



# Cuyamaca College



CUYAMACA  
COLLEGE

GROWING FOR YOUR FUTURE

SPRING ISSUE 2007

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## Let the Celebration Begin!! New Buildings and Campus Renovation Signal New Era for Cuyamaca College

### New Science and Technology Building Opens for Classes!

The opening of the new Science and Technology building this spring will finally allow Cuyamaca College to offer a number of existing and new classes so much in demand in San Diego County, building its reputation as “the Gateway to Health Professions.” The \$25.1 million dollar, 60,000 square foot facility, was funded largely through a bond measure, Proposition R, approved by East County voters in 2002.

The building with its unique mall-like environment will house ten computer classrooms, as well as nine labs for natural and physical sciences, including biology, chemistry, geography, geology and physics.

In addition, the college will expand its offerings in Computer and Information Science (CIS) and Graphic Design with state of the art classrooms in keeping with the demands of the workforce and ever changing technology.

New Science & Technology Building

Finally, in the center of the new building's first floor will be a computer lab with 108 computer stations for students to complete homework and research assignments for their classes. Supervised tutoring will be available in CIS, graphic design, anatomy and physiology.

### Three Ceremonies Mark Significant Progress

During the fall semester, Cuyamaca faculty, staff and community members finally began to see the fruits of their Proposition R labors. Proposition R was a local bond measure funded by East County voters in 2002, and this year there have been all manner of ceremonies and improvements happening on campus. First, two topping-off ceremonies--in which the final steel beams were put in place--were held within days of each other, one marking the progress being made towards the construction of the \$44.6 million Communication Arts building and the other the college's \$18.9 million Student Center. Both buildings are scheduled to open in 2007.

The college also celebrated the resurfacing and reopening of the college athletic track with those in attendance running a short “victory lap.” The original track was state of the art when it was built 12 years ago but had seen better days. Now, according to Athletic Director Cathy Bowyer, “The track resurfacing will allow us to host more meets here at Cuyamaca.” Foundation President Patty McCormack, whose group donated \$50,000 of the \$150,000 needed, said, “We were very happy to make the donation because, in addition to benefiting the college, the track benefits the community.”



Trustee Rick Alexander & Dr. Perri add their signatures to the Communication Arts Topping Off Ceremony beam.



Student Center Topping Off Ceremony



Ceremony Attendees take first lap



Cuyamaca College Track Resurfacing Ceremony (left to right)  
Academic Senate President Jan Ford; Chancellor Omero Suarez, Ph.D.; Coyote Mascot; GCCCD Board President Deanna Weeks;  
Student Trustee Pat Ardilla; Cuyamaca College President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D.; Trustee Rick Alexander;  
Trustee Bill Garrett; Cuyamaca College Foundation V.P. Dave Meyer; C.C. Foundation member Ken McCormack;  
Women's Track & Field Head Coach Jennifer Williams; Men's Track & Field Head Coach Patrick Thiss



Dr. Geraldine M. Perri

## A Message from the President

Dear Friends,

Spring is always such a wonderful and beautiful time of year. The welcome rains and warm weather turn the hills around our college green with new plants and bring new life and color to our trees and gardens. But this year our spring will be even more exciting than usual because Cuyamaca College's new Science and Technology Building will also be coming to life!

The first of Cuyamaca College's new buildings, the \$25 million, 60,000 square foot, state-of-the-art Science and Technology Building will be a welcome addition to both Cuyamaca College and the San Diego region!

Initially, only the first of the two-floor building will be available to students in the spring. This floor will house Graphic Arts, which will be growing from its current one lab to three labs in the new building; Computer Information Sciences (CIS), which will have seven labs and offer classes with the most state-of-the-art equipment; and the open "Tech Mall", which will have 108 computer stations for student use. Additionally, the Cisco Academy will become an "Open Entry - Open Exit" program, which will allow students to work and study according to their own schedules.

The second floor, which will be completed later in the spring, will house the biological and earth sciences. Our faculty and staff are thrilled to be opening nine new science labs - four ultra-modern biology labs (including an anatomy lab, a microbiology/biotechnology lab, a general biology lab and a physiology/organism biology lab), a biochemistry lab, two chemistry labs (one for organic chemistry and one for general chemistry), an earth sciences lab (including geology, geography and oceanography) and a physics lab.

Until now, Cuyamaca College has struggled to meet our students' needs for courses that are in high demand throughout the region simply because we have not had the space. The new Science and Technology Building will allow Cuyamaca College to offer not only more sections of classes that have always filled fast and had long waiting lists, but will also allow us to offer totally new classes for the first time, such as microbiology and physiology.

The Grand Opening of the new Science and Technology Building is scheduled for April 19, 2007, and I invite you to join me and be part of this special celebration as Cuyamaca College officially marks the opening of this magnificent new educational resource in East County.

Throughout the rest of the year, we will continue to be excited by the progress on our next two new facilities currently under construction - the Student Center and the Communication Arts Building both scheduled to open in Fall 2007. Each day our college is a step closer to facilitating the educational dreams and goals of many students. New facilities, caring and dedicated faculty and staff, and a uniquely beautiful college surrounded by a wonderful nature preserve and graced by our lovely Grand Lawn all add up to the Cuyamaca College experience!

A great many of you - faculty, staff, administrators and students - have worked very hard to help make Cuyamaca College the wonderful and beautiful college it is and is still becoming! This is a uniquely exciting time for our college, and I want to express to you my most sincere and personal appreciation for being a part of it all.

I look forward to collaborating with you in service to our community and to our students, and I especially look forward to celebrating with you the opening of our new buildings throughout this coming year!

Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D.  
President, Cuyamaca College





Jan Ford

## Academic Senate Update

The Academic Senate serves a vital function at Cuyamaca College. The work we do may not always seem exciting, but we are seriously invested in shared governance and work hard for our college, students and colleagues. This past fall, we welcomed two new faculty members, Cindy Morrin and Kim Dudzik (see “New Hires” on page 7), along with five new faculty members who joined Cuyamaca a year ago by honoring

them at a Senate sponsored faculty reception. Three new faculty positions for 2007-2008 have been identified by the Academic Master Plan Committee and endorsed by the Senate and the Innovation and Planning Council. These new faculty will be

teaching ornamental horticulture, astronomy/physics, and sociology.

The Senate once again sponsored a \$100 textbook reimbursement for students at the Spring Schedule Kick-Off event held in November.

The spring semester promises to be another busy one for faculty and the Senate. Faculty members continue to incorporate student-learning outcomes into their course outlines and to be responsive to student needs by increasing the number of online course offerings. The Senate members continue their role in shared governance by reviewing Board Policy and Administrative Procedure additions and changes. The Senate agenda for spring also includes a review of the Senate’s Constitution and By-Laws and an update of the Faculty Handbook.

Early in the Spring the faculty will elect the following new Senate officers for the 2007-2008 academic year: vice president and two officers-at-large who will each serve one year terms.

## Grants

### Ornamental Horticulture—A Premiere Program

One of Cuyamaca College’s premiere vocational programs is Ornamental Horticulture (O.H.). The program offers a wide range of degrees and certificates from Floristry to Golf Course and Sports Turf Management. One of the most active departments on campus, O.H. also has a very strong student organization, the Cuyamaca College Botanical Society (CCBS,) and sponsors a variety of activities and events throughout the year, including its most famous, the Spring Garden Festival, which will be held this year on May 19th.

The department also has a number of groups that support its program and students. This year the program received another large donation from the Rice Family Foundation. The grant amount for 2007 is \$45,145. This brings the total support from the Rice Family Foundation to over \$336,000 since 1995. The bulk of these funds support student internships in the program with additional support for the department’s newsletter and scholarships.



Morgan Rice Internship Program Student Growers (left) Viva Dorado and (right) Robin Rushmore

### College Awarded “English At Work” Grant

Cuyamaca College received its second Industry Driven Regional Collaborative (IDRC) grant entitled “English At Work” in the amount of \$804,500.00! Grant funds will develop Non-credit Vocational English-as-a-Second Language (VESL) capacity for not only Cuyamaca, but all Region 10 community colleges. “English at Work” classes will focus on developing language proficiency for employees in the healthcare and hospitality industries specifically those working in the environmental services and food and beverage divisions of hospitals, long-term care facilities, community health clinics, casinos, hotels and amusement parks throughout San Diego and Imperial counties. Non-credit course content will incorporate workplace safety, customer service, industry-specific vocabulary and role-play that provide students with not only language development, but the workplace skills required to move up the career ladder into other positions.

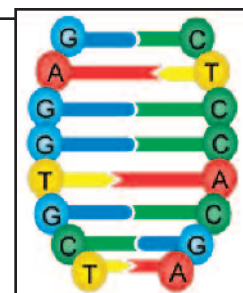
A second component to the grant is the development of an online repository of Vocational ESL curriculum related to the hospitality and healthcare industries. Instructional materials will be available for ESL instructors statewide.

Jennifer Lewis, Tonette Salter and Katie O’Leary of the Professional Development Academy are working with Cuyamaca’s Credit ESL department and the business community to ensure that the “English at Work” curriculum meets industry and community needs. East county employers such as Viejas Casino, Grossmont Healthcare District, Mountain Health, Kaiser Permanente and Sycuan Resort and Casino and many more are “on board” for this exciting new project.

### Science Department Receives Gene Sequencing Grant

Thanks to the efforts of Kathryn Nette, Chairperson of the Science Department, Cuyamaca College has been awarded a \$47,601.50 grant from LI-COR’s Genomics Education Matching Funds Program. The money will be used toward the Gene Sequencing and

AFLP® Package which will enable faculty and students to do innovative research on DNA sequencing, AFLP genotyping on selected organisms for biodiversity and mapping research and studies.



## Cuyamaca College— The Ticket to a U.C.

Many students who want to attend one of the University of California campuses have started their education at Cuyamaca College where they take their lower division courses and then transfer to the U.C. of their choice under the colleges Transfer Admission Guarantee or TAG agreement. Students who satisfy the course requirements of the U.C. campus and maintain a 2.4 grade point average or better are guaranteed a spot as juniors at their preferred U.C. campus. Cuyamaca has TAG agreements with the following U.C. campuses: Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz.

## Career Center Gets the Job Done for Students

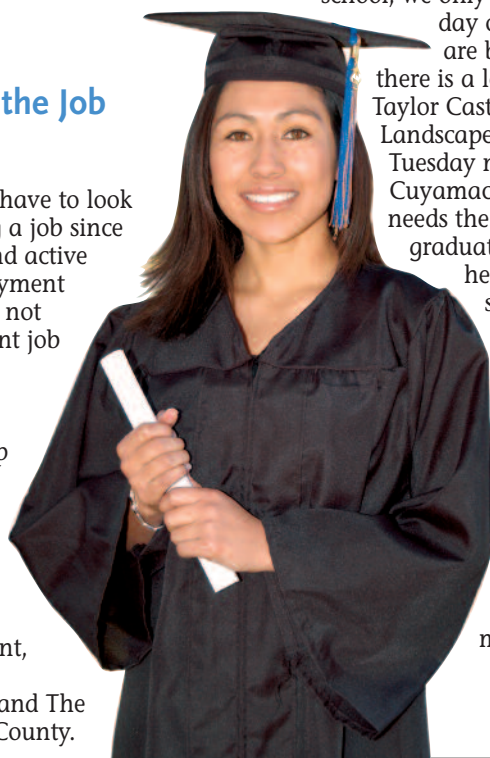
Cuyamaca students never have to look very far for help in finding a job since the college has a strong and active Career and Student Employment Center. The Career Center not only has a variety of current job listings but can also help students discover for what careers they might be best suited. The Center can help students find “real world” experiences in either paid or volunteer positions. It also offers a variety of workshops for students throughout the year including Career Assessment, Career and Employment Advising, Interview Skills, and The Hottest Jobs in San Diego County. Students can also make appointments for videotaped practice interviews and receive help with writing their resumes.



Cuyamaca College Career Center

## More and More High School Students Discover Cuyamaca

Teri Prestridge and Taylor Castillo are high school students at Monte Vista. They also attend Cuyamaca College and are earning credits for high school and college. Teri is currently enrolled in Introduction to Film as Literature because she needed a second semester of English to satisfy her graduation requirements. She thinks the class is interesting, and she particularly likes the fact she can take a one-day a week class at night. “In high school, we only have one hour a



day of class, so films are broken up and there is a lot of busy work.” Taylor Castillo is taking a Landscape Design class on Tuesday nights at Cuyamaca, not because he needs the credits for graduation, but because he is interested in the subject, so much so that he had to “crash” the course. Both plan to take more classes at the college. According to Teri, “I really like the waived enrollment fee. It makes the college more accessible.”

## Students Get Ready to Transfer

Cuyamaca College, always interested in ensuring that its students know about the various educational opportunities available to them, hosted its very successful University Transfer Fair. The Transfer Fair gives students the opportunity to meet representatives from a wide variety of four-year colleges and universities including state colleges and universities such as San Diego State, CSU San Marcos, and UCSD, as well as private institutions such as Point Loma Nazarene University, University of San Diego and

# Cuyamaca College —



Associated Students of Cuyamaca College (ASCC) Officers

## Student Government Making a Difference for Cuyamaca College

Cuyamaca College has a very active student government, and two very successful Fall events showcased their success. The Associated Students of Cuyamaca College (ASCC), in conjunction with Student Affairs, sponsored the “The First 15 Hours-Celebrating Students” event. Over 1300 students, faculty, administrators, staff and community members participated in this event, which is geared toward helping students develop a sense of belonging during the first 15 hours they are on the Cuyamaca College campus. College clubs and local vendors set up tables, and there was free food, valuable giveaways and great music.

Later in the fall semester, the ASCC was involved in making the first campus College Hour, “Let’s Get the Coyote Spirit”, a huge success. During this college hour, the San Diego Blood Mobile was on campus, and so many people were interested in donating blood that two additional nurses had to be called. There was entertainment, prizes for students and a healthy lunch provided for all who attended.



A small part of the University Transfer Fair 2006

Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising. What made this particular event even more successful was the presence of faculty and staff who wore clothing and spirit items from their alma maters, so they could be identified as graduates and respond to student’s questions.

# Something For Everyone

## Cuyamaca's Natural Beauty

Visitors to the Cuyamaca campus often remark on its natural beauty. Surrounded by rolling hills, the campus itself is dominated by greenery, lawns, trees and innumerable plants. The Water Conservation Garden is a particularly beautiful spot on the campus where visitors can walk the five-acre site and see more than 360 variety of trees, and 100,000 square feet of landscaping.



Others seeking a different type of beauty can find it in the Heritage of the Americas Museum which is an educational and cultural center featuring the prehistoric and historic art, culture and natural history of the Americans. Visitors to the museum can literally take a journey through time.

Others seeking a more natural experience can find beauty in the college's nature preserve which supports a variety of species and is a special habitat for the endangered California Gnat Catcher. Cuyamaca College is surrounded by the nature preserve, which makes up nearly 30% of our beautiful campus.

The natural beauty of this campus is truly inspiring, and it's not uncommon to see students and staff sitting on the Grand Lawn or under a tree studying, talking with others, or just contemplating the natural wonders around them.

## One of a Kind Ford ASSET Program Celebrates 18th Anniversary

The Cuyamaca College Ford ASSET program celebrated its 18th anniversary this past year and graduated its 9th class of ASSET students. As in years past, the graduates picked up their diplomas, secure in the knowledge they also had full-time jobs awaiting them at the ten Ford dealerships in San Diego and Imperial counties that had sponsored their enrollment in the ASSET program.

As the only one of its kind in the county, the Ford Automotive Student Service Education Training program draws students from throughout the region. Students earn between \$6-\$8 an hour while undergoing the training, but typically make between \$35,000 and \$50,000 upon completion of the program. According to U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, many master technicians earn from \$70,000 to \$100,000 annually because of commissions.



Ford ASSET graduation ceremony, 2006

## Technology Expands in Student Services

Cuyamaca College strives to keep up with the ever-expanding role of technology in our society, and the impact of technology has been felt most strongly in Student Services. Cuyamaca's students now have access to an expanding array of online services beginning with the college application. The Dynamic Schedule is also online, providing an accurate and up-to-date resource of course offerings for students as they access the online registration process.

Online counseling is increasing in popularity. Each semester, more and more students utilize "Ask A Counselor." Originally launched in the spring of 2005, online counseling is now a major component of the services provided by the

Counseling Center. Students visiting the Counseling Center can also receive an immediate online evaluation of coursework taken, assuming the coursework has been previously evaluated.

The University Transfer Center has a sophisticated web site, giving access to articulation agreements, TAG and TSD agreements, requirements of four-year colleges and universities including application deadline, the schedule of on-campus transfer workshops and other transfer-related news. The web site, developed by Counselor Donna Hajj was nominated for a statewide Academic Senate "Best Practice" award in 2005.

Technology has enhanced other support services as well. Financial Aid now offers their required workshops through the online format. In 2005, the Bookstore

began an online delivery of services to provide enhanced service to students. Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSPS) provides assistance and instruction to students using assistive technology and adaptive software and other computer equipment through the High Tech Center Computer Lab.

Finally, the college's most popular Personal Development Course, PDC 124, Lifelong Success, promotes the use of technology throughout the entire course, and many sections are even offered online. A solid grasp of technology is an important "learning outcome" of the course, as PDC instructors consider technology to be one of the most valuable skills necessary for students to succeed in college today.

## Recycling: Everyone Benefits

Cuyamaca College has an exceptionally beautiful campus and because faculty, students and staff appreciate the beauty of our natural environment and college, they do their share to keep the campus clean. One easy way they do this is by recycling plastic and glass bottles, aluminum cans, paper and cardboard.

The recycling program at Cuyamaca College is a partnership between students, faculty, staff, administrators, custodians, the recycle hauler (Allan Co.), and the County of San Diego, Department of Public Works, - and everyone benefits! College clubs such as American Sign Language, Club Able and Phi Theta Kappa have received proceeds from the recycling efforts to support student activities. Several times a month volunteers from these clubs, as well as faculty and staff, work together to pick up the recyclables and take them to a nearby recycling facility.

These clubs earn anywhere from \$60 to \$108 per month for their efforts. In addition to generating cash for clubs, the college is on target to save about \$10,000 this year because it's using the "single stream recycling program", and is able to reduce the number of regular trash pickups. This single stream method allows the college to recycle about 80% of all trash on campus.



Custodial Supervisor Steven Gonzalez is a leader in the recycling efforts

## A Busy Year for ASL Program and Club

The American Sign Language (ASL) Department, along with its student organization the Cuyamaca College American Sign Language Association (CCASLA), has been very busy this past year. First, the department scored quite a coup when Vadja Kolombatovic was hired to teach American Sign Language. Well renowned in the hearing and deaf community Mr. Kolombatovic is bi-cultural and bi-lingual and would be welcomed at any college in the county but chose to teach at Cuyamaca.

The CCASLA members have been actively involved in numerous fundraising and outreach activities all designed to raise the club's profile and expand the number of students enrolled in ASL at the College. The CCASLA choir has given performances at various college ceremonies, including Commencement. The club held a very successful "Day at the Park" welcome picnic in honor of Deaf Awareness Day, and over 120 students and faculty attended.



Vadja Kolombatovic



## Water Conservation Garden Shows True Colors

The Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College, a not-for-profit corporation whose mission is "promoting water conservation in the landscape through excellent programs and exhibits that educate and inspire the public", was very busy this past fall hosting events and bringing the community onto our campus. In September, the garden opened the Children's Discovery Trail, which educates children about trees, plants and animals that are able to survive with little water. The trail is also designed to provide a fun getaway for parents and their children. According to Marty Eberhardt, the garden's executive Director, "Kids have very little contact with nature today, and we have to provide opportunities for them to have contact with nature."

In October, the garden held another educational and fun activity with the California Friendly Gardening Festival. This is the second annual festival and it was a family affair with scavenger hunts, a Great Pumpkin Walk, face painting, a magic show and a scarecrow contest for the children. Adults were able to arrange for free 20-minute consultations with landscape designers and architects.



Mary Sessom, J.D.

## Paralegal Instructor Selected for Department of Defense Conference

Mary Sessom, Paralegal Instructor, was selected as one of 45 people nationwide to participate in the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (JCOC) sponsored by the Secretary of Defense (DoD) sponsored by the Secretary of Defense growing their knowledge of the military and national defense issues. The JCOC received

more than 400 nominations, and 45 slots were available for 2006. JCOC's objective is to increase public understanding of national defense through a forum of free exchange among influential citizens, Department of Defense (DoD) officials, and military leadership. Ms. Sessom will have the opportunity to attend Pentagon briefings presented by DoD officials, military and civilian leadership and then join the military in the field to observe exercises, firing weapons, and participating in training throughout the world.



## New Hires



Kim Dudzik

### Science and Engineering Instructor

Kim Dudzik, a new faculty member in the Science and Engineering Department, comes to Cuyamaca College with a solid educational background and a wealth of different and unusual experiences. Ms. Dudzik has a BS in Zoology and MS in Animal Behavior and will be teaching Human Anatomy and Physiology, and Biology classes. Her passion, however, is the study of bottlenose

dolphins, and she has done extensive research in Costa Rica and in San Diego. She is the co-founder and co-director for the California Center for Marine Science, designing and coordinating research on the Pacific coast bottlenose dolphins off San Diego's Coast.

Before focusing on teaching, Ms. Dudzik worked with the San Diego Zoo as an animal handler/trainer, a field coordinator protecting manatees and sea turtles during the Gulfstream Natural Gas Pipeline development in Tampa Bay, and as a behavior tutor at the Center for Autism Research. At Cuyamaca she will have responsibility for setting up the classrooms and labs to support anatomy and physiology in the new Science and Technology building.

### Personal Development Instructor

Cindy Morrin, Cuyamaca College's new personal development instructor, brings a broad educational background and a variety of experiences to her new position. Ms. Morrin received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from San Diego State University in 1991 and started her career as an ESL teacher for the Refugee and Immigrant Center at Tumwater School District in the state of Washington. She was hired as a teacher for the first charter school of San Diego and turned her classroom into a "model" for visitors thinking about starting charter schools.



Cindy Morrin

After receiving her MA Degree from Point Loma Nazarene University, she then became a high school guidance counselor at Madison High School; an adjunct counselor at Mesa College; a personal development teacher; and an instructor of graduate students at National University and Chapman University. In addition to teaching in the classroom, she is an accomplished online teacher and has made presentations about best practices in online teaching to local community colleges.

### Student Services Vice President

Cuyamaca College has a new Vice President of Student Development & Services, Dr. Joseph Marron. Dr. Marron earned an EdD in Higher Education Administration from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee; an MEd in Administration and Supervision from Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and a BS degree in Health, Physical Education and Recreation from Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania. Most recently, he completed the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University.



Dr. Joseph Marron

Dr. Marron served as the system wide Director for Educational Leadership at Alliant International University's (AIU) Graduate School of Education. In addition, he has served as both Vice President for Student Services and Enrollment Management; and Program Director/Associate Professor, Educational Leadership and Management Doctoral Program at AIU. Prior to his employment with AIU, he was Dean of Student Affairs at Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania.

Dr. Marron has authored several publications and made numerous presentations in the field of student services. A member of several professional associations including the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, the Association of College Personnel Administrators, and the Association for Student Judicial Affairs, Dr. Marron has also received many honors and distinctions throughout his professional career. During his short time at Cuyamaca, he has been particularly impressed by the hard work and energy of the college's faculty and staff.





Dr. Perri and Dr. Donna Riley

## 2006 President's Awards: Personifying "the Cuyamaca Way"

At the Cuyamaca College Fall Convocation, Dr. Geraldine Perri recognized four outstanding members of the college community:

**Faculty:** The President's Award for Outstanding Faculty was presented to Dr. Donna Riley, Exercise Science Instructor, who was recognized for all the work she has done on behalf of her department and the college, including her work on grants which have helped to educate the college community on nutrition and health.

**Administrator:** Dean Al Taccone was awarded the Administrator of the Year Award for his willingness to do whatever it takes to help make Cuyamaca a better place. Over the years he has worked on projects and activities too



Al Taccone

numerous to mention. In speaking of Dr. Taccone, Dr. Perri used words like: "professional," "efficient" and "competent" while presenting the award to him.

**Staff:** Ken Grimes and Debra Miller received Staff Member of the Year awards. Ken was recognized in particular for his professionalism, his desire to help others and his dedication to Cuyamaca College. Like Ken, Debra Miller also has a helpful "can do" attitude, which serves her well while working as an



Ken Grimes

administrative secretary in the Office of Instruction. One of her favorite expressions when asked to help someone is, "You've got it!"



Debra Miller

*Save the Date!* Saturday, April 28, 2007  
Join the Celebration!  
The Cuyamaca College Foundation is inviting you to  
"Starlights of the Southwest"  
Annual Dinner Dance and Auction  
San Diego Mission Valley Marriott

# STARLIGHTS OF THE SOUTHWEST

"Starlights of the Southwest" Designed by Cuyamaca College Graphic Design Student, Megan Dinsdale



**GCCCD GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS:**

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Chancellor: Omero Suarez, Ph.D.  
Cuyamaca College President: Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D.

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