Due to budget cuts the 2010 winter session at Victor Valley College has been cancelled. The cancellation of the six week intersession means that it may take VVC students longer to complete their education plans and either graduate or transfer from the college.

According to College President Robert Silverman, the decision for the cancellation of winter session was based on student enrollment trends and operating expenses that the college would incur for that time period. The enrollment numbers between the winter session 2008 and winter session 2009 was down 1,191 students.

In a statement released through the Executive Dean of Institutional Effectiveness, Dr Silverman said, “For a traditional winter intersession, the college expends between $500 (thousand) and $800 thousand dollars for direct costs (of faculty salaries and benefits). If we held a winter intersession this year, any of the enrollments generated would put us over our funding cap, that is, we would not receive any funding from the State to cover our costs. “Full-time equivalent students for winter 2009 was about 500 for approximately 3400 unduplicated student.”

FTES is the State calculation for funding the college during an academic year.

“If the college can provide just instruction, on-line only at $ 75 per unit, or $225 for a 3-unit class taught online only, it would seem that there would be no additional cost incurred by the general fund. These classes will not be offered unless students ask for them,” said Professor Peter Allan via email.

VVC student Joseph Hourany, who normally attends classes during the winter intersession, said, “If classes are not going to be offered at VVC, then I am going to be forced to take the classes elsewhere.”

Commuting is what local college students are doing, according to the front page of the Daily Press. On Wednesday Sept. 16, 2009 staff writer Natasha Lindstrom reported that Barstow Community College’s enrollment increased by 42 percent, with 10 percent of the of the campus’ total population composed of Victor Valley commuters. In a statement to the Daily Press Barstow Community College spokesperson Maureen Stokes said, “A lot of them are picking up the classes they need, because Victor Valley College didn’t offer them or those sections were closed.”

Though the reinstatement of the winter intersession may not be foreseeable VVC officials have considered offering some classes during that scheduled period.

“There any offerings provided during the winter months would be whatever the students needed and what we could staff,” Silverman said.

The VVC administration will be conducting an on-line student survey accessed by a link on the front page of the college Web site, and students in favor of attending classes during the winter months are encouraged to participate.

Voice Classes Have Students Belt It Out
Story by Ana Rosales
Features Editor

There are many opportunities offered at VVC for students who wish to enhance their creative and artistic abilities. Classes such as the voice classes Beginning Voice 122 and Intermediate Voice 123 are offered to every student interested in singing or public speaking. The whole point of these classes is to learn a healthy way of speaking and singing. In voice class 122, students are taught not to speak from their lower part of their diaphragms which has the tendency of putting strain on the vocal chords. Instead, they are taught to speak with the muscle support that is located a little above the hips which brings ... Continued in Voice on Page 2
The Associated Student Body here at Victor Valley College, located on the second floor in the Student Activities Center, has a new set of goals for the 2009/2010 school year. New President Mary Mazzola and the rest of the council have summarized their goal to bring the students, the college and the community together on their website at vvc.edu.

The main goal of ASB is to serve and represent the general student population on campus. This includes the enhancement of scholarship and certificate programs, a book rental program and an updated web advisor for expedited registration.

All these provisions are designed with each student in mind. ASB represents all students and wants to help them get the most out of their education.

Chloe Brooks, ASB Secretary and Humanities major, affirmed that each new goal of the council is of the students, for the students and by the students. "We make sure the students are well represented whether it be talking to the dean providing entertainment and making sure there are discounts for student activities or books."

ASB also plans to help with financial aid to all students on campus and wants to increase scholarship funds. Students are encouraged to become involved with ASB activities and meetings. Brooks says that any student volunteers are always welcomed. Also the ASB meetings, which are held every Friday at noon, welcomes all students to come and listen to discussion of what the ASB has planned for them as well as participate in the meeting. Any student can participate and share ideas, thoughts or input to assist ASB in bettering the campus.

An ASB card this semester is $10 and provides the student with many discounts here on campus. Students interested in acquiring one should visit the ASB office in the SAC.

Voice from Page 1

out better sound and brightness.

During the first class, students also go through a series of tasks where they get rid of what is called "fuzzies." These fuzzies deal with people's frustrations on stage; for example, blushing, shaking and panicking. After students are put through different tasks like singing, acting, reading out loud and expressing their fuzzies, the students are encouraged to take the following class which is Intermediate Voice 123.

"When I first came into Intermediate Voice, I had a real problem with breath support. Also I use to get nervous in small groups of people when I would sing so it helped me deal with my fears," said Jeremy Nelson, now a College Singers student.

In intermediate voice students are required to perform various songs. The student has to choose two goal songs for the semester. For each goal song, the student must also choose two goals. These goals consist of where the student has to improve the most, for example rhythm and stage performance.

"It helped me with better vocal control, brightening my tone. It gave me more confidence in my performance and better stage presence," said Charles Linholm.

Also, the instructor assigns a foreign language for the semester and an ensemble of any kind which can be a duet or trio. As the students choose or are assigned a song, they are also required to work on what is called an International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). The IPA is a standardized representation of sounds for spoken languages. The students are required to write an IPA for each song they perform in order to learn the proper use of language depending on the foreign song and the genre of the song.

"I decided to get the class to get excellent instruction and it has helped me with my resonance," said Daniel Cubbedge.

After taking the voice classes, many students have pursued other advanced courses. A few of these courses are College Singers, Music 131, and Women's Choir, Music 130.

These classes are fun, informative and are useful for a variety of career choices. The voices classes can be found in the student catalogue under the Music section.
Transfer Tales: Furlough Inferno

So you’re preparing for your big transfer from Victor Valley College to your university of choice. I have lasting, and prompt, advice for you: students beware. In all seriousness, just because you pay for your transcripts to be sent, doesn’t mean they will be. 

And although we all want to believe what your counselor has told you regarding what classes to take is true, it does not mean it’s necessarily the correct information, nor even a transferable course. 

You may think I’m sounding a little jaded, maybe quite harsh. You may say my transfer horror story may only be my bad luck and terrible experience. On the other hand, and in my defense, VVC did manage “losing” my multiple transfer requests, and I was not informed by my counselor of un-transferrable course work. 

For example, I requested three times that my transcript be sent to one of my schools, and, big surprise, not one arrived, so I ended up having to deliver it myself. All in all, to hopefully save you from what I went through, keep records and make sure things are getting sent and done, even if you are the annoying student that calls the admission and records office multiple times a day (which you will have to do to ever get a call back). 

Hypothetically, say your transcripts finally get sent to your dream university… you finally get the letter you have been waiting for… and in a nutshell it reads, “Sorry, we aren’t accepting any transfer students this semester due to budget cuts.” Well, just keep your fingers crossed for that safety school; hopefully that one works out. 

All right! So you get accepted to your safety school, and although it wasn’t your first choice, you begin to grow excited. Summer eagerness is on the rise, as the big transfer and possible move are both in your near future. 

“Oh wait- fees have gone up. Damn. Better hope you have enough for that, or that your loans/financial aid will cover it. Weeks later you find you can cover the new costs… YES! But like most transfer tales, forbid that be the last
Obituary by Judith Pfeffer
*Faculty Adviser to RamPage*

James Paul “Jim” Long Jr. of Victorville died Sept. 24, 2009, in the Critical Care Unit at Kaiser Foundation Hospital in Fontana. At press time, the cause of death was not officially determined, but he had suffered severe lung damage possibly related to a rare reaction to his recent chemotherapy treatment for testicular cancer. He was 46.

Born March 15, 1963, at Ontario Community Hospital, he was a lifelong resident of the Inland Empire and lived at various times in Bloomington, Hemet, Rialto and San Bernardino and for the past 20 years in Victorville.

He was a 1981 graduate of Eisenhower High School in Rialto and of Cal State San Bernardino in 1986, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies. He was a part-time student at Victor Valley College in the late 1990s, where he earned a web design certificate, won several prizes for writing and was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. He also worked part time in 1997 in the Learning Center at VVC and occasionally assisted his wife’s students in the journalism program there.

Though he suffered health problems since before birth - - his mother was accidentally exposed to German measles during pregnancy -- Jim worked virtually his entire life, starting as a teen for small family-owned business concerns and doing chores for neighbors. He was a professional sportswriter from the age of 16, part time at the weekly Rialto Record newspaper. He continued as a sportswriter on either a full-time, part-time or freelance basis until the last two years of his life, when he suffered a string of multiple major medical problems, many related to his severe juvenile diabetes diagnosed toward the end of high school.

He was a full-time sportswriter for the Daily Press from November 1988 to June 1992 and the paper’s first High Desert Mavericks beat writer. He loved baseball, especially Minor League baseball and especially the Mavericks. He never missed a home opener, even in his last two years, when he sat in the wheelchair section after a major stroke in mid-October 2007 greatly diminished the use of the left side of his body.

Jim worked for many years for the San Bernardino County Sun, though always on a less than full-time basis, beginning in early 1980 when still a high school student and continuing on and off throughout his life until the stroke. He also worked at various times for the Leader newspaper chain and for the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, and even freelanced a few small stories to the Los Angeles Times. His colleagues at both the Press and the Sun were always amazed at his command of baseball history and statistics.

Jim worked for the Victor Valley Union High School District in three capacities beginning in fall 1988 as a volunteer tutor at Hook Junior High School; this was his re-entry into the working world after recovering from major lung surgery in December 1997. He continued with the district in a part-time paid position with an adult education program housed at Victor Valley High School.

In February 2001 he was hired full time as a computer media specialist to run a computer laboratory on the VVHS campus; he received superlative ratings in every category on every annual evaluation and often used his free time and personal funds to ensure his students’ success.

Starting immediately after the stroke, Jim worked valiantly at in-patient rehabilitation, outpatient therapy sessions and home exercise programs and never gave up hope of returning to his job and further regaining his mobility.

On June 5 of this year, the same day he had been scheduled to have the evaluation that he hoped finally would lead to his medical release to go back to work, he instead was hospitalized and within days diagnosed with cancer.

He was released, had outpatient surgery and began intensive chemotherapy; he was nearly through enduring that grueling regimen when he was diagnosed with pneumonia and hospitalized for the final time on Labor Day Weekend.

In addition to being an accomplished journalist, Jim was an award-winning creative writer, avid nature photographer and gifted graphic artist/web designer; he had hoped to continue these pursuits even if return to paid employment was never to be.

Jim is survived by his wife of 17 years, Judith Pfeffer; mother Rena “Ricki” Estvander-Mease; father James Paul Long Sr.; dad Dale Estvander; brother Brent Estvander; stepbrother James Laizure; stepsister Melissa Laizure; sisters-in-law Liz Pfeffer and Jackie Estvander; stepfather Lynn Mease; grandmother Helen Keeville; great-uncle Ken Long; stepmothers Paula Estvander and Terry Long; aunts Linda Block and Fay Johnson; uncle Randy Block; step-uncle Gary Johnson; niece Katherine Pfeffer; nephews Jonathan Pfeffer, Joshua Laizure and Nicholas Laizure; brothers-in-law Larry Pfeffer and Dan Pfeffer; cousins Bert Bene, Ilona Ewing and Casey Ewing; and numerous other relatives, friends, neighbors and colleagues.

Jim was preceded in death by sister Fallon Long; aunt Carol Wolkins; great-aunt Madge Long; and grandparents Arthur and Lillian Hefley, Paul Long and Jay Keeville.

The funeral will be at Green Acres Memorial Park in Bloomington at a date in early October. Information on this, a related memorial and donation opportunities will be released soon. Per the family’s wishes, please do not bring or send any type of flowers, wreaths, potted plants or other greenery to the mortuary/cemetery or the family home.

*Judith Pfeffer was married to Jim Long for 17 years. She is currently on leave from her VVC duties.*
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Upcoming Cultural and Performance Events

PAC Events:
For all PAC events, contact (760) 245-4271 ext. 849 for tickets or visit the PAC box office.

Concerts:

Fall Dance Concert: Nov. 21 and 22 at 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 23 at 2:30 p.m. $7 general admission, $5 for ASB cardholders and seniors, $3 for children under 12 years old.

Fall Dance Concert: Dec. 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 13 at 2:30 p.m. $10 adult admission, $7 for seniors and children. Free admission for ASB cardholders.

Free Music Recital: Sept. 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Ensembles Galore: Oct. 8 at 7:30 p.m. Studio Singers, Jazz-Rock Combo, Guitar Ensemble and College Band.

Bands Night: Oct. 9 at 7:30 p.m. Studio Band, Symphonic Band, Brass Ensemble.

Choirs: Oct. 10 at 7:30 p.m. Master Arts Chorale, College Singers, Women’s Choir and Sinfonia.

Strings: Oct. 11 at 2:30 p.m. Beginning Strings, Preludium Strings and College Orchestra.

Plays:

Dangerous Liaisons, directed by Claudia Bash: Nov. 6 and 7 at 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 8 at 2:30 p.m.; Nov. 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m.; and Nov. 15 at 2:30 p.m. General admission $10, $7 for seniors and children, free admission for ASB cardholders.

The Diviners, directed by Ed Heaberlin: Oct. 15 and 16 at 7 p.m.; Oct. 17 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Oct. 18 at 2 p.m.; Oct. 22 and 23 at 7 p.m.; Oct. 24 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Oct. 25 at 2 p.m.

Other:

Evening of Comedy and Magic: Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m. $15 general admission, $10 for seniors and ASB cardholders, $7 for children under 12 years old.

Non-PAC events:


Sat. Oct. 3 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 8th Annual Spice of Life Multi-Cultural Festival at the Victorville Civic Center 14343 Civic Drive.

Oct. 30, 31; Nov. 1, 6, 7, 8: Urinetown (The Musical) Presented by Standing Room Only Productions, Inc. At the High Desert Center for the Arts (on 8th Street and C Street). Shows on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays are at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday matinees are at 2:30 p.m. $12 general admission, $10 for seniors and students. For reservations call (760) 243-7493.
GENERAL INFORMATION

The RamPage is a newspaper published as an educational exercise and First Amendment Public Forum by students at Victor Valley College in Victorville, Calif. Issues come out approximately twice a month in the two full-length semesters, generally each February, March, April, May, September, October, November, and December, for a total of 14 issues each calendar year.

The views expressed by the RamPage are not necessarily those of VVC, its board of trustees, its administration, its faculty, its staff, its Associated Student Body Council or its students.

The RamPage welcomes press releases, story ideas, letters to the editor, guest articles and guest editorials. Submit proposed items to the on-campus mailbox of RamPage Adviser Judith Pfeffer — clearly marked as being submitted for publication. Or, email them to vvcrampage@gmail.com or mail information to RamPage, Victor Valley College, 18422 Bear Valley Road, Victorville, CA 92395 or leave a message at 760-245-4271 extension 2773.

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The RamPage reserves the right to reject any material — advertising or editorial — that it deems to be not in keeping with the standards of the paper.

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To discuss display advertising options or to purchase any form of advertisement, call Assistant Director of Auxiliary Services Deanna Murphy at 760-245-4271 extension 2707.

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- Having an ASB Card is the only way to participate in the program.

- The membership will be good for one year and then must be renewed for the following year.

- Rewards begin accumulating on July 1st and then reset to zero on June 30th.