at College of the Redwoods!

Please join us on one of the following dates from noon-1 in Room 112:

- Wednesday, September 3
- Thursday, September 4

If you have any questions, please stop by the Counseling Office.

Right: The full schedule of workshops for the Fall 2008 semester.

Topic	Date
New Student's Guide to College	Wed, 9/3 and Thur, 9/4
Study Skills & Strategies, Pt. I	Wed, 9/10 and Thur, 9/11
Study Skills & Strategies, Pt. II	Wed, 9/17 and Thur, 9/18
Organizational & Time-Management Skills	Wed, 9/24
Learning Styles & Memory	Wed, 10/1
Test-Taking Strategies	Wed, 10/8
Managing Stress	Wed, 10/15
Setting Goals & Staying Motivated	Wed, 10/22
Understanding the Transfer Process	Wed, 10/29
Career Exploration	Wed, 11/5

The Gnome's Corner—Financial Aid

by Marcia Williams, Financial Aid

The Financial Aid office is OPEN and the gnome is ready for another fabulous school year!

Many of our students receive financial aid to help them come to college. These can be in the form of grants, scholarships, or loans. Here are some important things to know about Financial Aid:

- If you don't apply—you won't get it.
- It's not too late! Apply today.
- The 2008-2009 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the foundation of most financial aid. Our school code is 001185. You may complete the application on-line and apply for a 'real-time'

PIN number. Apply at www.fafsa.ed.gov. For those who prefer the paper process, drop in to the Financial Aid office in the main building to see Marcia.

- The FAFSA is another way to get the BOG (Board of Governor's Fee Waiver).
- If your Financial Aid (FA) file is complete, *the first Pell disbursement will be Thursday, August 21, 2008.* Your check will be mailed directly to YOU from Eureka.
- Fall Scholarship Application packets are available at the Financial Aid/Counseling offices. The Fall Scholarship deadline is September 19, 2008, at 4 p.m. in the Financial Aid office.

See Marcia in the Financial Aid office if you are confused, have questions or just want to see if you qualify.



The Financial Aid gnome is always there to greet you at Marcia's office.

Ten Steps to College Success

by David Gonsalves, Counselor

Step 1 – Attend Every Class

- ☑ Though “cutting class” is sometimes tempting, don’t do it if you can help it. Save absences for when you’re sick or have a real emergency that you cannot avoid.

Step 2 – Get Organized

- ☑ Get a weekly planner and use it religiously.
- ☑ Create and maintain a tidy and organized study space with everything you need.
- ☑ Keep all returned papers, quizzes and tests--at least until the final grades are submitted.
- ☑ Get phone numbers for your classmates so you can call them for study help, to form a study group, or to ask a question about class.

Step 3 – Manage Your Time

- ☑ Plan ahead. Know when your assignments are due. Break large tasks down into smaller pieces.
- ☑ Don’t promise more than you can accomplish. Spreading yourself too thin will only make you more tired and less able to function at your highest level.
- ☑ Be efficient. Limit yourself to a reasonable amount of TV and socializing time. Always look for ways to

streamline or combine tasks (i.e., study while you’re waiting for the bus, etc).

Step 4 – Use the Classroom to Succeed

- ☑ Arrive on time.
- ☑ Sit in the front row whenever you can.
- ☑ Ask questions and participate every chance you get.
- ☑ Talk with your instructors. Meet them during their office hours. Make sure they know your name and that you’re committed to learning.
- ☑ Learn how to adapt to different types of instructors.
- ☑ Join (or create!) study groups for your different classes, and be a good group member.

Step 5 – Take Good Notes

- ☑ Find a note taking system that works for you, such as Cornell, mind maps, or outlines.
- ☑ Listen actively. Focus on the speaker, think, and try to understand the information that’s being presented.
- ☑ Learn to recognize the important information by paying attention to verbal and nonverbal clues your instructor gives. If he or she raises their voice, speaks more slowly, writes something down on the board, or repeats it, it’s probably important. If

the information being discussed also appears in the textbook, it’s probably important. Look for the signs.

- ☑ Make sure your notes are legible and have plenty of white space.
- ☑ Review your notes within 24 hours of taking them.

Step 6 – Read Your Textbook Actively

- ☑ Try a reading strategy like SQ3R.(Ask your counselor).
- ☑ Read with a purpose.
- ☑ Avoid reading in bed. Sit up straight with your book on a bookstand, or held in front of you instead. Active reading happens more when a body is more active than at rest.

Step 7 – Study Smart

- ☑ Find a good place to study: the library, a quiet area in your house, wherever you can work best. It should be comfortable, well lit, and free of distractions.
- ☑ Remember that getting started is often the hardest part. Jump in and it will be easier to keep going.
- ☑ Study difficult or boring subjects first when you have the most energy.

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Get to Know the Learning Resource Center!

by Josh Edelman, ASC

Located in the Main Building, the Learning Resource Center (LRC) houses the library and the Academic Support Center (ASC). It is the place to come if you need to...

- get a Student ID card
- use computers
- checkout books and other library materials
- rent graphing calculators

- get tutoring
- take makeup tests

Tutoring services are available in English, Math and Science. There are also quiet rooms available for group study.

LRC hours are Mon-Thur 8:30am-6:30pm, and Fri 8:30am-3:30pm.

For more information, contact Michelle at the library at 962.2609; or Josh at the ASC at 962.2639.



ASC director Josh Edelman.

Getting Involved on Campus

by Aeron Ives, Phi Theta Kappa advisor

If you are interested in becoming more involved on campus, there are several student clubs that you may want to learn more about:

- **Associated Study Body**—sometimes also called the Associated Students of CR Mendocino Coast (ASCRMC). This is the student government body for the campus. Officers are elected for the students, by the students. The ASCRMC is very involved on campus. They put on an annual Welcome Back BBQ; and have created or participated in many campus and community events, including the Halloween Bash, Thanksgiving Share and Care, and the Lighted Truck Parade.

Officers: President Erika Lund, Vice President Crystal Leatherwood, Treasurer Taylor Anderson, Secretary Angelica Rosa.
Advisor: Marcia Williams.

- **C.R.U.P.T.**—the College of the Redwoods United Protectors of Tyranny, a club whose purpose is to study and examine the injustices carried out by the top of the hierarchy upon the masses. Membership is open to all, and promises an engag-

ing experience in basic grassroots techniques of political advancement.

Officers: President Ross Koski. **Advisor:** Toby Green.

- **Multicultural Awareness Club**—a club that embraces and celebrates our cultural diversity. The Multicultural Club has put on such events as the Latino Bake Sale, the Salsa Cook-Off, and the Cinco De Mayo Celebration.

Advisor: Toby Green.

- **Phi Theta Kappa**—We have a local chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges. Membership is by invitation. Invitations are mailed to students who meet the club's criteria for membership, which includes having a 3.5 GPA and having completed at least 12 units of coursework that may be applied to an associate degree.

The club awards an annual scholarship; and has participated in the Better World Books' Book Drive; and local beach cleanup on Beach Cleanup Day.

Officers: President Roshan Nylund, Vice President Taylor Anderson, Secretary Punya Droz, and Treasurer Rachel Elliott.
Advisor: Aeron Ives.



This mysterious figure last terrorized us at the 2007 Halloween Bash.

Tips

Continued from page 3.

Step 8 – Use Test-Taking Strategies

- Arrive early, or at least on time for a test.
- Before you start, figure out how you should best tackle the test. Does it make more sense for you to answer all the easy questions, then move on to the hard ones--or should you answer the hard ones while you're freshest?
- Mark questions you need to return to.
- Always answer True/False and Multiple Choice questions.
- Check your answers before turning it in.
- Be one of the last students out the

door. Take your time.

Step 9 – Reduce Subject-Related Anxiety

- Trace back to when you started having trouble with a particular school subject. What was going on? Who was your teacher? How did you feel? See if there is an answer to why the subject makes you anxious. Sometimes knowing that is the key to overcoming the problem.
- Make sure you know all the background information necessary to understand the class you're in. If you don't, go back and review. Ask your instructor where the gaps in your learning might be and see if they can recommend some study resources for

you.

- Get a tutor if necessary.
- Realize that there are many different types of thinking and learning, and you have the ability to try and succeed in new ways.

Step 10 – Use the Resources Available to You

- Academic & Career Counselor
- Clubs and Groups on Campus
- The Learning Resource Center
- Tutors
- Instructors
- Advising Staff
- DSPS
- Financial Aid

