

ADJUNCT FACULTY PROFILES

By Robert Perrone

Here are three faculty members who have dedicated their working lives to the education of students. Their status as part-time faculty does not diminish their contributions to the success of Los Rios students.

ELIZABETH MOON

BA George Washington University 1991
MA CSU-Sacramento 2007
Texas Lifetime Teaching Certificate (Prek–12th grade) English as a Second Language/Contained Elementary/Gifted & Talented Elementary Teach For America Corps Member 1991



Adjunct Assistant Professor Elizabeth Moon has been teaching in Los Rios since January 2008. Previous to Los Rios she taught in the Houston Independent School District, Texas; Taejon, South Korea; Davis Adult School, Davis, CA; UC Davis Global Exchange Program and did private tutoring.

She received her Masters at CSU Sacramento in 2007 and has a Texas lifetime teaching certificate for pre-kindergarten to 12th grade in ESL. In 1991, she was a member of Americorps.

She spent seven years teaching in Houston in one of the most economically challenged neighborhoods. It was here that she learned the meaning of community and how a simple act of kindness can lead another to achieve life-changing success. She sees California community colleges as being a catalyst for individual change and success. In her field of English as a Second Language, she has met individuals from all over the world who have shared their life story with her. “These students struggle everyday to progress further in their studies,” she says. “Most are trying to achieve a strong foundation in English, so that they can go on in their studies to receive an AA in their field, and some even aspire to transferring to a UC or CSU.” She points out that budget cuts are making it difficult, if not impossible, to get classes. “They are being told to go to Adult Schools, but those are closed too, due to the same budget cuts.” Now, these students are being told that they have

used up their financial aid on these lower-level ESL classes and they are cut off financially from finishing their program of study.

“On a personal level, the budget cuts have meant that each semester is an unknown. Will I get a class or will I not? For the first time in my life, I applied and received unemployment during this past summer.”

Adjuncts are a large portion of the teaching staff at most community colleges. If we are seen as commodities that can be interchanged with anyone, I believe that our students and campus’s suffer. I truly hope that I can weather the budget cuts, so that I can continue to have the opportunity to serve the students of ARC and collaborate with our outstanding faculty.

Outside of teaching, Elizabeth is active in her community. She is a member of the Montgomery Elementary School PTA Executive Board.

When she is not teaching, she enjoys reading, volunteering at her children’s musical theater activities, especially at the Davis Musical Theater Company, traveling with her husband and family and learning something new every day.

TERRI ECKLEY



Adjunct Professor Terri Eckley has been teaching psychology and American Sign Language courses at CRC since 1997. Prior to teaching at the college level (she also teaches at Sierra College) she was a

teacher’s aide with special needs children and adults (autistic, developmentally disabled, multi-disabled).

Professor Eckley was raised in Arizona and moved to San Diego to complete her high school education. She attended San Diego City College, CSU Northridge and CSU San Diego, from where she earned her BA in Psychology and MS in Rehabilitation Counseling with an emphasis in Deafness. She has a PsyD in Clinical Psychology from Alliant University. “I eventually internalized the joy the professor’s expressed as they taught their beloved subject, and

[continued on next page]

[from previous page]

now, as a professor, I am able to combine knowledge with enthusiasm,” she said.

When asked what she likes best about teaching, Professor Eckley responded that she values helping students achieve their educational goals by teaching them to develop creative methods that will help them learn; enabling them to apply psychology to everyday situations; teaching her students to “hear” a language with their eyes—“to explore the beauty of ASL.”

The budget cuts to California community colleges have caused “uncertainty about our students getting their educational needs met,” she says. She is concerned about the long-term effects of changing the affordability and availability of a college education in California and whether a greater division is being created between social classes as a result of those budget cuts. “What are the social, economic, behavioral changes that might be exhibited and how will we prepare for these changes,” she asks.

Professor Eckley is a single mother of four children, three of whom are adopted and adds that, “I wish more loving parents could change the world by adopting a kid (or two).” She is currently working on a couple of children’s books to help parents and children through the divorce experience. She enjoys gardening and cooking and “advocating for the underdog.”

CIRIAN VILLAVICENCIO



Professor Cirian Villavicencio is a political science adjunct professor at both American River and Folsom Lake Colleges. He was born in the Philippines and immigrated to the United States in 1986 at the age of five, before the People Power Movement became a force in

the overthrow of then-President Ferdinand Marcos. He was raised in South San Francisco.

Villavicencio received his BA in History and Political Science from UC Davis and his M.P.A. from the University of Southern California. He is a graduate of the Los Rios Faculty Diversity Internship Program, where he was mentored by Professor Tressa Tabares at ARC.

He has been active in politics since 1998, when he was an intern for the late Congressman Tom Lantos. He has served as a staff person for the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus at the State Capitol; was an alternate member on the Sacramento County Democratic Central Committee for the 9th Assembly District; an elected delegate for Barack Obama from the 5th Congressional District; and, a campaign assistant for the Steve Westly for governor campaign.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities and political activities, Villavicencio is an active participant in his community as a citizen member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Advisory Committee for Sacramento County. He is also a member of the UC Davis Alumni Chorus with his wife.

Villavicencio believes that California’s current budget crisis, the result, in part, of structural deficits, has hurt students and faculty. “It’s a shame that budget cuts continue to eliminate sections, depriving our students of high quality education and training they need and deserve to jump start this sluggish economy,” he says. He adds, “While we continue to work harder, it is imperative that we do not remain silent. Now more than ever, each of us must find the time to engage the political process; to talk with our neighbors, contact legislative leaders, write letters to our regional newspapers to tell them that the status quo is not only unsustainable but is inherently unfair, especially to our students. Let us remind them that education is an investment that ultimately will drive our region’s economic recovery.” ■