

Citrus

Winter 2013

CollegeNewsMagazine

“A COLLEGE OF COMPLETION”



SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT'S

Welcome

Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D.

For nearly a century, Citrus College has educated thousands of students, helping them reach their educational goals and contribute to society in a learning environment that encourages academic excellence and high achievement. The outstanding results of these efforts are featured in this issue of **Citrus College News Magazine** – relevant and exciting information about the college's programs, students, staff, alumni and friends who all have a vital role in the institution's success.

This year, however, we have added another equally important component to our institutional focus: completion. To excel as a student is commendable; however, to complete one's educational goal—whether it is receiving an associate degree, earning a career/technical certificate or pursuing a baccalaureate degree as a transfer student—is the pinnacle of student success.

This issue, therefore, is also Citrus College's theme for the 2012-2013 academic year, "A College of Completion." The details of this student-led initiative are presented in the lead story, and throughout this issue you will read about alumni who have graduated from the college and the students who will soon move on to more opportunities. These achievers come from a variety of experiences and share two things in common: they have been intentional in achieving their educational goals and they began their journey at Citrus College.

The college continues to garner outstanding achievements in the areas of sustainability and degree completion, which are noted in the "News Around Campus" section of the magazine. In addition, **Citrus College News Magazine's** "Athletics" section features a story about the college's "Scholar-Baller" program that illustrates how the athletics staff facilitates student success in athletic venues and in the classroom. The "Foundation" and "Alumni" sections include an account of the Third Annual Scholarship Reception and an update on the accomplishments of a former student trustee who aspires to a career in civil service. Finally, we are proud to announce the latest achievement of our STEM Program: a group of Citrus College students, the "Rocket Owls," will explore the frontiers of space by launching a rocket of their own design and creation.

It is a privilege to share the many ways in which Citrus College influences the lives of its students. Thank you for your enduring support of Citrus College and its mission.

Sincerely,



Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President



Winter 2013



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Citrus College: A College of Completion Advances Student Success

Citrus College's 2012-2013 academic year began with the annual fall Convocation, a celebratory and enthusiastic event where faculty, staff and student leaders gathered to welcome new faculty and staff, recognize the college's accomplishments of the previous year, and engage in staff development activities. One of the highlights of the program was the introduction of the college's new theme for the year, "Citrus College: A College of Completion" (CCCC). CCCC is a collegewide initiative designed to encourage and support students as they endeavor to complete their education, transfer to baccalaureate degree programs and enter the career fields of their choice.

CCCC is Citrus College's adoption of the national community college completion initiative established in 2010 by the American Association of Community Colleges, the national chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK), and other higher education organizations in response to President Barack Obama's call for an additional 8 million college graduates by 2020. At that time, studies revealed that the United States ranked 12th in the world in the percentage of young adults with associate degrees or higher; today the nation ranks 16th.

Members of the Citrus College chapter of PTK advanced the concept that developed into the college's completion initiative. The students, who were aware of the national completion efforts, shared the results of a survey they conducted that asked Citrus College students about their barriers to college completion. The survey results were first presented at the Honors Transfer Council of California spring 2012 conference. Following the conference, PTK shared their results and proposal for a completion corps



with the college's Academic Senate, the Steering Committee and the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. Their presentation was well received, and it reinforced the need to champion college completion efforts at the college.

During Convocation, Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri presented the completion initiative and urged those present to sign a pledge to support the initiative.

"The College of Completion campaign enables us to publicly declare our commitment to the academic achievement of our student body and it puts college comple-



tion front and center of our priorities,” Dr. Perri stated.

Hundreds of faculty and staff members signed the pledge in support of the new initiative. In addition to Convocation, there were additional opportunities for the college community to sign the pledge on the first day of classes and at other collegewide events.

CCCC, like all of Citrus College’s academic programs and student services, focuses on student success, with college completion as its pinnacle. The initiative engages every part of the Citrus College community: students, faculty and staff. While PTK has chosen time management and peer mentoring as key focus areas, faculty and staff are exploring “best practices” and discussing how applying those concepts can enhance student completion and success.

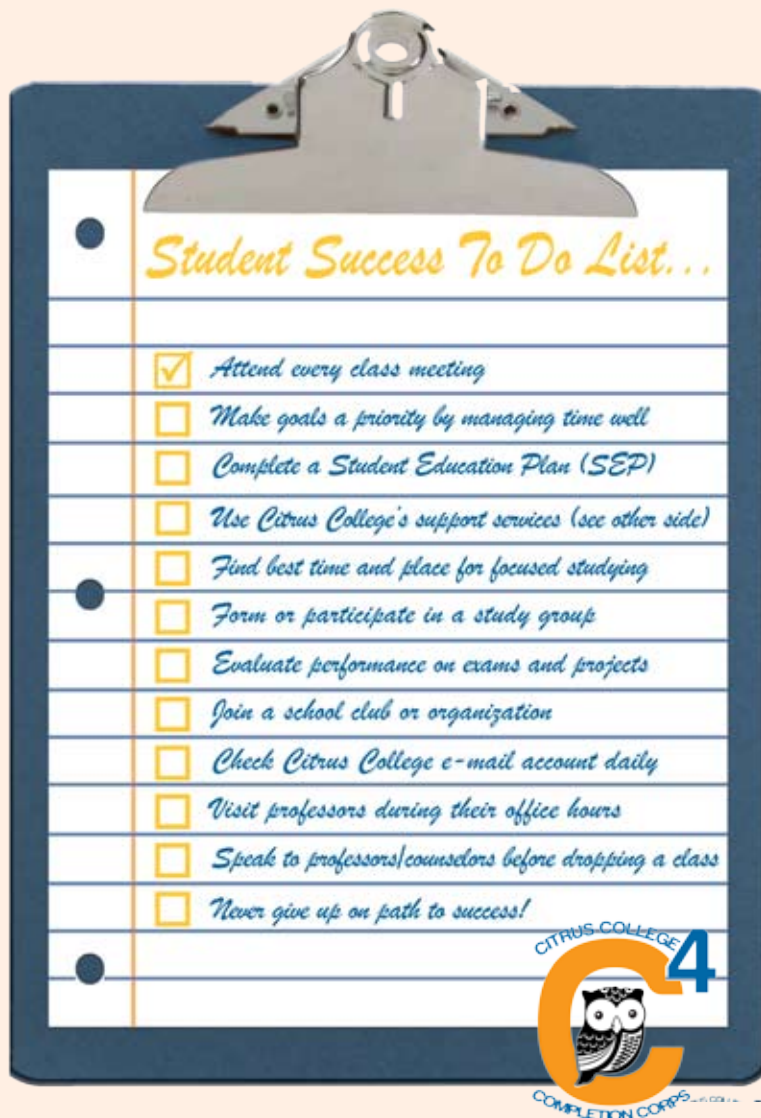
One of CCCC’s first action items was to develop a webpage that provides information about the college’s academic and student support services. A student success checklist, “My Success Depends on My Choices and My Actions,” can be accessed from the webpage, and students can network with peer mentors if they choose to do so.

Both the webpage and the student success checklist are helpful and empowering resources for the students. “Not only does PTK want to encourage study time,” said Lisa Telesca, language arts instructor and PTK

co-advisor, “the students also want to create a culture that empowers them to take control of their education.”

Throughout the academic year, Citrus College will continue to explore and implement strategies that will enable students to achieve their educational goals. Among these strategies will be the college’s efforts to align student completion with the mandates of The Student Success Act of 2012, which was signed into law on September 27, 2012. The purpose of this new legislation is to help more California community college students complete their educational goals through a variety of activities such as orientation, assessment, counseling and advisement—some of the many activities designed to affect student completion and student success at Citrus College positively for years to come.





“The College of Completion campaign enables us to publicly declare our commitment to the academic achievement of our student body and it puts college completion front and center of our priorities.”
 –Dr. Geraldine M. Perri
 Superintendent/President

Faculty & Staff

Providing a Hero's Welcome

Emmy Madrid, a member of the Project Glendora Yellow Ribbon (PGYR) committee is dedicated to welcoming Glendora's military veterans upon their return from active duty.

Madrid, a United States Army veteran and an Army wife, works in the Disabled Students Programs & Services Department at Citrus College. She has been involved in PGYR for 10 years. The organization honors Glendora residents who are currently serving in the Armed Forces through the installation of banners that hang along various lampposts throughout the city.

"When a soldier returns home, the committee removes his or her banner and presents it to them," Madrid said. "I then breathe a huge sigh of relief; it is such a blessing to see families reunited."



Distinguished Faculty



master
teacher

generous
and
hardworking

mentor

Linda (Holly) Colville, Citrus College's 2012 Distinguished Faculty Award recipient, was a Spanish instructor for almost four decades at the high school, community college and university levels. Teaching community college students, however, was her true passion. Colville, who retired in June 2012, served as a full-time faculty member at Citrus College for 21 years, and was an adjunct instructor in the North Orange County Community College District for some 16 years.

Colville earned a reputation for bringing enthusiasm and creativity to the classroom. "Holly genuinely cared for her students and demonstrated that care by preparing lessons that were fresh, engaging, fun and challenging," noted Dr. Samuel Lee, dean of language arts. She benefitted from several Citrus College Foundation grants that enabled her to develop original instructional materials and integrate popular Latin music into her classroom instruction.

Throughout her career at Citrus College, Colville was involved in the college's shared governance system and other professional activities. She served on the Citrus College Academic Senate and the Faculty Development Committee for many years. In addition, Colville was a member of the California Language Teachers Association and the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

Her fundraising efforts on behalf of cancer patients and cancer research enhanced Colville's legacy at Citrus College. She was the founder and captain of the Citrus College Team in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. In the six years the team participated in the Komen event, they raised several thousand dollars to help underinsured breast cancer patients in Los Angeles County and to help fund national research.

Colville, who earned a B.A. and an M.A. in Spanish from UCLA, has traveled extensively. She has visited fourteen countries, primarily in Latin America. These visits resulted in many cultural experiences that she incorporated into her course curriculum.

Reflecting on her career, Colville expressed gratitude to have fulfilled her lifelong career goals. "I can't think of a better way to complete my teaching career than to be honored with this year's Distinguished Faculty Award," she said. "This is truly one of the highlights of my life."

2012 Alumni Achievement Reflect Depth and



by Ariel Carmona Jr.

Citrus College's 97th Commencement ceremony was a historic occasion. Not only did a record number of students graduate; for the first time, three distinguished community members received the college's Alumni Achievement Award. This annual honor is awarded to graduates of Citrus Union High School and/or Citrus College who have achieved success and who personify the college's mission, vision and values. Through their work and volunteer activities, these men and women, who live in the Citrus Community College District, have made their communities better places to live.

Cynthia Cervantes McGuire Educator and Innovator

From childhood, Cynthia Cervantes McGuire's career goal was to be a teacher. After graduating from high school, her dream was almost derailed when she considered working at a cannery on the advice of a counselor who told her she was not college material. The future educator's resolve prevailed, nevertheless, and she achieved her longtime aspiration of entering the education profession.

The Claremont resident received her associate degree from Citrus College in 1973 and was awarded a Ford Foundation scholarship to the University of La Verne (ULV) where she completed her bachelor's degree and teaching credential. On the advice of her college advisor, Cervantes McGuire decided to become a school administrator and earned her master's degree from ULV.

In 1975, Cervantes McGuire joined the Azusa Unified School District (AUSD) as a bilingual teacher at Charles H. Lee Elementary School. She served as principal of Hodge Elementary School and later became principal of Gladstone Elementary. Under her leadership, Gladstone was named a California Distinguished School—the first school in AUSD to earn this honor. It was on this occasion that Ginny Dadaian, community relations manager at Azusa Pacific University, first met Cervantes.

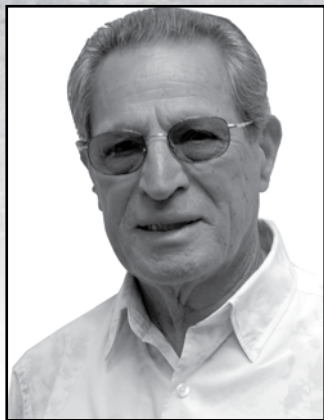


"Cynthia truly dedicated her life to learning," Dadaian said. "She wanted children to strive for greatness and to always believe that they could be anything they wanted. She is a true inspiration!"

Cervantes McGuire became AUSD superintendent in 2005. Under her leadership, AUSD students experienced significant improvements in academic achievement, an accomplishment of which she is the most proud.

The distinguished alumna's honors also include the first AUSD Manager of the Year and the Los Angeles County Bilingual Directors' Association Administrator of the Year. In 2011, she was named Superintendent of the Year by Pepperdine University's Graduate School of Education and Psychology. Cervantes McGuire and her husband, Tom, have three children and two grandchildren.

ment Award Honorees d Commitment



Bobby Pedroza: Youth Leader and Mentor

Bobby Pedroza is known for his love of athletics and his congenial nature, two attributes that have served him well as a youth sports coach and enabled him to mentor the young people in his community.

Born and raised in Azusa, Pedroza graduated from Citrus Union High School in 1952. He was a star athlete who pitched the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Championship baseball game during his senior year and played sports all four years of high school. Pedroza was also a member of the Lettermen's Club, Dance Band and the Glee Club.

After graduating from Citrus College in 1954, Pedroza served in the U.S. Army. He retired from G.I. Trucking Company after 23 years of service. Pedroza has served as a referee for CIF girl's high school softball and CIF boy's high school sports. In addition, he has coached Little League, Pony and Colt League baseball, as well as a basketball team comprised of five and six year-old boys.

Pedroza's high school classmate and friend, Joyce "Tickie" Moline, described him as "a good, all-around coach that kids looked up to," and recalled that he and his wife, Carmen, were very involved in their children's activities. His commitment, demeanor and sense of fairness has earned Pedroza an admirable reputation throughout the community. Today, he is still often referred to as "Coach Pedroza" or simply as "Coach Bobby."

The honored alumnus has maintained a strong bond with the Azusa community through his efforts to help others. Along with eight other men, Pedroza started the "Helping Hands" of Azusa in 1969. Its members raise money from fireworks sales and bingo nights to help Azusa residents in need. He also serves as an usher at Saint Frances of Rome Church in Azusa.

Pedroza, a widower, was married to Carmen for 50 years. Together, they raised three boys and three girls.



Christopher B. Shevlin: Philanthropist and Civic Leader

Chris Shevlin had planned to play basketball during his tenure at Citrus College in the early 70s, but an injury to one of his hands forced him to sit out for a year. When his coaches suggested he try refereeing because he knew the game so well, accident turned into good fortune. The Monrovia resident refereed high school and college basketball for 35 years, an experience that included many years as an NCAA Division I referee. Shevlin also participated in memorable events where he met Larry Bird and Michael Jordan, former NBA players and members of the 1992 Olympics USA "Dream Team."

Shevlin, who is also an account executive at Chicago Title, has earned a stellar reputation for his service to the Monrovia community. He has been a member of the Monrovia Kiwanis for 19 years, earning the organization's Super Distinguished Past President designation in 1999-2000. He has also served as a board member of the Santa Anita Family YMCA (SAFYMCA) since 1996, and was named the organization's 2010 "Humanitarian of the Year." Shevlin earned another accolade when the Foothill Boys and Girls Club presented him and his wife, Becky, with the "For the Love of Youth Award" earlier this year.

A prolific history of volunteerism such as Shevlin's has undoubtedly made an impact in Monrovia and its surrounding communities. "Chris is a tireless advocate for kids in our community and works to ensure that all kids have the opportunity to develop their full potential," said SAFYMCA Executive Director Damon Colaluca. "Our community is a better place because of Chris' philanthropy."

Shevlin graduated from Arroyo High School, in 1970. He attended Citrus College from 1970 through 1972, and then transferred to California State University, Long Beach where he earned his bachelor's degree in 1976. He and Becky have three adult children and one granddaughter.

Students

The “Rocket Owls” Reach New Heights



Since Citrus College received the first of its U.S. Department of Education Title V Hispanic Serving Institution STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) grants in 2008, the college has created a stellar program that will be instrumental in producing the next generation of STEM professionals. Citrus College students majoring in these disciplines have increased by 47%, and the number of STEM associate degrees awarded by the college has more than doubled.

In addition, students are empowered to excel through their participation in a variety of academic programs made available, not only as a result of federal grant funding, but also through the support of the Citrus College Foundation, the Engineering Information Foundation, the Millipart Company of Glendora and other donors.

The college has earned an exemplary reputation for its involvement in three academic programs sponsored by the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA). NASA's National Community Aerospace Scholars program (2010), Microgravity University (2011) and the Advanced Rocketry Workshop in the summer of 2012 have provided once-in-a-lifetime educational experiences to several students.

It was the Advanced Rocketry Workshop in Huntsville, Alabama that prepared six Citrus College students, the Rocket Owls, for its most recent achievement. The students who attended the workshop returned to the college prepared to lead their team in writing a proposal for NASA's University Student Launch Program (SLP), a rocket launch competition that will take place in Huntsville in April 2013. On September 27, NASA informed the students and college officials of their acceptance into the program.

by Paula Green

Citrus College was the only California community college selected for the competition and, along with California Polytechnic University, Pomona and University of California, Davis, one of three California institutions of higher learning that will compete in the SLP program. Other colleges and universities selected include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Northwestern University and Purdue University.

Andrew Ferguson of Azusa, Carey Gunter of Duarte, Yu-Han Chiang of West Covina, Jo Jamison of Glendora, Benjamin Rhodes-Wickett of Claremont and Phoebe Sulzen of San Gabriel form the Rocket Owls team. They are enrolled in upper-level science and mathematics courses and are on track to transfer to four-year colleges and universities in 2013.

Physics instructor Lucia Riderer is the Rocket Owls' advisor. Exhilarated over her students' latest achievement, she described this year's competition as "more fierce," given the colleges and universities that applied to the SLP Program. Last year, there was a 33 percent acceptance rate to the program.

"The fact that the competition was open to colleges and universities at all levels widened the playing field, allowing for more competition," she stated.

The April 2013 competition requires the Rocket Owls to design, build and successfully launch a rocket one mile into the atmosphere, carrying at least one scientific or engineering payload. The students are required to create and maintain a website where all project documentation will be housed; take three exams administered by NASA engineers via teleconference; and raise awareness of STEM education and career opportunities at the K-12 level.

The Rocket Owls' reaction to their achievement was one of excitement mixed with anticipation. Describing the honor as a "new experience," Rhodes-Wickett mentioned the colleges that were selected commenting, "It is an honor to be included in these ranks."

Although Citrus College and Cal Poly will compete against one another next April, the competition promises to be friendly. The two colleges share a mentor, retired K-12 physical science teacher Rick Mascheck. In addition, Citrus and Cal Poly have received a \$10,000 NASA grant for a collaborative project, the High Altitude Balloon Project (HAB).

Chiang and Jamison will represent the Rocket Owls on the HAB Project and the students will design, build and launch a Near Space Balloon with a scientific/engineering load. The HAB Project also calls for outreach to local K-12 schools.

The new NASA opportunity, combined with the existing STEM initiatives, continues to increase student awareness and generate interest.

"I teach 150 physics students each semester, and their interest in our projects is great," said Riderer. "Students often ask how they can become involved in one of the teams."



Lucia Riderer, Visionary Instructor

Physics instructor Lucia Riderer's commitment to exemplary student achievement earned her Citrus College's 2012 Shining Stars Vision Award, one of seven awards granted to faculty, students, staff or members of the community every year.

Riderer was honored for her commitment to the success of women in mathematics, physics, and engineering and her efforts to "provide her students with unique educational experiences." Her willingness to create partnerships with NASA, Cal Poly Pomona, and numerous grant providers have enabled Citrus College students to participate in scientific programs such as the Reduced Gravity Student Flight Program at the Johnson Space Center (the "GraviTeam") and the NASA University Student Launch Program (the "Rocket Owls").

Alumni

Citrus College Alumni Featured in Institutional Video



The opening of "Citrus College" features an early morning view of the Student Services Building.

During the summer of 2012, a group of Citrus College alumni that included a journalist, a marketing specialist, an automotive technician, a fashion photographer, an actor and a college professor participated in a video where they shared their Citrus College experiences and expressed appreciation to faculty and staff for their role in the students' individual achievements.

The seven-minute video, "Citrus College," debuted at Fall Convocation. The project was developed and produced by two Citrus College alumni, Stacy Armstrong and Brian Y. Marsh. Armstrong, a Citrus College publications specialist, was the video's executive producer, and Marsh, an independent filmmaker and Cal Poly Pomona student, was the project's cinematographer, director and editor.

As the production team member responsible for developing the video content and recruiting the participants, Armstrong, a 10-year employee of the college, was moved by the participants' stories.

"Working on this video with this specific group of alumni has been one of the major highlights of my time at Citrus College," Armstrong said. "Each story was inspirational and each participant was eager to express their gratitude to the college and its employees."

Marsh's experience as a Citrus College student echoes that of his video subjects. As a student, Marsh was featured in the college's "My Citrus Story" series, where he credits the college for helping him find "an outlet for my filmmaking ambitions." Marsh went on to film "My Citrus Story" and produce several videos for the college's academic programs.

"Citrus College" can be viewed online at citruscollege.edu; click the "College of Completion" button on the home page.

Citrus College Welcomes Christina Garcia

Christina M. Garcia has joined Citrus College as director of development and alumni relations. She was previously West Coast director of advancement and donor relations for the Haggai Institute, where she was responsible for alumni public relations, fund raising, proposal development and estate planning services.

A Glendora resident, Garcia brings 15 years of advancement and development experience to her new posi-

tion at Citrus College. Her previous positions include director of development for the Fuller Theological Seminary Graduate School of Psychology and director of the Fuller Fund. While at Fuller, Garcia was a member of the development staff that conducted the institution's Leading Change Capital Campaign, raising \$150 million for scholarships, research and faculty endowment. Garcia has also held development positions at Harvey Mudd College,

Brethren Hillcrest Homes and World Vision International. She has a bachelor's degree in liberal studies and a master's degree in clinical psychology from Azusa Pacific University.

In addition to raising funds for the college's scholarships and programs, Garcia's current priority is to raise community awareness of Citrus College's 2012-2013 institutional focus, "Citrus College: A College of Completion."



Christina Garcia
Director of Development and Alumni Relations

Citrus College Alumna



Set to **CHANGE THE WORLD**

Linda Bermudez is determined to make a difference.

"I have witnessed many lives improved by the vision and hard work of a few," the Citrus College alumna says. "I want nothing more than to be part of this type of transformation."

This fall, the Pasadena resident took a major step toward accomplishing her goal by enrolling in the University of Southern California's Price School of Public Policy. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in public administration, with hopes of building a career in civil service.

Completing graduate school will be another in a long line of academic accomplishments of which Bermudez can boast. In 2008, she graduated—with highest honors—from Citrus College, earning an associate degree in behavioral science and receiving the college's Woman of the Year honor. Two years later, she graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

However, when it was time for her to enroll in college, Bermudez knew she could not afford a four-year institution. She chose Citrus College, and it wasn't long before she became fully engaged in the college community.

"I quickly realized that higher education is what you choose to make of it," she said. "I decided I was going to take advantage of the opportunities Citrus College provided."

During her time at Citrus College, Bermudez' activities included enrollment in the Honor's Program, membership in three academic honor societies and participation in the Student Ambassador Program.

Bermudez was also active with the Associated Students of Citrus College (ASCC). Her involvement with student government was highlighted by a year-long tenure as the student trustee on the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees.

"When I first met Linda, I was awestruck by her intense desire to serve students as well as by her intelligence and maturity," said Adrienne Thompson,

student life and leadership supervisor. I look forward to seeing what is next for her."

It was her service as student trustee that had the most impact on Bermudez.

"My time as a member of the Board of Trustees helped me develop leadership abilities that will serve me well in graduate school and beyond," she said. "I had the opportunity to become involved with the Gold Line Expansion Project and the California Community College Initiative. These experiences helped me develop my public speaking skills and powers of persuasion."

At UCLA, Bermudez was a member of the Honors Program, served as a research assistant, participated in the Law Fellows Program and was the secretary of the Undergraduate Journal of Psychology.

Looking ahead to graduate school and her chosen career, Bermudez readily acknowledges Citrus College's role in her success.

"My mind and my world have expanded beyond what I could have ever dreamt was possible. "Citrus College was the catalyst."



by Stacy Armstrong

Foundation

Scholarship Reception Honors Students in Pursuit of Success

The third annual Scholarship Reception, hosted by the Citrus College Foundation and the college's Student Services Division, recognized more than 200 students who received a total of \$100,000 in scholarships and grants. Its theme, "Pursue Your Passion . . . Succeed," not only delivered wise advice to the guests of honor, it also articulated the purpose of the Citrus College Foundation and its donors.

"The Citrus College Foundation exists to support students with scholarships and grants," said Foundation President Tom Gerfen, himself an alumnus and a donor, in his address to the audience. "It exists to ensure that you can pursue your passion and succeed."

The scholarship recipients represent every stage of matriculation at Citrus College. Graduates of Citrus Community College District area high schools and continuation schools have begun their education at the college as Bright Futures Scholarship recipients. Through the generosity of the Associated Students of Citrus College and Citrus College Foundation donors, students received scholarships enabling them to continue and complete their education at the college. Finally, 19 new Citrus College alumni were awarded scholarships that will defray the cost of their education as they transfer to four-year colleges and universities.



Scholarship reception speakers included (left to right) Tom Gerfen, scholarship donor and president of the Citrus College Foundation; Michelle Mockler, Citrus College student and Continuing Student Scholarship recipient; Saul Ugarte, Citrus College alumnus and Transfer Scholarship recipient; Joseph Patito, scholarship donor, Citrus College alumnus and Columbia University student; and Chris Garcia, Citrus College Director of Development and Alumni Relations.

Thank You Donors!

The Citrus College Foundation acknowledges the families, individuals, businesses and organizations that have established scholarships for our students. We appreciate your support of student completion and success.

Melanie Anson
Steven and Judith Anthony
Associated Students of Citrus College
Cleone Black
Jane Braun
Leigh and Rosalinda Buchwald
California Retired Teachers
Association
Stephen Carter
John Cassey
Citrus Alumni and Friends
Association
Citrus College Biology Department
Citrus College Language Arts
Department
Citrus College Faculty Association
Citrus Union High School Class of
1958 In Memory of Paulette Hiller
McCabe
Bonnie and Bob Deering
Linda and David Dittmore
Michael and Emily Fay

Kristine Feldman
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Marilyn Geleris
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Ruben Lopezlopez
Art and Sarah Ludwick
Frank Magliocco
The May Family
The McVey Family
Jerry McCabe
The Meissenburg Family
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Edward Washatka
Jack and Connie Watson
Nancy and Bob Weingartner
Louis Zellers

Citrus College Foundation

Family's Scholarships Empower Student Success



David Ascencio, recipient of the Albert and Georgia Meissenburg Memorial Scholarship, with Al and Kathy Meissenburg.

As Citrus College approaches its Centennial in 2015, alumni and staff have begun to reflect on the many relationships and memories that have been forged during the college's 97-year history. The affinity for the institution, which includes Citrus Union High School, Citrus Junior College and Citrus College, has also produced donations to the Citrus College Foundation that enable students to achieve their educational goals.

Foundation donors include several families who have established scholarships in memory of their loved ones. In 2011, Georgia Thatcher Meissenburg, Citrus Junior College Class of 1936, and her family donated \$10,000 for two new scholarship funds: The Albert and Georgia Meissenburg Memorial Scholarship and the Eleanor Thatcher Memorial Scholarship. The Albert and Georgia Meissenburg Memorial Scholarship, is named after Mrs. Meissenburg and her late husband, Albert, who also attended Citrus Junior College during the 1930s. The Eleanor Thatcher Memorial Scholarship was established in honor of Mrs. Meissenburg's sister, Georgia Thatcher, Citrus Junior College Class of 1938. Both scholarships have been funded in perpetuity, thanks to an additional donation from the Meissenburg family.

Last summer, both the college and alumni communities mourned the passing of Georgia Thatcher Meissenburg. It was particularly poignant to discover that Georgia was born on June 11, 1915—one week after the Citrus Union High School Board voted to establish Citrus Junior College. Her connections to the college—her birthday, her tenure as a student and her legacy—will inspire and influence future students, alumni and donors.

David Ascencio of Covina is such a student. Ascencio received the Albert and Georgia Meissenburg Memorial

Scholarship at Citrus College's third annual Scholarship Reception in August 2012. In his thank you letter to Mike Meissenburg, former Citrus College faculty member and son of Albert and Georgia Meissenburg, Ascencio expressed his gratitude.

"I appreciate that you took interest in my completing my studies and in helping me pay for school," he wrote. Ascencio plans to transfer to Cal Poly Pomona.

Today, the scholarships made possible by the Meissenburg family are granted to Citrus College students who are graduates of Monrovia or El Monte high schools, Georgia's and Al's alma maters. These awards assist new and continuing students as they strive to complete their education at Citrus College and pursue their goals of transferring to a four-year college or entering the workforce. This is also the aspiration of Benjamin Rhodes-Wickett.

Rhodes-Wickett was the 2012 recipient of the Eleanor Thatcher Memorial Scholarship, and he will complete his last year at Citrus College in 2013. He plans to transfer to a four-year college or university as a mechanical engineering major.

"I am honored to be a recipient of the Eleanor Thatcher Memorial Scholarship," Rhodes-Wickett wrote. "It shows that I am on the right path and doing the right thing."

Athletics

“Scholar-Baller was part of my motivation to get better grades.”
—Yvonne Sanchez



In the spring of 2007, Citrus College Dean of Kinesiology, Health and Athletics Jody Wise and Athletics Counselor Alicia Longyear attended a presentation on Scholar-Baller®, an academic achievement program for student-athletes, at the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCCAA) Spring Conference. Shortly thereafter, Citrus College joined the nearly 100 community colleges and four-year institutions nationwide that utilize Scholar-Baller to help their student-athletes succeed in the classroom.

Scholar-Baller provides a curriculum that enables coaches, counselors and athletics staff to, according to the organization’s mission statement, “inspire youth and young adults to develop leadership skills and to excel in education and life by using their cultural interests in sports and entertainment.”

“We needed a way to promote academics to our athletes because keeping up with their studies is the only way they are going to move on,” Wise recalled. “Scholar-Baller stresses the important things about being a college student such as attendance, note taking and studying. It helps our students become more aware that we care about academics, and it’s a way for our department to stress that success in the classroom is important.”

Longyear also recognized the benefits of Scholar-Baller. “We adopted the program because the curriculum is very impressive and I knew it would resonate with our athletes,” she said. “At the time, we didn’t have anything that focused on academics, and the program provided a good opportunity.” The college is one of only four CCCCCAA colleges that fully participate in the program.

Recognition and reward are important components of the program. Athletes who maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better receive a t-shirt and a “ThinkMan®” or “ThinkWoman®” patch that is worn on their uniforms throughout the competitive season.

In 2007, Citrus College recognized 15 student-athletes from the fall sports season as its first Scholar-Baller class. “We’ve always had a large number of student-athletes, but that first year our actual number of Scholar-Ballers was pretty small,” Longyear said. “Since then, watching their numbers grow has been awesome. The program is a real motivating factor for our athletes.”

Indeed, the number of Owls who are Scholar-Ballers has increased significantly, with a record number—73—earning their patches during the 2011–2012 season. These scholar-athletes were presented

during the interlude between the women’s and men’s basketball games in winter 2012, a ceremony that has become a Citrus College tradition. In attendance were well-wishers that included Superintendent/President Perri, Board of Trustees members, administrators and faculty—in addition to family members and friends.

The Scholar-Baller program at Citrus College plays an important role in keeping athletes focused in the classroom, as well as the playing venues. Despite the stereotype that compares the analogies of academics and athletics to oil and water, the college’s experience has been more positive.

“The program is more meaningful to the athletes than one would tend to believe. They do care about it,” Wise commented. “It’s helped push some of our students to work a little harder in the classroom.”

Longyear agreed. “In the beginning, I wondered if there would be a stigma attached to those athletes who were Scholar-Ballers, but that hasn’t been the case at all,” she noted. “I see our athletes wearing their shirts all the time, and they seem genuinely excited when they receive the honor.”

One of the program’s best success stories is that of women’s basketball player Yvonne Sanchez. After her first year of competition in 2009–2010, Sanchez was declared academically ineligible and was forced to sit out the following season. She chose to use her circumstance as a learning tool and hunkered down on her efforts in the classroom.

Scholar-Athletes

Win in the Classroom

by Andrew Wheeler

After raising her GPA to become eligible, Sanchez's grades continued to improve and she became a Scholar-Baller during her sophomore season in 2011-2012. In fall 2012, she transferred to Dominican University on an athlete and academic scholarship.

"I was always considered a bad student," Sanchez recalled. "Scholar-Baller was part of my motivation to get better grades. It gave me an opportunity to prove that I can be a good student and that I can get things done in the classroom and on the court."

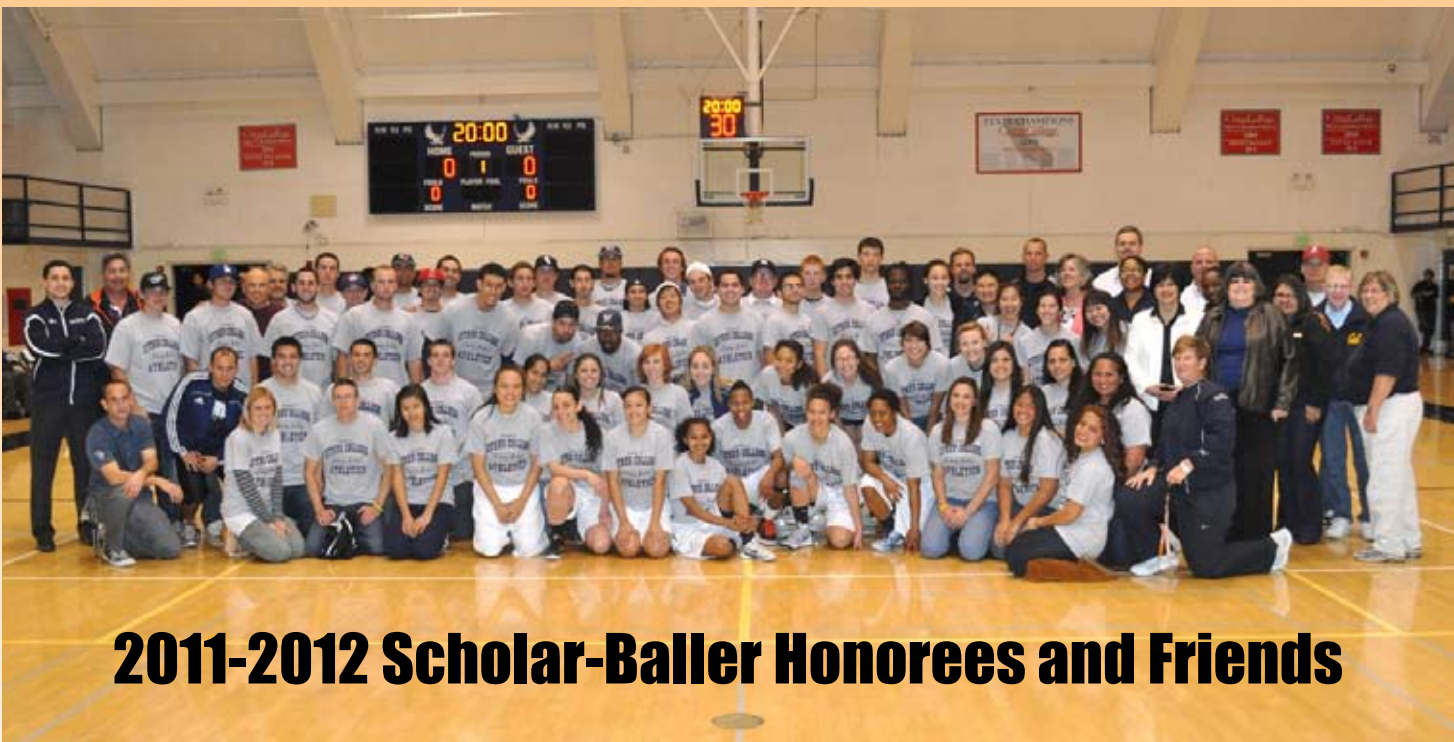
The Scholar-Baller program has become a source of pride for the Owls because it underscores the fact that many student-athletes attend Citrus College to do more than play a sport.

"The athletes are proud to be associated with a nationwide program, one in which many NCAA Division I schools participate," Wise said. "One can turn on the TV and see the athletes competing while wearing their Scholar-Baller patches."

"Scholar-Baller has been a great recruiting tool for our athletics program," Longyear said. "It helps set us apart from other community colleges, and it shows that we care about our students moving on to their next accomplishments."



Athletics Counselor Alicia Longyear (center) assists student athletes Gabi Debia (women's water polo) and Tariq Holloway (football).



2011-2012 Scholar-Baller Honorees and Friends

Campus

Students Recognized for Stellar Achievements



Thania Lucero and Saul Ugarte were honored as Citrus College's Woman of the Year and Man of the Year during the college's annual Achievement Awards banquet and program. The recipients of Citrus College's most prestigious student honors were chosen—based on their grades, academic achievements and extra-curricular activities—by a collegewide committee. Lucero, whose college activities included Associated Students of Citrus College (ASCC) senator, entered UCLA in fall 2012 as a political science major. She plans to become a political science instructor. Ugarte, a United States Navy veteran and former president of the Veterans Network, attends Cal Poly Pomona as a general engineering technology major. He plans to establish a career in the production and manufacturing sector.

Class of 2012



96th Commencement Makes College History

At its 96th Commencement, Citrus College conferred 1,332 associate degrees—the highest number in college history. Forty-two graduates were among the first community college students in California to earn an Associate in Arts for Transfer (AA-T) or an Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T) degree that guarantees them junior status at a California State University. The Class of 2012 also included 28 military veterans and 258 students graduating with honors.

Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri expressed confidence in the graduates' ability to face life's challenges and prevail. "We are confident that you will stay inspired, work hard and, ultimately, achieve success," she stated.



Student Services Administrators Provide New Leadership



Dr. Arvid Spor

Dr. Arvid Spor is Citrus College's new vice president of student services. Spor served as the dean of enrollment services at El Camino College where he was responsible for student discipline and grievances, outreach and school relations, assessment and testing, financial aid, student development, first year experience/learning communities, job placement and foster care.



Dr. Gerald Sequeira

Dr. Gerald Sequeira was appointed dean of admissions and records at Citrus College. Sequeira was previously the admissions and financial aid director at El Camino College Compton Center. He also managed the operations of the Admissions and Records Office and the Assessment Center, and he was the registrar for the former Compton College.



Carol Thomas

Carol Thomas comes to Citrus College from Folsom Lake College, where she served as financial aid supervisor. She also held responsible positions in the areas of student services and financial aid at American River College, San Joaquin Delta College and Consumes River College.

College Honored for Sustainability Efforts



Pictured from left to right, Former Board of Governors President Scott Himelstein, Former Chancellor Jack Scott, Citrus Community College District Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Citrus Community College District Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services Carol R. Horton; Matt Sullivan, professional engineer with Newcomb Anderson McCormick and Board of Governors Member Henry Ramos.

Citrus College received the inaugural California Community Colleges Board of Governors Energy & Sustainability District Leadership Award for the sustainability template it created, which provides a plan allowing the state's 112 community colleges to move toward more environmentally friendly colleges, while also addressing the greenhouse mandates under the California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32). This year, the college also received the Leadership Award for Energy at the Green Community Colleges Summit, as well as honors from the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce.





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Walter Galvez

"I came to Citrus College with very little knowledge of what I wanted to do with my life. It is hard to believe that somebody who had a high school GPA that was under 2.0 would serve as a leader in both the Honor Society and the Associated Students of Citrus College, ultimately graduating with a 3.49 GPA. My goal is to receive a bachelor's degree, enter the workforce, and then earn a master's degree in the future.

At Citrus College, I loved the welcoming attitude I received from the faculty and staff. They gave me the impression that they liked helping the students. I truly feel that the college is one of a kind. Thank you!"



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