

CITRUS

COLLEGE MAGAZINE



A Conversation with
Grammy Award Winner

Melissa Manchester

Women's Water Polo

Enjoys a Season for the Ages

Study Abroad Program

THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

SPRING 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT

The Student Experience



GERALDINE M. PERRI, PH.D.
SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT

A Citrus College education delivers more than academic knowledge and professional growth, a fact highlighted in this spring 2018 issue of the Citrus College Magazine.

Sharing Citrus College's many awards and recognitions is one of my favorite activities as superintendent/president. These successes are a steady source of inspiration, as well as an affirmation of the college community's dedication and hard work. However, our status as an award-winning institution is not what graduates remember when their time at Citrus College ends. Instead, it is the life-changing experiences both in and out of the classroom.

When most individuals enroll in a college course, their primary expectation is that they will gain information about a specific subject. And while this is definitely true at Citrus College, our students often find that their studies result in much more than

book knowledge. Critical thinking skills, workforce readiness, cultural awareness and professional direction are all outcomes of a Citrus College education. Students may enroll with the sole intention of earning a degree or certificate, but they graduate with a newfound sense of purpose.

The student experience at Citrus College is transformative, a fact reflected in this publication. Whether it is through innovative programs, such as Early Decision, I Will Complete College and the Summer Research Experience; the extraordinary adventure of studying abroad; or the amazing prospect of working with a Grammy award-winning artist; our students receive unique opportunities that provide them with invaluable hands-on learning and real-world knowledge.

In this magazine, you will read several stories of lives that have been changed by Citrus College. While our first priority is to increase student success and college completion, the college seeks to do more than prepare students to enter the workforce or pursue advanced education. Our hope is that we also prepare our graduates to live meaningful lives.

From our dedicated governing board to our enthusiastic faculty and staff, the entire college community is committed to fostering personal and professional development. Much like the accolades and honors we receive, Citrus College's many stories of student achievement inspire us to continue doing all we can to help turn academic dreams into realities.

It has been said that experience is the best teacher. For this reason, I am proud to say that the Citrus College student experience is unmatched. ●

“STUDENTS MAY ENROLL WITH THE SOLE INTENTION OF EARNING A DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE, BUT THEY GRADUATE WITH A NEWFOUND SENSE OF PURPOSE.”

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ON THE COVER: political science major Kurtis Fabela standing in front of the Student Services Building. Kurtis enrolled in fall 2016 and is planning to transfer to the University of California after graduating in June 2018.

CitrusCollege MAGAZINE

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SPRING 2018 | The Student Experience

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ACCOLADES

First in the Nation

Citrus College is #1 in the nation for awarding associate degrees in multidisciplinary studies to Hispanic students, and #2 for awarding associate degrees in social sciences to all minorities.

Diverse: Issues in Higher Education, 2017



Champion for Higher Education

Citrus College is a "Champion for Higher Education" for awarding a high number of associate degrees for transfer (ADT). The college was ranked 5th in California for ADT production, and 2nd out of 114 community colleges for the number of ADTs conferred relative to enrollment size.

Campaign for College Opportunity, 2016 and 2017



Aspen Prize for Excellence

For the third consecutive time (2015, 2017 and 2019), Citrus College is one of the Top 150 community colleges in the country, making it a nominee for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, America's premier recognition of achievement and performance.

Aspen Institute, 2017



Top Producer of Degrees for Minorities

Citrus College is a Top 50 producer of associate degrees for minorities for a decade (2007 to 2016).

Community College Week, 2016



Quality and Affordability

Citrus College is one of the best community colleges in California for academic quality and affordability.

BestColleges.com, 2017



Citrus College's mission can be encompassed in four words: "student success and completion." Whatever the student's goal — certificate, associate degree, transfer or career advancement — Citrus College is a catalyst for achievement. Faculty and staff work collaboratively to ensure that our curriculum is constantly evolving, and that the host of support services offered creates a culture of academic excellence. Our unwavering commitment to student success is a shining example in Southern California and the nation. We've earned acknowledgments for outstanding faculty and staff, student support services, community involvement, diversity, alumni earnings, and environmental sustainability. Discover why Citrus College is recognized as a leader in higher education and the region's favorite community college. ●

Five-Star Chapter

The Phi Theta Kappa international honor society named the Beta Nu Eta Chapter at Citrus College a Five-Star Chapter, earning it a Top 100 designation in the United States.

Phi Theta Kappa, 2016



Military Friendly

Citrus College is a Military Friendly School for the eighth consecutive year (2011 to 2018) — earning a Top Ten honor in 2018 — for its commitment to embracing military students by providing them with the resources needed to ensure success.

Victory Media, publisher of "G.I. Jobs," "STEM Jobs" and "Military Spouse" magazines, 2017



Favorite College

Citrus College is recognized as the region's "Favorite Community College" and "Favorite Career College" by readers of the "San Gabriel Valley Tribune," the "Pasadena Star-News" and the "Whittier Daily News."

Southern California News Group, 2017



Best College

Citrus College voted the region's "Best Community College" by Beacon Media's multimedia audience, winning "Gold" in the community college category.

Beacon Media, 2017



LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

BY STACY ARMSTRONG

The nation's community colleges are viewed as gateways to educational enrichment and professional opportunity. At the heart of these vital institutions and their continued success is effective leadership. Community college governing boards serve multiple constituencies while establishing institutional vision, providing oversight and inspiring excellence.

At Citrus College, the board of trustees and superintendent/president work diligently and in concert to create an environment in which personal and professional achievement is fostered. In recent months, their efforts to increase student success and college completion rates, while representing the college and its interests in the community, have taken many forms: hosting events on campus, communicating with policy makers and advancing innovative strategies to improve access, to highlight just a few.

Groundbreaking Ceremony

The next phase of the Metro Gold Line will take the line east from the APU/Citrus College station to Montclair, making Citrus College even more accessible for tens of thousands of potential students. To celebrate, the college hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority on Dec. 2. Dignitaries, community members and college personnel joined Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president of Citrus College, and the board of trustees in celebrating the groundbreaking. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti was also in attendance. For Citrus College, the event was especially significant because of the college's longstanding support of the light rail extension. "It was an honor for Citrus College to be chosen to host the groundbreaking ceremony," says Trustee Edward C. Ortell. "For more than a decade, the entire college community has been actively advocating for the Gold Line as a means to improve access to higher education. This important project will be vital to thousands of students across the San Gabriel Valley and beyond." The project is anticipated to be completed in 2026.



Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority CEO Habib F. Balian join Citrus College Superintendent/President Perri and the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees to celebrate the groundbreaking of the 12.3-mile Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension.



Superintendent/President Perri and the members of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees cut the ribbon during a ceremony celebrating the renovation of Hayden Hall. Pictured (L-R): Trustee Keith, Student Trustee Yachi Rivas, Trustee Rasmussen, Trustee Dickerson, Superintendent/President Perri, Trustee Montgomery and Trustee Ortell.

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Members of the college community joined civic leaders at a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by Citrus College to commemorate the completed renovation of Hayden Hall. The grand re-opening of the oldest structure on campus was held on Oct. 3 and included remarks from Superintendent/President Perri, Trustee Barbara R. Dickerson, and Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services Claudette E. Dain. Renovation of the 82-year-old building began in August 2016 and cost \$2.3 million. Partially funded by Measure G, the 4,615-square-foot building now serves as an "athenaeum," a place of collaborative inquiry, discussion and learning. The building also includes office space for the Academic Senate and the Citrus College Faculty Association. "The newly renovated Hayden Hall is one more example of Measure G dollars at work, and I express my sincere appreciation to our communities for supporting this important initiative," says Trustee Dickerson. "It is difficult to imagine what the Citrus College campus would look like today without the funding provided by this bond measure."



Legislative Visits

Two of Citrus College's most recently elected officials visited the campus during the fall 2017 semester. Assemblymember Blanca E. Rubio (AD 48) and State Senator Anthony Portantino (SD 25) toured the campus and learned more about the college's innovative programs and services. Assemblymember Rubio's Sept. 22 visit was her first to Citrus College. In addition to touring the nursing, dental assisting and biotechnology labs, Assemblymember Rubio also had lunch with the college's board members, Superintendent/President Perri and other college leaders. At the conclusion of her visit, Assemblymember Rubio says she was impressed by the campus and was already planning a return visit.

Two weeks later, Senator Portantino visited Citrus College. Although this wasn't his first trip to the campus, it was his first as a state senator. He enjoyed touring the labs, as well as the Veterans Success Center. During lunch with the Citrus College delegation, Senator Portantino discussed some of his successful bills from the last legislative session, as well as bills he intends to bring back next year. He also expressed his interest in presenting legislation that will benefit the college and its students in the future. "These campus visits are important because they provide our elected officials with first-hand experiences and information that would be impossible to relay to them through other means," says Trustee Susan M. Keith.



Pictured (L-R): Superintendent/President Perri, Trustee Keith, Trustee Dickerson, State Senator Portantino, Trustee Ortell and Trustee Montgomery.



Top row (L-R): Trustee Rasmussen and Trustee Montgomery. Bottom row (L-R): Superintendent/President Perri, Assemblymember Rubio, Trustee Dickerson and Trustee Ortell.

College Trustees Recognized for Community Service

While the dedicated service of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees has enriched the college in innumerable ways, their impact extends far beyond the 104-acre campus and its students. Recently, three board members were honored for the many contributions they have made to their communities.

In September, Trustee Patricia A. Rasmussen was recognized as a "Community Hero" during Glendora Day at the Los Angeles County Fair. She was selected for the honor because of her decades of service and many valuable contributions to Glendora.

Trustee Joanne Montgomery was also recently honored for serving her community. During its annual awards ceremony in March, the California Teachers Association presented Trustee Montgomery with a service award for positively supporting education in Monrovia.



Trustee Rasmussen, Trustee Montgomery and Trustee Keith (L-R) were recently honored for their extensive service to the community.

And, in early 2017, Trustee Susan M. Keith was presented with the Ruth Ordway Award by the League of Women Voters of the Claremont Area. The award, named for the League's founder, is presented to individuals who have gone above and beyond in giving back to Claremont.



Two members of the Valley Veterans Memorial Team participate in a flag-folding ceremony at the 2017 Saluting Our Veterans event at Citrus College.

Veterans Celebration

In recognition of the contributions made by the men and women who have served in the United States armed forces, Citrus College hosted the 12th annual Saluting Our Veterans ceremony on Nov. 8. One of the college's most anticipated events, Saluting Our Veterans is sponsored by Citrus College, Azusa Pacific University (APU), and the cities of Azusa and Glendora. This year's festivities included a musical prelude by the Gladstone High School marching band and an honor guard salute. U.S. Army veteran Celia Alvarado and U.S. Marine Corps veteran Martin Hernandez Barajas, both Citrus College alumni, served as keynote speakers. In addition, Dr. Martha McDonald, vice president of student services at Citrus College and a Marine, introduced the four veteran honorees: U.S. Army Capt. Christopher R. Abalo, Glendora's honoree; U.S. Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Edward Alvarez, Azusa's honoree; U.S. Navy Seaman Walter Seegers, Citrus College's honoree; and U.S. Navy Capt. Janet E. Wessels, APU's honoree. Trustee Rasmussen joined Superintendent/President Perri and members of the board in recognizing local veterans: "Saluting Our Veterans provides our communities with the opportunity to thank those who protect our national freedoms," Trustee Rasmussen says. "This popular event is an excellent complement to our nationally recognized veterans' program, and I am proud that Citrus College had the opportunity to host it once again."

Multiple Measures Assessment

During the spring 2017 semester, Citrus College launched a pilot program that uses multiple measures to determine which college courses Early Decision students from each of the college's K-12 feeder schools should be placed in. The Accuplacer testing system, overall high school GPA and the highest math class a student completed in high school were all used to place these students in classes for the summer and fall. Highlights of this program were presented during the annual K-14 Education Forum hosted by Citrus College in April 2017. Ken Sorey, senior executive vice president of the Educational Results Partnership and an expert on California's Multiple Measures Assessment Project (MMAP), was the keynote speaker, and Dr. Lucinda Over, dean of counseling at Citrus College, also provided information. The pilot program and K-14 Education Forum have laid the groundwork for the college-wide implementation of multiple measures assessment at Citrus College. "I appreciate the work that Citrus College's Student Services Division has been doing to develop a plan for using multiple measure assessment when placing new students in their classes," says Trustee Joanne Montgomery. "I am confident that implementing this new assessment protocol will ultimately enable Citrus College students to reach their academic goals sooner." ●



Forum presenters joined members of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees and Superintendent/President Perri at the K-14 Education Forum in April 2017. Back row (L-R): Superintendent/President Perri, Mr. Sorey, Dr. Over and Trustee Ortell. Front row (L-R): Trustee Montgomery, Trustee Dickerson and Trustee Rasmussen.

THE METRO GOLD LINE “BRAIN TRAIN”

A Photo Tour

BY MARILYN GRINSDALE AND ANTHONY ORONA

Each year, Citrus College draws tens of thousands of students and visitors to its campus from foothill communities along the San Gabriel Valley, as well as other cities within Los Angeles County.

Students are attracted to the college by its award-winning programs that lead to degrees and certificates, transfers to four-year colleges and universities, and exciting careers. Visitors come to the college to attend cultural, athletic and community events at a variety of venues.

Based on the belief that convenient and accessible light-rail transportation would provide a gateway to opportunity for students and community members served by the institution, Citrus College has advocated for the Metro Gold Line for more than a decade.

With the opening of the APU/Citrus College station in September 2015, students from Glendora to downtown Los Angeles have enjoyed greater access to academic opportunities. This past December, Citrus College had the honor of hosting the Gold Line Foothill Extension Groundbreaking Ceremony, a celebration that marked the beginning of the rail line’s extension to Montclair. One day, students who have earned their associate degree at Citrus College will travel just a short distance from the APU/Citrus College station to the La Verne, Pomona or Claremont stations to attend the transfer institution of their dreams.

If you have not yet traveled on the Metro Gold Line, we invite you to join us on a photo tour in the pages ahead. As you take in the sights, we hope you’ll imagine yourself as a Citrus College student with a world of opportunity before you.

Enjoy the ride! ●



Union Station, the starting point of theatre arts major Evelyn’s ride east on the Gold Line.



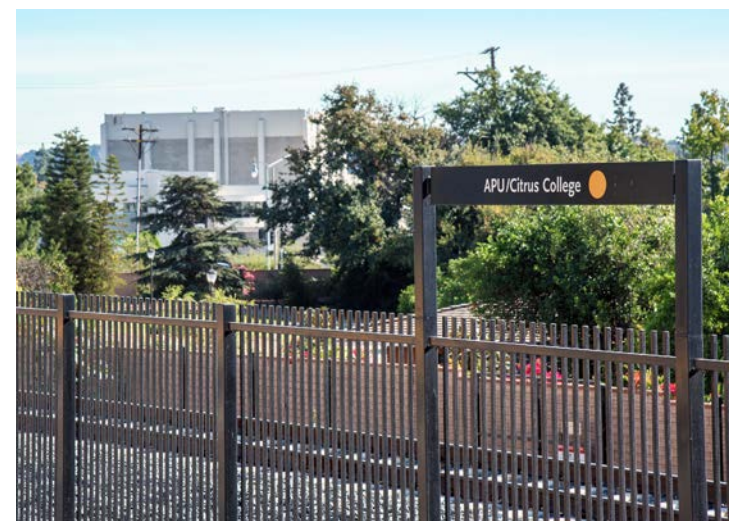
Evelyn Urias, a theatre arts major, tours the Metro Gold Line from Union Station in downtown Los Angeles to the new APU/Citrus College station. As with many Citrus College students, Evelyn fully supports the light rail’s planned extension to Montclair, which would give her easy access to additional educational, cultural and recreational opportunities.





ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena

Evelyn at the Memorial Park station



Evelyn studying for her next big role



Mabel Shaw Bridges Music Auditorium at Pomona College

Garrison Theater at Scripps College





HUNGRY FOR GOOD

A Conversation with
Grammy Award-Winning
Singer-Songwriter Melissa Manchester

By Anthony Orona

Over the past two decades, artist-in-residence programs have grown in popularity at colleges and universities across the country. Designed to allow individual artists the space and resources to reflect, refresh and create, these programs can also create new excitement at an institution. As the artist imagines and produces, members of the college community are inspired to pursue their own creative ambitions.

Grammy award-winning vocalist Melissa Manchester has enjoyed the title of honorary artist-in-residence at Citrus College since 2012. In 2014, she recorded and produced her first album in over

a decade, "You Gotta Love the Life," at the college's acclaimed recording studios. The illustrious singer has since followed with a new album, "The Fellas," featuring Citrus College student musicians. First receiving international attention with the hit single, "Midnight Blue," which peaked at number six on Billboard's Hot 100, Melissa Manchester was nominated for two Academy Awards (both for best song) and a Grammy in 1979. Three years later, she won the Grammy for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance for "You Should Hear How She Talks About You." Ms. Manchester has penned more than a dozen hit singles and has released 21 studio albums over



Manchester won a Grammy for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance in 1983.



Manchester performing with the Citrus College Blue Note Orchestra.

a career that has spanned five decades.

We recently had the opportunity to chat with Ms. Manchester about her new album and involvement with Citrus College.

Citrus College: As a Grammy award-winning artist and adjunct professor at the University of Southern California, it seems like you would be the perfect fit as any college's artist-in-residence. Please tell us the story behind your becoming the artist-in-residence at Citrus College.

Melissa Manchester: I was invited by Ben Bollinger, who created the music department. My manager's husband, Chris Holder, was a Citrus Singer. Ben had asked Chris and my manager who they thought could perhaps add a bit of luster to the department. When they offered my name, Ben got very excited and invited me to accept the honor.

I wasn't sure what requirements were associated with this position. I did an initial concert here and featured some of the Citrus Singers. Then I went about my

business and the college went about theirs, and we didn't think about it much.

Then, when the impulse to create "You Gotta Love the Life" came, we were given free rein in the college's magnificent studio. Afterward, I was invited to perform in Hawaii with the students. I loved it, and after my third year (of performing in Hawaii), I went to lunch with the dean, Bob Slack, and he asked, "Can you think of any project that can incorporate our student musicians?" I said, "Yes! I've been trying to do this since 1989. It's called, 'The Fellas!'"

CC: You released "Tribute" in 1989 to honor the female singers who inspired you. How did it feel after 25 years, finally being able to honor the male singers and complete the concept with "The Fellas"?

MM: Oh, my word. I'm surprised you didn't hear me screaming! I always knew that when I created the original album in 1989 that I would follow it up with "The Fellas." I just couldn't figure how to get it done. I told Bob Slack about



Photo by Daniel Escamilla

Pictured (L-R): Barry Manilow, Melissa Manchester and retired Dean of Visual and Performing Arts Bob Slack during the recording of "The Fellas."

my idea, and it was done — over an hour lunch.

CC: Why did you select "Ain't That a Kick in the Head?" to open the album?

MM: "Ain't That a Kick in the Head?" was written in a time when singers of excellence had writers of excellence write excellent songs for their unique voices. Each song (on "The Fellas") honors a specific artist. I thought, for Dean Martin, that was the one. "Ain't That a Kick in the Head?" was written for the original "Oceans 11," and Dean Martin sang the song in the

film with a jazz quintet. It's such a cheeky lyric, and it swings so hard. And the fact that David Callan, a Citrus College alum, did the arrangement and really understands the genre and has this *spectacular* sense of what horns can do combined to make this a good opening track.

CC: How challenging was it to limit the list of male vocalists who inspired you throughout your career to just eight for the album?

MM: This was the music of my childhood. This is what was played on the local radio station when I



“On my last album ... I would bring in Stevie Wonder or Al Jarreau or Dionne Warwick. There were engineering students quietly watching Al Jarreau be Al Jarreau, or Stevie Wonder be Stevie Wonder.”

grew up in the Bronx and Manhattan; what was playing while we all sat around the dinner table. So, I really had to think, who had an impeccable voice? Who had impeccable taste in terms of songs that either they had chosen or were chosen for them? It was a little bit of jigsaw puzzle. I had to put aside some people who were fantastic, but who were sort of secondary to these voices — the voices that really stood alone, and will stand the test of time.

CC: Which modern artist would you say is the current Melissa Manchester?

MM: I think Pink is a fantastic singer. She's so fierce and fills her space with her vision. Her songs come from such strength. And, I did hear her on one of the awards shows, maybe it was the Academy Awards, where she sang a standard and it was just fantastic. So, I think she has it in her to sing anything she wants.

Editor's note: coincidentally, two days after this interview, Pink stated in an interview with Andy Cohen that "Don't Cry Out Loud" by Melissa Manchester was her favorite song to perform. Apparently, the affinity goes both ways.

CC: Tell us about the experience of recording your album at Citrus College?

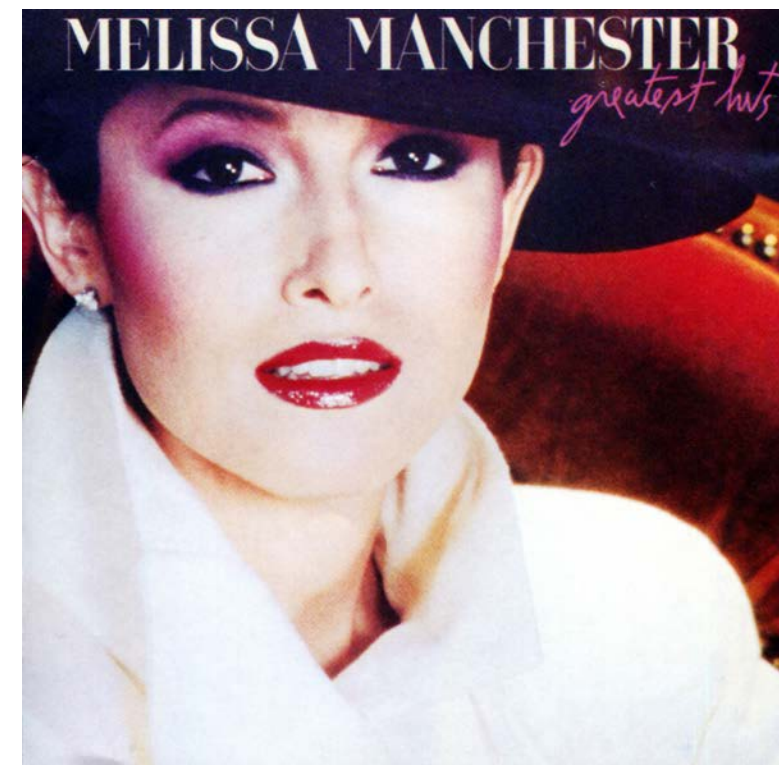
MM: It was fantastic! We recorded eight tracks in one day — I've never recorded eight tracks in one day. Everyone was there. The students sitting next to the alums sitting next the professors. They filled the room. The conductor was in the center. There was a great big horseshoe. Over there was the drummer. Over here was the percussionist. It was thrilling. There were different arrangers for each song. Bob Slack would say, "Next," and one would go off and someone else would come up.

CC: It sounds as though you enjoyed the student involvement.

MM: The consistent thrill for me about Citrus College is that this gorgeous studio is also a teaching studio. On my last album, for instance, I would bring in Stevie Wonder or Al Jarreau or Dionne Warwick. There were engineering students quietly watching Al Jarreau be Al Jarreau, or Stevie Wonder be Stevie Wonder. The engineer, Tim Jaquette, is the college's Recording Arts Supervisor. And he's in there talking with students while we're out there making music. I've never seen something like that. You know, a studio is a studio. But



Photo by Jacqueline Torres



the back and forth with college staff and musicians and students was something to behold.

CC: It sounds almost groundbreaking.

MM: I think it's absolutely groundbreaking. I brought in Barry Manilow for "The Fellas" for the only duet on the album. I had been trying to explain to him what goes on here for a very long time, but he's busy in his head and only hears what he can hear. I said, "Just come, just come." And he finally came. He stood at the entryway, and he heard the kids singing and rehearsing and he saw all the tumult — and he just lit up because music education virtually saved his life. So when he heard what it costs to go here and what it takes to get in here — that it's really just an open place for anybody who wants to be a part of this — he was blown away.

CC: For students wanting to break into the music industry, would you say it's a dream come true?

MM: It *is* a dream come true. When Stevie Wonder was here for my last album, "You Gotta Love the Life," it was during spring break, so hardly anybody was here except for a handful of students who had to rehearse. So, when Stevie came to play harmonica for the song, he came with his posse: his publicist, his makeup person, his driver, his nutritionist. It was a crowd. And when it was over, he went to the restroom, and everyone was waiting for him in the hallway thinking

they were about to leave. Stevie Wonder comes out and hears the students rehearsing. *Stevie Wonder* starts running down the hall to the rehearsal room. We're following the blind guy! It was unbelievable. Then he stood at the threshold of the rehearsal room where they were rehearsing some piece. One of the girl singers saw him, stopped the rehearsal and asked if he would like to sing with them. He asked, "What do you got?" And the girl said, "We've been practicing 'Superstition.'" He went to the center of the room and sang and sang. And all the professors were against the wall, watching and crying. We were all crying.

CC: This sounds like something from a movie.

MM: Thank you. I tell some of these stories on stage because I'm such a believer and a product of alternative public education — I went to a high school for performing arts. For students to feel the energy of this studio ... this is a national secret. When I bring other professionals here, it blows their mind. It's very close to the sound and spirit of the Columbia A Studios in Hollywood where Sinatra and Nat King Cole and so many others recorded their work.

CC: From 1994 to 2013, you didn't make an album. And then you recorded "You Gotta Love the Life" here, at the college. Did this environment help inspire you?

MM: It's like a miracle fell into my lap. This is such an extraordinary gift. I would love to give back more — to teach and offer my journey. I want to give more to the students.

CC: Have you noticed anything special about our students, having worked with them for years now? Are there any qualities that set them apart?

MM: They are really hungry. Hungry for good. I have not met a single Citrus student who is not appreciative of where they are. I see it on their faces. When they play with me, I ask them to play big band stuff, hard swing stuff, really long melodic lines that support long lyrical lines. This is not the genre of today's pop songs. So, when they're finished blowing or plucking or stringing or whatever, their eyes are so bugged out because they are now part of a larger adventure. Unless someone was playing this in their home, this is brand new and so beautiful.

I noticed this from the first time I played with them in Hawaii. They have passion for their music and their instruments or their voices, and they want to learn. That's the most important thing. It took me seven years of performing and writing music to get a record contract. You need passion.

CC: Isn't that true education? Being inspired and stretched to new capacity?

MM: Absolutely. You should have seen the students' faces as they watched Al Jarreau, with his showmanship, the scatting, everything that made him unique. They were witnessing something most people will never get to see. They saw the passion that it takes to succeed.

CC: So even legends like Al Jarreau, after all their success, still practice and rehearse?

MM: And rehearse and rehearse and rehearse ... that's what it takes. Bob Slack, for example, still plays his trumpet — four hours a day.

CC: Four hours a day?

MM: Yes. He's a musician. He knows what it takes to succeed, and he's a role model, not just to the student musicians, but to any student. From the top down, he inspires. His work ethic sets the bar, and by leading by example, the faculty and students know exactly what level of commitment is required to succeed in their craft. That's why students look up to him so much. They really want him to be proud of them. ●

Band of Sisters

Women's Water Polo Enjoys a Season for the Ages

BY ANTHONY ORONA

Five days after the 2017 season ends, freshman Sydney Johnston stands in the doorway of her coach's office pleading: "Please Jen, please let me keep them." Although she stands nearly 6 feet tall, the desperation in Sydney's voice makes her appear much younger than a college freshman. She clasps her hands together, but Head Coach Jennifer Spalding doesn't waver. "Leave them," she says pointing to the floor. Reluctantly, Sydney adds her swimsuit and cap to a pile of uniforms. "You'll get them back next season," Coach Spalding reassures her. "I have to wash them."

Sydney shrugs and offers a smile before she waves and leaves.

Twenty pairs of swimsuits and caps represent the student athletes that made up the most successful women's water polo team in the history of Citrus College. With 23 wins, the Owls claimed second in the conference and earned a sixth-place seed in the SoCal Regionals, eventually making it to the quarterfinals. If they had been able to throw three more points on the scoreboard in their final bout



against Riverside City College, the women would have competed in the state championships.

"My girls played their best game in the best season of the team's history. I am completely and thoroughly proud of them," says Spalding. "The only thing that makes me sad is not knowing if I will ever coach a band of sisters like this again."

Each year, a new batch of hopefuls joins the team to replace the sophomores leaving for four-year colleges and universities. While the potential to recruit or train the next great student athlete is exciting, it always hurts to see players like Hunter Olivier move on. A recruit from La Quinta High School, Spalding first spotted Hunter in 2015 while officiating a match between La Quinta and a rival school. After the game, Spalding gave Hunter her card and asked if she would ever consider playing for a community college. Hunter always wanted to go straight to a four-year institution, but she also had plans to become a plastic surgeon. With an enormous amount of schooling ahead of her, Hunter figured saving some tuition money in her first years of school might be a good idea. She was open to checking it out.

Eventually, Spalding began coaching at Citrus College and Hunter followed her — and it was a good decision. As the 2017 season came to a close, Spalding was named the Woman's

Water Polo Coach of the Year by the California Community College Athletic Association. Three of Hunter's teammates — Chloe Barrocas, Delaney Geppart and Jessica Carmody — earned First Team All-Conference honors for their stellar performances during the season. As for Hunter, the 19-year-old student athlete's 61 goals, 54 assists and 118 steals (the most in the state) garnered her All-American recognition for the second year in a row. "It's not only a significant honor for Hunter to be named All-American; it's significant for Citrus College," says Spalding. "Eight years had passed since Crystal Fabela was named All-American in 2008. Hunter's won that title twice now."

While Hunter is busy weighing offers from several Division I schools, Spalding has already started recruiting girls to don blue and orange caps for the fall 2018 season. Not one to rest on her laurels, Spalding intends to create a dynasty. She wants to go even further next year.

When asked about her place in the band of sisters, Spalding laughs: "They call me Mama Bear. I'm strict, but they know I'm there for them."

With the current culture of comradery and goodwill, coupled with talented new players and a strong work ethic, there's no doubt the Citrus College Owls will continue to dominate in the water.

All-American Hunter Olivier



TRAIL BLAZERS

The Profiles and Legacies of Distinguished Alumni

BY ANTHONY ORONA

Alumni are a powerful force behind Citrus College's growth and progress. Long after they have left the campus's hallowed halls, they continue to contribute to institutional success. Whether they are supporting the college's services by donating their time or making financial contributions, or advancing the college's reputation within their professions and communities, they serve as role models by forging paths for others to follow. While they are vital to the history and tradition of Citrus College, they are more than part of its past. Alumni are also the college's future.

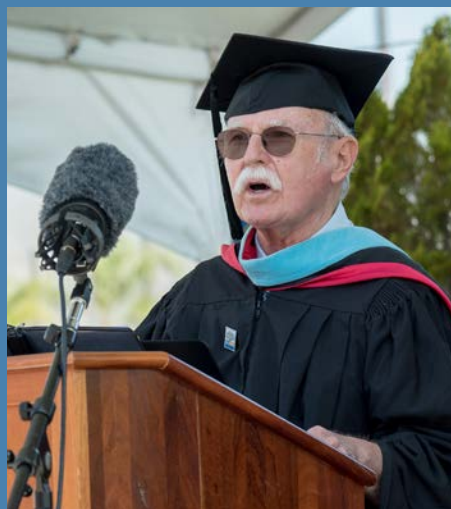
Mr. Stephen R. Baker and Mrs. Winifred Jean Brace Robertson both received the Distinguished Alumni Award at Citrus College's 101st annual commencement ceremony in June 2017. Immediately following the ceremony, they were honored at a luncheon hosted by the Citrus College Foundation and the Citrus Alumni & Friends Association. Both individuals established a legacy of success that adds value and prestige to the degrees and certificates the college awards each year.

Stephen R. Baker

The Honorable Stephen R. Baker grew up immersed in history. His father's family settled in the area in 1893, and, as a child, he was entertained by stories of turn-of-the-century Monrovia. Having parents that majored in history, family vacations always included a trip to a California Historical Landmark or a California mission.

After graduating from Monrovia High School, Mr. Baker enrolled at Citrus College and pursued his interest in music. He thrived as a member of the Citrus College Chamber Singers and studied under the supervision of musical director Ben Bollinger. He graduated in 1971 with an associate degree in music and transferred to the University of Southern California.

While a student, Mr. Baker began working for Security Pacific National Bank. He was quickly promoted to branch manager, earning a reputation for drafting excellent reports and streamlining complex procedures. Years later, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology from California State University, Los Angeles.



Another milestone in Mr. Baker's prestigious career came when he accepted an offer from Rosales Organ Builders to serve as its business manager. He directed company finances, maintained budgets and oversaw expenditures on numerous projects. One of the organs produced by the organization during his tenure is still featured at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles.

Mr. Baker's career continued to grow and thrive. In the late 1980s, his accounting work brought him back to Monrovia to work with a local freight company. Soon after, he relocated the historic Luther R. Blair House from Duarte Road to the Baker family lot to

save it from demolition. Restoration of the historic home progresses to this day.

Mr. Baker is a life member of the Monrovia Historic Preservation Group, and he has been active with the organization since its founding, researching and writing the histories of homes featured on the annual Mother's Day Tour. He was appointed the official historian for the city of Monrovia in 1991, succeeding his mentor, Myron Hotchkiss. Mr. Baker also sings in the Los Angeles-based choir Jouissance, which exclusively performs music written before the mid-17th century.

In 2005, Mr. Baker was elected city treasurer of Monrovia. He has been reelected to the post in 2009, 2013 and 2017.

Mr. Baker is currently the president of the Citrus College Foundation Board of Directors and serves on the boards of the Duarte Historical Society, the Friends of the Duarte Library, the Friends of the Monrovia Public Library, the Monrovia Coordinating Council, the Monrovia Historical Museum Foundation, the Rotary Club of Monrovia, the Santa Anita Family YMCA and St. Luke's Episcopal Church. ●

Citrus College Foundation

“While they are vital to the history and tradition of Citrus College, they are more than part of its past.

Alumni are also the college's future.”

Winifred Jean Brace Robertson

Mrs. Winifred Jean Brace Robertson has been an active and giving member of the foothill communities for eight decades. A Glendora native, Mrs. Robertson grew up on a 312-acre citrus ranch above Sierra Madre and Grand avenues named “El Cielo,” and attended Glendora schools throughout her childhood. She graduated from Citrus Union High School in 1946.

While attending Citrus College, Mrs. Robertson contributed to the college yearbook, La Palma, and participated in the Girls Athletic Association, which allowed her to compete in a variety of sports. She married her college sweetheart, Mr. Bob Sturrock, supporting him throughout his service as a paratrooper in the U.S. Army. After completing her education at Sawyer Business College, Mrs. Robertson began working as a draftsman for C. Linden Barber of Covina.

Following her husband's return to the States, Mrs. Robertson personally designed their family home on Bellevue Avenue. The couple also established the Sturrock Christmas Tree Farm, which opened on the

San Gabriel riverbank in Azusa and became a popular attraction during the holiday season, drawing notable visitors such as Ronald and Nancy Reagan.

In addition to being a successful business owner, Mrs. Robertson played a key role in one of Glendora's greatest and most enduring community institutions: Foothill Presbyterian Hospital. Before construction plans were created for the hospital, Mrs. Robertson served as Foothill Hospital Auxiliary president from 1970 through 1971, helping raise funds for the groundbreaking of the facility and participating in key decision-making and planning committees.

After the facility was built, Mrs. Robertson was the third employee hired by the hospital, and she worked tirelessly in the selection and onboarding of medical providers. Mrs. Robertson led tours of the local area for visiting physicians and hosted their families in her home, convincing dozens of physicians to practice at Foothill Presbyterian. She also pioneered its volunteer program, serving as president for over 14 years. The volunteer program supports the hospital to this day, which is



a testament to Mrs. Robertson's leadership and early vision for the hospital.

Mrs. Robertson is the proud mother of four children, and has 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She remains an active member of the Wednesday Afternoon Club, the San Dimas Historical Society and the San Dimas Corral of Westerners. ●

THE CITRUS COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

Following Students on Their Paths to Completion

BY STACY ARMSTRONG

At Citrus College, more than 20,000 students enroll every year. It's a diverse student body comprised of dedicated, talented and hard-working individuals. And while the pathway to college completion is different for every student, their unique journeys each reflect the college's commitment to academic excellence and student success.

The Journey Begins

Although 18-year-old Audrey Melendrez became a Citrus College student at the start of the fall 2017 semester, her journey to college completion started much earlier. In fact, Audrey's relationship with the college began when she was a senior at Azusa High School.

"People from Citrus College were always visiting my school and giving us information," Audrey says. "I would attend all of the presentations and meet with the college's team. That's where I learned about the Early Decision program."

Early Decision is offered by Citrus College to assist students as they progress from high school to college.

"I was having a hard time figuring out where I wanted to go after high school. My plan was originally to leave home, start my education

somewhere else and explore another state. Money, however, was an issue," Audrey says. "After receiving all of the information about Citrus College, I decided to stay home and focus on my education."

Eighteen-year-old Aaron Wells was also in high school when he decided to enroll at Citrus College.

"I heard that it was the best local college, especially if I wanted to finish my general education requirements and transfer to the University of Southern California," Aaron says.

The Glendora resident decided to attend Citrus College's Welcome Day, which was held in August. During the event, he attended workshops, explored a resource fair, toured the campus and was treated to lunch.

"Welcome Day helped me understand how different programs and services, such as the Honors Program, work at Citrus College," Aaron says.

Resources such as Early Decision and Welcome Day help establish the groundwork for a successful transition into higher education. And, once students are enrolled, additional tools and programs are in place to further ensure their academic success. Both Aaron and Audrey are



Alumna Christine Navarro is planning on pursuing a Ph.D.

benefitting from one such program, I Will Complete College (IWCC).

An innovative program designed for first-time students, IWCC provides individual assistance and guidance. Participants are grouped into four teams and assigned to completion specialists. They receive coaching, attend workshops and are allowed to pre-register for their necessary English and math classes.

Having started the semester well-prepared thanks to the college's support services, both Audrey and Aaron are enjoying their new roles as college students, and they are looking forward to the future.

"My goal is to become an art therapist. I love psychology and art, and I hope to help others using both," Audrey says. "I want to graduate from Citrus College, transfer out of state and work my way up to a master's degree."

Aaron also has plans to transfer.

"I'm going to complete my general education requirements at Citrus College within two years and hope to get into the University of Southern California, where I will major in film and television," he says. "I simply want to make movies that others can enjoy."

Approaching the Finish Line

In December 2017, Covina resident Maria Diaz wrapped up her course of study at Citrus College – for the second time. In 2006, she enrolled in the college's cosmetology program. Although she successfully completed the program and established her career, Maria found herself wanting a change in 2014. So, she returned to the college.

"Having been a Citrus College student in the past, I knew the campus," she says. "I think the location is beautiful."

Familiarity also brought Azusa resident Kurtis Fabela to the college. Expected to graduate in June, Kurtis enrolled in fall 2016.

"My mother and grandmother lived in



As a first-time student, Audrey Melendrez is part of the I Will Complete College program.

Glendora for many years and attended Citrus College after high school," he says. "Because of this, I was fond of the area and the community. I was also familiar with how Citrus College operated."

Like many students, Maria and Kurtis weren't certain about their plans for the future when they initially enrolled. However, their experiences at the college provided them with a sense of direction. For Maria, it was a few "amazing" classes that helped her find her calling.

"I realized I was having the most fun in my computer science classes, so I made the difficult decision to change my major from chemical engineering to computer science," she says.

Kurtis, on the other hand, discovered his passion through extracurricular activities. Specifically, he cites his involvement with a politics-centered student club during the 2016 presidential election, as well as his student government experience, for influencing his career choice.

"These experiences helped me focus my political interests on city and local government, and have given me a better understanding of what it means to serve a constituency," he says.

Campus involvement has been a key element of both students' academic journeys. Like Kurtis, Maria has also been active in student clubs. She also participated in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) program's Summer Research Experience in 2016 and 2017. This allowed her to intern in the geochemistry lab at Chapman University and at the Oak Crest Institute of Science.

"I looked for opportunities that gave me hands-on experiences to not only to learn the skills of the trade, but also to experience what a day in the life would be like should I continue on that career path," she says.

According to Kurtis, these types of experiences are invaluable.

"My advice to new or future students is to get involved with something," he says. "Expand your professional and social networks. If I hadn't joined any extracurricular groups, I would not have made the friends I have now. Much of my college education has been outside the classroom."

As his time at Citrus College winds down, Kurtis is looking to the future. He is hoping to transfer to the University of California in Santa Barbara or Santa Cruz as a political science major. His ultimate goal is to earn a master's degree in public administration and pursue a career as a city administrator.

“I love Citrus College. I am so grateful to all of the great people there who helped me, and I have a lot of great memories. As a first-generation college student with disabilities and as an adult returning student, I benefitted from all of the programs the college offers. They helped me get ahead.”

—Juan Reyna

Maria is also looking to the future. This spring, she transferred to California State University, Fullerton. Although her career goals are not entirely set, she knows that she would like to conduct research in the field of computer science.

“I would have never known what to do with my life if I hadn’t returned to college,” she says. “I had no idea who I was going to be or what I was going to do. Coming back to Citrus College has been eye opening. Now I know the many paths and career options that are available.”

The Journey Continues

Fall 2017 was also a momentous time for Juan Reyna and Christine Navarro. Having recently completed their education at Citrus College, the new alumni were embarking on the next

leg of their academic journeys at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (Cal Poly).

Christine, a chemistry major, says that continuing her education at Cal Poly wasn’t always certain.

“Last fall, I had applied to different engineering schools knowing that I didn’t have enough credits to transfer. I was interested in seeing who would admit me despite the fact that I may not meet all of the requirements,” she says. “My first choice was always Cal Poly. However, they denied my application.”

The following summer, Christine was participating in the Citrus College Summer Research Experience and received an internship in the organic chemistry lab at the exact school she was hoping to attend.

“I was more than halfway through the program when I mentioned to my mentor that my admittance had been denied. My mentor then told the dean of chemistry and biochemistry about my application status,” she says. “The following day, I was told that I would be accepted into Cal Poly if I switched my major to chemistry.”

Already questioning her choice to pursue an engineering degree, Christine says that this opportunity helped solidify her goals.

“It made my decision easier, and I’m now a Cal Poly student,” she says. “I thank Citrus College’s Summer Research Experience for making this happen.”

While Christine was unsure about majoring in engineering, Juan was certain it was the right choice for him. In fact, the civil engineering major became part of Cal Poly’s Maximizing Engineering Potential program.

“My plan is to earn a civil engineering degree with a minor in business, and to obtain my engineering license in California,” he says.

Although their plans for the future may be different, both Christine and Juan agree that Citrus College set them on their respective paths.

“I love Citrus College,” Juan says. “I am so grateful to all of the great people there who helped me, and I have a lot of great memories. As a first-generation college student with disabilities and as an adult returning student, I benefitted from all of the programs the college offers. They helped me get ahead.”

Juan credits his success to resources such as Supplemental Instruction, which uses peer-assisted

New student Aaron Wells (left) and a friend use the time between classes to study.





Juan Reyna, a recent Citrus College graduate, is currently working toward his bachelor's degree at Cal Poly Pomona.



Pictured (L-R): alumna Christine Navarro, continuing student Kurtis Fabela and new student Aaron Wells.

study sessions to improve student retention and success; and STEM TRiO Student Support Services, which assists first-generation, low-income and/or disabled students majoring in STEM and allied health fields. He also stressed the importance of the college's Math Success Center, Extended Opportunities Programs and Services office, and Disabled Student Programs and Services office.

Similarly, Christine cited the Math Success Center as being beneficial. She also emphasizes the importance of the Summer Research Experience.

"It was one of the best opportunities I was given at Citrus College," she says. "It gave me experience in the field that I was studying and helped me make sure that it was something I would actually want to pursue in the future."

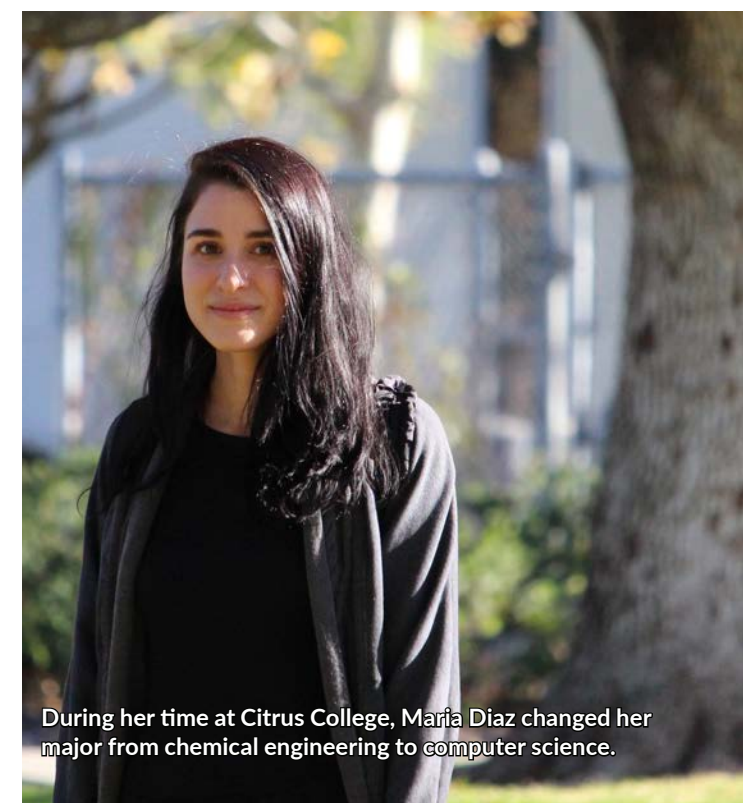
And, pursue it she has. Christine currently works in the organic chemistry lab at Cal Poly. She also serves as an occasional conference speaker.

"I would like to continue working in the organic chemistry lab until I graduate," she says. "After earning my bachelor's degree in biochemistry, I plan on continuing my education by getting my Ph.D. and possibly working in the pharmaceutical industry."

Juan is also currently working in his field of choice.

The Path to Completion

As Citrus College continues to advance its mission of increasing college completion rates, the stories of students actively pursuing and fulfilling their academic dreams will continue to inspire the entire college community. In reaching their goals, Citrus College graduates affirm the institution's commitment to academic excellence. At the same time, their successful pursuit of higher education will open the doors to endless possibilities and brighter futures. ●



During her time at Citrus College, María Diaz changed her major from chemical engineering to computer science.

Souvenirs of Empathy

The Success of Citrus College's Study Abroad Program

BY ANTHONY ORONA

If you ask Art Instructor Mike Hillman to summarize his study abroad trips, he will answer: "You can't teach experience." To illustrate this point, he'll tell you about a last-minute Florence-to-Venice excursion he joined at the request of his students. Forecasters predicted heavy rain for the day, so the group suited for wet weather only to find Venice bright and breezy upon arrival. They visited the Guggenheim and Piazza San Marco, and enjoyed the afternoon exploring neighboring islands. As they watched gondolas at the train station after a day of perfect weather, it began to snow.

It doesn't often snow in Venice.



Study Abroad Coordinator John Morris

The students sat silently as the city was blanketed before their eyes. A couple of students began a snowball fight in front of the train station. Most had never seen snow, and they were now in one of the most beautiful settings in the world watching

it fall. It was magical. "Those are memories the students will always cherish," Hillman explains. "Those are the kind of experiences that build empathy."

Ticket to Understanding

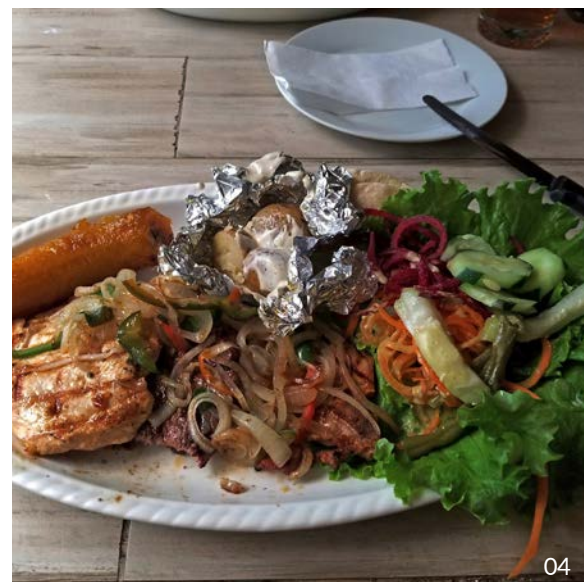
Having lived nearly a decade in Japan, Citrus College Study Abroad Coordinator John Morris knows that gaining empathy is crucial to thriving in today's increasingly globalized world. Being able to understand other cultures and to view the world through others' lenses makes for a marketable employee and, more importantly, a more caring person. Morris spent



Students sketch Casa Batlló in Barcelona.



“They now know about Michelangelo; how he carved it and how he basically had to create his own shower to drench himself and the marble so he wouldn’t inhale the dust as he worked.”



eight years teaching in Japan, but he believes others can achieve empathy in shorter periods by immersing themselves in foreign cultures. This explains why he is passionate about encouraging students to travel and study abroad. The physical act of leaving the United States and becoming a guest in someone else’s country places them in the footsteps of others.

They now know about Michelangelo; how he carved it and how he basically had to create his own shower to drench himself and the marble so he wouldn’t inhale the dust as he worked. As they stand next to it, they are blown away because it so magnificent — so large and so beautiful.”

The Art of Appreciation

While in Italy, Hillman had the privilege of watching the students take those steps. “I think by studying art from afar, students don’t really have a full understanding of the amount of time, effort and love it takes to make something like the David,” Hillman says. “But when we’re actually there, finally standing in the Gallerie dell’Accademia looking at the sculpture, students are in awe because they have started to understand artists and the labor that is required to make a piece of artwork like that.

World-Class Education

As with the man behind the curtain, the magic of Citrus College’s Study Abroad Program starts behind the scenes. When students travel to select countries, their itineraries, instructors, destinations and courses have been arranged with the goal of providing an entirely immersive experience. “The students learn Spanish in Spain, art in Florence, ecobiology in Costa Rica and theatre in London. These are the meccas of their chosen fields of study. Nothing compares to actually being there and touching the cloth. We make sure the students study appropriate



01
Gondoliers steer Citrus College students through the canals of Venice.

02
Cinque Terre, Italy.

03
The Florence Baptistery bathed in afternoon light.

04
Local cuisine in Costa Rica.

05
Temple Waterfall at La Paz Waterfall Gardens Nature Park in Costa Rica.

06
Chureito Pagoda with Mount Fuji in the background.

courses in other countries so that their entire surroundings draw them deeper into their academic inquiries,” says Morris.

Countries for Classrooms

One student, Jacquelyn Perez, was interested in art, but she wasn't sure how her curiosity would translate into a career. She enjoyed sculpting class, but she didn't believe she could continue studying art in college — that is, until she went to Florence. As someone who had always found solace in the arts, Jacquelyn ultimately came to the conclusion that the only way she should express herself authentically was by pursuing art. She eventually earned a full scholarship to study art history at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She now works as an undergraduate counselor at UCLA, helping others discover their passion. While not every student who encounters breathtaking architecture, stunning performances or impeccable Spanish necessarily becomes an architect, thespian

or linguist, all students who embark on these adventures are affected.

Mikaela Kozelchik is the perfect example.

Preparing for a trip to Barcelona with Art Instructor Dyane Duffy, Mikaela believed she would experience one of the most amazing trips in her life and would return an aspiring artist. While she did enjoy Barcelona, she found herself thinking more about community than art once she returned. She missed grabbing groceries just downstairs from her apartment, hearing the neighbors' chatter in the evenings, receiving friendly nods from strangers. She missed the sense of belonging she had felt in Spain.

This made her think about the lives of her family and friends in the States. It became apparent to Mikaela that so many problems associated with depression and brokenness stem from the lack of a caring community. Mikaela now intends to pursue a degree in psychology to help others manage their past

pains and current anxieties. She may not have left Barcelona with the inspiration to make art, but she did leave with enhanced compassion and a desire to care for people.

New Horizons

As the study abroad program continues to expand and include more countries, the success stories from students will continue to pour in. Thanks to Morris, this summer, for the first time in the college's history, the program will start taking students to Asia. Adding to Morris' excitement? The first country on the list is Japan.

“*Mono no aware*,” he says smiling. “The Japanese are crazy about this.” When asked to interpret, Morris explains that the Japanese liken life to the blooming of a flower — while wonderful, it lasts but a short time before fading away. Although it's a bittersweet perspective, Morris believes viewing the world temporarily through this lens will help the students return with a greater appreciation for life and a deeper understanding of what it means to be a global citizen.

His hypothesis is likely to be proven correct. When translated literally, *mono no aware* means, “an empathy for things.” ●



Fireworks over the Santi Luca e Martina church near the Roman Forum.



A scarlet macaw crosses paths with students in Costa Rica.



Karina Penuela and Leonardo Raymer consider their art while stretching out on a bench in Barcelona.



Tindaro Screpolato in the Boboli Gardens near the Pitti Palace in Florence.

OWL'S NEST

Faculty and Staff Highlights

BY STACY ARMSTRONG



Members of the Citrus College Board of Trustees and State Senator Portantino joined Superintendent/President Perri in celebrating her Woman of the Year honor. Pictured (L-R): Trustee Rasmussen, Trustee Dickerson, State Senator Portantino, Superintendent/President Perri, Trustee Montgomery and Trustee Keith.

Superintendent/President Named Woman of the Year

Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president of Citrus College, was named a "Woman of the Year" by State Senator Anthony Portantino during a special ceremony held in Pasadena in March 2017. The Citrus College leader was among 10 women who were recognized for their contributions and accomplishments within the 25th Senate District. "Dr. Perri was selected because of her outstanding leadership and commitment to student success," State Senator Portantino says. "When we looked at what she has been able to accomplish at Citrus College, it was clear that Dr. Perri should be honored because she continues to advance the college's stellar reputation as a leader in higher education." Dr. Perri was named Citrus College's superintendent/president in 2008, and she has had a distinguished career in academia for over 30 years. "I am a product of a community college, and I believe in the transformative nature and power of our nation's community colleges," says Superintendent/President Perri. "It is a privilege to be in a leadership role at Citrus College, a nationally recognized community college that is supported by a dedicated faculty, caring staff and a visionary board of trustees."



Citrus College welcomed (L-R) Dr. Hogan as the new dean of language arts and library, Mr. Wangler as the new dean of mathematics and business, and Ms. López Jiménez as the new director of student support services.

New Managers Join the Citrus College Community

Three new managers settled into their roles this past fall, having filled key administrative positions at Citrus College.

After working as an English instructor for nearly 12 years, Dr. Gina Hogan became the Citrus College dean of language arts and library. During her tenure at the college, Gina has held Academic Senate leadership positions, co-chaired the Enrollment Management and Student Equity committees and served on shared governance committees. Her professional experience also includes teaching at Mt. San Antonio College and Fullerton College.

Michael Wangler, the college's new dean of mathematics and business, has more than 20 years of professional experience within the California Community Colleges System. In addition to serving as a faculty member at Cuyumaca College, he was an active participant in the college's Academic Senate, he was the student learning outcomes coordinator, and he served as faculty co-chair of the curriculum and accreditation committees.

Jessica López Jiménez, the new director of student support services, has more than seven years of experience serving diverse student populations. Her career began in the counseling department of Skyline College in 2009 when she became a transfer/career counselor intern. She later held several other positions at Skyline College, including program services coordinator, TRIO Student Support Services counselor/instructor and Extended Opportunity Programs and Services faculty coordinator.

"Citrus College's three new administrators are dedicated professionals who invest their time and effort into making a difference in the lives of students. Their undeniable commitment to student success makes them excellent additions to the college community," says Superintendent/President Perri

Citrus College Welcomes New Faculty

At the start of the fall 2017 semester, 13 new faculty members joined the dedicated team of more than 150 full-time Citrus College instructors, each of whom are steadfastly committed to student achievement. Together, these accomplished professionals continue the college's legacy of academic excellence. "Citrus College is fortunate to add this exceptional group of educators to our community," says Superintendent/President Perri. "Their passion for teaching and their desire to help students reach their academic and professional goals will play a vital role in advancing our institutional goal of increasing college completion rates."



First row (L-R): Lelaine Arredondo, counseling; Elizabeth Cook, library; Jamie Dingman, English; Amber Durfield, English; and Rina Gonzales, health sciences. **Second row (L-R):** Gary Gramling, water technology; Raquel Gutierrez, counseling; Sonia Kibbe, health sciences; Nathalie Miramontes, counseling; and Erin Tate, psychology. **Third row (L-R):** Dr. Eleanor Tsark, biology; Frida Valderrama Perez, mathematics; and Andrew Wheeler, kinesiology.

Library Employee Honored with Patriot Award

Library Media Technician Terri Worthington was presented with a Patriot Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a program of the U.S. Department of Defense. She was nominated for the award by Gloria Camacho, a U.S. Army Reserve sergeant who works as a student employee in the Hayden Memorial Library. According to the ESGR, the purpose of the Patriot Award is to honor those who assist "citizen warriors" in the workplace. As the daughter of a longtime submarine officer in the U.S. Navy, Worthington understands the unique challenges faced by members of the military. Because of her personal background, she often goes out of her way to assist service members. "I have a special place in my heart for veterans and military families, so I am always ready to help them in any way possible," Worthington says.



Pictured (L-R): Cassandra Dones, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve representative; Ms. Worthington, Citrus College library media technician; and Ms. Camacho, Citrus College student. Dones and Camacho presented Worthington with a Patriot Award for providing special support to military service members.

Faculty Members Receive Special Recognition

While many Citrus College faculty members celebrated accomplishments during the spring 2017 semester, two individuals received recognitions that were particularly significant.

Noemi Barajas, a health sciences instructor, was granted tenure. Joining Citrus College in 2011, she has more than 20 years of experience as both a nurse and an educator. Barajas holds bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing, and is in the process of completing her doctorate.

Dr. Melanie Anson, a longtime Citrus College speech communication instructor, was also honored this spring. During the college's annual commencement ceremony, Dr. Anson was recognized as the recipient of the 2017 Distinguished Faculty Award. She first began teaching at the college in 1985, becoming a full-time faculty member in 1988. She holds a bachelor's degree in speech communication, as well as a master's degree and doctorate in communication arts and sciences. After a distinguished career at Citrus College, Dr. Anson retired at the conclusion of the spring 2017 semester.



Ms. Barajas (left), health sciences instructor, was granted tenure during the spring 2017 semester, and **Dr. Anson (right),** speech communication instructor, received the 2017 Distinguished Faculty Award.

Classified Employees Receive ABCD Awards

The Classified Staff Development Committee regularly recognizes classified employees who embody the college's mission statement, encourage teamwork and cooperation, demonstrate exceptional service, and foster a more productive workplace. The Above and Beyond – Classified Development (ABCD) Awards are presented during meetings of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. Each quarter, a classified employee is honored because of his or her contributions to Citrus College. The ABCD Award recipients for 2017 are Lori Amato, facilities operations assistant; Rose Sayre, bookstore evening coordinator; Cheryl Hall, health sciences administrative secretary I; and Denise Zamora, EOP&S/CARE specialist. ●



Pictured (L-R): Ms. Amato, facilities operations assistant; Ms. Sayre, bookstore evening coordinator; Ms. Hall, health sciences administrative secretary I; and Ms. Zamora, EOP&S/CARE specialist. Each received the ABCD Award in 2017.



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